

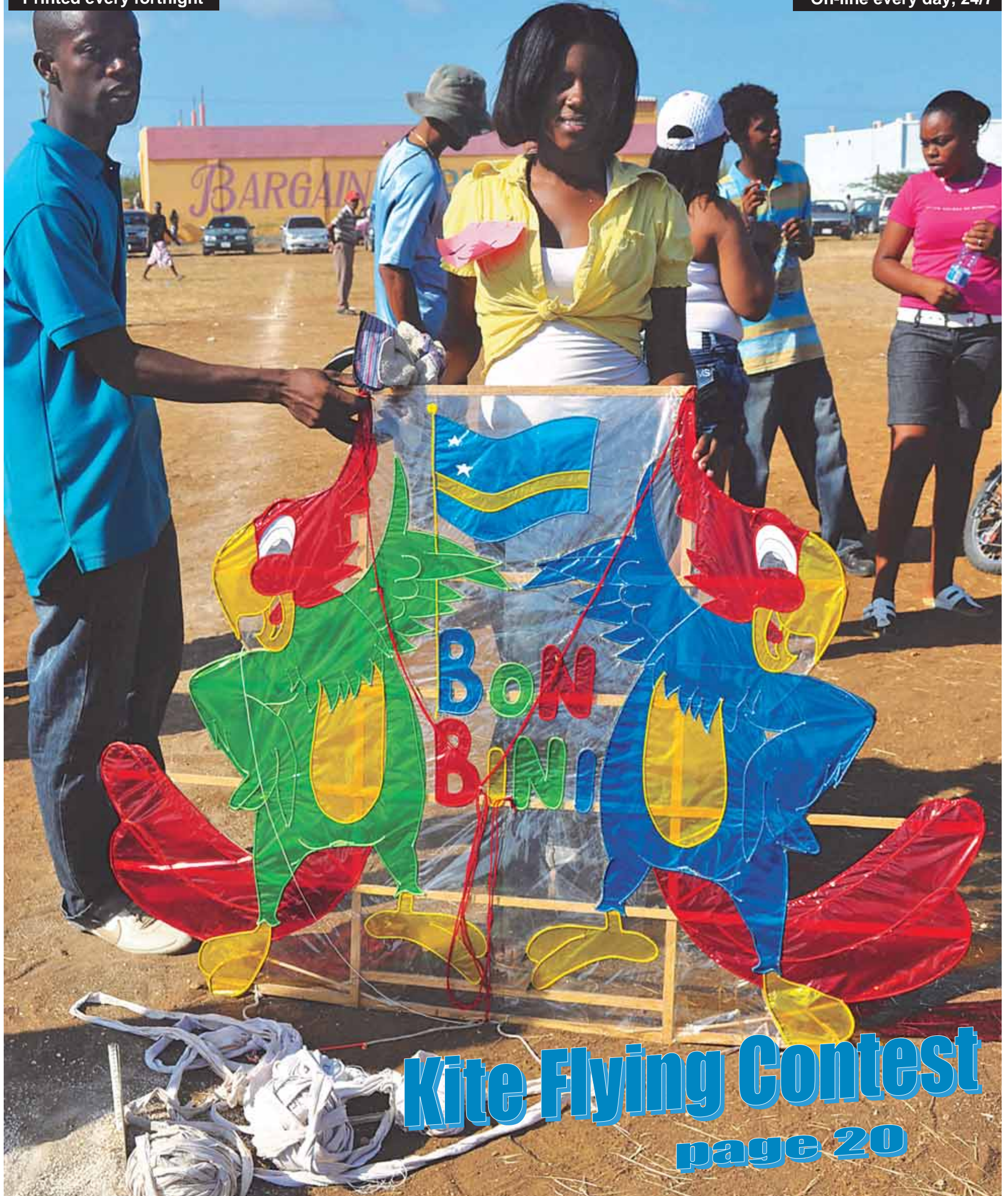
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BONAIRE April 9-23, 2010; Year 17, Issue 7
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Kite Flying Contest
page 20



Earth Day Events will be held on Bonaire from April 10 through 24, 2010.

To celebrate the island's long-standing commitment to preserving and protecting the land, there will be several cleanup and recycling activities to highlight Earth Day (April 22).

The first event will be an **underwater cleanup of Kralendijk's anchorage**, sponsored by Dive Friends Bonaire and NetTech at 1 pm on Saturday, April 10 at Dive Inn. For more information, visit www.dive-friends-bonaire.com.

On Saturday, April 24, the **Bonaire National Marine Park will organize a cleanup of the beach at Washikemba**. This location on the island's east coast collects trash from other locations in the Caribbean and South America. Interested participants should meet at 7am at Jong Bonaire. Bus transportation will be provided for those without vehicles, leaving at 7:15am from Jong Bonaire. Be sure to bring gloves, closed shoes, sun screen, a cap or hat, and a beverage container (water and juice will be provided). Prior participant registration is not necessary. For more information, email info@stinapa.org or contact STINAPA at 717-8444.

SELIBON, the island's waste management company, will partner with Tene Boneiru Limpi (Keep Bonaire Clean) in several events. There will be a recycling fair held with a contest for the island's children and teenagers, to stimulate the youth with plans on how they can help preserve the planet. For additional information on any of these joint programs, email fundashonteneboneirulimpi@gmail.com.

► **The mud-slinging between Antillean airlines DAE and Insel Air may benefit the consumer as the two airlines lower prices and increase service.** But Judge Frank Spreeuwenberg says their spat is not in the public interest and told the airline to come up with a collective press release in which they express their regret on harassing each other, and declare to refrain from such in the future.

DAE had instituted a suit against Insel Air demanding retraction of the statements of Insel Air Chairman Henry van der Kwast and Director Edward Heerenveen alleging the impending bankruptcy of DAE, lack of policy, deteriorating situation, not using appointed routes, huge problems with the fleet, lack of overhaul on the aircraft, losses, subsidy of \$3 million by a large airline company, supervision of DAE by a large airline company, misleading the Department of Aviation, DAE's supposed failure to get on the 'White List di Oropa', and DAE's request for subsidy from *Korpedeko* (government of Curaçao finance).



Insel Air added two Bandarante turboprops to its fleet to expand service between Curaçao, Bonaire and Aruba

► **Insel Air announced a low roundtrip fare between Miami and Bonaire of \$233** including government taxes and fuel charges. It excludes departure taxes and is subject to availability. This fare will be available for purchase through Friday, June 4, 2010.

Insel Air flight #71908, departs Miami Saturdays at 3:15pm, and arrives into Bonaire at 6:55pm. The return flight is Insel Air #71907, which departs Bonaire every Saturday at 11:25am, arriving in Miami at 2:25pm. These

(Continued on page 9)

► At the request of Warehouse Bonaire supermarket personnel a meeting was organized to "give a positive spin to the changes (relating to the BES Island regulations)." Following is a summary for our readers:

Queen's Commissioner Henk Kamp (at right) explained that Bonaireans would continue to deal with two governments as they have been doing. The island government of Bonaire will remain and the Dutch government will replace the central government of the Netherlands Antilles. The Commissioner assured the group that the European Dutch officials and *kwartiermakers* currently working on Bonaire would be temporary. "We are now organizing (the structure of) a Dutch government on Bonaire. That organization will mainly consist of Antilleans. We have more than six months left to make this happen before the planned transition date of 10/10/10.



Government photo

Kamp explained that the new general medical insurance would cover dental work and physiotherapy. This insurance will become effective on January 1st, 2011, just like the new tax system. The audience applauded when they learned there would be free education and free schoolbooks. The Netherlands will be financing the education at both elementary and secondary levels. The schools will not be allowed to request any obligated parental contribution in the future.

Questions and Answers:
Will my take-home pay be more or less with the new tax system?

Assuming a gross salary of NAf 1.450 or NAf 1.750 per month, an employee will gain NAf 70 to NAf 80 (5%) net per month.

Will products become more expensive?

The import taxes will be abolished, but the sales tax will increase from 5% to 8%. A refrigerator now costing NAf 800 will then cost NAf 112 less. The current 32% tax for vehicles will be reduced to 25%. The price differences for food products will be minimal.

When will the sales tax become effective?

The tax will be levied once: upon import, upon production, or upon delivery of a service.

Will traveling expenses and subsistence still be compensated for medical treatment on Curaçao?

The intention is to perform as many treatments as possible on Bonaire. For that purpose, at least five permanent specialists will be required in the hospital, supplemented with temporary specialists from the VU Medical Centre and the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam. However, traveling expenses and subsistence will be compensated to a certain extent, if treatment on Curaçao appears necessary. The amount is yet to be determined.

What will be the language of instruction for my children?

The boards of the elementary schools will themselves decide whether it will be in the Dutch or Papiamentu. If a school chooses one language, then it is also obligated to give attention to the other language. In any case, after group eight, the pupils should have reached the level to attend the Dutch language SGB high school.

Are East Europeans from the Netherlands allowed to reside and work on Bonaire?

The Dutch Alien Law is not applicable for Bonaire. East Europeans will only receive a residential permit if they have an employment permit. The employer is required to apply for the latter.

Is there any prospect for better possibilities to unload container ships?

The government of Bonaire will decide on that. The decision on expanding and/or relocating the harbor is still pending.

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New Island Government Officials



Nolly Oleana, Neery Gonzalez, Jopie Abraham, Marugia Janga, Anthony Nicolaas and Peter Silberie (alternate for Governor Glenn Thodé)

If you want to know who's who at the top levels of the Bonaire Island Government review the photo above. The two new members of the Island Executive Council, the Kolegio Ehekutivo, also known as the Bestuurcollege, or "BC," Jopie Abraham and Anthony Nicolaas, resigned from Central Government posts to take the jobs as Commissioners replacing Pancho Cicilia and Frensel Janga. The Departments that the officials head are:

Sr. Jopie Abraham

Legal Affairs and State Structure (JAZ)
Economic and Labor Affairs (DEZA)

Information and Protocol (V&P)
Personnel Affairs (POI)
Island Owned Corporations

Sra. drs. Marugia Janga

Public Health (DGH)
Social and Welfare (SASO)
Public Housing (FCB)
Civil Registry (Bevolking)
Post and Archives (P&A)
Internal Affairs

Sr. mr. Anthony Nicolaas

Finance (including FWNB)
Traffic and Communication (Harbor, Airport, Telbo)

(Continued on page 8)

Guest Editorial

Opinions expressed are solely those of the author.

BES Laws Approved by Dutch Parliament

The first seven laws concerning the new status of the BES islands as special municipalities of the Netherlands were approved in the *Tweede Kamer (Second Chamber), The Dutch House of Representatives* on March 9 by 92 votes against 58 votes. The relatively high number of votes against these laws shows that besides the radical rightist party **PVV** and the **Socialist Party** (which were principally against these laws coming up for discussion) numerous representatives of both government and opposition parties have objections to these laws.

