

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE February 5-19, 2010; Year 17, Issue 3
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Elections & Referendum II

Pages 3 & 10



Johannetta Gordijn photo

If you haven't already, pass by the Island Ontvanger (Collector) to pay for 2010 auto license plate stickers. The police began checking on February 3. If you don't have a valid sticker and insurance you will be fined and your car will be impounded on the spot.



► **This Monday, February 1, the Democratic Party of Bonaire (PDB-red) suggested that all who favor direct ties with Holland as an association, rather than become an integral part (integration) show their feelings by flying the Bonaire flag from their home and car.** The choice in the March 26 follow-up Referendum is for "integration" or "association." Their publicity says the Dutch red, white and blue banner would replace the Bonaire flag and the Dutch national anthem "Wilhelmus van Nassau" will replace the Bonaire anthem which begins "Tera i Solo, suave bientu i Patria Orguyoso sali fo'i lama" ("Land and Sun, soft wind and proud country risen from the sea.")

► **The Dutch Government expects to get a report in two weeks from Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, Frits Goedgedrag, about allegations that Bonaire's current Executive Council was bought for NAf. 500,000.** Bijleveld-Schouten had asked the Governor to investigate media reports in early January that former Bonaire Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas had asked for four years' salary in return for his support for the current ADB Executive Council.

► **Persons in St. Maarten and Curaçao who have been granted a temporary residency permit under the Brooks Tower Accord (BTA) will not be able to live on the BES islands.** That much is clear from a piece of draft Dutch legislation that regulates admittance and expulsion of persons on the BES islands, recently sent to the Dutch Parliament's Second

Chamber. The law is to control immigration because it's expected that the BES islands will have a magnetizing effect in the region when the islands become part of the Netherlands and their social facilities and health care are improved.

► **The Dutch Government may consider introducing the Dutch ID card on the BES islands** Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, in the not too distant future. The current Antillean ID card, the sédula, is said to be sensitive to fraud. Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten mentioned this in a meeting with members of the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber's Permanent Committee for Antillean and Aruban Affairs last Monday.

► **One of the dreams to solve Bonaire's power generation needs is for the island to produce its own bio-diesel to run the generators at the new WEB plant near BOPEC.** Putting doomsday scenarios of the fuel algae escaping and devouring Bonaire's reefs aside, it might be a possible solution, but investigators recently find that algae, while it produces more energy is also a bigger energy hog than other biofuel sources.

The new analysis suggests the need for copious fertilizer but that might fit with Bonaire's requirements if the island's sewage could be used.

► **The Bonaire Reporter's production is 100% fossil fuel independent. We're powered by a star 93,000,000 miles away-the Sun.** You may be able to do it too as the latest generation of solar panels available to the public cost only \$0.98/watt which equals \$.02/KwHr. There are several people on the island who can advise you about this: **Alex Statie** 786-4930, cr@telbonet.an and **Budget Marine**, 717-3710, Pam.Werdath@budgetmarine.com at Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas 4, next to NAPA.

Editorial

Is Bonaire heading for a recession because of the cutoff of Dutch Government funding of continuing projects and social programs?

We don't know how the Dutch government makes decisions, but it seems unfair that a national government would cut off financial support to a small community if the community's leaders are unresponsive to that government. During these days of transition, as the "country" of the Netherlands Antilles is dissolving, Holland has stepped in and agreed to support and enhance services in the BES Islands. By withdrawing that promised support from Bonaire at this time they are damaging the economy of the island.

Suppose a community in Holland defies the county's leaders. Are pensions blocked, public works suspended or social services blocked? We don't think so. As Dutch citizens, aren't Bonairean Dutch entitled to the same respect as European Dutch? Will integration with Holland make a difference to that attitude?

In Bonaire, debts of the APNA pension fund, support of Jong Bonaire and FORMA continuing education, construction of the expanded police station and other projects were being funded by The Netherlands' Ministries as the island evolved towards a new relationship as a special municipality (Dutch: *openbaar lichaam*). Legal experts, including Bonaire's Lt. Governor, referred to the relationship as "integration."

But in June, 2009, Bonaire's new island government expressed dissatisfaction with the way the transition had been managed by the previous administration and stopped negotiating with The Netherlands until the wishes of the Bonairean people could be heard via another Referendum.

Dutch State Secretary Bijleveld-Schouten expressed the dissatisfaction of her government with this turn of events by, among other things, cutting off the flow of financing to Bonaire. When the money stopped, jobs were lost, the economy is suffering.

Now the Referendum has been set for March 26, 2010. Bonaire's people will offer their opinion, which is non-binding on Bonairean and Dutch leaders, to choose for **integration** or some other, yet undefined, **association** with The Netherlands.

The economy of Bonaire will depend on Dutch actions after all the votes are counted. Will it survive? ■ G.D.



MCB photo

Last week MCB-Bonaire presented a NAf 2500 check to the SGB High School to help purchase history books. Orphaline Saleh, Assistant Director of MCB, presented the check to Serapio Pop, SGB Director. ■ G./L. D.

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Referendum II-March 26

Details of the upcoming Bonaire Referendum to better define the form of the relationship of Bonaire with the Netherlands were released last week. Coincidentally, the Referendum is scheduled for the same day that the new Antillean Parliament members will be appointed. In the parliamentary election the UPB party took two of Bonaire's three seats in the 22-member body.

Here are some details:

The Referendum Questions

The presentation of the referendum question (to be presented only in Papiamentu and Dutch) is:

"I want Bonaire to have a direct relationship with The Netherlands in the form of

A: Association (Bonaire will acquire its own position within the Kingdom of the Netherlands), or

B: Integration (Bonaire will become a part of the Netherlands).

Who can Vote

- Residents of Bonaire, 50 days before the referendum date who are Dutch citizens and at least 18 years old on the referendum date. However, Dutch citizens who were not born in the Antilles, may not vote if they became a resident on Bonaire after **January 1st, 2007**.
- Non-Dutch citizens can vote if they have resided on Bonaire for 10 consecutive years, 50 days before the referendum, and are at least 18 years old and possess a valid residence permit.

The referendum is valid only if at least **50%**

of the voters cast a valid vote. (Blank ballot papers are valid.)



New Form for the Question

The question previously suggested by the referendum-committee ("should the direct relationship with the Netherlands be a free association instead of integration?") was revised following last month's advisory report of the United Nations (UN). The UN did not suggest another question but felt that the proposed question "was not entirely clear."

The UN felt the terms "association" and "integration" should be explained to the population in an objective manner, including the consequences of the choice, or the Island Council should reformulate the question.

Referendum Committee Duties

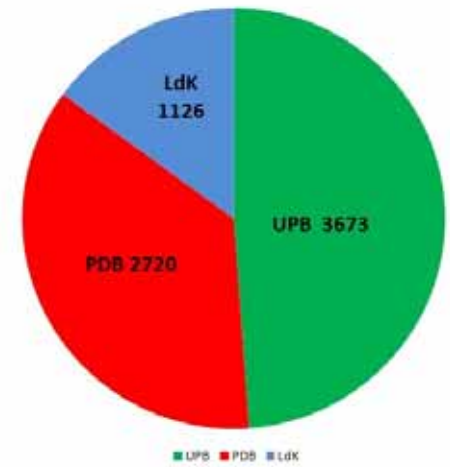
The Referendum regulation states there is sufficient time to inform the public if the referendum were to be held on March 26th. That interval was recommended by the UN consultants following their recent visit.

Providing independent and objective information about the referendum choices is the responsibility of the Referendum committee to be appointed by the Island Government, as advised by the UN. Council member PDB-party leader Jopie Abraham recommended constitutional law expert Douwe Boersma to be the new chairman of the Referendum committee. Boersma was the chairman of the Curaçao referendum committee last year. ■ G.D.

Election Results

All the political parties counted a victory for themselves in the Parliamentary elections held on Friday, January 22.

The UPB (green) party won because they took two seats in the Antillean Parliament, the PDB (red) party won one seat. The LdK (blue) party won because, when combined with the PDB vote, they made up 51% of the ballots which they interpreted as meaning that most of the voters supported their position on the Referendum.



In actuality, Bonaire's parliamentary elections

were a repeat of past history as the Union Party *Patriotiko Boneriano* (UPB-green) led by Ramonsito Booi captured two of the island's three seats. The Democratic Party (PDB-red) led by Jopie Abraham won the other seat, while the *Lista di Kambio* (LdK-blue) led by Anthony Nicolaas (ex-UPB) did not get sufficient votes for a seat.

Some analysts see the election result as a victory for the UPB-led process for integration with Holland, now in abeyance pending a new, yet undefined Referendum.

