Elections - 2006
Reaching Toward a New Bonaire

UPB Headquarters

PDB Headquarters

Cover Photos by Wilma Gronenboom
If you transit through Curacao—expect to pay a $2 “transit tax.” Unless the Curacao Government again postpones the imposition of already-approved tax, suspended six months ago, it will resume next week. Airline passengers traveling to other destinations via Curacao must pay up before boarding their next flight.

> Continental Airlines, which recently began non-stop service to Bon-air, is dropping Barbados from its route network of direct service out of the US two years after launching the route network.

> The9 European Union’s top court on Tuesday upheld legislation requiring airlines to compensate passengers stranded by delays or cancelled flights departing its 28 member states. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said it could cost the industry US$700 million per year and that they were being unfairly penalized for conditions that were sometimes out of their control. The ruling applies to KLM and Holland, but does it also apply to the DAE and the Antilles?

> The Natalie Holloway case is never far from Aruban or US headlines. Last week the Common Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba decided that Paul van der Sloot, the father of the leading suspect, Joran van der Sloot, could sue the Aruban Government for damages. Paul van der Sloot can sue for wrongful arrest. During the Holloway investigation Paul van der Sloot was arrested and held for questioning. Last week he joined an Aruban legal firm headed by Anthony Carlo. The Common Court will most probably swear-in van der Sloot next week. Attorney Carlo is very pleased and said, “He is a very skilful jurist. I have received only positive reactions from professional colleagues.”

> The price of gasoline in Aruba went up by 5.8 cents, making it 159.2 Aruban cents per liter. The price of the same grade of gas in Bonaire is 189.9 cents a liter. Aruba gets its gas from Valero, Bonaire from Curoil. Bonaire gets jet fuel from Valero, why not gas too?

> During the week of January 4th, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) conducted a survey of some visitors to the island. A survey is one of the ideas brought forward in last year’s Bonaire Reporter series on island development, “A Balance for Bonaire.” Its purpose was to assess tourists’ awareness of Bonaire’s marketing. The five-page-long survey was directed by Marie Rosa of TCB-USA. According to Ronella Croes, Director of the TCB, such inquiry is valuable to help determine new strategies. Results are set to be published in March 2006.

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At least two, perhaps three, new resorts are planned for the Lac-Sorobon area. The projects will add more than 200 rooms to the island’s inventory. A privately funded environmental study has expressed grave concerns about the damage these developments might do to the mangrove and sea grass in the area. Lac is the nursery of Bonaire’s reefs, and any harm that is done there is magnified to affect all of Bonaire. Extensive studies and environmental protection must be forced on any developers if they will not undertake those steps willingly. There are precedents in other countries that can be used as guidelines.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

The TCB has released more information about Dive into Adventure, the week-long event that replaces the Bonaire Dive Festival that was last held in 2004. While the emphasis remains on diving there will be an additional focus on Bonaire’s many other vacation attractions as well, including sail charters, windsurfing, land sailing, kiteboarding, kayaking, sailing, snorkeling, deep sea fishing, bone fishing, mountain biking and rock climbing. From June 17th through the 24th Bonaire will be filled with events above and below the water. Recognized pros in several sports will be on hand to offer guidance.

To be part of the event, contact the TCB or one of the sponsors: Air Jamaica, Captain Don’s Habitat, Golden Reef Inn, Plaza Resort Bonaire, Port Bonaire Resort, Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, Scuba Diving Magazine, Caradonna Dive Adventures, Maduro Dive Fanta-Seas or BonairePros.com. In Europe: Duiken, ABC Travel, Bonaire Fun Travel, Does & Cadushi, Harlequin & Regal Diving & Barefoot Traveler in England, and Helin Matkat in Finland.

Coral Shorts (a bit of information about corals by naturalist Dee Scarr which will be included each week in Flotsam & Jetsam). Here’s the first:

Be aware that we use the word “coral” for three things: the individual coral animal, called the polyp; the polyps and the skeleton they’ve secreted, also called a coral head; and the skeleton without its living polyps, also called coral rock. The first two of these are alive; the last is not alive, which leaves a great deal of room for confusion.

Environment Watch

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the annual Lora (Bonairean Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot) count for Saturday, January 28th. All who live in Bonaire, but especially those living on kunukus who know the locations of roosting sites (where the Loras sleep) are encouraged to contact Salba Nos Lora (562-1000), STINAPA (717 – 8444) or DROB (717 – 8130) so the birds are sure be included.

Volunteers are also needed to do the count and reporting.

Sara Matera, a dedicated professional in the Hospitality and Horeca Industry in the US, Aruba, and Bonaire, will be the new General Manager of Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino. Matera is an accomplished restaurateur in Bonaire and recent Director of Events and Project Manager at the Aruba Renaissance Beach Resort. She will lead the Team at Divi Flamingo Resort starting January 16th 2006. Maarten van Wijk, the present Interim General Manager of Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino, will be leaving his post by the end of January. He will be returning to the US to pursue his career in the luxury hotel business. Alex Nieuwmeyer, Managing Director of Divi Resorts, said, “We are excited about the new and permanent change; Sara’s background will bring an extra dimension to the guest experience at Divi Flamingo with a big focus on the great Divi Staff and physical improvements.” Bonaire resident Sara Matera is well-known on the island as one of the founders and owners of the Green Parrot restaurant which was destroyed by storm waves five years ago. She’s also been the “sparkplug” behind the Bonaire Culinary Teams which have competed in the “Taste of the Caribbean” Culinary Olympics and the originator of the (SGB) High School’s culinary students’ competitions and study programs abroad in Italy.

STINAPA, Bonaire’s National Park Foundation, began a series of seven meetings with stakeholders in Bonaire’s environment last week. Stakeholders include tourism operations, real estate agents, the salt company (Cargill), the oil transfer terminal (BoPeC), construction companies, government, law enforcement, water sport operators, fishermen, volunteers and other interested parties. The purpose is to get relevant input to formulate a Bonaire National Park Management Plan -2006. The Park will be assisted by Duncan MacRae, who worked on his master’s thesis here in June/July 2001. MacRae is now Director of Integrated Conservation Solutions, experts in coastal zone management. The Management Plan is set for publication this coming April.

The Cultural History Foundation of Bonaire (Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano – FuHiKuBo) was given a better space in the Fundashon...
INVESTMENT IDEA

I think Playa Lechi, Hotel Bonaire, alias Sunset Beach Hotel, belongs to the people of Bonaire and it should be made a Public Beach with a nice race track (for running and maybe bicycles).

It should have a real nice beach, chairs to rent out, a nice cozy bar and restaurant where the tourists are also welcome if they adhere to the local values. Isn’t there a Bonairean to be found who can invest in something like that? Build a real nice swimming pool and maybe STINAPA can put its headquarters there too. You have a great view to the left and right if that new thing at Eden Beach does not block it all off.