The reason why the PVV voted against the laws is the party is hoping that, as a party in the coalition government formed after the upcoming June parliamentary elections, it will be able to stop the whole process of giving the islands a new status and to expel them from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The PVV is emphasizing that the BES islands as special municipalities which have no strategic or economic value for the Netherlands will cost the Kingdom an amount of €100 million (about \$135 million) per year. It means €6,000 for each citizen of the islands or €6 for each citizen of the Netherlands.

The Socialist Party has a completely different objection. It does not agree that only part of the Dutch legislation will be introduced on the islands while a majority of the existing Antillean laws will remain in force. In this complicated way, two sorts of Netherlands subjects will be created – European Dutch citizens and BES Dutch citizens -



Will Bonairean feet fit in Dutch clogs?

instead of Netherlands citizens with equal rights and duties.

A Bonairean delegation, formed by M. Janga, J. Abraham, A. Nicolaas and advisor D. Boersma, arrived in the Netherlands just four days before starting the discussion on the BES laws in the *Tweede Kamer* on March 4. The purpose of the visit was to inform the *Tweede Kamer* about Bonaire's point of view concerning the BES laws not being in accord with Christian values. Unfortunately due to the shortage of time, the delegates weren't able to meet individual representatives, particularly from the **Christian parties**, to explain to them the objections of the overwhelming majority of the island population against the "immoral" BES laws and to convince them to vote against them. However, the reality has been that this majority is more a wishful thinking

(Continued on page 17)

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On the Island Since... 1991-

Darwin Gyovanny Alba-Bolivar

“We came from San Cristobal, Tachira, Venezuela. My father, Freddy, came first. He started working for Joubert and Kachito, building the infrastructure for Republiek and part of Nort di Salina, together with Bobby. After one year my mom, Lisbeth, my sister Alejandra and I came over. Alejandra was four and I was three. I learned Papiamentu fast, playing at the playground of the Sentro di Bario in Nort di Salina. We lived in Kaya Sioux, then we moved to Kaya Pueblo, where my parents and my younger brother Erick still are. So I grew up with all the boys from Nort di Salina.

After kindergarten I went to Papa Cornes elementary school. At school we spoke Dutch, with my friends I spoke Papiamentu, and at home we spoke Spanish.

Bonaire was nice and quiet. When my dad was off we used to go to Pink Beach or to Sunset Beach and of course we played outside in the streets and there were always plenty of friends.

After elementary school I went to SGB high school, to BVO, administration. I did it for two years and then I quit. I'd moved out of the house and went to live on my own; I was 16. When my dad stopped working for Joubert, he became the manager at Lisa's

Gas Station where he stayed for five years. Then, in 2000, he opened his own tire shop at Kaya Jose G. Hernandez, across from Botica Korona.

At 16 I started working in construction with my uncle Jorge Alba. He had his own construction company and he built Lisa's Carwash and Gas Station and also Bellafonte in Belnem. It was hard work and I did it for one year, then I left for Aruba. I just went to see what life was all about.

but I treated them with respect and all went well. I talked a lot with my boss and I gave him the idea of opening a tire shop. He thought it was a good plan and so he started it off. I'm still in touch with those people and nowadays he's living off his tire shop.

Well, many things happened and I started missing the people here – my parents, my family and everybody I knew. Aruba was good, but I missed Bonaire. So, I came back and started working as a car mechanic for Metro Mo-

“...and then all went wrong. I didn't stay with Jimmy, I didn't stay with my woman and I didn't stay with my son. Everything turned bad. It was like a tsunami of misery.”

In Aruba I met this man, the owner of a *Truk'i Pan*, a van where he sold food and snacks. This man helped me with work and an apartment and I became the cook in the truck. At that time there were many boys from Nort di Salina in Aruba, at least 20 – all the guys who are now sitting under the tree at Mentor's were there.

Life was very good to me in Aruba. I didn't know the people

tors Garage, behind Tung Fung Store. I already knew how to repair cars because my dad had taught me, but I'd wanted to try other things first. I worked there for three years, then I began to work for Bert Blokhuis at his garage. They paid well! And whenever I had to work weekends they paid me extra and on the same day! They are really good people. I was working with their son Walter and it was a big



Darwin Gyovanny Alba-Bolivar

blow when they closed as Walter had to go back to Holland. At their garage I learned a lot about European cars and the new technology and in return I taught Walter about the people and the mentality here. I was also renting an apartment above Toyota. It

belonged to Bonaire Apartments, Bert Blokhuis' business.

After they closed I started taking dive courses at Andre Nahr's and I worked with the tourists on the dive boats, filled up the dive tanks, worked with the compress-

(Continued on page 5)

			
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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)

sors, the Nitrox[®] machines and maintained the boats. I learned a lot at Andre's. Then I went to Buddy Dive doing the same thing.

When Jimmy took over the Bert Blokhuis garage, I went to work for him. He knew a lot about European and American cars and I was eager to learn as much as I could."

Darwin is a good kid whom I've known for a long time. He's fun; he loves to talk and gossip and he's a good dancer. He's reliable and a hard worker, very social, tough on himself and in his own way he's pretty wise.

"Shortly after I came back from Aruba I met Dionne. She's from Bonaire but she was studying in Holland to become a certified nurse. When she was in Holland she came here for vacation and that's how we met, at a party. When she came here to work as a trainee we started going steady and I told her she would never go back to Holland. I 'kidnapped' her! May 15th 2009 our son Darwin was born – I was working for Jimmy at that time. Yeah..." *he stares at his hands* "And then all went wrong. I didn't stay with Jimmy, I didn't stay with my woman and I didn't stay with my son. Everything turned bad. It was like a tsunami of misery.

I started to work for myself,

repairing cars at the house where I lived in Kaminda Djabou. I did that for a while and then I went to live at a kunuku of a friend of mine, Hernan. I'd lived there before. I went on repairing cars and I also helped Hernan.

November 6th, 2009, at 10:30 at night, a pickup truck hit me while I was driving my dirt bike. I didn't have lights on my bike, so that was my fault, but the guy told the police that he'd seen me. He didn't turn the steering wheel though. The ambulance took me to the hospital and I had to go to Curaçao. However, the ambulance plane couldn't come that night. My left leg was dangling lose from the knee and my right leg was broken in three places.

The next morning I flew to Curaçao. There they put the bones more or less together and put on a bandage and that was it. I lay there for seven days, until November 15th. They didn't operate on me because they told me that the machine to sterilize the instruments was out of order, but they were operating on other people. My parents flew over immediately and they were moving heaven and earth to have me operated on, but without success. Meanwhile my leg got infected; the flesh was turning black and it started peeling off the bones. My foot became totally black... *mahos, mahos* (very, very ugly). I was in a lot of pain, yeah! Then they told me, after seven days of

not doing anything, that my leg had to be amputated.

It was Amed Ayubi from MiTV who saved me. He got the word and he called three people: Senator Jopie Abraham; the acting Governor, Peter Silberie; as well as the head of BZV (government health insurance). Mr. Silberie talked to the hospital staff in Curaçao and told them to operate on me.

The next day I was operated on. They didn't take any x-rays and before they started the operation they asked me 'which leg is it?' Four days later the ambulance flight took me back to Bonaire and I was sent to my parents' house... without antibiotics.

I stayed there for one week, then I got a tremendous infection. They flew me back to Curaçao and again I was operated on. I stayed there for two months and the plastic surgeon had to perform another operation because underneath my knee I had a hole as big as a tennis ball.

Well, to make a long story short, I still need another operation because there's a bone in my



Darwin in his car with his niece Rodaly (the child of his sister Alejandra) and his brother Erick.

knee that doesn't belong there and so I cannot walk or bend my knee or stand on that leg. I can't work. I'm living with my sister Ale, her boyfriend and their little girl, but if someone would give me a job I'd do anything to make it work!

I've learned so many things already and now, with this problem, I really have to find something. I want to get my life back on track. I've had a lot of time to think things over, and the way it is now I cannot live with my woman and my son, but I will be with them in the future. I want to see my boy grow up. I see him

every day and when I don't see him I think of him, what he's doing, what life is going to be like for us – how to make it better, what to pay more attention to and how to be more patient with everything so that my son can grow up in a good environment... for I love them both, him and his mom." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra





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Anti-Crime Meeting

On March 19 the TCB (Tourist Bureau) organized a meeting to address the alarming increase in thefts from tourists staying in resorts and rented accommodations. TCB head Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes led the meeting. On hand to listen and comment were officials John Schagen, Police Chief; Sr. Van der Giessen, Police Team Leader; Sr. Oosting, of Forensics; David Van Delft, Public Prosecutor; Governor mr. Glenn Thodé; Leo Vermeulen, *Kwartiermaker* of Prisons; and Patricia Jean Hassell, Bonaire prison head. To raise issues and hear the responses were about 60 Bonaire hoteliers or their representatives.

No concrete developments against the thieves were reported but a better understanding of the problems and possible resolutions were obtained.

Over the years many ideas have come forth at meetings and through letters on how to solve the crime problem. These are just a few provided by Bruce Bowker of Carib Inn who, for 20 years, has kept a log of the proposals. There are 77 ideas in his list. Some are presented below. Some worked somewhat but most never worked at all:

1. Four color poster telling people to use common sense
2. have a major meeting about crime
3. new police station in Rincon
4. new police substations on Bonaire
5. crime task force
6. victims help group
7. more police
8. office for fighting crime - *Komakia*
9. take H plates off cars so they do not look like rental cars
10. take signs off cars as above
11. 5-year police plan
12. Holland commission to monitor and report on police
13. newspaper follow-ups on above on a weekly basis (ended after 2 or 3 weeks)
14. have another major crime meeting
15. give games to prisoners so they have something to do
16. all government security people working with police
17. National Guard working with police
18. numerous public meetings with the public and police
19. better lights around hotels and houses
20. bicycles for police
21. prisoner hard work program
22. mark all personal items such as TVs etc with ID numbers
23. numerous commercial sector meetings with police
24. leave absolutely nothing in cars
25. security just like Plaza – military uniforms (Plaza guests have been robbed many times)
26. keep our mouths shut and don't tell any tourists there is a problem
27. report all crimes in the newspapers
28. a new and larger police headquarters
29. crime form for police
30. huge crime march... etc... ■ G.D.



Government photo

Bonaire Prison Director Patricia Jean Hassell (left) with Antilles Justice Minister Magali Jacoba. On March 1, Ms. Hassell was named Director of the expanded Bonaire jail by the Minister of Justice. Ms. Hassell is the first female prison head in the history of the Antilles. She comes with 20 years of experience in the Dutch prison and rehabilitation system.

