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BONAIRE September 2-16, 2011, Year 18, Issue 17
The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Tricky Business

With Weaning Baby Parrots

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Photos by Sam Williams

Flotsam and Jetsam

BONAIRE The REPORTER

Bonaire had a total power blackout last Wednesday. Local people are more than disgusted with the loss of productivity from power failures, but this one caught the attention of the VVD party in the Dutch Parliament who asked the Dutch Government to explain what's going on.

The cause of the blackout was an ongoing dispute between the energy producing company, EcoPower, and the distribution company, WEB, over payment of outstanding bills.

WEB has past-due EcoPower bills because WEB finds it necessary to thoroughly review the details of the invoice. According to EcoPower, WEB has not paid the full amount of its invoices in six months and it has lost millions of dollars.

WEB says that it pays the correct amount for what it receives from EcoPower. Over six months ago, following a change in on-island management, *The Reporter* warned that EcoPower refused to respond to our inquiries.

EcoPower stopped delivering electricity to Bonaire on Wednesday for six hours. Many businesses were forced to shut down and there was extreme personal discomfort because the wind was still and air-conditioning units couldn't run.

Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé, assisted by Chief Prosecutor David van Delft and police officials, took over management of EcoPower the same day in the general interest of the island and its people. The takeover was supported by an article in the general law which regulates the status of the BES Islands.

Thodé ordered EcoPower to resume the production of electricity. He turned over EcoPower's operations to WEB's technical staff. That will remain in effect until a solution has been found. The Lt. Governor stated at a press conference that a conflict between two companies is "unacceptable."

► **Bonaire's opposition UPB party has come out of its cocoon of silence to comment on what's happening on Bonaire.** Burney el Hage, Island Council member for the opposition UPB, commented that it is evident that the residents of Bonaire are dissatisfied with the daily administration on the island. However, El Hage stated that no clear distinction can be made between The Hague represented by the Kingdom Service Caribbean Netherlands (RCN) on one hand and the local government in Kralendijk supported by the PDB, MBL and PHU on the other hand.



Bonaire Gov't. photo

El Hage: "All in all, one may draw the simple conclusion that the economy on Bonaire is currently declining after a long period (from 2001 up to 2009) of economic recovery and bonanza. Furthermore, the arrival of various services from RCN only highlighted the lack of quality of our island's



administration apparatus." However, according to the UPB councilman, there is one similarity between the last period of "malaise" on the island (between 1996 and 1999) and the current malaise: "namely the red party was and is governing the island for both periods."

► **The theme of this year's Orange Apple Awards of the Dutch Oranje Fund is "Green Grows." Nominations are open until September 29 (see box at the bottom of the facing page).** This is the 10th year of the Orange Apple Award program.



This year the Fund will focus on projects that tackle social issues through green, environmentally friendly activities. An important criterion for selecting the

green theme this year is that "green" contributes to solving social problems. Green tends to create unique connections between groups of people. "Social cohesion is stimulated by gardening together, growing trees and flowers together and by engaging in other green activities," stated Oranje Fund Director Ronald van der Giesen.

The Orange Apples are awarded annually to exceptional initiatives and organizations that commit to improve the social cohesion between different groups and a better society. The prize is a bronze sculpture in the form of an apple, designed and made by Queen Beatrix, along with €15,000.

The Orange Fund is the largest social fund in the Dutch Kingdom. Per year it grants some 32 million Euros to social projects in The Netherlands and the Dutch Caribbean.

Rowan Martin photo



► **Two new Loraks arrived at the Echo Aviary Shelter separately last week.** One had a broken leg and the other was starving. ECHO is expanding its work and needs your support. See page 10 for more details

► **The 2011 sea turtle nesting season started on May 9th** with a loggerhead nest on Klein Bonaire. So far 40 nests have been counted: **Nests on Klein Bonaire: 32** **Nests on Bonaire: 8**



► **Bonaire's "Partido pro Hustisia i Union" (PHU) wants to become a member of Coppal,** an organization to which 58 political parties of Latin America and the Caribbean are affiliated. Rafael Santana presented such a request to the visiting candidate for next year's presidential elections in the Dominican Republic, Hipolito Mejia of "Partido Revolucionario Dominicana" (PRD), who promised to give it his support.

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Jan Art Celebration

On Wednesday afternoon, August 17th, Jan Art celebrated 20 years of art on Bonaire with the official opening of her bright and beautiful gallery in Kaya Grandi and the unveiling of her latest painting, "The Gates to Bonaire."

For 20 years artist Janice Huckaby has been painting Bonaire, and she says, "I wanted to preserve Bonaire and the way I see it. Every painting has a story, every brush stroke is a word, and the subjects keep coming! Sometimes I am torn between which one I am going to do next!"

I went from my house art gallery to downtown and it's not easy these days or any day, but I wanted the people of Bonaire to have easier access to my art – I want to share it with the local community so they can see what it is I am doing. We are also getting a lot of support from the local artist community as we're selling all kinds of art supplies for professionals and starters. It's going well and I am so lucky to have the #1 salesman – my husband Larry! It's a team effort and I have a great team!"

At the opening party, many local artists, officials, neighbors and friends mingled in the typical easy going Bonairean way and no wonder, because over the years Janice has proven to be a wonderful and caring person, an asset to the island. She's been teaching children and adults and helping people effortlessly whenever she can by sharing her talent and time. As husband Larry mentioned: "She's an inspiration to everyone; full of energy - art energy - she just never stops! I am totally in love with that girl!" ■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Janice, Governor Thodé and Commissioner Tromp cut the ribbon at the fabulous Jan Art Gallery on Kaya Grandi. Larry Baillie announces the play-by play.



Governor Thodé, Janice Huckaby, Larry Baillie and, in the foreground longtime student and friend, artist Olivia Janga

Recognising success

Register now for the 2012 Oranje Apple awards

The Oranje Fonds is on the look-out for successful initiatives that use 'green' to bring together groups of different people. Do you run or know about a project like this? If so, make sure you register for an Appeltje van Oranje 2012 (Oranje Apple Award) by 29 September 2011!

For more information on how to register, visit www.oranjefonds.nl/appeltjes.

Laat Nederland van zijn beste kant zien. Oranje Fonds



The Oranje Fonds is the largest national fund focusing on social issues. Every year, the organisation's patron, Princess Maxima, awards a total of three Oranje Apple Awards. Each award comprises a cash sum of € 15,000 and a bronze statuette.

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On the Island Since... September 13, 2010 Rob Boutmy

"I was involved in a car accident when I was 19 and became paralyzed from the chest down. Ever since I've been in a wheelchair. After one year in rehab I was determined to live on my own in a house that was fully adjusted to my handicap and located within 200 meters of a nurse's station with a 24-hour response system. Before my accident I was a metal worker and of course there was no way I could do such a thing again, but I was determined to do volunteer work.

My mom was planning to buy a bar and billiard center, but she didn't have the papers so I obtained them and we started. We did well and after three years we sold the business. Around that time my father went on early retirement. He was a field manager at IBM, and he founded the Computer Science Center for the Disabled with the support of IBM. The center developed and sold software for the handicapped, and my mom and brother Ron sold the software at

fairs all over the country while I did part of the administration. My father and a business partner also developed a device called 'komfox,' which when attached to a TV, would verbalize the closed captioning for the blind and the partially sighted.

Then, totally unexpectedly, my dad passed away in 2002. After he died, my mom decided to put her house up for sale as it was way too big for her and my brother, Ron. Meanwhile they moved to a neighboring village and Ron started working for a company specializing in wheelchair transport.

The three of us had never been on a vacation, except for a few day trips, so we got the idea of going on one together. In the back of our minds we were playing with the idea of moving to a warmer climate. One of the consequences of a high spinal chord lesion is that I cannot control my body temperature and that's why I always felt cold. When the temperature drops below 20 degrees Celsius my body

tenses up and I can't leave the house. As the weather in Holland is chilly in general I'd spend most of my life indoors. And so, the three of us decided to go to Curacao to see whether there could be any possibilities for our future."

Rob, his mom and his brother are an inseparable team. They are very social, friendly and daring people and together they're undefeatable.

"When you go on vacation, being a paraplegic, you have to make sure the care at your destination has been arranged before you leave. On Curacao we got everything settled with the Yellow Cross. They took care of me in the morning: getting me out of bed, bathing me, dressing me and putting me in the wheelchair. At night, the same nurse, Luki, would come again for the whole procedure in reverse. Luki helped me as long as the vacation lasted, and I talked to her a lot, also about the fact that people ask me frequently, 'Don't you miss being able to walk?' I always tell them that that's no longer an issue for me, but... there are two things in life I miss badly: being able to drive a motorbike and to play the guitar... Well, during my conversations with Luki I mentioned to her I'd always wanted to have a tattoo. She told me her husband, Rodrigo



Rob Boutmy and his symbolic tattoo

"...there are two things in life I miss badly: being able to drive a motorbike and to play the guitar..."

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)

Parrera, could do it. He made a beautiful design: my dad's name, my very first motorbike, a Honda 550 Four Super Sport 1977, and my guitar – locked with a chain and a padlock – forever inaccessible...

It was our very first vacation and it was an unforgettable experience! We discovered we had family on Curacao – also Boutmys – and we loved the place. Mom has her pension, I'm getting a government allowance, but... Ron had his job in Holland and if you make the move you have to make sure that everybody has an income. So, we were thinking that Ron could start up something with wheelchair transport.

Back in Holland I began to sort out everything we needed for a possible emigration to Curacao. In fact, it wasn't so difficult, except for the most important issue: health insurance. Ann, my mom, was too old and I was handicapped. It was quite disillusioning, but we decided it wouldn't defeat us and we moved on, looking for other options. I found out that as long as you stay in Europe in a country which is a member of the European Community it is possible to get a special form from the EU which says that any insurance company in the EU is obliged to take you. It is very basic, but available. And then we started thinking of countries like Spain -

the Canary Islands or Andalusia - but the climate in those regions changes with the seasons and also, to adjust a house to my needs costs a lot of money.

Thinking about all these things we read about the BES islands. I was on the mailing list of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and somewhere in one of those many mails I found a line which said that all residents of the BES islands would be automatically insured after 10-10-10. With this line I approached the Dutch government and asked them if they could tell me more about it." *He laughs.* "Nobody answered! So I mailed the RCN on Bonaire to ask them whether this was true, and... immediately I got an answer from Jan de Jong in which he confirmed that it was true. Jan is no longer working on Bonaire, but boy, he helped us a great deal!

Because of the excellent news we booked a vacation to Bonaire in the spring of 2010 and then... we were sold! We thought Bonaire was even more beautiful than Curacao! We stayed at Tropical Apartments with Roland and Irene and they encouraged us and we became friends.

During the vacation we became more and more convinced this was the place for us. It is such a sweet island, the people are super nice and it's flat and compact and I can go almost anywhere in my wheelchair.

We immediately started looking for a house close to Playa, and through Roland we found this house. My mom had already arranged the power of attorney with the notary's office and one day before we left, at nine o'clock at night, we signed at the broker's.

