

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Oct. 30-Nov. 13, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 22
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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New Threat To Reefs?
Flamingo Tongue Explosion
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Lionfish on Bonaire- Pg. 2

NOAA Photo



Lionfish have reached Bonaire. Naturalist Jerry Ligon sent two divers to Marine Park Manager Ramon deLeon at 12:30 this Monday after they related that they had seen a juvenile Lionfish at the Nukove dive site. They showed him the video that they had taken. At 5pm Ramon called Jerry to say that they found it and it was captured.

Lionfish are not native to the Caribbean but have been spreading south from Florida where it is theorized they were released from an aquarium.

They are considered harmful to local species because they are voracious eaters and decimate some reef fish.

► **THE HAGUE-- The new status for the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba undoubtedly has the attention of the Dutch private sector,** but there are as yet no figures projecting the possible influx of Dutch real estate agents, project developers and food and beverage entrepreneurs. Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten said this in response to questions posed by Member of the Dutch Parliament Hero Brinkman. Brinkman had questioned media reports that the Dutch real estate "underworld" was "descending" on Bonaire. Bijleveld-Schouten said that she didn't have information about a growing number of Dutch companies heading to the BES islands, as the registration of such data was an authority of the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles.

Referring to another question

by Brinkman about selling property to Dutch businesspeople by "corrupt Bonaire politicians," the State Secretary said the General Audit Chamber had determined in May that Bonaire's previous Executive Council had granted long lease land against the principles of good governance.

► **THE HAGUE--For now, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (BES islands) will keep the Antillean ID card, the sédula,** but the Netherlands is looking at introducing a Dutch ID card in the future. Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten stated this in a report that she sent to Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber relating to the handling of the Adaptation Law (*Aanpassingswet*) for the BES islands.

She explained that an inventory would be made in 2010 of the consequences of going over to the Dutch system. "The aim is to eliminate the sédula and introduce the Dutch ID card, the NIK," she said.

There is a big difference between the sédula and the NIK. Persons with Dutch nationality as well as non-nationals – people with foreign nationality – can get a sédula on the islands, whereas the NIK is only granted to persons with Dutch citizenship.

► Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber and Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten agreed, that **Saba and St. Eustatius would not become victims of Bonaire's hesitant approach** in the process of integration into the Netherlands.

Bijleveld-Schouten said that Saba and St. Eustatius couldn't be duped and assured Parliament that the process was secured for the two smallest islands of the Netherlands Antilles. "We continue with Saba and St. Eustatius and we will await

Air Accidents Near Klein Bonaire

► **A small plane blew up in the air and flaming wreckage fell into the sea just beyond Klein Bonaire** on Tuesday night, October 13, around 9 pm. The fireworks-like flare was observed by dozens of people. Rangers from the Marine Park recovered the first mutilated body still strapped in his seat from the sea during the early morning hours of the next day. Later the rangers recovered a second body after it had been spotted by the coast guard. More than 300 kilos of drugs, a backpack and an empty gasoline can were also found floating. The aircraft was not in contact with traffic controllers. First news reports erroneously stated it had taken off from the Bonaire airport. The police could not say anything about the identity of the victims or where the aircraft had come from or where it had been heading. Pieces of the aircraft were also recovered. There is speculation the aircraft originated in South America and the people aboard were attempting to refuel while the plane was in flight.



Bales of Drugs found aboard blown up plane

the outcome of the referendum in Bonaire."

► According to a report in the *Antillean Dagblad*, major concerns about the Antillean tax system are prompting the **Dutch government to consider a whole new tax structure for Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.** The bill has yet to be presented to Parliament.

(Continued on page 6)

► **A British pilot has been hailed a hero after he died while saving his nine passengers by ditching his plane into the Caribbean sea.**



Robert Mansell, 32, used his skills as a "good pilot" to save lives, said his employers at Divi Divi Air.

All nine passengers escaped the sinking plane, but the pilot's body is missing. Recovery will be attempted by the Dutch navy ship, *Pelikaan*.

Captain Mansell was five minutes short of Bonaire when he was forced to ditch the twin-engine Britten-Norman Islander.

The passengers escaped the sinking aircraft, but he was still strapped into his seat as it disappeared into waters reported to be 150 meters deep.

Colleagues at Divi Divi Air are devastated by his death, describing him as a highly respected and qualified flyer.

Simon Janzen, from the company, said: "He's a hero. All the passengers survived and he is the only one missing. If he wasn't a good pilot, he couldn't have ditched it so everyone could be saved.

"Other pilots wouldn't have known what to do but he landed the aircraft so that everyone could get out safely."

The crash happened after the right engine of the plane failed, and Capt Mansell made a mayday call before ditching, he added.

Divi Divi Air Managing Director, Germaine Ritchie, said the local civil aviation authority were conducting a "thorough investigation" into the accident.

She said passengers had informed her that the pilot was "performing beyond what is expected of a person," had been "calm throughout the entire flight" and was "doing his utmost to save those on board."

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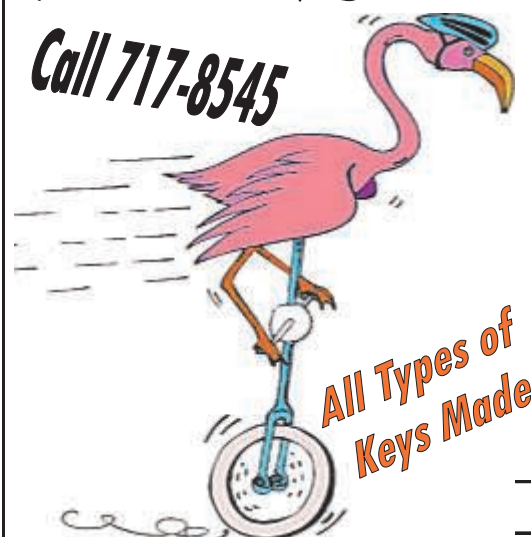
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Bonaire Chooses To Hold a Second Referendum

Bonaire's second referendum to determine its future government has a suggested question: "Should the direct tie with the Netherlands be a free association instead of integration?"

Direct Tie vs. Free Association

The definition of "direct tie," so obscure in the Referendum in 2004, has now been clearly defined by the activities now underway by the RSC to make Bonaire, as well as Saba and St. Eustatius, to be integrated as a "public body" into The Netherlands. Money is being spent and expertise applied to make that happen.

But that direction made many people, as well as the new Bonaire Government, uncomfortable enough to ask for another Referendum to offer a "free association" as the alternative.

"Free association" has been defined in United Nations resolutions primarily to deal with post-colonial situations. It can take different forms, but it has a fundamental core—comprehensive self government. There are several current examples of "free association" governments (Marshall Islands with the US and Niue with New Zealand).

Former US Ambassador Fred M. Zender who conducted negotiations on the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands wrote: "The specific features of free association and balance between autonomy and interdependence can vary within well-defined limits based on negotiated terms to which both parties to the arrangement have agreed."

Free association is essentially a transitional status for peoples who do not seek full integration, but rather seek to maintain close political, economic and security relations with another nation during the period after separate sovereignty is achieved. Thus, free association is a form of separate sovereignty that usually arises from the relationship."

Referendum II Details

The special Referendum Committee in a 67-page report recommended that on January 15, 2010, just 10 days before a "lame duck" parliamentary election, Bonaireans should be asked to refine their preference for the future of their island. They suggested it be presented as the question, "Should the direct tie with the Netherlands be a free association instead of integration?"

Other suggested dates for the Referendum were December 11, 2009, and March 19, 2010. The comprehensive report to the Island Council contained both majority and minority opinions on the wording of the question and other details.

Those who have been resident in Bonaire for five consecutive years, 50 days before the date of the referendum, with Dutch citizenship, at least 18 years of age on the date of the referendum can vote as can non-Dutch citizens if they are at least 18 and have been resident in Bonaire for 10 consecutive years.

Other recommendations of the committee include a validity threshold of 51% of the voting public and establishing a Referendum implementation committee Bonaire 2010. They recommended it have seven members, an independent headquarters and a full time secretariat, draw up a budget, provide information, prepare the referendum itself and arrange for the approval of the United Nations. The Island Council should also qualify the referendum in a regulation making it either "consultative" or "mandatory." ■ G.D.

At a recent press conference at the Regional Service Center (RSC) Queen's Commissioner Henk Kamp made clear his position about the coming referendum. "Bonaire is free to decide to have a referendum. It can also choose the question the population has to answer. However, the Netherlands and Bonaire agreed in 2006 that the island become a 'public body' (*openbaar lichaam*) within the Netherlands. On the basis of that agreement we have been working for the past couple of years to create laws and projects for Bonaire, Statia and Saba. The process of dismantling the Dutch Antilles is well on its way. On Bonaire, improvement projects have already started or are about to start."

State Secretary Mrs. Ank Bijleveld clearly defined the options for Bonaire on September 28th: To be a public body based on Article 134 of the Constitutional Law, or to gain independence outside of the Kingdom. To say 'no' to the agreement of 2006 means starting all over again.



Henk Kamp, the Queen's Commissioner, is overseeing the transition of Bonaire

Because of the Referendum question all improvements with Dutch support are being unnecessarily postponed. Also, Social Economic Initiative funds that have not yet been spent (about NAf 15 million) will become invalid. I think that this is not good for Bonaire. The thing that is open for discussion and negotiation is the future distribution of empowerment between the Dutch government and the Bonairean government. Which tasks will be executed by the Dutch and which are better to be kept under local influence and governed by the Bonaireans?" ■

Story & photo by Inge Vos

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On the Island Since... 1995 Rob Schut

"I came here with my wife at the time and our daughters, Lisa and Tessa, who were four and three and a half years old. I'd fallen in love with the island in 1984 when I visited Bonaire for the first time, and in the years that followed I returned several times. Every time I flew in and I saw the familiar boomerang shape and the extraordinary colors of the sea surrounding it, my heart would skip a beat. When the mother of my children was offered a job here, my fondest wish became reality and we moved from Holland to Bonaire.

