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FREE**

BONAIRE Feb. 19- Mar. 5, 2010; Year 17, Issue 4
The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

Printed every fortnight

On-line every day, 24/7

**Valentines Day
Karnaval**

Photos on page 10



Laura DeSalvo photo



The ARNA (General Auditor's Office of the Netherlands Antilles) concluded that despite a moratorium on new Bonaire construction companies since 2005, 44 such companies had been granted a business permit by the island's Executive Council (BC) in the last five years. Additionally, many of those permit applications did not meet standard requirements.

The new BC has mostly endorsed the report of the ARNA and adopted its recommendations. It decided to lift the moratorium for construction companies, real estate agents and taxi firms. That decision has been published and there will be working instructions for the dispatching of establishment applications. From now on, companies are requested to use an application form for establishing a business.

►The Bonaire Government has introduced a new business permit procedure effective February 15. It begins with getting a form at DEZA, at Kaya Amsterdam 21. All businesses need a permit with the exception of Bonaireans born in the Netherlands Antilles starting their own business. All corporations (NV or BV) must have permits as must their non-Antillean directors. The requirements for supporting documentation, business description, are available on the DEZA website, www.bonaireconomy.org. You can also email helvigthode@bonaireconomy.org or evymartis@bonaireconomy.org.

►According to the President of the Chamber of Commerce on Bonaire, Aubrey Sealy, **business applications have "dramatically decreased."** The indication that entrepreneurs have less confidence to invest on the island is supported by figures from the Antillean Central Bureau of Statistics which now show that **16% of entrepreneurs say confidence in the government is a barrier** compared with only 7% six months ago. If it continues, said Sealy, "it could cause major economic damage." (Caribiana report)

►With the euro dropping fast some advisors believe it is the opportune time for European buyers to invest in Bonaire real estate. World stocks and the euro faltered last week after a deal emerged to help Greece tackle its

debt woes, as fears festered about the rescue plan's repercussions on the euro zone



►Last week flights to and from Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Guadeloupe were suspended at times due to airborne ash clouds from the Soufriere Hills Volcano in Montserrat. The volcano which has changed the face of the island continues to be very active. Perhaps unrelated, but interesting, was a prediction by a Dominican preacher-physic that **Curaçao, and presumably also Bonaire, would be overwhelmed by a tsunami last weekend.** They weren't.

►Air Jamaica, which had been experiencing financial problems for some time now, will be discontinuing the flights to Curaçao as of April. Flights to Bonaire were discontinued last year. The Jamaican airline company could possibly become part of Caribbean Airlines from Trinidad & Tobago. **Insel Air and DAE are studying the possibility of flying the Curaçao - Jamaica route.** Both Insel Air and DAE are prepared to fill this gap provided it is commercially attractive. Director General and International Affairs, Edward Heerenveen, states that Insel Air had already submitted a request to fly to Jamaica two months ago.

►Continental and Delta Airlines are expanding their connections to Bonaire. From February 12, through April 2, 2010, Continental will have a second Saturday return flight to Bonaire from Newark. From March 7- 29 there will be Monday flights to Bonaire from Houston.

Delta Airlines will upgrade its aircraft with a 262-seat Boeing 767 from February 13 through August 14, 2010.

►On the first Sunday of each month you can enter and leave Washington-Slagbaai National Park through the south gate which is a much shorter distance to the popular Slagbaai site. Get a special pass good for a year at the Park or at most dive shops for NAf 17,50. Or you can get a day pass for NAf 5 at the Park main gate (no cash is handled at the south gate). Kids 12 and under are free. Call STINAPA at 717 8444 or the Park at 788-9015 for more information.

►The Dutch Parliament will begin to handle draft legislation for the breakup and reformation of the Netherlands Antilles on March 2 with hope of completion before the end of the month. If the present Bonaire Government continues to reject the agreement with the Netherlands by the last Government, then the mention of Bonaire will be removed from the laws and that only St. Eustatius and Saba will apply.

►All Bonaire seems to be talking about a trailer for a proposed new film called "Children of the Wind" that focuses on the impact of windsurfing on the people of Bonaire. The film tells the story of young children from the island and their mentors, who grew from humble beginnings to international fame. It will choke you up. You must see it for yourself: go to YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CDgYcd4bZ8>

►Curaçao has expanded and modified its "Room Tax" law based on a percentage of the room rate. Private persons, hotels and timeshare resorts in Curaçao renting apartments or rooms to tourists must pay a 7% tax. It's estimated that the annual revenues will amount to approximately NAf 10 million. **Bonaire's room tax is NAf 9,75 per person, per night,** but some hoteliers would prefer a percentage calculation as Curaçao has done.

►Imposition of the Dutch law regarding euthanasia is a sticking point in Bonaire's possible integration with the Netherlands. It won't be helped by a possible new Dutch cure for old age.

A group of older Dutch academics and politicians has launched a petition in support of assisted suicide

for those over 70 years of age. They hope to attract over 40,000 signatures, enough to get the issue debated in Parliament under citizens' initiative legislation.

Under Dutch law, euthanasia is an option if the patient is suffering "unbearable pain." The doctor must be convinced the patient is making an informed choice, and a second doctor must also give his or her opinion.

In an interview with NRC newspaper, former minister and feminist **Hédy d'Ancona (72)** said the right to choose one's time of death was a natural extension of her lifelong battle for emancipation.

►The lack of rain expected during the almost-over "rainy season" is nice for Bonaire's tourists but causes problems for others, especially those involved in agriculture and who are affected by blowing dust. In Venezuela it's causing electric power rationing, so Venezuelan electricity workers are seeking divine help to solve the nation's power crisis. State oil company Edelca summoned all its workers to an hour-long prayer meeting last Friday titled: "Clamor to God for the National Electricity Sector." Edelca runs the massive Guri reservoir and hydroelectric complex that used to provide nearly half of Venezuela's power but has for months been suffering low water levels.

►In May it will be five years

A PERDE



Hogan and Holloway, still missing

since American Nataliee Holloway disappeared in Aruba. The activity and publicity surrounding her disappearance continue to this day. Last week international media carried the news that **Paul van der Sloot (58)**, father of **Joran van der Sloot** who was suspected of murdering **Holloway**, passed away February 11 during a game of tennis. Similar media attention has not focused on the disappearance of **American Vice Consul James Hogan** who disappeared under sus-

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Available on-line at:
www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,
On-line Every day, 24/7

Next edition printing on
March 2, 2010.

Story and Ad deadline:
February 27, 2010.

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Referendum ~~II-March 26~~



Governor Frits Goedgedrag

Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag has annulled Bonaire's Island Ordinance for a Constitutional Referendum on March 26 at the request of Bonaire's Lt. Governor, as it is "in conflict with the Human Rights Treaty and the interest of the Dutch Kingdom."

The Governor said his decision was in line with the advice of a United Nations (UN) delegation that visited Bonaire at the end of last year in connection with the referendum plans of the new ADB/Nicolaas (ex-UPB) coalition that had ousted the UPB Executive Council earlier that year.

Goedgedrag, a former Bonairean Lt. Governor, felt that allowing only Dutch citizens not born in the Netherlands Antilles, but residing on the island before 2007, to vote lacked objective justification.

He used as an example the fact that someone who had been born in St. Maarten and had moved to Bonaire on February 1, 2010, would be able to participate, but someone who had been born in Aruba or the Netherlands and had lived in Bonaire since January 2, 2007, would not.

In the Governor's view, this was an unreasonable restriction of voting rights.

He also agreed with Bonaire Lt. Governor Glenn

Thode that the question to be asked and options offered in the Referendum, as defined in the ordinance passed in the Island Council by the ADB/Nicolaas majority despite protests from the UPB opposition, were unclear and in conflict with the general interest. They do not offer the population a "free and real choice" and, as a result, justice is not done to the right of self-determination.

Goedgedrag said the proposed Referendum followed from the earlier Referendum of September 10, 2004, in which the majority chose for direct ties with the Netherlands. "It would have been [the thing] to ask the people of Bonaire if the execution given to that result by the former Executive Council was in agreement with the choice made in 2004, as was, for example, done with the referendum in Curaçao."

"With the question as now defined, there is a great risk that because of an unclear outcome of the Referendum in Bonaire, the constitutional restructuring process for all islands would be seriously delayed. That would be unreasonably damaging to the interests of the other islands and the Kingdom partners," the Governor said in a release. Future Referendum plans are uncertain. ■ G.D.

Editorial Is Now The Time*?

I think of myself as a guest of the island of Bonaire... its people- the hoteliers, the shopkeepers, the government workers, the teachers, the kids, the visitors, everybody. I'm here because they make me feel welcome and I enjoy the special feeling of the island. It's been my home longer than any other place I've lived. Compared to the economic, social, environmental and standard of living in most of the Caribbean basin, it's light-years ahead. And for the most part due to the way the Dutch governed the islands in the past and its tough, but practical, immigration policy.

But in the past couple of years I've run into groups of strangers, people with big ideas and an appetite for money and expansion. I heard one of them say to me, in relation to a business deal, "Bonaireans are stupid." "You don't speak Dutch? Bonaire is Dutch, you must." In relation to the current political situation, they have written to me saying, "I do hope the Bonairean will come to his senses, they have a lot to lose."

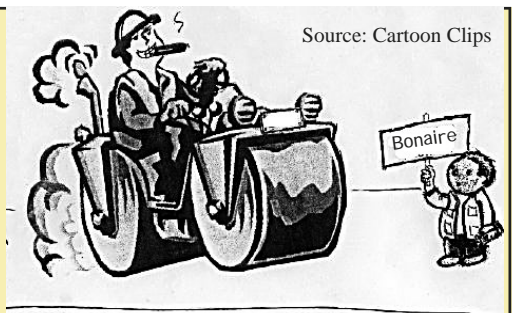
Couple this "grab all I can" attitude with the plan to endow Bonaire with modern European values and laws and you make Bonaireans uncomfortable and obstructionist.