Others viewed the 51% of the voters who chose red or blue as an indication that a slim majority of Bonaire voters want to refine their choice for government with another Referendum.

UPB ended up with **3,673** votes, PDB with **2,720** votes and LdK with **1,126** votes. There were 9,519 eligible voters in Bonaire according to the Island Registry, which meant 79% of the voters turned out, an increase from the previous parliamentary election.

In Curaçao, the balance of power in the Antilles Central Government was maintained as the current coalition which supports continuing Curaçao and St. Maarten's course to become separate Dutch Kingdom Countries in October 2010 was voted back in. ■ G.D.



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On the Island Since... 2003

Marlies Tiepel

"I came here because I felt like a bit more 'oxygen' in my life – more freedom. I don't know, we just went! In Holland I'd studied cultural anthropology and ended up on the marketing side. In my first job I was the boss of a development corporation foundation. That was kind of special – being a woman and the youngest person on the team. I was only 29. I did that for a couple of years, then I started working for the Ministry of Economic Affairs as an account manager in the patents field and during the same time we had a furniture shop.

Animal Shelter, if I wanted to join the team. I started immediately. When the previous manager, left I was asked by the board to take over. I was eager to make changes. I wanted to give the Shelter a friendlier face - more open so that everyone – visitors, people who are looking for a pet, people who don't want their pet anymore - would feel welcome. We changed the opening hours so that people could come in the afternoon and on Saturdays as well.

Publicity is another important issue. You have to keep the public



Shelter volunteers Kenneth, Melody, "Charlie," Wanda, Akkie with Marlies

"I feel that a civilized country should treat their animals in a civilized way... but in 2009 the Shelter had to euthanize almost 1,000 animals."

I didn't see the move to Bonaire as an adventure – that sounds so silly – but it was a lot of paperwork and there were lots of boxes to pack and unpack. I began renting holiday homes here, but after a while that takes care of itself and you're only busy with tourists. It doesn't make you feel part of the community and everything that's going on in it.

After a year I was asked by Michelle, who was working for the

informed about everything that's going on, and we're doing that through the local media. We also invite schools to come for a visit. We upgraded and promoted the pet boarding facility and we turned the team and the volunteers into a close-knit group of people. The Shelter depends a great deal on those volunteers. We couldn't do without them.

These people keep us going, they are very much involved and reli-

able and we can absolutely count on them – they are irreplaceable. We also have a very active and supportive board, loyal and generous sponsors, and one of our most appreciated co-workers is Kenneth Piar, who's been with the Shelter for over 15 years! He's an easy going guy, always in a good mood and has a natural talent when it comes to dealing with

animals. He's never been bitten by a dog! But I was!

I feel that a civilized country should treat their animals in a civilized way... but in 2009 the Shelter had to euthanize almost 1,000 animals. That's a horrible and sad number and it never happened before. I just can't accept it and so a change has to come.

Our primary goal is to shelter animals and to put them up for adoption, but the reality is very different. In 2009, almost 100 animals were left at the Shelter every month, 75% of them dogs. Imagine... 100 animals per month. That's about three or four per day, seven days a week. And for a small island like Bonaire with

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)

15,000 inhabitants that's way too much! Of course we would love to be a no-kill shelter, but the circumstances won't let us. What should we do? We can't release the sick, mentally disturbed or wounded animals back on the streets. They would die of starvation, they would be killed by cars or by each other and people wouldn't be safe either.

The main reason that so many cats and dogs are dumped by their owners is that people don't want to or cannot take responsibility for their pets. Sometimes it's a matter of money, but most of the time it's negligence; people just don't care enough. They leave their pets when they move to another location. They let them get pregnant every time they're in heat and they let them roam the streets by themselves. Or they lock them up in a crate for life, put them on a chain and never let them loose. Then after a year or so the animal goes mad and becomes a threat or loses all interest in life and then they don't want it anymore. And then there's also abuse and starvation and many diseases that will kill the animal eventually.

There are a lot of prejudicial opinions as to who is to blame, but let me tell you something. People from every background or origin are capable of doing such things. It's a personal thing; it's about responsibility and respect

for all living creatures; it's about seeing life in a positive way. It's not about culture!

Over the last years the Shelter has worked very hard to drastically reduce the number of animals that have been left there. We started with an educational program about how to take proper care of your pets, and through various media we're also informing people about all kinds of issues concerning animals. We started a 'sarna' mange project because there was an explosion of mange all over the island. For five months we went to inject dogs at people's houses three weeks in a row for free. This year we will do it again. It takes a lot of time and effort, but it does help and people get to know us. Last year in May we began an active castration and sterilization program, 'Bonny, the Superdog,' through which people can have their pet sterilized for free. Since May 2009 more than 400 pets have been sterilized. And we're trying to increase the number of adoptions by finding new owners for the Shelter animals as soon as possible. Therefore 2009 gave us another record: more than 209 adoptions!

We are not doing this all by ourselves; we're working with several animal organizations on the island like STINAPA, the Animal Welfare committee, the local veterinarians and the island's dog trainer.

But to decrease the number of

dogs and cats that end up at the Shelter and the number of animals that we have to put to sleep, we need all the help we can get from the people who live here and from the government as well. The government especially has an important role to fulfill. They are the only ones who can revive the job of the dog catcher. LVV, the agricultural department, took care of this job for years - picking up stray dogs from the streets or unwanted dogs from people who didn't have transport - but they stopped doing it because of internal reorganization. We took over; we didn't get paid; we didn't have the car. We used our own cars, gasoline and spare time because the government had promised us the job and the car and because there was a tremendous need for it. Now, after numerous meetings with all parties involved, who all agree that we should get the job, we still need a signature from the government and so we're waiting, and meanwhile more dogs are roaming the streets and more pets are being dumped in the sea or in rural areas. It's awfully frustrating. Also, we would like the government to set up a registration (dog tags) for people's pets.

Well, there are many more plans, fundraisings and informative and educative projects coming up. One of them has happened already. We've put a cage outside our gate where people can put their unwanted pets - a much



"Charlie" and Marlies

needed facility to prevent people from dumping their animals elsewhere."

Marlies Tiepel has a lust for life. She's driven and passionate; she's fast and she wants it 'now!' but she's not blind to how the world works. She knows how to put things in perspective and she has a tremendous sense of humor. She's the heart and soul of the Animal Shelter, a very bright and compassionate girl.

She laughs: "I don't see this as 'my job.' I can't say it's my hobby either and at the end of the week we all have to go for a drink to get rid of the misery. But, on the other hand, we are also extremely happy with all the good

things that have been accomplished. The Shelter is in spite of everything a happy place. It's always busy and many adults and children and also tourists come to help or visit or chat. Everybody is always welcome!

What we want is for every dog and cat to be a 'Superdog' and 'Supercat' and every pet owner to be a 'Super owner.' That's the dream and one day it will come true..." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Living Legend To Perform

On Friday, February 12, Wim Status Muller, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, will give a piano concert on Bonaire. It is the first time in 25 years that Status Muller, a living legend of Antillean pianists and composers, is visiting Bonaire and giving a concert.

Wim Status Muller, grew up in Curaçao, began a substantial musical education early in his life. He received piano lessons from the well known musician and composer from Curaçao, Jacobo Palm. He studied piano at Josef Raieff and attended lectures in harmony and "contrapunkt" with Bernard Wagenaar. In 1954 he earned his Masters Degree. He served as director of the Curaçao Philharmonic Orchestra and performed in Europe, the US and the Caribbean region

Status Muller also had a remarkable working career: Shell, Dutch Intelligence Service, International Secretariate Navo and many other functions.

Some of the remarkable performances after his working career were the Chopin Memorial in the well known Lincoln Center in 1999. In 2008 he gave a number of recitals in Belgium and made a musical voyage through Poland with three other Antillean pianists. Concerts were given in Warschau, Wroclow and in the house where Chopin was born.

The background of this musical voyage was the Dutch novelist Jan Brokken's publication of "Why Antilleans kneel down before the heart of Chopin." This book clarifies the essence of much Antillean classical and light music by linking it to the works of Chopin.

On Bonaire Wim Status Muller will play works of Chopin, compositions of famous Antillean musicians - Padu Lampe, Rudolf Palm, Charles Maduro—and he will play some of his own compositions. All that will be accompanied by vivid talks and explanations regarding the essentials and roots of Antillean music.

Tickets are available before the concert at Flamingo Bookstore, Addo's Bookstore and Plaza Resort for NAf35.- On the day of the concert tickets can be bought at the concert hall for NAf40.-

As we expect great interest in the concert on February 12 we advise strongly to buy tickets at the presale addresses mentioned above to avoid disappointment.