As our children's mother was the breadwinner, I couldn't get a work permit - that's how the rules were then. So, I became a 'house husband.' I did the laundry, I cooked, I mopped and cleaned the house, did the shopping and took the kids to Trinitaria Kindergarten at Papa Comes on the bicycle. Ha! It was a job!

The first two years we lived in a rental house in Mexico - nice and free in the kunuku - and then we bought our own place. It was a small house which used to be a snack, but we remodeled, renovated and added another room, a bathroom, a roof terrace, a car port and an extra porch - all throughout the years. A good friend of mine, Wilson, has helped me a lot. He's a real nice guy and he always offered

very good advice. I don't know much about construction - very little really. But what's important to me is when people help you they have to eat and drink, so I cooked especially for him and there was always plenty of beer and coffee too.

My children and their mom traveled frequently, but I wasn't so eager to leave Bonaire. I felt I finally was where I wanted to be. I got to know a lot of people here and most of them I met through Amado Felix who became a very good friend of mine. He and his wife have always supported me.

In December 2005 I started working for Ap at Green Label. By then the children were perfectly capable of looking after themselves. Lisa was in HAVO four and Tessa in HAVO three. I want to make it a point that I never had one complaint about the school system here. I really get annoyed when I hear people talking negatively about SGB high school. When I look at my daughters - they speak five languages fluently: Spanish, Papiamentu, French, English and Dutch and both of them are now studying in Holland doing a Higher Professional Education - as I see it, it's what you make of it and they did well.

I am very proud of my children - I am really blessed with them. Lisa has always helped me in each

and every possible way. She's a very hard worker, a great girl." He smiles: "Tessa's tempo is on island time - even now that she's in Holland she's still thinking in Papiamentu - she's very laconic, a sweet and cute girl.

In 2006 the mother of my children left for Holland and I stayed here with my daughters. I bought myself a little boat and started spending Sundays on Klein Bonaire: going snorkeling, seeing the turtles and the stingrays - it is a wonderful place.

During the week I am still with Green Label. It gives you a good feeling to work with plants. We have a great team and I've learned a lot from Johan who knows everything there is to know about the business. In the beginning I didn't know anything and the quantity

and variety of plants was overwhelming. I sold a plant and told the people it could be inside the

house. Two days later all the leaves had dropped and the clients were not so happy! I've learned, but it wasn't easy at all! Ha! Ha! We've just moved. We're still in the same area, but the shop has much more light and space. It's much bigger and more beautiful; an excellent location.



Rob Schut

"...I wasn't so eager to leave Bonaire; I felt I finally was where I wanted to be."

(Continued on page 5)

			
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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)

Well, Lisa went to Holland in 2007 and then it was only Tessa and me. I've missed Lisa an awful lot.

Then a friend of mine told me, 'Why don't you go on a dating site?' I said 'No, no way! I won't go into that!' For me it's not an option to meet somebody that way. The fact was that I only knew how to open my e-mail and that was it! Talk about computer skills! But on the other hand, Bonaire is a small island and I didn't have an eye for anybody. So, this friend of mine, Harry, arranged it all and gave me six months for free on the dating site."

Rob Schut is straightforward, helpful and good natured. He's a man who can take care of himself and he's charming and a hard working guy.

"At first I wasn't really looking for someone special; I talked to women from all over the world and it was entertaining and fun. But then I met Gloria and with her it was the first and only time I immediately felt a connection – a connection which only has become stronger over the months. On April 30th I went for the first time to Medellin, Colombia, where she's from. Gloria picked me up at the airport. I was terribly nervous – mostly because of all the stories people tell you about 'the dangers' of Colombia, but everything went smoothly. Not a bad word about Colombia. I think it's a marvelous country, its nature... I've never seen such beautiful plants and trees and the people are gracious, charming and helpful.

Some weeks later Gloria came to Bonaire and she loved it. She thought the island was lovely and its sea spectacular. In July I took my daughters to Colombia. It was the first vacation we'd spent together, the three of us. Gloria took us everywhere and we had a fabulous time. We went to see this beautiful ancient town of Santa Fe de Antioquia, and there I was walking with these two tall, slim blondes in their skinny jeans and their high heels – my daughters – who made so many heads turn around! It was very special. Gloria is a gynecologist and has her own clinic in Medellin and she owns an apartment on the 11th floor.

I have my house on Bonaire, my job, but my children are in Holland, although Lisa is here now for three months, working as a trainee. Before Tessa left I asked my children if they wanted me to come and live in Holland - that I would do that for them if they needed me." *He laughs* "They said, 'What? Are you crazy?' I guess they're absolutely sure I would be very unhappy in Holland, but... I would have done it for them... with love.

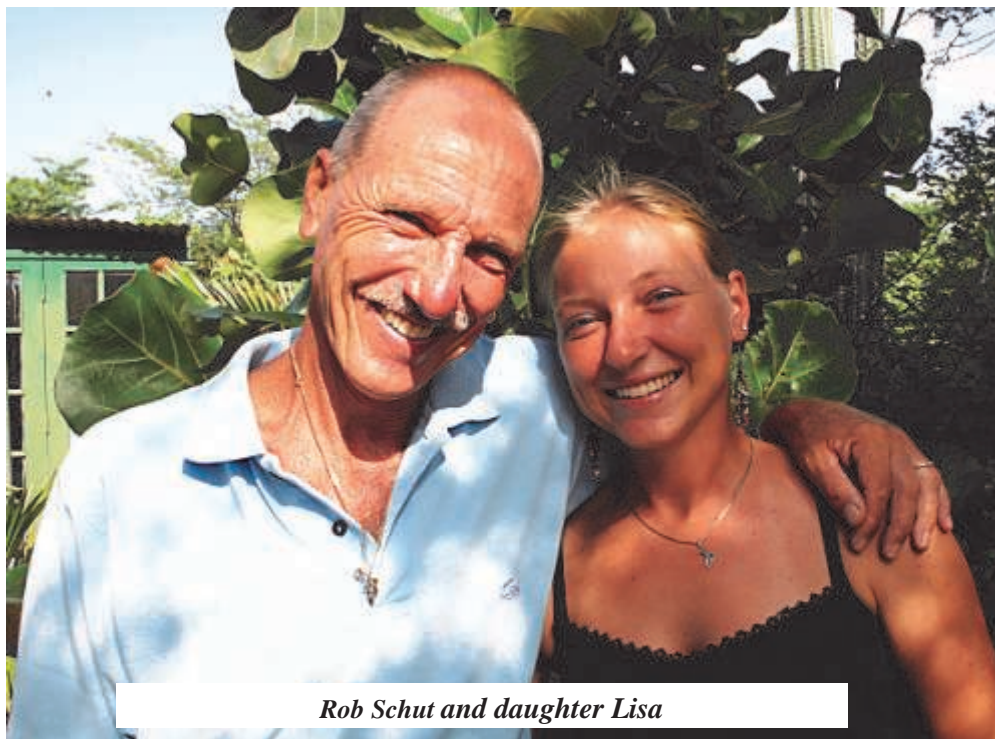
So, the situation as it is now is that I'm traveling back and forth and so is Gloria. Her practice is doing very well. Her patients are not only from Medellin, but she gets people from all over the Caribbean, from St. Martin, Aruba and Curaçao as well. Gloria would like to work here for – let's say - one week per month, but she can't give up her clinic altogether. That's no option. I've met her parents. Her father is an ophthalmologist, very fine and kind people who live in a penthouse overlooking the city of Medellin – what a spectacular view at night! Gloria has her children, an eight year old boy and two girls of 16 and 20, so she's not in a position to leave Colombia. In the meantime we're thinking of solutions, but it's not easy to find a way to be together. I am 48 now and Gloria is 45, so hopefully one day we will know what to do and for the time being... we're very much in love and life is beautiful!

One thing is for sure – I will never sell my house here. This is such a sweet place, I wouldn't want to change it with anybody. I still love Bonaire although it has changed

and not for the better. The 'new' Dutch people can be very irritating – big mouths – negative attitude. I don't understand what they're doing here. It's sad.

You have to have respect for the Bonaireans – if not, why would you stay here? I wouldn't be surprised if there would be a referendum and everything would be turned back the way it was. I think if we are really going to be with Holland things could get better for everyone – eventually... But," *he smiles* "I would love to keep Bonaire the way it was. Of course it isn't like that anymore, but I would love to have the island like it was 25 years ago. Really, it was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen."

■ Story & Photos by Greta Kooistra



Rob Schut and daughter Lisa

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from pg. 2)

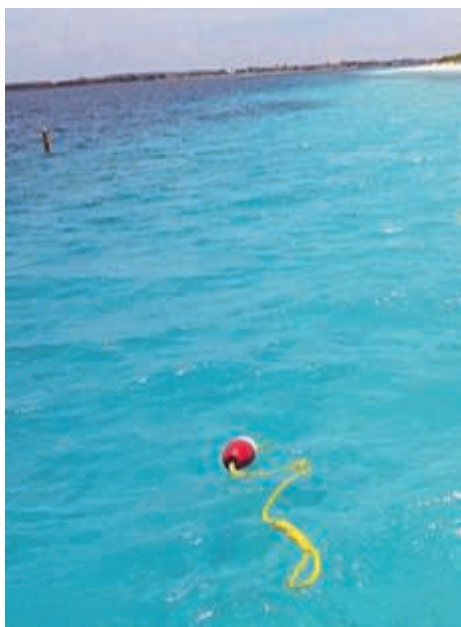
In the past Kingdom Relations Secretary Ank Bijleveld called the Antillean tax system "obsolete" and allows excessive discretionary powers for tax inspectors. The system is, in the eyes of the Netherlands, too complex, hindering opportunity for development of the small economies of the islands.