Mr. de Jong had told us to become a resident before 10-10-10, so we had little time to arrange everything. But I had already done most of the 'homework', as we had been thinking before of moving to Curacao. Just before we'd left on vacation my mom had sold her house, so we had the finances and it all came together smoothly.

While I was still in Holland I became involved with the Mivabo Foundation on Bonaire – a foundation dedicated to making the island more accessible for the handicapped. Currently I am the treasurer of the foundation; it's an excellent cause to dedicate my time to.

A month before we left I had to undergo two operations. After that I was more than ready! On September 13th, 2010, we arrived with our two dogs and we've been here for almost a year now. We fixed the house and modified an apart-



Rob, his mom Ann and his brother Ron in front of the wheelchair bus

ment we have on the property for people with a handicap who want to come on vacation. In the meantime Ron owns two busses for wheelchair transport and the necessary permits and I'm helping him with the promotion and the bookkeeping.

Here, my life is outdoors with the donkeys, the dogs and the (neighbor's) chickens, and many, many new friends. My care comes from Fundashon Mariadal and during the day Mom and Ron are always there for me. We are there for each other through thick and thin. We totally rely on each other.

For many years I hadn't lived with my brother and mother, but here we all have our privacy and freedom because the house is big enough and we're always outside

and I can go to town or see friends whenever I want – a freedom I've missed for over 25 years.

Both Ron and my mom are volunteers for the Red Cross and Ron also picks up the 60+ people in Nort di Salina at Alejandro Saleh's and the people appreciate it. They always bring him something to eat and they're very sweet with him.

Now this is our life and I speak for all of us when I say, 'We will never leave.' *His mom looks at him and says,* "I am so very proud of my boys; we made a Big Move and we succeeded... together!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Open House At The Sailing School



Ruben van Eldik and his friend ready a Hobie cat

On Sunday August 14, the Bonaire Sailing School had an "Open Dag." Islanders were invited to get an impression of what the school does and even sail one of the boats. If you didn't know how to sail, you got a first lesson or just made a small trip.

The school is located in the Regatta House (Kas di Regatta) on the seafront promenade. Sixteen years ago, the Bonaire Sailing School Association was established as the Bonaire Sunfish Sailing Association (BSSA). Then the members were mainly Sunfish sailors and fishing (sail) boats. Today you will find the Optimist sailors in the youth club (8-12 years), followed by a growing number of Sunfish sailors (from 12 to adults). There are even catamaran and Lasers. BSSA is a non-profit association with over 65 members. All activities are run by volunteers. Basic membership is \$170 per year. Members who have their own equipment pay \$90.

For more information contact Ton Nuijten 717-4052

e-mail: lauraenton@hotmail.com The Association website is: www.bonairesailingschool.com ■G.D.

Body Talk

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER FOOD COMBINATIONS

A popular belief amongst dieticians and the public is that it doesn't matter how we combine our foods within a meal, as long as we eat protein, carbohydrates and some fat at each meal. Often a glass (or two?) of a good wine accompanies the meal. And if you really want a well balanced meal, have some fruit after the meal! And to really round off a 'good' meal there is also a cheeseboard! Oh, and do not forget that cup of good coffee and the after dinner mints!

This philosophy is ridiculous and unscientific and we have all suffered with gas, bloating and acid reflux (heartburn), together with that tired feeling after a big meal, as a result.

Whether you believe this or not, YOU or YOUR BODY DO NOT NEED ALL THAT FOOD YOU ARE EATING! We are the only species on earth that eat such a variety of foods, and we are also the only species on earth that have all the diseases, the obesity, the weight problems, cancers, tumors, mental illnesses etc. etc. This list can go on forever!

Whether you are a diabetic or have serious health issues, or just want to lose weight, or cannot get up in the morning, look at your diet! Proper food combining should give you energy, but improper food combining will take all your energy to try and digest that 'bad' meal. Fermentation and putrefaction then becomes the digesters and not digestive enzymes. This causes improper food breakdown and many unwanted chemical changes, all leading to malabsorption, acidoses (excessive acidity of body fluids) and cellular starvation.

How do you know that you have consumed a 'bad' meal - by the bloating and gas you get after eating this meal. Fermentation of sugars in your food create alcohol. This alcohol can stimulate or

decrease your energy levels and cause over-acidity. The liver, pancreas and adrenal tissue suffers the most. For diabetic people, this spells real trouble!

THE FIVE GOLDEN RULES OF FOOD COMBINATIONS

1. The fewer types of foods you combine, the better the digestion of your foods will be.
2. It is not how much you eat, but whether you can digest, absorb, utilize and eliminate what you have eaten.
3. NEVER eat when you are angry or upset, as this causes elevated stomach acids that can neutralize your digestive efforts and create acid.
4. Chew your foods well, as the first stage of digestion takes place in your mouth.
5. Do not drink water with your meal, as this only dilutes or neutralizes your digestive enzymes.
6. Eat fruit ONLY ON AN EMPTY STOMACH! The only time you would have an empty stomach is in the morning when you wake up, before you have your breakfast! If you have the slightest problem with sugar, including diabetes, you should stay away from all fruits and their high concentration of sugars!

Spend at least as much time on your meal preparation as on planning your weekend activities or vacation or social life! You will be well rewarded! ■ Stephanie Bennett

Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in the UK and now researches Bonaire health issues.



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BonQuiz #59
'OUBAAS' NICOLAAS

The word "Oubaas" comes from the Scouting world. The gentleman with the Oubaas nickname was active in the past in the scouting community on Bonaire. He was a school teacher and also a poet. This building was named after him. Groups from other islands also come and spend weekends at this special place. There has been quite a stir regarding the "Oubaas" building. It has been posted up for sale...

Q) What is this gentleman's name? And where is this building located?
Answer on page 18

BonQuiz is written and photographed by *Christie Dovale*

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Island Tours. To arrange a tour, contact her via her website:
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Email: christie-dovale@hotmail.com

Island Healer

Señora Raymunda Martis



A Healer: Señora Raymunda Martis

She receives me in her little green house in Antriol Pariba and sits down on the sofa, tranquil and petite. Her eyes are clear and kind, her hands are soft and her manner is quiet and confident. On the wall there is a plaque that says: “*Jioe cu no tin cariño pa su mama, no tin trankilidad den bida*” – “A child who doesn’t receive love from its mother won’t find peace in its life.”

Señora Raymunda Martis is 71 years old and a famous healer on Bonaire, Aruba and Curacao. She doesn’t speak much, but she’s a good listener with a life-long experience of healing people. “Thirty-nine years ago my father, Chandi Martis, passed the gift on to me,” she explains. “He himself was taught by Mo Pedjan from Rincon, one of the best healers of the previous century. I specialize in curing children who are afraid because they feel the presence of evil spirits. Also, I treat adults who are sad, depressed or confused and see or feel evil spirits, and I treat men with prostate problems and women who suffer from problems of the womb. Through the navel I can feel the umbilical cord and diagnose what the cause of their suffering is.”

Daughter Corine Martis says: “It’s not about voodoo; she prays with you. Only what she’s praying, nobody knows, except her. She works with a pipe and a special tobacco she receives from Santo Domingo and an ointment she makes from nutmeg, garlic, asifeta (*an oleogum-resin obtained from the root of Ferula asafetida -ed.*) and oil. Here we call a person who heals people this way a ‘*humadó*’.

My mother is the only person on Bonaire who knows about these things. She sees about five people per day, each person for 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the severity of the problems. People don’t have to pay, but the tobacco is expensive, so they can make a little contribution if they can afford it. You have to believe in it, but it works. It works with everyone!

Often my mother is invited to fly to Aruba and Curacao to help people. She cures those people so they can go on with their lives. Also people who suffer from many fears and indulge themselves in drugs or alcohol can be cured by my mother. Sometimes people call and ask her if she can do it by phone but, no, that’s not possible.

My mom had five children and they are all healthy and happily married. Only two live on Bonaire with their families: Hilda Pop and Annette Sumter. I and my other siblings all live in Holland, but we come to visit her often. My mother also took her sister’s eight children in when her sister passed away at a young age. She cared for them as much as she cared for us and she raised all of us well. Now she is still taking care of two of her brothers who live next door.

My mother is a very wise person. Everything that’s been discussed between you and her stays with her and that’s why people trust her. You never hear anything from her. It’s between her, the person who comes to see her and the spirits. She feels she has to do it and she’s done it for 39 years.

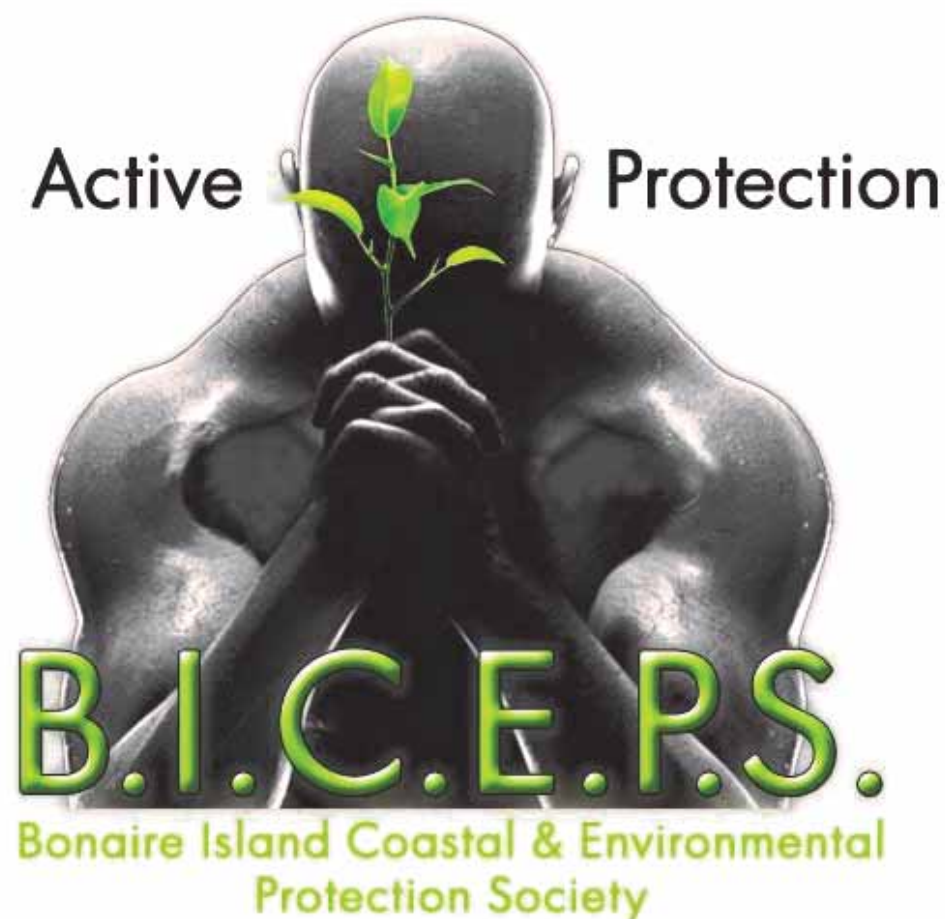
In 1997 she was honored by SKAL for her cultural value, and last year in September she was honored by the government with a plaque, thanking her for her valuable work for the Bonairean community.

