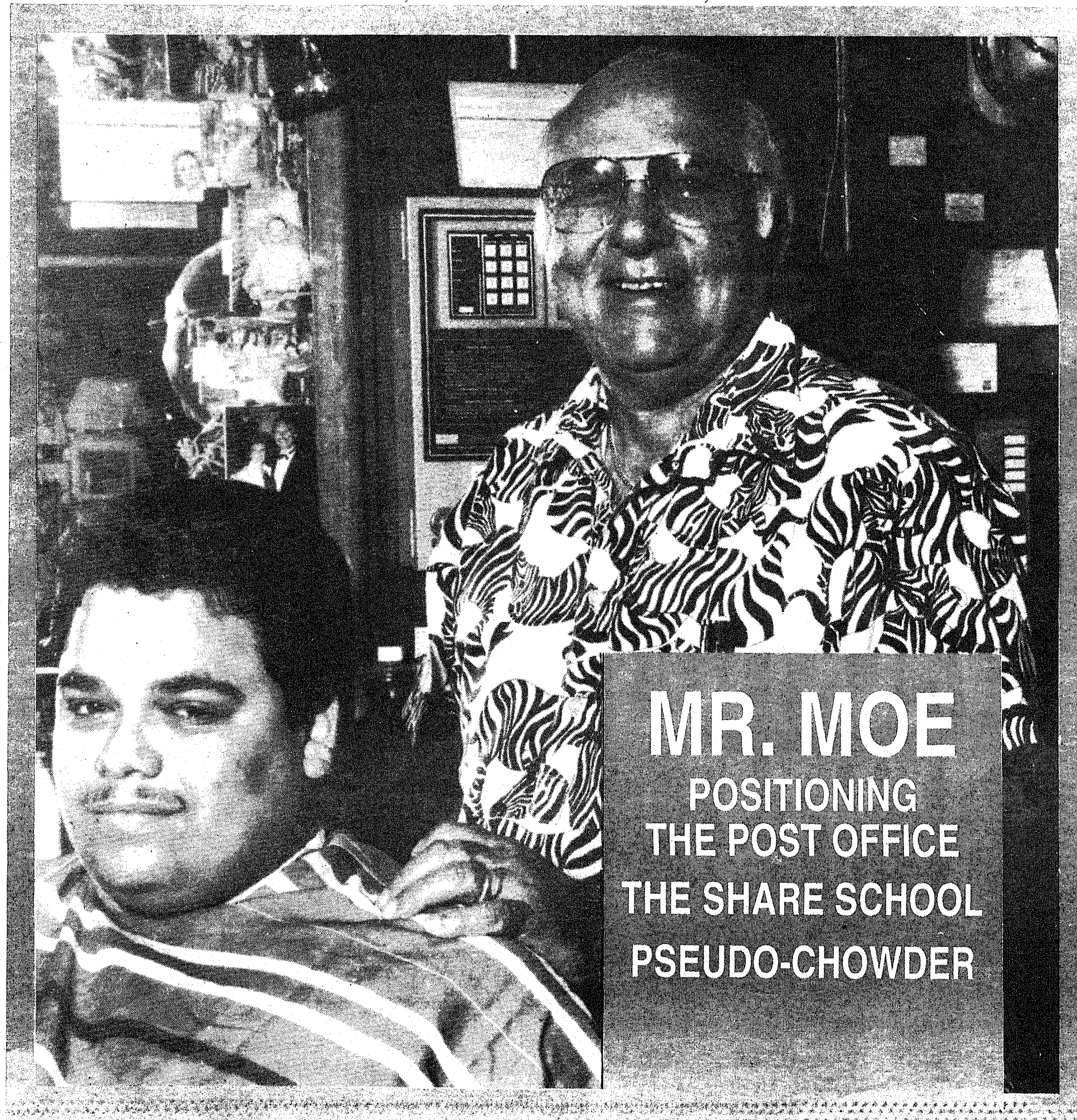


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Solares hill

Vol. 17, No. 5 • Feb. 27 - March 18, 1992

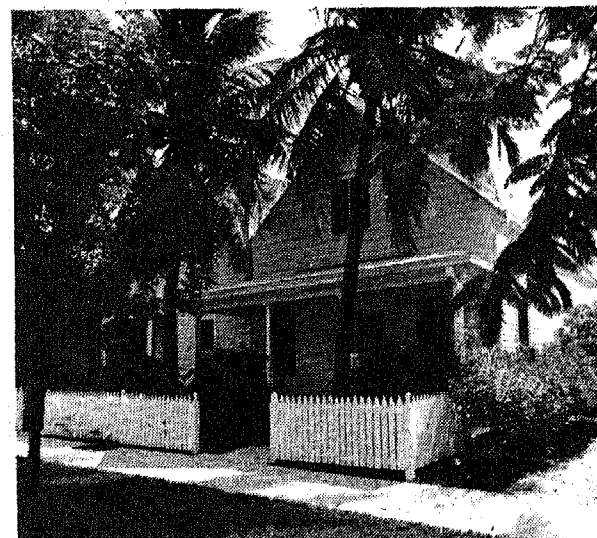


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An Hour of Research

What has been tagged by the City of Key West and the United States Postal Service as "a done deal" to find the best place to relocate the Flagler Avenue branch of the post office may be just the beginning of a struggle.

Several loose ends must be dealt with. Many citizens are unsatisfied with the postal service's decision to move its branch into the Overseas Market. Primarily their resistance to this choice is that the new shopping center suffers from an ill-designed parking lot.

A busy postal trade could provide enough additional steel and wheels to break the proverbial camel's back at this busy location.

City staff and city commissioners chose to back down from the whole issue, stating that the problem was not a city-level problem.

It took about 20 minutes for our reporter to find the case the *City of Rochester, New York vs. the United States Postal Service*, in which at least one city legally protested a federally-made decision. And the citizens won.

It took the writer another half hour to confirm that LPI/Key West Associates has never been registered as a company with the State of Florida. This oversight may cost LPI the ability to sue the city for possible interference with the contract between it and the postal service.

We believe the city commission should not have so swiftly dismissed the concerns of its constituents. Nor should it have been so easily frightened by the notion of a lawsuit, if it indeed was, at least not until city staff

had done some research—about an hour's worth.

In another matter, it's nice to see some recognition for Gerald Mosher, Mr. Moe, one of the pioneers of Duval Street's renewal more than two decades ago.

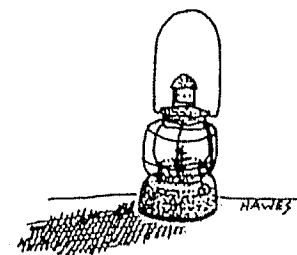
Also in this issue, psychiatrist Alma Bond gives her professional view of the island, which will be forever "on the couch." As a newcomer, she retains (we hope) at least a shred of objectivity about this wild and crazy place.

Finally, assistant city manager Ron Herron has recently come under fire from city officials and local media for his testimony in a federal court in Miami concerning Peary Court. During the last commission meeting, commissioner Jimmy Weekley spoke out in support of Herron's honesty, and reminded the audience in Old City Hall that Herron had spoken under oath.

We applaud both Herron and Weekley for their integrity.

Ann Boese

The cover photograph of Gerald Mosher, a.k.a. Mr. Moe, was shot by J.D. Dooley.



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Post Office Location Is Not Sealed & Stamped

Solares Hill • Feb. 27 - March 18, 1992 • Page 3

by J.D. Dooley

Many Key West residents were disappointed January 7 when the Key West City Commission denied public comment on the relocation of the New Town post office from Flagler Avenue to the Overseas Market on North Roosevelt Boulevard.

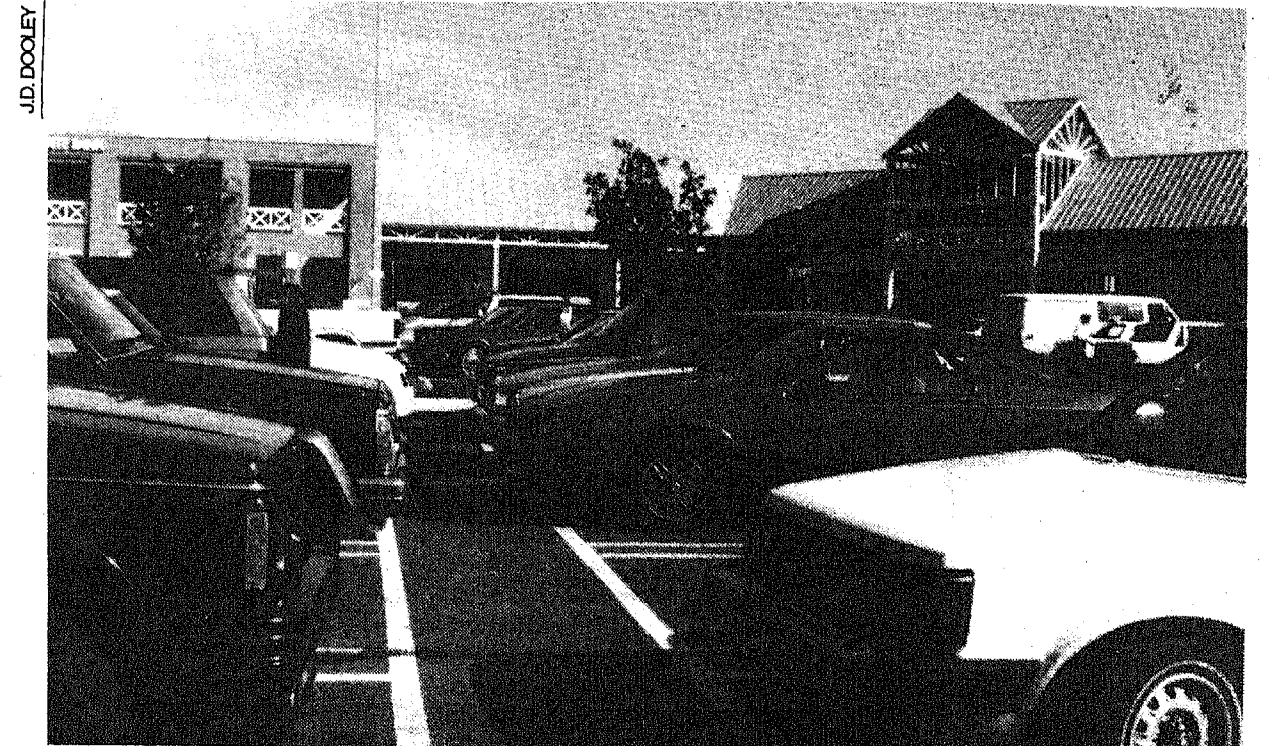
The postal service and Lewis Properties, developer of the Overseas Market, have entered into an agreement to lease. A lease may soon follow based on Lewis Properties' ability to meet postal service standards.

The uproar began when city attorney Ginny Stones said that the postal service was legally bound to Lewis Properties. She said she had received a letter that day from a law firm indicating that the city would be held legally responsible if it interfered with the contract between the Postal Service and developer.

Within the letter, Shutts & Bowen said that Lewis Properties has entered into a binding agreement with the U.S. Postal Service, and that "Lewis Properties intends to hold the city responsible for any loss or damages that Lewis Properties may incur as a result of the city's interference."

Objections To New Location

Many citizens voiced opposition to the relocation spot, which they say is less accessible and more costly than the Flagler



AND A POST OFFICE TOO: The United States Postal Service plans to sign a lease with Lewis Properties, the developer of Overseas Market, to open a branch office in the new shopping center.

Avenue location. Marjorie Chapin wrote a letter to Florida Congressman Dante Fascell, who then contacted the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C.

In a response to the congressman, dated October 3, 1991, the postal service replied, "Many factors are considered when evalu-

ating new sites for postal facilities. Some of these factors are: site cost, land availability, facility improvements needed, site accessibility by vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the site preferences voiced by representatives of the community."

The letter said the matter is still under

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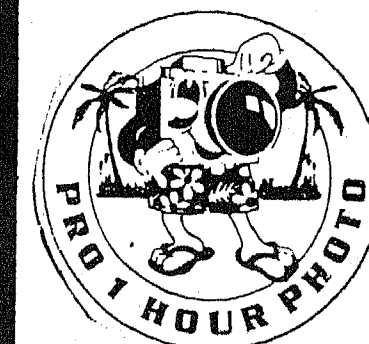
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Opponents to the relocation site claim that moving the post office to the Overseas Market contradicts each of the conditions mentioned by the postal service in the letter to Fascell.

Currently, the postal service is leasing the Flagler location for \$7,100 per year; the projected lease for the Overseas Market location is expected to run about \$80,000 per year, roughly 11 times the current rate.

As for location, several alternative sites have been mentioned, including the abandoned Winn Dixie in Searstown.

The postal service, however, claims that upon deciding to vacate the current location, it published a call for bids on a new location and, according to a published statement by Key West Post Master E.R. Hart, Lewis Properties presented the only response.

The USPS published an advertisement in the *Key West Citizen* calling for lease property in February and March of 1991. The ad appeared in the classified section under commercial property, not in the legal notice section, where one would expect to find such an announcement. The ad, which also appeared in the *Miami Herald*, did not mention that the existing site would be closed, only that another site would be opened.

What's On Record

Little in the way of public comment is noted within the administrative records of the USPS concerning the relocation. In fact, the only document located was a letter to Key West city planner Ted Strader from Michael DeHainault, a real estate specialist with the USPS, calling for comment specifically con-

cerning the new location.

Strader replied that the Overseas Market location was consistent with Key West land use regulations, the answer to DeHainault's question, and then went a step further by expressing regret that the Flagler Avenue location would be closed.

"I don't believe the Overseas Market location will provide the same convenience and level of service we now enjoy," Strader wrote.

The USPS claims that after deciding to relocate, they made the best business decision available.

"Public input doesn't enter into the factor. We ran the ads, called the city fathers. When we decided to build, the local post master went out of his way by approaching the other shopping centers and no other [business] placed an offer," said Cesta Ayers of the USPS' Miami office. "All the hearings in the world wouldn't create more available locations. I can fully appreciate the citizens' concerns, but that was the best offer we had."

When asked how the situation would be resolved, Ayers replied, "As far as I am concerned it is resolved."

Is Postal Service Exempt?

Ayers agreed that no input was requested other than that of land use regulation compliance. He also said, however, that as a "businesslike government entity," the USPS is exempt from certain government regulations such as the Natural Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), whereas other agencies, such as the Department of Transportation must comply.

"If Southern Bell were to change locations would the citizenry have a right to complain? It's the same with the postal service," Ayers asked and answered.

"No it is not," said Gerald Miller of the Environmental Protection Agency's Atlanta office, which oversees Florida. "At least an Environmental Assessment [EA] would seem necessary based on the significant effect to the quality of the human environment."

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Herman Phillips of the EPA's New York office concurs that the postal service is not exempt from federal law and clearly falls within the purview of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), which addresses not only the natural environment but quality-of-human-life issues as well.

"It would appear, in this case," says Miller, "that the test [of impact to the quality of life] has not been completed. The USPS should have to explore this with at least an EA concerning public access and cost. Many times sites are discounted because of cost and public input alone. There is a case law to that effect."

Case Law: Rochester N.Y. vs. USPS

The U.S. Federal Code outlines the parameters by which the postal service must guide itself: "In planning and building new postal facilities the postal service shall emphasize the need for facilities designed to create a maximum degree of convenience for efficient postal services and control of costs to the postal service."

The above is federal law and the people may challenge the postal service on that basis, as did the citizens of Rochester in the *City of Rochester New York vs. the USPS*, a case in which a city successfully sued the postal service on its decision to move the post office.

Locally, the failure of the postal service to comply with federal regulations prior to entering into the agreement to lease could void the decision to move to the Overseas Market.

When It Rains, It Pours

Nobody seems certain of exactly the entity with which the post office is dealing.

If the threat of a lawsuit against the city were a possibility, certain legal formalities would have to be in place, including a registered business name for the party desiring to litigate. The offer to lease to the post office was signed by LPI/Key West Associates. According to county records and the Florida secretary of state's office, no such company exists in the state.

The group had requested its mail be sent in care of LPI Property Investors, Inc. Again according to county records and the Florida secretary of state's office, no such business entity exists in the state.

A partnership called LPI Key West Associates Ltd. does exist, but it appears that

no fictitious name for this company has been registered with Monroe County or the Florida Secretary of State. The general partner of the partnership (unlimited liability holder) is called LPI/Key West, Inc. The listed business address is 1500 Miami Center, 100 Chopin Plaza, Miami, FL 33131.

According to Florida code section 865.09 (9) (a), the code concerning the registration of fictitious names states: "If a business fails to comply, the business, its members, and those interested in doing such business may not maintain any action, suit or proceeding in any court of this state until this section is complied with."

Calls to Shutts & Bowen and to Lewis Properties' Key West office were not returned as of press time.

Did the City Buckle Under?

If the city did buckle under to a threat of legal action, it may have been from a

company that may not exist.

Had the city been aware of the NEPA guidelines and the fact that the companies dealing with the postal service were not properly registered, commissioners would have found out that it is impossible for LPI/Key West to file a suit against the city. No one can sue on behalf of an entity that doesn't exist, according to attorney Herb Walker.

The answers still aren't clear. During a meeting held on the subject recently, a small but determined group of citizens vowed to find out. Absent from that meeting were city commissioners, postal officials and representatives of LPI—all of whom had received written invitations.



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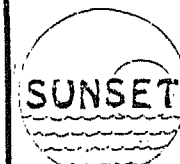
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Most veterans of school music programs can recall pulling a borrowed instrument (probably older than themselves) out of a musty closet and trudging to a far corner of the school building for band practice. There the music teacher's baton could usually be heard whacking the music stand to gain the students' attention.

But the routine at the Share School of Music, located in the old Harris School complex, is decidedly different. Up in the second-floor studio, level with the loftier boughs of Spanish lime trees, local children plunk away at a baby grand. Their sometimes strained notes float off to the soft white ceilings high overhead.

Approaching its first anniversary, the Share School is a non-profit organization that provides musical instruction to the community at a comfortable rate of \$5 a session. Under the eyes (and ears) of director Mary Beth Wendt, the school operates on small grants, modest tuition fees, fundraisers and the odd donation. Although it provides classes and workshops for children as young as four years, the majority of the lessons, which include piano, guitar, flute and sax, are held for students aged six to 16.

Adults may also attend the school for the same low fee, but the focus is on the children.

Wendt was sparked to start the school while she was teaching a general music class at Mary Immaculate. (She now teaches guitar in the enrichment program at Glynn Archer elementary school.)

"I thought it was too expensive for a lot of kids to take private [music] lessons," says Wendt. "I knew that a lot of kids really wanted to study music."

But the usual rates of \$20 to \$25 an hour for private instruction, she says, were too steep for middle-income families "who have several children and can barely make their

rent."

So she started her own affordable school.

Decades of Dedication

In quiet, modest tones Wendt, who is originally from Michigan, explains her own musical education in classical piano, which began at age five and continued until age 20. Coincidentally, her teacher, a concert pianist, now lives in the Keys.

For the next decade, Wendt took a break

which a local developer had set up as a non-profit organization but then dropped. She shuffled paper for more than a year to secure a tax-exempt status, and then signed a lease with the school board to lease space in the Harris School. Classes, which are after school and on Saturdays, began early last summer.