► **Senator Ramonsito Booi, UPB political party leader and advisor to the previous Bonaire Government, confirmed that he is retiring from active politics** and will not be a candidate for the January 22 parliamentary elections. "It's time to hang up the gloves and pass the baton to the new generation," he said. Booi plans to remain in the Bonaire Island Council until his four-year term ends on July 1, 2011.



He was quoted as saying that his decision had nothing to do with the search of his home and those of others as part of a drug-money-laundering investigation six weeks ago.

He's not planning to move to the US. His son is a student and lineman on the Wake Forest University football team. "I was born in Bonaire and I will continue living here until God takes me into His Kingdom," he added.



► **STINAPA installed seven (7) new small buoys at Klein Bonaire** so more small boats can tie up in front of the beach. The rules for the use of the buoys have remained the same with these extra buoys, meaning a boat can only tie up for

a maximum of two hours on a mooring. In case another boat arrives and there are no more empty buoys available, the owner of the boat that has been there for more than two hours has to remove his boat to give others a chance to use it.

"The beach at Klein Bonaire is one of the few with white sand. These additional buoys will give more people the opportunity to take their boat to Klein Bonaire and enjoy this unique spot," says STINAPA

► **All the teachers at the Pelikaan School took a refresher course in CPR and first aid** and exam given by Caren Eckrich of CIEE. The course was sponsored by CIEE as a community service. It's a good example for all schools to follow.

► **The Board of Jong Bonaire wants to thank everyone who helped in promoting the Selebrashon 10 aña di Jong Bonaire** during the recent weeks. Around 250 people were at the Friday night event and then an amazing 104 young people showed up for the *Konferensha Hubenil* on Saturday, in spite of the rain. Sunday there were **330 people in the swim** and another 100 spectators. So everyone is happy with the results.

If you want to see photos of the activities, go to <http://www.jongbonaire.org> and click on the two large photos on the home page.

► On Friday, November 27, the **Bonaire Animal Shelter Bonaire will again present their well known event – an Indonesian Dinner and Art Auction.**

Artists and others who want to help the Animal Shelter by donating a piece for the auction may contact Jan Kerklaan (tel. 786-3454), Paul Wichers (tel. 787-0466) or the Shelter (tel. 717-4989). The Animal Shelter will be very thankful.

All proceeds this time will go to the "Bonny Superdog" spay and neuter campaign, which is desperately in need of funds. Tickets for the dinner are not available yet. More information will follow.

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► Until now, **the hurricane season over the Atlantic Ocean has been the calmest in years.** During the past peak

period from the end of August up to mid-October meteorologists had registered two hurricanes and eight tropical storms.

According to Fred Capello, head of weather reports at the meteorological station on Curaçao, the last time that the area had experienced a hurricane with devastating force goes back to September 1876. The entire hurricane season, which runs from June until December 1st, has never been so calm since 1997. Experts attribute the absence of hurricanes to the meteorological phenomenon El Niño, a warm-water stream in the Pacific Ocean which could cause very bad weather there but suppresses the hurricanes from developing over the Atlantic Ocean.

► The government of Bonaire invites citizens, companies and organizations to **comment on the draft-evaluation of the Nature Policy Plan Bonaire.** The Nature Policy Plan Bonaire 1994-2004 and the draft of the evaluation are open to the public at the Department Environment and Nature Policy of the Directorate Environmental Planning and Management (DROB) at Kaya Amsterdam 23. The aforementioned can also be viewed on and downloaded from the website of the government: www.bonairegov.an. The opportunity for public comment runs from October 12th up to November 30th. Please submit your written comments in a letter to DROB or e-mail to inspraaknatuurbeleid@bonairegov.com

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► **In Europe the clocks were turned back by an hour last weekend, heralding winter time. In the US it happens next weekend, on November 1.** In March, the clocks will be set forward again. There is only about one hour difference in sunset/sunrise time at Bonaire's latitude, so **clocks here always remain the same.**

► **A thank you to SELIBON who has placed a large trash container at the beach at Lagun** so that visitors to the beach can help keep the beach clean by throwing the debris into the container.

The beach has never looked so clean!

► Don't miss this year's very scary "Nightmare Crib" - the **Halloween House of Horrors, at Capt. Don's Habitat.** It's open on Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31 from 8 to 11 pm. Entrance is NAf 7 and it all goes to charity. This year it's for infant car seats for those who cannot afford them. More on page 17.

► Have you tried the **new health food store yet- "The Natural Way?"** It's on Kaya Grandi, upstairs from Botika Bonaire. They have some hard-to-find organic products like brown basmati rice and some wonderful drinks and more. If you're looking for something special give them a call at 717-3353 or 510-2318. ■

G./L. D.



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BONAIREAN VOICES

THE NURSING HOMES

Even though emotions are rising these days between political parties and some people in our community we must still face the real world and decide how we are going to solve some of our present problems. Let's think about our families in the near future. We may not realize that they might need special care and have to be placed in a nursing home.

The nursing home in Bonaire, *Kas di Kuido*, which literally means "Home for Care," is not a home for the elderly. It's a home for persons from 16 years of age up to the elderly who need special care. These persons need a special insurance, the AVBZ, which in the Papiamentu language is known as *Lei di Labizjan*, a law within an insurance policy. It covers care for those with a chronic physical illness, a physical or mental disability, psychiatric illnesses and the elderly. The funds are collected by the administrative office of the Foundation for Health Care, which is the governing body for this kind of insurance. Funds come through three sectors: the Central Government office (*Landsontvanger*), each territorial island in the Dutch Antilles and the Central Government itself.

Beside the medical facilities like the hospitals in Curaçao, Sint Elisabeth Hospital, and the Sint Maarten Medical Center and others, this insurance takes care of five nursing homes, one on each island of the Dutch Antilles, which includes Bonaire's *Kas di Sosiego*, that has a capacity of 75 clients. Of course you and I as the working class contribute 2% from our salaries every month, which is paid to the Central Government. But do you think that this is enough to cover all the costs? Health care is getting expensive.

I had an interview with a very experienced and qualified nurse who's been working in the field for more than 30 years, first at San Francisco Hospital and now at the *Fundashon Mariadal* Hospital's nursing home section. Her name is Mrs. Henna Winklaar (49), and she explains: "The Nursing Home is divided into three sections: *Hofi Kayena*, for care of those with cardiac disease, brain disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. *Hofi Kibrahacha and Tuturutu* are two other departments for psychiatric care like Alzheimers or other types of dementia and psychosis. The clients of the nursing home are screened and admitted only by the administration's admission commission.

When an elderly person is admitted and has an income, for example, from a government (AOV) pension, then this pension (NAf 823, paid by the Social Insurance Bank-SVB) will go directly to the AVBZ insurance funds. In turn, the AVBZ insurance office pays *Kas di Kuido* according to the nursing home budget for each



Siomara Albertus photos

Some cheerful residents



Henna Winklaar with some of the residents' artwork

patient or client: NAf 4.000 a month. This money is for giving the patient or client the total care he or she needs.

The nursing home evaluates its health care contracts every year, looking for more help. One of the projects we have now is to expand with more departments, but we don't know yet when this will happen. We need a department for persons who aren't tranquil, who cannot control their emotions. We are trying to treat them with a different type of therapy. We try to help them focus on one thing or a color, but this is a totally new experience. I hope that soon we can accomplish the plans we have for the future."

If we calculate the monthly budget for this nursing home at about NAf 4.000 x 75 habitants = NAf 300.000 a month, and for a year, 12 X 300.000 = NAf 3.600.000. That's for a year for only one nursing home in Bonaire. The rest I leave it up to you to make your own conclusion. ■ Story & photos by Siomara Albertus.

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email reporter@bonairenews.com.



DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. Answer on page 17. Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney

5	3					1		
			4	3		8		
	4			9	5		3	
		7	5	1			8	
1				7				6
	9			6	8	7		
	5		3	8			1	
		3		5	1			
		6					2	3

BonQuiz #16

Give an aloë plant five years and its sugars (polysaccharides) will have matured sufficiently to give this plant its healing properties.



The leaf contains other therapeutic nutrients such as amino acids, vitamins and minerals. As soon as the gel is extracted from the leaf it can degrade quickly, especially when factors like sunlight are involved.

To preserve its qualities the gel is heated or blanched to temperatures of 80 to 100 °C. A cold press technique is also used. Some prefer this as the leaves are pressed and dried.

On the island there is an aloë oven still standing, connecting our heritage to this medicinal, miraculous species which still is prized throughout the world. There are those who will speculate that it is not an aloë oven, but a prison cell!

I believe it is an oven as this plantation harvested and cooked aloë, and exported it right from its cliffs. A copper cauldron brought from Europe was placed atop, and a controlled fire was stoked underneath, and as the aloë reached a certain consistency it was removed and placed in lined boxes for export. The steps leading to the cauldron were for those "stirring the pot," if you will, with a big wooden paddle. There are still aloë ovens in buildings and out in the open throughout Bonaire, remnants of a unique past gone forever. ■ Quiz & photo by Christie Dovale

Q) Where can this oven be seen?

Answer on page 17

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 or email: christiedovale@hotmail.com.



The RSC At Work - Bonaire Update

The Regional Service Center (RSC), together with the Ministries in the Netherlands and the Bonairean government, is busy developing several laws and projects for Bonaire, Statia and Saba. This effort is a result of the agreements that were made in 2006 by the Bonaire Island Council with The Netherlands. The aim is to have replacement laws ready for Bonaire, Statia and Saba on October 10th 2010, the date set for the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles and the start of new forms of government for all the Antillean islands. All political and executive tasks must be in place at that time and the distribution of governing tasks between the Dutch and the islands must be completely clear.

Presently, seven laws have been presented to the Second Chamber in the Netherlands and there are nine to come. In a press conference last week, Henk Kamp, the Queen's Commissioner for Bonaire, Statia and Saba, said, "On Bonaire there are several projects already in process with special funding provided by the Netherlands. Additionally, there are a numerous projects planned for 2010 (see list of improvement projects below).