I see it with the eyes of a guest who is embarrassed by the bad behavior of other guests in the home of a gracious host. These bad guests are businessmen who believe Bonaire belongs to them. They smell money and can't wait for Bonaire to become an integral part of The Netherlands. They begrudge delay and the Dutch tax money draining away while Bonaire's elected officials squabble over details of the degree of Bonaire's absorption into the Dutch Kingdom.

When I review Dutch colonial history I observe that trade and riches, not population expansion or religious freedom, motivated colonization. It seems that's the same as it is today. Perhaps Bonaire can accept that idea, imperfect as it may be, since it seems to be able to provide the first world lifestyle and comforts that most of its people want. But when whatever connection with Holland is eventually arranged, protection for Bonaire's environment, heritage and the remnants of its rural flavor must be part of the agreement.

The steamrolling Dutch transition process was stalled last year when a defector from the majority party, who up until then was compliant with Dutch ideas, joined the opposition. Now, with the Referendum rules declared unacceptable by the Antillean Governor, the strangers, the "bad guests" described above, will be able to make their voices even louder.

Certainly, now is the time, independent of any Referendum, for the Bonaire Government to reopen talks with the Dutch to resolve problem areas and ensure Bonaire's uniqueness survives the transition. ■ G.D.



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On the Island Since... August 13, 2003

Kavita Ramsaroep

“I was born in Surinam, September 18th, 1980, and until I came to Bonaire I always lived with my parents in Paramaribo, where my dad is a car mechanic and my mom a teacher. We are Hindus; my great grandparents came from India.

I did Mulo high school, then I went to the Natural Technological Institute in Paramaribo where I followed a Middle Professional Education of four years to become a medical analyst. While I was studying I also worked as a trainee in all the important hospitals in Paramaribo and at the Dermatological Service, the Hygi-

a medical doctor I would have had to study for seven years and I thought that would be too long as it became more and more expensive. You see, I have a brother and a sister – younger than I – and I didn’t think it was fair that my parents were spending all this money on me. I felt my siblings should get their chance as well.

So, in 2001, I started working full-time at a private laboratory as a medical analyst. Working hours were officially from 7 am to 3:30 pm, but often it was much later as we usually had 300 patients a day.



Alejandra Valdez, Eugene Emers, Winny van Lüling, Mudji Djamin and Kavita Ramsaroep

“As long as you’re living with your parents I feel you have to stick to their rules...”

enic Service, the Blood Bank and at the Pathologic Anatomic Lab where I witnessed an autopsy. That was exciting! I was 19 when I graduated.

At the time in Paramaribo, it wasn’t possible to do a higher professional education in my profession, so I decided to go to university, to the medical faculty, and study to become a doctor. After one year I quit. To become

Then I decided to study biology – an evening education – to become a teacher. It was the only study I could do, the only opportunity under my circumstances and I’ve always liked biology; I think it’s very interesting.

When I’d leave work around 4 pm, I’d immediately have to grab two buses to be on time for school as it started at 4:30 and went until 9:15. I did that for two

and a half years and I graduated in all the subjects except for pedagogic.” She laughs: “I thought that was the most boring subject – it didn’t appeal to me at all. So, I was allowed to teach, but they would have paid me less.

Then, an ex-colleague of mine told me that the Mariadal Foundation on Bonaire was looking

for medical analysts for the hospital laboratory. The private lab I was working for in Surinam didn’t pay well and with that salary I would never have been able to make enough money to support a life on my own, so I applied for a job at Mariadal. The first time I was rejected – they told me they weren’t looking for people. But in April, 2003, I got a telephone

call from Dr. Schermer, at the time the head of the hospital’s lab. He interviewed me on the phone and I had to answer a lot of questions. Soon after I got an e-mail from the personnel manager of the hospital about what my work would be like and that after a three-month’s probation I would get a contract for three

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since (Coned from page 4) years.

Yeah... and then my parents became so very sad. I was the eldest and we were all still living together and my mother wanted me to stay so badly, but, I was very interested in the job on Bonaire and I wanted to see how it was here – a different culture, getting to know all kinds of people and I was already 22. However, I waited until I got my parents' permission and when they told me 'Yes, you can go' I felt they had given me their blessing." *She smiles:* "As long as you're living with your parents I feel you have to stick to their rules and that you should consult with them about everything. That's how I've always done it.

The whole family came to my parents' house the night before I was leaving. They gave me presents, little souvenirs and photos, things they thought I would need here. I have a very large family in Surinam. My grandparents on my mother's side had 10 children and my father is one of nine so I have a lot of cousins, uncles and aunts. It was very hard to leave everybody behind, but I was so enthusiastic and curious about how it would be here - and then you don't realize what it's going to be like – to be here all by yourself.

In the beginning I was very, very homesick. I cried a lot and I went for long walks along the

sea and when I came home I was tired and finally able to sleep.

My permit wasn't ready until September 8th and then I started working. The job was fun and so were my colleagues. Now we are five, but at the time it was only the three of us at the lab: Mudji, Alejandra and me. Mudji and I are from Surinam, Alejandra is from Colombia and the funny thing is that all three of us are alone here. Neither one of us has any family on Bonaire. We hit it off from the first moment and we became very good friends. We are still working together and now I'm babysitting Alejandra's dog, Juliana, who lives with me and my dog Lulu, as Alejandra lives in an apartment where she's not allowed to have dogs. But when I go on vacation, it's Alejandra who's taking care of the both of them – it works well!"

Kavita has the softest hands on Bonaire when she takes your blood, but her handshake is firm. She's such a kind and gentle person that it makes people see her as if she were a child. However, she's a very bright young lady who has made her own life through hard work and perseverance.

"I now have developed a certain pattern in my life. I still like my job at the hospital and I've learned a lot because Mr. Leblanc, our clinical chemist, always involves us in every decision that is made about work.

Yes, we are getting the chance to give our opinion, and he also takes us seriously when we come up with new ideas. That's what makes it great.

But... in September I'm going to be 30..." *She laughs:* "The other day a man came to the door to collect signatures for the referendum and he asked me 'Are you over 16?' Ha, ha! I thought that was a little too far fetched! But, many times patients ask me if I am authorized to work at the lab, or they think I am a trainee or a medical school student.

I would really like to study more and I'm saving very hard to accomplish my plans, because I'm already way too old for a scholarship. It's a pity there's no education for me available on Bonaire, so I don't know if I can stay here. I don't want to become a doctor anymore, but from what I've seen at the hospital, I'd really like to study anesthesia. Working in the operating theatre also seems interesting. In fact, there are lots of studies I fancy and I think for that I have to go to Holland.

I've tried to do a higher professional education through the Internet, but they didn't think it was a good idea because of the lack of practice on Bonaire. I've never been to Holland and it never appealed to me, but I have a boyfriend in Holland. It's a long-distance relationship but we've been to Surinam together

and my parents have met him, so... one of these days I think I will take the step and visit some colleges as well.

Just recently, I came back from a vacation in Surinam. I visited my grandmother from my father's side who was hospitalized. She told me to take care of myself and I firmly believed she was going to be fine. I arrived on Bonaire the 15th of January and the next day I got a call that my grandmother had passed away. It was a big blow... and then you're here, all alone... and it made me think, 'What am I doing here?' But I have the opportunity to save up more money and it's a good job. It's also fun to live so independently in my little house together with Lulu, to have my own car. Yes, there's freedom and I can afford to go on vacation every year.

Bonaire has made me strong; I was a very quiet little person in Surinam, but here I have to stand



Kavita and Lulu

up for myself as nobody else will do it for me. And I feel safe here. The people are very nice and my neighbors are always helpful. Bonaire has been good to me and I've grown, personally and professionally." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra





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↑ In appreciation for all their help during 2009 in an incredible number of different things from monitoring programs, catching lionfish, providing STINAPA with air, boat trips, painting rocks, packing tags, distributing documents to making lionfish markers...STINAPA invited their volunteers for some drinks on January 20th at the Kanti Awa bar on the waterfront.

In this year's *Bonaire Affair* magazine there's a little write up about the author of **BonQuiz**, **Christie Dovale**. Susan Lee Swygart's article, "Stroll Back in Time," page 17, says, "For the very best experience, treat yourself to a guided tour with Christie Dovale. Born and raised in the Antilles of American parents, Christie is an amazing person with a wealth of information and delightful details at her fingertips. Multilingual, she enjoys sharing her love of 'the real Bonaire' with interested visitors and says, 'Why wander aimlessly around town when you can learn all about its colorful past and historic sites on a leisurely walking tour?'Don't miss the opportunity to explore with one of Bonaire's best historical and nature experts!" ■

BonQuiz #24



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.**

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

Shaped by the Wind

We all know how steadily and at times, fiercely, the trade winds can blow on these islands. The Divi Divi tree (*Caesalpinia coriara*) bends to the trade wind's beck and call and has therefore earned its name. But there are trees that are not Divi Divis but yet could be mistaken for one. The tree in the photo, even though it may look like a Divi Divi, is not. This tree is called the *Jacquinia armillaris*, or as in Frater Arnoldo's flora book, the *Jacquinia barbasco*.

This time of the year its strong flower scent is quite appealing as you take hikes through the north of the island. In the past Indians and fisherman alike used broken off branches from this tree.

Q) What were these branches used for? 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: christie-dovale@hotmail.com.