Stitching Project Provides Extended Care



A past activity had Stitching Project youngsters interviewing residents of the old folks home

Stitching Project, a rebound center for youth with behavioral problems, is now providing extended care to youngsters and their parents.

Since February 1, Stitching Project has an **afternoon program every weekday** from 12:30 to 5 pm (besides the usual morning program from 7:30-12:30). The program is packed with activities such as creativity, sports and games, music and drama, classes for computers, science and cooking. The youngsters are in a safe and educational environment, under the care of professionals, until their parents get off from work and come to pick them up.

Stitching Project now has an official, very experienced family care professional who supports, trains and keeps in touch with the families of the youngsters. She is the head of the parent panel, organizes frequent parent meetings and often visits youngsters at home with their parents to make plans and appointments for the youngster's welfare.

Stichting Project also works with foster families, who once or twice a month have a youngster over for the day, where the youngsters get to experience being in another environment and just have a nice day out. The Project is looking for more candidates for the foster parent program. If you feel it is something you and your family would be interested in doing, contact Stichting Project at stichtingproject@flamingotv.net, 786-6816 or talk to someone at the Project's Lunchroom de Bonairiaan (see pg. 17). ■ Press Release/L.D.

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 18.**

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



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The Luxury Dream of Nelson Peters

The 67th 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+

Tera Kora/Bonaire –

So it was on one of those lazy Sunday afternoons in the month of March that I was driving my double cabin pick up truck through the outback of Tera Kora. My loyal Bonairean dog, Sneetje, was sleeping on the floor behind the front seats of the car. I did not exactly know where I was on my lovely island. Somewhere in between the road to Lac and Sorobon and the Flamingo Airport, I thought. Every now and then I got stuck with my vehicle because of huge potholes in the unpaved roads or the slowly growing branches of the still going strong bushes with all their defensive needles. Several times I got stuck by nature and I had to back up my truck, using my three mirrors. Luckily the five tires contained enough air and the tire tread was in good condition.

Then I put the truck in first gear. The track became wider. I headed in the direction of some orange and blue roofed houses. Finally: civilization! Kids without shoes were playing on the unpaved roads. They had handkerchiefs in front of their mouths to protect themselves against the blowing dust. It is March on Bonaire and it is already so dry. A lot of the roads in this area are still unpaved and a lot of Bonaireans like to keep their property as clean as possible. This means: no grass or weeds on their land which results in a lot of dust. It is not only the humble people of Bonaire who cause the dust. The pollution is also the result of the poor condition of the infrastructure and last but not least, the intensive open air mining on the island.

Musing that way I pass a heap of rust. Rust? Iron? A car? A topic for the 67th article about Bonaire on Wheels? I shifted the car into reverse and I discovered the curvy lines of the body of a late 40s American saloon, partly covered by those typical Bonairean trees and bushes. I opened the door of my truck and stepped out. Late siesta time. Nobody around. I started calling "Bon tardi! Bon tardi." (Good afternoon! Good afternoon! /jb) One dog, lounging in the shade of the old vehicle, lifted his right eye lid. No more activity apart from the blowing wind and the burning sun.

This car was definitely American made. It had a huge profiled hood, probably covering a straight six or a V-eight engine. A split window in the front. Huge mudguards. An impressive harmonica grille. Some plywood was placed in front of a wheel to protect the tires against the burn of the sun. The car seemed to have been parked here for ages! "Bon tardi! Bon tardi!" Then a woman appeared. I explained my intentions. No she was not the owner of the car. The classic belonged to her brother and he lived on the opposite side of the unpaved road. And the door was open. So he was at home.

His name is Nelson Peters and he is a taxi driver. He is the proud owner of Taxi #4 and he specializes in island tours. He was born on Aruba but his mother is from Bonaire. And yes, he is the owner of the car. And no, the car is not for sale because to him the car is a kind of a museum piece. He bought the car some 20 years ago in Rincon. He cannot exactly remember when but he does remember exactly the amount of money that he paid for it: 100 Antillean guilders!

Carefully we approach the mistress. Dogs skip away. I take pictures from every angle and together, Nelson and I, we very carefully open the hood of the car. "It is a Chrysler New Yorker, built way back in 1948," Nelson explains. "Some 20 years ago I bought it, I parked it in this garden and afterwards it never moved an inch again!"

So now the hood is open. There is the engine. The distributor has eight cables leading to the spark plugs. This is an eight-in-line engine. An engine with a length of about three feet! Nelson finds a dip stick and checks one of the oil compartments. There is still oil in the vehicle. Then we walk around the New Yorker: split front window, four doors, rear doors are suicide doors. A lot of chrome. Chrome bumpers with Dagmars *avant le lettre**. On the side of the baroness it reads, "Chrysler New Yorker," and the handle on the trunk in the rear says, "Fluid Drive." There is even a third brake light mounted in 1948. The license plate, rusted all over, reads, "Bonaire N.A. 421 – B 1968." Nice lines, nice shape with chrome covered alloy rear light housings. A kind of an air-



The dream: to make this backyard planter run again on Bonaire roads



A mint '48 Chrysler New Yorker, Queen of the Road

plane on the hood. A luxurious interior providing space for six persons, a rectangular shaped new objectivity dashboard. Empire State building style. (The Empire State building was completed in 1931. /jb) Unfortunately the branches from the trees and bushes are, bit by bit, entering the window openings. The elements are slowly and permanently consuming the metal parts of this classic. More and more the New Yorker is getting a tan...

The first generation of the Chrysler New Yorker was produced from 1938 to 1996 by the Chrysler Corporation of Detroit, Michigan. This flagship had the longest running American car name. The post-war models were almost the same as the pre-war models. Just a little bit more chrome and white-wall tires. The first generation New Yorker was produced as a six-person, four-door sedan, a two-door coupé and a two-door convertible. The car was fitted with a 323-cubic inch L-head straight eight, producing a humble 135 British horse power @3400 revs per minute. The "Fluid Drive" was a coupling between the engine and the three-speed gear box. The length of the vehicle was no less than 127.5 inches and the weight was 4,132 pounds. Some 3,000 cars were produced. The price for the standard model was \$ 2,193.

*Originally the Chrysler New Yorker had no less than five over riders: three mounted on the front bumper and two on the right. (There are only four over riders left on this particular Chrysler. /jb) These over riders had a kind of bullet-like conical shape. This New Yorker was apparently ahead of its time. In the early 50s American vehicles got bigger and bigger over riders, first made of chromed metal, later in a combination of chrome and rubber. These protective parts are called "dagmars" after the famous Dagmar (Jenny Lewis *1921 - +2001). This bosomy lady was an early American actress, model and television personality. The busty blonde was known for her pronounced cleavage and the somewhat conical shape of her bra cups.

■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Dia di Rincon on
April 30



During last year's cleanup

Activity Program

This year marks the 22nd celebration of Dia di Rincon. Francisco L. Janga, President of FU.DE.CU, the organizers, announced the following events relating to the Rincon Day celebrations:

If you want a stand, sign up every day until April 13, from 6 to 8 pm across from Tusnara Supermarket in the old government office building. On April 13 from 7 to 10 pm there will be a meeting for all stand holders. Payment must be made by April 24.

Saturday, April 10 -Kanto Krioyo Festival, adults, 8 pm – 2 am, Centro di Bario Rincon

Saturday, April 17 -Kanto Krioyo Festival, children, 5-10 pm, Centro di Bario Rincon

April 9, 16, 23, 27, Tutti Frutti performs, 8 pm - midnight

Friday, April 24 -Simidan parade leaves from Mangasina di Rei to the Centro di Bario Rincon, 5 - midnight

Saturday April 24 - -Cleanup 6 am to 2 pm, involving companies, sports organizations, churches, schools, non-profit organizations, and all individuals and groups that love our island. For additional information please feel free to contact Lucia Martinez-Beck at Selibon NV, phone 717-8159 or mobile: 701-2953

Wednesday, April 28 -Festival Chichi du Bubu organized by San Luis Beltran school, 6-8 pm, Sentro di Bario Rincon

Thursday, April 29 - Children's Simidan Festival organized by San Luis Beltran School, 4-7 pm, streets of Rincon

Friday, April 30 – Dia di Rincon, 8 am – midnight

Friday, April 30- Traditional 17.5 km. Playa to Rincon Race. Start at Stadium, 6 am for 50+, and speed walkers; 6:30 am for runners. \$200 prize to first man and woman finishers.

Saturday, May 1 – Antique Bicycle Parade, begins at Sentro di Bario Rincon, 10 am. ■ L/G. D.

Bonairean Voices is sponsored by



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BONAIREAN VOICES

RINCON CELEBRATIONS - HARVEST TIME

My Rincon, your Rincon, our sweet Rincon. Rincon, the oldest town in Bonaire, is about 500 years old. It's a lovely town with some of the nicest panoramic views you could ever see - like Gotomeer Lake, Playa Frans, Washington Park and Slagbaai- and the different places you can chill out - like the Rose Inn, Tropicana Bar and more.

On Monday, April 5, the second Easter Day, Rincon celebrated its *Simadan di Pastor*, which is an old cultural and folkloric festival organized by the pastor of the Catholic Church in Rincon together with his followers. For more than 100 years the people of Rincon have celebrated this festival.

Mrs. Edith Strauss-Marsera (66), coordinator of the festival together with Pastor Ivan Dario Gomez, will tell us all about it.

"Pastor Ivan is the new pastor for the Rincon Catholic Church and involved the whole community of Rincon in its mission to join the different groups. The origin of *Simadan di Pastor* is to thank God for the rain and the harvest. In the past 90% of the people in Rincon lived from



Edith Strauss-Marsera

their plantations or kunukus. The harvest was brought to the Church as part of an offering. After the mass they would sell the produce to get money to repair the Church and help the poor. Although today we don't have so much produce in crops (and also because of the lack of rain. *Ed.*) but Rincon has produced many good people who are intelligent and who have occupied many high functioning positions. And besides them Rincon has produced talented artists. They came together at this

time to bring their offerings to sell: hand-crafts, home made cakes, cookies, food, and beverages. All these proceeds help the Church fund its mission.

The celebration was in the Church San Luis Bertran yard itself. This time the money from the sales will go towards youth activities.

In Rincon we have different youth groups which have started to be very active in cultural activities. We have *Magazina di Rei*, a cultural land house with activities for young people. *Foundation Plataforma Rincon* (an organizing foundation) and the schools have a section for children.

During the festival there were different activities for young people that were guided by the youngsters themselves. Pastor Ivan's mission is for the young people to join together with other groups and do something for themselves.