The concerts organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire are supported by Caribbean Homes,



Wim Status Muller

Flamingo Communications, KPMG, Rocargo, Bon FM and the Fundashon Piano Grandi.

On request of Maestro Muller the revenues of the concert will be donated to Jong Bonaire to stimulate and facilitate activities with piano music for the youth of our island.

Place and time of this special and unique event organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire is **Friday, February 12 at the Cacique Hall of Plaza Resort at 8 pm sharp.**

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Letters to the Editor

PLAYING DOG POSSIBLE BOMB THREAT TO CRUISE SHIP?

Dear Editor:

In the early morning hours of January 12 the 'dispatcher' who conducts the taxi traffic around Wilhelmina Square and blows his whistle at anything that moves in the wrong direction may have prevented Bonaire from a possible terrorist attack on the cruise ship.



Threat to cruise ships?

For those of you who have never encountered this uniformed 'dispatcher', think of 'the Village People.' From under his white sailor's cap his sharp vision noticed a dog that morning which was fetching a ball thrown in the water. He ordered the owner of the dog to stop this activity and continue elsewhere. When his authority was disputed (he is simply a traffic warden hired by TCB) an armed SVV officer with a colleague arrived at the crime scene within 10 minutes.

These officers kindly explained the swimming dog was in violation with the international ISPS code that deals with the safety of ships in international harbors. The agitated traffic warden pointed out the dog might have contained a bomb that could have been detonated near the ship. When the owner found this rather far fetched the 'dispatcher' further supported his argumentation by mentioning that women from Latin American countries even hid drugs in their babies, so anything was possible.

R.E.

KUDOS TO THE REPORTER FROM AN ANTILLEAN PUBLICATION PIONEER

Thank you, DeSalvo Family, for your outstanding publication! I have been reading it faithfully for years now, and it is such a blessing to read down to earth, honest and up to date news about the Netherlands Antilles...especially Curaçao and Bonaire. Your articles on our relationship with Holland are right on! I only wish that you had more contact with Papiamentu speaking Bonaireans and Curaçaoans so that they too could get on track with where we are headed. High honors go to all your writers and contributors with a Special Plum to Jiri Lausman.

Also great is your Flotsam & Jetsam column as well as your environmental articles and your stories about what is going on in Bonaire and who is involved. Keep up the good work. You are a blessing for the Bonaire Community.

Rudy and Jackie Dovale



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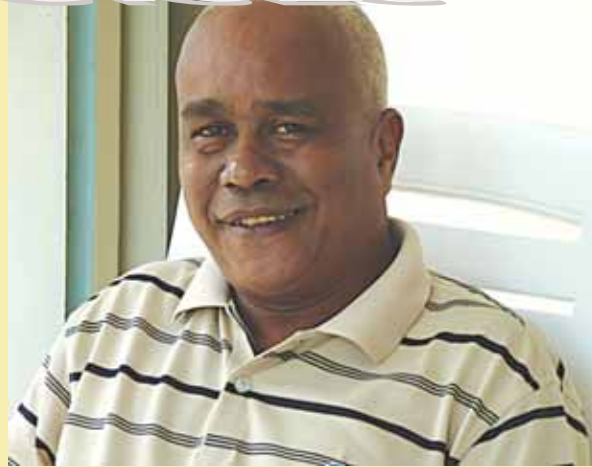
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BONAIREAN VOICES

KARNAVAL IN BONAIRE

Karnaval as well as the other holidays is a happy moment for people all over the world who celebrate this cultural festival in their respective countries. Mr. Marcelo "Chalie" Anthony (60) gave us a briefing of how he started in Karnaval, the history of Karnaval and his experience through the years.



Marcelo "Chalie" Anthony

He explains. "In 1985 the foundation to organize Karnaval was no longer operational so Mr. Eddy Frans who was part of the foundation organized a working commission to re-organize Karnaval. He didn't have too many members to do that so he approached me (Marcelo Anthony, or, as most people know him, "Chalie"). I was a member of JCI (International Junior Chamber of Commerce). In that same year JCI was planning to do a project for the community. I was asked by Eddy Frans to help. Other JCI members and I joined the commission board and helped organize Karnaval that year. Besides helping with the commission, I was part of one of the oldest Karnaval groups, 'Aliso.' After Eddy Frans retired from the Karnaval Commission I took it over. The Karnaval Commission kept organizing Karnaval until 1996, the year we founded FUKABO (Fundashon Karnaval Boneiriano-Bonaire Karnaval Foundation), the official foundation to celebrate Karnaval in Bonaire.

Karnaval always had its up and downs. In 1993 we had 20 groups participating with an average of 30 people in each group. It was big and everybody enjoyed it. That year during the Karnaval parade in Kaya L.D. Gerharts the police had to bring order to some bad behaving pedestrians. A fight ensued, a policeman had to use his gun and someone was killed. Since that time the Karnaval groups in Bonaire have dropped from 20 groups to 10 to 9. Groups like 'Sasande,' 'Kristal' and 'Happy Navigators' are gone. The fear in the groups made them hesitant to participate. However, this year some old members from the 'Happy Navigators' are forming a new group and we are expecting about 15 groups to participate.

Regarding the history of Karnaval, in the 1950s some elite groups organized Karnaval jump-ins with a European touch at Flamingo Beach Hotel, back then named Hotel Zeebad, and the BSF (Sport Federation Club next to the MCB bank in town). In the 70s we were influenced by the Trinidad Carnival and it got a more a Caribbean character.

Rincon, the first town to celebrate Karnaval with La Sana Kids Steel band, started celebrating Karnaval in front of the post office and finished it in

Playa. Some other groups began celebrating Children Karnaval going through the streets of Kralendijk. Karnaval inspired a new kind of music, some calling it town music, "Tumba." In 1975 the first Tumba Festival was organized at the Orange Theater in Antriol where Mr. Antonio Trenidad (deceased) was our first king of Tumba. This year we are celebrating 35 years of Karnaval and its Tumba.

FUKABO stands always ready to help the community to participate in Karnaval. A lot of people like to join, but we know Karnaval is not cheap. If you want to participate you have start saving money in advance like Naf 25 or Naf 50 every month. Some groups do that. In some years they just stand along the road watching, but today they can be participating.

We must also keep our international contacts. We are a member of FECC (Federation of European Carnival Cities) which holds an international convention every year in which I participate. I've been in Malta; Poland; Saint Petersburg, Russia; and Brazil. I represented the Netherlands Antilles. More than 250 countries participate, talking about Carnival in their countries and how to make improvements."

Bonaire Karnaval has a bright future. Young bloods are on the board and commission of FUKABO and they are very enthusiastic. Chalie will always be open to the community's suggestions. If you're interested in starting a group to participate in Karnaval, call the president of FUKABO Mr. Robert Sances, at 522-3099. Never say you can't do it. If you really want to and have a group of people standing by you, you can do it to keep contributing to our Bonairean Karnaval. ■

Story & photo 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.**

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

BonQuiz #23



Christie Dovale photos

12/05/2009

PIEDRA DI BONAIRE

What is the legend surrounding this huge rock? Where did it come from?

Bonaire abounds in mythology and legend. And to find the answer to this quiz, you must venture out to the *Piedra di Boneiru* to find the answer.

Head north from Kralendijk. To find it you must take the first right just before you enter Rincon, follow the road until you reach the wind turbines, and there, right before your eyes, is *Piedra di Boneiru*. You can also take the turnoff from Rincon Road into Onima, and head north towards the turbines.

Legend has it that from this rock an umbilical cord from within the bowels of the earth, "Baranka Mama," is attached to this young man. When you venture out to this miraculous area you will find a story and painting, thus revealing the answer.

Q) What is the name of the young man

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.



Dust Happens

Everyone who wants a clean house on Bonaire knows that windblown dust and dirt are a problem.

To give an idea of the quantities accumulating consider a typical house in Antriol. According to the measurements taken there the 58.4 grams per m² deposits there every week. So, in a modest house of 100 m², if it were completely open, 6 kg of dust* per week would have to be swept up!

The KibraHacha Foundation in collaboration with the University of Wageningen (Netherlands) conducted a study of Bonaire's dust.

The main goal of the research was to shed light on the sources and factors contributing to this problem, and to give recommendations on how to deal with them. To do this three types of research were done.

1. A literature search to provide a clear picture about what factors influence dust problems.
2. A field study, where deposition and emission of dust were measured at different sites on the island.
3. A survey in order to find out how residents experience dust as a problem.