Everyone can visit my mom, no matter what nationality or language. She’ll know what it is you need. Why don’t you try it, so you can experience it yourself?”

I agree and follow Señora Martis to the little house in her yard. Outside it’s extremely hot and inside it’s almost unbearable. I sit down, we talk a little bit and I look in those clear omniscient eyes. Then she stands up and lights her pipe. She stands behind me and puts a soft, gentle hand on my forehead, then at the back of my neck and my chest. I hear her puffing in a rhythmic way. Smoke fills the little house, I start sweating profusely and peace comes over me...

One can visit Raymunda Martis at Kaya Charles Beukenboom #5. Her phone number is 526-0520. ■ *Greta Kooistra*

With thanks to Corine Martis and Annette Sumter for the translation.



There’s a new NGO muscling into town calling itself BICEPS and it aims to protect Bonaire from environmental abuse.

What is BICEPS? It’s the **Bonaire Island Coastal and Environmental Preservation Society**, an environmental NGO (non-governmental organization).

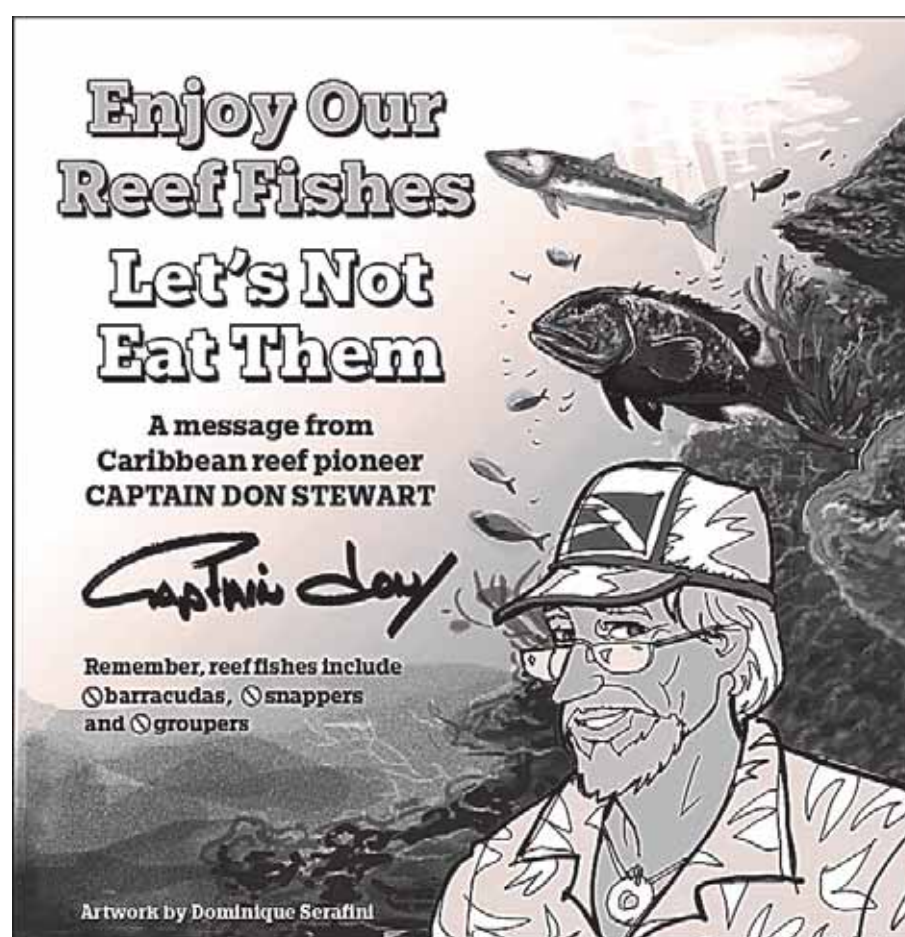
What is its role? Most NGOs on Bonaire have a specific focus, e.g. sea turtles, but BICEPS is different. BICEPS deliberately does not focus on a single problem but rather has the capacity to deal with any issue relating to our environment. In other words it’s a watchdog that can react as and when needed and is highly flexible in that response. And it does so by drawing on a pool of expertise from all areas of the environment.

Why do we need it? With the rapidly increasing number of threats to both out ma-

rine and terrestrial environments we need a body with diverse expertise and access to even more, to be able to respond to those threats. That’s BICEPS.

How can you get involved? It’s already registered and the official launch will be very soon. There will be a membership fee, but it will be minimal to make BICEPS open to everyone. So if you want to protect Bonaire get ready to join the society dedicated to protecting your tropical island paradise. Website - <http://www.bicepsbonaire.org/>. ■ *Bruce Davidson*

Bruce Davidson has been a Bonaire resident for several years. He is an avid conservationist and former Director of South Africa’s largest environmental NGO - the Wildlife Society, or WESSA. He represented that country at three IUCN meetings and a CITES meeting.



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

► Nos Television reported there was a **15% increase in house sales in Holland during July following the government's decision to cut the tax** which can save home buyers thousands of Euros. A 10% rise in house sales is anticipated for the third quarter. **Now that same reduction would help the Bonaire market, wouldn't you think?**

► **Chinese children in Dutch schools are doing so well that they are getting better grades than Dutch children.** Two thirds of Chinese pupils go on to the two highest levels of secondary education, whereas only half of Dutch pupils do. Chinese students in Bonaire's SGB high school are also good performers, but there are no statistics available.

► **The obsession of some local SCUBA divers for eliminating lionfish is having a backlash with dive tourists.** "I come to Bonaire because of its reputation as an pristine eco-zone that protects its flora and fauna. But when my dive guide doesn't show me seahorses but spends his time spearing small fish, I am unhappy," said one visitor.

► **The two-week, almost rainless, windless period was broken this past weekend when scattered thundershowers broke over Bonaire.** The weather was due to Hurricane Irene passing north of the island. The Hurricane went on to batter the eastern coast of the US.

► **Sand Dollar developer Sylvia Weissberg passed away this past week.** Sylvia lived part-time in her condo at Sand Dollar for many years and was a familiar sight to visitors and residents. The Sand Dollar Condominium set a standard for the island and has served as the island home for many part-time residents. Condolences may be sent to her son, Gary Weissburg at E-mail Address: gary127@aol.com

► **In less than two months KLM's Bonaire-Ecuador flight will be a thing of the past.** Those interested in experiencing a contrast to Bonaire's late summer dryness and heat can spend time in the Andes at most reasonable rates. Check with local travel agents or www.KLM.com.

► Erik van Veenendaal reports that the **Bonaire Table Tennis Association**

(BTTB) received the news that officially Bonaire has been accepted as a member of the Caribbean Regional Table Tennis Federation (CRTTF).

The BTTB has been extremely active over the past year and now sees a sharp rise in its membership. This fall there will be several tournaments on the island. More information is available at www.bttb.nu or phone 701- 5551

► **Laura Dekker**, the Dutch youngster attempting to be the youngest solo-sailor to circumnavigate the world, has, via her manager, Australian Lyall Mercer, accused New Zealand of failing to support her effort. The 15-year-old Dutch girl was born on her parents' yacht when it was docked in Whangarei, making her a New Zealand citizen.

At the end of this month, Laura is due to arrive in Australia for a two-week break.

► **If you have interest in a Papiamentu class for Dutch speakers** call Rinus or Trudy at 700-0818 or 785-0258. They are trying to set up a 10-session course at the Tera Cora ranch.

► **As of August 31, "Stiff Guy Yoga" (for men only) practice will start at the new yoga space, "Outback Yoga,"** at Bon Bida Spa. The entrance will be on the left side of Bon Bida. Contact info@aplaceforyoubonaire.com for more details. Also see schedule on page 12.

► **Bon Bida Spa & Gym has new exercise programs** for its members. They invite you to join their outdoor walks and mountain bike rides every first Tuesday and Thursday of the month. The start and finish will be at BBSG and the schedule will be as follows:

1. **Walk every first Tuesday of the month at 6:30am**
2. **Mountain Bike every first Thursday of the month at 5pm**
3. **Starting in September, Tai Chi and Qigong by Ron Sewell.**

Mountain bike rides have been planned for beginners and intermediate riders. Participants have to bring their own equipment (bicycle, water bottle and helmet) and the helmet is mandatory.

All these activities will be available only for Bon Bida Spa & Gym members. If you would like to become a member please visit Bon Bida Spa & Gym. Open Monday-Thursday 6 am-9 pm, non stop; Friday 6 am -7 pm, non stop; and Saturday-Sunday 8am—1 pm. ■ G./L.D.

► **Important Social Security Information For Recipients Living on Bonaire.**

Are you or will you be collecting US Social Security Benefits? You will be required to use direct deposit by 2013. For those who still have US accounts it will be pretty simple. There is also a way that your deposit can be sent directly to your local bank. But if you don't have a US Bank or prefer not to have your deposit sent to your local bank, there's a Debit Card Master that can be issued with the cooperation of the US government and you do not need a Bank Account in to be able to access your funds. Take a look at <http://www.usdirectexpress.com/edcfdclient/dcs/faq.html> for complete details. You can register on line or via SKYPE using their toll-free numbers.

If anyone needs help or has any questions feel free to pass by Chat n' Browse and Mike Gaynor can help to register you. It can solve a lot of delays, lost checks and unnecessary bank fees.



► **Students and teachers of the higher education track classes of the SGB high school moved into the new \$6 million building on Kaya Amsterdam for the new school year.** Commissioner Mirelva Cicilia, Education Section Head Fleur Lagcher of the RCN and SGB Supervisory Board Chairman Frans Lauxen addressed the students before they entered the building.

The school is a modern complex consisting of two blocks of two stories each, connected with a footbridge. A canopy between the two buildings provides shade. The furniture consists of new chairs, tables, cupboards, computers and digital blackboards. The instruction rooms for the sciences are equipped with appropriate materials. The building also has an informatics classroom, a room for artistic subjects and a study hall, sports-games and gymnastic equipment. There is a faculty room for the teachers and support staff. A modern system keeps the classrooms cool and the temperature can be set per classroom. The solar panels on the roof help generate electricity for the cooling system.

We asked a VWO student what she thought of the new school. She thought it was quite nice and had good facilities. She said the inside was just about complete but that exterior work was still underway.

The Reporter Needs Our Readers' Help!

Bonaire is going through tough economic times for lots of reasons. The island businesses are suffering and *The Reporter* is not immune. Dwindling advertising, the world economic problems, rising taxes on business and the loss of purchasing power with the advent of the US dollar currency are fundamental. We vow to keep *The Reporter* "Still Free." You can help. Encourage the shops and restaurants you visit to advertise. They'll get a payoff in more business.

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Sandra Johnson, The New Manager of Kas di Arte

“I am from Saba and we come from pirates and Puritans – that’s us! We are a very strong and extremely proud people and we work very hard. The spiritual foundation and the foundation of perseverance comes from my ancestors and I am happy for that. To me, it’s never about money; it’s about justice and righteousness and fighting for the underdog. I think in that sense you leave a legacy behind that money can’t buy.