"It's really growing quickly," says Wendt, who has lived in the Keys for 12 years. "Now we have at least 60 students,



The Share School Of Music

by Joe Silva

from music: she married, traveled and lived in Nashville, where she worked as controller for country singer Johnny Cash. After moving to the Keys, she resumed her musical aspirations and began a five-year course of study—working with Key Wester Matthew Jampol on guitar and Jacqueline Rosenblatt of Big Pine on piano—to prepare her for work as an instructor.

About two years ago, Wendt assumed control of the Share Corporation, a project

not including the private students. My goal is to have about 150 students. Last year at least that many came through the doors."

The money from student tuitions goes toward paying the instructors: Cheryl Kinkelaar, who teaches flute; Annie McDonnell, who teaches *kodaly*—a method of teaching ear-training, notation and rhythms; Phyllis Pope who teaches puppet-theater workshop; Matthew Jampol, who teaches adult guitar workshops; and, of course, Wendt who teaches guitar and piano.

The remaining costs—the annual rent and insurance on the studio is set at \$10,000—have been covered by the proceeds from fundraisers and two \$1000 state grants.

"The grants come from the State Division of Cultural Affairs," says Wendt. "You have to fill out an extensive form, because there are hundreds of applicants. I was amazed at the first one I got, because I wasn't even operating yet. But [the state] liked the idea of having a music school in Key West."

Unfortunately, says Wendt, the state ran out of money to fund projects like hers after the second grant.

Individualized Attention

The school's class sizes are small, usually running from four to six students, which helps ensure each child receives sufficient individual attention during one of the 45-minute or hour-long sessions.

Recently in a class, Wendt calmly shuttled between the baby grand and the students, who were patiently trying to remember the hints about where certain notes are placed on the musical staff.

"Remember, all cows eat grass," Wendt says to Asia, a seven-year-old piano student.

The words illustrate the particular se-



quence of notes—A-C-E-G—found on a staff with a bass clef.

Asia looks intently at her book as Wendt attends to another pupil. Timidly, she draws notes in her theory book, and then she erases them slowly and uncertainly.

Later, however, sitting next to her instructor at the piano, Asia's fingers come down harder on the keys than her more experienced classmates. With little reservation, she presses on to the end of her exercise.

"Some children can start at age five and be great," Wendt says. "But it really depends on the child, on their ability to read. You heard how many times I've had to say 'all cows eat grass' today; if the children don't know what letter the word 'cow' begins with ..."

Ah, Yes, the Recitals

The 12-week semesters are scheduled to mirror regular school semesters; each comes to a close with a recital that combines the various student groups and also serves as a fundraiser. In fact, the ensemble work is one of the primary goals of the school.

"To me studying music is a learning process," says Wendt. "We focus on memory and do a lot of group work."

Groups of her students have appeared on

George Murphy's "Coconut Telegraph" television show on Channel 5, and, recently, they provided musical entertainment during the Jaycees local charity telethon.

Until Wendt can find a major supporter for the school, fundraisers and grants will remain her principal form of support. She's been able to enlist the aid of local businesses to purchase both radio and print advertising for the school.

"Even if I don't find a major donor, I think we can make it with fundraisers," she says. "Every time we have an event, it becomes easier to fill."

"I need at least four similar keyboards," she says. "Keyboards with headphones so that more children can practice separately and then together."

On March 28, the Harid Conservatory, a touring high school music and ballet program, will be arriving in Key West with a pianist and string quartet to perform a benefit for the Share School at Tennessee Williams Fine Art Center. For information, 294-5299.

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Bunny Population In Decline

by Beth Forsys

If you have never heard of the "keys bunny," you might be surprised to find there actually are rabbits native to the Lower Florida Keys and that they are endangered.

This bunny is not the white pygmy rabbit your neighbor lost on Harris Avenue or the group of European rabbits (Belgian hares) that were once released up the Keys. It's a subspecies of marsh rabbit that has a dark, reddish-brown coat, a minuscule brown tail, weighs less than two pounds and is found only in the Lower Keys of Florida. It differs from other marsh rabbits in certain cranial and coat characteristics, and it is smaller in size.

Sylvilagus palustris hefneri was named for *Playboy* Magazine publisher Hugh Hefner, because his corporation originally funded part of researcher James Lazell's taxonomic work on the rabbit. After much pressure from local naturalists, the rabbit was listed as an endangered species at both the state and federal levels in 1990.

Now funding for the little-known rabbit comes from a rather different source, the U.S. Navy. The Navy has commissioned me, a Ph.D. student from the University of Florida, to do a two-and-a-half-year study on the population, biology and habitat requirements of the marsh rabbit. The study was motivated by the discovery of marsh rabbits on Navy lands. As a federal agency, the Navy must avoid planning any development that might be detrimental to the rabbit.

By using accepted rabbit censusing methods, such as live-trapping and fecal pellet counting, I have been able to estimate the total number of adult rabbits in the Lower Florida Keys. After over one year of studying rabbit populations from Big Pine to Boca Chica, I estimated a total population high of 400 rabbits in February 1991 and a population low of 240 rabbits in November 1991.

This decrease probably represents a seasonal variance in rabbit numbers, but I was disturbed to discover that a few of the marshes known to support rabbit populations in 1989 (during the research for the endangered species listing) have been destroyed. Less than one-third of the rabbits left are estimated to be living on public land, includ-



ing Navy property.

Historically, rabbits have occupied the majority of the Lower Keys including Key West; and as late as the 1940s their numbers were reported to be abundant. The ensuing decline appears to be from extreme loss of habitat.

The rabbit lives in the buttonwood transition zone—an area of high marshes and grasslands that lies between mangroves and upland hardwood hammocks. Often prime real-estate, these areas have been under intense developmental pressure in the past. Other factors in the decline may have included hunting, road kills, predation by feral cats, and the introduction of exotic trees like Australian pine. (This tree's needles appear to inhibit the growth of plants that are important to the rabbits for food and shelter.)

In addition to estimating population size, I am using radio telemetry to study marsh home-range size and habitat use. Radio telemetry, or radio tracking, uses transmitters attached to collars that allow researchers to follow specific animals and study their habitat use. Each tiny transmitter emits a distinct radio frequency that the researcher can detect with an antenna, which is attached to a receiver.

Currently, I have radio telemetry collars on 15 adult rabbits. During the past nine months, I have discovered that adult marsh

rabbits use very specific areas of habitat, and that there is little overlap between rabbits in their main areas of use.

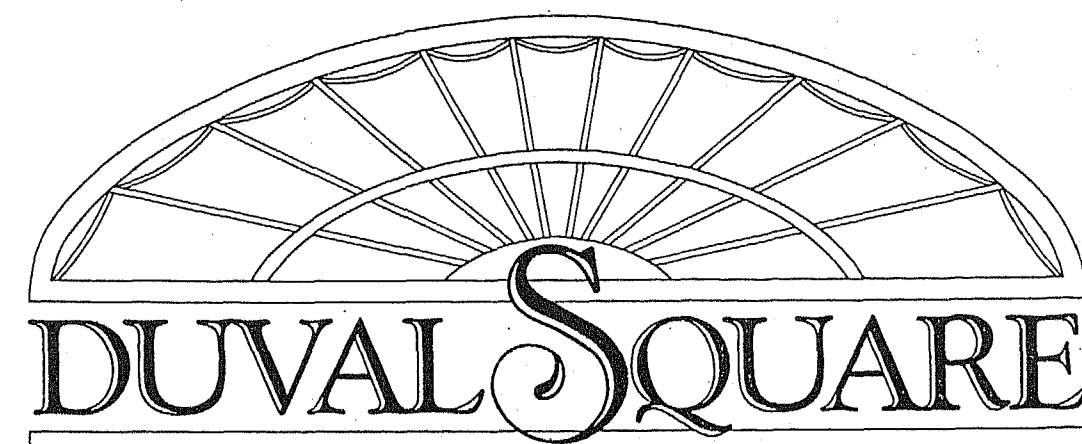
Only young male adults appear to travel long distances, a behavior known as dispersal, which appears to occur at the onset of sexual maturity. Dispersal is thought to provide genetic interchange between populations and to allow for colonization in new areas.

My research also indicates that adult mortality of the keys rabbit is relatively low compared to other rabbits. All of the rabbits I have trapped have appeared to be healthy, and many of the females have been pregnant.

Of the 23 rabbits I've followed, only five have been killed. Three were hit by vehicles, and two were eaten by an eastern diamond-back rattlesnake. Four of the five were young males that died while they were dispersing. Preserving safe dispersal corridors between rabbit populations may be important to the subspecies' survival.

The current population-peak estimate of 400 individuals indicates that the rabbit may be in imminent danger of extinction. Some scientists believe that a total population size of 500 reproductive individuals is necessary for long-term persistence. It does not appear that the local rabbit-population numbers will ever reach much over 500, because there simply isn't enough habitat left to support this many rabbits.

At this point, it is important to preserve the remaining areas of rabbit habitat; however, recent efforts to purchase rabbit habitat have failed due to a lack of funds. Perhaps with the protection provided by the Endangered Species Act, funding will be found to preserve the rabbits' habitat and the subspecies will persist in the Lower Keys.

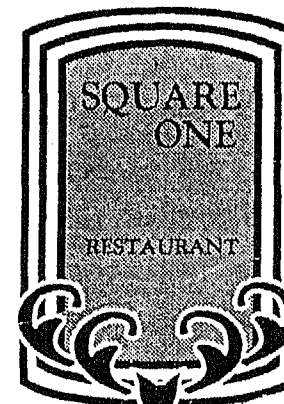


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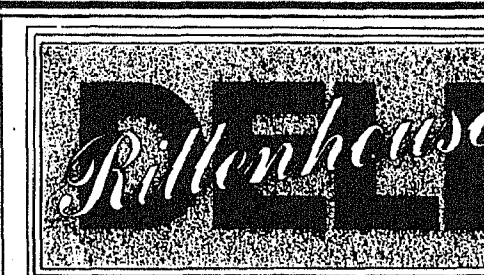
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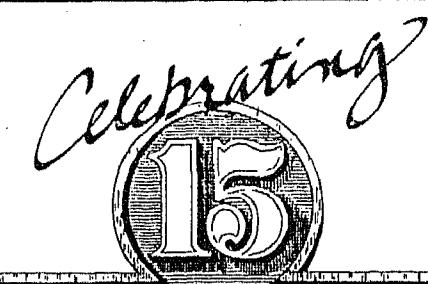
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Mr. Moe

by Joe Roach

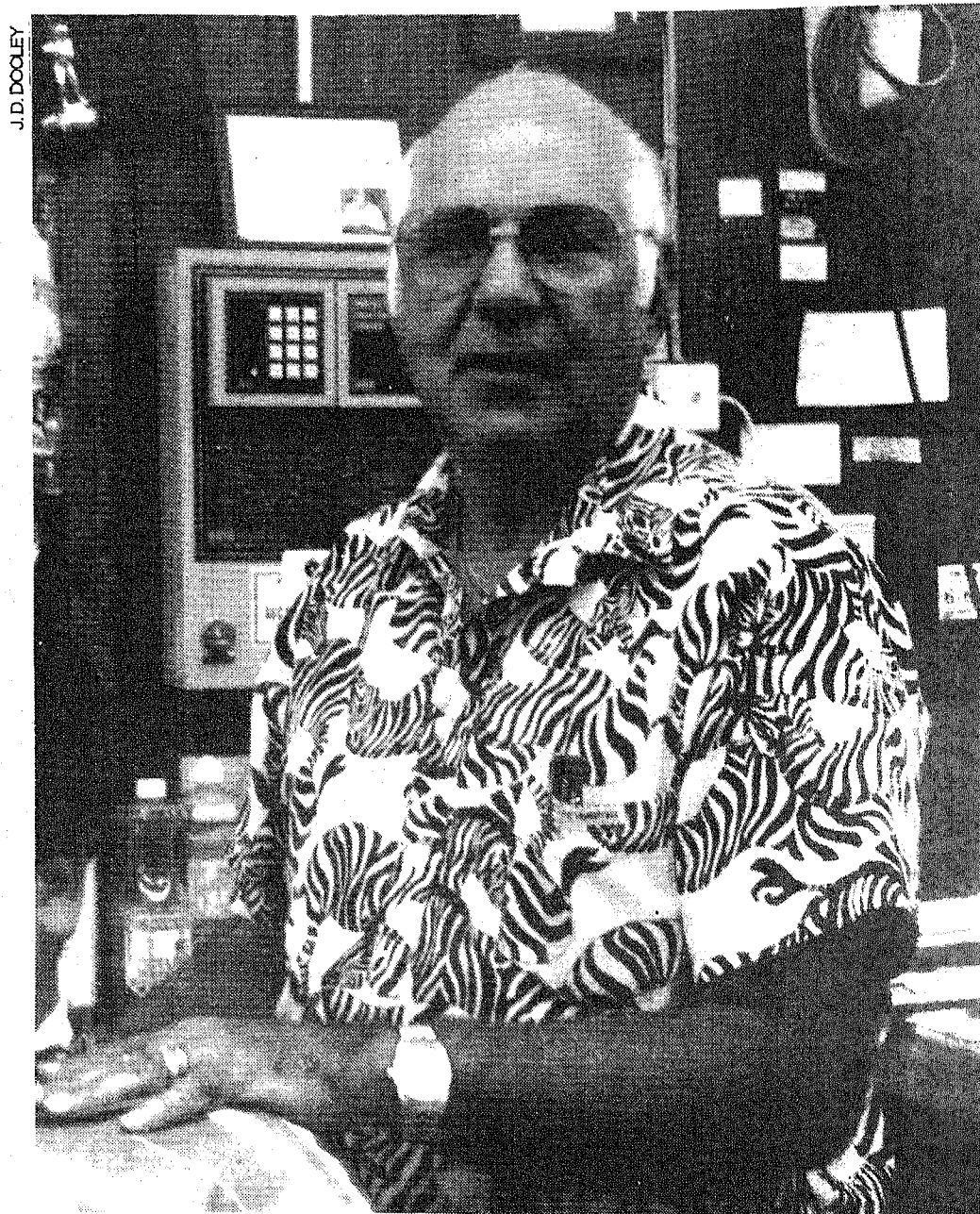
Used to be there were two attractions on the northeast side of Duval between Southard and Angela to tantalize tourists—the three rickety old wood Cuban refugee boats and Moe's Barber and Style Shop.

The boats are gone now, removed to a museum where they will be preserved with care. But Moe's, in all its red-and-white striped splendor, is still there. To this day tourists stop in the shade of the striped awning and gawk. This isn't your ordinary store.

It should be apparent from the two familiar pedestal chairs at the left and the waiting-room-type chairs facing the door that the place is—among other things—a barber shop. But there are also racks of illustrated postcards, an assortment of candies, a stand displaying several styles of hats and visors, a soft-drink machine, and a display case holding a multitude of items for sale. In back of all this is a cashier's counter and a case overflowing with an indescribable mass of miscellaneous merchandise.

Opposite is another barber's chair, and further back three more similar chairs, each complete with the usual accouterments of the barbering trade. Across the way is still more unclassifiable merchandise. Some shelves of products pertain to the care of hair. But there's also a melange of other curious items—coffee filters, mending tapes, thread, hose washers, small toys, glitter, clown makeup, batteries and more.

Mr. Moe, the man behind it all, provides a partial explanation for his varied inventory. "The way I got all that stuff in the shop," he says, "is that someone would come in and ask for wax to make hair stand up. Somebody else would come in and say, I can't get Wildroot Creme Oil any more. And I'd say,



Gee, I can't buy just one bottle. I'll have to buy a dozen, or a case. Same thing with Vitalis. Customers would ask, Can you get me this or that? And we would."

What about the display of gun holsters in the shop? He laughs.

"The gun business started," Mr. Moe replies, "because my son Mike always has had a great interest in firearms and now he's an authority on guns. He persuaded me to get a firearms license, and I did."

"Since then, Mike has sold a number of guns—to the Key West Police Department, for instance. And he's done customizing and refinishing. We've never advertised that we sell guns. We don't carry a large stock, mostly we special-order for our customers."

It Started With a Flat-Top

Nowadays, Gerald Mosher—who likes to be called Mr. Moe—is well known among long- and short-time Key Westers. While he

is not a genuine born-in-Key-West Conch, lots of people think he is.

"My wife Marina is a Conch," he says, "and because I call her mother 'mamma' like most Conchs, people think I'm one, too."

Mosher arrived at Naval Air Station Boca Chica in 1951 as an aviation machinist's mate. He used to go into downtown Key West almost every evening.

"I really got to love the island," he says. "I remember the first football game I saw at Wickers Field. Not knowing any better I rooted for Key West High School's opponent. By the next game I began to get the feeling I belonged here, and I hollered for the local team."

Marina, who worked at the Navy Exchange, wanted to take Mosher out for his birthday, so he went into town to get a haircut. The last thing he wanted for this special date was a Navy haircut, so he

went to a shop on Duval in the building where Uncle Sam's Pawnshop is now. At that time it was called Virgil's Barbershop.

Seaman Mosher had learned barbering from his grandfather on a farm in Michigan and had done some barbering on the base at Boca Chica.

"The place was full of sailors," Mr. Moe remembers. "The Italian barber was all alone and very busy. I said, I'm a barber . . . Too bad I don't have a Florida license . . . I could help you out. He said, You are? I just fired three of my barbers for drinking, and I really need help! He begged me to put on a smock and help him out that evening."

There must have been 15 sailors waiting. "So I took off my blouse, put on the smock and went to work," continues Mr. Moe. "The first customer, of course, wanted a flat-top cut. I'd done lots of them before, so naturally I was fast—took me only three or four minutes. Virgil said, My God, can you

always cut like that? Nobody in Key West can even cut a flat-top!"

Mr. Moe thinks that's how his name first got around town. He got to be known as "the flat-top champion of the island."

The following week Moe got a phone call at the base. "Mr. Moe!" said the voice in broken English. "This is Virgil. How come you no come back to work?"

"What do you mean, Come back to work?" Moe replied.

"I thought the next day you was coming back and help me out in the barbershop," explained Virgil.

"I told you I don't have a Florida license," said Moe. "Remember?"

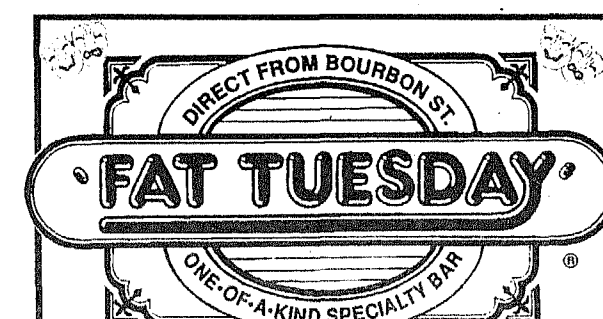
"Don't worry about that," replied Virgil. "We'll get you a Florida license quick."

He Bought the Farm

Until his discharge from the Navy in March 1955, Moe worked at Virgil's as often as he could. Virgil's son, Louie Signorelli (now husband of Solares Hill writer Frances-Elizabeth Signorelli), had taken over the shop, and Moe worked for him.

"Louie liked politics a lot," Mr. Moe says, "and he was very active in the Jaycees. He worked hard against the old so-called Papy regime and tried to get younger, more aggressive people into local politics. As a result, he was out of the shop more and more. It seemed like I was the only one cutting hair in the shop in those days."