From March to June 2009 scientific dust measurements were taken in Antriol, Tera Cora, and on kunukus and unpaved roads.

The source of most dust problems on Bonaire are human activities. **The problems are mainly caused by intensive traffic on dirt roads and by dust producing industries like stone crushers.**

The largest dust production factor seems to be the dirt roads. A very large proportion of roads on Bonaire are unpaved, even within neighborhoods. For example in Antriol about half of the roads are unpaved. This, in combination with a rapidly growing number of vehicles (about 40% increase in period 2002-2007), contributes to large quantities of dust in the air.

A very local source of dust is the stone crushing and asphalt industry. Currently there are three active stone crushers of which two are situated right next to residential areas in Antriol and Amboina. Because of the prevailing wind direction these residential areas are covered by large quantities of dust when the crushers are in production.

Besides unpaved roads and dust producing industries the agricultural sector also adds to the dust nuisance. **Another factor contributing to dust problems is the overpopulation of livestock on the island.** It exceeds the carrying capacity of the land and results in land degradation that in combination with high wind velocities leads to wind erosion.

The natural environment on Bonaire has been under pressure since the 17th century when logging and the introduction of



KibraHacha Foundation photo

goats and sheep led to strong degradation of the landscape and a significant reduction of biodiversity. The original vegetation has been largely replaced by small bushes and cactuses.

Because of this reduction in vegetation, wind and water erosion started to play an increasingly large role on Bonaire. These processes have led to a serious denudation of the soil that in turn has led to a poor water retention capacity. Because of this, precipitation either runs off straight into the ocean or it evaporates. As a consequence, the soils on Bonaire tend to be very dry. This dryness of the soil is one of the prerequisites for wind erosion.

Nowadays land degradation is mainly caused by (1) a goat population that exceeds the carrying capacity of the island at least by a factor 4 and (2) neglect of the agricultural land.

The agricultural sector on Bonaire is becoming more and more marginalized because of the low returns and better job opportunities in other sectors (e.g. tourism).

Apart from the local dust Bonaire also experiences an influx of **Sahara dust, especially during the hurricane season.** This dust contains pollen, microbes, insects and chemicals from herbicides and insecticides that could potentially have an adverse effect on human health and ecosystems like coral reefs.

Dust on Bonaire is composed of ground substance called "5% fine particles." This particulate matter consists of microscopic airborne particles (less than 10 microns). It is considered as harmful as air pollution and detrimental to health.

(Continued on page 9)

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Dust Happens (Continued from page 8)

Very little legislation and policy regarding emission of dust and especially particulate matter is in place. In the Dutch Antilles only Curaçao has some legislation concerning air quality (emission norms); daily averages of *total suspended particles* (TSP) levels may not exceed 150 µg/m³. Concerning dust emission there is no legislation at all for the Dutch Antilles; this means that companies that generate dust (mineral or other) are not limited. For emission of dust from heavy industry and power plants (mainly SO₂ and NO_x) legislation can be implemented that already exists in the Netherlands. This, however, is not applicable for the stone crushing industry as the type of emission and type of dust are very different.

The investigation report by the KibraHacha Foundation showed that various places on Bonaire have more dust in the air than is allowed by the Antillean standards: primarily along dirt roads with heavy traffic and up to 5 times more in the near stone crushers to 11 times more. As well as during the hurricane season (May-October) due to Saharan dust driven towards the Caribbean these are disturbing findings for public health.

Recommendations-

Opportunities need to be created to **get people back on the kunukus**, otherwise the terrain will keep degrading. Examples are new irrigated agriculture, agro tourism and environmental schemes where land owners are paid to take care of their land and an approach aimed at restoring biodiversity.

Dust emission as a result of traffic can be greatly reduced by **paving more streets in residential areas**. Another measure could be **implementing legislation concerning industrial traf-**

fic (trucks with building materials etc.). For instance set up special routes avoiding certain residential areas, better speed control, and covering up of dust sensitive materials like plaster sand and ground diabase.

- Other recommendations include:
- **Move stone crushers to isolated areas.**
 - **Cover dust producing material on construction sites and during their transportation.**
 - **Develop sustainable agriculture.**

The project was made possible by the generous assistance of the following sponsors: Hertz Car Rental, Total Car Rental, Budget Rent a Car, IFC Consolidators, Rocargo, Curoil, Goalkeeper Hove BV, Meyer Moving, Achie Tours.

More information can be obtained at Foundation KibraHacha, Jan Jaap van Almenkerk and Maarten Schuit, phone 700-9630, <http://www.stichting-kibrahacha.blogspot.com>

This article addresses in particular the causes of dust pollution and the impact of dust on health and environment. Other detailed information about the study can be obtained by downloading from this study site: <http://www.stichting-kibrahacha.blogspot.com> ■

*The type of dust examined in this report is mineral dust, or soil dust. This dust consists of the smallest particles that can be found within the soil. The soils on Bonaire are mostly a mixture of sand and silt, with a low fraction of clay. As a rule of thumb, the smaller the particles, the more dangerous they are.

When these particles enter the lungs they can cause all kinds of respiratory complaints, ranging from asthma up to lung cancer. ■

Report provided by Jan Jaap van Almenkerk



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Body Talk

HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR PROSTATE?

If you have been following my articles, you would have noticed that I have been talking about the adrenal glands for a while now. If you have been unlucky to have had prostate problems, I can almost guarantee you (there is the occasional exception!) that no-one has ever mentioned your adrenal gland. Most men, even though 'cured' still live in fear, and rightly so. So what has your adrenal glands got to do with your prostate?

What follows is a simplified version of a complex organ in your reproductive system. The prostate is clam-shaped and consists of three lobes which surround the neck of the bladder and urethra. It is partly muscular tissue and partly glandular tissue. The prostate gland secretes a thin, semi-clear, **alkaline fluid**, which makes up 30% of the seminal fluid. This fluid is used primarily for lubrication, but also stimulates active sperm movement. Prostatitis (inflammation of the prostate gland) occurs from acidosis. The most common contributing factor, however, is hypo-active (under-active) adrenal glands (due to over-acidity). This creates low steroid production needed to counterbalance aggressive (acidic) male hormones which lead to prostate overstimulation and inflammation.

Whether you have had or are currently suffering from prostatitis, enlargement or cancer of the prostate, your past and current diet is mostly to blame. Since most men eat a predominantly acid-forming diet - meat, refined sugars, dairy products and alcohol - and some lead a stressful life (yes, sometimes the wife is to blame), over-acidic conditions of the body (both systemic and cellular) begin to take place. With time, over-acidity causes hormonal imbalances that are known to clog the tiny blood vessels of the prostate and could cause cancer.

When your doctor gives you a diagnoses of prostate cancer, he or she will also tell you that treatment should begin immediately, or else

.....! Often surgery is suggested with, in more cases than not, dire consequences! Radiation is another popular therapy, which could possibly work only if the cancer has not spread. Chemotherapy uses powerful drugs to kill cancer cells, but the drug don't specifically target cancer cells. Instead they look for any rapidly growing cell. Cancer cells grow rapidly, but so do hair cells, cells lining the stomach, cells of the immune system, and cells in the bones. They too are killed by chemotherapy, causing a host of terrible side effects.

Traditional surgery, radiation and chemotherapy in my opinion, all miss the boat. **None of them cleanse the body of toxins and blockages, or strengthen the body to heal itself.**

A good detoxification program, followed by herbal supplements and an improved nutritional diet is your best option in restoring your health, not just for the immediate future, but long-term. Besides, you can always fall back on your medical treatment of choice, if necessary.