We can say that the *Simadan di Pastor* will continue because our Rincon youth are very interested in their culture. There are young people who created a cultural music band like the Foyan Boyz, for instance, and a cultural dance group, *Rikesa di Rincon*. The elderly people go to *Magazina di Rei* to tell their stories and give information. Jong Bonaire has a group of youngsters who often visit the *Magazina* to learn more about our culture.

We can say that in Rincon we have both the folkloric (the way of dressing) and the cultural (our manners, eating habits, our

language, story telling, women's rolls, men's rolls, living with our neighbors, ways of dealing with parents and families and communication) that are still alive.

It is my concern and hope that the government can focus on a department for Cultural Management. The government must have a goal for our culture, otherwise with all these changes it will fade away. We don't get any money from the government to organize this festival. *Simadan di Pastor* is based only on all the fundraising we've done to maintain our culture.

Another thing that's also important is to introduce our culture back into schools. If you teach the child from a young age about its culture it will grow with it. You must know your past to live your present.

This year's *Simadan di Pastor* started at 9 in the morning with a mass celebration. Then at 11 am the selling of *krioyo* (local) food began. The *Simadan* dance began at 3, starting in the streets of Rincon and ended at the Catholic Church yard. The festival went on until 11 at night."

If you want to know more about Rincon Culture and Folklore you can call 717-4060 or 796-4643.

■ Story & Photo by Siomara Albertus

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



Letters to the Editor

Hard Times on Bonaire for Bats Too

Dear Editor:

I wish to commend the author on aiding the birds of Bonaire (*Reporter*, Mar. 19-Apr. 9, Times are Tough). Water is essential and many species are suffering. I would suggest that the water be changed daily as standing water allows mosquitoes to breed and multiply. In Singapore, leaving water overnight was not allowed in order to limit the population of these pests. This year we have noticed a large increase in the population of these mosquitoes.

I should also mention that I supply a sugar solution in the evenings for the bats. Last year, there were many, and it was an experience to stand near the feeder amidst an estimated 50 or so bats swirling around, occasionally brushing their wing tips against me. This year the numbers are much less, but they do drain the feeder each evening.

M. Coombs

The Demise of the Public Marina

Dear Editor:

In the 1970s (and later as well) the Dutch Government committed large funds to the development of Bonaire.



Workers closing the HV small boat ramp. High priced slips have replaced it.

Bonaire had no "all weather" harbor for its fishing boats or for other boats. The Dutch contributed heavily to create a good harbor, from scratch. That is now called the "Harbor Village Marina."

When dug out and the facilities initially developed, it was chiefly to provide Bonairean fishers and other commerce with a viable port, to enhance Bonaire's economic development. The Dutch created docks, a dry dock with hauling facilities, and also a slipway for Bonairean boats to be hauled in and out of the water for maintenance and repairs.

These are facilities of the utmost importance for fishermen and maritime commerce.

First, the dry dock failed. Then the pub-

lic docks for boats were changed to a private marina. Then the rights of docking at the marina or at the moorings in the anchorage were franchised to the Harbor Village Marina to operate the marina and the anchorage, as they saw fit. Now they see fit to eliminate the slipway that has always been in the marina, because the Harbor Village organization would prefer to have more dock space for the boats they rent to.

We feel Bonairean interests are being sold out, bit by bit, without regard for the original purpose of the marina nor of the needs of the Bonaire people.

John Lueder,
resident since 1980

Bonaire Emulates Easter Island

Dear Editor:

Centuries ago Easter Island needed help: they had a shortage of food. So they erected enormous stone sculptures on their shores, facing the wind, hoping for help. Now Bonaire is doing likewise: enormous wind towers face the east winds, hoping to create energy to alleviate Bonaire's energy problems.

No help came to Easter Island, the population grew, the food, wood, etc., was all consumed and the people all died. What will be Bonaire's fate? So far, no wind energy created or imminent. Future unclear.

Mac

New island Government (Continued from page 3)

Environment, Roads and Infrastructure (DROB.)
Tourism
Fire Department

Sr. Reynolds "Nolly" Oleana

Education and Culture (SEK)
Land Registry
Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV)
Environment and Nature
Non-Crime Police (SSV)

Sra. Neery Gonzalez - Island Secretary

Intra Government Services

Hon. mr. Glenn Thodé- Lt. Governor (Gezaghebber)

Electoral Affairs
Disaster and Emergency Management

Almost concurrent with the new Bonaire Government, the last Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles was sworn in in Curaçao. Bonaire's new Senators are Ramonsito Booi and James Kroon of the UPB and Robby Beukenboom for the PDB. ■ G.D.

* The prefix *mr.* is a Dutch prefix indicating the person is trained in the legal profession (i.e.: a lawyer)

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) flight times allow for easy connections in Miami from a variety of US or Canadian gateways. Insel Air utilizes an MD 82 jet, which carries 152 passengers.

The booking window is flexible, and tickets can be purchased through a travel agent or Insel Air by phone (5999) 737-0444 or via their web site at www.fly-inselair.com.

We've flown the route several times and were most satisfied.

► **Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) is expanding its services with new routes to Cartagena and Panama.** The routes all connect in Aruba, allowing DAE to fly to Bogota with a connection time of only 30 minutes.

DAE now offers service to Bogota, Colombia; Bonaire, Caracas, Curaçao, St. Maarten, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela's Valencia Airport, and soon Panama, with prices starting at around NAf 500.

DAE has a fleet of five planes: three ATRs with a capacity of 48 seats each, and two Fokker 100s with a capacity of 100 seats each.

► **KLM is now allowing its flyers to check up to three bags, weighing up to 50 pounds each,** free of charge depending on the cabin class. Flying Blue members will also receive additional luggage flexibility, depending upon the level of their membership.

► **Rob van de Vechte, Area Manager of SSI Dutch Antilles and Aruba Area Office, initiated a new Project "Scuba in Schools"** to help local young people who might otherwise be unable to afford

the cost of the necessary training to become a dive instructors. The SBO department of the SGB high school will run the program. Over three years they will progress from Open Water Diver to Divemaster or Open Water Instructor. Courses include Dutch, English and Spanish languages as well as technical training in welding, outboard engines and compressor maintenance as part of the study.

SSI hopes the students will be able to train for a profession important on their own island and be able to work there as well. Plus with these qualifications they have the opportunity to work at the more than 2,500 SSI Dive Centers worldwide. All SSI Dive Resorts on Bonaire will support this project by internships and other activities.



Herald Photo

► **A small private plane on its way from Curaçao to St. Maarten ditched at sea** some 30 miles north of Bonaire last month after encountering engine problems. The twin-prop Piper PA-34 Seneca had the pilot and two passengers aboard. All three made it out of the plane before it sank, and were soon spotted floating in their life jackets by the Coast Guard plane that went looking for them. The Dash 8 air crew dropped them a raft. A nearby tugboat, *Storm*, then picked them up and waited for the Coast Guard cutter *Panier* to return them to Curaçao.

► **The Narcotics Department of the Bonaire Police rounded up a drug gang** in cooperation with the Royal Military Police and the Coast Guard last month. The gang imported and exported drugs from Bonaire; 23 kilos of cocaine were found on board a vessel and were confiscated. Five people are currently in custody and the police do not preclude more arrests.

The investigation began in September last year when the Bonairean police discovered 14 kilos of cocaine on board an aircraft with the Netherlands as its destination. The police investigated the case during the past months in order to get an idea of the organization handling the drugs transports. The organization uses, among others, a catering company at the airport on Bonaire to transport the drugs. It is the first time the police discovered drugs being transported from Bonaire to Curaçao.

The police, following a tip, confiscated 20 packages of cocaine aboard the boat *Baby Tutu* en route to Curaçao. The Coast Guard stopped the boat and towed it to the Parera navy base on Curaçao. The two people on board were apprehended. Another two people were arrested on Bonaire who allegedly were co-workers at a catering company at the airport. The gang supposedly exports the drugs both by sea and through the catering company. All suspects are being held on Bonaire and the investigation is still in progress.

► **Last month the Dutch Council of Ministers approved a proposal to establish a transitional arrangement that regulates the admission of Dutch citizens to the BES islands.** The arrangement protects the islands from an influx of Dutch citizens once Bonaire becomes integrated with Holland. This law proposal has already been sent to the Second Chamber where the initial handling will take place on April 15.

► **THE HAGUE—According to the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics the number of Antilleans and Arubans migrating to The Netherlands in 2009 increased compared to previous years.** But for the first time in years there was also an increase in the number of Antilleans and Arubans who went back to their home island.

The number of Antilleans and Arubans taking up residency in the Netherlands in 2009 was 4,095, almost 10% more than in 2008.

A total of 2,637 Antilleans and Arubans returned to the islands, primarily Curaçao, in 2009, which is an increase of more than 15% compared to 2008.

The peak movement of Antilleans to Holland came in 2000, when 9,977 persons, mostly from Curaçao, moved to The Netherlands while 1,684 returned.

► **The US Consulate General in Curaçao announces the introduction of the new Consular Electronic Application Center (CEAC) and form DS-160.** The new single, internet-based application form DS-160 will be required of all non-immigrant visa applicants seeking a visa for a temporary visit to the US and has several advantages over the existing application forms. Visa applicants applying at the Consulate General in Curaçao will be required to use the DS-160 starting April 30, 2010, but applicants are encouraged to start using the new form immediately. The new CEAC and the form DS-160 may be found on the CEAC's website at: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/> or at the State Department website http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/forms/forms_4230.html.

► Based on figures just released Holland has been saving about **€100 million annually** by having the BES Islands be part of the Netherlands Antilles. According to a report presented by State-Secretary Ank Bijleveld at the request of the Netherlands-Antilleans and Aruban Affairs committee, the provisional annual costs to the Dutch government for support of the BES Islands after their integration are estimated at €101.8 million (NAf 244.3 million)

The total is around €6,000 per Antilles resident or €6 per Dutch citizen. Spending is for satisfying past debts, health insurance, refurbishment of schools, new teaching methods and more.