Over the past years we have been working very hard with the Bonairean government and local organisations to decide what has to be done in specific areas: Education, Youth and Family, Infrastructure and Finance."

In the forthcoming period, the RSC will try to inform the Bonairean people about the plans and projects in various ways- via the media and information meetings for the people. "We've observed a great need for information about the (transition) process by the Bonairean people. That is logical. What is the transition about and what are the implications for the daily life of the people who live here? Besides sharing information, we will also answer people's questions and listen to their suggestions."

Improvement projects on Bonaire with Dutch support

Finance

- Creation of a retirement fund and satisfaction of the debts to APNA (at least NAf60 million)
- Introduction of the dollar, January 1th, 2011
- Introduction of new tax laws and reorganisation of the Tax Organisation
- A support system (*uitkeringen*) arranged to satisfy the remaining debts of Bonaire
- Education and Health (NAf40 million in 2009 and 2010)
- Extra programs for language and mathematics
- New methods of teaching

- Free schoolbooks
- Education of teachers and managers
- Improvement of buildings (amongst other things the roofs of Papa Cornes and San Luis Bertran schools)
- **Youth care and the building of a Center for Youth and Family (NAf 5-7 million 2010 and forward)**
- Advice and aid for parents about bringing up kids up healthy and safely
- Improve Youth care: 5 extra professionals, 2 family houses and 2 homes for small children
- More specialists
- Extra personnel at the Youth Protection
- Training for all Youth workers

Health

- Creation of Health Insurance for all people
- Extension of clinical help, doctors help, help in the home, psychiatry, addiction care
- Extension of sports and movement possibilities

Police

- Building a new police corps and 24/7 emergency help
- Building a new police station in Kralendijk and rebuilding the police station in Rincon

- Doubling the number of detectives

Fire Department

- Building a new fire corps
- Improvement of the materials
- Education of the personnel
- Building a new fire station

Other

- Taking over the personnel who now work for the Central Government (for Bonaire more than 200 persons)
- Completion of the new prison with space for 100 prisoners
- The finance of the necessary renovation of Bonaire International Airport and the improvement in roads and other infrastructure
- The finance of the planned measures (temporarily and permanent) for processing waste water (amongst other things for protection of the coral reef and stimulation of agriculture) ■ *Inge Vos*



Inge Vos is a recent arrival on Bonaire. She has experience in Communications.



Information meeting at Jong Bonaire. At the table are Celia Fernandes Pedra on behalf of the Ban Boneiru Bèk Foundation, Arthur Sealy, chairman of the evening, Kwartiermaker Fleur Lagcher (RSC, Education, Culture and Science) and Kwartiermaker Marga Drewes (RSC, Youth and Family).

On October 15th, the Ban Boneiru Bèk Foundation invited the public to an information meeting at Jong Bonaire. Two *kwartiermakers* of the RSC, Marga Drewes (Youth and Family) and Fleur Lagcher (Education, Culture and Science), explained about projects that are planned or already being executed on Bonaire (see list of improvement projects).

About 100 people were present to hear the presentations, ask questions and make observations. A successful initiative of the *Ban Boneiru Bèk* Foundation.. ■ *Story & photo by Inge Vos*

Still Smiling... But...



Queen's Commissioner Henk Kamp and Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten meet with ADB leader Jopie Abraham

The Dutch Government's decision to postpone the payment of Bonaire's outstanding bills as part of the debt relief accompanying the process of constitutional change in the Netherlands Antilles is being likened by some to blackmail. The new ADB/Nicolaas coalition Bonaire Government Executive Council wants to deviate from the agreements made with the former UPB led Executive Council. That prompted The Hague to "close the money tap," beginning with stopping paying off the government debt to the APNA Pension Fund.

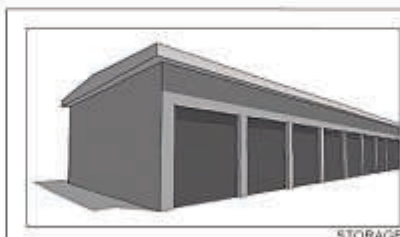
The new Island Government coalition led by Jopie Abraham of "Aliansa Demokratiko Boneriano" (ADB) wants to put proceedings towards integration with Holland on hold until another Referendum is held. The Referendum is to specify whether the direction Bonaire should take is integration overseas public entity of The Netherlands, as was happening, or a "free association." ■ *G.D.*

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Amnesty For (Some) Illegals

Antillean Justice Minister Magali Jacoba has finally set the standards to implement the long delayed immigration amnesty. The Brooks Tower Accord was signed on March 2nd 2007 by the five Lt. Governors of the Netherlands Antilles and the Minister of Justice. **It will give undocumented workers illegally resident in the Antilles the opportunity to become legal residents.** There are an estimated 5,000 illegal residents on Bonaire, up to 50,000 on Curaçao and 20,000 on St. Maarten.

Under the guidelines, undocumented foreigners working and living on the island since before 2006 have six weeks, from November 3 to December 15, to apply for legal residence. Only those who qualify will be able to obtain residence permits.

Category 1 is those who have lived in the Netherlands Antilles from December 31, 2001, without interruption. They need documents to prove it, such as passport with arrival stamp, copies of residence permit request(s), proof of insurance from SVB, papers on their local employment history and utility bills indicating residence.

Category 2 concerns those who arrived between 2002 and 2005. Group A involves those who work. The worker needs a guarantee letter from his or her employer and must earn at least NAf 1.500 guilders (\$834) a month. Group B involves those who live together with someone of Dutch nationality.

Category 3 involves those who arrived after January 1, 2006, and are thus not covered by the Brooks Tower Accord. They will have to leave the island and can then apply for residence permits from abroad. They will not be penalized for their illegal residence.

People currently following the "regular" immigration or residency process are unaffected.

The Minister of Justice also declared that after the implementation of this project much stricter control will be applied and any person who fails to make use of this opportunity will bear the consequence of having to return to his or her country. No persons can be considered who have failed to do the right thing. A comprehensive information campaign has begun. Minister Jacoba explained, "There will be announcements in newspapers, on the radio and television, brochures, posters, and booklets will be published explaining all the requirements to be met by undocumented persons, and a website with all the necessary information (currently available only in Dutch). All this will be done in English, Spanish, Papiamentu, Creole and Dutch." ■

G.D.



Min. Jacoba on a recent visit to Bonaire

Poop For Plants

Bonaire continues working with the Dutch government to come up with an emergency solution to the wastewater from waterfront resorts, restaurants and residences. Under the interim plan, wastewater will be removed by vacuum trucks from the coast and brought to a temporary treatment plant on the LVV property. The treated wastewater will then be used for crop irrigation and to grow vegetables.

The water treatment is necessary because the official sewer project is delayed and immediate intervention is necessary to save the coral reefs. The temporary facility should be operational in April next year. The project for the construction of sewers and a sewage treatment plant, which was in place, has slowed. Expansion of its coverage to Belnem and Hato and changes in its design are being considered.

The problem of wastewater must be addressed as soon as possible for public health as well as the health of the reef.. The BC has agreed on a temporary wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) fed by vacuum tank trucks. The WWTP is funded by the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations.

The Department of Environment and Nature, DROB, is responsible for the implementation of the emergency solution. The action group includes personnel from LVV, Selibon, WEB and *Kwartiermakers* of Environment, Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and Transport. There is technical assistance from the Water Brabant



Attending the seminar: Frensel Janga, Gracia Frans, Anthony Emerenciana, Robby Beukenboom, Nolly Oleana, Jan Jaap van Almenkerk, Ton Akkerman, Rocky Emers, Ludo Nicolaas, Jozef van Brussel

Delta.

The hope is that the water from the WWTP can support sustainable agriculture. Beginning in April 2010 a large part of the processed water from the coast will be used for this. The sewage removed will cut the flow into the sea by 60 to 70%. Every day 400 m³ of treated wastewater will be then available for use in agriculture. In addition to the standard water treatment any remaining bacteria in the water will be killed by UV radiation.

Last week at a seminar at Mangazina di Rei Commissioners Frensel Janga and Nolly Oleana met with personnel from LVV, Robbie Beukenboom, Jan Jaap van Almenkerk (project assistant) and the *Kwartiermakers* Ton Akkerman (Agriculture and Nature) and Joseph van Brussels (Environment) to discuss the new opportunities for agriculture. In the fields of LVV a farming project to grow feed and vegetables will be started. In this project, young people are to be trained for new jobs. The fresh feed will benefit the goats and sheep and there are healthy vegetables should soon be available. ■ Jan Jaap Almenkerk

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“Beauty And The Beast” -Flamingo Tongues Flourish

I first became familiar with flamingo tongue snails (*Cyphoma gibbosum*) as a student in the Bahamas where I actively searched for them during every dive. These marine snails are a cream-white color with orange spots outlined in black. They can be found in many coral reef habitat types, attached to and feeding on soft corals.

They proved to be a challenging subject to photograph because I tended to find them clinging to the base of sea rods or along the underside of sea fans, which meant having to maintain buoyancy and get into close proximity without knocking the innocent soft coral around with my fins. In coming to Bonaire two and a half months ago, the flamingo tongues continued to be some of my favorite marine organisms to seek out. What was immediately apparent was how easily I was encountering them at different dive sites. I thought to myself, “How wonderful; I’ve become quite successful at spotting these beauties.” What I didn’t know until recently is that perhaps my “beauties” are, in fact, “beasts.”

As was wonderfully outlined by BNMP Manager, Ramon de Leon, in a previous issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* (see “1,000 cuts,” Oct. 16-30 issue), there are many factors currently threatening the status of our coral reefs.

One source of concern is the loss of our large predators such as groupers and sharks, likely due to overfishing. As large predators are removed from the ecosystem, the number of smaller predators increases or the number of algae-eating fishes may go up, leading to an imbalance in the ecosystem. The unraveling of the natural food web due to human activities can completely change entire coral reef communities from seaweed to fish.