"Eventually, about 1962," he continued, "I asked Louie one day if he'd want to sell the shop. He said he would, and I bought the business. Guess much of my reason for



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buying was because I liked Virgil. He taught me a lot—especially how to shave. He made me shave him every day until I learned how to do it really well. Anyway, I kept the name 'Virgil's' about another five years. When people started calling me Virgil I decided to change the name to Moe's Barbershop."

Moe's remained in its original location—a building owned by Paul Sher—until 1972. Then it moved to a slightly larger building across the street at 607 Duval, where it remains today.

Everything was moved—the barber chairs with their equipment, the display counters and racks, and all the miscellaneous merchandise from the old shop.

"I had so much stuff for sale in the old

building you had to walk sideways by the chairs to get through," recalls Mr. Moe. "Believe it or not, I had as much stuff in the old shop as I do now in the present shop."

The Ed, Bruce and Moe Co.

Visitors have no way of knowing, of course, that the pleasant and diverse Duval Street they have been touring might have been a very different place were it not for the efforts of this Mr. Moe and a few other local business people. Let's let Mr. Moe tell what happened on Duval Street some 25 years ago, and the part he and others played in those dreary downtown days.

"Back in 1967 there was a young man by the name of Ed Swift," says Mr. Moe. "I

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dabbled in photography then and used to go into Swift's photography store often and got to know the family pretty well. Ed would drop into my shop a lot and we'd talk about things we'd like to see happen to Duval Street.

"Those were the days—1967 and '68—when retail businesses began leaving downtown and moving out to the shopping center in New Town. Well, Ed and I had some ideas. After his haircut we'd stand outside my shop and look up and down the street. Ed is really a visionary, and he'd say, Boy, can't you imagine a fountain here and a park there, and the old buildings looking good again?"

"We joined the Downtown Business and Property Owners Association, Ed and I, to see if we couldn't, like Billy and Mrs. Applorouth and others, spearhead doing something with the old downtown. We attended a couple of meetings and everybody thought our ideas were pretty good. So we planned a couple of work parties to paint and clean up some of the buildings and decorate the show windows—to keep them from looking so empty.

"The first work party gathered on a weekend. About six people came to help: Ron Gamble and his wife, Jamie Bishop and her policeman husband (she has a shop now on Flagler), Ed, myself, and one other person. None of the other 25 downtown merchants showed up.

"We started by painting a building that was at the corner of Duval and Angela streets, right where there used to be an archery range in a vacant lot. Then we did



OLD KING MOE: Moshier recently posed as a waiter to raise funds for the Leukemia Society.

Pick's Shoe Store—just about across from where Compliments is today. It wasn't easy work, but we sure got a good start to spruce up the street.

"After we'd done a couple of buildings Ed said, Moe, we ought to buy some of these buildings because we're going to have to come back next year and do it again. You know the owners aren't going to do anything—they're retired or too old to be concerned. I thought it was a good idea.

"As I remember, one of the first buildings we tried to buy was the Johnson Building. It belonged to a large family, and the transaction took quite a while. So we formed a company and called it 'Ed, Moe and Bruce.' Then later we put together a corporation and called it 'J. Embry' with Mr. Cates, myself, my son Ed, and a couple of other people.

"After that we started buying other pieces of downtown property. Of course, lots of people laughed at us for buying a chain of empty stores. We did a lot of physical work on those properties, mostly before and after our regular jobs—Ed was running the camera stores and I was barbering.

"We then formed Old Town Development Corporation. Chris Belland became the managing partner, and I was more or less the handyman. We fixed up and improved about 23 properties. Then Ed and Chris said we had to do something to draw more people. The Conch Tour Train by that time was well known. Jerry Hernandez had a little business going that he called Buggy Rides. Well, Jerry wanted property on Duval Street, so we made a deal—a piece of property for an interest in the buggy business.

"We didn't particularly like the vehicles Jerry was using, but they worked all right. Then one day when Chris and Ed were traveling they spotted a trolley, liked the looks of it, and decided that's what was needed here. That was the start of the Old Town Trolley."

The development corporation is still very much in business, says Mr. Moe. It owns the large building bordering on Key Lime Square, Key Lime Square and other prop-

erties in the downtown area. It developed the Duval Street Market and what used to be Gloria's Garden.

Jack-Of-All-Trades

Moshier modestly describes himself as a jack-of-all-trades. "My daddy only went to second grade, but he could repair anything that was made," he says. "That's actually what I do in the corporation—I'm a the handyman. Most of the time I can figure out a way to fix something, to do something." He points to a computer on his desk. "I've finally gotten brave enough," he says, "to get on this computer and make it work for me."

Mr. Moe says he misses being in the barber shop. Though he describes himself as very much a private person, he says he likes people. He enjoys the hands-on things a barber does, things that let him "get in touch" with another person.

"I still do a few shaves for my old customers," he says. "I love to give shaves and do facials. But most of my shop time is spent doing the accounting."

The shop gets a good mix of customers, he says. There are the winter people who come down each year. Then there are those folks whose hair he began cutting back in '51—Donald Burry, Richard Curry, Mr. Pinder, and others.

"The locals stabilize us all year long, and the winter visitors and vacationers keep us busy," he explains. "We're even open week-ends to accommodate the cruise-ship people."

Most of Moe's employees have been there for years, some off and on. There's Alex, who's often found behind the counter when he's not busy with the retail stock. Shy, quiet Allen has worked in the shop for around 14 years. And Josie started as cashier, then went to cosmetology school, came back and does a little haircutting as well. Gary has worked in the shop for 8 or 9 years; he left for a few years and then returned. He does a lot of the barbering and sort of co-manages with Alex. And many regulars will remember Peter, who used to go to Hawaii in the summer and return to barber during season.

Future Plans & Mixed Emotions

What are Mr. Moe's plans for the future? "Well, I have mixed emotions about the shop," he says. "It's so much a part of me that I don't want to let it go. But there's a time when you have to let go. Maybe Alex or Gary or someone else will want to take it over, possibly under a contract to manage or to buy me out. Perhaps Marina and I will travel. We have a summer home in North Carolina that we go to every year. I'm digging a basement there now—still fixing stuff."

It's hard to imagine that Mr. Moe will ever completely leave the island he has loved and played such a large part in developing since 1951.

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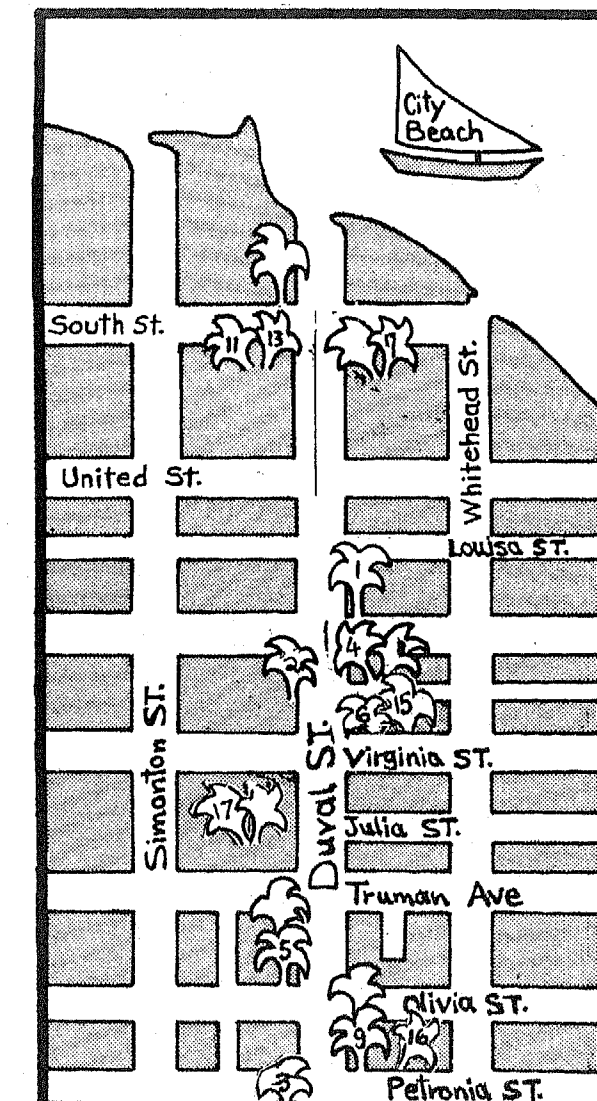
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The war over Peary Court continues. While the local environment group Last Stand is seeking injunctive measures to halt the Peary Court Naval housing project in federal court, city commissioners have passed a resolution unanimously supporting the project.

The resolution, meant to counter prior city resolutions which were opposed to the design and environmental assessment of the 160-unit housing project, has been sent to the federal court hearing of *Last Stand vs. Richard Cheney, Secretary of Defense et al* suit. That lawsuit alleges that the Navy prepared an insufficient environmental assessment.

The lawsuit, its supporters contend, is not about patriotism, nor is it about whether one supports the Navy's right to build housing. Instead, they say, it requests the court to determine if the Navy followed correct procedures concerning the project.

On the night of February 19, the commission chamber was filled with constituents waving the American flag and bearing signs reading "Last Stand, Go Home," "Keep Peary Court Red, White and Blue" and "Bend Over, Navy—Harry Powell's Behind You."

Naval Air Station Boca Chica commander Capt. Michael Currie, who was among the first to speak, said that young men with low pay grades returning from the Gulf War had no place to live with their families in Key

West. If the city didn't support the project, he said, he couldn't promise that the Navy would stay in Key West. (Earlier in the week, Currie released a report estimating the Navy's fiscal impact on the City of Key West at over a half-billion dollars, annually.)

Currie's input drew thunderous applause from the crowd, which included many civilian employees of the Navy. Signs supporting the Navy were raised and American flags waved. When Last Stand supporters appeared, threatening remarks and jeers could be heard throughout the room.

The next speaker, Harry Powell, who has been the driving force behind the Keep Peary Court Green effort, was greeted by loud boos and threats.

Like Powell, Jim Farrell, who is vice president of Last Stand, tried to argue that the lawsuit was geared toward heading off further burdens to the city by forcing the Navy to comply with federal regulations. It was not an anti-Navy campaign, he claimed. Farrell was cut off after three minutes by the city clerk.

And so it went for the next hour and a half. Speaker after speaker extolled what a good neighbor the Navy has been and what a disaster it would be if it left Key West. Speaker after speaker exclaimed how un-American and unpatriotic it was to contest the Navy in such a way.

The Right to Question Government

However, the question raised by the commission's performance is not whether it is unpatriotic to question the government, but is it un-American to attempt to deprive another of his right to question the government?

Within the resolution, co-sponsors Wardlow and Bethel cite the impending injunctive action challenging the Department of Defense's compliance with federal law as a reason for supporting the Naval project.

A federal magistrate, however, has already maintained that the environmental assessment concerning Peary Court was inadequate.

Also within the resolution, Wardlow and Bethel claim that the Navy impacts the city with "over one-half billion dollars." This figure is based on an economic impact study prepared and released by the Navy earlier this month. That figure, however, includes monies paid to contractors and vendors outside of Key West.

Navy's Cost to Taxpayers

Another document, the Hammer, Siler, George and Associates (HSG) Fiscal Impact Study, which was ordered by the city, outlines the burden that the Navy places on the citizens of Key West. Of the allocated city expenditures, 11 percent of the city's police allocations and 9 percent of the general government expenses are directly attributable to the military.

According to the city's own records, that is an annual expense of roughly \$1.5 million, attributable to a group that does not pay taxes.

Adding to that burden, estimated cost for students in the Monroe County school system is \$5088 per pupil. According to Peggy Davila of the Monroe County School Board finance department, last year 1088 registered

students were from military families.

Ninety percent of school system funding is provided through the local district school tax, paid by the citizens of Monroe County and based on the number of students enrolled. As Monroe County is assessed for payment of that tax, the 1088 military students, creating a cost of over \$5.5 million, are counted toward the assessment, and the residents of Monroe County are taxed accordingly.

Detractors claim that the federal government contributes toward the expense of Naval children enrolled in the school system. That contribution, however, amounts to less than 10 percent of the total cost, leaving the remaining 90 percent to be paid by the citizens.

"Excluding the Navy from impacts created from the Peary Court project would seem to increase an already overburdened Monroe County tax base," said Jim McLernan, president of Last Stand. "By supporting the Peary Court project with what a federal magistrate has already determined to be an inadequate environmental assessment would seem to do just that."

Kinder, Gentler Wells

In other city commission activity, commissioner Bethel sought approval for a kinder, gentler shallow injection well by proposing an amendment to the newly created ordinance, which allows installation of the controversial wells. Co-sponsors in the amendment were mayor Wardlow and commissioner Joe Pais.

The new amendment calls for phosphorus stripping to a 1.5-parts-per-million level and mandates that the wells be at least 150 feet deep, increased to at least 100 feet. The permit holders must report phosphorus levels quarterly.

In late January, commissioner Jimmy Weekley proposed a similar amendment, but Bethel, following the direction of the mayor, motioned to defeat the amendment when a numerical level for the stripping could not be reached.

Environmentalists opposing the wells are not satisfied.

"That is an unacceptable level, and current technology does not provide adequate ability to strip nutrients to an acceptable level," said Reef Relief's DeeVon Quirolo, whose organization is leading the fight against the wells. "This is 50 times higher than we recommended and tantamount to no treatment at all."

Indeed, the outfall from the city's plant, which undergoes no nutrient stripping, releases a phosphorus concentration of only 1.46 parts per million into the marine environment. That amounts to .04 parts per million less than what the city considers "nutrient-stripped" injection-well effluent.

Florida is the only state that allows shallow-injection wells, and there are more wells in Monroe than any other county. Evidence shows that in three other counties the effluent is making its way from deep wells toward the fresh-water aquifers. Each day in Florida, more than 300 million gallons of untreated sewage is pumped into the ground.

"Down the road, we will pay for this," Quirolo said. "I feel the city should have a more informed consultant."

Better Study Numbers Needed

by Geddy Svelkauskas

The epic struggle over Peary Court has recently seen loose figures tossed around by both the Navy and the Keep-Peary-Court-Green supporters. The truth appears to lie somewhere in the middle.

The Navy's *Economic Impact Study*, a report by commanding officer Captain M.P. Currie to Key West "shareholders," purports to put into numbers the significant economic impact of the Navy on the community.

The study makes a count of the number of military personnel in the Key West area (3431) and civilian employees (1217). It multiplies the payroll (close to \$125 million, annually) of its employees by a gross income multiplier (4.31) to "more accurately reflect the economic impact or roll-over effect of the salaries paid to those who live in the Key West community." That calculation provides the now-famous half-billion-dollar annual impact some city commissioners have been using to illustrate the Navy's effect on the local economy.

The Navy study has also calculated all non-payroll expenditures (\$94 million) for military activities. Much of this money, the study rightly concludes, goes to vendors and contractors outside Key West—but it also contends some of this filters back to Key West, anyway.

The military study has two major flaws: it assumes that the entire military payroll is spent in Key West, and its multiplier of 4.31 is unproven and unrealistically high. Says city planner Ted Strader, who used to be a planning consultant, "We used to think we were pushing it when we got to a multiplier of around 3."

The other study, *Fiscal Impact of Growth Management, Key West, Florida*, now in its final draft, is a more serious attempt at providing a model of economic impacts for Key West. This study cost the City of Key West and the Key West Chamber of Commerce \$100,000. Unfortunately, the section of the study picked up by the local news—the impact of the military on the local economy—appears seriously flawed.

The impact study, which was conducted by Hammer, Siler, George Associates of Silver Springs, Maryland, says that 4681

persons are employed by the military (including the Coast Guard) in Key West. It estimates that 1050 additional jobs in Key West (or 7.2 percent of all non-military employment) can be attributed to the military's presence. So far, so good.

Later, the study estimates that only \$4.6 million in retail sales, or one percent of Key West's total retail sales, comes from the military. But this data appears based on an elementary statistical blunder.

The likely error is contained in the following paragraph. See if you can spot it. (Our italics will help you):

"If 70 percent of the Key West jobs and 10 percent of the remaining 1019 military jobs elsewhere in the county are filled by Key West residents, then 837 employees reside in Key West. Assuming an average household size of 2.6 persons, these residents comprise approximately 322 households. These calculations indicate a total of 424 Key West households are either directly or indirectly supported by the military's presence."

The writer, for some reason, has concluded that all 837 employees are aggregated in military households. That's not true. It's more likely that closer to 837 households benefit from military jobs.

The error above is compounded because its data is used elsewhere in the study—for instance, to arrive at the impact of tourism on Key West.

City planner Strader said he had been unaware of the mistake. "I didn't think about it," he said. "I don't think anyone did."

In other instances, the Hammer, Siler study makes assumptions when it could have checked the facts with the military. Its convoluted calculation of spinoff jobs in Key West, for instance, might have been better based on hard data the military could have provided.

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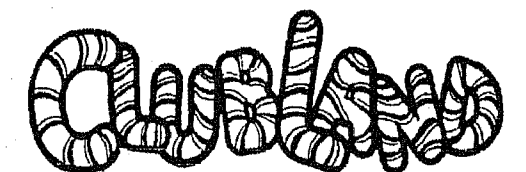
At the Annual Meeting of members of Key West By The Sea Association, Inc. held on February 14, 1992, the owners voted to limit unit rentals of less than 30 days in order to preserve the residential character of the condominium. Effective April 1, 1992, unit rentals of less than 30 days will no longer be permitted unless they are direct rentals between the Owner and the Lessee or, alternatively, placed through the KWBTSA Association Rental Office. Unit rentals of 30 days or longer can still be handled by realtors and outside third parties. Key West By The Sea apartments transferred or sold after April 1, 1992 will be restricted to a minimum 30 day or one month rental period as a condition of the sale or transfer of the unit.

Now that public passions have been inflamed, perhaps Siler, George will be asked to pay closer attention to the role of the military in the local economy. Better numbers are needed.

Meanwhile, what's the bottom line on the impact of the military? After all the benefits and the service costs are calculated, it's likely to come down to a judgment call.

In an economy dominated by one major industry, tourism, what's it worth for Key West to have another source of economic support? In our troubled economic times, the answer has got to be: a great deal. ☐

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The Magnet That Is Key West

by Alma H. Bond

In *Civilization and Its Discontents*, psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud asks: what do people want from life, what do they show by their behavior to be the purpose and intention of their lives? "They strive after happiness; they want to be happy and to remain so," he answers. But in this purpose, he says, we are at loggerheads with the whole world. For if each of us were to do what we want at all times, the result would be chaos, if not total destruction.

Indeed, civilized man has exchanged a portion of his potential for happiness for a safety net of security. (Otherwise, the very fabric of our lives would be dominated by the strongest and most ruthless individuals.) The downside to this security is that a person who cannot tolerate the amount of frustration imposed by society becomes unhappy, if not neurotic. "Everything I want to do is either immoral, illegal, or fattening," is a modern statement of the same philosophy.

The question arises: what is the magnetism of Key West that draws so many people to settle here or to come back year after year?