On Saba I was the director of the Harry L. Johnson Museum. I had meetings with the people from the Tropen Museum (Museum for the Tropics) in Amsterdam who came to help us. I wrote a report and they welcomed it and it was mentioned in the BES Islands Museums report that they wrote. I also met with the Prince Bernard Cultural Foundation and with the Mondrian Foundation and we discussed how best to improve our museums. I’d also give historical tours and walk the people through the times from the Arawak to the current situation after 10-10-10.

And I would talk about how I thought the islands and their people had changed over the years with progress from the time I was born. My tourists were fun and I had some very good feedback.

I am one of those home-grown artists; an artist who became an artist out of circumstance. I lost my daughter in 1998

when she was 18 years old, and in a heart-beat your life is forever changed. Nobody is prepared for that – ever... A friend introduced me to art and I started to paint and I never stopped. It gave me a sense of quietness in my head. And as the years progressed I started writing poetry and hopefully soon my book will be out with my art and poetry.

I moved here permanently in May. It was risky but I have no regrets because Bonaire is so beautiful and the people are very friendly. One day I woke up and I said, ‘Today is the day I go and get a job,’ and one and a half hours later I met Jacky Bernabela at her office and she said, ‘I have the perfect position for you. I need somebody at Kas di Arte – finally I have the funds...’ And I got the job as the administrator and man-



Sandra Johnson

ager of Kas di Arte – an artistic and cultural formation center. And, to that degree, it’s going to be challenging and I’m going to rise to the challenge.

Kas di Arte is a historical building. In the past it was a slave hospital – so it has significance for the island itself. It sat

Power

We have it... hold it... use it... abuse it
Channel it... desire it... and misunderstand it
We are charmed by it... freed by it... or enslaved by it
We are told, you have the power, she has it, he has it or they have it
Elusive in its own right... it’s sometimes... black as night
So what do we as people, do with the power within us?
First of all recognize, own it, and make it your mantra
Not to use it for ill, but for the good of things you want and need
To be still and listen to that power, to ride it like a wave, and enjoy it to the fullest
Power is a word used often in this world, but seldom understood
Because really, power in the end is just a word
Used to convey a feeling that moves you or others
In a negative or positive way
So who holds the power
We all do, on a small scale or a greater scale
We all embody some form of power

Poem written by Sandra Johnson, August 2011

Eventually we would like to add an outdoor theatre. We need to acknowledge our history and culture and the art that comes from it and people should be able to express themselves in an artistic way. Artists have a true gift and people who are gifted need to share that with the world. I truly believe that.

We’d like to invite all artists to come

Special Security Services

28 Years- Old ... more than 600 clients

A Bonaire Reporter Business Profile

Benito Dirksz:

“The idea was born when my late brother Franklin got an offer from the salt company to work for them



as a guard as the company’s workers were on strike and they needed security because they were afraid of sabotage. I’d been in the military service on Curacao and Aruba and after that I was working for a security company on Curacao. I’ve always had a passion for the uniformed services. So, Franklin called me and I joined him at the salt company. Then we saw an opportunity for the future; we founded our company, Special Security Services, on August 16th, 1983. It all started out at home. People thought I was nuts because at that time there was no crime whatsoever on Bonaire. Everybody slept with their windows open, the doors unlocked and the keys in the ignition of the car...

First we were mostly hired as body guards during festivals and events and games at the stadium. It went slowly. We worked at Henderson (now Cultimara) looking out for shop lifters. Then we worked at the marina, checking the yachts and patrolling. Our first big assignment was at WEB NV, patrolling the property where the plant sits at night. From then on we started growing. In the meantime I took professional training in Florida and Portland, Oregon, and became a specialist in security.

Now we are an all-round company. In the early 90s we started to do money transports, and currently we have three armored vehicles to transport money and valuable goods. We have three patrol cars and two cars working in the technical department and we have more than 100 people working for us.

We serve the government, private people and businesses, all in all, more than 600 clients. We also give advice and do upgrading and we sell automatic gate closers, intercom systems, video- and camera systems, water- and fire proof safes, entrance control systems, burglary- and fire alarm systems and we have a 24-hour response system. Besides that, we – the staff and technical department – go twice a year to the US for upgrading in all new technologies, and I am following a higher professional education on Curacao to become a legal assistant.

In 2000 we became very busy. When a place grows economically, crime makes its entry; it’s almost unavoidable. Most crimes are drug-related or it’s the need for quick money, because there are always people who don’t feel like working...



Benito Dirksz

Well, I entered politics in 2006, and now I’m a member of the Island Council and I’m trying to give everything I have for the island. The combination of both jobs can be stressful and so far I can handle it, but I realize that eventually I will have to make a choice. Since 2003 I’ve been the chairman of the board of FKPD (Foundation for the Handicapped People) and I think they’re doing a wonderful job and then there’s ‘E Teras’, the bar I own in Nikiboko, a fun place where I can relax. And last, but certainly not least, there’s the family. My eldest son is 27, my youngest child is one year old. I have 10 children, all of whom I love dearly, and my wife, Marisol, who is a wonderful lady and a great support in everything I do.

I am a self-made man and a no-nonsense person. I am direct and strict, but people who know me know they can count on me. One of my biggest wishes is to see a container terminal on Bonaire. At the moment we’re looking for the best location and I think we could become the hub between South America and Europe in air and sea traffic.

At this moment I feel the situation on Bonaire is far from clear and quite critical. People can’t make it anymore, and the banks, the supermarkets and even the Chinese snacks feel it. After 10-10-10 RCN not only took over the responsibilities of the Central Government, but also the debts that people owed the Central Government, and now they are letting the people pay for it. People have not been prepared for this and they can’t manage anymore. It’s unacceptable and it’s the main reason why I went into politics. I feel Bonaire needs a well-designed master plan, and from then on we will know what we’re heading for. Then we can work hard and make things happen. For me personally there are two rules: If I do something, I go all the way and give 100% of myself, and... One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself.” ■ Photo & story by Greta Kooistra

and join us. They need to open their hearts to the public!

I am overly optimistic and I believe in the impossible and I am a visionary but... I’m also a realist. You have to reach for the stars, but keep yourself grounded,

especially here in the Caribbean where sources are limited. However, it can be done. With the right amount of work and energy you can accomplish things on these islands.” ■ Photo & story by Greta Kooistra

Cover Story *Regarding The Injustices Against Screechy Little Parrots*



Snobbery towards Prikichis, the Lora's smaller cousin, is nearly almost never heard from any of the Echo team. Truth be known many even said how delightful it is to find oneself in the Jong Bonaire classroom with nearly 100 rescued prikichis all screaming for dinner at the top of their screechy little voices. Some have marvelled at how with their little beaks they can deliver quite a nasty nip to a fumbling hand. Others have noted how quickly they can suddenly fly when it's time to clean their grubby little faces.

Now the little darlings are growing up, many are feeding themselves and goodness, can they eat! A group of piranhas can apparently strip a cow carcass in a matter of minutes. That is nothing compared to the rate at which a flock of prikichis consume food. It seems that no sooner have the dozen dinner-plate-sized bowls of seed, wild food and freshly chopped fruit been deposited then is it time to scrub and refill them.

Given the joys of looking after what seems like 1,684,231 Prikichis that need endless care and attention, it came as quite a shock to the Echo team when we realised that not one had been given a name. As soon as this injustice came to our attention we dealt with it, although of course we don't normally dabble in these matters.

Sid is the smallest of all the Loras and so it seems fitting that the smallest of the Prikichis should be named. The Prikichi that is found on Bonaire cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Yes, indeed, there is a Prikichi on Curacao and another on Aruba, but they too are unique to those islands. A Bonairean Prikichi needed a Bonairean name and so the smallest of the rescue flock became known as "Chi Chi."

Identifying the smallest of 100 small parrots is helped rather considerably by the fact that a pink mark can be found on this screechy little bird's head. This was put there to ensure she received sufficient food once she joined the other fledglings in the aviary. The pink mark, however, is rather unnecessary given that Chi Chi is an adorably pathetic Prikichi. At the first glimpse of a human Chi Chi puffs up her feathers to look desperate and makes whimpering noises in an attempt for at-

ention and food.

Chi Chi's baby display is, however, fraudulent and she has been seen not only feeding herself but also stealing the food from others. Parrot babies may seem cute, Dear Reader, but in reality they are devious little devils.

For the Echo team the next few weeks will be a balancing act of feeding the chicks just enough so that they are content to forage but not quite so much that they don't need to forage. Let it be said that weaning baby parrots is a tricky business. ■ *Story & photos by Sam Williams*

Conservationist Sam Williams has been involved with Bonaire's Loras for over seven years. Find out more www.echobonaire.org



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1001 Papiamentu Proverbs



Bart Landheer and Jacqueline Bremmers with Governor Glenn Thodé and Geneviere Pinedo

Proverb number 7 in the new book, *1001 Proverbio na Papiamentu*, is "A thousand friends is nothing, one friend is a lot." The team that produced the book that contains the wisdom of the ABC islands is indeed a true friend to the amazingly regular and logical language of Papiamentu that is spoken by about 200,000 people in the Caribbean.



Available at Addo's Books and Toys and on-line: <http://1001proverbio.org/>

Last Saturday Bonaire's Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé received the first copy of the book that contains over a thousand proverbs in the language with literal translations in English and Dutch for each of the proverbs.

Jacqueline Bremmers and Bart Landheer, founders of *Fundashon Bon Kousa*, came up with the idea when they were looking for a theme for the new Jong Bonaire Calendar. A neighbor lent them a book with 1,000 Papiamentu proverbs gathered by the late Father Brenneker from Curacao, and it was so interesting and such great fun they thought it would be worthwhile to publish a whole new edition. Because, as they say, "It's not only about the language, it's a cultural treasure as well."

So they contacted Geraldine Dammers of *Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu* and two months later it all came together. Jacqueline and Bart provided the illustrations and the design and the proverbs were gathered by members of the *Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu*, teachers and students of the SGB high school, teachers and the kids of Jong Bonaire, as well as several (grand) parents and volunteers who assisted with translations, corrections and the production. As children and adults were involved in composing the book it has been an achievement of people of all ages and this is exactly what keeps a culture alive. ■ *Story & photo by Greta Kooistra/ G.D.*

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The Sailors Who Never Left

Part 6 - Sean Paton

After an intrepid life at sea, an Englishman delivers Our Confidence to Bonaire

If destiny is a matter of time and place, Sean Paton had both in alignment four decades ago. The time was the early 1980s and the place—Gibraltar, a British territory on the extreme end of the Spain's Iberian Peninsula. Paton had done extensive engine work for new owners of a 45-year old, wooden fishing trawler, but the couple soon realized they had made a mistake. "The people who bought the boat didn't know what they were getting into," explains Paton. "They soon wanted to get rid of it. They owed me enough money for the engine work and paid off all the debts. I ended up with the boat."

First called *Confidence*, Paton re-registered the boat at the insistence of Gibraltar's Board of Transport. Apparently, an existing vessel had already taken that name. "So they gave me a list of things that we could choose and *Our Confidence* was at the top of the list. I thought that sounded good."