Firstly, listen to your body. Do not ignore or put off all those small warning signals that you are being given. Secondly, being diagnosed with a prostate problem is not a death sentence, although far too often it is because of the treatment chosen! Thirdly, **explore all your options!**

Next issue – **The Yeast Epidemic.** ■

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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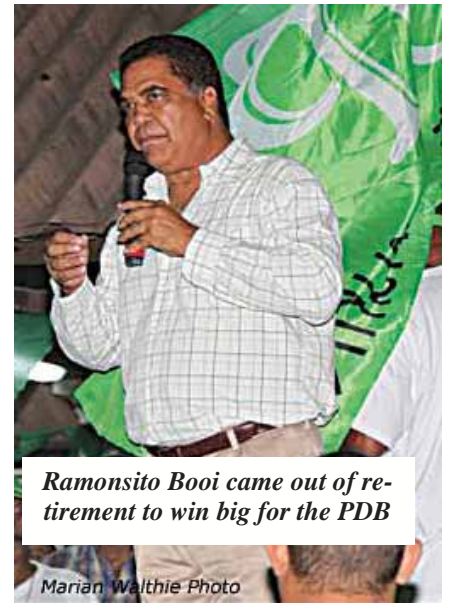
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Christie Dovale Photo



Young supporters of the blue LdK Party

Marian Walthie Photo



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Motorcades raised voter interest

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Surprise second biggest UPB Winner, Elvis Tjin Asjoe

Marian Walthie photo



Another example of the Blues helping the Reds

Bart Landheer photography



Election results at the Passengrahn

Johannetta Gordijn photo

Election Impressions 2010

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Lots More Loras



Some of the Lora Count Volunteers at Washington Park SNL photo

The number of Loras counted during last Saturday's annual Lora (Bonaire Amazon parrot-*Amazona barbadensis*) reached a new high. Preliminary results indicates approximately 800 Loras. This number can still change through a detailed analysis of the collected data. Up until now the number of native parrots on Bonaire estimated was 650 to 700. The cause of the increase is probably due to better protection and more public information.

The 15th census since 1980 was organized by *Fundashon Salba Nos Lora* and STINAPA in collaboration with Bonaire's Department of Environment and Nature (DROB). In the early morning last Saturday dozens of volunteers fanned out over the island and counted simultaneously at 27 different places. After the count many of the participants enjoyed a good breakfast provided STINAPA Bonaire at the entrance to Washington- Slagbaai Park.

In the past two years, the annual count was hampered because of rain and fewer were seen. This year it was much drier.

Bonaire's Loras have been actively protected since 2002 when all Loras in captivity, more than 620 of them, were government-ringed and registered. This was accompanied by a major information campaign. Since then the *Fundashon Salba Nos Lora* conducts annual information campaigns on the protected Loras. As a result, fewer Loras have been captured, poached or slain.

Although many Bonaireans are proud their Loras, not all are happy with more parrots because they are a pest to agriculture. Loras do not differentiate between wild fruit-bearing trees and planted fruit trees. But they are driven by hunger. In the distant past many Bonaire trees were indiscriminately felled. The predation of stray goats and donkeys has not allowed the food-bearing trees to return. Trees like the Wabi (Kossi) with their many thorns can thrive in these conditions, but they don't provide food for these birds. The *Fundashon Salba Nos Lora* Foundation is looking for solutions to this problem. Last year, to celebrate Arbor Day, the Foundation planted more than 130 native fruit-bearing trees in nature. ■ *Salba Nos Lora Foundation*

Two individuals who have been working on Bonaire since 2003 to protect the Lora, Sam Williams and Rowan Martin have been granted PhD. Degrees for their work by the University of Sheffield in England. They received congratulations from the World Parrot Trust which supported their field work on the Yellow-shouldered Amazon

(*Amazona barbadensis*) on Bonaire.

← Rowan Martin studied the species' strong monogamous pair-bonding and is already on a Post Doc in South Africa.

Sam Williams → focused on the key limiting factors that include the Amazon's survival. He is back on Bonaire to continue his conservation and research work. ■ L.D.



Pro Musician Teaches at Jong Bonaire



Composer-musician Boy Janga has been "artist in residence" at Jong Bonaire for the last few months. "I see a lot of musical talent here on Bonaire," Janga says, "And it's nice to work with Jong Bonaire because they really care for the kids."

About 12 lucky kids, between the ages of 13 and 16, get to study with Janga for a period of three months. "We start with percussion (bongos, congas, maracas, cow bells) then they go on to drums. The students learn to read music and how to count beats. They get the basics as a foundation to use later for more advanced study." The musician continues, "My feelings are for the kids – no matter where they come from. There's really not much for the kids here. And you see aggressive behavior. They need to have a sense of discipline for a better level of living. I see an improvement in them already."

Born on Bonaire, Janga spent 36 years performing and living all over the world. "It's good to be home now," he says. "I want to share my experience and knowledge."

At the moment the students are using Boy's instruments, but they need more. Another musician-teacher at Jong Bonaire is guitarist Benji Schaub. He and Boy have arranged for local people to get private or group lessons at Jong Bonaire. For more information call Boy Janga at 700-2925. L.D.



Boy Janga

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On Saturday, February 6, the **Animal Shelter has a big book and flea market at their terrain at Kaminda Lagun from 11.00 am till 5.00 pm.** Every cent that's made will go into the sterilization fund "Bonny the Super Dog" of which people can have their pets sterilized for free. For more info call **717-4989.**

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New Traffic Circle

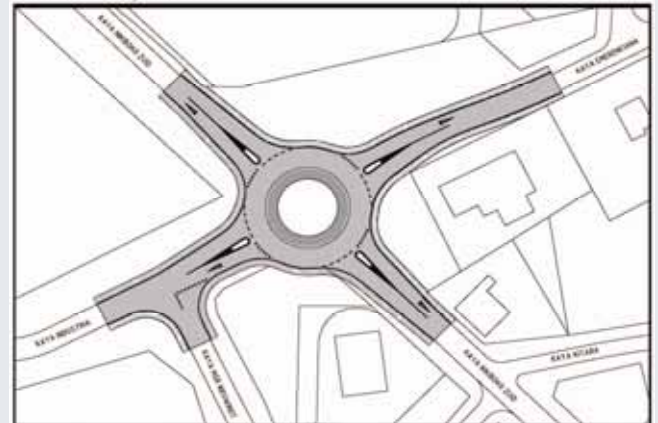
Construction is underway for the new roundabout at the intersection of Kaya Nikiboko South and Kaya Industria

The intersection has long been regarded as a "black-spot" where numerous accidents / collisions occur. The construction of the roundabout will improve traffic flow. International traffic rules will apply as at all other Bonaire roundabouts, which means that traffic in the roundabout has priority. This will be indicated with signs and markings. It is expected the work will take approximately three months. The existing traffic circles(also called rotonde, roundabouts or rotaries) have proven to be a great success with island drivers.

During the implementation period, traffic will be diverted via Kaya Mgr. Nieu Windt, Beni Kaya and Kaya Industria Pariba. Also two temporary dirt roads were constructed at the Kaya Nikiboko South (north side) where it intersects Kaya Industria / Emerenciana.

The contractor responsible for work is BWM (Bonaire Wegenbouwmaatschappij). The coordination of the execution (management and implementation supervision) will be done by DROB Civil Works. For any questions contact DROB, phone 717-8130. ■

Rotonde Kaya Nikiboko Zuid



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
2-05	7:20	1.8FT.	15:53	0.9FT.					62
2-06	8:03	1.9FT.	16:47	0.9FT.					51
2-07	8:43	2.0FT.	17:44	0.8FT.					45
2-08	9:27	2.0FT.	18:25	0.8FT.					45
2-09	10:03	2.0FT.	19:04	0.8FT.					50
2-10	10:37	2.0FT.	19:44	0.8FT.					56
2-11	11:15	1.9FT.	20:12	0.9FT.					63
2-12	11:47	1.9FT.	20:36	0.9FT.					69
2-13	12:15	1.8FT.	21:02	1.0FT.					73
2-14	12:46	1.7FT.	21:21	1.0FT.					76
2-15	3:56	1.3FT.	5:11	1.3FT.	13:19	1.5FT.	21:23	1.1FT.	78
2-16	4:05	1.4FT.	7:09	1.3FT.	13:37	1.4FT.	20:55	1.1FT.	78
2-17	4:27	1.5FT.	20:10	1.2FT.					76
2-18	5:05	1.6FT.	19:32	1.1FT.					72
2-19	5:45	1.7FT.	16:23	1.1FT.					67

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Pets of the Week



Laura DeSalvo photo

Who Cares? They did!

Last week on Monday Leandro Martinez and Luis Flores were conducting a guided tour on ATV quads with cruise ship passengers. Somewhere along the road from Lagun to Spelonk one of the tourists spotted a puppy. The whole caravan came to a standstill when one puppy after another came stumbling from behind the rocks. The joint effort resulted in the rescue of 10 puppies of barely six weeks old. Alas, the mother was nowhere to be found. That afternoon Leandro and Luis came to the



Greta Kooistra photo

Bonaire Animal Shelter saying, "We have a problem," and with big smiles they handed the Shelter's staff one of the quad's blue boxes filled to capacity with the 10 puppies. Sadly, three of the pups didn't make it, but the other seven are doing fine. As they were covered in a tsunami of lice they were bathed repeatedly, they were also dewormed and got their shots. They're still a bit wobbly and sleeping a lot, but in a week or two they will be strong and handsome and ready for adoption! Thanks to Leandro and Luis and the tourists seven little dogs' lives were saved because they cared! In addition to this event, the Shelter has built a new facility for the public to use: **a kennel outside the gate where people can drop off pets at any time.** Leaving an animal at the Shelter has always been for free and it always will be, but somehow there are still people who prefer to dump the pets in the *mondi* which hopefully won't be necessary anymore. ■ Greta Kooistra

Picture Yourself With The Reporter... Barren Island, Nova Scotia, Canada.