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Gentlemen's Dive League

Playa/Klein Bonaire –
Every Wednesday morning the members of the Gentlemen's League get together at 9 o'clock at the Dive Inn, situated along Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund, next to Donna and Giorgio's restaurant. The Dive Inn is one of the four locations of Dive Friends Bonaire.

The Gentlemen's League – women more than welcome – is a group of experienced to very experienced divers. All of them live on Bonaire all year round or several months of the year. Nationality is not important although most divers are Bonairean, Dutch or from the US. The League has existed for ages now and the only things that count, apart from fun, are experience and knowledge. The group is not bothered by a board of directors, by a chairman, treasurer or secretary. It is just the diving and the comradeship that counts.

Most dives are shore dives, but every now and then a boat dive is organized. This time Dive Friends of Bonaire unselfishly supplied the boat and the captain, Astrid de Jager. (It got me thinking about the word: "Unselfish", which is a very nice word, and can be connected to the sea and the fish).

This time the group, consisting of divers and snorkelers, men and women, went to a dive location leeward of Klein Bonaire. They spent more than an hour in the clean and unspoiled underwater world of Klein Bonaire. The occasion was quite special. One of the very senior



Debbie (DFB Dive Inn), Bob Kramer, Dick, Frederique (DFB Dive Inn), Fred

members and his wife, Bob and Geesje Kramer, had decided to leave their beloved island after 15 years. Leaving an island is one of the sadnesses of island life. The group (consisting of Bob and Geesje, Dick and Janny, Fred, Gill, Amber (female, 21, alive and kicking) Ludwig, Willeke and J@n) enjoyed the dive and the trips to and from the location.

Around five in the afternoon there was an unofficial after dive organized. We wish you a safe trip Bob and Geesje! And to DFB Dive Inn: Thank you for your hospitality and the supply of the boat plus captain. ■

Story & Photo by J@n Brouwer

Body Talk

A SILENT FUNGAL PANDEMIC

A couple of years ago, while doing some research on the subject of yeast and fungal overgrowth in the human body, I realized that bread, that all-time favorite eaten for breakfast, with or as a meal at lunch or as a late-night snack is possibly today the biggest culprit in the western diet!

Bread eaten in its leavened (with yeast) form is tasty to eat because it has already been partially digested by the yeast while in the oven. Through the process of fermentation, yeast and fungi make human tissues, as well as bread or any pastry, swell and bubble; carbon dioxide (CO₂) is what yeasts and fungi breathe out, and as it accumulates within, the gas slowly suffocates human tissues and organs.

Add to this bread consumption, beer drinking which contains yeast, processed foods which contain large amounts of yeast and sugars, soda drinks that contain sugar and brand tobacco that contain both yeast and sugar. You must admit that this sounds pretty much like the average diet!

Fungal-based lifestyles are slowly killing the human race, and most people find it very difficult to associate yeast and fungus with the degenerative diseases of obesity, diabetes, cancer and heart disease, yet yeast and fungus is finally now being linked to Autism, Multiple Sclerosis, Asthma and Lung Infections, Cholesterol and Diabetes. Has your physician ever explained the fungal and yeast aspect of your symptoms to you?

People are often surprised that bread, beer, wine and matured cheeses can cause cancer and other diseases. We all know that cigarettes are dangerous, but surely bread is ok, and the occasional beer is ok? Well, cigarettes, beer and bread have two things in common - yeast and sugar. Scientifically we know that yeast and fungi, through the fermentation lactic acid-based pathways, causes biological rotting within mammals and humans who consume large amounts of these pathogens in the form of fermented food, drink and

tobacco.

But let's be fair, bread is by no means the only problem – just consumed by far more people than alcohol, tobacco or meats! You may not smoke, but you eat bread or you may be a vegetarian, but you consume bread or you may hate alcohol, but you do eat bread!

To add to the yeast and fungal problem we also have the over-use of the most popular drugs sold since 1928. These are fungal-based antibiotics and penicillin and since the generation brought up on these 'wonder drugs' has reached maturity, a massive increase in heart attacks, cancer, diabetes, obesity and cholesterol has been observed, world-wide.

Fungi and yeast are also the greatest recyclers in the world, and they thrive on decay! They will survive and thrive even after our death, but in the meantime they love it when you are stressed out, when there is no time to cook a healthy meal and make do with processed foods or when you use that soda drink and chocolate for a quick lunch. Remember these are highly acidic to the body. If you have a coated tongue on getting up in the morning, you certainly have a fungal and yeast overgrowth. Try to remember what you had the day or night before.

In the next issue we will take a look at pharmaceutical drugs like Crestor and Lipitor and what exactly they are, why they lower cholesterol, but cannot solve the problem, and what these drugs have to do with fungus and yeast.

■ 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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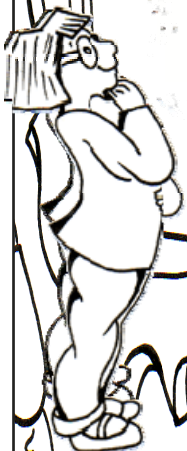
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Guest Editorials

Opinions expressed are solely those of the author.

Island Council Must Resume Talks with the Dutch

After long months of anti-Dutch propaganda, coupled with a campaign to discredit the UPB party which "sold" Bonaire to the *makambas* (just "forgetting" that also the PDB members of the Island Council unanimously agreed with integration of the island with the Netherlands by signing the Final Accord in 2006), a series of events in the last months brought only disappointment to the opponents of the new status of our island.

Firstly, the last December visit of the UN advisors to Bonaire, invited by the activists of *Movemento Awor t'e Ora*, backfired heavily because the advisors did not agree with the Referendum conditions stipulated by the Island Council's committee for the preparation of the Referendum.

Another disappointment was the result of the January elections for the Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles. In spite of a fierce campaign in the local media against the UPB, the green party was the winner although the combined votes of PDB and the new, blue party, *Lista di Kambio*, made up 51% of the ballot. In fact, the blue party, in which *Movemento Awor t'e Ora* has been incorporated, going to the elections with great hope, suffered a decisive defeat, getting less than half of the votes for the PDB. While the opponents to integration see the result of the elections as a victory, the question is what will be the preference be in the coming Referendum of the about 20% eligible voters who did not turn out for the Parliamentary elections?

The most recent blow to the opponents of the new status was the recent request of the Lt. Governor of Bonaire to the Governor of the Netherlands Antilles to nullify the Referendum by-law adopted by the Island Council because it had disregarded the advice of the UN concerning the Referendum, particularly as far as the right of all inhabitants of Bonaire to vote is concerned. When the Antilles Governor, several days later, complied with the request and nullified the Referendum by-law, the opponents to the new status got into a fury.

Listening to the radio station, *Voz di Boneiru*, I could not believe what I heard after this decision had been announced on the news on February 12, 2010. The Governor and the Lt. Governor were attacked in such a rude way that I prefer not to quote the expressed insults. Their only "crime" has been that they insisted on the compliance of the advice given by the UN representatives invited by *Movemento Awor t'e Ora!*

In my opinion, the best decision which the Island Council can take now is to cancel all plans for the Referendum, as the most distinguished Bonairean, Miguel Pourier, the former Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, already advised several months ago. As known, according to him, the Referendum would only cause confusion. Anyway, the date of 10-10-10 of the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles is

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C	130	198	145	156	126	151	93	127	92	72	1290
D	4	4	5	2	3	0	1	5	1	2	27
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Results of the 2004 Referendum posted at the Pasangrahan

approaching fast and a lot of work must be done. Whatever the solution of the current impasse will be, the Island Council must resume the talks with Henk Kamp, the Dutch government representative on Bonaire and the Queen's Commissioner, as soon as possible. Several important issues, like the introduction of the Dutch laws considered on Bonaire not to be in accord with Christian values, have to be discussed. Starting the talks can also bring some movement to the interrupted execution of the Dutch financed projects of urgent improvements in the field of health care, education, personal security, infrastructure and others. To boycott the Dutch government from last June until the results of the Referendum are known has certainly not been wise, being against the interests of the Bonairean people.

While during the 2004 Referendum the people of Bonaire had to choose from four different options for the future political status of the island, including independence, in the planned Referendum, if it does take place, the voters will have to decide if Bonaire will become a part of the Netherlands (integration) or become its own position within the Kingdom of the Netherlands (association). Anyway, the official point of view of the Dutch government is that in 2006, before signing the binding Final Accord, the Island Council had all the opportunities to discuss various possibilities to realize the direct link with the Netherlands chosen by the people of Bonaire in the 2004 Referendum. The question is why the same council members who then unanimously agreed with the integration are now, more than three years later, fighting for the association? According to them, this association could be realized in a form of a *Koninkrijkseiland* (Kingdom Island), already proposed to Bonaire by the Dutch government in 1993, as mentioned in the 2009 advice of Judge Bob Wit. The question is, if these council members already knew about this proposal in 2006, without Wit, and in case they knew it, why did they not use it during the negotiations with the Dutch instead of agreeing that the link could be realized in the form of a special municipality? Only Mr. Abraham and Mr. Nicolaas can answer this crucial question.

It is evident that the erratic behavior of the Bonairean politicians only bolsters the negative opinion about the Antilles of the Dutch rightist radical party, PVV, according to recent polls the strongest

political party of the Netherlands which can win the parliamentary elections next year. As known and confirmed by the just published report of the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations on polarization and radicalization, PVV has firmly decided to repel Aruba and the other Dutch Antillean islands from the Kingdom and to reunite the Netherlands with Flanders, the Dutch speaking northern part of Belgium, separated from the Netherlands in 1835. It is clear that at the moment the PVV becomes the leading force in the new government of the Netherlands the only negotiations with the Dutch Antillean islands will be about the financial support package they can receive after being forced to become independent. It seems that the Island Council members, now boycotting the Dutch, do not realize it.