She was a stout, 60-foot long, 80-ton Danish-built workhorse commissioned in 1939. By the time

Paton took ownership, the boat had a two-stroke, two-cylinder semi diesel. That powered a 7-foot, 2-bladed propeller at a maximum 350 rpm. Translation? Slow, low torque and extremely powerful.

During World War II, the trawler fled Denmark with a load of German refugees bound for England. "But she wasn't flagged and had no lights," tells Sean. "As she got to the English coast, Spitfires were sent out and she was shot up." The boat was towed to the Isle of Man where the refugees spent the rest of the war in a civilian internment camp. Strangely enough, Sean's father was a member of that same Spitfire airplane squadron that had intercepted the boat.

Our Confidence was a good match for Paton. He had a dream to run a cargo boat in the Caribbean, and after nearly a decade in Gibraltar, new horizons beckoned. Sean and three crewmembers soon took off for Barbados, but during the trans-Atlantic passage, tragedy struck. "We hit a semi-submerged container floating in the middle of the ocean," recalls Sean. "It hit us on the corner. The container went down and then hit us again on the skeg. We tried to sink it (the container) without success and then pushed on."



Sean Paton in the 1980s and today (right)



The Our Confidence at anchor in St. Maarten in the 1990s

(Continued on page 13)

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

| Day | High | Low | High | Low | High | Sunrise | Sunset |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| SEPT Fri 02 | 04:48 0.38 ft | 10:35 0.04 ft | 16:54 1.03 ft | | | 6:25 | 18:45 |
| Sat 03 | | 00:58 -0.14 ft | 05:51 0.35 ft | 11:23 0.03 ft | 17:45 1.10 ft | 6:25 | 18:44 |
| Sun 04 | First Quarter | 01:54 -0.18 ft | 06:49 0.34 ft | 12:13 0.03 ft | 18:35 1.13 ft | 6:25 | 18:44 |
| Mon 05 | | 02:45 -0.20 ft | 07:42 0.33 ft | 13:02 0.04 ft | 19:25 1.13 ft | 6:25 | 18:43 |
| Tue 06 | | 03:36 -0.18 ft | 08:32 0.33 ft | 13:52 0.05 ft | 20:15 1.08 ft | 6:25 | 18:42 |
| Wed 07 | | 04:25 -0.14 ft | 09:23 0.34 ft | 14:42 0.09 ft | 21:04 1.00 ft | 6:25 | 18:42 |
| Thu 08 | | 05:13 -0.08 ft | 10:14 0.36 ft | 15:36 0.13 ft | 21:53 0.90 ft | 6:25 | 18:41 |
| Fri 09 | | 05:59 -0.02 ft | 11:08 0.38 ft | 16:36 0.18 ft | 22:44 0.78 ft | 6:25 | 18:40 |
| Sat 10 | | 06:42 0.05 ft | 12:02 0.42 ft | 17:47 0.22 ft | 23:38 0.65 ft | 6:25 | 18:40 |
| Sun 11 | | 07:23 0.12 ft | 12:56 0.47 ft | 19:14 0.24 ft | | 6:25 | 18:39 |
| Mon 12 | 00:42 0.54 ft | 07:59 0.18 ft | 13:45 0.53 ft | 20:50 0.23 ft | Full Moon | 6:25 | 18:38 |
| Tue 13 | 01:58 0.45 ft | 08:31 0.23 ft | 14:28 0.59 ft | 22:14 0.18 ft | | 6:25 | 18:38 |
| Wed 14 | 03:21 0.40 ft | 08:58 0.26 ft | 15:06 0.65 ft | 23:18 0.12 ft | | 6:25 | 18:37 |
| Thu 15 | 04:36 0.36 ft | 09:22 0.28 ft | 15:41 0.71 ft | | | 6:25 | 18:36 |
| Fri 16 | | 00:06 0.07 ft | 05:34 0.34 ft | 09:47 0.29 ft | 16:15 0.77 ft | 6:25 | 18:36 |

YOGA Classes

Don & Desiree have announced their Yoga Class Schedule at Bon Bida Spa.

Monday @ 7:45 am Open/ all level
Tuesday @ 6:00 pm Intermediate Power Vinyasa
Wednesday @ 7:30 am Open/ all level - Stiff Guy Yoga (men)
Wednesday @ 12:15 pm Open/ all level Power Vinyasa
Thursday @ 6:00 pm Open/ all level
Friday @ 8:00 am Open/ all level
Saturday @ 8:00 am Open/ all level Power Vinyasa



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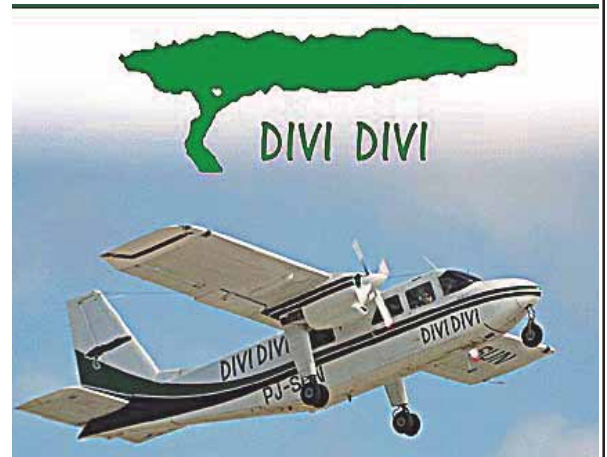
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Bonaire Real Estate Reflections

TOTO, WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE

A good friend of mine called about Bonaire being a buyer's market and said, "If it is a buyer's market how come I do not see price reduction ads or signs?"

We are like Dorothy and Toto in the Wizard of Oz. If you have never seen this 1939 all-time classic movie, Dorothy and her faithful pet Toto are swept up by a tornado and land in the magical Land of Oz. Dorothy looks around and declaims, "Toto we're not in Kansas anymore." Dorothy and Toto soon find out that everything in Oz is very different from Kansas.

Real estate in Bonaire at times is very different from real estate in Kansas. In Kansas America and many places if a seller wants to sell but fails to sell, the seller lowers the price until he or she finds "fair market value."

When the buyer feels a property has the highest value for the asking price an offer can be made, a contract negotiated and a sale ensues.

Not everyone in Kansas America or similar societies does lower the price until a sale takes place. In seller's markets, on average 40-50% of the properties will not sell. In buyer's markets as many as 60-70% of the properties will not sell.

The system in Holland and throughout most of Europe is very different. A seller sets a price and most of the time makes no official change in the price no matter how long it may take for the property to sell. In most cases, if the market is a buyer's market, the property will not sell for years and years.

Bonaire as part of Holland follows the Dutch-European system. This is not a matter of right or wrong, it just is a different approach.

The situation is reinforced by the fact that many of the homes on Bonaire are 2nd or 3rd homes of financially very well off people. As my father taught me, the rich are rich because they always have money. Having lived and sold homes in Vail, Colorado, and Bonaire, I assure you that rich people do not feel the same "need" to sell that so many others are experiencing right now.

In any market in any country many people never openly lower the asking price. What does happen all the time is that these people directly or through their agent and friends will signal that they would entertain all offers or they are anxious to sell. There are many different selling signal terms and phrases but they all translate to the same mes-



sage: make offers.

Asking prices are only asking prices. In Kansas the lower you make your asking price the more you are signaling a desire to sell. That is a style of "fishing" for business that works in Kansas. The Dutch system works also.

Bonaire's economy and real estate are slow. The changes anticipated with 10-10-10 have not materialized as anticipated. The world's economy is very fragile.

Last week Holland reported a drop in housing prices and its inventory of homes for sale is growing. Unemployment is high and average wages are dropping. The situation is the same in Europe and America. Under these circumstances the actual sales prices of homes everywhere decrease.

Because Bonaire does not have a sales reporting system similar to multiple listing system there are no public or semi public records to document the ratios of asking prices to actual sales prices or how many months or years the property was on the market.

Sellers from "Kansas" call and say, lower the price increase the value. Sellers from Europe call and say encourage offers. When buyers make reasonable offers they will buy and that is why Bonaire is a buyer's market exactly like the rest of the world. Asking prices are just asking prices, nothing more, and in this market usually a lot "less." ■ Anna & Art Kleimer

The Kleimers are founding partners of Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. In 1993 they were "America's Outstanding Realtors." Email: Bonaireislandrealestate.com



(SWNL Continued from page 11)

After arriving in Barbados, Paton's first job was to haul a barge with an enormous crane to Saint Lucia. This was an ideal task for *Our Confidence's* low-rev, macho diesel. But it was during that job when Paton noticed part of the boat's keel floating to the surface. The sea container encountered in the Atlantic had done its damage. Sean headed for the Grenadian island of Carriacou for repair.

"We found that most of the sacrificial keel was gone," says Paton. "We had to replace it. I got a piece of purple-heart (extremely hard jungle wood) from the Orinoco River in South America. Four Carriacou shipwrights chopped it all down to size with adzes. We had no grinders or Saws-alls. The process took two weeks. We also built a new rudder and when it was finished, that alone weighed two and a half tons."

For a dozen years, *Our Confidence* worked the eastern Caribbean hauling bananas from St. Vincent, imperial mangos from Dominica, and rum from Trinidad. By this time, Paton was based in Sint Maarten's Simpson Bay Lagoon, living the hand-to-mouth life of an independent cargo ship captain. "We figured we had a big boat with a big hold and we would be able to trade. I thought we would be king pins," says Sean with a smile. "But we soon found out that the Caribbean has a lot of cargo boats. You survive on a hop, a skip and a bounce. You learn to get through it."

But getting through hurricane season was a different kind of challenge for this transplanted Englishman. In early September 1995, Hurricane Luis was churning toward Sint Maarten. This bad boy was an enormous, classic Cape Verde-type hurricane—large, long-lived and Category Four. No one had seen anything this big since Hugo.

"*Our Confidence* left just before Luis hit. I had a crewmember, Freddie, who was freaked out by hurricanes. Plus, we had to go to Trinidad for a cargo of rum. We were going to have our own label, *Our Confidence* Light Magic White Rum. It was a strange passage—no wind, eerie, and long swells. We were so incredibly lucky that we left."

By the time Paton made landfall in Trinidad, Hurricane Luis hit Sint Maarten with full fury and spawned several F3 tornadoes. Seventy percent of the island had extensive damage. Of the 1,500 boats sheltered in Simpson Bay Lagoon, nearly 1,300, or 85%, were sunken or run aground. Dozens of sea containers were tossed into the harbor. 7,000 people were left homeless. Paton learned about the destruction and was approached to take relief aid to Sint Maarten. Sean gave up the rum cargo idea and took the supplies for no charge instead.

"It was an amazing turnout by the people of Trinidad. We filled my hold—36 tons of stuff went in there. Generators, fiberglass, nails, wood, tarps, medical supplies—everything that you would need to rebuild. It was a big commitment for the crew. It wasn't bravery. It was stupidity!" laughs Sean.

After a subsequent hurricane, Paton took off again for Trinidad thinking there might be a market for landscape plants after the storm. He returned with trees—mango, lemon, orange, and palm. How-

ever, the nursery Paton planned to sell to had gone out of business due to repeated cyclones. He finally bumped into the former owner working as a bartender. Her name was Marjolijn van Dam. She helped the captain sell his cargo and is still with him to this day.