The answer: Compromise. A good part of the human struggle centers on the task of finding some sort of accommodation between individual wants and the claims of the group. Such a compromise can be found in Key West. Here even the best of us can find some

relief from the pressures of modern living, for we can do as we please more often than in most other cities and towns of the United States. "Cast off your shackles, and live the life you were meant to," the "laidback" island seems to call.

Practical Applications

Consider the practical applications of compromise in your life.

Do you dislike dressing up? Are you weary of buying, selecting, washing, keeping your clothes in repair? Wear what you please in Key West. Avant-garde or thrift shop rejects, long or short, neat or sloppy, brand-spanking new or comfortably shabby: it seems that everything goes.

On my first visit to Key West, I asked a realtor friend if I could wear shorts to the restaurant where we were lunching. "There is no restaurant in Key West where you cannot wear shorts," my friend responded.

A woman taxi driver concurred. "If I have a stain on my blouse, down here I wear it anyhow," she said.

Since Key West in general is relaxed about such matters, our conscience—the conscience "that doth make cowards of us all"—need not bother us.

Are you tired of punching the time clock, either literally or figuratively speaking? Here people don't unless they have to. Rather what is known as "Key West time" or the "I'll-

come-when-I-feel-like-it" type attitude seems to prevail. Is this your habit, too? Don't worry about it. The silent approbation at the tip of the land makes it acceptable behavior to most.

Do you dislike the cold of the north and the gloves, coats, hats, boots, etc. that living there entails? Come to Key West, and be spared the quadruple switches of clothing, if not the colds and flu, that the changes of season bring. Indeed, life down here is easier; one is spared many of the pressures of ordinary living. Although we are never completely the master of nature, in Key West in the winter at least, we can defeat its superior power.

Case Studies

To test the theory of compromise, I took a brief survey of what brings people to live in Key West or to return here each year for the season.

Elaine Barton, a quiet, gentle woman, who drives annually to Key West with her husband from their home in Little Rock, Arkansas, replied, "I've always liked the air. I think the positive and negative ions do something for you—give you a lift. Something is different about the beach. It elevates my mood, makes both me and my husband feel good. I love the cool breeze, the sun, the color of the ocean, all the different shades of green. After a few days your skin feels so much better you don't have to use hand lotion anymore."

Patrick Jones, a young man who works in the Mailroom on Duval Square, had this to say: "The reason Gary and I moved here was to open up a guest house. Unfortunately the

financial backing for it fell through. Our backer was Gary's father, a Baptist minister. Baptists don't drink. When he heard of the reputation of Key West—for partying and all that—he refused to invest here. He said, 'I can't see myself supporting anything in that town!'

"We originally came down here for a vacation and loved it," he continued. "It was very open. We liked the climate. And it presented a very good opportunity for a small business because of the amount of tourism here. We could have made a lot of money. We gave up everything we had established in Minneapolis—our business, our home—to pursue our dream down here. And now we have to leave."

A short-spoken young man from Italy, Roni Teshauva, feels differently about it. "Business, business, business," he said. "It's simple enough. I'm here three years. I have five shops on Duval Street."

When asked why he selected Key West for business purposes, he answered, "I came here because the business is steady all year-round."

Frances Froelicher, an environmental activist, comes here for three months every year from her home in Baltimore. Her reason? "First of all, I love the climate and the beauty of Key West. And I love my little Cuban house. Secondly, I like the people I meet here. I'm an environmentalist, and I meet all kinds of people from all over the world who are interested in [the environment]. And third, people and groups here are perfectly willing to have a person active in the community even though I'm only here part of the time. If you want to work for it, the community will welcome you, which is not true of many other communities I know."

A man of 35 with AIDS, who prefers to remain anonymous, responded, "I'm sick. I used to vacation down here, and I always planned to retire in Key West. Now, I have to retire a little earlier than I expected. It's a good place to retire because I like the weather and I have good friends here."

Lois Barrowcliff, an interior designer who lives here year-round, said, "I was relocating because of a divorce. My first experience in the tropics was in St. Thomas. I used to go there to get a break away from business. The climate, the ambiance, the profusion of the foliage, the bright colors of the flowers, the smell of the jasmine, the puffs of warm winds, all of which almost correspond to here. The plus of Key West is that you can get in your car and drive away. In all the other places you had to depend on the sea and the sky."

Donald O'Brien, a retired businessman from upstate New York, looked to his wife as he said, "Weather. Weather. Weather. Plus we didn't want to see the same people we see all year. We wanted diversity, new foods, variety in our lives."

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"The reason I stay here is that I can write and paint without the physical hardships of getting around."

His wife, Sandi, agreed. "I like the diversification of people. Many other places in Florida are just like what you see in the North—it is the North transplanted. There it is all structure, everybody belongs (or wants to belong) to the same clubs."

Martha Van Noppen, a writer and artist who drives a taxi for a living, explained how she feels about Key West. "I first came down here on vacation, and was immediately aware that it is a place where you can express yourself. You can be who you are and express what you think. But I find it difficult to live here because everywhere on the island employers pay the lowest possible wage in a town where they've also created a high cost of living."

"Life here is the hardest struggle I've ever known, and I'm almost 50 years old," she says. "I have a master's degree in English, and I have published numerous things, from short stories to a bibliography, and yet I can't get any other job than driving a taxi. The only reason I stay here is that I can write and paint without the physical hardships of getting around. So I guess I'll just stay here where I can express myself until I can't afford to live

here anymore."

I Feel Good

Most of these people intimated that they like Key West because it makes them "feel good." Just about everyone enjoys the superb weather and beauty of the island. Even Mr. Teshouva, the Italian businessman, indirectly profits from the weather, as it enables him to enjoy the fruits of his year-round business.

Others mentioned the pleasure they experience in the people in Key West and of being accepted by the community. Martha Van Noppen enjoys the freedom of expression she finds on the island. Sandi O'Brien, who is happy to get away from the "structure of the transplanted north," and Patrick Jones, the mailroom clerk to whom Key West is an "open town," also bear out the supposition, in widely differing ways, that people in Key West find relief from the constraints of civilization.

People often come here because they feel accepted on this beautiful and restful island. This makes most of them happy, a state that is probably more difficult to achieve in most other places in the United States.

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On The Town
with Jane Phillips



The combination of Valentine's Day and Aquarian birthdays created a traffic jam of parties all over town...

Anna Maria and Mauricio Manciola Di Monte Faro (even the name reminds one of "La Dolce Vita") don't need a reason to have a party, they just love to entertain. They recently had a dinner party for their Key West friends; their other friends are in Rome, where the hosts live part of the year, and couldn't make it. Those who could included: Don DeFeo, June and Jerry Girard, Sandy Kinny, Paco Archillo, Nancy and Roger Holcamp, Carolyn and Jerry Cash, Ann and Ross McKee, Jack Waterbury, Kathleen Ford, Dick and Kathleen Moody, Vidal—who seems to be everywhere you want to be—and Sonda and Howard Schneider, out on the town after their grandchildren left.

The Schneiders entertained the week before, while their daughter and son-in-law Lindsley and Rick Diel were in town from Massachusetts. Grandchildren Sarah and Lucas had as much fun as everyone else. Tiny Sarah is a natural hostess and

beauty—it runs in the family. Son John jets down from NYC at the drop of a cocktail napkin and was on hand for the family reunion. Other guests included Sue and Ty Buford, Susan and Don Bennett, Ortiz Benevise, Hugh Bonney, June Nelson, newcomers Joan and Tom Dalberg, etc.

Paul Geiger and David Huessle celebrated two years of togetherness with a Valentine cocktail party in their garden. Pink balloons and orchids were everywhere. Pal Ed Parker was visiting from St. Louis and joined locals Mike Dively, Dr. Larry Seigel, John Roger, June Frame, Bob Chapin, Joe Pais, Margie Lang, Joe Leahy, Joan Miller, Larry Harvey, Charles Mueller and Lois Locklear.

Guess who had a birthday? Moi. Juanita and Prescott Bigalow of Cincinnati lit enough candles to serve as a lighthouse beacon at their waterfront Sugarloaf home. There was a baton decorating the cake in honor of the Conch Republic Band. Helping blow out the cake and candles were Marybell and John Maschal, Mary Elaine and West Hochkiss, Ce Ce Perry and Ezza Howard.

Edith and Al Amsterdam again opened their Curry Mansion for the annual Valentine fundraising benefit for Wesley House and the Community Childcare Center. Tiny lights twinkled in red hearts as guests grazed the wonderful buffet goodies, which were donated by local hotels and restaurants. Party sponsors from Prudential Knight Realty included Mufti Kieffer, Marlene Paulson and Edward Knight. There was



THREE'S NO CROWD: Hostess Sonda Schneider (left) enjoys guests Anna Maria and Mauricio di Monte Faro at her recent cocktail party.

no prettier Valentine than Sandy West—president of Monroe County Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She was with her handsome steady Jeff Williams of Ft. Lauderdale. He's head of the same Broward County volunteer organization—that's how they met.

Goldie Hawn's "Crisscross," filmed in Key West in 1990, is set for national distribution March 6. The Eden House was the setting for many scenes. I stopped there for brunch the other day. On my way through the lobby, I thought I was reaching for a foil covered mint—instead it was a basket of condoms. They really mean it when they say, "Have a good evening."

Oops, not on my hoops! Actor Kelly Moore gets to play "a hooker with a heart of gold" in *Camille*, the next production at the

Waterfront Playhouse. He's getting used to this kind of casting. "I'm a lot funnier in a dress than a tuxedo—this time I get to wear a hoop skirt."

It took weeks for Evie and Dick Fuggitts' cat Bandit to forgive them for leaving town for a holiday visit. The Fuggitts are planning lots of surprises for the ghost of Martello mystery night—this year's Founder's fundraiser which is scheduled for March 28.

Remember when only men were bartenders? The three top winners of the third annual bartenders mixoff at the Holiday Inn Beachside were all female. Top prize went to Karen Willis followed by Callee Firth-Manning and Carmel Koo. ☐

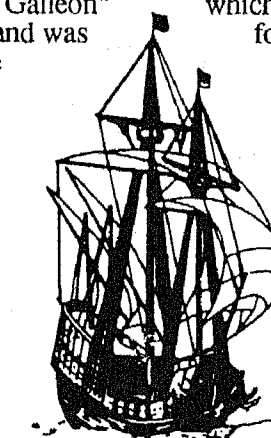
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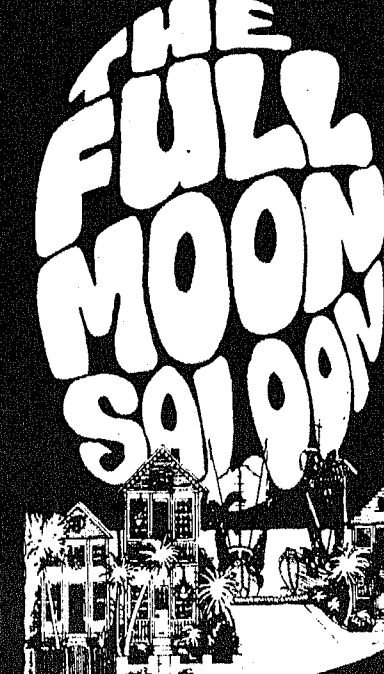
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Palm Pelicans
BY FRANCES-ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

Marie and I take an early morning stroll. I never can accustom myself to men with women's names.

We set out along Rest Beach, or at least it was called that in older, quieter times. Now we pass handkerchief-sized parcels of shoreline backed by condos.

Marie writes. He says he sells his stories by the pound. "Oh, I didn't know you could do that," I say faintly.

His arm is so thin that it's like holding onto a dead spirit. Marie lives on Love Lane with a lady for whom he has a deeply sentimental friendship.

She does spirit rapping. Marie's arms and legs appear not to be well attached to his wee trunk. His ears stick out like two door knobs at the museum. His nose protrudes like a paring knife in an onion. His Walkman keeps playing over and over six measures of Chopin's Preludes.

I have faith that I have got myself done up rather fetchingly, my cane decorated in the colors of the Conch Republic flag. I am not averse to be seen with Marie. As always, he wears an ascot fastened with a beautiful emerald pin.

Marie possesses the cold curiosity of a child. He halts. Pokes at something with his

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Our Not-So-Secret Garden

by Alyson Simmons

Except for a low hum from the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority plant, the air is still. An egret stands under a rambling buttonwood in a small clear pond. The dense vegetation and damp natural mulch underfoot seem to absorb sound and light. It could be a thousand years ago.

But this eerie, ancient tableau is set amid the modern bustle of today's keys.

The Key West Botanical Garden, nestled between the golf course and Junior College Road on Stock Island, is one of the two remaining hardwood hammocks in the lower keys. Here, in this densely forested 11-acre tract, a handful of dedicated people have managed to preserve a piece of the real old Key West.

Since its 1935 beginnings, the garden has had a history of intense care followed by periods of neglect. Today it bears little resemblance to the original, larger parcel, which included out-buildings and greenhouses. According to a 1935 *Key West Guide Book*, which was published by the city, there was even an outdoor amphitheater, where the city's movers and shakers "planned to present pageants, musical concerts and light operettas during the winter months."

The pamphlet also indicates that the botanical garden served as an early recycling center: four compost pits surrounded the garden, where "sawdust swept from the floor of a box factory, loggerhead sponge which has little commercial value, seaweed swept up on Key West beaches by incoming tides and dairy fertilizer..." were combined to yield a high-grade compost.

The botanical garden was forgotten during WWII. It was not until the early 1960s that a group of local civic organizations reclaimed the garden from the overgrown weeds. Garden parties and fundraisers helped the city restore the gorgeous grounds. Concrete walks (which have since been destroyed by hurricanes) were installed.

Then a sprawling 55 acres, the botanical garden enjoyed about four years of intense care before again slipping out of the limelight and into disrepair. Development encroached upon the tract of the land, and county and city facilities crept in on all sides of the land, whittling it down to the existing 11 acres.

Finally, in 1972, the Key West Garden Club leased the land from the city. Under the club's care, the garden has experienced a renaissance. It has won a conservation award from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and has been recognized by the Nature Conservancy for its role in protecting the endangered Stock Island tree snail. It is also the home of three champion exotic trees.

Ellie Crane first became aware of the garden's unique nature when she served as the botanical garden chairman. In the late '80s she and some other members of the Key West Garden Society took interest in the Stock Island tract, and the Key West Botanical Garden Society was formed. As Crane

Party in the Woods

The 4th Garden Party Fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 14th from noon to 4 p.m. to benefit the Key West Botanical Garden Society. Featured entertainment includes music by the Key West Island Junkanoos, tours of the botanical garden, and a raffle drawing for prizes ranging from a day at the Russell House Spa to artwork and dinners for two at area restaurants. Admission to the party is free, but the society hopes to raise funds with the sale of T-shirts, food and refreshments. The garden is located on Junior College Road, just beyond Bayshore Manor.

points out, neither club is mutually exclusive, and many people belong to both societies.

To take charge of the property, the new society entered into an agreement with the city that replaced the old lease.

"We were not gaining anything from the city with a lease," says Crane. "We were doing the city a favor by maintaining the garden." The agreement provides city services such as trash pick up and police protection; the society maintains the grounds in return.

Today the society boasts 200 members. On Saturday mornings anywhere from five to 12 volunteers can be found planting trees and cleaning the grounds. Visitors on Saturday may also meet the society's education chairman, Eloise Boon, who has labeled many of the trees and is happy to answer questions. She is currently organizing a walking tour.

"Key West Botanical Garden Society, Inc. is a non-profit support group for this city park," says Carolyn Cash, a long-term member, who has organized many of the society's fundraisers. While most city parks are supported by tax dollars, the botanical garden is funded by voluntary donations. By holding "garden parties," says Cash, "we can maintain the garden, and it is one less drain on the taxpayers' pocketbook."

The funds from this year's party, which will take place later this month, are slated for two projects.

The primary goal is fencing; property lines still come into dispute. "There have



GREENIES: Key West Botanical Garden Society president Ellie Crane (left) and fundraising committee head Carolyn Cash are among 200 society members dedicated to saving one of two hardwood hammocks in the keys.

been problems of where the (property) lines are," says Cash, "and this way we can avoid vandalism."

Recent surveys showed that the country had built a road and building on garden property. "We gained a building," says Cash, adding that the society now has a place to store tools, their shredder, and some newly acquired stackable chairs.

By the same token, the paved road will probably serve in the second major project slated to be funded with donations: to relocate the garden's main entrance. Soon two Latania palms will stand sentinel over an entrance gate that opens directly onto Junior College Road. Society members hope the new entrance will encourage more visitors.

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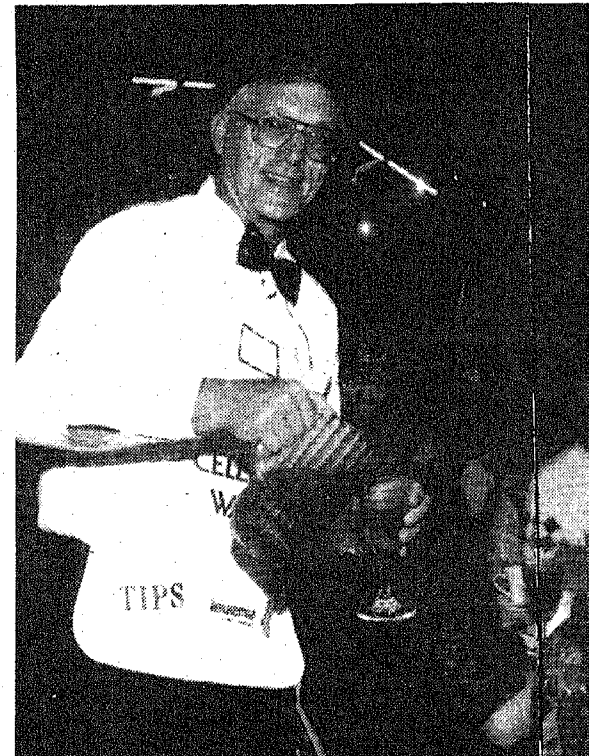
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• COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES •

A Big Success

The third annual Key West Celebrity Waiters Luncheon at the Casa Marina was an astounding success. Vying for big tips, 14 local celebrities dressed up and did just about anything to help collect over \$11,000 for the Leukemia Society of America, Southern Florida Chapter. Mayor Dennis Wardlow and



WAITRON: Ken Williams pours up a joy juice.

Master of Ceremonies Tom Sawyer cajoled such notables as Moe Mosher, Kelly La-combe, Sonny McCoy, Elmira Leto, Susan Gibson and Ken Williams into lending their talents as waiters and waitresses to help the Leukemia Society fund their research programs and patient aid.

AIDS Help Needs Volunteers

Volunteer training classes will take place on Sunday March 8 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the AIDS Help, Inc. offices in Key West. The training provides an overview of the organization and the services it provides, volunteer opportunities, HIV spectrum illnesses and antiviral drugs, as well as the practical aspects of volunteering. For those interested in working one-on-one with individuals seriously ill with AIDS, a buddy training course will be held March 9 and 10 from 6 to 8 p.m.

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FUNDRAISING PILLOW: Last year AIDS Help, Inc. raised funds by auctioning pillows decorated by celebrities. This year the non-profit organization's fundraiser will feature wooden serving trays, decorated by celebrities including Bette Midler, Whoopi Goldberg, Madonna and Magic Johnson.

The course is open to those who have completed volunteer training. For more information, call Steve Smith at 296-6196.