In spite of strong anti-Dutch (officially called anti-colonial) propaganda in the local media, it is clear to the overwhelming majority of the people of Bonaire that the island cannot exist on its own without a strong support of the Netherlands. As known, according to the Venezuelan President Chavez, the islands of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, due to their location close to the South American coast, belong in fact to Venezuela and everybody looking at the map can fully understand his opinion. These islands form the last three links of the chain of the Venezuelan islands, running along the coast in the western direction from the island of Margarita in the east of the country. From the closest island, Aruba, sharing the shallow continental plate with the Venezuelan Paraguana peninsula, even the high Andes Mountains, rising far behind the wide flat shore area, can be seen during some days and, when flying from Aruba to Venezuela, the coasts of Aruba and Paraguana can be seen simultaneously. Remember that in 1982 Argentina decided to occupy the British Falkland Islands (*Islas Malvinas*) located at a distance of more than 500 km from its coast and South Georgia Islands, at a distance of more than 2000 km (!) Argentina considers them a part of its territory. I lived at that time in Caracas and witnessed an enormous, spontaneous support of Venezuela given to Argentina after it had invaded the islands. ■

Jiri Lausman

Jiri Lausman is a retired businessman who lives on Bonaire



Mr.Linkels, Don't Mess With Our Freedom

I was surprised by the fact that Mr. Hubert Linkels in Dutch language newspapers accused *The Bonaire Reporter* of being an extension of *Awor t'e Ora* (ATO).

In the first place, I do not believe in persons who don't respect the freedom of speech of others. Secondly, I do not understand the attack of Mr. Linkels on *The Bonaire Reporter* taking into account that he worked very long as a correspondent for most Dutch newspapers on the island. I have been supporting *The Bonaire Reporter* practically from its beginning and I know that there are more people on this beautiful island of Bonaire as well as other readers all over the world that are reading and supporting *The Bonaire Reporter*. I strongly believe that one of the motives for the success of *The Bonaire Reporter* is that they do not twist or misinterpret "knowingly" articles that they receive from their distinguished readers.

I acknowledge and appreciate the fact that *The Reporter* grants equal opportunity to each and every one using their right of freedom of speech. This goes without saying for organizations such as ATO with their very respectful approach using diplomacy, documentation and candor in what they are presenting to the press and the community at large. This doesn't necessarily mean that *The Bonaire Reporter* must be in agreement with ATO. Everyone can express his viewpoint in accordance with his belief and according to me, ATO is a well respected organization which is undoubtedly striving to maintain as much autonomy as possible for the Bonairean people respecting their right of self-determination.

Autonomy was for sure one of the goals of great legends such as Dr. Moises da Costa Gomez, Dr. Efraim Jonckheer, Mr. Juancho Yrausquin, Aruban liberator Mr. Betico Croes and last but not least Mr. Julio Abraham. We strongly believe in freedom and agree that the best should be achieved for Bonaire. What could be wrong if the organization ATO is claiming freedom and respect for the Bonairean people? Let me refresh Mr. Linkels' memory. The Eijsden farm was the first Dutch territory liberated on September 12th, 1944. The Dutch farmers welcomed the American troops with open arms. Holland remained free after the war and Queen Wilhelmina offered even more autonomy to the Dutch islands in the Caribbean resulting in 1954 in the famous Charter of the Dutch Kingdom.

At this moment in time there is enormous pressure on Bonaireans to accept integration in Holland whilst this was not an option in the 2004 referendum. UN Resolution 1541 stipulates that integration into an independent country can only take place after the people of the territory have expressed their desire to integrate through democratic processes. It is internationally widely accepted that a referendum is an appropriate means to consult the population in this matter. The people of Bonaire have never expressed their wish to integrate into Holland in a referendum. Therefore ATO must continue its efforts to grant Bonaireans a fair referendum in which they can express themselves freely and unconditionally on their future political status.

It is obvious that Mr. Linkels clearly neglects the fact that the right of self-determination belongs to the people and not to their elected representatives. I undoubtedly believe that *The Bonaire Reporter* recognizes the First Amendment of the United States of America and the freedom of speech in the Netherlands Antilles. Within this spirit of freedom (of speech) *The Reporter* should continue exercising its right to publish the undistorted truth for their distinguished readers on this planet with objectivity and respect for others. *Bonaire Reporter*, continue on this rightful path with or without consent of Mr. Hubert Linkels or others who are trying to curtail the freedom of our people.

-Benito Dirksz.

KARNAVAL MUSIC IS LOUD

Dear Editor:

This year again we attended the children's Karnaval parade in Rincon and, as always, it was a junior spectacular. But there seemed to be something strange about it as well. The children were very quiet, especially the younger ones: many were not dancing, some were making only small movements. And I think the reason was pretty obvious. The music from the floats was at such an earsplitting level that they were in shock.

The volume was so loud that we, in our sixties, had to step back from the roadway. How must it have seemed to a six-year old walking along with it for a half-hour? Some of the children closest to the floats had ear protection, but the rest, only a few yards back, had none. Hearing can easily be permanently damaged. Levels like this are dangerous to everybody except youth, who think themselves immune. (And indeed the sound systems were manned by young people.)

I would like to appeal to the people of Bonaire to consider that more is not necessarily better when it comes to music volume. A sound system requiring a ten kilowatt generator is surely excessive to provide dance music in a parade for children.

Ian MacDonald

EDITORIAL COMPLAINTS

Dear Editor:

Reading your editorial (in the last edition of *The Reporter*, "Is Bonaire Heading For A Recession") with initials G.D. I consider you did not do your homework thoroughly and have presented a highly disputable opinion well below your standard.

I recommend you to read the comment by Mr. Hubert Linkels in the *Antilliaans Dagblad* for you as a learning experience, so you do not make the same mistake again.

Henk Zaat

Dear Reporter,

I am a faithful reader of *The Reporter*. But I am very sorry I have to say that your last Editorial clearly shows it is written without knowledge of the matter. Please if you don't know how the things REALLY are don't give an opinion that will mislead your readers.

Such an article is not worthy the reputation of your newspaper. Please refer to the "letter" that came out in the *Antilliaans Dagblad* from Hubert Linkels titled: *Shoemaker*, (Shoemaker—the allusion that a shoemaker should stick to making shoes and not meddle in matters he knows nothing about—ed.) about the above mentioned article.

I am not so severe to criticize the States, but regarding your comprehension of the questions in Bonaire and the Netherlands, he is totally right.

I hope in the future you will speak with knowledge. Give the example. There are enough people saying anything.

Nveys

Editorial reply:

Thank you both for your interest in our editorial. We reviewed the letter in the AD and found it off-base, petty and demeaning.

The point of the editorial was that because of the Dutch financial embargo, some people no longer have the jobs they were counting on. Job loss and an economic slowdown was the point of the editorial, not who is at fault.

Sometimes a newspaper's job is to present issues and opinions. In this case we stated *The Reporter's* opinion about the thoughtless damage to Bonaire's economy done by the Bonaire Island Council's refusal to parley with Dutch officials and the resulting punitive Dutch funding embargo on their promised financial assistance.

G.D.

FINGER POINTING INCORRECTLY

Dear Editor:

Although I do not dispute that the cut-off in Dutch funding on Bonaire has had, and will continue to have, an impact on the island, I believe that you are pointing your finger in the wrong direction:

The simple fact is that the current government of Bonaire has made it clear that they do not want to accept the agreement (i.e. repudiated the contract) so that the Dutch also are no longer bound by it. When a sovereign government signs an agreement it is bound to honor it or to announce that it is rejecting the acts of the prior regime. In doing so, they essentially make all elements of that agreement null and void. In this case both parties are released from their obligations and an entirely new arrangement must be negotiated. This can only be done if both parties sit at the table and negotiate. So far Bonaire has refused to do so.

Bonaire cannot have it both ways. If the island only wants the Dutch to pour money in here while we do nothing, the current government of Bonaire has itself adopted a *de facto* colonial attitude. And isn't this just what they have been accusing the Dutch of doing?

Fingers do need to be pointed – but in the right direction. See the point-by-point rebuttal to your editorial below:

Reporter's comment "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"

Response --Not true. The Netherlands has

agreed to make extensive and needed investments in the BES islands during negotiations on the details of *laso direkto*. The NL government was willing to trust that the three islands were moving forward and decided not to wait until the final papers were signed. The basis for this investment was the good faith of both parties to the agreement signed in 2006 in which the islands agreed to establish a close relationship. The current Bonaire government has since repudiated that agreement unilaterally by its comments and its in-action at the negotiating table.

Reporter's comment "Suppose a community in Holland defies the county's leaders. Are pensions blocked, public works suspended or social services blocked?"

Response --Not relevant since Bonaire is not yet part of the Netherlands and it appears that the current government does not want to become so. The situation we have now is a broken contract between two governments.

Reporter's comment "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 heard via another Referendum."

Response --Not true. Bonaire's government stopped serious negotiating months before they made any moves toward setting up a referendum. Until pushed by the defection of their one vote majority they did nothing but give lip service to finding out just what the people of the island really want. It was only after several months of Bonaire stonewalling that the Dutch decided to stop providing the agreed-upon funds until Bonaire made its position clear. The funds are a part of the agreement and, if Bonaire decides to pull out, all of the funding issues will be back on the table.

-A non-Dutch, non-Antillean lover of the island and its people

CONTRACTS AND MORALITY

Dear Editor:

I disagree strongly with the *Bonaire Reporter's* position that Holland should go on paying for projects after the Bonaire Government broke the signed agreements made toward achieving the BES status of '*laso direct*'. When one party breaks a contract, there are penalties. This is true in business, in marriage, in family and community life and in world politics.