More major hurricanes followed—Jose, Georges and Lenny. Paton's health was deteriorating and the cargo business was slow. He resorted to hauling boatloads of explosives for cruise ship fireworks displays. It was a dangerous way to make a living.

Finally by 1999, Sean had enough of it. About this time, Paton's friend, Jaap Ensing, hired him to transport his household goods to Bonaire. Ensing had plans to start an aloe plantation and a new life. His endeavor later became Onima, the aloe vera products company.

"Once we were unloaded, I could breathe again," recalls Sean on his first trip to Bonaire. "I looked over the side of *Our Confidence*. All I could see were fish. It was hard to see the blue! That first walk through the town—everything was so still, so quiet, so friendly. And the sea was just so alive."

Soon, Paton returned to Bonaire to live permanently. He docked *Our Confidence* at the Harbour Village Marina and worked at Ensing's aloe plantation for a bit. Then in 2003, Sean and Marjolijn van Dam became managers of the Caribbean Club at Hilltop. Bonaire was the first place in decades where the captain lived ashore.

"I sold *Our Confidence* to Lele Davidson (now owner of El Navegante boat yard) for a dollar. By this time, her engine was frozen in forward gear. Lele went on holiday for three months and didn't leave anyone to pump her out. She sunk on her lines. The boat was refloated and the official story was that the marina was going to take it to Curacao. *Our Confidence* ended up sinking just outside of the marina's entrance. I was pretty sad. The first five years were the hardest because she was still intact. But the boat's gone. It doesn't hurt anymore and that's the way I like it."

Paton left the Caribbean Club after a couple of years. He now works for Mega FM and is an environmental activist on Bonaire. "There is something about this place," says Sean. "A spirituality, a connection—call it what you will. Whatever it is, it is what keeps me here."

While Bonaire is undoubtedly Sean's home, he is still lured to the sea. Every now and then he leaves with friends on *Synergy*, a 58-foot sailing racer. "Getting back to the sea is fantastic. Our last day out crossing the Atlantic, we were followed by schools of fish and dolphins. That was just amazing making that connection to nature again. It reaffirms why I fight for the environment." ■

Patrick Holian

Patrick Holian is a writer and film journalist living on Bonaire.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Ongoing Exhibit at Kas di Arte—with different artists. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 9am-noon, 1-6pm, on the sea boulevard.

Friday, Sept. 2—Bonaire Day, Island holiday. Held at the North Salina Community Center. All Day: music, dancing, drums, food, drink, more. **Motor-bikers weekend begins.**

Saturday, Sept. 3—**Big Rincon Marché,** 8 am to 2 pm. Local foods, drinks, crafts, plants, more. Friendliest people on the island.

-Monthly Flea Market at We Dare to Care Playground, 2—6 pm. Rent a table for \$10. Info. Marissa Jansen (701-1103) or Kim de Raadt (787-1475)

-Mr. Bonaire & Miss Body Figure 2011—Revenge of the Champions, Battle of the Beginners, at the SGB high school, 8 pm-midnight. Entrance \$12.50

Tuesday, Sept. 6—(Every 1st Tuesday of the month) - Kami-nata Group Walk, 6:30 am, with instructor Miguel. Free for Bon Bida members. Call 717-7224

Art Exhibit at Plaza Resort all September, by local artist Monique Reekers. Visit www.boniarerhuur.com

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **We Dare to Care Park children's playground** open every day in the cooler afternoon-evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Rincon Marshé**—8am-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.
- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale"** every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Lots of free parking. Tel. 717-4989

- **Monthly flea market at "We Dare To Care" Playground, 1st Saturday of the month,** 2– 6 pm. Rent a table for \$10. Information: Marissa Jansen (Tel: 701-1103) or Kim de Raadt (Tel: 787-1475)
- **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 per person. Tel. 560-7539.
- **Soldachi Tours—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time.** Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeke for more information—796-7870.

Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon,** the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20- Call Maria, 717-6435-[bestislandtour.com](http://www.bestislandtour.com)
- **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**— Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book [Reef Windows](http://www.ReefWindows.com).

Thursdays

- **Bonaire Chess & Draughts (checkers) players get together** on from 19.00 till 21.00 at the SGB-school: Kaya Frater Odulfinuz z/n

Fridays

- **Jong Bonaire Chess & Draughts players** get together from 17.00 till 19.00 at the SGB-school. Kids can start at age six. Tourists are welcome. Contact Serapio Pop, at 701-9660

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 -- Touch the Sea -- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on critters and corals, plus an updated Bonaire lionfish report, every Monday **when she's on-island** at 8:30 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habitat, Call 717-8290.

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, **every 2nd and 4th Wednesday** in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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: 790-7001 and 796-4931

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.

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, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 701-1100.

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, 10am.
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 Corona) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Por'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 Antrio,* Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

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

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

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

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

Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 p.m. Preaching in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$75; By mail to Europe \$170. By Internet, Free (asking a \$35 donation.) For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising in The Bonaire Reporter,** PO Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean; phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

Bubbles From the Biologist

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. In-store financing too.



BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

BAKERY & CAFÉ

Exito offers fresh homemade breads and pastries, fruit shakes including fresh orange juice maker on the island, freshly made sandwiches, an expanded salad bar and other take-out items—at affordable prices.

CARS AND BIKES

De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

DINING

Pasa Bon Pizza is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Nice bar too. Very cool jazz music! **780-1111** Call ahead to eat-in or take out.

ON & IN THE WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if its not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems.

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training.

UNDERWATER VIDEO

ScubaVision - Pro video of your Bonaire vacation, above and/or below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria, behind TIS.

Captain Don's Plants, Trees and More sells genuine acclimated Bonaire plants. Take a 30-minute tour too. Strong plants for strong Bonaire gardens.

HOME CARE

Bonaire Second Home Care can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's creative video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. ScubaVision, Kaya Grandi 6, see website scubavision.info or YouTube

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. Brings personal attention, experience and integrity to property transactions. In 1993 they were "America's Outstanding Realtors."

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.



RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

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.



SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**



SPAS/GYM

Bon Bida Spa & Gym World Class fitness and health facility—Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Day, monthly or annual rates.



SUPERMARKETS

Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—Biggest air conditioned market with a friendly staff, the largest selection and lowest prices on the island.



More for Less

Bonaire's "boutique" supermarket with a wide selection, specializing in organic fruits and vegetables, unique products and fresh flowers. On the Nikiboko Road North

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with built-in ramp

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-1 pm.

Fortnightly Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in this guide. Free!
To place an ad call 786-6125, 786-6518 or email laura@bonairenews.com



Did You Know...

Male cleaner wrasses punish their mates for cheating? Cleaner wrasses obtain a majority of their nutrients from parasites and detritus build-up that they clean off their large clients. Occasionally, a female cleaner wrasse may cheat, taking a bite of healthy flesh from a client during the cleaning process. As a result, the dominant male wrasse punishes his female mate, confronting her with aggressive behavior. The female wrasse's greedy behavior cost the pair a client, and consequently a meal. By punishing his mate for this greediness, the male wrasse reduces the likelihood of such behavior in the future, which increases the chances of a client returning. Another explanation for the male's behavior is that he is limiting his mate's size in order to prevent future intersexual competition. The cleaner wrasse is a hermaphroditic fish, born as a female with the ability to develop into a male wrasse. This sexual transition is often triggered when a female wrasse grows to a size substantially larger than other females. If the male wrasse's mate gets large enough, she will turn into a he and become a reproductive competitor. Assuring that his mates do not exceed the average size through partner punishment also ensures the male wrasse's future reproductive success. ■ *Kate McGeever*

Sources:

Raihani, NJ, AI Pinto, AS Grutter, S Wismer, R Bshary. Male cleaner wrasses adjust punishment of female partners according to the stakes. Proc. R. Soc. B. Published online June 15, 2011

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/early/2011/06/10/rspb.2011.0690.short>

<http://www.livescience.com/14596-cleaner-fish-sex-change.html>

Kate McGeever is a third year student at the University of Colorado at Boulder where she studies Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She participated in the CIEE Bonaire Summer 2011 program which focuses on the biological conservation of Caribbean marine ecosystems.



DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without re-

peating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3

Sudoku Solution

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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
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Dining At The Sorobon Beach Resort



Waterside dining at the Sorobon Beach Resort

I recently enjoyed a "staycation," spending a weekend getaway at Sorobon Beach Resort. Residing on island, one might find it unusual to spend a weekend holiday on the same island but for me it was pure bliss. This low key property is nestled in tranquil Lac Bay. The property features wooden Caribbean style bungalows and a white sandy beach. The setting is absolutely breathtaking day and night. By day, the beach is the focal point of this Caribbean inspired bungalow property. A new addition to this spectacular setting is how the managers have transformed the beach area into a dining and drinking oasis. The beach bar is a lively spot to sip a cold drink and enjoy soft music. They offer daily cocktail specials, a variety of lovely wines as well as spirits. At night, the mood changes when the stars come out. It is a tropical oasis perfect for respite and relaxation.

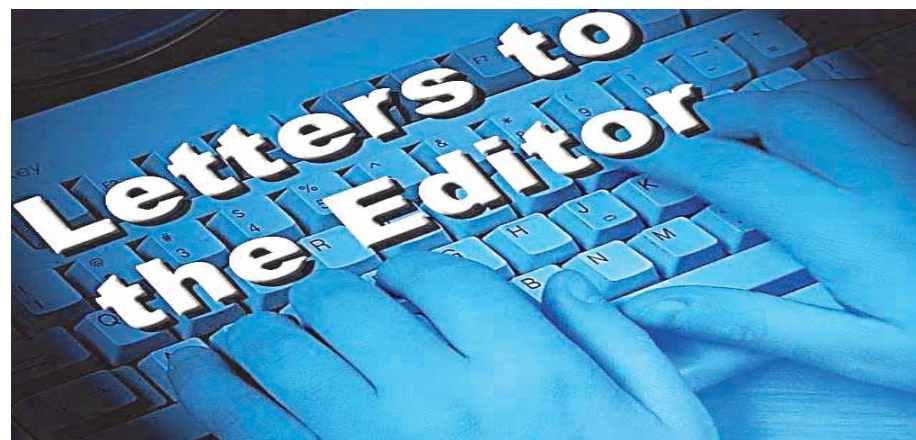
On the day of our arrival my companion and I lucked out as a Dutch DJ was in the house spinning low key Euro and pop music when we arrived. It was also Sandwich Sunday. As expected on a Sunday, the dining area was very busy, but the seasoned staff seemed to handle the crowd well. We sampled two sandwiches, a roast beef and a chicken wrap. The roast beef was piled high on a tasty roll with lovely greens and a delicious dressing. My companion professed it was outstanding. The portion size was large enough for two adults to share. My chicken wrap revealed well seasoned tender chicken folded in a lovely white wrap. The tangy dressing enhanced the flavors. Both sandwiches came with massive salads with carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce and pur-

ple cabbage. Both were priced at \$9.50.