Lauren Nelson sent this photograph of her husband Tom Nelson and her brothers Jack and Kurt Holuba with *The Bonaire Reporter* as they built a bonfire on Barren Island in Nova Scotia, Canada. They were up there on a vacation at a cabin for the week. After they read it, the newspaper stoked the bonfire! ■

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.

Q. Where can I find The Bonaire Reporter? A. Just about everywhere!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls - Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Thursday	February 4, 2010	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100
Friday	February 5, 2010	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	2446
Monday	February	AidaAura	0800-1600	1260
Tuesday	February	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Tuesday	February 9, 2010	Sea Princess	1200-1900	2016
Friday	February 12, 2010	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	2446
Sunday	February	Ruby Princess	1100-1900	3100
Tuesday	February 16, 2010	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Thursday	February 18, 2010	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100
Thursday	February	Noordam	0800-1700	1918
Friday	February	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	2446

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10am until ship departure.

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Full Karnaval Schedule at right →

Friday, February 5—Free Lecture “Trees & Reforestation on Bonaire” by Dr. Dolfi Debrot, director of Carmabi, Curaçao. 7 pm, CIEE, Kaya Gob. Debrot 26.

Saturday, February 6—Big Monthly Rincon Marshe, 6 am to 2 pm. A real island event. Stands selling crafts, local foods, drinks, music. In the center of Rincon.

Saturday, 6th—Children’s Karnaval Parade, Rincon

Saturday, February 6—Book & Flea Market at Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, 11-5. All proceeds go to the sterilization fund, Bonny, Super Dog. More information call 717-4989.

Sunday, 7th—Children’s Karnaval Parade, Playa

Friday, February 12—Concert: Willem Stadius Muller (piano). This will be a historic concert of the 80-year-old Antillean pianist who was on Bonaire for the last time 25 years ago! More on page 6

Saturday, 13th—Adult Karnaval Parade, Rincon

Sunday, 14th—Adult Karnaval Parade, Playa

Sunday, February 21—3rd Annual Jong Bonaire Fun Walk and Bike Ride, to benefit Jong Bonaire. Adults NAf20; Children under 12, Naf 10. More on page 18

March 5-7—Educational Event: “Discover your Potential,” sponsored by Toastmasters Bonaire, Divi Flamingo. See page 18 for more information

March 26—Referendum. See page 3

REGULAR EVENTS

- **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 upkeep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 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**

- **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don’s Habitat Bar**—Get up close and personal with Bonaire’s dive pioneer. The Captain’s will autograph your copy of his newest book **Reef Windows**.

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

Monday—**Dee Scarr’s Touch the Sea Slide Presentation**, Capt. Don’s Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529

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 Condos.

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

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.

The Hash House Harriers running and walking club meets every second Wednesday for a one hour walk throughout Bonaire. The location changes each week. The contact number is **700-4361**

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

KARNAVAL SCHEDULE 2010

(Tentative)

February

Friday, 5th—Balloon Parade, SEBIKI
Friday, 5th—Election of Adult Queen, Prince and Pancho

Saturday, 6th—Children’s Parade, Rincon
Sunday, 7th—Children’s Parade, Playa

Tuesday, 9th—T-Shirt Parade, Playa
Wednesday, 10th—Bikers Parade, Playa

Thursday, 11th—Teener Parade, Playa
Friday, 12th—Elementary School Parade, Playa

Friday, 12th—Marathon Jump-up Jump-in
Saturday, 13th—Adult Parade, Rincon
Sunday, 14th—Adult Parade, Playa

Monday, 15th—Children’s Farewell Parade, Playa
Tuesday, 16th—Adult Farewell Parade, Playa
Saturday, 20th—Karnaval 2010 Closure

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: Call 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:

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Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Bubbles From the Biologists

Did You Know... That the eyes of humans and **cephalopods** (e.g. squid, octopus) are remarkably similar? In fact, such complex vision systems in such distantly related organisms represents an evolutionary process known as **convergence**. Convergence is a term used to describe the evolution of similar biological characteristics in organisms whose ancestry diverged long ago. In other words, distantly related species, under similar pressures from natural selection, evolve similar body characteristics in response to those pressures. Though the shared ancestry of humans and cephalopods diverged millions of years ago, natural selection favored the success of individuals of both species with adaptations that led to the development of complex vision.

As a matter of fact, some evolutionary biologists suggest that cephalopods evolved superior vision systems to those of humans and other vertebrates! Though both eye types are highly alike, there are certain distinctions between each that make the independent evolution of these vision systems so fascinating. While the human eye is focused by muscles that change the shape of the lens, the octopus eye moves back and forth to focus, much like a camera! Cephalopod vision systems are "wired" opposite to those of humans, a characteristic that actually makes their vision more "efficient," and even allows them to distinguish between different kinds of polarized light! Other examples of convergence include the evolution of wings in both bats and birds and the use of similar strategies to filter plankton in both whale sharks and baleen whales. ■ *Andrew Collins*

Andrew Collins is a recent graduate of the University of New Hampshire and is currently participating in a Tropical Marine Ecology internship at the CIEE Research Station here in Bonaire.



Cephalopod eye (top) and human eye



Lionfish Update

On the updated Lionfish-list (74 captures through 27 January) Dr. Rita Peachey of CIEE mentioned finding immature eggs in some of the females. This is bad news. This means the Lionfish are getting close to sexual maturity. Note the two lionfish that were found on the same day, same dive site, same depth - Red Slave at 125 feet, on 26 January. What I do not know was, how close to each other were they? When finding pairs of Lionfish now, please note if either appears to be orientated toward the other, exactly how close together were they, and note any current relative to their positions. ■ *Jerry Ligon*

Recent Lionfish Captures

Jan 17-10 Margate Bay 78ft 15.6cm (6.1in)
 Jan 16-10 Hilma H 2nd Reef 75ft 14.4cm (5.6in)
 Jan 16-10 Nearest Point 75ft 14.8cm (5.8in)
 Jan 19-10 Atlantis 78ft 8.7cm (3.4in)
 Jan 21-10 Alice in Wonderland 73ft 16cm (6.3in)
 Jan 21-10 Alice in Wonderland 60ft 14.4cm (5.6in)
 Jan 22-10 Something Special 20ft 13.8cm (5.4in)



Marine Park Manager deLeon and Lionfish

Jan 23-10 Atlantis 78ft 16cm (6.3in)
 Jan 24-10 Carl's Hill ft 14.2cm (5.6in)
Jan 26-10 Red Slave 125ft 16.8cm (6.6in)
Jan 26-10 Red Slave 125ft 14.2cm (5.6in)
 Jan 27-10 White Slave 80ft 15.3cm (6in) ■



Johannetta Gordijn photo

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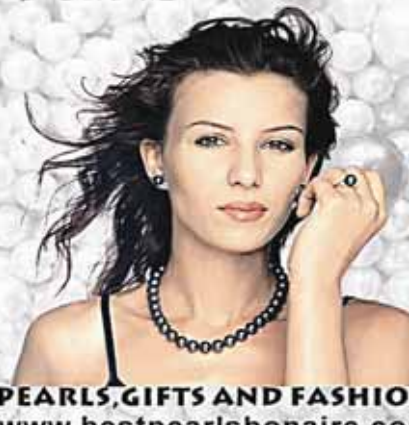


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Mister Hector Daal From Tera Kora And His Famous Bicycle

*The 62nd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."
On course for 100+*

Bonaire/Tera Kora –

So to be allowed to contribute to *The Bonaire Reporter* as a writer really is a privilege because it enables you to get in touch with and start a talk with some of the world's finest characters. In the last edition of *The Bonaire Reporter* Sherman Gibbs and his loyal truck were the subject of an article. Now it is Mr. Hector Daal from Tera Kora with his bicycle.

Almost every day he can be seen in one of the streets of Kralendijk: Hector Daal, age 84, born in 1925 and still going strong, as does his bike. Hector Daal lives in the neighborhood of Tera Kora. He lives all by himself in a house along Kaya Corantijn. Mr. Daal is a very polite and well mannered person. When I see him, walking with his bicycle next to him, he is the friendliest of persons. He immediately understands my plans about writing a little story about himself and his property: a real carrier bicycle. And when some other persons ask for my attention Mr. Daal immediately says that he will wait for me, right at the place where I met him. So after a very short communication with the other persons I apologize to Mr. Daal and we go looking for a place in the shade to take some photographs.