In addition to this troubling fact, we are not only taking important ingredients out of our coral reef mixture; we are also possibly adding ingredients that weren’t in the mix before, including chemi-



BNMP photo showing the proliferation of flamingo tongues on a soft coral

cals from sewage seepage and sediments in runoff from construction sites.

The seepage of chemicals such as nitrogen and phosphorous from leaking septic tanks can be another means by which the number of a particular type of species might increase on the reef. For example, these chemicals can provide the “fuel” for increases in algal growth (like fertilizer in your garden) and possibly disease-bearing pathogens such as the fungus *Aspergillus sydowii*. Although it is believed that *Aspergillus* originated in soils of the Sahara Desert (blown across the Atlantic by the prevailing winds), the fungus now attacks sea fans and has caused mortality of sea fans throughout the Caribbean. Surprisingly, flamingo tongue snails prefer to live and feed on sea fans that have the disease and, in turn, may be carriers of the disease through simple digestion of food. These gregarious snails follow each other across the soft coral “landscape” through chemical communication in mucous trails they leave behind, seeking out mates and suitable soft corals to live on. If particular species of soft corals are targeted by both the snails and by disease, like the sea fan example,

their numbers may begin to decline. Any decline in coral cover on the reef, opens up space for new organisms to colonize. Thus, in time we may witness a shift in the types of organisms represented on the reef.

Summarizing: Why are flamingo tongues a threat?

- 1) natural predators may no longer be present in sufficient numbers to keep the number of flamingo tongues in check,
 - 2) flamingo tongues prefer particular soft coral species leading to changes in composition of the reef, and
 - 3) flamingo tongues are able to ingest, excrete, and spread the known disease-causing fungus *Aspergillus*, which is one reason why we should be concerned about the snail’s apparent population boom currently occurring in Bonaire.
- To determine whether flamingo tongues are impacting our beloved marine ecosystems, the Bonaire Marine Park in combination with CIEE (Council for International Educational Exchange) is asking divers to contribute to a volunteer monitoring study. The protocol is simple, efficient and can easily be performed during the last 10 minutes of your



Jirik photo

This close-up shows a flamingo tongue snail eating a Sea Rod Coral. The flamingo tongue snail is a small, colorful snail about one inch long. Snails are called “gastropods” (say, “GAS-tro-PODS”), meaning stomach-footed, because they eat with their feet. As this snail crawls along the branch of coral, it digests the coral animals. To the lower right of the snail, you can see the bare purple coral skeleton where the snail has been.

The Sea Rod Coral is one of several species of corals that have soft skeletons. A Sea Rod is a colony of several thousand animals. Each animal is called a coral polyp (say “PAH-lip”). Each polyp lives in a small hole in the skeleton. The polyp has several small arms, like a tiny octopus or squid, and can reach out into the water to catch tiny plants and animals that it eats.

When it is being attacked by the snail, the polyps will curl their arms and try to hide in their holes.

recreational dives. Between 30 and 10 feet, examine every soft coral you encounter as you zig-zag your way along the reef. At each soft coral, identify the type of coral and count the number of flamingo tongues you can find (remember, zero is a very important number to record) and the type. For those interested in participating, CIEE and STINAPA will provide a pre-printed datasheet for collecting this information. On the sheet you will find pictures of four representative gorgonian structures and a table of ranges of snail numbers found. All you have to do is place a tick mark in the appropriate box each time a particular type of gorgonian with or without flamingo tongues is encountered. We request that all data

collected be copied and submitted to the Marine Park or CIEE offices (Kaya Gob. Debrot. #26). Datasheets will be printed on waterproof paper that can be erased and reused. To receive more information about this project or to pick up your datasheet, please contact Ramon de Leon (marinepark@stinapa.org) or Dr. Rita Peachey (info@cieebonaire.org). ■

Lauren Saulino

Lauren Saulino is an intern at CIEE and the recent recipient of a Master in Environmental Sciences with an area of concentration in Environmental Management from Miami University (Ohio).





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Rocargo Celebrates 27 Years With a Monster Cleanup



Rocargo photos



noon reading "Lesu ku min prome drumi mi", which took place on September 1
noon reading "Lesu ku min prome drumi mi", which took place on September
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Rocargo celebrated its 27th birthday with a cleanup recognizing "World Cleanup Day." On Saturday, September 19, the Rocargo team together with their families and friends, big and small – 45 in all – performed a mighty cleanup on the island. Early in the morning everyone assembled at Rocargo to go to the heavily trafficked area of Kaya Gob. Debrot where many of the hotels and tourists are concentrated. Afterwards they continued on Kaya Industria and at the La Sonrisa Ball Park, terminating at Maiky Snack. There, very tired but satisfied, everyone had a delicious krioyo lunch.

The group collected more than 100 sacks of garbage, the majority of which was bottles but there was also a lot of construction debris like cement sacks as well as lots of used telephone cards. They even found a NA/10 note in one of the bottles! Marisela Croes, director of Rocargo, gave a big thank you for the effort and work that everyone did. She especially thanked the youngsters of the group who helped so well by setting a good example of not throwing garbage on the roads or in the countryside but taking it home to throw in garbage cans there. ■ *press release/L.D.*

SELIBON Cleanups in Barrios

The cleanup campaign accomplished by Fundashon Tene Boneiru Limpi (TBL-Keep Bonaire Clean Foundation) and SELIBON in the barrio of Tera Kòrà was a rousing success.

On September 13 the neighborhood campaign began to stimulate the residents to keep their gardens and neighborhoods clean. SELIBON placed big garbage bins in strategic areas in Tera Kòrà so the inhabitants could use them, free of charge, to deposit their debris.

The residents of Tera Kòrà made good use of the special attention that they received from SELIBON during the month. There were many calls to SELIBON to ask them to continue the cleanup. To honor these requests SELIBON decided to continue the cleanup action in Tera Kòrà for two more weeks.

On November 2 SELIBON and the TBL will begin a clean up in Amboina. From November 2 to 8 there will be big garbage containers in the southern area of Amboina. During the week of November 9 to 15

there will be large garbage containers placed in the northern area.

During November 16 to 22 containers will be put on the eastern side. And on November 23 to 29, on the western area. On Saturday, November 7, SELIBON, TBL and the Health Department will give residents valuable information to keep their gardens and neighborhood clean, to prevent dengue and to stimulate people to help clean up their *barrio* – take a photo and share a prize.

Also SELIBON asks all residents if they have an old auto in their garden to call them for help to get rid of it. ■

Lucia Beck/L.D.



Selibon photo

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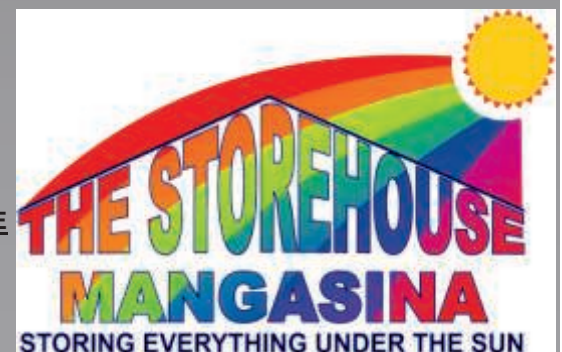
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Letters to the Editor

PRAISE FOR RAMON DE LEON (3)

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank you for publishing Ramon's article in this issue (Oct. 16-30, 2009) of *The Reporter*. I read it with great interest. Very well written and informative and direct. Hopefully this issue will continue to receive serious attention. Thanks again for being an important part of the quest for a solution.

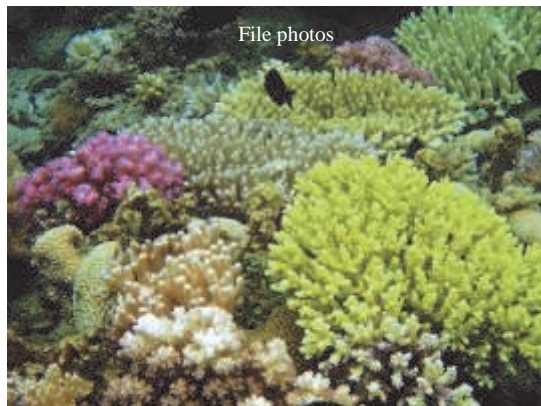
Blue McRight

To the Editor,

Applause, applause to *The Reporter* and Ramon de Leon, Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, for concisely articulating the threats to Bonaire's reefs!

Although it would be almost impossible for Bonaire to mitigate the global threats to the reef (i.e. climate change, etc.), it is totally possible and morally responsible for Bonaire to eliminate local threats like overfishing and sewage. As long as Bonaire's governmental and tourist leaders allow these threats to persist, the island should no longer claim the mantle of "green, ecotourist" destination. What a joke! Collecting batteries, banning gloves, etc. are not enough when sewage is seeping from every septic tank from every hotel and waterfront establishment and "no fishing" zones aren't enforced.

As more divers and snorkelers realize that



File photos

greed and cynicism are in charge on this island and not environmental good sense, they will take their money elsewhere.

Pay attention, government, business, and tourist leaders: the ship of Bonaire's reefs is sinking and all that is being offered are band-aids that don't stick anymore.

Pauline E. Kayes

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank you and the writer, Ramon de Leon, for publishing the most lucid article I've ever read about the threatened reefs of Bonaire.

I hope all stakeholders will take good notice.

Bob Smits

6th Annual Market Study and Action Coming in November

The Foundation *Ban Boneiru Bek* has organized its Sixth Annual Market Study and Action (SBM) for Saturday, November 14, from 3 to 8 pm at Jong Bonaire. The SBM committee is led by Lilian Paula-Crestian. The aim is to offer scholastic and employment information to students of Bonaire.

Participants will include schools from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and the Netherlands as well as companies from Bonaire. For a full list of participants go to www.banboneirubek.com under "students".