This week, I met a business colleague for a seaside luncheon. I chose the fresh fish of the day, seared tuna on a bed of greens. My friend had the grilled salmon special. Both were priced at \$16.50 and were large, plentiful and portions. John Ceballos (formerly a waiter at Rum Runners) is the Food and Beverage Manager supporting Harry van den Ouweelen, the Property Manager. Under their leadership this establishment shines. The restaurant staff consistently turns out healthy yet delicious menu items. Now, with the beachfront dining seating, Sorobon is foodie heaven.

Sorobon Beach Resort serves breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week to the public. The weekend I was a guest, I enjoyed a lovely buffet complete with hot items such as eggs and bacon, house made pastries, cheeses and meats, yogurt, juices and coffee and tea. The price is \$15.00 per person plus tax. Lunch is served all afternoon and along with the lovely sandwiches I enjoyed there are salad offerings and pasta dishes as well. At night the menu turns to fresh local fish, steaks, pasta and vegetarian dishes. Both the beach deck and the Sugarbird Restaurant are Caribbean inspired settings with a relaxing ambience. Reservations are recommended for dinner. Call 717-8080. ■ *Story & photo by Ann Phelan*

Ann Phelan "Creating Dream Vacations Since 1987"
www.bonairecaribbean.com
www.anguillabliss.com



BHG (BONAIRE HOSPITALITY GROUP) AND BONHATA (BONAIRE HOTEL AND TOURIST ASSOCIATION)

Dear Editor:

To quote the street, "They are recruiting as fast as they can." So what's new?

In 1772 an American Patriot, John Quincy Adams, was deeply concerned about some of the colonies refusing to join the revolution. His famous quote was: "United we stand - Divided we fall." He was to become the second president of the United States. The fact is that Republicans will not cross over to the Democrats and the Democrats will not cross over to the Republicans. The truth is that it appears there is no solution. Therefore, Bonaire is forced to live with split representation. Which is both Costly and Foolish.

Both BONHATA and BHG appear to be fantasizing delusions of environmentalism and sustainability, and then promoting that with the sole pitch for filling beds. Here is one possible solution to this problem:

To eke out and band together properties which are willing to pledge themselves honestly in a campaign for environmentalism, straightforward and true; willing to abide with new rules, ideals, and attitude.

They shall be introduced as members of the Family (not an Association). Each member will be a totally dedicated environmentalist in both attitude and behavior.

(It will be) A Family of Elite Green Vacation Properties.

Presentation of their Creed and Philosophy will be a constant and foremost. The management of such properties must be environmentally oriented, a member of some island environmental NGO, and further maintain their property as prescribed by the Family credo.

The Pledge - Elite Green's creed is straightforward and simple.

"Our environmental objective is to proliferate reef, sea and island management,

to maintain a continuing productive environment, and to guarantee the economic health of our community.

Our philosophy and attitude of conservation and environmental participation is such that we seek the highest obtainable objective goals of continuing maximum preservation.

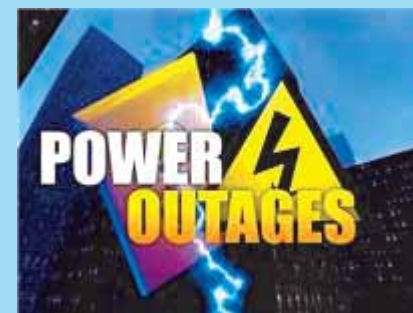
That use of our island environment by any body of people under our influence shall observe the maximum consideration that their trespass shall leave no residue or mark.

We will endeavor to influence and create desire in all other properties to follow this example.

It is our desire to successfully use, manage and share from our natural resource. We pledge to manage our properties in a manner that will support these goals.

It is obvious that don/ is recruiting.

Captain don/.



WHY, WHY, WHY WEB

Dear Editor,

If it is true that the reason that there was no electricity on Bonaire on Wednesday was that Eco-Power pulled the plug due to non-payment of their bill by WEB, then why are we paying WEB?

Let's start a campaign to all pay Eco-Power direct and then let Eco-Power pay WEB in 6 months time for distributing electricity for them.

It is ridiculous that WEB can hold on to our money like this, or is it simply going into someone's pockets?

Tony Hush

Mangazina di Rei Becomes a Stepping Stone

Mangazina di Rei, located in the antique building on the way to Rincon, is where both tourists and locals come to immerse themselves in the history of Bonaire.

The Mangazina is currently developing a program to assist with social problems on Bonaire as well as entertaining island visitors.

Manager Danilo Christiaan and his wife have elaborate plans, focusing on cooperation between the Mangazina and SASO (the institute for welfare and social rehabilitation). SASO will send long-term unemployed or hard-to-place peo-



ple to Mangazina di Rei where they will stay for a period of six to 12 months to learn structure and discipline. Once they're ready to be placed back on the labor market, a suitable position will be found for them. The FORMA training center has recently signed a contract with Mangazina di Rei and FORMA students can also be offered placement at the Mangazina.

It's intended that ex-convicts get an opportunity at Mangazina di Rei as well. Not only is this useful for the economy, it also works preventively. Other agencies involved are: DGH (Public Health Service), DEZA (Business permits) and the Cruzada rehabilitation centre. ■ *Norwin Leito*

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The 92nd 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+



There is a New Electrifying Kid in Town!

Bonaire/Kralendijk –

A couple of weeks ago I was involved in transporting a scooter to Bonaire. Importing did not appear to be a very big problem. Scooters are well known, popular and handy on our island. Most scooters are powered by two-stroke or four-stroke single-piston engines, consuming traditional gasoline or a mixture of gasoline and special oil to lubricate the moving parts of the engine in a so called total loss system, using the oil only once, burning it partly and spitting it out by the exhaust system. Especially the two-stroke engines are noisy, smelly and inefficient. You can recognize them by the drippy exhaust.

Nowadays science gets more and more interested in alternative sources of energy like electricity. Knowledge is ever increasing and technology and products, especially batteries, are getting better and better. So the results are modern and light vehicles powered by electricity. Of course a lot of electric energy is still generated from oil and coal, but the huge and state-of-the-art power plants are able to supply energy much more efficiently compared to little individual engines like the traditional engines used in cars, motorcycles and scooters. (I once tested a British made Lotus sports wagon, very light, made of aluminum and fast as lightning, but this car was still powered by a high output injected four-stroke engine. Lotus always knew losing weight was the secret to increasing acceleration and speed. Now Lotus also produces a very fast sports wagon powered by electric energy, thanks to the development of new and very efficient batteries and high end technology./jb)

So Jamie Hakvoort, the new kid in town, staying on the island of Bonaire for half a year or so, being a student and a volunteer at Dive Friends of Bonaire, decided to bring his all electric powered reliable Novox XS45E with him!

I never drove an electric powered scooter in my entire life before and I was anxious to find out. So I called Jamie. I could hear his smile by the speaker of the phone. He sounded very enthusiastic about my plan of testing the scooter and the intention to write an article about his red flash. I grabbed my camera and my notebook and I drove my powerful but conventionally powered four-stroke, off-road motorcycle to Playa. There he was. Jamie. Smiling and filled with brio. He had just cleaned his bike. Time for an inspection.

The red and good looking Novox XS45E looks like a normal modern scooter. A frame, plastic parts, small 3.00 X 10 – 42J tires, light alloy rims, a hydraulic disc brake in the front, a drum in the rear, fancy dashboard, space for a helmet or luggage under the seat, a prop stand, jiffy stand, a luggage rack in the rear, aggressive looking front beams, sleek and modern and... an electric start!

So Jamie, being the first owner of this electric scooter, hands me the key of his vehicle and I turn it to the right. In my opinion nothing happens. I start searching for the starter button. No starter button. No nothing. Jamie smiles. He explains I have to turn the right hand grip as a conventional gas throttle. Nothing happens. Then he informs me about the safety switches in the rear brake and the jiffy stand. So I release the rear brake and I kick in the side stand. Then I turn the hand grip and off I go. No noise, no pollution, no gears, clutch, no nothing. Just wind and speed. Lights are on and I use the electric horn. This is fun! I drive Jamie's electric powered scooter over the southern part of the Bonairean boulevard and I show the bike to my friends at the Dive Inn. "This is fun! I am testing an electric scooter for *The Bonaire Reporter*," I yell at Chris from Dive Friends of Bonaire. And as a flash without the sound of lightning I disappear.

Acceleration is good, speed is very acceptable. I only hear the wind blowing. People are surprised. They are laughing, waving at me. A vehicle powered without producing any noise! Another loop and another loop. This is fun! Then I ride the bike back to the parking lot of Jamie's apartment. The only disadvantages of this electric Novox are the

short front shocks and the small wheels. But these are problems all scooters suffer from.

Jamie informs me about the power the scooter consumes: "You only have to connect the scooter to this charger. Then you connect the charger to the WEB outlet. This scooter needs 220 volts from the island. After a couple of hours the batteries are fully charged."

Jamie, as the first owner, bought his Novox at Smart Move, Doetinchem, The Netherlands. He covered some 5500 kilometers with the vehicle without any problems and he's never had to service it since he became the owner.

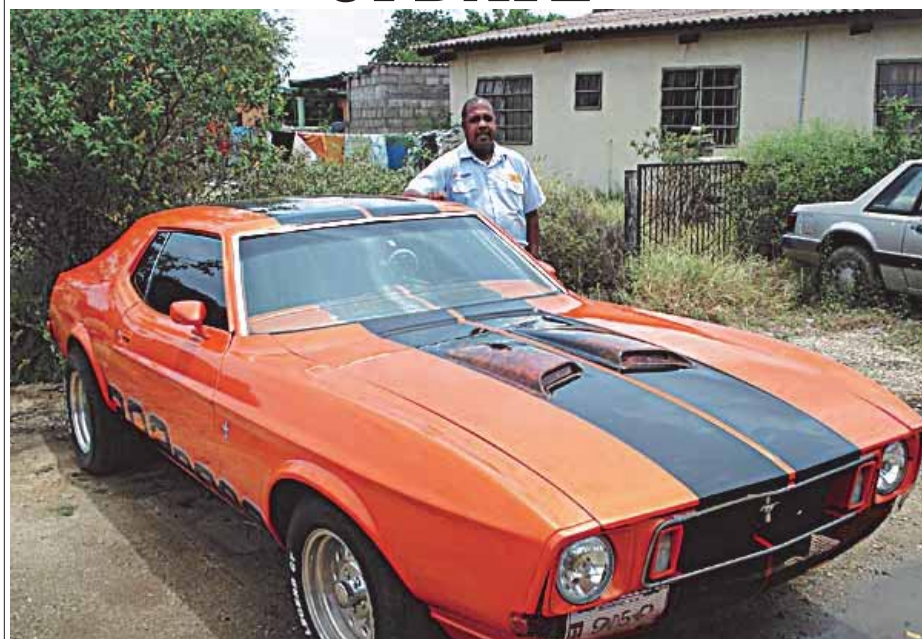
The machine is probably produced in China as the frame number reads: "Tisong Group Co. Ltd e11*2002/24*0297". The tires are made by the "Cheng Shin Tire" company and cables are produced by "Huaifeng." The battery charger is made by the unknown "Tisong" factory. However, the Chinese are getting more and more important and in the future they might take over. Then, in the future, brands like "General Electric" and "Philips" will seem weird to us and our kids. ■



Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



UPDATE



Ramiro Carolina and the Ford Mustang 1973 Muscle Car

Apologies to Ramiro Carolina. Two issues ago we erroneously printed a photo of a different Mustang in the story about his 1973 Mustang. The above photo is Ramiro with his Mustang. ■

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in the... The Shetland Islands, Scotland

Part-time Bonaire residents Ian and Dorothy Macdonald took a copy of *The Reporter* with them to the island of Foula in the Shetlands. That is a Shetland pony in the background.