Should a spouse who breaks the marriage contract continue to enjoy all benefits from the marriage? What about the citizen who breaks the social contract of the community, i.e. the law? Aren't there penalties for breaking that social contract? Should the employee who breaks his contract continue to receive the original salary with no penalty?

Without a penalty there is no lesson to be learned, there is no value to keeping one's word. It's how business, society and the world function. If you break a contract, there is a penalty. It might just be a lost privilege, but it must be something of value to the one breaking the contract, otherwise there is no reason to cooperate and negotiate.

Here is a 'what if' to consider: Fast forward to next year when there will very likely be a more conservative government sitting in Holland. What would happen if that new government were to repudiate the agreements set for the BES islands? What would these islands do or say then? What would the world court think?

One might make the case that the measure of a person or a country is the degree to which it honors its contracts, agreements and handshakes. What is the morality of a country (or person) that does not keep its word? And what is the mentality of that entity that thinks it can break one side of the agreement but expect the other side to maintain its side of the bargain? It's not about 'money,' it's about morality.

-From an outsider looking in.


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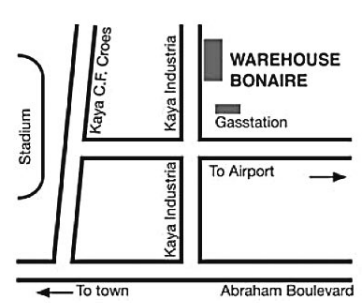
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Lizee	Tesoronan di Boneiru
Grupo Naturalesa	DJ
Nos Beyisima	Fantasia di Universo
Glamour	Pumpkin Witch
Uní pa gosa	Rei i Reina di ambiente
Caribbean Laundry	Lokura di amor
The Fancy Gems	Zulu's Fantasy Tribe

Turtles in Paradise

Most of us on Bonaire know Lac Bay as a perfect place for windsurfing where both locals and tourists gather to take on the wind in smooth seas. But Lac is also known for something perhaps less thrilling than high performance windsurfing. Less thrilling, that is, unless you are a turtle. The bay holds a bounty of nutritious sea grass.

"Green turtles are mostly herbivores. Their bread and butter are sea grass and algae. They maintain grazing fields here. They like the sea grass when its young and tender and just eat that and move on." So says Dr. Robert Van Dam, a marine biologist who, for the past 20 years, has conducted research on turtles throughout the Caribbean.

Lac Bay

"Lac Bay is a special place. There's a real pumping action of water going on. The wind-driven water gets pushed in and flows out a deeper channel. This high degree of circulation is unlike other mangrove-fringed bays in the Caribbean. Because of this, 300-500 turtles use Lac on a daily basis."

Many of those turtles hail from other islands in the Caribbean, but come to Lac Bay specifically to eat. Between trips back to their origins to breed, many spend time at Lac's sea grass smorgasbord dining on *Thalassia testudinum*, turtle grass, and *Syringodium filiforme*, manatee grass.

"If you go snorkeling or right outside of Lac, you'll see all these turtles hanging out" adds Van Dam. "This is their resting and digesting habitat. They've been so successful in feeding in an hour or two inside the bay that they just swim out and bunch up together. They're all fat and happy."

I had to see this for myself and snorkeled just beyond the bay's reef on a day when the winds were low and the waves tempered. In just a few minutes I saw the first turtles—

layers of them. I spotted over 50 during my hour-long snorkel. There were brawny, green turtles weighing well over 100 pounds. Hawksbills were also present with their distinctive beaks and dark-colored shells. The nutrient-laden sea grass of Lac Bay had served these turtles well.

Sea Grass Is Important

But there is trouble in paradise. The constant use of Lac by windsurfers, waders, and other recreationists has begun to impact the sea grass beds, which can be easily destroyed if frequently treaded upon. Once the beds are eliminated, shore erosion can increase significantly, upsetting the local habitat.

"The importance of sea grass goes beyond turtles," explains Mabel Nava, manager for the not-for-profit organization, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). "These beds are important because they retain substrate sediment. They clean the water. They also serve as a buffer to the constant wave action. The sea grass protects the beaches that we all enjoy at Lac."

To that end, STCB and the not-for-profit Progressive Environmental Solutions have spearheaded an effort with STINAPA and local Lac Bay beach businesses to protect the grass. They have installed 'no-go zones' with floating buoys and ropes that encircle sea grass beds in waters used frequently by swimmers, kayakers and windsurfers. These boundaries, easily seen from Jibe City and the Beach Hut, serve as reminders not to step inside these vulnerable areas.

"Those beds are too shallow and too busy for sea turtles to visit," states Robert Van Dam. "But it is a great beginning to let people know that these are special places. Plus, sea grass serves as a nursery for a whole bunch of organisms, even in those busy areas."

"In the near future, probably in 2010, we will be placing 'turn around' buoys to protect other sea grass beds where turtles actually do feed," continues Nava.

"Currently, windsurfers often turn around in this area as they cruise Lac and step on the grasses in the process. The buoys will warn the windsurfers before they reach this area."

Bonaire Turtles Are Special

STCB is also involved in data collection of sea turtles. Their boat, the *Nancy Too*, can often be seen cruising Lac, Bonaire's leeward coast or along Klein Bonaire. Twice a year the group captures turtles in Lac Bay. Before being released, the turtles are measured, weighed, photographed, given ID tags and inspected for general health. All this information goes into a database and individual turtles can be tracked over time. Van Dam, who works as a scientific advisor for STCB, has been impressed by some of the results. "The big 'wow' factor is the growth rates of these animals. During our data collection we've discovered that they're growing 6-8 centimeters (2.5-3 inches) per year. That's the highest growth rate for juvenile green turtles in the world."

"We have only two paid staff, field specialist Funchi Egbreghs and myself as manager," explains Nava, "so volunteers are essential for us. Local groups often help in the effort. Jong Bonaire for instance, offers a team of young volunteers to help with the



Preparing the 'no-go zones' floating buoys and ropes

Klein Bonaire beach cleanups. But residents and tourists can also help." If you would like to get involved, just call Mabel Nava at 717-2225 or 780-0433.

Back at Lac Bay, I walk the sandy shore with Robert Van Dam who is talking numbers. "Today, we only have about 100,000 adult sea turtles in the entire Caribbean Sea, whereas there were probably at least 10 million before Columbus arrived. Can you imagine what places like Lac must have been like? These waters were just teeming with turtles. I expect there could have been 3,000 to 5,000 turtles in the bay here back then."

As I look out over the vast lagoon, I try to imagine that time long ago. The water is sparkling gold in the afternoon sun. Suddenly, I spot the silhouetted head of a sea turtle breaking the surface for a quick breath of air. That timely glimpse gives me hope that the turtles will always return to feast at Lac Bay as long as it is well preserved. I know I will always return, simply just to see them. ■ Patrick Holian* * *

A different version of this article first appeared in Caribbean Compass Magazine.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls - Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Thursday	February 18, 2010	Noordam	0800-1700	1918
Friday	February 19, 2010	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	2446
Sunday	February 21, 2010	Freewinds	0600	220
Monday	February 22, 2010	AidaAura	0800-1600	1260
Tuesday	February 23, 2010	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Tuesday	February 23, 2010	Oceana	0800-1803	1950
Wednesday	February 24, 2010	Sea Princess	1200-1900	2016
Thursday	February 25, 2010	Sea Cloud II	1330-1700	150
Friday	February 26, 2010	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	2446
Tuesday	March 2, 2010	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Wednesday	March 3, 2010	Caribbean Princess	0700-1400	3100
Thursday	March 4, 2010	Ruby Princess	0700-1400	3100
Friday	March 5, 2010	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	1950

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Until the end of February— Art Exhibit by Luz Aida Franco-Wesseliuss, Kas di Arte, daily 5-9 pm. By day on request, call 560-0907 or 516-8575.

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

Sunday, February 21—School Spelling Bee Finals, Jong Bonaire, 4-6 pm—more on page 16

Sunday, February 28—Full Moon

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



Marilyn Kredel

Friday, March 5- American Pianist Marilyn Kredel will perform in Cacique Hall at the Plaza Resort Bonaire starting at 8 pm. More on page 20

Sunday, March 8- Special Olympics Walkathon - More details on page 20 and in the next edition.

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 up-keep 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 Koeks 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 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:
The Bonaire Reporter
reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com **Published every two weeks**

Reporters: Stephanie Bennett, Sharon Bol, J@n Brouwer, Benito Dirksz, Christie Dovale, Caren Eckrich, Patrick Holian, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Jiri Lausman, Michael Thiessen

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

Distribution: Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elisabeth Silberie (Playa), Divi-Divi Air-line

Housekeeping: JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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Leaving the island. For sale: White Daewoo Matiz, 2000, 5-doors, 5-speed, 51.000 km, airco, original. Two new tires and a new battery. Ang. 7.000. Call 717 - 2399 or mail digitalis1956@hotmail.com for a picture and more information.

Living Accommodations

For Rent: Direct oceanfront luxury condo, huge 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, all air conditioned, internet and cable. Private dock with incredible snorkeling and diving right in front of apt. Washer/dryer. Very private, best part of Hato. Long term only, \$2800 US monthly. Call (561) 860-1468 in Florida or email Dennis at sunnyresorts@cox.net for pictures.