Mr. Hector Daal, at 84 years old, has been the owner of an original carrier bicycle for at least 20 years now, retired for ages, earning some extra money by selling boiled and toasted peanuts. Mr. Daal: a very nice specimen of one of the last pure and original non-complicated but sophisticated Bonaireans. Mr. Daal: a living treasure!

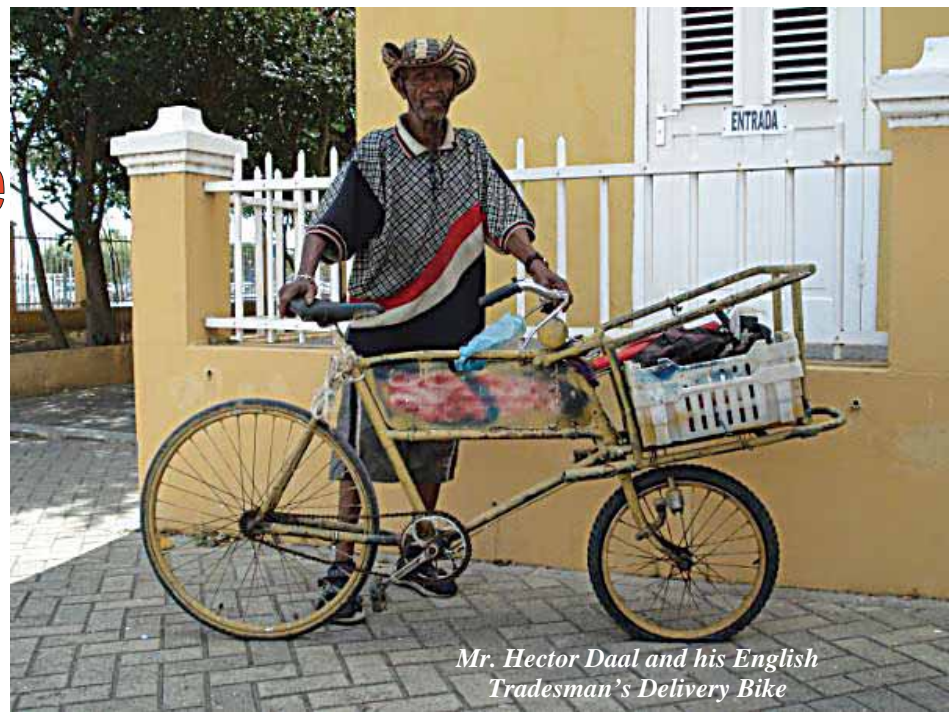
So this very special person is the owner of a carrier bike. However, because of his age he never uses the bicycle for cycling. He prefers to walk next to his vehicle. A kind of *rollator avant la date*. "Much safer these days," he says. And I agree.

The bike is old, very old, and presumably manufactured in the old England, decades before the oil crisis and, after some research, probably produced before the Second World War. The bike is heavy, very heavy. There are no modern gears fitted and the brakes stopped functioning a very long time ago. The chain is extended to the max and the rear wheel is mounted in the very last position of the rear fork of the frame to adjust to the slack of the chain. There is a dynamo mounted on the front fork to produce electricity for the lights, but the lamps vanished a long time ago. No fenders or mudguards. A nice saddle which is not used and a huge carrier in the front, above the very small front wheel, to carry the little bags with boiled and baked peanuts. The huge carrier and the small wheel characterize the bicycle. Underneath the carrier an immense and solid stand is mounted. Mr. Daal does not use this stand anymore and the device is more or less permanently mounted on the bike with electric wire.

And no, there are no bags with peanuts in the carrier at the moment. Mr. Hector Daal has completely sold out. And yes, there is a huge tire pump in the carrier above the front wheel. This is because the front tire is flat at the moment. The tire continuously loses air. But Mr. Daal does not really care. If he needs some air he just blows a little wind in it by the massive air pump!

A lot of research brings me to the Museum of Tradesman's Delivery Bikes in England. The bikes with the small wheel in the front are also known as so called "lo gravity bikes." Mr. Daal's bicycle was probably made in Birmingham, Great Britain, by the Birmingham Small Arms factory. Those days the lo gravity bike was for sale for around \$10!

All this information intrigues me so much that I decide to have a talk again with Mr. Daal. So I drive the four-wheel-drive to the Nikiboko South area and I try



Mr. Hector Daal and his English Tradesman's Delivery Bike

to find the yellow house in which Mr. Daal lives. It takes some time. And finally a man jumps in my vehicle to show me where Mr. Daal lives. The house seems to be deserted. The door is more or less locked. I leave a print of my article-in-concept under a stone next to the front door. Then Mr. Daal opens the door. He is surprised! Hands are shaken and he allows me to come in. I inform Mister Daal about the results of my research and I ask him

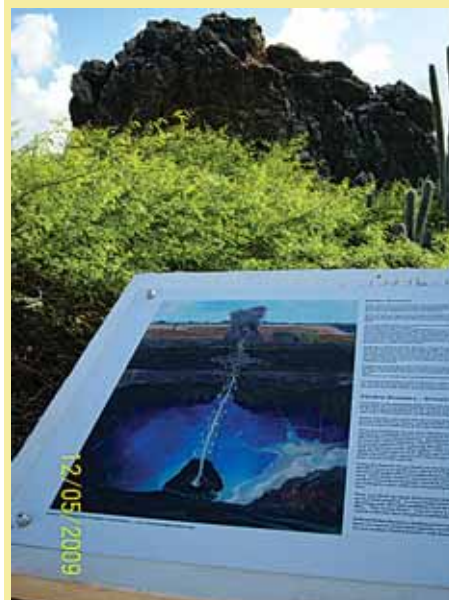
for a knife. He hands me the knife and I ask for permission to scratch away a lot of layers of paint from the ball head of the bicycle. Not a single problem! Then the contours of the more or less oval emblem with the three piled arms and the leather belt shows up.

Yes! Hector Daal is a unique person with a very special bike: a BSA low gravity carrier bike, made in or around 1937. The guys from the Museum of Tradesman's Delivery Bikes can be jealous! ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



BonQuiz Answer



Bon Quiz (from page 7):
Q) What is the name of the young man
A) Boynay

Sudoku Solution Puzzle on page 7

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

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Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

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by Captain Don

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BONHATA Annual Awards

BONHATA'S Annual Awards Event on Thursday, January 28th was a big success! The theme for the evening was "A Celebration of Bonairean Culture." Participants were asked to dress as colorfully as possible and to wear a traditional hat. There was live music from the renowned local artists Glen i su Geng and entertainment by four Jong Bonaire folk dancers dressed in traditional costumes.

A fund raising raffle was part of the evening's program and all funds raised will be donated to the Mangazina di Rei and to a special project of the Bonaire Museum. Key sponsors of the event were MCB bank and TELBO and the catering was done by SGB High School students.

It was one of the most well attended Awards Events with over 167 people present. The Fund Raising Raffle also raised just over NAF 3,400, compared to the NAF 3,200 of last year

One of the highlights of the evening was recognition of individuals and companies for their **contribution to the tourism industry of Bonaire:**

Amado Vrieswijk, Bonaire Sportsman of the Year 2009

Dive Training, for their top support, commitment and loyalty to the island

Rocargo Services, for the commitment they have invested in the island by building a new

Joyce Gregorio from TELBO who recently celebrated her 40th Anniversary with the company

Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire, in recognition to their investment in the future of Bonaire with new bank customer service training and their new office facility in Hato

Robbert van Duin of KLM, for his exceptional commitment to his job and his customer service skills



Bonhata President Sara Matera with Claire Sealy and "Michi" Chun Miao Zhen

The **Outstanding Employee/Supervisor** winners for each quarter in 2009 were also recognized:

Employees: **Chun Miao Zhen (Michi)** from Maduro and Curiel's Bank, **Juan Reina** from Harbour Village Beach Club (City Services), **Michel Boekhoudt** from Rocargo Services and **Iris Jasperse** from Sunbelt Realty

Supervisors: **Isidoor van Riemsdijk** from Rum Runners Restaurant, **Gert Joosten** from Divi Dive, **Claire Sealy** from Captain Don's Habitat and **Ersilia Diaz (Chila)** from Bonaire Air Services

From these winners two finalists were selected:

Employee of the Year **Chun Miao Zhen (Michi)** from **Maduro & Curiel's Bank** and

Supervisor of the Year **Claire Sealy** from **Captain Don's Habitat**

These two winners are in for some serious recognition. First of all they get to participate in an exchange program with CHATA, The Curaçao Hospitality and Tourism Association. And they will each receive a free roundtrip air ticket courtesy of Insel Air, a complimentary 3-night, 4-day stay in a hotel in Curaçao, with a complimentary rental car plus dinners, tours, etc...