Cost by Ministry

SZW (Social Affairs and Employment): 19.2 million euros (46.1 million guilders)

OCW (Education, Culture and Science): 15.7 million euros (37.7 million guilders)

VWS (Public Health, Welfare and Sports): 13.6 million euros (32.6 million guilders)

BZK (Interior and Kingdom Relations): 12

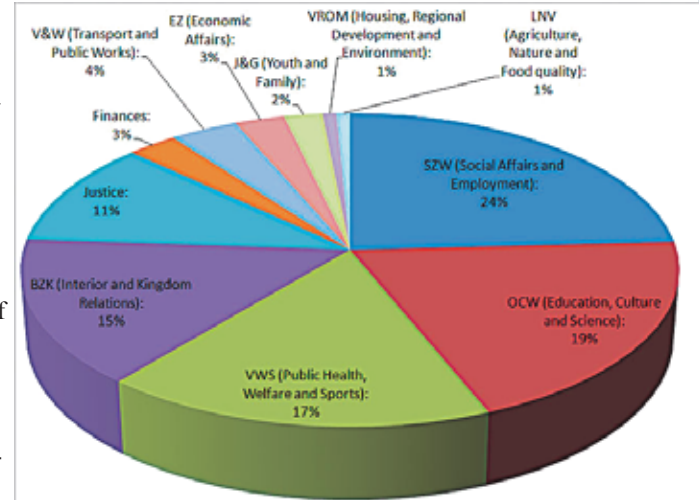
► **CARICOM has expressed its "gravest concern" over the possibility of a ship carrying radioactive waste passing through Caribbean waters.** "It has come to the attention of the Caribbean Community that a new shipment of vitrified high-level waste will soon leave the United Kingdom


million euros (28.8 million guilders)
Justice: 8.7 million euros (20.1 million guilders)
Finances: 3.2 million euros (7.7 million guilders)
V&W (Transport and Public Works): 3 million euros (7.2 million guilders)
EZ (Economic Affairs): 2.2 million euros (5.3 million guilders)
J&G (Youth and Family): 1.7 million euros (4.1 million guilders)
VROM (Housing, Regional Development and Environment): 0.6 million euros (1.4 million guilders)
LNV (Agriculture, Nature and Food quality): 0.6 million euros (1.4 million guilders)

for Japan, transiting the Caribbean Sea," CARICOM said in a statement.

CARICOM said such ships must not pass through the Caribbean waters because of the "risk they pose to the lives and livelihoods of the Caribbean people".




Continued on page 17






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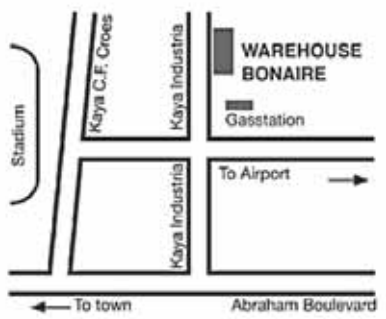
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Sailing Team

Races In Curacao

This weekend the BSSA (Bonaire Sailing School Association) kids went to Curaçao to participate in the Curaçao Regatta in Optimists and Sunfish classes.

Four Kids competed in the Optimist-B class, two in the Optimist-A, which has a world class level, and two of our boys raced in the Sunfish class and had a big battle against the big waves on the open sea. The rest of the races were in the protected bay of Spanish Water.

They had a lot of fun and learned a lot of things and even came home with a third place in the Optimist B. Well done Constantijn Botterop! He only missed second place by one point.

In this Optimist B class Nils van Eldik got the fourth place after some bad luck during the races.

This was a great experience for our kids and BSSA would like to thank everybody for helping out with the carwash (which netted the team NAf 1.500), our highly appreciated sponsors and Don Andres for taking our boats. ■ Artie, Arjen and Ap (The A Team).



Some of the Bonaire Team at the airport: Standing: (Right to left): Santiago Alvarez –Optimist Class, Juan Jose Alvarez– Sunfish Class, J-son Carter – assistant, Ishair Theodor –Sunfish Class, Ruben Van Eldik – Optimist class. Front row: Artie De Vries – Trainer, Neils van Eldik – Optimist Class



Optimist racing in Curaçao



The young BSSA sailors held a car wash at Regatta House and earned NAf 1.500 for the trip.



Happy Birthday

To Marie Carrano of New Paltz, NY, who celebrated her 105th birthday on March 22. Marie is the aunt of Reporter Publisher, George DeSalvo.

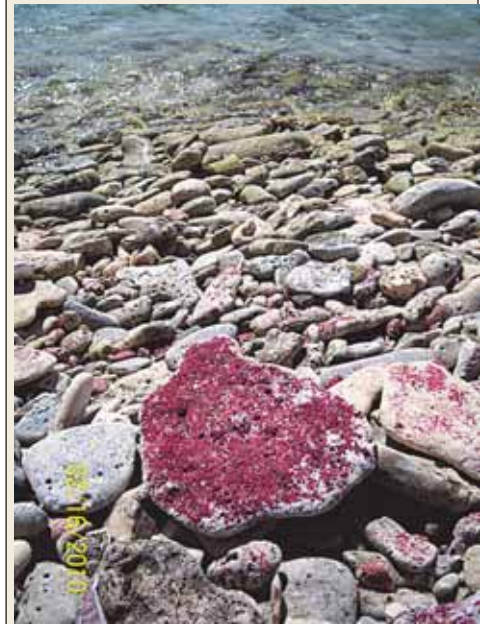
She still lives in her own home and attributes her longevity to her "Faith in God." ■ G.D.



George and his Aunt Marie

BonQuiz #27

PINK SAND...



Beaches come and beaches go. Even the man made sandy beaches disappear with time or end up somewhere else - back in the sea or on the reef - which makes it really hard for a reef to bounce back. Sometimes you'll see a patch of sand that's here today but gone tomorrow, like the famous Pink Beach on the south west shore. And so we have this phenomenon on our hands that has to do with the making of this special pink sand. The culprit? It lives on and in Bonaire's reefs. This particular one is red, living encrusted on a piece of coral. When the coral is broken off by whatever reason, it finds itself tumbling in the waves on shore. With this wave action the red substance starts to come off, becoming crumbs, or powder and mixes in with the pure white sand we enjoy so much, making it pink.

Q) What is this substance that mixes in with our sand?

Answer on page 18

Quiz and photo by Christie Dovale

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

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University Bound!



Students prior to leaving Bonaire

Last month SGB Students from LVVO-5 (University Preparation track) visited several universities in Holland to help them choose where they will study. This year there were 14 students, two of whom have never been to Holland before. They were accompanied by two teachers and the SGB study counselor.

Here is an excerpt from a report written by student DauRii Jansen (in English, Papiamentu and Dutch) about the touring students in Holland.

"Today was an exciting day! As usual we left early to hit the roads. Today our destination was the University of Leiden. Our handy friend Eva has done a great job get-

ting us there. At our arrival we were greeted warmly by two law students of the university. After some brief information we got a real lecture from a professor about human growth, which was very interesting. Another interesting lecture followed about the behavior of children and how this is influenced by education. A great lunch followed. After this we went into the city to see a student association, where most students were stunned at the impact of the smell of beer. Everything was very interesting as we also visited a kind of 'sorority' of the students who showed us around the city. Our day ended with a nice group picture. Leiden was quite wonderful!" ■ Press Release /L.S. →

Easter Holiday Tradition at MCB



MCB Photo

On April 1st, MCB Bonaire's Playa Branch held a 60+ Handicraft Fair in front of the branch downtown. This was on the occasion of pension payday as well as the upcoming Easter Holidays. The customers who visited the Bank to collect their pension were treated to the traditional Bonairean *chukulat'i pinda'* (peanut chocolate) and *kuk'i lèter* (letter cookies) which they appreciated greatly.

This way, MCB, "Your Friendly Bank" gave a special treat to its valued customers and wished them a happy Easter weekend. The picture shows the 60+ Handicraft Fair in front of Playa Branch. ■ Press release



The same students but in Holland dressed for the chilly weather

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls - Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Friday	April 9, 2010	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	2446
Monday	April 12, 2010	BRAEMAR	0800-1800	700
Tuesday	April 13, 2010	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Tuesday	April 13, 2010	Ruby Princess	0700-1400	3100
Thursday	April 15, 2010	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100
Monday	April 19, 2010	Noordam	0800-1700	1918
Tuesday	April 20, 2010	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Tuesday	April 20, 2010	Statendam	0800-1700	1918
Wednesday	April 21, 2010	Sea Princess	1200-1900	2016

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Wolmoet Jansen Art Exhibit – until May, Plaza Hotel.

Anna-Marie Kroes Art Exhibit at Kas di Arte. Until April 9. More information on page 15.

Thursday, April 8 –Sea Turtles of Bonaire, Bruce Brabec speaker. Free. At CIEE Research Station, Kaya Gob. DeBrot 26. Tel. 717-4140, 7 pm

Saturday, April 10—Mangrove appreciation and stone placing, Kaminda di Sorobon, 8 am to noon, sponsored by CIEE—more on page 13

Saturday, April 10—Underwater cleanup, Kralendijk. Sponsored by Dive Friends and Net Tech. at Dive Inn, 1 pm—Earth Day event. More on page 2

April 10-24—Earth Day celebrations on Bonaire (see page 2)

Wednesday, April 14—CIEE students present results of their independent research projects. Free program, 7 pm, CIEE, Kaya Gob. DeBrot 26. Tel. 717-4140

Saturday, April 24—Beach Cleanup at Washikemba. Need transportation? Meet at Jong Bonaire at 7 am. Bus leaves at 7:15 am. Info 717-8444-Earth Day event. More on page 2

Friday, April 30 – Rincon Day/ Queen's Day. More on page 7

Friday, April 30 – Island Holiday shops closed.

April 24—Health Day –World Tai Chi Qigong Day at Bonaire Basics. More information 717-3041 or ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com

May 27-30 - Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2010. More on page 17

May 1- Saturday Plaza Panchito (for kids) (Voyager Events) at the new traffic circle. Movie-The Tooth Fairy, 6-8:30. Free.

June 1- Bonaire Dive into Summer. Until Sept. 30. More on page 17

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.

- **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 (NA\$17,50) 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.

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of*

Bonaire, at 7pm -every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819)

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, NA\$2,50, 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 Salina, 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 Cheffí). 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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JANART GALLERY

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Cars

Wanted: Late model Toyota double cab pickup truck. Call George at 790-8988, 786-6125

Living Accommodations

Wanted: Mature, responsible, single woman to take care of my house and dog in Belnem in exchange for reduced rent (NAf450 a month) for separate, spacious guesthouse with bedroom, kitchen, private bathroom and outside "gazebo" living room – all situated in a beautiful walled-in garden. Cable TV and Internet included. Utilities NAf 175 a month. Available March 19 for long term. Email Pauline at pkayes@diversityworksinc.net.

FOR RENT 2 bedroom apartment.

Great location Abraham Blvd. NAf 1350/ month long term. Laundry facility on premises. 788-3837

For long term rental, furnished one bedroom apartment in Playa, available immediately, call: 788-7600

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE – Telescope & UW Video System: Meade 90mm ETX series with Tripod, 2 cases, lots of eye-pieces, and control software – NAf 500

Light & Motion Mako Housing with Pelican Case, lights, external monitor, LCD back, Sony PC-100 video camera – NAf 800. Contact Jake at 717-4112 or info@richterart.com

Pinball Machine - Jokerz - For sale at NAf 595 or best offer. Over NAf 1500 invested in new circuit boards, parts etc. Needs finishing up with some wiring etc. Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

Refrigerator LG Electrocool, not even one year old, NAf 750.-. Phone 786-3117.