There’s room to expand; it’s not too far from town; and you can put a two story with a deck on top with telescopic binoculars to view it all. Especially Klein Bonaire can be controlled very well from there.

Name withheld

PUBLIC BEACH?

There is a growing movement once again by many Bonaireans who see so much being taken away from them and “given” to foreigners to speak out against this and demand something for themselves. The idea of a public beach at the old Hotel Bonaire site is one example and a very good idea. It is hoped that a government will not simply close its ears to its own people and realize the overall long term benefits of such an area.

Bonaire needs such a beach for all Bonaireans to enjoy. It is centrally located; gives the upper hotels a beach area also. It has plenty of parking space. And most importantly it could have nice concession stands at both ends, owned and operated by and only by born-here Bonaireans. Cruise ships would also have a nice beach. Citizens comment constantly and rightfully about beach access being taken away. This would solve a serious problem and give the people here something for themselves. I know that private money can be raised for a complete cleanup at no cost to the government if the government will make it public.

Bruce Bowker

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**Flotsam and Jetsam. (Continued from page 4)**

Cas Boneriano building at the end of last year. It is more easily accessible to the students of the SGB and a better place for those interested in studying Bonaire’s history. Right now volunteers are needed to organize the archives and staff the center to help its visitors for one or two days a week.

Later on old pictures, interviews on cassettes and VHS tapes will be digitized. So there is plenty of work to do. There is no need to understand Papian mentu. Dutch and English speaking people can also help in all the work that has to be done.

**If you want to help contact Boi Antoin at 717-8482 or 786-6818.**

Sunset is one of Bonaire's finest natural beaches.

Sunset Beach (Hotel Bonaire) burned in 2000.
One question that many travelers consider is the quality and availability of medical care at their destination. This is even more critical if the traveler plans to move to the new location (as an ex-pat or long-term visitor) or for those involved in potentially dangerous activities (diving, sailing, windsurfing, kite surfing, rock climbing or trekking).

So just what is the current status of medical care on Bonaire? “I am really quite surprised that the quality of emergency and hospital care here is so good, considering the size of the island,” said Marcia Leatham MD, a retired physician with Trauma Care experience who has been living here for the past three years. “I had a recent opportunity to accompany a friend to the Emergency Room for some extensive injuries,” said Leatham, “and I was very impressed with the quality of care. I don’t think I would have done anything differently myself.”

Richard Craig, MD, who has spent six months a year on Bonaire for almost 10 years has an even more personal tale to tell (See Bonaire Reporter, November 28, 2003: “Sick on Bonaire - 3,000 Miles from Home”). “In 2003 I realized that I was having some sort of cardiac event and went to my Bonaire family doctor, Dick van der Vaart. Not only was his diagnosis spot-on and rapid, the care I received at the island,” Simal went on to say that when his teenage daughter had her arthroscopic knee surgery without having to leave the island. “My recovery was very quick,” says Simal, “and I did not have to leave my family to have this procedure. I have also found excellent Physical Therapy services on the island.” Simal went on to say that when his teenage daughter had her appendix out last month, “the care she received in the hospital was excellent and the service compared well to many hotels I have seen.”

Hospital San Francisco Fundashon Mariadal, the non-profit foundation that operates the hospital, provides Bonaire, an island of only 12,000 residents, with a modern integrated healthcare facility. The hospital has 35 beds, and the attached nursing home has 75 beds. In addition to HSF, Fundashon Mariadal provides the island with ambulance service in both Playa and Rincon, air ambulance service, midwife care, prenatal and postnatal home care, Community Nurses and Home Services for the elderly, including meal delivery at home for the elders.

Fundashon Mariadal also runs a Child Vaccination Program and School Screening program. Among its other modern facilities, HSF counts a modern hospital laboratory, radiology, color Doppler ultrasound, and laparoscopic/arthroscopic surgery equipment.

The hospital is just in the final stage of completing Phase One of an ambitious plan to renovate and remodel the patient wards, the Operating Theater, the Maternal Ward and the Delivery Rooms. After this renovation all the hospital patient rooms will be equipped with television, phone and Internet services.

For critically ill patients there will be a Special Care Unit consisting of six beds. This Special Care Unit will be completely equipped to the level of a modern ICU. The Special Care Unit will be directed full-time by Dutch anesthesiologists on a rotational basis from Holland. Phase Two is scheduled to begin Summer 2006.

Emergency response Other ex-pats interviewed for this article tell similar tales about the response to emergency situations such as dog bites, car accidents, and acute medical episodes and agree with the two doctors in relating their experiences as both hospital and emergency patients. This response is also first-rate even at the site of the accident or emergency.

The same qualified nurses working in the ER ride in the ambulance to initiate care as soon as possible. For emergency situations exceeding the capabilities of HSF, the island contracts with an air ambulance service to transport patients to Aruba, Curaçao or neighboring Venezuela for more advanced care. While in transit, patients are accompanied by a nurse and/or doctor from Hospital San Francisco, depending on the severity of the situation.

Critical Care is not the only bright spot in the medical picture. The Operating Theater consists of one OR (that will soon be renovated) and a second, completely new OR, which will come on-line in a few months. These facilities are used for elective procedures as well. Karen Pearson, well known as a dive instructor at Capt. Don’s Habitat, praises the carpal tunnel surgery and after-care she received at the hospital. “I know people who went back to the States for this surgery who have not done as well as I have,” says Pearson.

Fernando Simal, Manager of Washington-Slagbaai Park, was able to have arthroscopic knee surgery without having to leave the island. “My recovery was very quick,” says Simal, “and I did not have to leave my family to have this procedure. I have also found excellent Physical Therapy services on the island.” Simal went on to say that when his teenage daughter had her appendix out last month, “the care she received in the hospital was excellent and the service compared well to many hotels I have seen.”

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Continued on page 7
our diplomas give our personnel the licenses not only to practice on Bonaire, but also in Europe or any other part of the world."

Divers will also be glad to know that the recompression chamber located at the hospital is on 24-hour call, and there are sufficient personnel available to monitor "bent" divers around the clock. "Our chamber is not only an important health facility for Bonaire," says Rene Hakkenberg, past president of the non-profit foundation that owns and operates the chamber, "but it is also a strong reason for visitors to come to Bonaire to dive. Just knowing that our chamber is there and ready for any emergency puts their minds at ease.""}

Community Care For those spending more time on the island, it is equally important to be assured of continuing medical and dental care. To provide this, Bonaire has 10 Dokter di Kas (General Practitioners) who see to the general needs of the population. Residents covered by the Antillean Government’s medical plan can choose their Dokter di Kas twice a year. Those using other forms of insurance or who pay directly are free to choose any of the GPs they desire.