The island has 30 inhabitants and they were quite happy to see them. They were on a literary cruise run by a Canadian adventure touring company visiting a number of the islands in the Hebrides, the Orkneys and the Shetlands. Author Margaret Atwood was one of the hundred aboard. It was cold! ■

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, Dutch Caribbean. E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com.



Pet of the Week

When you look at "Alison," the word "princess" comes immediately to mind. Not in the sense of the current use of the term ("spoiled rotten female"), but in the old fashioned sense of the word...regal, sweet and proper... á la Audrey Hepburn. Alison is a beautiful, long-haired red and white princess with long spit curls adorning the inside of her ears. She is about one and a half years old and is a sweet, quiet and loving young lady. Her favorite pastime is to be brushed....she knows how pretty she looks with her hair combed and tidy. As our favorite editor commented, "Her tail looks like the train of a long gown!"...and it does. Alison speaks quietly back to you when you talk to her and asks to sit beside you for petting and brushing. She will be a sweet and loyal companion to the lucky person who adopts her.



Princess Alison

You may see Alison and the other pets available for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday-Saturday, 9 am-1 pm and 3-5 pm. Telephone: 717-4989. Their comprehensive and up-to-date website: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com.

Keep in mind that all the cats and dogs up for adoption at the Shelter are healthy (having been checked out by the vet, had their tests, shots and have been -or will be -sterilized, and have their ID "chip" inserted) and totally social animals. And the staff knows their personalities well. So if you want a pet who would be safe to be with children or who is a good "runner," or some other specification, ask one of the staff. They all love their jobs and know the pets they care for. ■ Jane Madden Disko/Laura DeSalvo



Sterilize your pets to improve their lives. Call 717-4989 for info,

What do you do if you are faced with an out of control aggressive dog? Run? Read this and think again.



Have you ever been faced with an out of control dog running towards you? Would you be worried about getting bitten? What can you do to reduce the likelihood of getting bitten?

Why do dogs bark and run up to you in the first place? Well some could just want to be friendly, some could feel threatened because you have come too close to its territory or a female dog could be nursing a litter of puppies which she will defend till her death if necessary.

Statistics in the UK show that more people are bitten by small dogs than by big dogs and that children are more likely to get bitten than adults. There are no such statistics for Bonaire yet, and I am sure that if a survey were to be conducted it would show that around 35% of all people will have been bitten by a dog, most of the 35% will be children and most of the dogs will have been small dogs.

It won't take much for a dog that is already in a heightened sense of emotional arousal to escalate from running at you and barking to attacking you. If you run you are feeding his predatory instinct to chase prey. Reduce his excitement by remaining still and calm. Now I hear you say that is contrary to all your instincts and I agree, however, this is a time where logic has to prevail. Keep quiet as any noise you are likely to make will be in a fast high pitched voice and to an already excited dog this will be interpreted as fear and make him more likely to attack you. Avoid making eye contact as you are likely to stare out of

fear and this could be perceived as a threat or a challenge which you might lose.

In order to be as safe as you possibly can think of becoming a tree. Dogs only urinate on trees, they are boring and the dog will soon move away. Stand still, keep your arms by your side, avert your eyes and breathe slowly and deeply so becoming calm and assertive. Dogs sense your energy and respond to it.

I myself have been in a situation where two Dobermans came charging towards me. I became a tree. Yes, I was scared as I knew I would lose out as two dogs become a pack and wind each other up. Maybe those dogs might never have bitten me, however, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

I suggest you try this on a friendly, lively dog that is known to you to see the effects of what happens when you become a tree. It is also important that you teach your children how to behave around dogs for their own safety.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope you are never faced with an out-of-control dog, but if you are, you will remember to be a tree. ■ Carla Hay

Ms. Hay, a Bonaire visitor, is a humane officer for the UK animal welfare organisation the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

For Sale – The Painting “Nukove” By Heleen Cornet



This large (4 ft.,9 in. by 6 ft., 1 in. (145 cm. by 185.5 cm) oil painting is one of artist Heleen Cornet's art works that were commissioned to illustrate the New Guide to the Bonaire Marine Park by Tom van't Hof in 1997. The painting shows the Bonaire dive site, "Nukove," as it was in 1996 when artist Cornet painted it, capturing the reef scene in a way that is impossible to express in photographs. The painting is framed by a wooden, antique rubbed frame.

Dutch born Cornet has a degree in education and a master's degree in fine arts from the Academy of Fine Arts in Amersfoort, Holland. She moved in 1975 to Bonaire where she taught fine arts at the high school for five years. After living for one year in Curacao and St. Maarten she moved in 1986 to Saba. She has her own gallery and has published several books with her husband, marine biologist Tom Van 't Hof, for the marine parks of Bonaire, Curacao and Saba. She contributes to conservation through her paintings of underwater scenes, rainforests and architecture.

Cornet has been invited to prestigious exhibits of rainforests and the underwater world like the: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Biennial in Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana and the 23rd Biennial International in San Paulo, Brazil. Her website is www.heleencornet.com. The price of the painting is \$4,900.00 Serious inquiries only.

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BonQuiz Answer

Q) What is this gentleman's name and where is this building located?

A) Mr. Carlos A. "Oubaas" Nicolaas. It's located on the Sea-front Promenade. Kaya N E Craane. *Question on page 6*

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A PAIR OF TRIANGLES IN THE SKY AND MERCURY AT DAWN

Next week there is a great chance to see the most elusive of the naked eye planets, **Mercury**, in the early dawn. Plus, do you know that every first weekend in September three very bright stars will make a giant **Triangle** shine overhead? Let me tell you how to find Mercury and the Triangle.

Simply go outside between 9 and 10 pm this weekend and look straight up almost overhead and you will see three extremely bright stars which, if we connect with lines, make a huge stellar triangle which is traditionally called the **Summer Triangle** because every year these three stars can be seen rising over the eastern horizon in early evening at the beginning of summer. But since the stars change their position with each season, by the time September rolls around this triangle will have changed its position so that in early evening it is almost directly overhead and makes an almost perfect, must-see September tradition.

Now each star belongs to a separate constellation. So not only do we have three wonderful stars, we have three equally wonderful constellations. The brightest star is **Vega** and it belongs to the small constellation, **Lyra, the Harp**. The second brightest is **Altair** in a much larger constellation called **Aquila the Eagle**. And the dimmest of the three is **Deneb** which marks the tail of a huge constellation called **Cygnus the Swan**. Now if we compare each of these three stars with the star we call our **Sun** we'll be in for a big surprise. Our Sun is the closest star, only 8 1/3 light minutes away, which means it takes its light 8 1/3 minutes to reach us. So we see it not as it actually exists now but as it existed 8 1/3 minutes ago. Altair is the closest triangle star and is 17 light years away, which means that it takes its light 17 years to reach us. So we see it not as it exists this coming weekend but as it existed 17 years ago.

Vega is slightly farther, 25 light years away, which means that it takes its light



25 years to reach us so we see it as it existed 25 years ago. Deneb, however, is so incredibly far away, 1,500 light years, that it takes its light 1,500 years to reach us so we see it as it existed 1,500 years ago! Super wow! And talk about size and brightness! Altair is 1 1/2 times the diameter of our almost-1-million-mile-wide Sun and 9 times brighter. Vega, however, is 2 1/2 times the diameter of our Sun and is 58 times brighter. But you ain't seen nothing yet because Deneb is a super 116 times as wide as our Sun and 60,000 times brighter! In fact if it were as close as Vega and Altair it would be the brightest star in the night sky.

Meanwhile in the morning sky there is another triangle and a special celestial visitor that make it worth your while to get up early to star gaze. The tiny planet Mercury is notoriously difficult to find, let alone observe. Mercury orbits closer to the Sun than any other planet so Mercury is never visible in a dark night sky. Get out around 5 am, Monday the 5th, and look southeast, and bingo it's wintertime.

Lots of our favorite winter stars are making their return. Let's focus on just three bright ones for now. **Sirius, Procyon and Betelgeuse make up the Winter Triangle**. Down to their left and low on the horizon will be a bright pinkish spot of light and that's the planet Mercury. Below Mercury is a bright star, **Regulus** the heart of **Leo the Lion**. If you watch over the next few days Regulus will seem to rise up to meet Mercury on the morning of September 9th when they will be only 1/2 of a degree apart. ■ James Aulbury



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
September 2011

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You'll be able to break bad habits if you put your mind to it. Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do. If you work in conjunction with someone else you may find they're trying to steal your thunder. Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Follow your gut feeling regarding your business ventures. Get promises in writing or you will be disappointed. If boredom has set in, find new and unique directions that offer interesting friendships. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't evade important issues; you may find yourself backed into a corner. You will have original ideas for ways to make extra money. Don't give them the use of your credit card. You will be well looked upon due to your compassionate and giving nature. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't be too eager to spend what's left over; more unexpected expenses are evident. Education may be the answer. You will back yourself into a corner if you are baited and your stubbornness will only make matters worse. Love relationships will flourish. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your emotional state will vacillate. You may not get your facts correct this month; double-check before making any statements. The existing problems must be dealt with one way or another. If they're too demanding, reconsider this union. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You may have difficulties while traveling or problems dealing with close friends or relatives. Make changes around your house and plan to do some entertaining. Be careful how you handle friends and relatives, they may take things the wrong way. You don't owe anyone an explanation. Do your own thing, you need time to yourself. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may have difficulty trying to get your mate to understand your position. Your diplomatic approach and rather outgoing nature will enhance your reputation and bring you the support you need. You can get good solid advice from relatives or close friends you trust. Some of that extra energy you have stored up might just be put to good use. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Children may be on your mind. Lovers will be less than accommodating, and decisions regarding personal direction a necessity. You can make a difference if you offer your help at functions that involve children. Don't let relatives stand in the way of your personal plans. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Try to be reasonable. Financial limitations are likely if you take risks. Read some books on self awareness. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Get proper medical attention and confront your situation decisively. You may divulge private information without realizing it this month. Rely on yourself and you will look good to superiors. Much knowledge can be obtained through the experiences you have. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't make any drastic changes or begin new projects this month. You'll be able to break bad habits if you put your mind to it. You may find yourself in a predicament with family members. Your intellectual wit will bring greater popularity with your peers. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let relatives make demands of you. Make arrangements to meet friends at your local dance club. Talk to someone with experience about budgets or consolidating debts. Try to avoid any drastic/ decisions concerning personal legal matters. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday. ■

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