Sponsors this year are AMFO, Flamingo Communications, Giro Bank, MCB, Telbo and WEB. Last year the SBM Bonaire published a magazine that includes information about study and education. An evaluation survey was held among the visitors and was very positive. Hence, this year again a magazine will be offered to visitors. The theme of the paper this year is: *Huntu por nos, p'esei, preparations ban pa nos futuro!* Together for us, therefore, we'll make preparations for our future!

Transportation will be arranged for visitors from Rincon. There will be a live radio broadcast provided by BonFM. Like last year, interviews will be held among the participants and visitors to the Market Study and Action.

For more information contact: Ban Boneiru Bek, Kaya Sábalo 13, PO Box 194, Bonaire Tel: 717-4318 Fax: 717-4518 www.banboneirubek.com Bank: MCB 115.588.01 ■ Press release/L.D.



Antilles Coast Guard recruited at one year's event



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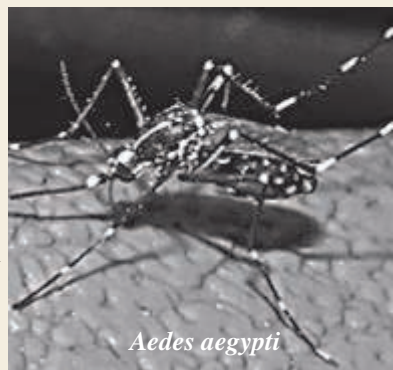
Date: 14th November, 2009.
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM Presentation/Cocktails.
Place: At Parke Publico Bonairiano, Kaya Souer Bartola

*WDTF Foundation: A non-profit NGO Grass Roots Group
For sign-up and information WDTF Foundation: Contact:

Body Talk

MOSQUITOES – A SPRAY AND PRAY POLICY?

Spraying against mosquitoes has begun. Perhaps you are one of the thousands of people on Bonaire who believe that spraying achieves the desired effect – to kill mosquitoes, specifically the dengue mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) carrier of **Dengue Fever**.



Aedes aegypti

Remember the breeding habits of this mosquito? – clean water in man-made containers in or near your home or in your garden and **always** in the shade. These are the only places this mosquito will breed – no-where else! Now, how many people read the article two weeks ago and laughed when I said that this mosquito **does not** breed in the puddles and areas of water on the island? Were you one of them? Think logically about what I am saying.

I observed first-hand the spraying truck in Antriol, on Wednesday last week, going up and down these roads, spraying against mosquitoes. The main problem I have with the spraying goes back to where the mosquitoes live – not along the roadside, not in the bushes along the road and also not in the puddles on or at the side of the road. Refer back to the previous paragraph!

Another problem are the two sprays currently used here - Temephos and Abate. Now Temephos is used on the larval stages of the mosquito (you need to find the breeding sites!) and Abate is used to kill both larvae and adult mosquitoes. Both these products contain various chemicals like xylene and permethrin, both classified as – wait for it – **neurotoxins!** Should you inhale these fumes, you could be in for a very nasty surprise! Of course it is also highly toxic to our frogs, dragonflies, bees and birds. We have 4 species of frogs and 9 species of dragon flies on Bonaire. We all know that frogs and their tadpoles and dragonflies and their offspring eat mosquitoes and their larvae. Another interesting fact is that the pink shrimp, a salt water species, is also affected by these products. Does the spraying include areas where there might be

pink shrimp for our beautiful flamingoes? I am not a scientist, but if someone could enlighten us on the possible effect of these neurotoxins on our shrimps and eventually on our flamingoes, I would be very interested.

The **only** way to control this mosquito is to remove its breeding sites! A handful of course sea salt in containers that cannot be emptied will certainly stop any breeding and kill existing larvae and pupae.

Here is a challenge to every one of you: check in and around your house or property every day for standing water and remove. Secondly take a clean, clear glass jar and check the puddles of water in and on the side your road, under trees or bushes and, if you like, go to the large areas of water and take a sample. If you think you have found mosquito larvae or pupae, label the jar and bring it to me. Just make sure you know the difference between mosquito larvae/pupae and tadpoles!

Throughout the Dengue season we hope to keep you updated with outbreaks, advice on treatments, the symptoms, most frequently asked questions and whether you may have Dengue or not.

DENGUE HELPLINE 790-6500
Website www.dengueinfo.net for more in-depth information. ■
Stephanie Bennett

Author Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in UK, and now researches health issues that particularly affect people on Bonaire and other Caribbean Islands.



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House or Large Apartment Wanted for "Bonaire experienced" family of four from December 11, 2009—January 9, 2010. Call 001 707 928-6565 or email blueskyz@idiom.com

Looking for a two or three bedroom, furnished, house, condo, or apartment for three months, Feb. 1- April 30, 2010. We can pay first month now, to secure the lease. Prefer something close to the coast, but will consider all offers. Call Louis or Eileen at 788-0382 or email: lpetrich@hotmail.com.

Wanted: Mature, responsible, single woman to take of my house and dog in Belnem in exchange for reduced rent (NAf 450 a month) for separate, spacious guesthouse with bedroom, kitchen, private bathroom, and outside "gazebo" living room--all situated in a beautiful, walled-in garden. Cable TV and internet included; utilities NAf 175 a month. Available Dec. 15 for long-term. Contact Pauline at pkaves@diversityworksinc.net.

HOUSE WANTED – Looking to Buy a House with 2 to 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen and terrace. Call Esther 524-4864.

1/2 Container to USA. Need to send something to the USA? I have half a container going to the U.S. in Dec. \$1,300. Call 795-1277

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter... Cuba

Here's yearly Bonaire visitor Josie Estill (who volunteers in the cat cage at the Shelter) during a visit to Cuba several years ago with a study group. "I loved the week in Cuba, but my heart is in Bonaire, particularly at Bonaire Town Homes," she said. Josie received her Bonaire Ambassador bronze medal in January, 2009, during her 12th visit to dushi Bonaire. ■



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
10-30	3:04	1.1FT.	10:39	1.7FT.	18:10	1.2FT.	22:08	1.3FT.	50
10-31	2:47	1.1FT.	11:03	1.8FT.	19:22	1.1FT.	23:02	1.2FT.	62
11-01	2:15	1.0FT.	11:31	1.9FT.	20:29	1.0FT.			73
11-02	12:00	1.9FT.	21:47	0.9FT.					83
11-03	12:39	2.0FT.	22:46	0.8FT.					91
11-04	13:26	2.0FT.	23:33	0.8FT.					95
11-05	0:17	0.7FT.	14:14	2.0FT.					96
11-06	1:05	0.7FT.	15:15	2.0FT.					92
11-07	1:43	0.7FT.	16:13	1.9FT.					85
11-08	2:14	0.8FT.	17:24	1.8FT.					76
11-09	2:39	0.8FT.	18:24	1.7FT.					66
11-10	2:58	0.9FT.	9:39	1.5FT.	13:54	1.3FT.	19:34	1.6FT.	58
11-11	3:09	1.0FT.	9:40	1.6FT.	15:37	1.2FT.	20:32	1.5FT.	56
11-12	3:03	1.1FT.	9:57	1.7FT.	16:58	1.1FT.	21:45	1.4FT.	59



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls - Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
October 29, 2009	Thursday	Ruby Princess	0700-1400	3100
November 1, 2009	Sunday	Maasdam	0800-1700	1258
November 3, 2009	Tuesday	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
November 4, 2009	Wednesday	Sea Princess	1200-1900	2016
November 10, 2009	Tuesday	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
November 12, 2009	Thursday	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100
November 14, 2009	Saturday	MSC Poesia	0700-1400	2568

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10am to early afternoon.

HAPPENINGS

Now through November 20- DROB invites comments on the Nature Policy Plan at Kaya Amsterdam 23. Submit written comments in a letter to DROB or e-mail to inspraaknaturaubeleid@bonairegov.com see Flotsam article on page 6.

Wednesday, October 28 -Sentibibu Toastmasters—Public invited—Learn about Toastmasters—at the Bonaire Lions Club, St. Dominicus School, 7-9 pm. Call Noris Martis 786-4011, Indra Sedney 796-0168

Friday, Saturday, October 30, 31—Nightmare Crib—Halloween House of Horror, Capt. Don's Habitat. NAF 7 (for charity). Page 17

Saturday, October 31—Halloween

Sunday, November 1- Bonaire Mountain Bike Race

Monday, November 1-Full moon

Tuesday, November 3- Sea Turtles of Bonaire by STCB Board Member Bruce Brabec, 7 pm, CIEE Research Station, Kaya Gobernador N Debrot 21

Saturday, November 7-Big Monthly Rincon Marché in the center of Rincon, 6 am to 2 pm— Stands selling gifts, candles, fruits, drinks, local food—a real Bonairean experience.

Friday, November 13- Classical Violin and Piano concert — 7:30 pm at the Plaza Resort (see ad on page 18)

Saturday, November 14—Market Study & Action - (Study & Jobs), Jong Bonaire, 3-8 pm. (page 12)

Saturday, November 14—Public Meeting at Parke Publico Bonairiano, Dare to Care Foundation, 7-8:30 pm (page 12)

REGULAR EVENTS

- By appointment – **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- **Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the cooler evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big Marché first Saturday of the month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

- **Flea Market at Parke Publico every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm.** Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAF10 per selling table.(NAF 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissesar - 786-1592.**

- **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm.** Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAF17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- **Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeke for more information—796-7870.

Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday— Creature Feature— John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Tuesday-- Bonaire Land and Ocean presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff, 7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condominiums.

Wednesday— Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th

Wednesday at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Krioyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th. and January 1st. Call **788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm— All levels, NAF2,50, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12 noon-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort upstairs in Peter Hughes meeting room above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: *Kralendijk*, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am. *Rincon*, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk
Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379.