In addition, the island has two OB/GYN physicians, one fulltime Surgeon and four other Surgeons from Curacao who come to Bonaire regularly. To provide more specialty care, Internists, Ophthalmologists, Ear Nose Throat physicians, Dermatologists and other specialists from Curacao have regular schedules for consultation on Bonaire.

Adult vaccinations, such as flu and pneumonia, are available from the Bonaire Health Department which also runs a mosquito eradication program. There are several Physical Therapy practices around the island, professional nutritionists and excellent dentists. As one American ex-pat from Manhattan put it, "I never had such good dental care in New York!"

Cloud on the horizon? Recently, HSF was forced to close its Operating Theater temporarily and restrict admissions due to a financial impasse with the Central Government system for paying health care costs, the Social Security Bank (Banko di Seguro or SVB). The governmental group unilaterally set a tariff for payments to the hospital that is lower than that paid to hospitals in Curacao and below HSF’s actual running costs. This crisis was short-lived and was resolved both by a quick infusion of cash from the local banks and a shipment of supplies from the Dutch Government.

But the long-term financial problem has not yet been solved. Negotiations are underway between the Board of Directors of HSF, SVB, the Bonaire Island Government and the Central Antillean Government to allow HSF to continue to provide the high level of care currently available. Hopefully this situation will be resolved very quickly, particularly in light of the upcoming elections (January 27) for the Central Government Staten (Parliament). The problem of financing medical care is not unique to Bonaire. The costs of healthcare are plaguing government-run systems around the world and have created serious problems in privatized systems such as those in the US.

Healthy living With healthcare and hospital facilities as advanced as those of Bonaire, the island provides its inhabitants and visitors with one of the healthiest environments in the world. Given its clean air and water, mild temperatures, available fresh food and the opportunity for lots of exercise, all backed up by a solid healthcare system, Bonaire is becoming a magnet for retirees as well as eco-travelers and a more pleasant place for all of its local people. Alan Gross/Jane Townsend

(Bonaire Medical Care. Continued from page 6)

The hospital’s central area offers a pleasant place to pass the time.

One of the ambulances
I t’s the FOURTH ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS BONAIRE WALK-A-THON – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - Bonaire’s most popular fund raising event, and all the proceeds go to a great cause – sending our Special Olympics Athletes to compete in international games.

Not only are you contributing to a good cause, but the past years’ Walk-a-Thons have been great fun not only for individuals but for groups too who even get others to sponsor them.

Instructions to Participants

You may walk, you may run, jog, bike or even roller blade. Everyone meets at 5 am at the Slave Huts at the south end of the island, and the 30-kilometer trek begins.

Or you may leave your car at the Stadium in Playa and take the FKPD bus which will leave at 4:30 am SHARP which will take you to the Slave Huts. Then you’ll be able to get a ride back to the Stadium from the Pasa Dia in Rincon.

Bikes can get a lift back to town from the Pasa Dia. All along the route there will be pick up trucks to take those who get tired or have any problems. The Red Cross people will be there too, monitoring the well being of everyone.

You’ll follow the route of the slaves with the final destination, the Pasa Dia in Rincon. Every five kilometers there will be a “refreshment station” where you’ll be offered water, fruits, snacks and lots of encouragement. And at the Pasa Dia you’ll receive a certificate and a delicious stoba (stew) meal with salad and bread, provided by the culinary students of Chez Nous.

Tickets, etc

Tickets are NA$25 and include a Walk-a-Thon T-shirt, water bottle, bag, baseball hat and the meal at the end. Get your tickets from any board member (see list), Croccantino Restaurant, Chat ‘n’ Browse, Obersi Electronics (Xerox) or Bowling di Danilo. Or email info@specialolympicsbonaire.org. No matter who you are you may buy a ticket. You don’t have to do the walk and next week we’ll tell you about a special offer for non-walkers.

Get your ticket you may pick up your gift bag at City Cafe/Hotel Rocheline in the lobby on Friday, February 3 from 4 to 7 pm or Saturday, February 4 from 10 am to 4 pm. See you there! L.D.
According to a recent study by researchers from the University of Maine, "A Report on the Status of the Coral Reefs of Bonaire in 2005 with Advice on a Monitoring Program," only three reef ecosystems in the Caribbean were listed in good condition. Bonaire's was one of them.

While Bonaire's marine management practices (dive moorings, diver orientation, no gloves, no spear fishing, no fish trapping and no netting) help maintain the island's position as a leading site for diving and snorkeling, they do nothing to accelerate the start of new coral reefs.

Ramón de Leon, Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, notes that there are also shallow, sandy areas where coral has not been able to get started because the sand is stirred up by wave action. There just isn't a stable enough surface for juvenile coral to "take root."

Diver Jorgen Wetterings is getting his hands dirty on land during his diving vacation to help corals get re-established in just such sandy shallow areas. A lawyer in California and condo owner at Sand Dollar, Wetterings learned about the slow return of coral to sandy areas and about the possibility of actually doing something about it. "Nature likes to work," Wetterings says, "but for Nature, a couple of hundred years (to establish coral) is nothing. Humans are more impatient—we don't have that kind of time. I love the water and I love Bonaire. I wanted to know, what can we do to speed up the building process?"

With help from other Sand Dollar owners and off-duty maintenance staff, Wetterings and his family, friends and private sponsors plan to build 20, 400-lb. artificial reefs in a parking lot behind the Sand Dollar Resort and then set them off the shore-line as a pilot project. The structures, called "bay reefs" or "reef balls," look much like three-foot-tall, upside down teacups without the handle. The concrete is acid-alkali neutral, and various surface textures will be tested. Half a dozen circular holes penetrate the teacups, which will give young fish a place to enter the reef balls and hide from predators.

The holes also create a space for lifting the finished artificial reefs with a crane onto a flatbed truck. Once at the pier, a lift bag will float the heavy balls out to the chosen site and then be guided by a diver down to 10 to 14 feet. The concrete is acid-alkali neutral, and hemispherical shape should stabilize them against storms. Wetterings expects to begin the reef balls in late January or early February. This artificial reef creation will probably rate as a significant intervention for Bonaire's underwater world as the sinking of the Hilma Hooker and the Town Pier Sponge Reattachment Project.

Individuals and businesses are invited to sponsor individual balls for $300 apiece, and each reef ball will bear the sponsor’s name on a brass plaque.

De Leon responded: "Why not do a pilot project with 15 reef balls at Sand Dollar and five in the shallows off Slagbaai Park? As Manager of the Marine Park, I'm not going to let this opportunity pass. There is a very low impact to the environment and it is being conducted in a good and professional way."

"We still have the best reefs, but we face the same pressures—over fishing, pollution, global warming—though not as bad as the rest of the Caribbean."