For rent as of March 1, two bedroom upstairs furnished apt, excl. utilities, Pagabon, no pets, Nikiboko, call 795-3456

FOR RENT 2 bedroom apartment. Great location Abraham Blvd. ANG 1350 month long term. Laundry facility on premises. 788-3837

For rent at Hato, apartment (2 bedrooms) 1-2 persons. From 10 February. Minimum stay 4 months. No pets allowed. no airco allowed. Incl.; gas/water/electricity/internet/linen/selibon/furnished/garden/parking place/terrace/tv connection Rent per month NAf 850,-- All In NAf 1150,-- normal use. Deposit NAf 1150,--

Hato -for rent small house 1-2 persons (2 bedrooms). From March. Minimum stay 4 months with airco, water, electricity, internet, linen, selibon, furnished, garden, parking area, dishwasher, washing-machine, boiler etc. private terrace. (separate TV connection and gas possible). No pets allowed. 717-2529 or 796-2529.

SERVICES

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

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
2-19	5:45	1.7FT.	16:23	1.1FT.					67
2-20	6:23	1.8FT.	16:26	1.0FT.					60
2-21	7:10	1.9FT.	16:49	0.9FT.					53
2-22	7:54	1.9FT.	17:22	0.9FT.					49
2-23	8:39	2.0FT.	17:51	0.8FT.					50
2-24	0:07	1.0FT.	9:30	2.0FT.	18:16	0.8FT.	23:43	1.0FT.	58
2-25	1:18	1.0FT.	10:14	2.0FT.	18:43	0.9FT.	23:25	1.1FT.	69
2-26	2:56	1.0FT.	11:06	2.0FT.	19:13	0.9FT.	23:46	1.2FT.	81
2-27	0:07	1.2FT.	4:17	1.1FT.	11:56	1.9FT.	19:37	1.0FT.	91
2-28	0:55	1.4FT.	5:44	1.1FT.	12:46	1.7FT.	19:56	1.1FT.	99
3-01	1:41	1.4FT.	7:17	1.1FT.	13:47	1.6FT.	20:11	1.1FT.	10
3-02	2:32	1.5FT.	9:14	1.1FT.	14:50	1.4FT.	20:15	1.2FT.	10
3-03	3:33	1.6FT.	11:23	1.1FT.	16:24	1.3FT.	19:53	1.2FT.	96
3-04	4:28	1.7FT.	13:08	1.0FT.					87
3-05	5:34	1.8FT.	14:24	0.9FT.					76
3-06	6:27	1.9FT.	15:28	0.8FT.					63
3-07	7:23	1.9FT.	16:14	0.8FT.					51
3-08	8:09	1.9FT.	16:53	0.8FT.					42
3-09	8:52	1.9FT.	17:33	0.8FT.					38
3-10	9:35	1.9FT.	18:00	0.9FT.					41



For Sale: Blonde wood entertainment center. Dimensions: 183cm w X 189cm h X 41.5cm d. NAf550 Panasonic 32" TV 4:3 (TV as is) NAf 75 call: 717-2050 Other equipment and items not included in sale.

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Reef Windows is Captain Don's latest book and features the true stories of the naming of many Bonaire dive sites. A great souvenir as well.

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Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch

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Harmony House—The herb and mineral center. Help your body heal itself.

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Bubbles From the Biologist

Did You Know...

That the magnificent frigate bird, *Fregata magnificens*, lacks the oil in its feathers that is common to most sea-birds, which would "waterproof" its body? Because of this, they are unable to withstand exposure to water for long periods of time.

In response to this limitation, frigate birds have developed techniques for ambushing other birds or unsuspecting fishermen in search of scraps. This behavior is called **kleptoparasitism** because the birds attack and steal food from other birds. Frigate birds acquire about 40-50% of their diet in this way. The aerodynamic display and aerial piracy of these birds when they are on the hunt has led them to be nicknamed the "Man O' War" birds. The highly specialized maneuvers they use to chase, harass, and even attack other less agile marine birds in order to steal a meal requires longer parental guardianship and care of young than that of their victims.

Because of a higher investment of energy and time, frigate birds will typically lay only one egg during each breeding season. Females will care for their young for about a year. Males, on the other hand, will leave when the chick is half grown, or after about three months, and will then molt and attempt to mate a second time within the same breeding season. In this way, males are breeding every year while females will reproduce every other year.

During breeding and nesting season frigate birds feed closer to shore. The birds nest in colonies and can be found in habitats such as the mangrove cays of coral reefs or among the deciduous trees and bushes of arid environments. Frigate birds are commonly seen around Bonaire and can be found by simply watching the shoreline for those tailing the fishermen or by visiting the eastern coast where dense mangroves and proximate access to sea provide a suitable living situation. For more information about magnificent frigate birds, visit the following webpages: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Magnificent_Frigatebird/lifehistory
<http://www.infobonaire.com/birdwatching.html>
<http://www.geographia.com/Bonaire/bonbrd01.htm> ■



Male frigate displaying for female

photo: <http://www.arkive.org>



Caren Eckrich

Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving at CIEE Research Station Bonaire (<http://cieebonaire.org>).

New Bat For Bonaire

Bonaire is doing its part for the International Year of Biodiversity. During the last field-work session Washington Park Manager Fernando Simal and his team captured a species of bat that he believes has never been reported for Bonaire before. Bonaire can now be said to have eight resident bat species, the island's only native mammal.

It's a Naked-backed bat (*Pteronotus davyi*). Bat expert biologist Dr. Sophie Petit quipped, "It's the bat with the nicest smile in the whole Caribbean." Refer to the photos and a illustration made by Andrea Simal to see what she means

"Not a bad start for the year of biodiversity," said the Park Manager. In 2010--the International Year of Biodiversity--the United Nations wants efforts to slow the accelerating pace of extinctions to reach beyond nature lovers, to companies and economists. Shifting emphasis from emotional images of polar bears, pandas or leatherbacks that stress the fragility and beauty of nature, the focus is on a harder-headed assessment of how the natural world is a key to economic growth and



Washington Park photo

Naked-backed bat



Sketch by Andrea Simal

new products. "Boosting biodiversity can boost the global economy," the UN Environment Program said in a headline over a statement launching the theme. A hectare of intact coral reef, for instance, can be worth up to \$1 million a year for tourism, up to \$189,000 for protecting coasts from storms, up to \$57,000 as a source of genetic materials and up to \$3,818 for fisheries, according to a preliminary UN-backed study in late 2009. ■ G.D.

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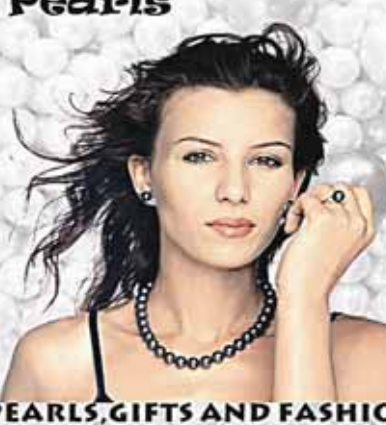


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Pet of the Week

One picture can be worth a thousand words!

He's a roly poly, happy puppy now, but little "Jeroen" had a very sad beginning to his life. He was almost run over by a car when he was just five weeks old, but a good Samaritan found him and brought him into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Because he was so young and frail he had to go home to live with Shelter Director Marlies who had to feed him by hand. But now at seven weeks he's one of the cutest puppies we've ever seen. Who would not agree? He's like a woolly little bear with a wonderful disposition and attitude towards life. He's been checked out by the vet, wormed, had his shots and will be sterilized when he's old enough. The dog adoption fee of NAf 105 covers all of this and you may always be assured to getting a healthy and well adjusted and social animal from the Shelter. ■ L.D.



Laura DeSalvo photo

"Jeroen"

Shelter's Best Market Day

Saturday, February 6, was long and hot but was quite lucrative for the Bonaire Animal Shelter. They sold NAf 4,244,16 worth of items at their flea market at the Shelter and received NAf 512,65 in donations. The best Animal Shelter market day ever.

Many volunteers started early to display all the books and other articles and worked all day to make sure everything went well. While having a drink or snack, many customers took their time to look around the many, many items that were for sale, to see if there was something they liked and could buy for little money. They found a lot to buy. The ambiance was great. Many people met friends or acquaintances.

All the money will be used to keep the Shelter doing their work and for various smaller projects. The Shelter would like to thank the We Dare to Care Foundation and Martinus Import NV for the tables and tents. ■



Greta Kooistra photo

Customers at the Shelter on Kaminda Lagun

Greta Kooistra

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Papiamentu Spelling Bee



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photo

Finalists: Adriaan Arends, Nils van Eldik, Jevon May and Luis Marcano.

Preliminaries leading up to the finals of an school-wide island Spelling Bee are underway or completed in the eight elementary schools on Bonaire. Finals will be held on Sunday, February 21, the International Day of indigenous people, at Jong Bonaire from 4-6 pm. The competition is to honor our native language Papiamentu. The competition is organized by the Bonaire Public Library (*Biblioteka publiko*).

The spelling contest in Papiamentu is still especially difficult, because the language has many accents.

- grave accent, as in the word skèr (scissors)
- acute accent as in the word: úniko (unique).
- diaeresis, as in the word febrürí (February)

• tilde, as in the word soño (sleep)
All of these accents and capitalization must be indicated by the participants in their responses.

The finalists are: Denielle Felida, Janin Petit, Tatiana Nicholas, Christina Lisette, Marian Cicilia, Rebecca Adamus, Dustan Mercelina, Janira Coffie, Adriaan Arends, Nils van Eldik, Luis Marcano, Jevon May, T'meeka de Jongh, Engela Emerenciana, Urven St. Jago, Valdemar Janga, Rave Lion Mercera, Nadienne Mercera, Jesus Celestine, Vailly Cornelia, Carmiënne Daal, Adrian Coffie, Miu Ji Xuan, Meija Laura Diaz, Bryan Pourier, Jennefer Zambrano, Matthew Carolina, and Quentin Doran Raynuwel Grüning. ■ Sharon Bol

Picture Yourself With The Reporter... Dumaguete City, Philippines



Madeline Estenfelder writes, "We are sending our photo taken for *The Bonaire Reporter* at the Awesome Jazz Festival that was held from May 25 - June 1, 2007, in Dumaguete City, Philippines. We own a house on Kaya Turquoise, Santa Barbara, and live most of the time in Fuerth, Bavaria, Germany."