More AIDS Help, Inc. News

AIDS Help, Inc. is gearing up for its Third Annual Celebrity and Artist Benefit Auction March 29 at the Casa Marina Resort. Instead of the pillows of last year and the wooden boxes from the year before, this year features wooden serving trays decorated by celebrities including Bette Midler, Whoopi Goldberg, Madonna, Luke Perry, Kevin Costner, and Magic Johnson plus an assortment of several local artists. The trays will be put on display March 23 at the Lane Gallery, 1000 Duval Street, where they can be seen daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until March 28, when they will be moved to the Casa Marina for the auction.

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Motorcycles Only

According to the Key West Police Department, convenient, free, specially-designated parking areas for scooters, motorcycles and mopeds are now available in Old Town. Loading zones on Duval Street and marked-off parking spaces on nearby side streets bear signs saying "Motorcycles Only"; they remain loading zones during the day, with motorcycle parking available from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. They line every block from Angela to Front Street. Sidewalk parking is illegal in the city and carries a \$10 fine. If the new areas are used, the police plan to add more areas.

What Worries You?

In the last two years, The Monroe County League of Women Voters has completed local studies on water quality and child care. At their next meeting in April, members will be considering what, if any, new programs should be adopted locally. To prepare for the annual meeting, the board must consider ideas. Send your ideas to P.O. Box 4381, Marathon, FL 33050 by March 10.

One-Woman Show

A one-woman rendition of Gilbert & Sullivan's humorous operetta "The Mikado."



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• COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES •

featuring Nancy 3.(Three) Hoffman, will be presented at the Red Barn Theatre at 8 p.m. on March 9 and 16. Nancy 3. plays all the leading roles, including the chorus, through the use of masks, hats, costumes, as well as her own vocal and acting agility. William Pickett at the piano will provide musical accompaniment. Nancy 3. is wintering in Key West. She resided here in the '70s and has performed in several other Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, including a leading role in the New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society's performance of "Iolanthe." For ticket information, call 296-9911.

Sunday at LedaBruce

Join local entertainers Bert Lee, Maggie Becker, Christine Naughton, Meryl Stratford, Larry Berk and Jacqueline Rosenblatt in an afternoon of theater, music and poetry March 15 at 3 p.m. at LedaBruce Gallery, mile marker 30.2 on Big Pine Key. The event will benefit the Key West Alliance for the Mentally Ill (KWAMI). Tickets are \$15 and are available at the gallery (872-0212) or from Bob or Mary Magill at 294-9905.

FKCC Poetry Workshop

Florida Keys Community College is offering a poetry workshop beginning March 9. The class will meet from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for six successive Mondays and will be conducted by K. Scott Strong. Strong has taught and lectured in subjects including literature, poetry and fiction and is a published poet. He is currently a freelance writer and a regular columnist for *Time Out* magazine. Workshop cost is \$35. Students must pre-register by March 6. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

Here's To Your Health

The 22nd annual Florida Keys Health Fair will be Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Key West High School, Big Pine

Key Methodist Church and Big Pine Baptist Church. The University of Miami, in conjunction with numerous local physicians and sponsors, will provide area residents with free medical screening tests including: vision/hearing screening, oral exam, tuberculosis screening, skin-cancer screening, height and weight evaluation, gynecological exam, blood pressure, podiatry exam and peripheral vascular exam, and others. Mammograms and blood tests will be available at cost. This year there will also be a pediatric clinic at the Key West location for school physicals and immunizations. Spanish-speaking personnel will be available.

Win A Boat!

Inflatable Boats of the Florida Keys and Achilles are raffling off an Achilles nine-foot, six-inch boat to benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Grace Jones Community Day Care Center and the Florida Keys Children's Shelter. The drawing will be March 31, and participants need not be present to win as the boat can easily be shipped anywhere. Tickets are available from the Key West Rowing Club and Builder's Choice as well as several other Middle Keys locations for \$1 each or seven for \$5.

Putting on the Green

Spend a "weekend in Ireland" right here in Key West! The merchants of the Overseas Market have decided to honor St. Patrick with a two-day family celebration on March 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. There will be live entertainment and chances to sample an array of Irish and not-so-Irish delicacies from TGI Friday's, Shoney's, TCBY, the Bleeker Street Bagelry and Winn Dixie. Girl Scout Troop #494 will also be selling tempting baked goods and Shades of Key and ViewFinder Dive Center will hold drawings for prizes.

Wrecker Race 1992

Ahoy sailors. The Schooner Wharf Bar presents the Wrecker Race Series for 1992. You, your vessel and crew are invited to a race of historic magnitude. All vessels will sail a course from Key West harbor to Sand Key in the tradition of wreckers of days past. The three classes of racing boats will be classic, monohull and multihull. Races will be March 1, 29 and April 26. The captains' meetings will be 7:30 p.m. sharp at Schooner Wharf Bar the night before each race; rum, rations and grub will be served. Post-race awards ceremonies will feature live entertainment and awards. All sailing vessels are invited to participate. For more information, call Key West Seaport at 292-1727 or Schooner Wharf Bar at 292-9520.

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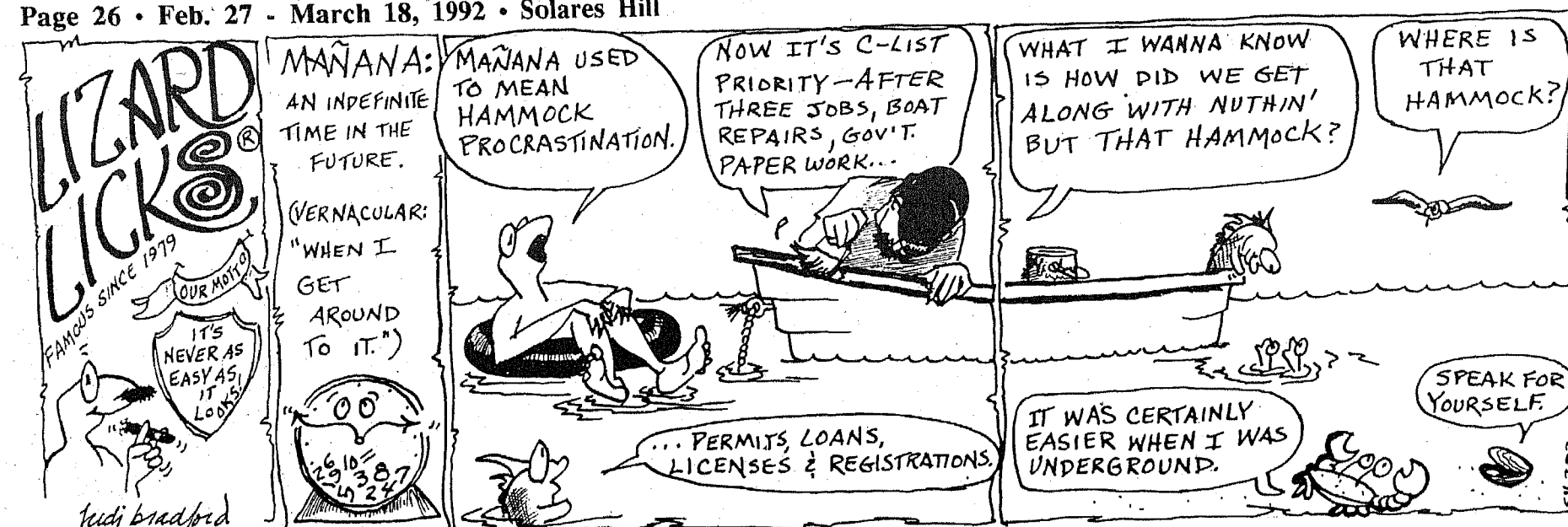
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Readers Write

Wishes Paper Luck

Dear Editor:

I must congratulate you on the last two issues with articles on Cuba. They were remarkable and extremely timely. We haven't been getting anything similar here in New York or from Washington, D.C.!

Of course, Key West must be alert and alerted to the possibilities, good or bad, which may simply explode in your face at any time.

Good luck!

P. Spriese
New York

Opposes Shelter Location

Dear Editor:

I, like most citizens, am sympathetic to the plight of the homeless. However, locating a homeless shelter at the Truman School is simply wrongheaded. Truman School is a stone's throw from Glynn Archer Elementary School, in close proximity to Horace O'Bryen Middle School, and is along the route that many children take to school.

Poinciana School and H.O.B. have already experienced problems with homeless individuals coming into their schools and endangering children. A homeless shelter is a magnet for homeless people. Unfortunately, a significant percentage of homeless people, due to illness or addiction, do not have adequate behavioral controls. Exposing our children to additional potential danger makes no sense.

Our children have a right to a safe environment. As adults and as parents, we have an obligation to exert control over our environment in our children's behalf. Please

write or call your city commissioners to let them know you are opposed to locating a homeless shelter at the Truman School.

Mitch Grabois
Key West

Ramsay Rams Cheal

Dear Editor:

I, Thea Ramsay, disclosed today that on December 9, 1992—over one year after my narrow loss to A. Earl Cheal for the District 4 county commission seat—Cheal, improperly using official Monroe County stationery, charged my campaign with having violated numerous election laws.

Cheal's charges, submitted to both the division of elections as well as Attorney General Bob Butterworth's office in Tallahassee, also accused the Monroe County State Attorney's office with willful failure to investigate Cheal's allegations and stated that he is "bringing this action on behalf of his constituents."

Cheal's letter fails to make note of the fact that it was Cheal's own campaign and the PAC he founded that were the parties found to have violated the election code, resulting in criminal indictments and fines to the PAC and the recommendations that the Florida elections commission act against Cheal himself.

Referring to Cheal's off-the-wall antics since taking office—including his accusation that Ramsay was trying to poison his water supply and his attack on county employees, which he referred to as "overweight and lazy" in the now infamous "fat memo"—I say: "These are clear examples of his warped state of mind."

To make clear the absurdity and pettiness

of Cheal's latest action, I showed how he charged me with using the wrong dates in my reports (because a slash was inserted in the wrong spot changing 10/17 to 101/7) and that I failed to properly sign my reports because I signed my birth name Theadora and not Thea, as I am generally known and which is now my legal name.

In fact, I purposely changed Theadora to Thea legally to insure that I would not violate any statute in using Thea on my campaign literature. If anything, I was probably overzealous.

I am proud of how my campaign was run and how my campaign reports passed the scrutiny of the elections office throughout the campaign. Only once was I requested to correct a campaign report, and that was done immediately, in accordance with Florida law.

In reference to a \$2000 loan my husband and I made to the campaign (which was properly disclosed on the cover sheet of the appropriate report but not detailed in the follow up sheets), Cheal's pettiness is pathetic. That was the nature of any errors, and we quickly and accurately clarified such discrepancies when contacted by the elections office.

Obviously, Cheal is vindictive now and is trying again to put up a smoke screen to fool the voters of Monroe County. He is clearly upset that his group was found guilty of serious election violations and by the fact that he is still under investigation for major election violations himself.

Welcoming a thorough investigation, I refer to the voluminous list of charges brought against Cheal by his fellow Republican, businessman Bill Cullen of Key Largo. Please note that Cheal was asked multiple times to correct substantial reporting violations, which he failed to do.

These violations amounted to over \$7000 in just one, two-week reporting period alone. In fact, Cheal repeatedly lied on his original as well as his amended reports right up to the eve of his final vote. These lies concealed the nature and seriousness of his violations. They also concealed the extent and seriousness of the involvement of outside groups in Cheal's ill-gotten win, violations and involvements, which, if properly disclosed to the voters of Monroe County as Florida law required, would have surely wiped out his one-percent margin of victory.

Thea Ramsay
Marathon

Living With AIDS

by George Leidal

In the 15 years since the AIDS virus first affected me, I have seen many inhumane attitudes aimed at persons with AIDS. The condition is a lightning rod for hateful homophobia in ways that didn't manifest itself when homosexuals were "just gay."

A recent example was chronicled in a local daily newspaper under the heading "AIDS-infected man convicted of assault for spitting blood."

Subsequently, Ohio prosecutors accused a person with AIDS (PWA) of trying to kill three Hamilton County deputies and a nurse by infecting them with the AIDS virus. The patient denied the charges, saying the jail officers beat him bloody and taunted him for being homosexual.

Although the four counts of attempted murder were reduced, the patient was convicted of aggravated assault. He now faces six months in prison plus a \$1000 fine. It could have been 25 years, but the judge said he hoped some good could come from the case by showing police and the public that the HIV virus that causes AIDS cannot be transmitted by casual contact.

The judge was right. The good that can come from this is greater awareness of the minuscule chance of contracting AIDS by casual contact. In 15 years, I have not transmitted the HIV virus to anyone, as confirmed by every partner. If a homophobic policeman

decides someday to beat me bloody, then I hope society places the blame where it belongs.

We are all affected by AIDS. Those of us who are infected have more to concern ourselves with than some bully's exposure to our blood.

Consider the fag-bashing teens, who hate homosexuals so desperately as to lie in wait in the dark to beat them up. How can our local judges condone that behavior by releasing such perpetrators on low bond?

Most puzzling to me about physical violence against gays is the stupidity of a straight man attacking a gay whom, he believes, has a greater-than-average chance of carrying the HIV virus.

Locally, PWAs face hurtful situations every day.

There's the pharmacist who hollers a patient's AIDS status to all who might hear, abrogating his anonymity and, perhaps, further endangering his health.

Then there are the bureaucrats, who go out of their way to make applications by newly diagnosed individuals a miasma of red tape. (There is at least one in every agency "serving" PWAs.) If there weren't any homophobic bureaucrats, why would we need the help of AIDS Help, Inc. just to get benefits to which all citizens are entitled.

What hurts the most, however, is the silence from "friends" who can't handle the news. Alone, living with a terrible illness, too many PWAs in this community just die of loneliness—forgotten wrecks on a seashore of plenty.

It would take so little to give a PWA

Solares Hill • Feb. 27 - March 18, 1992 • Page 27

something to live for. A phone call, a letter, an invitation to go someplace or do something—anything.

Living with AIDS is hard enough. We don't need to be exposed to hateful acts and attitudes, and the stupefying loss of old friends as evidenced by a silent answering machine gathering dust.



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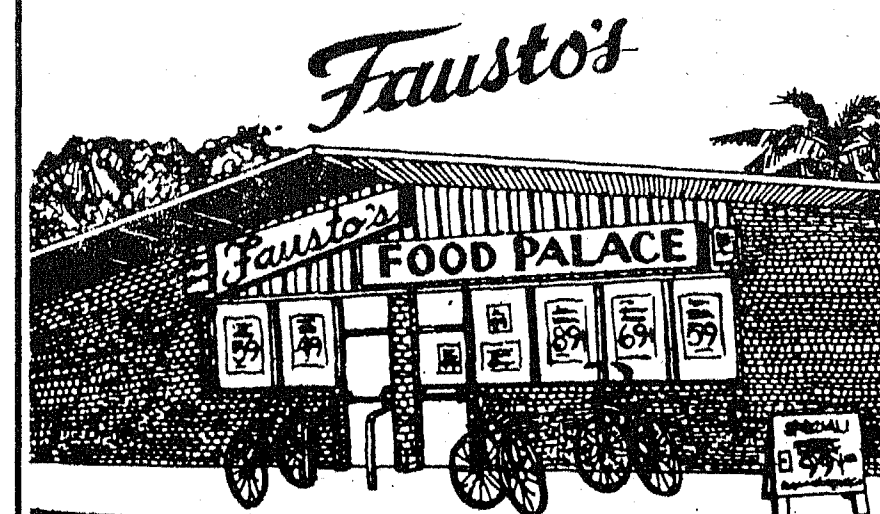
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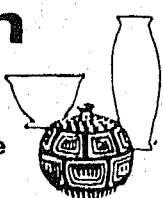
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Business Tides

At the annual Key West By The Sea, Inc. members' meeting last month, the owners voted to limit less-than-30-day unit rentals to preserve the residential character of the condominium complex. As of April 1, 1992, unit rentals of less than 30 days will no longer be permitted unless they are direct rentals between the owner and the lessee, or alternatively, placed through the KWBTS association rental office. Rentals of 30 days or longer can still be handled by realtors and other outside parties. Units transferred or sold after April 1 will be restricted to a minimum 30-day or one-month rental period as a condition of the sale or transfer of the unit. For more information, call 294-7401.

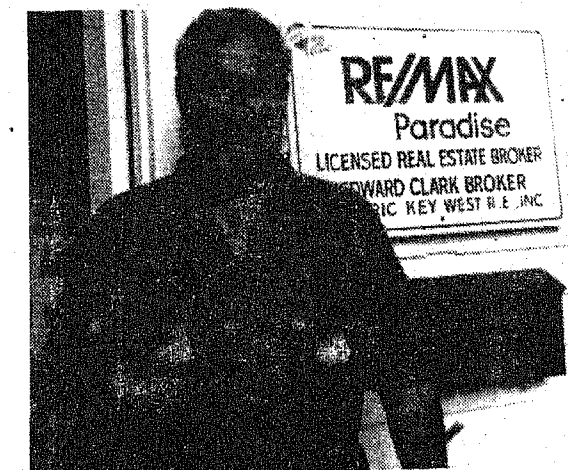
Kathy Boyd has joined the professional team of hairstylists and nail technicians at First Impressions Hair and Nail



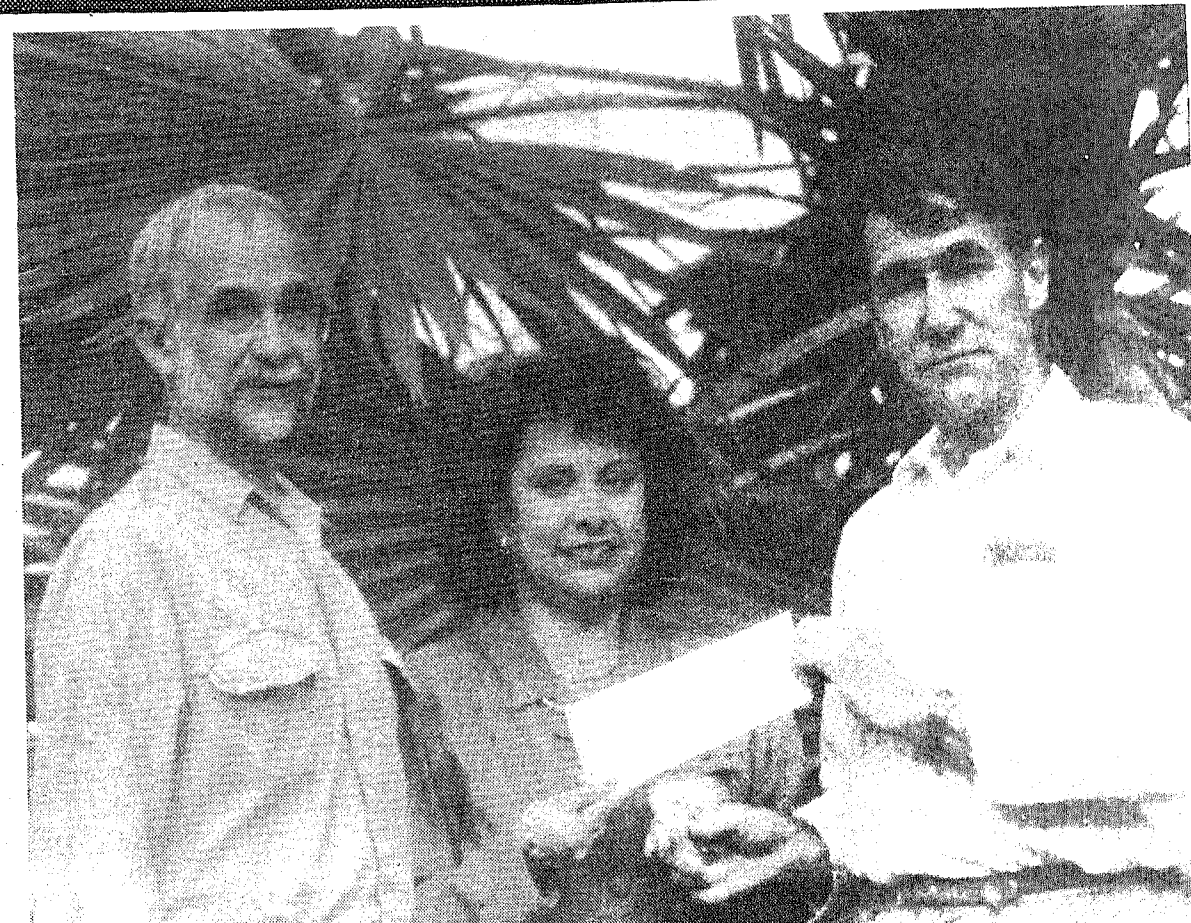
TEN POINTS: Nail technician Kathy Boyd is a new staff member at First Impressions Hair and Nail Salon.