When Wetterings brought him the reef ball proposal de Leon responded: "Why don't you do a pilot project with 15 reef balls at Sand Dollar and five in the shallows off Slagbaai Park? As Manager of the Marine Park, I’m not going to let this opportunity pass. There is a very low impact to the environment and it is being conducted in a good and professional way."

According to Wetterings, this pilot project will be monitored for two years with assistance from local naturalists Dee Sear and Jerry Ligon. Nearly everyone who has heard about the project has been willing to sponsor a reef ball. This project will benefit snorkelers as well as divers because the balls are not too deep. If this pilot project goes well, Wettering hopes to see a bigger second project in the future.

Readers who are interested in supporting the project can buy a t-shirt at the Sand Dollar office or sponsor a reef ball by contacting Wettering at jwetterings@yahoo.com or learn more about reefballs at www.reefball.org. Photos & Story by Frank Hyman

Frank Hyman owns a landscape business in Durham, NC and is a freelance writer on rainy days and holidays. He learned about the reef ball project by eavesdropping during the week when he was in Houston for his first flight to Bonaire.

Forming the reef balls

Marine Park Manager de Leon added, "We still have the best reefs, but we face the same pressures—over fishing, pollution, global warming—though not as bad as the rest of the Caribbean."

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Interview with Ramonsito Booi, leader of the Bonaire Patriotic Union Party (UPB, Green)

When were you born?
I was born in 1947.

When did you start in politics?
When I was 21 years old.

When did you become party leader of the Patriotic Party?
I was chosen in 1998.

Do you feel Antillean, South American or Dutch?
I am Bonairean.

What do you think about Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez?
Chavez found a way to instruct his people so that he can stand firm, guided by Fidel Castro. Whether that’s good or bad, it’s up to the people of Venezuela.

What do you think about the Bush administration?
It’s bad.

What is power?
I don’t know… I feel I got an assignment from the people to accomplish something for them together with the others. It can’t be that we are the ones who are completely in charge because we have a two-thirds majority, but with one-third it’s also not possible to have everything go the way you want.

What’s the best thing you ever did for Bonaire?
During my 35 years in politics I used the opportunities I had to work for Bonaire so that the economy would improve. But the best thing I hope to accomplish for Bonaire is that we will have a direct relationship with Holland so we will be able to free ourselves from Curacao.

Interview with Jopie Abraham, leader of the Bonaire Democratic Party (PDB, Red)

When were you born?
I was born in 1948.

When did you start in politics?
As a student in Holland in the mid 60s.

When did you become party leader of the Democratic Party?
I became party leader in 1978 and I still am, but I was out of politics from about 1990 till 1994.

Do you feel Antillean, South American or Dutch?
First I feel I am human being, and then I feel I am Bonairean, but I am open to all cultures without any exceptions. I am a cosmopolitan person. Origin is not important. Anyway, on my mother’s side I am from Dutch descent, on my father’s side from Arab descent.

What do you think about Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez?
He was chosen democratically and he’s fighting for the interests of his country and I respect that.

What do you think about the Bush administration?
I respect the fact that Bush was chosen by his people and we all should respect each other’s territory and not interfere in domestic concerns of other countries.

What is power?
Power is relative; I am not familiar with power. The people gave me mandates to represent them, and the beauty of democracy is that the people can change their opinion if you don’t do a good job. Not one politician should think that he has power. We were entrusted to represent the interests of the people. There is an expression in Papiamentu that says: “Si bo no ta goberna pa sirbi, bo no ta sirbi pa goberna.” You could translate it by saying: “If you don’t rule to serve, you don’t deserve to rule.”

What’s the best thing you ever did for Bonaire?
We framed a development plan in which we aimed for a balanced economy and growth with the preservation of culture and nature. Our starting point has never been big developments. During the years we were in office the whole area between Hotel Bonaire and WEB was developed with successful small scale projects as well as the marina. In 1983 we took the initiative.
(Jopie Abraham. Continued from page 10)

tiative to develop the boulevard from Playa Lechi to Hato and later on from Playa Lechi to Flamingo Beach Hotel. It took a long time, but it was financed in phases by Holland. I am really proud of that project. We also upgraded the center of town: Kaya Grandi, Lourdes shopping mall, the Central Bank and the SVB - that area - and I am very proud of what we accomplished. It wasn't just a dream; we made it real.

Why should people vote for you?
I am very concerned because of the way the historical and cultural values of the island are being ignored; it’s the foundation of our development. We already gave away the old tourist road at SABADECO to developers and now they’re about to close the road from The Great Escape to the Esmeralda project, to give 60 to 80 hectares away to befriended developers to use it for so called monster projects.

Also many historical buildings have been demolished like Hausmann’s Folly, Dr. Welvaart’s clinic and the Brion Barracks. When we were in office we restored Fort Oranje, the executive offices, the customs office, the Protestant church, the Pasangrahan and the post office because we believe in the protection of our historical values. We don’t want any monster projects, and we don’t want high rise buildings.

(Continued on page 12)

(Ramonsito Booi. Continued from page 10)

to stay in the Antilles and to restructure the Antilles. The Democratic Party and Paboso supported their position to keep the Antilles together in a referendum held in 1994. Only the UPB supported the so called “land structure.” In that referendum 96% of the population of Bonaire chose to keep the Antilles together and voted for the option of the Democratic Party and Paboso.

From 1995 till 2002 the Democratic Party was in the Central Government and through 1999 in the Bonaire Executive Council. They had a chance to make what 96% of the population had voted for come true. The way I see it: They had their chances, but they didn’t finish the job.

The Patriotic Party, which was for direct ties with Holland, respected the wish of the people and didn’t take action until 2000 when St. Martin held a referendum to withdraw from the Antilles and the people of St. Martin voted for a Status Aparte for the island. Again there would be fewer Antilles. Then the Patriotic Party, under my leadership, started negotiating with Holland to establish direct ties with the Netherlands, and we expressed our wish to the Dutch authorities. In 2004 we held a referendum in which our party and the Pro Party supported direct ties with Holland, and the parties who are now united were against direct ties. Paboso wanted to keep the Antilles intact, and the Democratic Party wanted Bonaire to be a autonomous country like Aruba.

(Continued on page 12)
After the people voted for direct ties with Holland we negotiated with Holl-
land and we signed two documents. One was an intention declaration
which describes globally what our new
structure would be like. The other
document we signed for direct ties
with Holland was the final declaration
of the round table conference which
was held in Curaçao November 26,
2005, and attended by the Dutch gov-
ernment (Minister Pechthold and Prime
Minister Balkenende), the delegation
of the government of the Dutch Antil-
les (Minister Ys), the delegation of
Aruba (Prime Minister Ouduber), the
delegation of Bonaire (myself) and the
delegations of Curacao (Mr. Ignacio),
Saba (W.S. Johnson), Statia (Mr. R.I.
McA. Hooker) and St. Martin (Mrs.
Wescot-Williams). If everyone in-
volved on Bonaire, the Antilles and in
Holland works hard we should be able
to make it in happen in 2007. The Bo-
nairean Island Council will stay on un-
til that time.