Bonhata President Sara Matera with Rocargo's Marisela Croes, Sportsman Amado Vrieswijk, Telbo's Joyce Gregorio, Robbert van Duin of KLM, MCB Bank Managing Director Evert Piar and BONHATA'S Marion Wilson

BONHATA would like to extend a very big thank you to the following:

For fund-raising raffle prizes: Antillean Wine Company; Aquaspace; Benetton; Bonaire Windsurfing Place; Budget Car Rental; Captain Don's Habitat; Continental Airlines; Digicel Bonaire; Dive Friends Bonaire; Divi Dive; Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino; Golden Reef Inn; Hyatt Regency Curaçao; It Rains Fishes; Jibe City; Kiteboarding Bonaire; KonTiki Restaurant; Littman Jewellers; M.C.B. Bank Bonaire; Rum Runners Restaurant; Samur

Sailing Charters; Tiara Air; The Touch Spa.

A Special Thank You goes out to **Hugo Gerharts** for the silver coin he donated for an impromptu auction – minted in 1979 – the year that talks first started about creating the Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association.

To **Vernon Martijn** and the **SGB Culinary Team** for the great food, table service and beverage service

To the **M.C.'s Papi Cecilia & Dirk Jan Methorst**. ■ **BONHATA Press release**


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3rd Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike Ride

Tickets at Jong Bonaire and De Freewieler

More Details in the Next Edition of *The Reporter*

Jong Bonaire invites everybody to join in on this fun walk. It's a good opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new ones, while walking on our beautiful island of Bonaire. If you participated last year you know about it, if you didn't you heard about it.



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Distance: 20 Km
Starting time: 6:00 am
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Two Bright Red Cosmic Lights for your Valentine this Valentine's Day Night, Sunday February 14th 2010

If you want to give your sweetheart something very special and out of this world this Valentine's Day we have two bright red objects in the cosmos gift wrapped and ready to present absolutely free.

Around 8 to 9 pm this Valentine's Day night, Sunday, February 14th face east where half way up the sky you'll see a very bright yellow-gold light which many people say has a reddish-rouge tint to it. It has been known throughout history as **the red planet** and it is, of course, **Mars**. At the end of January Mars was at its closest to **Earth** and at its brightest for all of 2010 and 2011. And although it is now slowly moving away from us each night it is nevertheless extremely bright and quite easy to find. So Mars is your first cosmic red gift for your Valentine.

For your second gift simply turn to your right and look up a bit due south and you will see another very bright, even redder object shining high above the horizon. It is in fact the brightest red star we can see with the naked eye. And just coincidentally it reaches its highest point above the horizon every Valentine's Day night between the hours of 8 and 9 pm. It is one of **Orion the Hunter's shoulder stars**. And its name is **Betelgeuse** which most people pronounce "beetle juice." So now you have red cosmic gift #2 for your Valentine.

And although Betelgeuse and Mars will look about the same in brightness there their similarity ends. In fact they are about as different as you can get. And you can really impress your Valentine when you tell her or him what they're all about. Mars is not very big cosmically speaking, only half the size of our 8,000-mile-wide **Earth**, 4,000 miles wide. But Betelgeuse is about as big a red Valentine as you'll ever find. In fact if we compare Betelgeuse with Mars and our **Sun** you'll understand just how big.

Indeed Mars is absolutely dinky compared to our Sun. In fact we could fit over 8.7 million Mars inside it. Betelgeuse, however, is so huge we could fit over 160 million of our Suns inside it! And that's when Betelgeuse is at its smallest size because Betelgeuse changes its size regularly like a gigantic slowly pulsating heart. It beats, however, only once every six years. When Betelgeuse contracts to its smallest size, it is about 500 times the width of our Sun. But when it expands to its largest size it is almost 900 times as wide. Or if you think of it this way, if we could place Betelgeuse where our Sun is when Betelgeuse is at its smallest it would stretch out past the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth**, all the way to **Mars**. But when it's at its largest it would reach all the way to **Jupiter**.

So there you have it: **in the south the red star Betelgeuse at its highest above the horizon and in the east the red gold planet Mars half way up the heavens**. And perhaps that gold color will inspire you to give your Valentine a bit of the same. Is this a romantic cosmos or what? Happy Valentine's Day night and keep looking up! ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



Parker's Horoscopes

By Derek Parker

February-2010



ARIES (March 21 – April 21) Entertaining will be very successful and enjoyable with, as you will soon observe, new and interesting bonds being made between your guests and you yourself having a great time. Minor changes at work will make patchy progress with some schemes needing more planning than was anticipated, but you can expect to resolve these problems after the 17th when any deadlock situation will ease. 60% positive

TAURUS April 22 – May 20) Be prepared for unexpected developments in your career or business. These will probably be demanding but more than interesting, and you should listen to any new ideas that are put to you – especially if they will be potentially profitable. Be open minded and somewhat adventurous. 60% positive

GEMINI (May 21 – June 20) If studying full or part time you will make excellent progress in the weeks ahead, as your powers of concentration are being enhanced by help from Mercury. Getting in touch with like minded people on the net from overseas will also be advantageous. Mixing business with pleasure from the 12th will be both amusing and fun. 45% positive

CANCER (June 21 – July 21) You are probably being pulled in two directions concerning a decision. From a practical point of view you know you ought to take one line of action but emotionally you will be reluctant to do so. Take your time to weigh up the problem and to assess your own reactions. Decide whether you are being over-emotional or somewhat cool or even hard hearted. 30% positive

LEO (July 22 – August 22) Play your cards right (and post them in good time) and you'll have a very amusing Valentine's Day! In addition to a cluster of planets influencing your love life the New Moon is adding glitz and glamour to this Solar System party which will be around for most of February. If you can allow yourself to be distracted from the amazing set up, spend some time working... which will be easier to cope with around the 10th and the 26th. 70% positive

VIRGO (August 22 – September 22) From the 10th you can expect a change of pace to your life due to some very necessary work which will be rather dull and time consuming, aim to pace yourself no matter how much pressure you might be experiencing, but in a few weeks you will feel considerable satisfaction when the tasks are completed. 25% positive

LIBRA (September 23 – October 23) Your mood will be carefree, optimistic and rather daring. This is something you must, and no doubt will, enjoy, but just now and again you should, stop, take a deep breath and ask your-

self whether you are being over optimistic, or have taken one too many risks especially if you have been extravagant. However you peak with these positive trends at the New Moon – the lovely 14th of February! And from the 11th when you get extra help from Venus! 85% positive

SCORPIO (October 24 – November 21) From the 10th family and business/career demands are likely to clash at times, so if this applies to you, be prepared to make compromises or additional plans to avoid any difficulties. After the 18th you will be clear of these influences and discover that you are entering a phase in which you will not be distracted in this particular way, and all round your strong Scorpio qualities will zoom into action and assist you to even more rewarding achievements. 50% positive

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 21) Until the 10th you might well need to reassess a recent decision which you made too hastily. Give yourself time to consider whether you have made a mistake. If you have, then you'll have to go in for a certain amount of re-planning and more practical and constructive thinking. A similar situation will apply if you are just about to come to a decision; in which case don't be rushed - no matter how urgently you need to commit yourself. 30% positive

CAPRICORN (December 22 – January 19) Expect to enjoy a rewarding month, both from the financial point of view and your personal life which, with your partner and family, you would do well to organize some lively outings. Friends too will become increasingly important and their company stimulating – especially if recently you have taken up a new interest which involves them. 90% positive

AQUARIUS (January 19 – February 18) Because this is your birthday month you have every excuse to dress up to the nines and dazzle both rivals and admirers. During the first week of February you will be in a particularly romantic mood and you'll receive blessings from Venus and Neptune on the 7th In addition to all that, as the 14th is both the New Moon in your sign and St Valentine's Day - what more could you want? 80% positive

PISCES (February 19 – March 20) Although you are just beginning an interesting 12 months when there is much in your favor (because of the influence of Jupiter starting to travel through your sign) for a few weeks now, you would do well to let up and relax rather more, but also to make plans for the months ahead. By the time of the Full Moon on the 28th you will be ready to motivate some action; know that the time will be right to do so. 70% positive ■

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