Salon, located at 906-D Kennedy Drive in Lynn's Alley. Boyd specializes in Tammy Taylor nails, Creative Nail Design Acrylics, Backscratchers, silk or fiberglass wraps and pedicures and manicures. For an appointment, call 294-3545.

A multi-million-dollar real-estate agent,



MILLIONS IN SALES: Real estate agent Al Rummel recently joined RE/MAX Paradise.



GRANT MONEY: Stella Corzo (center), regional representative for Burroughs-Wellcome Company, presents an \$8000 grant to AIDS Help, Inc. executive director Edward Seebol (right) and case-worker Bruce Zabov.

Al Rummel has moved from Century 21 to RE/MAX Paradise, located at 521 Simonton Street. Rummel, an 11-year resident of Key West, works in both residential and commercial real estate. He is available to his clients seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Rummel says his "special power" in sales comes from his outgoing personality and his willingness to assist in local functions. Call 294-6000.

Diane Schmidt of the Casa Marina Resort, located at 1500 Reynolds Street, announces that Flagler's restaurant is offering a new Sunday brunch menu. Featuring a Gulf states theme—which includes Tex-Mex, Cajun and New Orleans style foods—the brunch offers fresh seafood, omelets to order, conch fritters, fajitas, Caribbean curried chicken salad, Cajun-style cornish hens with "dirty rice," sofrito-style roast pork and more. Brunch is offered Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 296-3535.

Dick Moody, owner of Great Southern Gallery, 910 Duval Street, announces that the gallery is hosting its annual juried show April 1. This year's show is entitled "White and Black," and it is open to all artists and photographers in Key West. There is no entry fee; however, artwork must be for sale and ready to hang. Work submitted for jury must be at the gallery before 6 p.m., March 20. Call Dick Moody at 294-6660.

Burroughs-Wellcome Company, a leading pharmaceutical firm known for anti-viral research, recently awarded \$8000 to AIDS Help, Inc. for case management and outreach targeting the HIV-asymptomatic

population of Monroe County. "HIV-asymptomatic" refers to a person who tests positive for HIV but has not developed the symptoms of illness. The grant joins other funds now available to AIDS Help to improve services to HIV-asymptomatic people.

Dr. Eshri Singh, owner of The Pegasus International Hotel at 501 Southard Street, was recently honored by the Key West Chamber of Commerce for his unique contribution to architecture—the classic art deco restoration of the hotel, which was done under the guidance of local architect Dennis A. Beebe. According to Singh, "The restoration was inspired by my



DECO PRESERVATION: (From left) Dr. Eshri Singh, who restored the Pegasus International Hotel, stands with wife Gulshan and Dan Lee of the Chamber of Commerce.

desire to preserve a priceless part of American architectural history and offer an inn that combines gracious surroundings with personal flavor." In a city of classic Victorian homes, the Pegasus stands as an example of a spirited period in history. Call 294-9323.

Brenda Stevens, Mary di Paolo and Rosa Barroso, employees of Barnett Bank of the Keys, recently celebrated their employment anniversaries. Stevens celebrated 16 years, di Paolo her 10th and Barroso her 8th. All three work at Barnett's Kennedy Drive office in positions as loan operations officer, account services supervisor and new accounts representative, respectively. "I'd like to congratulate all three ladies on their skills in banking and their commitment to Barnett," said bank president and CEO Harry Woolley.

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The Night Club Jazz With Simon Hendrix 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Bruce Peterson In The Afternoon.....	The Texaco Metropolitan Opera Live From New York City 1:30 p.m.
The Key Lite Jazz Show 9 p.m. - OnThe KEY 93 Suppertime Symphony 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	The Night Club Jazz Show With Simon Hendrix 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
The Key Lite Jazz Show 8 p.m. - On.....	The Key Lite Jazz Show 9 p.m. - On
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Solares Almanac

Feb. 27 - March 18

by John Cole

These are winter's last weeks, and even in Key West the season's *au revoir* signifies elemental changes in progress or soon to come. March is all transition: it is born still wearing winter's old clothes, and it leaves dressed in south winds and some of this island's brightest days. It is a month of more cloudless skies than any other except for April, when average daily temperatures hover around 75 degrees—up a full seven degrees from January. And March is the driest month of the Key West year.

Sunsets are later; sunrises earlier. As the month begins, the sun sets at 6:30. By the 18th, the celebrated event is about ten minutes later. Add the 20 minutes of daylight gained with the help of the morning sun's

rapid advance on the night and you realize that March announces its reign by granting us a full half-hour of additional daylight. It's this dramatic diurnal shift that triggers all manner of migrations and metamorphoses.

Great silver tarpon no longer hesitate on the brink of deeper waters. Gathering now in gliding schools of silent light, the fish ease tentatively onto the flats whenever soft winds push from the south and dawns break into cloudless skies.

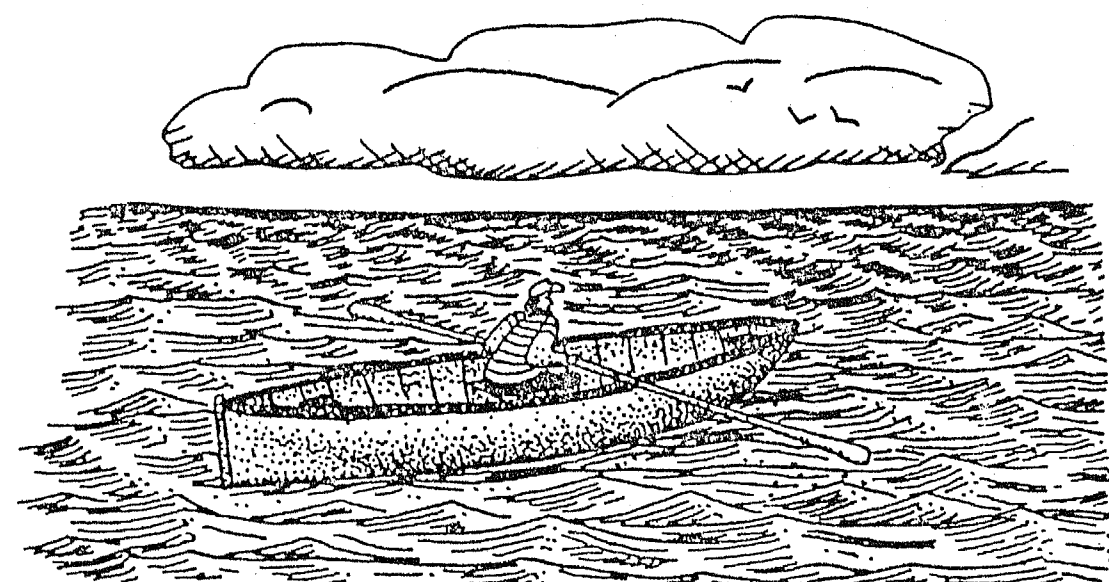
And the frangipani will bloom at last. So stilled by this winter's platoons of cold fronts that only bare branches wavered in the wind, one of Key West's most fragrant and graceful flowering trees will, like the tarpon, respond to the longer days and warmer airs of March.

A new moon on the 4th will announce the coming season, which will be properly welcomed with a full moon on the 18th, just two days before the vernal equinox on the 20th. Tides will respond to this lunar rhythm, moving at a moderate pace until the 16th. Then they pick up the tempo and begin several days of high-velocity movement that starts with the falling tide on the evening of the 16th.

(Speaking of tides: the best explanation of the complex Key West ebbs, floods, currents and stages is in the pages of the *Florida Sportsman Tide Atlas*, published by Wickstrom Publishers, Inc., 5901 S.W. 74th Street, Miami, FL 33143. Serious anglers and explorers of the back-country should be reading it.)

There are, however, celestial and meteorological rhythms too elusive to be pinned down in print. Take the patterns of the past winter's cold fronts, for one. Research librarian Tom Hambricht at the Monroe County Library on Fleming Street is a weekend fisherman, who, like his counterparts, was greeted by the hard winds of cold fronts on almost every Saturday and Sunday of January and February.

"If the first front of the season gets started on a Thursday or Friday," says Ham-



bright, "then the pattern will continue. Once the fronts become regular winter events, they arrive five to seven days apart. That's what happened this year; I know, because I just about got blown off the water every winter weekend. Those calm days that come just before a front always arrived in the middle of the week."

It was on one of those gentle, mid-week days in February that flats guide Tom Tripp hooked the tarpon of a lifetime. Fishing a channel on a busman's holiday aboard another guide's skiff (both to remain nameless) Tripp cast a fly late in the afternoon to a 150-pound giant. The great fish ate the lure, and the battle was joined.

One hour later, the angler began to tire; the fish seemed to grow stronger. Neither surrendered. Dusk gathered in the east as the sun eased toward the western horizon. About then, the skiff captain's newly acquired cellular telephone began ringing. "Hello," he answered, surprised by the call.

He shouldn't have been. It was his lady telephoning from her Key West kitchen where she was preparing dinner for the captain and her guests. "You're late," she reminded the skipper, underscoring her information with some rather more blunt observations.

"I know," the captain replied, "But Tom here is battling the tarpon of a lifetime."

"Well break the damn fish off and get back on time for dinner." *Et cetera.*

The incident demonstrated all-too-soon the liabilities of some of today's satellite-relay

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communication miracles. A little more than an hour later, the tarpon was brought to boat, measured, revived and released in the darkness of a night firmly in place.

I have no further word of the on-shore events that followed, nor do I know if the captain now leaves his cellular phone at the dock. ☐

The Almanac is written for Solares Hill by John Cole, with much help from Capt. Bill Somers of the charter sloop *Relevance*, author and publisher of the Key West tide tables; flats fishing guides Capt. Gil Drake and Capt. Jeffrey Cardenas; the Florida Keys Audubon Society, the meteorologists at the Key West National Weather Service offices at the Key West Airport; the National Marine Fisheries Service; Thomas J. Wilmers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biologist; and others who generously provide insight and information. Any errors, however, are the author's and his alone.

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ART~CIRCLE

By
Judi
Bradford

Gingerbread Square Gallery: Chickens And Fine Art

Chickens may be the link. They were there on the Toledo farm of Richard Heyman's childhood, and now they wander the Key West neighborhood where his Gingerbread Square Gallery is situated.

"As a kid, growing up, we had hogs and cattle, sheep, ducks, chickens—the whole bit," he says. "We made our hams and sausage in our smoke house. We made our own soap from lye and ashes. My father was a very self-sufficient person."

After nearly 20 years in the Key West art business, Heyman has proved himself to be a very self-sufficient person as well. Recently he moved his gallery from the 900 block of Duval to the more remote 1200 block, because, in part, "it feels like Key West used to feel."

Still partly residential, the location is downright homey, with Cuban coffee stands, dogs and, yes, free-roaming chickens all within a stone's throw. There is not as much sidewalk traffic, but Heyman is not worried.

"People who like art will seek us out," he says. "I don't mind having fewer sight-seers."

The new location is a study in quiet ele-



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gance. A tidy garden patio greets the visitor. Inside impeccable refurbishing in natural-wood and peaceful grey-and-white tones work with the classical music to soothe the visitor and properly introduce him to the artwork. It is not unusual to find Heyman chatting enthusiastically with customers from behind the Queen Anne table that serves as his sales desk.

The gallery displays the work of three sculptors and seven two-dimensional artists. Known for their exquisite craftsmanship and dream-quality images, the Gingerbread artists specialize in tropical realism with a generous helping of fantasy. The concepts involve a jungled never-never land, where breezes are always balmy, shadows always dramatic, and flowers always blooming.

"Art should be an escape into something that makes us feel good," says Heyman. "It's better than life." After expressing respect for artists who delve into the underworld of human emotions, he adds, however, that "it's not something I would like to live with. There's enough going on in the world that's not pleasant."

A Midwestern Work Ethic

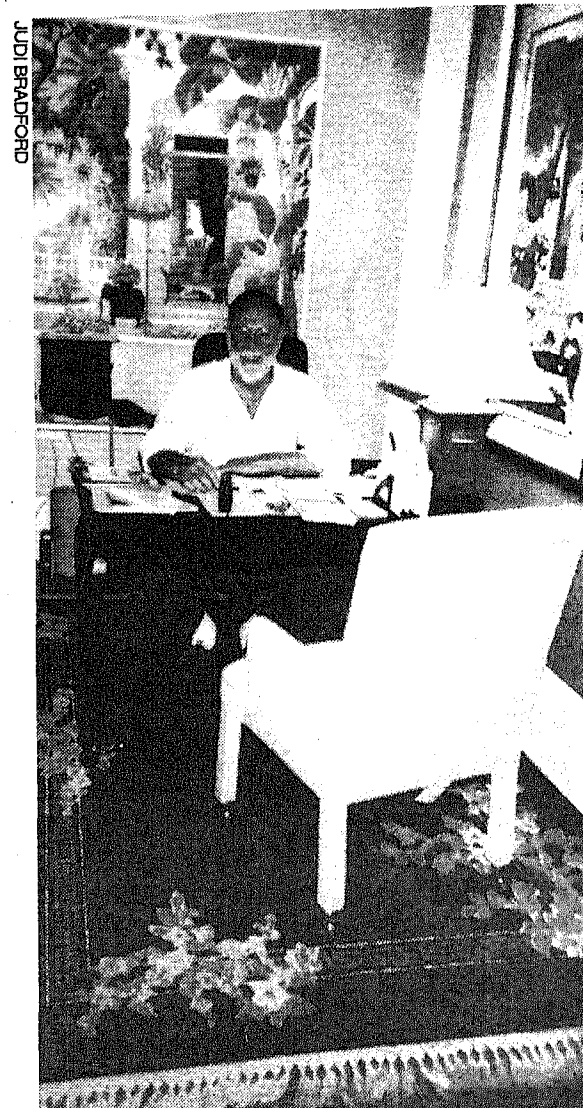
Heyman's own life experience is rooted in the Midwestern work ethic and the realization that one must keep up with progress in order to survive. While running the farm, he owned two employment agencies and worked as a hairdresser. After moving to Key West he was twice elected mayor (in 1983 and 1987) and served one term as a commissioner.

"It was great," he says after stating that he has no further political aspirations. "I got to see and do a lot of things that I never would have otherwise. And I think I was able to accomplish some things that I am very proud of—like taking Key West from the 19th century into the 20th century just in time for the 21st century," he says with a laugh.

Heyman's first art venture came in 1974, when he opened a gift, accessories and art shop at 900 Duval. His was about the only business in that neighborhood before the bicentennial, when the 600 block of Duval was considered almost suburban, and the 900 block was a ghost town.

The next year he started a gallery in an abandoned grocery—the building that Viva Zapata now occupies. Forty-three-hundred square feet of opportunity in an economic wasteland, where walk-in customers were at least an oddity, if not a miracle.

The art world in Key West was consid-



TWO DECADES: Richard Heyman, owner of Gingerbread Square Gallery, started his art business in 1974. Marion Steven's Artist Unlimited was thriving in the 200 block of Duval and the Key West Art Center was enjoying a good business. But the island was primarily a fishing town, where shrimpers in white rubber boots (not art collectors) made the fashion statements.

He opened with six artists, two of whom he still promotes—John Kiraly and Sal Salinero. Ann Irvine, who now has her studio at Guild Hall Gallery, was one of the original sextet, and she, along with Melinda Blair (another of the six), collaborated on a painting entitled "Behind Every Concrete Wall There's a Conch House Screaming To Get Out." Marion Stevens bought it.

In the ensuing years, Gingerbread Gallery moved to various spots on the 900 block. It was in the back of building at 901 for a while, before expanding to include the front of the building (with Lee Dodez' craft

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HOMEY: The new Gingerbread Square Gallery in the 1200 block of Duval is a comfortable setting of wood and light tones.

shop in the middle). Later, Heyman moved across the street, combining the gallery with his living site. Several years ago he sold that location to Dick and Kathleen Moody, who opened the Great Southern Gallery—and Gingerbread moved back across the street.

Nurturing Reputations

From this southernmost island that he

once called a "little banana republic," Heyman has made an impact on the art world, nurturing several Gingerbread Square Gallery artists to national reputations.

The most successful, perhaps, is John Kiraly, whose large canvasses are escalating in popularity. A Gingerbread artist since the gallery's beginning 19 years ago, he is also Heyman's long-time friend and companion



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Kiraly experimented with abstract images at first, and then settled into vibrant tropical views that hint of exotic leisurely lifestyles and flower-scented breezes.

Recently, art dealers at Chalk and Vermilion have signed Kiraly on. They handle the work of Erte, Delacroix and a very few others for national and international sales. Their marketing staff has begun work on a video of Kiraly and a coffee-table book that will feature 150 plates of his paintings.

Kiraly is now working to complete 15 paintings for an upcoming ten-city tour in Japan. Chalk and Vermilion will produce serigraphs of those originals at the estimated cost of \$40,000 per edition, according to Heyman.

For local Kiraly fans, that means no Kiraly show at Gingerbread this season, while he concentrates on the Chalk and Vermilion pieces. You can bet, however, the book will be available locally the minute it comes off the press.



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Art Safari Gallery & Key Largo Antiques • Museum-quality collections, including beaded masks and spears from four continents. MM 98.6, Gulfside, Key Largo. 852-5933.

Audubon House • Audubon's "Birds of Prey" through April 30. Admission \$5, children under six free, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St. 294-2116.

Banana Boat Batik • Handpainted silk and cotton by Key West Attitude. New ceramic work by Walt Hyla—animals, fish, lidded vessels, functional ware and hanging fish sculptures. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 419B Duval St. 296-2380.

Bohem • All-new selection of painted furniture, including a new line of framed mirrors. See our second studio Pearl-Beal at 531 Whitehead St. Our furniture and artwork will be moved there March 1. The Duval St. shop will remain open with our all-original T-shirts and clothing. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 706A Duval St. 292-4035.