Direct ties with Holland means that
everything that Bonaire is doing now
will stay with Bonaire. Furthermore,
all the responsibilities that are now be-
ing taken care of by the Central Gov-
ernment in Curacao will be negotiated
by Bonaire with Holland to arrive at a
responsible way to divide the tasks.
The UPB’s starting point is that we
want autonomy above all and that
we want to decide about everything
ourselves, but the outcome of these
elections should guarantee the Bo-
nairean population (read: everybody
who lives on Bonaire) a better quality
of life.

Curacao can’t do that for us. We
have three members of Parliament in
Curacao, they have 14. We have one
minister; they have six. It doesn’t
work. We have nothing to say, and
Curacao itself has such big problems
don’t have time to take care of
Bonaire. Because the Antilles are
autonomous the responsibility for Bon-
aire lies in the hands of the Central
Government, which is essentially
Curacao, and that means very little gets
done here.

Right now there is no agreement that
Holland should provide direct support.
For the last 20 years we’ve been get-
ting money from a solidarity fund, al-
though it’s not legally settled. We get
development aid, but that’s also volun-
tary on the part of the Dutch.

We want in the new
situation is that we
being part of the King-
dom, will have
exactly the
same rights as
any other
Dutch person
anywhere in Holland. But we do un-
derstand that rights come with respon-
sibilities and that we have to negotiate
with Holland to see what’s possible for
Bonaire.

It also means that not all laws
that apply in the European Union and Hol-
land can be used here. They have to
care what’s possible for Bonaire.

The new Parliament that’s going to
be chosen now is the only authorized
institution which can dissolve the An-
tilles. Before that can be accomplished
in a constitutional way, the fundamen-
tal rights of the people have to be guar-
anteed. Furthermore all the interna-
tional treaties and conventions, like
human rights, sea rights, aviation rights
etc, need to be arranged. It is clear
though that the new Parliament should
work hard to lay the foundation for
these new political relations in the
coming four years. This means that
Bonaire should participate in the new
Central Government and not use it like
a pigeon coop - flying in and out - the
way it’s happened at least three times
lately.

I find that our party is better fit to
handle all this and has the right candi-
dates to represent Bonaire at all differ-
ent levels.

We’ve always been a supporter of
autonomy for the island – as far as it’s
possible – in the sense that the local
government does everything it can do
itself and that we, together with the
other islands and Aruba, do the things
which we think are better to do to-
gether, and that the basic guarantees,
which are now the responsibility of the
Dutch Antilles, be being taken over by
Holland.

In short: Bonaire will do whatever
it’s capable of together with the other
islands and Aruba, and Holland takes
care of the crucial part like human
rights and finances. We’re ready to
fill in the direct ties with Holland based
on mutual respect for cultural standards
and values.

I am very worried about the direction
Bonaire is heading, and if we don’t put
a halt to where it’s going now every-
things will get disorganized and we will
lose Bonaire.

Anybody is welcome to come and
live on Bonaire as long as they stick to
our rules and respect our culture and
customs and behave like a good Bo-
nairean citizen. It must not be that a
Bonairean will be treated like a second
class citizen in his
own country.

The people
are being mis-
led by the present government which
implies that Bonaire will become a
municipality or a province of Holland
and will better off in the sense that, for
instance, Bonaire minimum wages and
old people’s pensions will be paid in
Euros as it is in Holland. That’s com-
plete nonsense because it would bring
an enormous amount of people from
the whole region to the island who
would want to profit from the social
benefits, plus a whole crowd of Dutch
people who would want to use Bonaire
as their backyard. Nobody will benefit
from that.

I do believe though that for Holl-
land Bonaire could be an important step-
pingstone to the Caribbean and the off-
shore companies that are established
here, in spite of the fact that lately sev-
eral companies like ABN and Erma
have left. I also think it will be impor-
tant and undoubtedly beneficial for the
Dutch to have a territory with a Dutch
d judicial system in this area.

Together with Holland we have to
make sure that Bonaire will have eco-

omic growth like St. Martin and
Aruba, but we have to take care that
Bonaire will keep its own identity and
that it will experience a steady bal-
anced growth that’s not just the dive
industry.

Our party is the oldest party in Bon-
aire and it has survived all the other
parties. It’s the mother of politics. I
united all the social democratic parties
under one flag for this election: one
list, one color. We showed that we’re
not only talking about unity, but we
did it! We’ve put all our differences
aside and we concentrated on what it
was that united us.

We hope the people will unite also to
bring Bonaire back on track! G.K.
The new Italian red wine, “Novello,” made its debut last Saturday night at AWC’s warehouse on Kaya Industria 32. It’s become a yearly tradition that AWC’s Noel and Marjolein have hosted a party to mark the popular wine’s arrival. Saturday’s event was a “nice pleasant evening with a nice pleasant wine,” says Marjolein.

This year the Rocca Della Macie’s “Novello” is really fruity, light and although it’s easy to drink it’s got plenty of taste. It’s one of those wines that when you open the bottle before you know it, it’s empty.

Priced at only NAƒ12.50 it’s a very good value. “Novello” is drinkable up to a year, provided it’s been kept in a nice cool place, like AWC’s warehouse which is kept at a perfect cool and consistent temperature. Their warehouse-shop is open Tuesday through Saturday mornings from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Every Saturday evening they have wine tastings of great vintages at only NAƒ2.50 a glass, from 6 to 8 pm.

L.D.
Picture Yourself In The Reporter

Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands

Here’s Bonaire’s resident Englishman and author, Sean Peyton, on a visit to Bergen op Zoom, a city in the southern Netherlands. It’s an appropriate place for him since historically it’s been a place of residence for circus/funfair (kermis) performers and is famous for being unconquerable.

In 1588, the Spanish troops commanded by the Duke of Parma, Alexander Farnese, could not seize it; neither could Spinola in 1622. Sean will be back on Bonaire in a couple of months.

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, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2006 photos are eligible.)

WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

Snip and save so you can always find a copy of The Bonaire Reporter if there are no more at your favorite spot

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Capriccio
City Cafe
Croccantino
Lost Penguin
Lover’s Ice Cream
Pasa Bon Plaza

Dive Shops:
Yellow Submarine
WannaDive

Shops:
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Bonaire Gift Shop
Cinnamon Art Gallery
DeFreewieler
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Capt. Don’s Habitat
Carib Inn
Caribbean Club Bonaire
Caribbean Court
Divi Flamingo
Eden Beach Hotel
Golden Reef
The Great Escape
Harbour Village
Plaza Resort
Sand Dollar Resort

Supermarkets:
Bo Teko, North Salina
Cultimara
Montecatini
Progresso
Sand Dollar Grocery
Tropical Flamingo
Warehouse

Government:
Bestuurscollege
Customs
Parliament Office

Others:
Bonfysio
Botika Korina
Caribbean Laundry
Fit 4 Life, Plaza
Hair Affair
Harbour Village Marina
Rocargo
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Lemari Grocery
Rincon Bakery.

Still can’t find a copy? Visit our office at Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6 or Call 717-8988

Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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THIS WEEK
Friday, January 27 - Federal elections

Now through February 9 - Catherine Salisbury’s underwater photo exhibit, “Magical Encounters” at Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon. See Schedule above.

COMING UP
Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon. See Schedule above.

Saturday, January 28 - Lora Count — See page 3.

Saturday, January 28 - Bonaire Lions Club-Convocation Run — Children: 1.5, 2, 4, 5 km. Men & Women – open category (5 km). Sign up 3:30 to 5 pm. Race starts 5:30 pm, at the Stadium. Info Ronald at 785-3902.

Sunday, January 29 - Bonairean Night Buffet with typical Bonairean dishes, liveInstructional music and folkloric dance performances. Come and enjoy authentic Bonairean dishes in a typical Bonairean atmosphere at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino-6 to 9 pm., NA/35, including a welcome drink. Kids up to 12 years, pay their age in dollars. For reservations call 717-8285, ext. 444. (1st & years, pay their age in dollars. For reservations call 717-8285, ext. 444. (1st &

Sunday, February 5 - Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. See pages 8 & 13.

Saturday, February 11 - Guest Artist Opening at Cinnamon Art Gallery; brightly colored fabric paintings and found wood-art by Brigitte Kley. Exhibit runs through March 23.

REGULAR EVENTS
Saturday Rincon Marshè opens at 6 am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you stop: fresh fruits, vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. Call 717-7806 for more information.

Saturday - Mountain Bike Ride — Everyone welcome. It’s free. Bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Telephone him at 785-0767 for more information.

Saturday - Wine Tasting at AWC’s warehouse, 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Great wines - NA/2.50 a glass.

Sunday - Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar. Open daily 5 to 10 pm, Divi Flamingo.

Monday - Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. $20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesday - Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin 7 to 10 pm, $10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Eliza- beth Voxt at 565-2525/717-7500, ext. 14. Every Tuesday Night @ 6:30 pm - Bonaire Talker Dinner/Gathering at Gibi’s is known for great local food. Call Gibi at 567-0665 for details, or visit www.BonaireTalk.com, and search for “Gibi.”

Friday - Swim-lessons for children by Enith Brighittha, a Dutch Olympic, at Sorobon from 13:30 to 16:30.

Friday - Manager’s Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort. 5:30-6:30 pm

Friday - 5-7 pm Social Event at JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7. Meet artist Janice Huckaby and Larry of Larry’s Wildside Diving. New original paintings of Bonaire and diver stories of the East Coast every week.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - Yoga Classes—Tel. 786-6416

Daily - The Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm-4 am; Sunday 7 pm-3 am.


FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS
Saturday - Discover Our Diversity Slide show at Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -Multimedia dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8:30 pm, Capt. Don’s Habitat.

Monday - Dee Scarz’s Touch the Sea slide show at Captain Don’s Habitat, 8:30 pm Call 717-8290 for info

Wednesday - (2nd & 4th) Turtle Conservation Slide show by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

Wednesday – Buddy Dive Cocktail Video show by Martin Cecilia pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

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

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

Sunday - Museum on Kaya, v.d. Rei, 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 some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

Sunday at Cai: Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at La Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire’s popular musicians.

CLUBS AND MEETINGS
AA meetings - every Wednesday; Phone 717-6105; 560-2671 or 717-3902.

Al-Anons meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7727

Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi’s - Thursday - 5:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. All levels invited. NA/Servy fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

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

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

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

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at Pirate House’, above Restaurant Zeelandt, All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireamo) 717-5246 or 717-7177

The Bonaire Swim Club - Contact Valerie Stimpson at 717-3451; Valerie@telbonet.org

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery. 717-7103.


Bonaire Animal Shelter - 717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 566-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4030.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Bonaire Reporter - January 20 to 27, 2006
**Dining Guide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Price Range / When Open</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bella Vista Restaurant</td>
<td>Moderate, Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day</td>
<td>Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager’s Rum Punch Party and All You-Can-Eat BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bistro de Paris</td>
<td>Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday</td>
<td>Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvinus Restaurant &amp; Chilí Chilí Restaurant and Bar</td>
<td>Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days</td>
<td>Get a view of the beach and turquoise sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or la carte lunch and dinner at the ‘Chili Chilí’ restaurant and bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocotto Italian Restaurant</td>
<td>Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday</td>
<td>Bonaire’s Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes with authentic ingredients. Be served in a garden setting under flowing umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take-out too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Great Escape</td>
<td>Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Breakfast every day; Lunch, Dinner Tues-Sun.</td>
<td>Bar-Restaurant poolside — under the thatched roof. Caribbean cuisine. New kitchen. New cook Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Last Bite Bakery</td>
<td>Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday</td>
<td>Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers gourmet class items — always from scratch — for take out or delivery only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lost Penguin</td>
<td>Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner until 6 pm Closed Tuesdays &amp; Wednesdays</td>
<td>Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass On Pizza</td>
<td>Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday</td>
<td>Bonaire’s best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Shopping Guide**

- **Art Gallery**
  Caribbean Art Gallery non-profit gallery for local artists has continuous shows. Each month a new artist is featured. Stop by. Free entry.

- **Banks**
  Maduro and Curiel’s Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

- **Beauty Parlor**
  Hair Affair Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

- **Bicycles/ Scooters/ Quads**
  De Freewieler rents scooters and quads; profession- ally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

- **Building and Construction**
  APA Construction are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

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

- **Dive Friends Bonaire**
  Photo Tours Divers-Yellow submarine — low prices — on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Haintjik Oyster. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

- **Wanna Dive**
  They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

- **Exterminator**
  Professional Pest Control is at your service. Get rid of all the pests that invade your home and garden. Experienced and reliable.

- **Fitness**
  Bonliney offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

- **Fit For Life**
  At the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, Taekwondo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

- **Furniture**
  The Plantation Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Shop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

- **Garden Supplies and Services**
  Green Label has everything you need to start or main- tain your garden. They can install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals.

- **Gifts, Souvenirs and Liquor**
  The Bonaire Gift Shop has an wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

- **Holidays**
  Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.