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.

Looking For 1927 Willys Whippet Parts

*The 63rd 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+*

Rincon Suit/ Bonaire –

So I always thought that it was a kind of kindergarten in which the "car" was parked. I gave it a try and drove the four-stroke off-road bike over the Kaminda Broertje Janga towards Rincon. I wanted to be there during working hours, with all the kids in the day care nursery. The road to Subi di Rincon or Seru Suit was unpaved (and will remain unpaved for years) and bumpy. Going down was also tricky: steep and a lot of unexpected potholes. I stopped and parked my motorcycle in front of the fence of what I thought to be a nursery school. About 10 o'clock, but no kids...

A voice attracted my attention. Then I discovered a man sitting on his porch hidden by plants and books and stuff. He invited me in, not knowing who I was or what my intentions were. An electrical cock produced his sound when I entered the gate. I introduced myself to the man. He waited a little time, thinking. "From *The Reporter!*" he said. Now chaos was getting organized. He offered me a drink and he prepared me a fresh papaya.

His name is Norman Wilson. He is married to Marlolein or "Leintje" and he is from Aruba. He spent 22 years of his life on Bonaire and he likes the island. Especially Rincon and especially Rincon Suit. He is retired now and he enjoys life. He is a creative and busy man. He and his wife have an open eye for everything. Wilson's main hobby is growing fish. And literally the whole house is surrounded by



First the radiator, now for the rest of the car



buckets and bathtubs with all

Above: A restored Willys Overland Limited – Whippet - in a antique car show.

kinds of fish, from Black Mollies to Tilapias! Even a chrome hub cap from an old Ford found a kind of re-birth in the shape of an aquarium. It is fish and plants and water pumps from washing machines and hoses all over the place.

Norman and Marjolein live in the house known as the *Kas di Finies*. And this house is like a kind of organic and living museum. Apart from the fish and the plants, there are books, pieces of wood; there is aluminum and cast iron: several Singer sewing machines, old stoves, you name it. Norman and Marjolein have eyes for everything and they really like it to renovate or re use. With his four-wheel drive Norman inspects the outback and the landfill on a more or less regular basis.

And then, that one day, he drove his vehicle in the area of the Polar Bar in Rincon and people were cleaning the *Rooi Guru* (this rooi is a gutter/jb). And then Norman saw a certain metal shape sticking out of the debris and immediately he thought: This is mine! So he grabbed the thing out of the dirt and he took it home. It appeared to be a radiator of an old car. And it was this radiator converted into a kind of toy or painting that asked for my attention. Just one of those creations of Norman. Check out the photo at left to see what I mean. This creation of art had nothing to do with kids or a kindergarten or a crèche or something like that (although Wilson likes kids very much). It was just a re-used radiator.

We inspected the radiator. Most of it was made of, we think, aluminum, and it had a honeycomb structure. Most of the chrome has vanished through the years. The lid was missing...

But! There was a round badge mounted on the radiator: "Willys Overland Limited – Whippet – Toronto Canada" it read. One day Norman and I will go to the Rooi Guru area again to filter out all the dirt for the missing parts!

Willys Overland also had factories in Canada. They produced the Willys Over-

land Wippet up until 1931. Then the car was replaced by the Willys Six and Willys Eight. The radiator Norman found belongs to a Willys Wippet built in 1927. The car consisted of a iron chassis with leaf springs and wooden spoke wheels. The structure of the body was a combination of a lot of wood and sheet metal. The car was fitted with a four-cylinder side valve engine made from cast iron. Who knows more about one of the first vehicles that drove on the unpaved roads of Bonaire? ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



BonQuiz Answer



Bon Quiz (from page 6):

Q) What were these branches used for?

A) Barbasco branches were used to stupefy, drug or stun fish, thereby making it easy to pick them out of the shallow waters as they surface. The substance found in this plant species is called 'rotenone' and is still used in South American countries today.

Sudoku Solution Puzzle on page 7

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

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MCB Employees Elect 2009's Outstanding Colleagues



Anthony Angila, Shurman Pourier, Ruthsella Willems and Egon Augusta

For the last two years MCB Bonaire employees have been having quarterly elections to honor their outstanding colleagues and at the year's end name a top colleague for the year. The candidates are selected for their extraordinary performance in four areas: Motivation, Service, Security and Communication

For 2009 the finalists were Egon Augusta (Credit Department); Ruthsella Willems (Playa Branch); Shurman Pourier (Security Department) and Anthony Angila (ASD/BKO Department). From this group Ruthsella Willems of the Playa Branch was selected as 2009's Most Extraordinary Colleague. She spearheaded the preparation and introduction of the Sales and Service Project for the MCB Group, showed a great responsibility in demonstrating the value of the approach to her co-workers. She was always there to assist them. In the community she assisted with Special Olympics activities.

MCB Bonaire is proud of the efforts of its colleagues and realizes that their outstanding performance brings benefits to their clients as well as themselves. ■ *Press release*

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3rd Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike

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.



Date: 21st of February 2010
Distance: 20 Km
Starting time: 6:00 am
Start : Jong Bonaire
Finish: Jong Bonaire
Price: Naf 20,-
Naf 10,- Kids under 12yrs
Includes: T-shirt, Water bottle, drinks, lunch & fruit.



Tickets available at: Freewieler and Jong Bonaire

Route: Start: Jong Bonaire, Kaya Simon Bolivar, Abraham boulevard, Kaya International (to Belnem), Kaya Randolph Statius Van Eps, Kaminda Sorobon, Kaya Nikiboko Zuid, Kaya Simon Bolivar, Finish: Jong Bonaire
Bikes follow the long southern route and join at Sorobon
Total: 37 Km



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Orion the Hunter's Two Wonderful Dogs, Canis Major and Canis Minor

You know it seems that almost everyone's favorite winter constellation is **Orion the Hunter**. But his two faithful hunting companions, **Canis Major** and **Canis Minor**, should not be overlooked because their brightest stars are quite wonderful. Canis Major is Latin for the bigger dog and Canis Minor is Latin for the smaller dog. And this month is perfect for observing this cosmic dog show.



On any night the next few weeks between 7 and 9 pm, Sky Park Time, look up and south where the most obvious constellation will be Orion the Hunter. Three bright stars in a row mark his belt, two bright stars mark his shoulders and two bright stars mark his knees. And to find his two faithful hunting dogs all you have to remember is that they follow him across the sky. To find his first dog use the belt trick. Simply shoot an imaginary arrow down through Orion's belt and that arrow will land smack dab on **Sirius** which marks the eye of Orion's bigger dog and which is also the brightest star we can see with the naked eye.

Now many people draw a stick figure of a dog here in different ways but the one we're showing is my personal favorite. Sirius is mentioned in practically every culture that ever kept records. Even in ancient Egypt it was called the **dog star** and whenever it was seen rising just before the **Sun** in early morning it was used as a cosmic sign that the Nile river would soon flood and make the land of Egypt fertile for planting. And if you've ever heard of the **hot dog days of summer** many of our ancestors believed that Sirius the dog star was responsible for them.

Today we know that Sirius is among the very closest of all the stars, only 8.6 light years away, which means that the light we see actually left Sirius 8.6 years ago which is really close. So its closeness has something to do with why it appears so bright, although we have to add the fact that it is almost twice as wide as our Sun and because it is so much hotter and is 23 times brighter! Additionally it has a special companion star called a **white dwarf**. Special because even though it has the same mass as our Sun it is only two Earths wide, which makes its material so dense that a teaspoon of it would weigh several tons here on Earth.

Not to be out done, however, the brightest star of Orion's other dog **Procyon**, although not quite as bright to the naked eye as Sirius, is even bigger, 2.3 times our Sun's diameter. But because it is not as hot a star as Sirius it shines only 6 times brighter than our Sun. It too, like Sirius, is close, only 2 and a half light years farther away than Sirius, 11.3 light years distant. And strangely and coincidentally, like Sirius, it also has a white dwarf companion star almost identical to Sirius' white dwarf.