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at **7:30 pm**. 717-2194

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125
or 790-8988

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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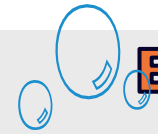
Pet of the Week

Here's "Guus," our featured pet, "on the move." This is just to show you that he's in terrific shape after a very shaky beginning to his life. He got the dreaded disease, Parvo, and he nearly died, but this spunky and clever dog came through it all and now he's in perfect health and full of energy. Guus is a medium sized dog with an interesting combination of fur design – big spots and little spots – attractively placed, like he's been rained upon with black ink. He has the short haired coat that makes him easy to care for. No expensive trips to the doggy hairdressers for cuts and styling. He's about six months old and has had his tests, worming and shots. And he'll be sterilized when he's old enough. The dog adoption fee of NAf 105 covers all of this medical work. As are all the adoptees at the Bonaire Animal Shelter he is in top health and completely social with people and other dogs. You may see him at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



Looking for a fun evening and an opportunity to help the Shelter? On Friday, November 27, the Shelter will again have their **Indonesian Dinner and Art Auction**. Artists and others who want to help the Animal Shelter by donating a piece for the auction can contact Jan Kerklaan (tel. 786-3454), Paul Wichers (tel. 7870466) or the Shelter (tel. 7174989). The Animal Shelter will be very thankful. All proceeds this time will go to the "Bonny Superdog" spay and neuter campaign, which is desperately in need of funds. Tickets for the dinner will be available soon. More information will follow. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

Bubbles from the Biologist



© Jim Lyle 2006

Did You Know...

That great barracuda, *Sphyrna barracuda*, often attack prey that is too large for them to swallow? Barracudas are known to attack prey that is much larger than the width of their jaws, while studies have shown that the width of a fish's mouth generally predicts and determines the maximum size of prey a predator may consume (Wainwright and Richard, 1995). Great barracudas are the exception to this rule. These fish have combined a rapid striking attack with a powerful shearing bite from the back of the lower jaw that allows these predators to slice their prey into pieces, making it easier to swallow whole (Grubich et al. 2007). These fish are literally capable of biting off more than they can chew, so to speak! ■ *Carolina Yanson.*

University at Bloomington, IN. She's majoring in Biology, but has a passion for the ocean. Marine biology and marine sciences interest her the most. When she saw CIEE's program in Bonaire she knew it was for her: SCUBA and biology focused classes in the Caribbean? Right up her alley.



References:

- Grubich, Justin R., Rice, Aaron N. and Westneat, Mark W. (2007) Functional morphology of bite mechanics in the great barracuda. *Zoology* 17: 16-29.
- Wainwright, P. C. and Richard, B. A. (1995) Predicting patterns of prey use from morphology of fishes. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 44: 97-113.

Yanson is from Chicago originally but is currently an undergraduate at Indiana

Bonaire's Own Gastropod



On July 5, 2007 we published an article about a new nudibranch* species discovered by Ellen Muller in Bonaire. <http://bonairereporter.com/news/007PDFs/07-06-07.pdf>

It is now officially a new and described species. The paper on the new *Trapania* species has been published in the October 2009 issue of the *Caribbean Journal of Science*. The name of this new nudibranch is *Trapania bonellenae*, a combination of Bonaire and Ellen.

http://caribjsci.org/Oct09/45_8-14.pdf

To date, these nudibranchs haven't been reported anywhere else.

For more images of the *Trapania nudibranch* go to Ellen's *Trapania bonellenae* webpage.

<http://www.pbase.com/Imagine/trapania>

■ *Ellen Muller*

A nudibranch is a member of one suborder of soft-bodied, shell-less marine opisthobranch gastropod mollusks, which are noted for their often extraordinary colors and striking forms.

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Nightmare Crib Haunted House Again At Capt. Don's Habitat Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31, from 8 to 11 pm. Admission: NAf 7

As many of you may already know, The Haunted Homies are preparing for their fourth annual Nightmare Crib Haunted House. They really enjoy doing this for Bonaire, and as always, all proceeds will go to charity. This year the Nightmare Crib will bring even more fright. They are requesting your support through donations.

For those of you who are not familiar with their organization – they have an all-volunteer staff that gives their time and talents to create an illusion of fright. They do this to raise money for charities close to our hearts to help the children of Bonaire. In 2007 they were able to donate money to Sedrebo. With this money they were able to refurbish the bus that takes children to their sporting events. They also donated to the school breakfast program and helped a baseball team get to a tournament off island. In 2006, they wanted to make the children's ward at the hospital more relaxing for the kids and their parents. They donated cots for the parents of sick children to sleep on and a DVD player and DVDs and lots of toys. In addition to this, they also donated money to FKPD for furniture to put in their new building. In 2005, they donated money to the Special Olympics to help send them to Curaçao. They are now working on starting a car seat project for the island. They want to provide car seats for every child whose family cannot afford one. They are using the money collected last year and this year to do this. They are

working closely with SEBIKI to ensure they are used properly.

No amount is too small or too large. If you enjoyed the Nightmare Crib Haunted House last year, with your help, it will even be better this year and we can all have a fun frightful festival and help a worthy cause on Bonaire all at the same time. A heartfelt thank you from The Haunted Homies. If you would like to donate funds, time, and/or frightful items that can be used for props, contact either Karen Chalk or Margaret Romijn at Habitat... 717-8290 or e-mail Karen at Karen@habitatdiveresorts.com. ■ Karen Chalk

Sudoku Solution

539	827	164
271	436	895
648	195	237
467	513	982
182	974	356
395	268	741
754	382	619
923	651	478
816	749	523

Puzzle on page 7

Karate Gold & Bronze



Bonaire's Karate Competitors

On October 16 the *Nederlands-Antilliaanse Karate-Do Bond* (NAKB) organized a Dutch Caribbean Karate Championship at the International School Curaçao. Participants were from Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. Surinam was also to participate but cancelled at the last moment.

The tournament was a high level one and all participants fought strongly until the end.

Six karate students from the karate school, BonKarate, in Bonaire under the guidance of Sensei Peter Silberie, fought a good and hard battle.

Alex Heynen came in third place in his category. In the feminine category, Kia-San Silberie was number one.

The other Bonairean youngsters missed their final by one point. Their presentation was very good. Sensei Peter Silberie was very satisfied with the presentation of his students and their perseverance during the competition.



Medal Winners Alex Heynen and Kia-San Silberie with their Sensei

Immediately after the awarding of the prizes the organization invited Sensei Silberie and his students to the following tournament on November 7 in Curaçao, to celebrate the karate school's 20th anniversary. ■

Story & photos by Peter Silberie



BonQuiz Answer

Question (from page 7):

- Q) Where can this aloe oven be seen?
A) In front of the Karpata Landhouse

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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The White, Low-Revving Bonaire Loaf of Bread Volkswagen

The 55th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's most interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Bonaire/Nikiboko Zuid – Somewhere, half way along the Kaya Nikiboko Zuid, a white Volkswagen Bread loaf can be admired. Bread loaf or Bay-window are some of the common nicknames for this Volkswagen 1600 Combi that was produced in Brazil in 1999. A Volkswagen, produced in Brazil? Yes, a Volkswagen produced in Brazil! The words "Hecho in Brazil" are written, printed, stamped and marked on almost all parts of the vehicle. Most people think all Volkswagens are produced in Germany, but the brand also had factories in the US and in Latin America, for instance in Brazil, Argentina and Mexico.

So to this microbus birth was given in Brazil in the year 1999. In Germany they stopped producing the officially called T2-model in 1979 but in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil they kept on producing the "Bullys" with the panorama-front window.

This white colored creature once started its job as a transporter of fruit and vegetables for a Bonairean *fruteria*. Now the car is owned by a Volkswagen lover who wants to preserve the vehicle and who want to convert it to a camper.

The Volkswagen 1600 Combi body is mounted on a rugged and rust free chassis. The car is fitted with the well known Volkswagen



VW T2 Combi

four-cylinder boxer engine that started its life in the famous Volkswagen Beetle as a small and humble 1132 four lugger. It was the Dutch Volkswagen importer Ben Pon who made the first drawings for the microbus on the back of a cigar box. The chassis of a Beetle, the rear mounted engine of a Beetle and a new spacious body on top of it. The T1 was born. The T1, better known as Microbus, Split screen or Splittie, was produced from March 8 to the end of 1967 in Wolfsburg and in Hannover, Germany. The first split screens were fitted with 1132 cc 25 horse powers boxer fours with a very low top speed.

The last T2 model produced in 1979 in Germany was fitted with

engine of 1600 cc producing some 50 horse power. So power doubled, but the top speed did not.

Today's Bonairean Bread loaf is fitted with basically the same 1600 cc four-cylinder boxer engine. The engine is air cooled and there are eight old fashioned but reliable push rods mounted to open the eight valves of this four cylinder. Power and cc's increased the last 50 years but basically the engine remained the same. In Brazil the technicians mounted an extra oil cooler and fuel injection. That was all. The car still does not have a car-

tridge as an oil filter and there are still four speeds in the gearbox.

The present owner is very proud of his Combi. Those days the price of a brand new Bay-window was only about NAf28.000. He bought this particular car second hand because it was the cheapest thing on wheels you could get on the market. And his love for the Volkswagen developed and developed... Just minor repairs had to be done to the vehicle: new ball joints and another pair of mufflers. It really is a pleasure to listen to the low revving engine of the panorama windowed panel van. The original muffler had faded away and just by accident the owner found a pair of very useful mufflers that had served on a trike. There was only a little conversion to the flanges necessary. Now the pipes are producing a lovely sound, especially when the bus is doing some 50 kph.

This Volkswagen Combi is the most spartan and simple vehicle you can think of: no air-conditioning, no power windows, no air fan, no heater, and no radio. Just two windows you can wind up and wind down. And two small ventilation windows, one in each door. And then there is the after market roof shutter. Nobody knows why it's here. No martial or

army reasons. Just a hole in the roof.

The engine gets 10 kilometers out of a liter of injected fuel. Yes, this old fashioned car is fitted with fuel injection. This is the only fancy part of the car. And there is electronic ignition. That is all!