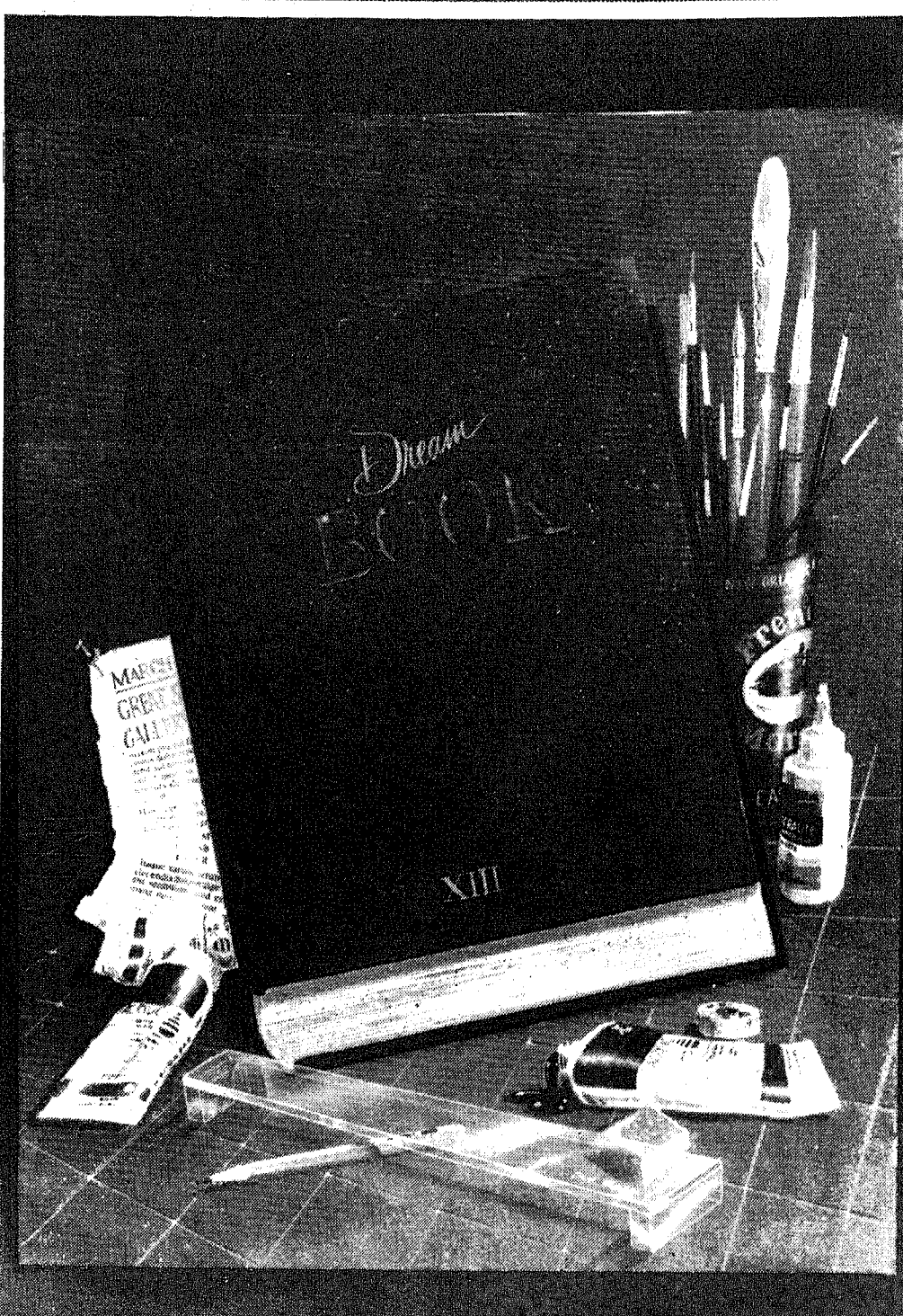
Bonsai of Key West • Largest collection of exotic and tropical bonsai in the Keys. Wood and metal sculptures, wood puzzle boxes, lamps, stone and wood fountains and origami mobiles—all by local artisans. Also limited edition Keys photos by George Rhodes. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sundays. 310 Duval St. 294-2921.

Carambola Gallery • Gay Cunningham oil on canvas and hand-painted furniture, Anne McWey hand-crocheted jewelry, Tom Woodruff pottery creations. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 814 Fleming St. 296-2545.

Lee Dodez Showroom • New classes at FKCC by Jay Gogin. Hand-built clay pieces. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

Donkey Milk House • Recent watercolors of Old Town by Barbara Dorf, noted English artist. "Beguiling... above all the elegance."—Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy. Historic china by Mottahedeh. Admission \$3. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 613 East

GREAT SOUTHERN GALLERY



TROMPE L'OEIL: Artist Dick Moody, who owns the Great Southern Gallery, opens his first Key West show on March 1. Titled "Dream Books, A Tribute to Artists in Paradise," the 13 works of liquid acrylic on canvas will be on exhibit through the 15th.

ton Street. 296-1866.

East Bank Gallery • Paintings by local artists, highlighting Dick Matson originals. Also limited edition prints and custom framing. Daily, except Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 706 White St. 296-2679.

East Martello Museum & Gallery • "Key West in the Movies" exhibition, featuring film history of the island, until March 8. March 10, Florida Keys Watercolor Society. Get your cameras clicking for the April 7 show, "Photographers' View of Spring Break '92," amateur and professionals invited. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for adults. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery • Faculty show through March 9. Student show March 20 through April 17. Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock

Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

Gingerbread Square Gallery • George Carey through March 13. March 14, Sal Sal-

nero. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1207 Duval St. 296-8900.

Grand Collection • Paintings, Asian antiques, ancient artifacts, tribal arts, jewelry. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 810 Duval St. 292-1331.

Great Southern Gallery • "Dreambooks: Salute to Artists in Paradise": a one-man show by Dick Moody. Harry Greene, oil sticks on paper. Marble garden sculpture by Pat Stone. Art classes continue with instructors Errol Etienne Harry Greene, Jim Salem and Sanford. Also our regular artists. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery • Artists' cooperative featuring ink, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, prints, gyo-taku fish printing, soft sculpture, fabric piece-work, printed and handpainted

cards, ceramics, painted clothing, leather bags, photography, stained glass, ironwork, painted mirrors, collage, painted woodcarvings by Key West artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and sometimes later. 614 Duval St. 296-6076.

Haitian Art Company • Spirit flags, papier mache, paintings, wood sculpture, metal cut-outs by Haitian artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St. 294-8932.

Harrison Gallery • "Living Sculpture," March 22: bonsai by Norman Aberly and ceramics by Byron Temple and Susan Thayer. Andre Henocque, Matthew Lineburger, Sandra Schneider, Alan Tidball and Helen Harrison. Daily, noon to 5:30 p.m. except Sunday and Monday or ring the bell. 825 White St. 294-0609.

High Tide • Oil paintings and prints with local flavor. Affordable prices from \$5 to \$300. Packing and shipping available. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to midnight. 826 Duval St. 293-0331.

Is It Art? • Hand-painted artwear, prints and wall-hangings. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 913 Duval St. 294-0411.

Island Arts • Artist cooperative and consignment shop with a unique selection of local arts, crafts and painted objects. Weekdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 1128 Duval St. 292-9909.

Island Wellness • "Conch Fritters," contemporary humorous work with Key West subjects by visiting New Mexico artist Joyce Mechelina Centofanti working in watercolor and oil on paper. Paintings by local and Caribbean artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. 530 Simonton St. 296-7353.

Kennedy Gallery • New wood sculptures by Boston artist John Vliet. Animal sculpture by Peter Otfinoski. Etched glass pieces by Susan Pellish. Vibrant oil paintings by Michele Kennedy. Watercolor street scenes by Robert Kennedy. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., maybe later. 1130 Duval St. 294-5997.

Kennedy Studios • Graphics, limited edition prints. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 133 Duval St. 294-5850; 511 Duval St. 294-8564; and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 306 Front St. 293-0999.

Key West Art Center • Paintings by art center members. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St. 294-1241.

Key West Lighthouse Museum • History of Keys lighthouses and technology of lighthouses. Also, life of a light-house keeper. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 children 7 to 15, under 7 free. 938 Whitehead St. 294-0012.

Kudu Gallery of Tribal Arts • New acquisitions of tribal rugs and kilims. African art, collector's textiles, jewelry. Also ethnic musical instruments, tapestries and toys. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings until 9 p.m. 1208 Duval St. 294-3771.

Lane Gallery • Michael Palmer acrylic on canvas, scenes of Key West. Painted objects by Van Eno. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

LedaBruce Gallery • World-class gallery of originals, many local artists. Stay in touch for special Sunday afternoon events: plays, poetry readings, jazz and Jacqueline Rosenblatt at piano. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oceanside on U.S. 1, MM 30.2, Big Pine. 872-0212.

Loeber-Stanton Gallery • Originals by international artist Joe Loeber. By appointment. 1619 Atlantic Blvd. 296-8996.

Lucky Street Gallery • John Martini Molly Goodwin through March 2. March 3, Thomas Mann techno-romantic jewelry and wall sculpture. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 10 p.m. 919 Duval St. 294-3973.

Miller Gallery • Original contemporary Chinese paintings from the 1950s to the '80s. Daily, except Monday, noon to 8 p.m. 517 Duval St. 2nd Floor. 294-7687.

Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters • Old Key West engravings from Harper's Bazaar. Errol Etienne watercolor alligators and other critters. New paintings from South America. Back country paint-

ings and prints by Michael Shannon. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1107 Duval St. 296-6124.

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Pelican Poop Shoppe • Haitian art, paintings, metal

sculpture, papier mache, wood carvings. Ceramics by Mary Ann Worth. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 314 Simonton St. 292-9955.

Plantation Potters • Come see our new arrivals. Functional and decorative ware from some of America's finest potters. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., sometimes later. 717 Duval St. 294-3143.

Rara Avis Gallery • Oil portraits, reproductions of masters and original work by local artists. Daily, noon to 6 p.m. 507 B South St. 292-3611.

Robinson Galleries • Featuring the art of Wyland and six other international artists. Dai-

ly, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 296-7920.

Rose Lane Antiquities • Pre-Columbian art. Flexible hours or by appointment. 524 Rose Lane. 294-1873, 294-2270.

Studio 227 • Handbuilt claywork, watercolor originals, Bahama Village scenes by local artists. Local neighborhood children's art classes. Hours: Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Locklear multimedia; acrylics. 227 Petronia St. 294-7141.

Sunset Arts and Crafts • Selected work by local artists and craftsmen—many Mallory Square vendors at the Sunset Celebration. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9

p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 296-7920.

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Gigs

by Christine Naughton

The Sunday Songwriters' Series

by Christine Naughton

In the center of a room painted black, on a stage softly lit by colored spotlights, four songwriters with guitars sat in a circle. The microphone traveled round robin, and each performed his song for the hushed crowd.

The listeners' faces tilted upward toward the stage. They expressed distance, transformation and an occasional smile or shake of the head when a particular lyric hit home. A palpable energy flowed through the room: the singular excitement of gist being unwrapped—new music!

As human birth is essential to the survival of the species, so is songwriting essential to

the survival of music. This installment of "Gigs" is dedicated to the songwriters, an essential and grossly under-appreciated sector of the industry.

Recently in Key West, a Songwriters Series has been taking place Sunday nights at 10 p.m. at the Schooner Wharf, located at the foot of William Street in Key West Bight. The series was originated by Sam Anderson, a man consumed with the process of writing, playing and hearing new music. Performed in the bar's listening room, the series will continue until May.

A recent evening's group featured Anderson, Marian Joy Ring and Bert Lee.

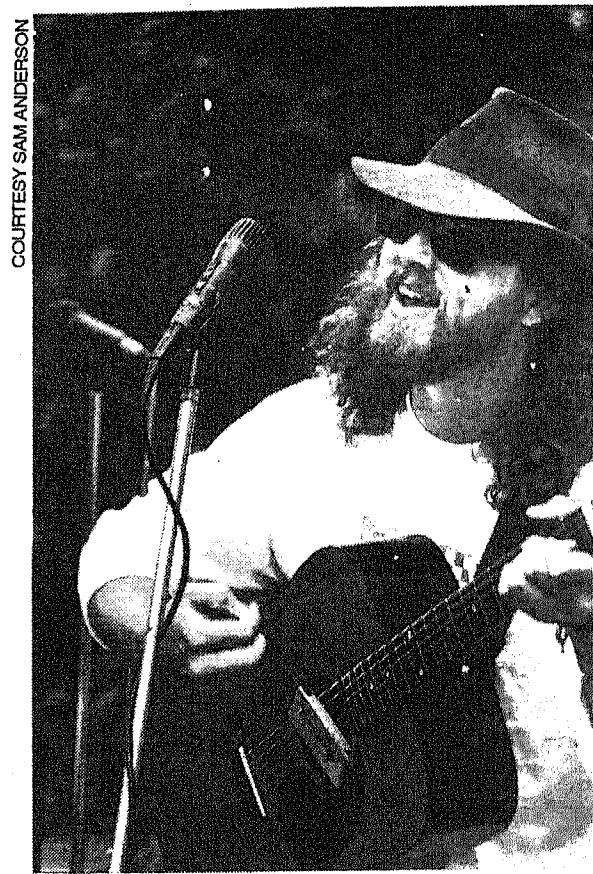
Anderson's sunny enthusiasm for life prevades his songwriting. Witty and charming, his is a great big personality with much to say and a gift for making it go down easy. As Mama would say, he's a real character. His style is a tasty blend of blues and jazz, his clever lyrics full of onomatopoeia: *Put on your red dancin' shoes! And we'll go one-step, two-step, foxtrot, polka, be-bop-bugalo! We'll cut the rug down at the Roxy 'til the cock-a-doodle-doo!* So, darling, go put on your red dancin' shoes. ("Put On Your Red Dancin' Shoes," 1991.)

Each a detailed and finished work, Ring's songs are stylized and do not fall easily into category. She has learned by experiencing firsthand a variety of commercial and indigenous music forms, many from her eight years of living in South America. She has a strong, clear voice, intense and precise delivery, and an amazing range.

Lyrical, Ring favors descriptions of places, people and emotions, and intertwines them with irony and symbolism: *Well, the winter was coming and with music and my man! I was heading for the north of Chile! Cecilia wanted me to stay, it's true! Her light had really touched me too! But like a rainbow right before my eyes! I let her slip away and turn to grey.* ("Cecilia" *The Rising Cost of Love*, Black Dog Records, 1988.)

One of the island's better known songwriters, Bert Lee is a master craftsman. Certain of his titles—"Blue Hotel" and "Trouble in the Zoo" come immediately to mind—sustain their places on the list of local classics. Though Lee has flirted with fame on a larger scale, he has yet to reach his widest audience.

To these ears, however, success is only a matter of exposure. Lee is both an excellent guitarist and singer. His precise phrases haunt the memory from first hearing, with



SINGING HIS SONG: Sam Anderson performs at the Songwriters' Series, which he also organizes.

sharp imagery and focused intent: *There is nothing you can buy! And nothing you can own! And all your prized possessions! Are just something you've been loaned! And what you'd give the world to know! Are just the things you've always known! What you thought were precious gems! Were only ordinary stones.* ("On Your Journey Home" *Living in the Stream*, Fast Forward Productions, 1990.)

Put this series on your Sunday night schedule. It is an intimate and delightful evening of musical discovery, and hey! free gumbo, too! Future participants include Billy Davidson, Pat McCune, David Goodman, Robert Hutto, Kathy Grier and Leanna Collins.

Again, the series will end when Anderson departs for a road trip, which includes opening for Jerry Jeff Walker in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He fervently hopes someone will want to continue organizing it in his absence. Interested parties and songwriters wishing to take part in the series can reach Anderson at 296-1459.

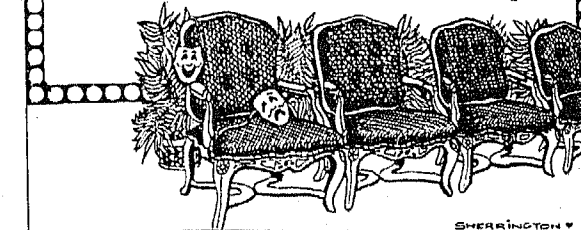
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AISLE SEAT

by Jane Phillips



Red Barn Revue Makes Audience Laugh Heads Off

Tabloid headline: "Six women hold audience captive—with laughter!" The Red Barn Theatre's current production *Six Women with Brain Death or Expiring Minds Want to Know* is like a speeding musical train ride—the zany aspects of the modern woman's existence whiz by as some of the freshest, wittiest, naughtiest, most outrageous off-the-wall material I've heard in years.

With crazy headlines like "Ancient Mummy Gives Birth To Elvis' Baby" threaded throughout the show, the musical revue, written by Mark Houston, is unbeatable when it comes to topical humor. As the opening night audience was leaving the theatre, there was a chorus of "I've never laughed so much."

Nothing is sacred here, and everything is fair game to poke fun at—including the audience. Hooked on soap operas? You've got to see "All My Hospitals." Thinking about attending a class reunion? Think again! Inquiring minds want to know: What happens to former prom queens; how do people really feel about their children; can fake nails really bring happiness? Remember super dolls Barbi and Ken? Not like this you don't (unless you're really weird). Their onstage orgy is priceless.

All of this entertainment is created by a sextet of fabulous females under the direction of Joy Hawkins and Michael Robinson. Hawkins picks up where she left off a couple of seasons ago in the zany *El Grande Coca Cola*. This multi-talented lady is sensational in broad comedy.

Actors Robin Deck and Chris Stone are so good they make everything they do look easy, when it's not. Deck can turn something as mundane as spots on a rug into a comedic gem; and Stone's deadpan parental message couldn't be done better. Paula Jo Chitty pops up everywhere and is at her best in the saccharine sweet parody of Disney forest creatures. Jodyrae Geckler comes close to raising the roof right off the barn with her high level of vitality and Judy Hulst can be queen of the divas anytime—in Nashville or Motown.

These women are just plain terrific and to have them all on one stage at the same time is a rare theatrical experience.

The costumes and props are a treat, and Gary McDonald's set, consisting of the con-

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volution of the brain, is perfect for the shenanigans that follow. Life's flotsam and jetsam are strewn around the stage—a doggie Valentine, a stick of dynamite, a tennis trophy, a Pee Wee Herman puppet and, of course, copies of *The Enquirer*, *The Star*, etc.

The revue ran for six years in Kansas City and has had a total of 25 productions, all west of the Mississippi. This is a first for the East Coast and is produced with special arrangement with Musical Theatre International.

You've seen the headlines, now see the show, which runs through March 22nd. Call the box office for reservations at 296-9911.

Three Lovely Dances at TWFAC

The Martha Graham Ensemble, created 10 years ago to continue Graham's technique and repertoire, presented a thoroughly enjoyable evening of dance recently at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center.

Under the direction of Yuriko, there were three dance presentations with an intermission. The program was varied and well-chosen.

The first, a beautifully dramatic "Acts of Light" (with costumes by Halston), which premiered in 1981, was taken from a letter written by Emily Dickinson in 1884.

The second, a stylish, ritualistic "El Penitente" was based on purification ceremonies of a southwestern sect, the *Penitentes*, and was performed originally in 1940.