TV for sale 27" Phillips flat screen color TV - \$75 -Please call 717-3809

Brand new Haynes Repair Manual Jeep Wrangler 1987 thru 2003, all models: Ang 50,00. Call 796-3637 or email- digitalis1956@hotmail.com/

Old book in Dutch language: "Oude bouwwerken in de Nederlandse Antillen, [1968]. 50 pages: Ang 15,00. Spare wheel Toyota Hilux: Ang 50,00. Call 796-3637 or email

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KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

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

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
4-09	3:44	1.3FT.	9:34	1.6FT.	16:50	1.0FT.	23:05	1.4FT.	39
4-10	4:54	1.2FT.	10:08	1.5FT.	16:50	1.1FT.	23:09	1.5FT.	46
4-11	5:58	1.2FT.	10:49	1.4FT.	16:35	1.1FT.	23:24	1.6FT.	55
4-12	7:12	1.1FT.	11:40	1.3FT.	16:13	1.1FT.	23:48	1.6FT.	64
4-13	0:06	1.7FT.	8:27	1.1FT.	12:27	1.2FT.	15:48	1.1FT.	73
4-15	1:10	1.8FT.	11:17	0.9FT.					85
4-16	1:50	1.9FT.	12:16	0.9FT.					88
4-17	2:38	1.9FT.	13:04	0.8FT.					87
4-18	3:35	1.9FT.	13:47	0.8FT.					84
4-19	4:34	1.9FT.	14:19	0.8FT.					77
4-20	5:41	1.8FT.	14:50	0.8FT.					69
4-21	6:43	1.8FT.	15:20	0.8FT.					61
4-22	0:36	1.3FT.	7:48	1.7FT.	15:40	0.9FT.	22:21	1.3FT.	56
4-23	2:43	1.2FT.	8:46	1.6FT.	15:53	1.0FT.	22:01	1.4FT.	57
4-24	4:12	1.1FT.	9:49	1.5FT.	15:59	1.0FT.	22:14	1.6FT.	64
4-25	5:34	1.1FT.	10:47	1.4FT.	15:57	1.1FT.	22:38	1.7FT.	73
4-26	6:51	1.0FT.	12:01	1.3FT.	15:43	1.1FT.	23:11	1.8FT.	83
4-27	8:10	0.9FT.	13:57	1.1FT.	14:51	1.1FT.	23:56	1.9FT.	91

digitalis1956@hotmail.com/

WANTED

Wanted: 20' container in good condition. Call Donna 795-9332

Wanted: child's high chair and a child's (baby) walker. Call Laura 790-6518 or 786-6518.

LOST

Lost? Forgotten? At the end of March my repaired Smithsonian black and gray wet suit disappeared. Did you find it? [J@n Brouwer, digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:J@nBrouwer_digitalis1956@hotmail.com), Call 796-3637.



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CIEE and STINAPA Mangrove Preservation



A community service project is being conducted by CIEE Spring students in collaboration with STINAPA. The project is to help preserve the Lac Bai Mangrove area by placing Marine Park-style yellow painted rocks along the edges of the area to keep vehicular traffic off of the RAMSAR site.

The project consists of the painting and laying of 'do not enter' stones (in English, Dutch, and Papiamentu) along the road and access points to the site. The hope is that by clearly designating that entry into the protected area is not allowed, disturbances and ecological damage will be minimized.

On Saturday, April 10th, CIEE will be hosting a stone placement and appreciation day at the site along Kaminda di Sorobon from 8am to noon, where stones will be laid and presentations will be given on the importance of these mangrove communities.

The Spring 2010 CIEE Students involved in the project are Zach Lipshultz, Alicia Reigel, Colleen Chabot and Kelsey Burlingame. The CIEE Research Station Bonaire is at Kaya Gobernador N Debrot 26. Phone 717- 4140 www.cieebonaire.org, info@cieebonaire.org .

Press release

SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

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

Natural Way Health Store—The place where all the hard to find natural and healthy products are. Upstairs from Botika Bonaire, on Kaya Grandi.

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Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Wonderful service, free gift wrap.

STORAGE

The Storehouse (Mangazina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage For Vehicles, Household Items, Diving And Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.

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Artist Anna-Marie Kroes



Artist Kroes' rendering of the panorama of Washikemba is the eye catcher of her current exhibit at the Kas di Arte (see *The Reporter*, March 9-April 9, issue #6). "It's painted on wood, acrylic in only two colors," Kroes says. "It only needed those two."

"If you look at the water, you see the sunshine. If you look at the cactus, you see them

move with the wind.

This panorama is something that needs to be kept for future generations – in real life as well as in a painting."

Anna-Marie's next exhibit on Bonaire will be called "The Children of Bonaire."

She needs the parents of Bonaire to send her pictures of their children, "All colors and sizes, red hair, blonds, browns, blacks, Chinese, everyone - like Noah's Ark," she says. "Let's paint the future generation. Let's paint the future president, or minister or...."

Kroes continues, "I want to come back next year with a mountain of canvas, small sizes this time, and not on wood, so I can transport them."

Anna-Marie Kroes' exhibit, "I left my heart on Bonaire," at the Kas di Arte is open daily from 5 to 9 pm until this Friday, April 9.

Email: annamarie@kroesart.com Website: WWW.kroesart.com;

WWW.kroesart.nl ■ L.D. - Self portrait by Anna-Marie Kroes →



Panchito Kids Corner

New! Sharpen your Papiamentu and English language skills with this puzzle from the creator of Bonaire's top kids' website, Panchitobonaire.com. Tony Angila, "Tio Tony." (Story in *The Reporter* of 22 January 2010)

www.panchitobonaire.com

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M I K C E J C E T F Y V A S B N O M T X K M S S S
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N F Z B D J A H O G V V R T S N J A Y Q C X S S C
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F C R H B A L A T U A E Z L Y B N Z V A R W B G E
Y O V O Z N G U K A L P R F A P V W L C A C U M U
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H A O K F J E S T S Q U T V A O R I Y O W K H N S
W N N M I D H W K H M Q L X A I K A B A I S K E L
P K K C N K O N E N C H I B V S L L V S Y L X Q C
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V H B Y Z I I G H F A B S S U O H R X M A K Y K G
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G R W W L N H O Q U X N D T E N I S P X A I Q O S
F M C B Y P Y M F V T Y V D B E B E X X V A Y R G

BALA	TÊNIS	KUMPRA	BENDE	BAILA	SINTA
HUNGA	KOME	BEBE	PANCHITO	KACHÓ	KONÉNCHI
BURIKU	KABAI	OUTO	BAISKEL	RADIO	TELEVISHON
KADENA	TAYO	BEKER	FÖRKI	KUCHARA	KUCHÚ

Papiamentu –solution on page 16

D W I Z M I L P T J P S Z P L A I T I R T M F B M
P D E G A P D C M D U J B E R H E O L G S N O K E
S D H I E V W L X T M A I C L E I Y M H V E R F L
C P B O U F B N U Z O Y C M Z D K B S D R G K Z R
T M O X R H D E N B Y D Y G A K G P S Y Z M T A T
E X L O V S P A L P A O C R M B Z F T E F R C B E
W F M E N X E T Q A Y G L M Y M N O E S J J C A N
U M F E Q A U D Q N T R E R B O M Y B B I Y H L N
T I N N D F M X A C P L A Y I T V E H K E S A L I
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A Z I S E T E B H I N G I B D L I R I O F I N P Q
N L F F V K A U T T I V B E A U V N T C Z S P L D
W L D X N E B Y T O E A J S C X K I H F I U L L C
J T J O W X F P Z L R H U U C C S G N Q P E D U A
D M D S F Z J K E Q X F W D D A N C E E S C F Q I
F N D R I N K T U S D Q J B C U P V Y P I V V Q T
X X X N M G W R V N I T E W P C C W H I L P T T K

BALL	TENNIS	BUY	SELL	DANCE	SIT	PLAY
EAT	DRINK	PANCHITO	DOG	RABBIT	DONKEY	HORSE
CAR	BICYCLE	RADIO	TELEVISION	CHAIN	PLAIT	CUP
FORK	SPOON	KNIFE				

English –solution on page 16

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One Stitch at a Time

“This is the most difficult part of the job,” explains Elsa Martis as she deftly moves her fingers around the bill of the cap. “It is difficult to hold flat, but I’ve learned to grab the cloth this way.” (photo at right)

With hat in hand, Martis continues to sew. She is approaching the completion of her 100th hat for Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. In order to raise funds for the not-for-profit organization, STCB sells hats and T-shirts through two retail stores on island. This money helps fund research and conservation efforts for the sea turtles of Bonaire. For her quality handwork, Elsa gets paid by the piece.

“This is my third job. The money helps me pay for some of my expenses like gas for the car and phone cards. It helps a lot. I can sew one hat in about 15 minutes. But I just do it *poco poco*.”



the one who leads the start of a mini sewing industry on Bonaire.

“I learned to sew when I was in school, says Martis. “I haven’t done much since then until now, but it is all coming back to me.” She looks up from her hat sewing and out to the sea that sparkles before her home on Kaya Playa Lechi. Elsa smiles. “Sometimes I see a large turtle right here. He comes in the afternoon to get the scraps that the fishermen throw away at the end of the day. But I don’t look too long. I need to concentrate on my stitching.”

“Elsa has been so great for us,” says STCB’s Robinson. “It’s really important for conservation groups like Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire to be looking at not only the species that we are trying to protect, but the context within which we’re doing it—that humans are connected; that humans, animals and ecology are inseparable. You can’t do successful conservation until you are doing it in harmony with the people in the community. It’s important that local people get economic gain from conservation.”

“This job has been very nice for me,” declares Martis. “I feel real proud when I go to the store and see my hats. They are nice hats and they deserve good quality. I think the customers like that it is handwork and not just made by a machine.”

Elsa looks up one more time out to the sea. “If this job ends, that would hurt my heart. I like staying busy. The job means a lot to me.” ■ *Photo and story by Patrick Holian, STCB volunteer*

For more information on Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, log on: <http://www.bonaireturtles.org/>



That steady pace allows Martis to concentrate on every stitch. She rarely lets her mind wander, preferring to focus on the three patches that are applied to each hat. The difficult one to sew is the STCB logo that goes on the front. The other two are fastened to the side—a small turtle design and a metal tag with a number/letter code that is a replica of an actual tag attached to turtles for ID purposes during STCB’s annual water surveys.