- **The Great Escape**
  Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in the neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.

- **Metalwork and Machine Shop**
  b & b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V., offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

- **Nature Exploration**
  Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapeling and more. Reservations: 791-6272 or 717-4555 E-mail: hans@outdoorbonaire.com

- **Photo Finishing**
  Paradise Photo in the Galeries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. Now — full digital services.

- **Real Estate/Rental Agents**
  Harbourcourt Real Estate is Bonaire’s oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer services and top-notch properties.

- **Rentals & Activities**
  Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

- **Retail**
  Benetto, 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.

- **Shipping**

- **Supermarkets**
  Visit Warehouse Bonaire to shop in a large, spotless supermar- ket. You’ll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

- **Vacation Club**
  Lower the cost of vacationing in Bonaire and other places. Visit Perfect Holiday Solutions to discover how you can get discounts and more.

- **Water Taxi**
  Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the Kantika di Amor or Skiffy. Hotel pickup.

- **Windsurfing**
  The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.

- **Wines**
  Antillcan Wine Company. You’ve tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

- **Yoga**
  Yoga For You. Join certified instructors Desérie and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

**Attention Businessmen/Women**
Put your ad in The Bonaire Reporter.
Phone/Fax: 717-8988, Cel 786-6518
**Pet of the Week**

Here’s ‘Rosanna,’ one of the most incredible “good news” dogs at the Shelter today. You have to see her to believe her. She’s got to be one of the homeliest dogs we’ve ever seen, but she has a personality that soars. That’s pretty amazing considering the rough life she’s had. Barely out of puppy hood herself, she became a mom early in life. At the time she and the pups came into the Shelter she was skin and bone and barely had enough flesh on her body to keep her alive much less feed her pups. But with the care and attention from the Shelter staff she got enough nourishment for herself and her puppies. You should see them all now: the pups are fat and fuzzy faced and Rosanna is the star personality of the place, stork and peppy! In fact she doesn’t just wag her tail, she wags her whole body, all the while with a big doggy “smile” on her face. Rosanna will have to stick around for another week or so to make sure her pups get a good start in life, then she’s free to be up for adoption.

**Just A Reminder**

Before diving, ALL SCUBA divers are required to:

1. Get an orientation about Marine Park rules and local conditions,
2. Make a check-out shore dive (this is not a skill test, but a test of your own gear prior to going on a dive), and
3. Buy a Marine Park “Dive Tag” for $25 good for all the year 2006 as well as admission to Washington Park. You can get all this done for free (except for the tag) at most dive shops including Reporter advertisers: Carib Inn, Dive Friends, Divi Dive, Great Adventures, Wanna Dive and Yellow Submarine. They all offer dive tank fills, instruction and full dive services.

Now she’s in great health, she’ll be sterilized and will have had her shots. You may meet her at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Welcome to the Shelter’s new assistant, Marlis. We’ll have a photo and story about her next week in this column. L.D.

**Getting something to buy or sell?**

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Call or fax 717-8988 or email ads@bonairereporter.com

**JANART GALLERY**
Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10am-5 pm Friday 1-7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

**BONAIRENET**
The leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (980) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com

**CAPT. DON’S ISLAND GROWER**
8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). Phone: 786-0956

**JELLASTONE PETPARK**
Pet boarding / Dierenkliniek Station 24. Day and night care. phone: 786-4601

www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

**LUNCH TO GO**
Starting from NA/5 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981

**SALT TREASURES BONAIRE**
100% natural body salts “Scrub Me” 100% natural Bath Salts available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover’s Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

**Bonaire Images**
Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover’s Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

**For Sale**
SCUBAPRO Twin Jet fins extra large, used once. Listed at $179-, Sacrifice $90-

Leave message for R. Olla at 717-8738 for call back.

Digital Camera SONY DSC-W7 & Underwater Housing! Very fast, 7.2 Megapixel, 2.5" LCD display! Call 780-9795

For sale: waterski bindings for combo skis, Size 38 to 46 (Eur) New, Complete with mounting material. NA/100/pair.

Tel. 786-5591

**For Sale**
SEAT Ibiza Car

Tel. 786-5591

**For Sale**
Figures of the Week

1991-AX4 drive 1.6 Cyl. 95.000km
NA/5,400 717-2844 or 786-2844

**Wanted**
Help! We are looking for a new home for our 1 ½ year old ‘Vledder’. She’s a very cute, half-sized, black, white and brown, loyal, loving and friendly Bonairean dog. She would like a nice owner who already has a dog, because she is used to having a playmate. Please call 564-9577

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a Partner

Join us to “Publish in Paradise.” Working partner with journalism writing/editing skills, business sense and energy desired. Call The Reporter at 717-8988, 786-6518. Email qualifications to: search@bonairereporter.com

SEEKING A NATIONAL PARKS MANAGER

The Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF), a non-profit nature management organisation based in Saba, Netherlands Antilles, is seeking a National Parks Manager to manage the Saba National Marine Park and a land park. The SCF has five full time staff to support field, operational and administrative aspects of the organisation. The incumbent will be responsible for the overall management of the organisation, staff and its functions. Please send resume and cover letter to the Director Saba Conservation Foundation, PO Box 18, The Bottom, Saba, Netherlands Antilles or e-mail to janine_leseur@yahoo.com. Closing date 24 January 2006. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Please review website www.sabapark.org See also www.dcnaature.org

**Pet Boarding**
Relax here at Jellastone Petpark. All of our pets have been fostered prior to adoption. If you are interested in adopting a pet please call 786-0956.

**Shelter**

**Boats for Sale**
For Sale - Cabo Rico 38 Yacht 1989, Excellent offshore cruiser. One-owner, little used, only 800 engine hours, many sails, many spares, new s-s rigging. Includes Avon R2.8 inflatable and Nissan outboard. Luxury interior. Bristol condition. Hauled out on Bonaire $109,000.

Phone/fax (599) 717-5038. Email to icarus@flamingotv.net

Why import a sail boat when you can own a fast Regina winner built right here? Classic 21’ Bonaire Sail Fishing boat recently refurbished is for sale for NA/14,000 ($8,000).

Call George 786-6125/717-8988.

**Property**
Multi family Yard Sale, Saturday 28 January, 8am-2pm, Harbour Village Tennis Center

This in turn makes weight loss easier, and raising our fat and calorie burning ability. Our body's basal metabolic rate, thereby through resistance training, we can boost mass. But by increasing lean muscle we move less as we age and lose lean body mainly due to the fact that we tend to true that metabolism slows with age, "My metabolism just slowed down, and my weight began creeping up." Well it's "Can you hear yourself already saying, "My metabolism just slowed down, and my weight began creeping up." Well it's true that metabolism slows with age, mainly due to the fact that we tend to move less as we age and lose lean body mass. But by increasing lean muscle through resistance training, we can boost our body's basal metabolic rate, thereby raising our fat and calorie burning ability. This in turn makes weight loss easier, and if you keep it up, resistance training will continue to enhance your metabolism even as you age.