Normally the owner obeys the speed limits on the island. "This van just likes a speed of some 50 kilometers! Every now and then I try the Bonairean A1, the road to Sorobon. Then our speed is some 80 to 90 kilometers. The car can do it, but it does not feel that comfortable.

There is an almost open connection between the engine and the mufflers and the ears of the driver and the passenger. It is like flying a Second World War bomber!"

There are enough plans for the future. At NAPA the owner of the T2 saw some really small and cute aftermarket rear lights. And he wants to change the color. And he wants to install a bed and a small kitchen. And he wants to convert the sliding door into two small single doors...

And no, the car is not for sale. ■ J@n Brouwer



New Rotary Club Members

On September 30 the Bonaire Rotary Club installed two new members: Herbert Domacassé (at right) and Addo Stuur (photo below) seen with President Huub De-Groot.

This brings the membership to 29 including two honorary members, Lt Gov Glen Thodé and Sur Swinda. Are you interested in joining? As a new member, you'll get a chance to become more involved in your community and to provide aid to other parts of the world through the opportunities that your Rotary Club and Rotary International offer.

Longtime Rotarians agree that involvement is the key to getting the most out of membership.

The Rotary Club also gave a donation of NAf 1.000 to *Stichting Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds Bonaire*, Morella Warner and Astrid Francisce, for all the good work they do for the cancer patients of Bonaire. This stichting celebrated its five-year anniversary in September, and Rotary, through its community efforts, asked them to keep up their spirits in this difficult task. Money was not the only gift as Rotary members offered help through their sectors of expertise and network advice and ideas. ■ Story & photos by Rotarian Sara Matera



classical music board **bonaire**

friday, november 13, 2009, 7.30 pm

Jeroen van der Wel and Bas van Bommel are both gifted musicians. They won several international competitions and performed as soloists at various orchestras

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The Classical Music Board of Bonaire is proud to present, on Friday, November 13, a classical violin and piano concert of high caliber. For the first time they will be offering a limited number of VIP tickets which includes a buffet with the musicians after the main concert. Please buy the VIP tickets before November 11 so that they can plan the buffet properly.

A full house is expected again, for more musical pleasure and for the continuation of these high quality concerts on Bonaire! More information will be forthcoming soon. ■



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

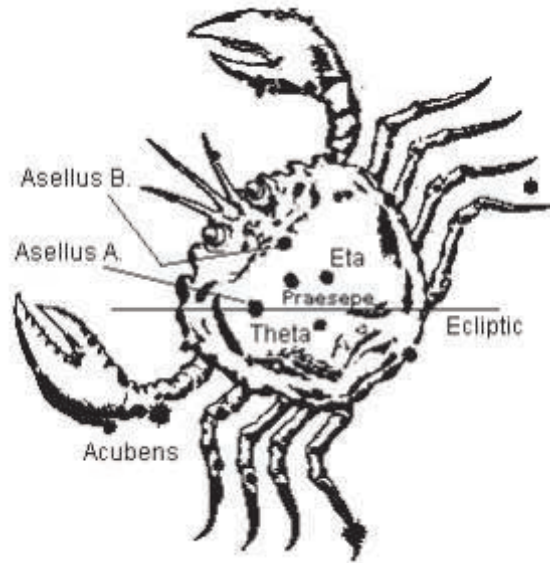
Mars and the Manger Plus the God of War Steps into a Cosmic Beehive

On November 1 you can walk outside and view something very special which has to do with the planet Mars and a wonderful star cluster.

On Sunday November 1st, around 2 am Sky Park Time face southeast. And if you look about 1/3 of the way up the sky you'll see the brightest star in the heavens Sirius, which marks the eye of Canis Major, Orion's bigger dog. And if you look just to its left you'll see the less bright star, Procyon which marks the eye of Canis Minor, Orion's smaller dog. Then if you look just off to its left you'll see a rouge gold light about the same brightness as Procyon, our old friend, the planet named for the god of war, 4,000-mile-wide Mars. And just coincidentally on the morning we all set our clocks back, Mars steps into a cosmic object called Praesepe, which is Latin for The Manger, but which is more popularly known as The Beehive.

Now if you have clear dark skies and are far from city lights, to the naked eye Praesepe will look like a little cloud or a cloudy star, which is what the Greek astronomer Hipparchus called it in his star catalog around 130 b.c. His predecessor, Aratos, around 260 B.C., called it "the little mist." And to the naked eye this is exactly what Praesepe looks like, a misty little cloud. So with the naked eye, you'll see bright Mars embedded in a tiny faint cloud. But there's more to this than meets the naked eye, because through a pair of binoculars you'll see that this misty little cloud is actually a cluster of stars which looks like a swarm of celestial bees. You'll see about 40 through binoculars, but through a telescope you can count at least 200. And there are at least 5 red giant stars in this cluster similar to Orion's Betelgeuse and Scorpius' Antares.

And if you want to see how fast objects in the sky move, here is your opportunity because Mars is inside the Manger and Beehive for one night only. Just 24 hours earlier on Halloween, October 31st it is just above the cluster and on November 2nd has passed through it and is just below it. So November 1st when you set your clocks back is the only time to see Mars buzzing with the bees. But may I remind you once again that what you are seeing is an illusion. In fact the only reason Mars appears to be inside The Beehive is because Mars and The Beehive are coincidentally in the same line of sight on November 1st. In fact on November 1st Mars will be only 110 million miles away while the stars of The Beehive will be 600 light years away which means that Mars is so close that it will take less than 10 minutes for its light to reach us while it takes 600 years for light from The Beehive to reach us. Watch Mars visit The Beehive and The Manger. ■ Jack Horkheimer



Sandwiched between the distinctive forms of Leo, the lion, and Gemini, the twins, lies the faint outline of the constellation Cancer (Latin for crab). The Tropic of Cancer was given that name because that is where the Sun is directly overhead at the moment of the summer solstice, June 22, and 2,000 years ago when the line was named, the Sun was in the constellation Cancer on that date.

Cafe Astrology

By Annie Heese

November-2009

ARIES: March 20th - April 20th It's a time for ridding yourself of excess baggage, whether it's physical or emotional (or both). Reaching inside of yourself and pulling out your strength is necessary now. More energy can be poured into professional matters, although partnering matters are certainly demanding your attention and can be distracting. **TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st** November is busy with negotiations, adjustments, and socializing, especially after the 8th. Charm comes naturally, and you want nothing more than to find peace with a special someone. An opportunity for a partnership or joint venture is possible in the third week of the month. However, roadblocks are likely from the 16-23. You're wearing your emotions on your sleeve around the Full Moon on the 2nd, and the 3-4 is a good period for professional opportunities.

GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st You'll find that life is busy and perhaps hectic at times, but the work you tackle now will certainly allow you more freedom to enjoy yourself later. Vacation plans move forward in November. Career matters are also strong, and the roadblocks or delays you have been experiencing recently are lifting. You have a strong sense of what needs to be done, and you actually enjoy getting yourself back on track.

CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd You might not have the necessary focus for effectiveness at work until after the 23rd, but your creativity is strong. Romantic feelings run high, although you are likely to feel somewhat entangled emotionally, and this is a trend that you will experience for many months. A friend needs a helping hand in the first few days of the month. Overspending might be an issue, as you are prone to purchase impulsively.

LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd A sense that you can tackle any project or problem that comes your way is with you. Pressures in partnership are easing this month. Even if you haven't been feeling stress in your relationships, there may have been a feeling of stagnation, and November brings a sense of moving forward. The first few days of the month bring career matters to a peak. Much of your focus, however, is on your home and family until the 23rd, after which you are more sociable.

VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd There are a lot of errands to run and general "catching up" work to do. While reorganizing your finances is something that you'll be focusing on for some time, November brings less pressure in that area, and more interest in building your skills, learning, and reaching out to others. Family life is supportive and heartwarming. Physically, you're inclined towards taking it easy.

LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd You are focusing on comfort, financial security, and pleasure for the most part in Novem-

ber, dear Libra. You are becoming increasingly aware of your responsibilities and limitations, and this is a trend that will last for a couple of years. It's a time of "growing up", no matter what your age, and learning to take better care of yourself, your loved ones, and the major structures in your life.

SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd November is a power month for you, dear Scorpio. The spotlight is on you, and you are feeling especially confident, focused, and ambitious. This is not to say that things are being handed to you by any means. In fact, a feeling of being blocked by others or by circumstances is likely with you now. However, this only serves to fuel your determination. Relationship tests in the first days of the month are likely, but a partner has your best interests at heart.

SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st While you are confident and assertive, you are also maintaining some distance from others as you get the rest you so deserve this month. Love feels especially private from the 8th, but you are also enjoying a new sense of adventure and even a taste of the exotic in your love life these days. From the 16th, career opportunities arise, and a partner has your best interests at heart.

CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th Group activities, friendships, and networking come into focus now. More altruistic goals are occupying your thoughts. Nevertheless, a restructuring of your attitude towards your professional responsibilities is a long-term trend--it's simply not as urgent a matter to you now. Romantic relationships are emotional around the 2nd. After the 8th, however, love matters are considerably lighter and easier. More clarity with finances eases pressure in that area of your life.

AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th After which professional pressures ease. While the spotlight is on your performance, it's not altogether uncomfortable. In fact, others are bound to find you especially attractive, personable, and approachable on the job, particularly after the 8th. Partnership or social opportunities through business are likely to present themselves. New responsibilities are welcome, as you are confident about meeting them effectively.

PISCES: February 19th - March 20th Pressures are easing, your confidence is building, and the important people in your life are supportive. Work is especially dynamic, busy, and possibly demanding of your time and energy. It's also especially profitable! In the last week of the month, professional responsibilities are in focus, and you're expressing yourself in a highly competent manner. Your ambitions are building, and attention to practical matters pays off. It's a good time to think in big terms, and seize career opportunities as they arise. ■

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