“That metal tag gives hat buyers that sense of being tied to this animal that’s out there in the sea,” states STCB board member Marlene Robinson. “Buyers can actually go on to the STCB web site and search their turtle’s code. They can then see the data of that specific turtle—where it was caught, how much it weighed, what size it was, and actually see a photo of that turtle.”

Customers are also buying products that are involved in fair trade and fair labor practices. Plus, all the clothing comes from organically grown cotton, a practice that adheres to the conservation values of which STCB subscribes. The Beach Store at Harbour Village and the Mangrove Info Center near Lac Cai are the two stores that sell Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire clothing. All money from the sales goes directly back to the organization.

“That donation of sacrificing their floor space in their stores, paying their employees—it costs them money to do this,” says Robinson. “They’re doing it because they support sea turtle conservation. It’s important to them and their businesses.”

Bonaire women have a history in sewing clothes in order to make a living. In the late 1940s, Pierre Schunck, a Dutchman, came to Bonaire and set up a clothing manufacturing business. At its height, Schunck’s Kledingindustrie had 110 employees, most of whom were women who made overalls, trousers and shirts. Shell Oil bought these clothes for their refinery workers on Curaçao. The women also made uniforms for police and customs officials in the Dutch Antilles. After a succession of owners, the factory finally closed its door in 1991 due to staff reduction in the refineries in Curaçao and Aruba. But Elsa Martis may be

Panchito Kid's Corner
Puzzle Solutions
Puzzle on page 15

Panchito Bonaire.com

X	E	B	T	I	Y	R	A	D	I	O	M	I	K	V	P	V	N	D	C	E	X	S	M	Y	
M	I	R	C	E	J	C	E	T	F	Y	V	A	S	B	N	O	M	T	X	K	M	S	S	S	
R	I	M	A	E	H	U	N	G	A	E	F	J	A	H	K	G	A	T	U	Y	V	Z	X		
N	F	Z	B	J	A	H	O	G	V	V	R	T	S	N	J	A	Y	Q	C	X	S	S	C		
I	R	L	A	G	E	O	V	M	P	A	P	P	I	V	X	T	H	O	A	H	R	I	P	Z	
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BALA	TENIS	KUMPRA	BENDE	BALA	SINTA
HUNGA	KOME	BEBE	PANCHITO	KACHO	KONENCHI
BURIKU	KABAI	OUTO	BAISKEL	RADIO	TELEVISION
KADENA	TAYO	BEKER	FORGO	KUCHARA	KUCHU

Papiamentu

D	W	I	Z	M	I	L	P	T	J	P	S	Z	P	L	A	I	T	I	R	T	M	F	B	M	
P	D	E	G	A	P	D	C	M	D	U	J	B	E	R	H	E	O	L	G	S	N	O	K	E	
S	D	H	I	E	V	W	L	X	T	M	A	I	C	L	E	I	Y	M	H	V	E	R	F	L	
C	P	B	O	U	F	B	N	U	Z	O	Y	C	M	Z	D	K	B	S	D	R	G	K	Z	R	
T	M	O	X	R	H	D	E	N	B	Y	D	Y	G	A	K	G	P	S	Y	Z	M	T	A	T	
E	X	L	O	V	S	P	A	L	P	A	O	C	R	M	B	Z	F	T	E	F	R	C	B	E	
W	F	M	E	N	X	E	T	Q	A	Y	G	L	M	Y	M	N	O	E	S	J	J	C	A	N	
U	M	F	E	Q	A	U	D	Q	N	T	R	E	R	B	O	M	Y	B	B	I	Y	S	A	L	N
T	I	N	D	F	M	X	A	C	P	L	A	Y	I	T	V	E	H	K	E	S	A	L	I		
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A	Z	I	S	E	T	E	B	H	I	N	G	I	B	D	L	I	R	I	O	F	I	N	P	Q	
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W	L	D	X	N	E	B	Y	T	O	E	A	J	S	C	X	K	I	H	F	I	U	L	L	C	
J	T	J	O	W	X	F	P	Z	L	R	H	U	U	C	C	S	G	N	Q	P	E	D	U	A	
D	M	O	S	F	Z	J	K	E	Q	X	F	W	D	D	A	N	C	E	S	C	F	Q	I		
F	N	D	R	I	N	K	T	U	S	D	Q	J	B	C	U	P	V	I	V	P	I	V	Q	T	
X	X	X	N	M	G	W	R	V	N	I	T	E	W	P	C	C	W	H	I	L	P	T	T	K	

BALL	TENNIS	BUY	SELL	DANCE	SIT	PLAY
EAT	DRINK	PANCHITO	DOG	RABBIT	DONKEY	HORSE
CAR	BICYCLE	RADIO	TELEVISION	CHAIN	PLAIT	CUP
FORK	SPOON	KNIFE				

English

Picture Yourself With The Reporter... In Canada



“Take a look at this picture, its amazing!” says Miriam from Kon Tiki who sent us this spectacular photo of her friend John Dijkstra from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He has been a repeat guest at KonTiki for more than 10 years. His friend Rick Hoff (who is also a Bonaire visitor) took this photo in Canada this winter. John is on Bonaire from April 10-24. Welcome!

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.

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Guest editorial (Continued from page 3) of the opponents to the new status of the BES islands than a fact. The delegation wasn't able to show any evidence of the alleged majority, like results of a survey or referendum on these laws held on Bonaire. (In my Reporter editorial of December 2009, I proposed that such a survey be organized.)

Nevertheless, now there seems to be a fair chance that the introduction of these "immoral laws" on Bonaire could be rejected during the upcoming procedures concerning the BES laws. In order to change the Status of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the BES laws proposal must be approved, next by the *Tweede Kamer*, also by the *Eerste Kamer (First Chamber /Senate) of the Dutch Parliament*. The discussion on the laws in the *Eerste Kamer* is planned to start on May 11.

Although most of the representatives of two government parties – the **CDA (Christian Democrats)** and the **CU (Christian Union)** – voted for the new BES laws on March 9, it is important to note that on the same day these parties, together with the small conservative **Christian party SGP**, presented their objections against the amendments on same sex marriages, abortion and euthanasia because the culture, tradition and a limited number of inhabitants of the islands were not been taken into account.

In addition, a motion about the new status of Bonaire presented by Curaçao-born Cynthia Ortega Martijn, representative of the CU party, was approved by the majority of the *Tweede Kamer*. According to this motion, the result of a new referendum on Bonaire, if it indeed happens, must be taken into account during the process of approval of the BES laws.

Unfortunately for the opponents of the new status, there is a real chance that the referendum results could backfire. In spite of a continuing harsh "anti-colonial" campaign in the local media, it could be that a referendum on the "immoral" laws on Bonaire will result in the same disappointment for the opponents to the new status as the Italian opponents of legalization of abortion suffered in 1981. Although they were convinced that an overwhelming majority of Italian Catholics would vote against abortion rights, during a national referendum held that year in the very religious Italy the proposal to repeal the law of 1978 legalizing abortion was rejected by 80% (!) of voters.

While the objections of the opponents of the "immoral" laws on Bonaire are based purely on religious grounds, numerous representatives in the Dutch *Tweede Kamer* are convinced that the current disastrous situation, concerning an alarming number of illegal abortions on Bonaire, must be remedied as soon as possible. Traditionally, medicinal herbs are mostly used to provoke the abortion. It is evident that this old island practice endangers the health of the women, mostly very young girls. The most vocal in this field is the leftist party **Groen Links (Green Left)** which has repeatedly asked **Secretary Anke Bijleveld (CDA party)** to introduce the abortion rights law on Bonaire within a short time in order to protect the health of young women on the island. In her answer in the *Tweede Kamer*, Bijleveld said that it cannot happen from one day to the next because trained personnel and necessary medical equipment for execution of abortions is currently not yet available on Bonaire.

It is a known fact that the legalization of abortion in the very religious US drastically reduced the mortality rate of women during

abortions after it had been approved with some restrictions in 1973. It is strange that no reports on illegal abortions on our island can be heard on the local radio or read in the local newspapers. Instead, on *Voz di Bonaire*, you can hear emotional appeals from some very excited callers preferring independence of Bonaire before accepting the "immoral" Dutch laws. Anyway, the fact is that the island women in distress will continue to abort, like in all the other countries, notwithstanding the valid legislation.

The same can be said about **euthanasia**, the **voluntary ending of life** of terminally ill patients suffering unbearable pain. In case it not be legally possible, desperate people may seek any solution to end their suffering. According to data from the Netherlands, many more patients and very ill old persons are currently voluntarily dying due to **versterving**, which is **ceasing to eat and drink**, than as result of the medically performed euthanasia.

Nevertheless, according to some local politicians and activists as well as the local media, an overwhelming majority of the people on Bonaire are against the "immoral" Dutch laws. But how can they maintain the myth about this majority when only about 125 people, (i.e. less than 1%) of the total Bonaire population participated in the demonstration against the laws on March 27?

I am convinced that what the island people really want is that the planned improvements, financed by the Dutch, concerning medical care, education, infrastructure, personal security and others, will be executed as soon as possible. The people also wish for an increase in the current pensions and social benefits as has already been promised to the people of Sint Eustasius and Saba. It is clear to them that real equality with the citizens of the Netherlands can be reached only when Bonaire becomes a part of the Netherlands like Judge Bob Wit emphasized in his famous advice.

In this connection, we read that during the round table discussion of the *Tweede Kamer* commission for Antillean and Aruban Affairs on March 31, 2010, four experts in the field of constitutional law of the Kingdom of the Netherlands were asked to give their opinion about the equality of all citizens of the Netherlands.

According to these experts, it is certainly not clear that the BES islands people would not have the right to receive the same social benefits as the other inhabitants of the Netherlands. ■ *Jiri Lausman*

Jiri Lausman is a retired businessman who lives on Bonaire



Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 9)

► **Haitian tourists and the hundreds living in the Netherlands Antilles illegally can stay for a while.** In a campaign to keep thousands from having to return to the disaster-struck island, Haitians living in the Antilles now have immunity until December 31, 2010.

► **The Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival, May 27 through 30, 2010;** once again a very popular Bonaire tradition will return to the island for the sixth consecutive year. A variety of musical styles will be presented with bands from Brazil, Cuba, the US and The Netherlands in different venues around Bonaire as these internationally known jazz musicians mingle with the best musical talent Bonaire has to offer.

The festival will **kick off at Fort Oranje on May 27th** with an evening of **Jazz and Poetry. On May 28th and 29th, the two main concerts will take place at the Tippy Seagull** at the Plaza Resort Bonaire. This year's top attraction will be the world renowned trumpeter, Arturo Sandoval (photo above), performing with his seven-piece band. Arturo is originally from Cuba, but now lives in the US. Also performing will be Manny Moreira from Brazil, BEKU from the US, Joke Bruijs with Frits Landesberg from The Netherlands, and Henk van Twillert with Tjako van Schie, also from The Netherlands.