When lean muscle is active, it will burn 25% more calories than fat tissue. This increases your muscle mass, and your metabolism continues to stay elevated whether you're working out or resting. Studies have shown that after resistance training, energy expenditure continues for two hours, even during periods of relaxation. Resistance training combined with a well-balanced diet will build muscle and accelerate fat loss.

Did you know that the average sedentary person between the ages of 20 and 70 loses six to seven pounds of lean muscle every 10 years? This means 28% of men and 65% of women over the age of 74 are unable to lift even a 10-pound object over their head. The good news is that strength can be regained through resistance training and that even the very oldest among us may benefit significantly.

Strong, lean muscles are essential to carry out even the most basic activities in life such as lifting grocery bags and picking up your children, and by building muscle and reducing fat you dramatically reduce your risk for many common diseases.

**Some Hot Benefits From Resistance Training**

One of the greatest benefits of building a healthy amount of muscle mass is the prevention and control of Type II Diabetes. Fortunately exercise has an insulin-like effect on blood glucose levels. Resistance training in particular has been shown to provide a safe and effective way to control blood glucose, increase strength, and improve the quality of life in individuals with diabetes.

Studies show that regular resistance training exercises can boost your cardiovascular health by improving levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL). HDL aids in removing excess cholesterol from the arteries. It can also decrease low-density lipoprotein (LDL) levels because resistance training can lead to the reduction of body fat, which causes cholesterol levels to drop. Lower cholesterol can help prevent heart disease, which kills over 700,000 people every year.

**Why Not Start Training Now?**

Make sure to start with light weights and make a list of the goals you would like to achieve with your resistance training program. Also, if you have never worked out before, it's always recommended that you consult your physician first and to work out with a professional trainer so you can learn which machines do what and especially for proper form. If you're already familiar with weight training, start with the large muscle groups first, such as the torso, chest, and back, to prevent fatigue of the smaller muscles.

Studies show that regular resistance training offers substantial health benefits that go well beyond looking fabulous. You can burn more fat while you rest, ward off disease and improve your quality of life. Why not start now?

Till next time. Rosita

Owner-operator of Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort, Rosita Palman, a physical fitness instructor, personal trainer and nutritionist, offers classes, a weight/exercise room and a staff to guide you in reaching your ideal physical fitness level.
How to See Something 20,000 Times the Size of Our Solar System with Just the Naked Eye

You know winter may be the best time for star gazing because you see more bright stars in winter skies than at any other season. And winter skies contain some of the most incredible cosmic objects you can see with the naked eye.

On any night during the next few weeks in early evening facing southeast where you will see winter's most famous constellation, Orion the Hunter. Three evenly spaced stars in a row mark his belt; above them two brilliant stars mark his shoulders; and below two more mark his knees. And although I usually talk about these brightest stars every January, this year I'd like to zero in on one of Orion's dimmer "stars" because as magnificent as Orion's bright stars are, it is one of his dimmer stars that is one of the most awesome wonders of our nearby universe.

To find it simply look below his three evenly spaced belt stars for three more evenly spaced, much, much dimmer stars, which make up his sword. And then if you look very carefully at these three stars you will notice that no matter how sharp your eyesight, the middle "star" always seems to look fuzzy and slightly out of focus. And that's because this so-called middle star is not a star at all but something we call a nebula, which is a great cosmic cloud of gas and dust out of which brand new stars have been and are still being born.

In fact this nebula, the Orion Nebula, is a stellar womb, a birthplace and nursery of stars, a place where new stars are being created. And incredibly you can see this great cloud and some of the new born stars embedded in it with even the cheapest pair of binoculars. And even better, with a small telescope you’ll be able to see the four recently born stars which illuminate this vast cloud. They are arranged in the shape of a baseball diamond and are called the Trapezium. Now although the Orion Nebula looks tiny to the naked eye, in reality its size is mind boggling because there is enough material in this nebula to produce over 10,000 stars the size of our Sun.

In fact, it is an outrageous 30 light years in diameter, which means it takes 30 years for light to travel from one end of it to the other; so huge it would take 20,000 of our solar systems lined up end to end to reach from one edge of the nebula to the other. Or to put it another way, if the distance from our Earth to the Sun were only one inch, the distance across the Orion nebula would be 12 miles. Is that mind boggling or what?

So get thee outside to see the wonderful fuzzy middle "star" in the sword of Orion and experience some of the awe and wonder of winter's brilliant night skies.

*to find it, just look up

**Orion Nebula**

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**ARIES** (Mar. 21 - April 20) Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Family outings should include visiting friends or relatives. Someone you live with will be quite unreasonable this week. Residential moves will be in your best interest. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21) You should get out and enjoy social events where you are likely to meet new potential mates; however, don't over spend. Confronting a situation will only result in indignation and misunderstandings. Residential moves look hectic and sudden changes in your life are likely. You need to make your lover feel wanted, not like a piece of the furniture. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Take a look at the possibilities of starting a small part time business with friends or relatives. Emotionally, things may not run so smoothly. Secret affairs may be brought out in the open. Try to stay calm and do the best you can. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Your partner will blow situations out of proportion. Take the whole family and make it an enjoyable outing. Put your energy into behind the scenes activities. Be careful not to sign your time or your cash away. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Sudden changes will occur through communications with friends or in-laws. Question your mate if you must. Chances are you split up last time because you didn't really want to make a commitment. Travel in pursuit of pleasure and knowledge. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You may have difficulties with in-laws or family members. Observations will be far more productive. Social activity should be on your agenda this week. Involvement in fitness clubs will be conducive to engaging romantic connections. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't be afraid of opposition; your suggestions are valid. Outdoor sports events should entice you. Don't let your health suffer because of worry. Talk to someone you trust. You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You could make extra cash through creative hobbies. You can make the most headway if you put in some overtime. Try not to attempt to do something unless you are fully intent on following through with the plans. Do something special for them. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your ideas are right on the mark and your work commendable. Don't be afraid to talk to close friends or relatives about pressing personal problems. You can invest in profitable ventures. You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Strengthen your position among your peers. Be fair, not colorful. Coworkers may not be giving you all the pertinent information. If you have to deal with large institutions, be careful not to make waves. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Help with your aspirations is likely, and profits could follow. Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. Do you really want to start something with someone you can't reason with? New relationships will surface through work relate events. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Make plans to meet again in the near future. You will be looking for creative ways to make a little extra cash. Your changing philosophies may lead you into new circles and open doors that will give you a unique outlook on life. Go out with friends or family. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.