So there you have it, the two brightest stars of Orion's faithful companions, each with their own little pup, which to my way of thinking is really something to howl about. ■
Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For February 2010

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Use your charm, but don't sign or agree to anything. You will do well if you mingle with the brass this month. You will reach the most people if you speak out at an organizational function. You might not be as reserved on an emotional level as you'd like. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Do not let others exhaust you financially. You must take care not to over exert yourself if involved in sports. If you've been under stress and worrying about older members of the family, it's time to come to terms with the situation. You will be overly generous with children this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You need time to think things through. Property purchases should be on your mind. Chronic health problems are likely to surface if you are keeping your problems locked up inside. Try to channel your energy into physical work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. Try to concentrate on research and acquiring information that will be of value in your chosen field. Someone important may be watching you from afar. Sudden trips will take you by surprise. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. You will learn easily if you put forth an effort. You may find a rare antique this month. You'll be dropping friends for no apparent reason. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will find that social activities will be enjoyable and will promote new connections. Deal with in-laws this month. Do not force your opinions on others the connections will be short lived. Deep discussions may only lead to friction. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Risky fi-

nancial ventures will result in unrecoverable losses. Don't let anyone take credit for a job you did. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. You may not be that popular at home but you should be able to shine at social gatherings. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Changes regarding your career direction will payoff handsomely. You may have major blowups with someone you love if you don't back down. Try to make arrangements with close friends or relatives to spend a few days away. Be cautious handling tools, machinery, or dangerous objects. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) The home environment will be unpredictable this month. They will not have the patience to wait for you to complete things that they've asked you to do. You need to keep everyone on your domestic scene too busy to complain. You may be likely to have difficulties with females. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try to take some time to listen to their complaints, and in turn, do something to appease them. Family trips or projects should be on your mind. You could find yourself caught in a one sided relationship. Entertainment should include your whole family. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You might be overly emotional when dealing with your partner. It's time to reevaluate your motives. False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip. Don't be too quick to respond to a plea for help. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your generous nature could be taken advantage of. You may be angry if someone tries to take credit for something you did. Do what you can but don't jeopardize your health trying to please everyone. You may be up for some changes in your home. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday. ■

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World Class Music For Bonaire Wim Statius Muller



Wim Statius Muller

Almost every seat in Cacique Hall was occupied for what was a landmark performance in Bonaire Cultural History: A recital by pianist Wim Statius Muller, perhaps the best performer of the Antillean classical genre. The program was inspired by the Dutch novelist Jan Broeken's publication, "Why Antilleans Kneel Down Before the Heart of Chopin." It began with some of Chopin's works that did indeed inspire those Antillean composers, but not before the pianist charmed his audience with

musical history.

Why is Chopin so dear to Antilleans? Mr. Muller commented that, "The formal waltz and the danza came in through the front door, and by the time they got to the kitchen and the back door they'd often have turned into the popular tumba." "How did the waltz get to the Caribbean? From Napoleon's Polish mercenaries brought to Haiti to put down the slave uprising and then left there," Maestro Muller explained.

Muller wears two hats: one as a terrifically entertaining anecdote-telling teacher of music and a supremely gifted and talented pianist. It was a unique opportunity for a Bonaire audience to be in the company of one who so loves his craft and who can so entertainingly explain it to us.

One doesn't think of Muller as "an 80 year old man playing the piano." Instead he is a penultimate performer with young fingers whose playing shows decades of experience.

On reading the program flyer he exclaimed, "I just found out that I am now a 'living legend' (of Antillean pianists and composers).

He admitted that "Some of these compositions I've played for so many years and not needed the music.... Later on I take a look at the music and realize I'd been playing it a little differently from what the composer intended and made the piece mine."

Indeed Mr. Muller was invited to play one of his own compositions at a Lincoln Center recital honoring Chopin.

Helen Dovale, a contemporary of the maestro, commented: "Hearing this music is so reminiscent of when I was Curaçao in the 50s when we'd go to the land houses to listen and dance to this



The proceeds of the evening's performance (NAf 2.000) were donated by Maestro Muller to Jong Bonaire. Accepting for Jong Bonaire were Jong Bonaire Board members Alan Gross and Jane Townsend. Raymundo Saleh of the Classical Music Board looks on.

music until the early morning hours. And the guys always wore their jackets, never taking them off."

If you are disappointed you missed this concert Bonaire's Classical Music Board has more great programs coming up. **On Friday, March 5, pianist Marilyn Kredel will perform in Cacique Hall at the Plaza Resort Bonaire starting at 8 pm.**

Ms. Kredel performed at the Vatican in Rome, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and Carnegie Hall, New York. She will play works of Scarlatti and Beetho-

ven's "Waldstein" Sonata, Chopin, Brahms and Liszt.

Tickets are available for NAf 30 at Books and Toys, Flamingo Book Store and at the reception of Plaza Resort Bonaire. The night of the concert they will be NAf 35 at the Hall. There are only 150 tickets available.

The Classical Music Board of Bonaire is looking for volunteers to help with the concert organization - at the concert hall, a good secretary and a person to help setting up a website. Call Guus at 717-4496 or Rob, 786-0455. ■

L./G. D.

Flotsam and jetsam (Cont. from page 2) picious circumstances in Curaçao last September 24. His position at the American Consulate was filled last month by **Winifred Hofstetter**, who was named the new Vice Consul. Hofstetter was previously at the American Consulate in Abudja, Nigeria.

► **The two Colombian cruise ship tourists who jumped ship when it docked in Bonaire have been found** and detained. The two passengers had left a debt of US\$2,500 on the ship *Enchantment of the Seas*. The police apprehended them in Kaya Bayena, Antriol. The men, 28 and 36 years of age, had disembarked in Bonaire on January 15. The ship left the harbor without them at the end of that day. The men are being held, since they were on the island illegally.

► **Can Carnaval's sound levels be dangerous?** The Curaçao Executive Council changed the route of their Carnaval so it would not pass through part of Roodeweg and Breedestraat because of the real danger of eight buildings collapsing from sound vibrations along the original Curaçao Carnaval route.

► **Sand Dollar Condominium Resort named Gilberto Lira as General Manager** effective January 2010. Gilberto is an Antillean with more than 20 years of experience in the hotel, restaurant, and tourism industry. He has worked in management positions in several Dutch Caribbean resorts—Sunset Beach Resort, Divi Flamingo Beach and Plaza Beach Resort in Bonaire, La Cabana and Divi Tamarijn in Aruba, and

Pelican Resorts and Atrium Beach Resort in Sint Maarten.

Gilberto has a BS in Hospitality Management from Florida International University as well as other hospitality oriented education. He speaks fluent English, Spanish, Dutch and Papiamentu.

► **Pascal de Meyer** was named operations manager of Dive Friends Bonaire recently. De Meyer has many years of experience in diving operations around the world and in Bonaire, where he has been working within the local diving industry for nearly 20 years.

He joined Dive Friends Bonaire after the 2005 merger of Yellow Submarine and Photo Tours Divers, of which he was an owner, and he has been actively working as Retail Manager since then.

► **The Dutch Council of Ministers agreed on February 12 for the language of the Dutch Constitution to be Dutch with a provision for another minority language: Frisian.** There was no mention of English or Papiamentu in the legislation proposal to amend the Constitution.

Antillean Minister **Omayra Leeflang** expressed disappointment and said she saw no other option than to take the matter to court because, in her opinion, Papiamentu has the same position as Frisian.

"If the Constitution will contain a provision on Frisian and not on Papiamentu, then that is discrimination and a reason to go to court," she said.

► **Reports about the dust problems in Bonaire** (see the last edi-

tion of *The Reporter*) have member of the Dutch Second Chamber, **Ineke van Gent of the green left party GroenLinks, concerned.**

Following reports in the media that there is a problem with excessive amounts of dust in certain parts of Bonaire, Van Gent decided to pose written questions to State Secretary of Kingdom Relations and the Ministers of Physical Planning and Environmental Affairs (VROM) and Camiel Eurlings of Traffic and Transport. Van Gent asked the State Secretary and Ministers to discuss the issue with authorities in Bonaire should the island become part of the Netherlands when the Netherlands Antilles is dismantled.

► **The 8th Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon is Sunday, March 8.** Start training now because the Walk-a-Thon is only two weeks away. Commemorating the trek Bonaire's salt slaves made each week the event has become a tradition for many locals and visitors.

The walk starts at the White Slave Huts in the south at 5 am and goes 30 kilometers along the coast, through Kralendijk and ends in Rincon. Participants can walk, roller blade, run, ride a bike or whatever. There will be water and fruit stops along the route. You may leave your car at the Stadium and get the bus to White Slave. The last bus leaves at 4:30 am. Transportation will be available in Rincon for you (and your bike if needed) back to the Stadium.

Even if you don't want to walk or ride you contribute to this fine organization by buying a ticket and/or sponsoring a participant at so much per kilometer.



Dust producer in SABEDECO

Entry (donation) fee is NAf 25 (\$14.04) and includes a t-shirt, other gifts, refreshments and a hot meal at the end in Rincon. T-shirts and gifts will be handed out at Hotel Rocheline (City Café) on the Kaya Grandi side on Friday, March 5, from 5 to 7 pm and on Saturday, March 6, from 10 am to 4 pm. You may buy your ticket at Chat 'n Browse or from any of the Special Olympics Bonaire board members: Claire Sealy (786-5454), Chio Seemeleer (788-2299), Elska (701-1999) or Aura (788-0101).

► Organized by Toastmasters of Bonaire, a very important educational event will be held on the island from March 5 through 7. "Discover Your Potential" which will emphasize communication and leadership skills. Toastmasters are looking for sponsors to help make this event a success. If you can help

contact Indra Sidney: 790-0168 or email Indra_Sedney@hotmail.com. More details on page 18.

► **The Netherlands will soon be transferring an amount of NAf 43 million to pay off outstanding debts of the island territory of Curaçao.** It settles debts from, amongst others, the Institute Study Grant Fund Curaçao, Selikor, FMA, Feffik, Institute Road Fund Curaçao, and the Coach Service Curaçao.

State-Secretary Bijleveld terminated the debt-repayments for Bonaire as it is unclear whether the island will comply with past agreements. More than NAf 42.7 million in pension contributions were withheld from employees but not transferred to the Antillean Pension Fund (APNA) on the BES Islands in the period up to and including 2005. That was 49.9% of the total outstanding payments. This is just part of the debt Holland agreed to pay.

► Will it apply in Bonaire? **Soon crew members of Venezuelan boats visiting Curaçao to sell fruit and vegetables will be required to present a passport.** Any proof of identity and a muster book (crew document) will no longer be sufficient. According to a Ministerial Decree from 1972, the Venezuelan merchants may identify themselves by means of a muster book. However, since the implementation of the Border Management System (BMS) in the harbor last November, foreigners entering the country are required to present an ID with a computer-legible code, such as a passport or machine-readable "sedula" ID card. ■

G./L. D.