These performers will be joined by **Bonaire's best local musicians: the Cabaco Trio, the Silver Bullet Steelband, the New Generation Dancers, and Kaña Brabu**, offering a combination of varying styles of jazz, all with their own character.

Jam sessions with many of the musicians will be held at Sense just across the street from the Plaza Resort Bonaire, starting at 11:30pm on Friday and Saturday.

The popular **Jazz Brunch takes place on Sunday, May 30th** at the Divi Flamingo Resort, where musicians participating in the festival, along with other musicians and singers, will provide a spectacular jam session while guests enjoy brunch.

Heineken is the title sponsor and the main sponsors to date for the event this year are: Plaza Resort Bonaire, Divi Flamingo Resort, Telbo NV, Breathe-IT, It Rains Fishes, Budget Rent a Car, Maduro & Curiel's Bank, Sunbelt Realty, Rocargo, Sense, Mega FM, Captain Don's Habitat and Rum Runners, Hotel Rochaline, TIS, Don Andres, HBN Law, Bonaire Affair, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, and Addo's Books & Toys. For more information, visit www.bonairejazz.net.



Jazz Fest Photo

► **Bonaire Dive into Summer is coming June 1 though September 30, 2010.**

The program will feature a variety of activities for everyone, as well as feature specially priced packages for various happenings, specialty topics, one-of-a-kind events, and even an online contest for one lucky winner and a friend to come to Bonaire. For more information, visit www.tourismbonaire.com.

► **Starting in this edition is a Kid's Corner. Prepared by Tio Tony Anglia, creator of the Panchito website**



www.panchitobonaire.com. It can provide entertainment for English and Papiamentu proficient children and even perhaps introduce the Papiamentu language to some of our adult readers. **Try the puzzle on page 15.**

► Need news between issues of *The Reporter*? **"Raw News" is available as it happens on the bonairereporter.com website. And it's still free!** ■ *G./L. D.*

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Found Dog



R.V. photo

Has someone lost this dog? She was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter on March 15. If you are the owner please call the Shelter at 717-4989.

She is currently in the care of a Shelter volunteer. ■



Pet of the Week

Winsome "Floricitá" was found in the *Kouchi Pa Bestia* (animal drop off) outside the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Her past is a mystery, but the good news is that she was taken to a place (the Animal Shelter) where she can have a chance at a good life and not have to wander the streets. What a darling she is.

She's about two months old and looks like she'll be a very handsome large shepherd when she grows up. But it will be fun to enjoy her puppyhood because she's so sweet and friendly and loves to play. Not only does Floricitá have the attractive black and tan markings of a shepherd but she sports an incredible curling tail. What a girl! The vet has pronounced her fit and healthy and she has had her tests, worming and shots. She's ready to go. And the NAf105 adoption fee covers all that plus sterilization when she's old enough.

You may see Floricitá at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 to 1 and 3 to 5. Tel. 717-4989. Take a look at their website too. It's kept up to date by a hard working Shelter manager:

WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com



Floricitá

feeding duties. There are many different types of animals that all require different feeding and cleaning. **They are also looking for handypersons and gardeners.** Because dog and cat care is the priority at the Shelter minor repair work and gardening may go neglected. Your hard work will be much appreciated by the staff and volunteers.

Ideally, they are looking for people to help on a weekly basis, but if you have time only to help fortnightly or once a month, then still please contact them.

They are very short of volunteers now and any time you could offer for the rescue animals would be very much appreciated. Call the Shelter at 717-4989. ■

Story & photo by *Laura DeSalvo*

As you can see, in the case of Floricitá and other cats and dogs, the **Shelter's Animal Drop off cage** is working well. People may now drop off unwanted, stray or found cats or dogs at the Shelter any time of the day or night, no questions asked. The cage, with two separate compartments with water bowls is checked every few hours during the day.

Right now the Shelter is looking for volunteers to help with the cleaning and

BonQuiz Answer

Bon Quiz (from page 10)



Q) What is this substance that mixes in with our sand?

A) A Protist called *Homotrema rubrum*, a sort of amoeba with a shell, which makes this red covering on coral.

Sources: Caren Eckrich/ CIEE
Kalli de Meyer/DCNA

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 6

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

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Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

Reef Windows will be available in reputable book stores and shops around Bonaire

Travel back to the exciting, early days of Bonaire diving. To make you part of these adventures, I have included my Captain Don red ribbon depth gauge as a handy bookmark. Come diving with me and learn the true stories behind the names of Bonaire's dive sites.

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Hello Venus! And the Moon Pays a Visit

You have probably noticed the bright star in the west after sunset. It's **Venus** back at last in our early evening skies. Throughout this week and next you'll have the wonderful opportunity of seeing the two planets closest to the **Sun**, still very close to each other in early evening skies. Plus an exquisite crescent **Moon** will not only pay a visit to planet #1 on April 15, but it will later pay a visit to the enchanting **Seven Sisters**. After which planet #2 will slowly ascend the heavens for its own meeting with the Seven Sisters.



On this Sunday April 11th, 45 minutes after sunset, face west where the brightest thing you'll see will be the most brilliant planet of all, planet #2, 8,000-mile-wide, **Earth**-sized Venus named for the Roman goddess of love. And just below it and still very close after its super close meeting with Venus last weekend the smallest planet, planet #1, 3,000-mile-wide **Mercury**, named for the swift messenger of the gods, and just above the two of them the very tiny star cluster, the Seven Sisters.

And now here's the game plan. If you go out every night and take a peek at the relationship of these three you'll notice that Mercury and Venus will steadily move a little farther apart from each other, Mercury descending to the horizon and Venus ascending up towards the Seven Sisters: Monday the 12th, Tuesday the 13th, Wednesday the 14th. But then on Thursday April 15th, the cosmos will present us with an exquisite picture of a slender sliver of a two-day-old **crescent Moon** complete with **earthshine** which will look like a grayish black full Moon nestled within it hovering just above Mercury, a beautiful sight to the naked eye and in binoculars and through a small telescope.

And now here's where the really fun part comes in. You see because the Moon is so close to us it changes its place in the sky drastically from night to night whereas the planets and stars are so far away they move much slower in relation to us. So make a note of where the Moon is in respect to Mercury, Venus and the Seven Sisters on April 15th and then 24 hours later, voila! a slightly fatter Moon will have leapfrogged past Venus and will make another exquisite picture but this time with the Seven Sisters.

Don't miss these two nights, **April 15th, the Moon and Mercury** and **April 16th the Moon and the Seven Sisters**. After which the Moon will continue its leapfrogging around the heavens night after night while Venus slowly continues ascending and Mercury descending. And believe me your patience will be rewarded because 10 days from April 15th on **Sunday April 25th Venus will pay a beautiful visit to the Seven Sisters** and huddle up right beside them, another perfect picture for the naked eye, binoculars or a small telescope.

But once again let me caution you that although these objects look close to each other they are indeed not. In fact the Moon will be only 239,000 miles away, Mercury 67 million miles away, Venus 142 million miles away. But the Seven Sisters a whopping 2.4 quadrillion miles away. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For April 2010

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Rewards, gifts, or money from investments or taxes can be expected. Stress coupled with diet will add to stomach problems. Try not to overspend on luxury items. Sudden trips may take you by surprise; try to include your mate, mixing business with pleasure. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about possible romance. Arguments with relatives may lead to a split in the family. Don't hesitate to present your unique ideas. You're intuitive this month; however, this attribute could get you in trouble if you tactlessly say what you think. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You may be thinking of starting your own business. Stretch the truth and you may get blamed for something you didn't do. Extravagance will be a problem. You may want to get involved in financial investments presented to you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will meet exciting new people through interest groups or functions that you attend with your children. Plan a day of enjoyment with them. Opportunities for romance may develop through dealing with groups that have a purpose. You will have difficulties spreading yourself between your work and your home. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Try to iron out any friction over money with your mate or conflicts could prevail. Don't overspend or give too freely to others. Don't overreact if your partner has a poor attitude. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Arguments could prevail. If they don't like the plan, suggest that they contribute a little. Opportunities for romance will develop through activities with large groups. You can make money, but try not to let it slip through your fingers. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Spend time getting to know each other. Real estate investments will payoff. Your need to put great detail into everything you do may cause you to miss the overall picture. You must consider yourself for a change. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't make any rash decisions that may affect friendships. You are ready to blow up and your stress level has gone into over drive. You will get along well in social situations. Your desire for excitement and adventure may be expensive. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Do not confront situations unless you are sure you have a good understanding of the dilemma. New methods and innovative technology will make your job far easier than you anticipated. You will enjoy events that lean toward theater, art, or music this month. Your ability to dazzle others with your unique and innovative ideas will attract attention. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances. Love could develop at social events that are work related. Opportunities to get together with friends will be enlightening and entertaining. Make sure you concentrate if operating machinery or vehicles. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Secret affairs may be brought out in the open. Get back into a routine that promises a better looking, more aware individual. You may find that purchases or entertainment could be expensive. You need to mingle with people who can spark enthusiasm and confidence in you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can't make things better if you don't know what to fix. Involve yourself in group endeavors. You are best to work behind the scenes on projects that require detail or precision. A residential move may be in order. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

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Kòntèst di Fli - Kite Flying Contest, 2010

For 32 consecutive years Bonaire's Kite Flying Contest (Kòntèst di Fli), organized by Iris Seemeleer of the Flamingo Bookstore has drawn families together for fun and prizes. This year 160 kites were flown, each supported by a team from one to 20 or more persons. Many shipping containers filled with kites were transported from Curaçao alone. Weather conditions were perfect with winds from 10-20 knots and mostly sunny skies. In each round of the day-long flying, the kites were judged for uniqueness, beauty, originality, biggest and smallest. To qualify the kite had to fly for at least a minute. Most did, but some of the most spectacular just couldn't stay in the air. A panel of seven judges worked tirelessly through the long day to evaluate the size, "look" and performance of each kite.

Top winners included:

Urlyson Kiridongo, Curaçao – largest kite

Jairo Martis, Bonaire - smallest kite

Swanley Hanse, Curaçao – most original, most beautiful, and most unique kites

Swanley Hanse was also named the overall winner

The organizers expressed their appreciation to all entrants, especially to the competitors from Curaçao, the sponsors and the volunteers who made the event a success. Now it's time to prepare for next year. ■

Iris Seemeleer/ Hubert Vis/ G.D

Iris Seemeleer and some of the judges →