Appropriately last was the joyful romantic "Diversion of Angels," based on a passage of prose by Thomas Traherne, containing the words "moving jewels"—a perfect description of this dance and the performers for the entire program.

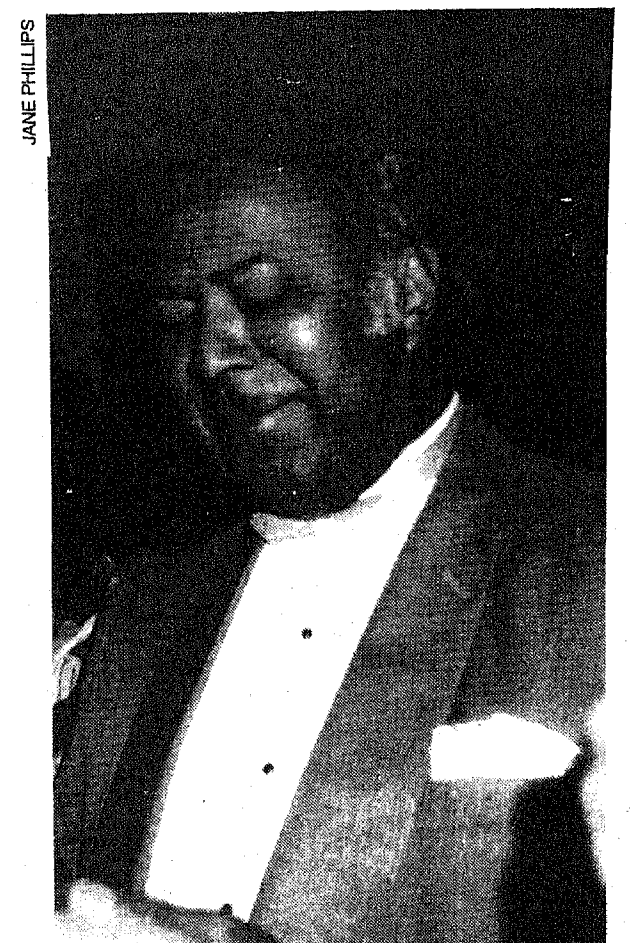
It is from this ensemble that dancers are groomed for the more mature Martha Graham Dance Company. Members of the ensemble are Ian Butler, Gary Galbraith, Kaye Richards, Marvin Webb, Katherine Crockett, Esperanza Gil, Amanda Thomas, Marc Weiss, Adria Ferrali, Wenge Huang, Benita Ward and Rika Okamoto.

The Ink Spots: Sold Out!

It was nostalgia night at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center when an American musical legend—The Ink Spots—appeared before an enthusiastic sell-out crowd. The entertainers were greeted with applause as soon as they walked onstage in their pink tuxedo jackets.

The group's sound is the same and the

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LEAD SINGER: Jim Nabbie, 72, who joined the Ink Spots in 1945, recently performed with his group at TWFAC.

familiar gestures are there. It's a class act, just as it was when the original group formed in 1935. Current lead singer, Jim Nabbie, joined the Ink Spots in 1945. Now he's 72 years old. The pure clarity of his tenor range is amazing for a singer of any age.

Others in the group are Sonny Hatchett, King Drake and Harold Winley.

Each musical number brought more applause as soon as it was recognized. Old favorites included "You Always Hurt The One You Love," "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" and one of the hits of WWII "Paper Doll." The Ink Spots have scored over seven million record sales to date.

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I got caught with my Northern roots showing again when a friend recently surprised me with a container of home-made "chowder." In a flash, my tastebuds jumped to attention. It was a chilly day, and nothing could have sounded more inviting at the moment than a big bowl of thick, creamy clam chowder afloat with a pool of butter. Before I had even gotten the lid off, I had decided to make a batch of corn muffins to go with it.

When I peered inside, however, I saw that the contents were not creamy white but tomato red. Oh, *Manhattan* clam chowder, I thought, and, somewhat crestfallen, set about readjusting my palate. Actually, it turned out to be *conch* chowder. When I first transplanted myself in Key West, I tried several cups at restaurants and cafés to get the idea, but I never became a fan. It all tasted like vegetable soup to me.

Where I was brought up, chowder was *chowder*: a thick soup usually featuring some sort of delicately flavored seafood, chicken, or even corn in a base of milk. Sliced onion cooked transparent in the fat rendered from a piece of salt pork, chunks of new red potato, bay leaf, and a sprinkle of thyme leaves provided all the additional flavor and texture necessary. The result was so delicious, so

So What If It's Not Really Chowder?

easy to eat, so smooth and warming that it has more than earned its spot at the top of the list of great comfort foods.

Not until I moved to Manhattan did I encounter Manhattan clam chowder. Made with a base of tomato instead of milk, it is also called red chowder. By its many critics, though, it is considered just another illegitimate offspring of a great original. The flavor of tomato, argue the critics, is too robust for the delicate nature of the foods usually being featured. They also complain that with the addition of so many other vegetables, the need for the featured ingredient at all becomes questionable—would anyone really notice its absence? Whatever had become of the rule "less is more?"

I agreed. By the time I got to Key West, and its red chowder made with conch rather than clams, the soup had taken on even more flavors, primarily those of the newest rage—hot chili peppers. Unfortunately, conch chowder was just the sort of dish that any bored chef with a passel of peppers on hand could have a field day with, and they did. Soon the words "hot" and "spicy" came to mean "avoid" to me, and I did. A food writer with a scorched palate is of little value (not to mention in pain).

It wasn't until I got a taste of my friend's silky but still spunky version of said chowder, which was so "down home" it even contained a handful of grated cabbage, that I began to reevaluate it.

What did it matter that the soup more closely resembled a gumbo than a chowder? It was really a dish unto itself, and it was a perfect example of regional cookery. Neither milk nor clams were readily available here, so

cooks used tomatoes and conch instead. The zingy, colorful concoction that resulted was a product of just one small geographic area and, in every way, was reflective of it. This was exactly as it should have been.

If you'd like to try your hand at making your own conch chowder, here's a basic recipe. Like chili-making, the best way to do this is anyway you want to—just hold the hot peppers in mine.

A word about conch. It is true that none of the conch you eat in the Keys today is from the surrounding waters. Because of severe overfishing, most of it comes from the Bahamas. However, it is readily available in our fish markets, where it usually arrives frozen. It has a flavor akin to that of its cousin the clam, but it is richer and considered a great delicacy by gourmets. Unlike clams, though, its meat is tough and must be tenderized before eating. This can be done by marinating the meat for several hours in lime juice and then pounding it vigorously, or by grinding it. It's easiest to buy it already ground, and it costs only a few cents more (a pound of meat sells for about \$5).

Conch Chowder 8 to 10 servings

Like most soups, you can do just about anything you please with this one—make it thinner by adding more liquid or thicker by using less or by stirring in some flour. To thin it more, you could use tomato juice; more clam juice, fish stock, or water; or even red or white wine. If you are watching your saturated-fat consumption, you could forgo the fat from the traditional salt pork or bacon and use vegetable oil or margarine instead. Don't forget about lowfat turkey bacon either. Finally, to give the soup an added bit of bite, I put in a turnip; cabbage or fennel also provides an interesting variation.

- 2 tbsps fat rendered from a small piece of salt pork or several pieces of bacon, cracklings or bacon reserved
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, chopped
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 1 small red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 small green pepper, chopped
- 1 small yellow pepper, chopped
- 2 bottles (8 oz. each) clam juice
- 1 can (28 oz.) crushed tomatoes with puree, broken up
- 2 tbsps tomato paste
- 1 qt fish stock or water
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme

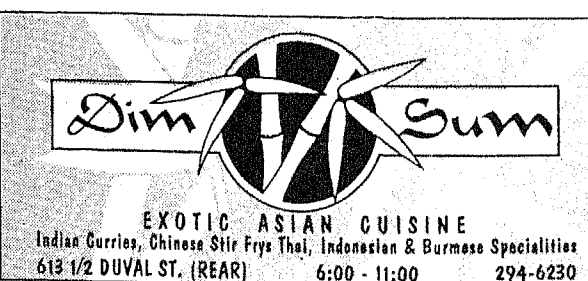
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1/8 tsp allspice
Cayenne pepper to taste
About 1 pound small red potatoes, peeled and diced
1 medium turnip, peeled and diced
1 pound ground conch, thawed if frozen
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
Fresh chopped parsley or cilantro

Heat fat in large, heavy Dutch oven with lid. Add

onion, carrot, celery, garlic, and the three bell peppers and cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Stir in clam juice, tomatoes with puree, tomato paste, and the fish stock or water, adding more liquid if you like a thinner chowder. Add bay leaves, thyme, allspice, and cayenne. Cover, bring to a boil, add the potatoes and turnips, reduce heat, and cook until potatoes are done but not beginning to fall apart, about 45 minutes. Stir in conch, cover, and heat for another 5 minutes

or so, or until soup is heated through. Taste for seasonings and garnish with cilantro or parsley and reserved cracklings or crumbled bacon.

Serve with oyster crackers, sea biscuits, or Cuban bread, and, if desired, lime wedges. For those who inevitably will want their portion hotter, put a bottle of Tabasco or bowl of salsa on the table. As for me, I sometimes like to top mine with a dollop of sour cream or even a little dry sherry.

RESTAURANT DIRECTORY

Antonia's Restaurant, 15 Duval Street. Excellent Northern Italian cuisine in friendly, elegant atmosphere. Dinner served from 6 to 11 p.m., nightly. Visa, Mastercard. 294-6565.

Baby's Place Coffee Bar, 1111 Duval Street. Serving the finest coffees from the four corners of the earth, roasted and ground on the premises. Enjoy favorites like café con leche, bucci, colada and European blends and fruit and herb teas as well. Baby's also offers all-day breakfast, speciality sandwiches, pies, cakes, cheeses and Veuve Clicquot champagne. Open early morning until late night. 292-3739.

Bill's Key West Fish Market and Restaurant, 2502 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. A local favorite serving the finest local seafood from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily. Our new breakfast menu features seafood omelets. 296-5891.

Camille's, 703 1/2 Duval Street. A local restaurant with the casual Key West touch, serving high-quality fare for breakfast and lunch. Daily specials. Entrees are reasonably priced, made of only the finest ingredients and cooked to order. The Sunday Brunch has become a tradition for many locals. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 296-4811.

Casablanca Café, 900-904 Duval Street. A tropical inn serving imaginative Caribbean-style cuisine, fresh local seafood, stone crab claws (in season), shrimp, and such mainstays as prime rib, steaks and pasta. Dine in a lush, tropical setting. Also located on the grounds is **Bogart's Irish Pub**, which boasts the largest selection of imported and domestic beers on draft. Open at 6 p.m., daily. 296-0815.

Conch Café, 1211 Duval Street. Charming sidewalk café serving home-cooked meals. Desserts, beer, wine, sundries, eat in or take out. Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Monday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. 294-7227.

Dim Sum, 613 1/2 Duval Street in Key Lime Square. A gourmet Asian restaurant serving exotic Chinese stir-fries, Indian curries and Thai, Indonesian and Burmese specialties. Wine and sake bar. Open 6 to 11 p.m., Wednesday through Monday. 294-6230.

Dos Lobos, 6 Charles Street, just one-half block west of Duval. Real South-of-the-Border cooking. Tacos, chimichangas, enchiladas, burritos, fajitas, chili and much more. Good cooking, very reasonable prices, and patio dining. 293-0733.

El Loro Verde, 404 Southard

Street. More than a Mexican restaurant, El Loro Verde presents innovative yet authentic variations of both Mexican and Caribbean dishes. Popular for its café atmosphere, El Loro Verde now features a full liquor bar in its new dining room. 296-7298.

Fiorini, 523 Eaton Street. One of Key West's oldest and most romantic restaurants. Fiorini's menu is unmistakably Italian with a hint of the tropics: yellowfin tuna *putanesca*, shrimp Diane, yellowtail in cucumber caviar cream sauce, fettuccine with basil, walnuts, and garlic. And for dessert try a genuine cannoli made fresh by Mama Fiorini. Open for dinner 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. 294-4720.

Flagler's, Marriot's Casa Marina, Reynolds Street. Elegance, nostalgia, romance and an exquisite view of the Atlantic. Beautiful food in beautiful surroundings, blended into an extraordinary American dining experience. Featuring America's traditional recipes, including seafood and chargilled steak. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. And a new Sunday brunch menu with a local discount. Live entertainment in Flagler's Bar. Reservations suggested. 296-3535.

Flamingo Crossing, 1105 Duval Street. The locals' favorite dessert spot features freshly-made-daily ice creams, sorbets, honey yogurts, sundaes, shakes and all-fruit vitari. Also enjoy Florida Keys Finest Key Lime Pie in a tropical garden setting. Open daily from noon to 11 p.m. and midnight Friday and Saturday. 296-6124.

Full Moon Saloon, 1220 Simon-ton Street. "Where locals always visit, and visitors always feel local." Serving 11 a.m. to 4 a.m., daily. Lunch, dinner and late-night specials. Featuring a moderately-priced American menu, including fresh seafood, meats, pastas, salads and sandwiches. 294-9090.

Half Shell Raw Bar, Land's End Village, foot of Margaret Street. Serving lunch and dinner til'! Freshest shrimp, fish and lobster direct from their own fish market at the shrimp docks. Cash only. 294-7496.

Jimmy Buffett's Margarita-ville Café, 500 Duval Street. Opens 11 a.m. for lunch, dinner, and late night rock and roll, starting at 10:30 p.m. Serving fresh seafood, meats, salads & Key West favorites: Conch chowder/fritters, squid rings and the famous Cheeseburger in Paradise. 292-1435.

Louie's Backyard, 700 Waddell on the Atlantic Ocean. Featuring international cuisine in a restaurant ranked among South Florida's best. Dining in-

side or outdoors on the water. Enjoy cocktails on the Afterdeck Bar. Open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. 294-1061 for dining reservations.

Lucy's, 1114 Duval St. Enjoy our American cuisine with a southern Cajun influence in a relaxed open atmosphere. Serving breakfast from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 6 to 11 p.m. Wine and beer available. 292-4002.

Mangrove Mama's, mile marker 20 on Sugarloaf Key. Featuring natural and local seafood served in an olde tyme Keys atmosphere. Dining inside in an old 1919 "Flagler building" or outside under the banana trees. Enjoy the wine bar with a large selection of wines by the glass. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. For dining reservations and entertainment schedule, call 745-3030.

Mary's, 808 Duval. Offers delicious burgers—most notably the Mary Burger—in addition to other daily dinner, lunch and breakfast specials. Everything is fresh and made to order; beer and wine are available. Indoor and outdoor seating. Breakfast is served from 12 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open 24 hours. All major credit cards accepted. 296-7554.

Palm Grill, on the corner of Frances and Southard Streets. American Island cooking using fresh herbs, native seafood and the finest produce. Grilled meats, fish and vegetarian selections. Creative and affordable. Dinner 6 to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday Brunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday dinner 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Visa/Mastercard. Reservations suggested. 296-1744.

Paradise Café, corner of Eaton and Grinnell Streets. Home of the famous island Monster Mix. Featuring the biggest sandwiches and the lowest beer prices in Key West. Open for breakfast and lunch. Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free delivery. 296-5001.

Rich's Café, at the Eden House, 1015 Fleming Street. A relaxed tropical garden setting with outdoor specials; serving special German beer and wine. Breakfast and lunch, daily, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 296-1183.

Rittenhouse Deli, Duval Square at Simon-ton Street. Serving breakfast, lunch, light entrees and desserts on our lovely deck. Open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Free parking and delivery. Call 292-8350 or fax your order to 292-8346.

Rooftop Café, 310 Front Street, in the heart of old town offering rooftop and indoor seating. Breakfast 9 a.m. to

11 a.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily. Dinner until 11 p.m. Live entertainment weekends. 294-2042.

Savannah, 915 Duval Street. Fine Southern home cooking featuring dixie delectables like mouth-watering fried chicken, cornbread, collard greens, fresh fish, and unbeatable mash potatoes. Dine in a grand old conch house or outside in a tropical garden setting. Open for dinner daily at 6:30 p.m. 296-6700.

Square One Restaurant, Duval Square. Superb food and service in a warm and elegant setting—all at affordable prices. Open Monday through Saturday: Happy Hour 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner 6:30 to 11 p.m. Reservations suggested. American Express, Visa, Mastercard. 296-4300.

South Beach Seafood & Raw Bar, on the beach at the ocean end of Duval Street. Fresh Key West Seafood, baby-back ribs, chicken, steak, oysters, clams, nightly specials. Serving beer and wine. Dine inside or outside on our beach deck. Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 294-2727.

Sugarloaf Lodge Restaurant, mile marker 17 on U.S. Route 1. Waterfront dining serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Specializing in fresh local seafood, prime rib and filet mignon. Still serving the best drinks around. Dance with deejay Capt. Chuck on Friday and Saturday nights. Piano music by John Conroy every Sunday evening. Dolphin shows daily at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. A short drive back to the keys you'll remember. 745-3741.

Tamarinds, at Duval Square, 1021 Duval Street. Key West's newest café offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our menu features eggs, grilled seafood, fresh salads, sandwiches, burgers, soups and luscious desserts at affordable prices, presented in an innovative manner with a Caribbean flavor. Enjoy dining inside or outside in our relaxing oasis. Breakfast 8 to 11:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., dinner 4 to 11 p.m. Takeout available. 294-2809.

Turtle Kraals, Land's End Village, foot of Margaret Street. Harbor view dining for lunch and dinner. Great hamburgers, seafood—check out the music. Visa/Mastercard. 294-2640.

Yo Sake, 722 Duval Street. Neo-Japanese inside or torchlit garden dining; traditional Japanese and original island creations. Full sushi bar. Dinner nightly, 6 to 11:30 p.m. 294-2288.

CALENDAR • FEB. 27 - MARCH 18

Cultural

2/27-3/1 • Lend Me a Tenor directed by Bruce Peterson at the Waterfront Playhouse. For ticket information, call 294-5015.

2/27-3/22 • Six Women with Brain Death or Expiring Minds Want to Know directed by Joy Hawkins at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911 for ticket information.

2/28-2/29 • Annual House and Garden Tours Fundraiser sponsored by the Old Island Restoration Foundation. Owners of five Key West homes open their doors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. Call 294-9501.

2/29 • Gioachino Rossini's "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" 1 p.m. on KEY 93 radio.

2/29 • The Byrds in concert from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Old Havan Docks, Pier House. Call 296-4600.

3/6 • Piano Concerto with Rodolfo Brito at the San Carlos Institute in a benefit for the American Cancer Society. For reservations, call 294-9575.

3/7 • Giuseppe Verdi's "Rigoletto" 1:30 p.m. on KEY 93 radio.

3/9 • Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado, a one-woman performance featuring Nancy Hoffman 8 p.m. at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911 for ticket information.

3/13-3/14 • A Day in Hollywood: A Night in the Ukraine, a musical double feature by Dick Vosburgh and Frank Lazarus at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

3/15 • Key West Alliance for the Mentally Ill (KWAMI) Benefit 3 p.m. at the Leda Bruce Gallery, mile marker 30.2 on Big Pine Key. An afternoon of theater, classical music, poetry and jazz. Refreshments and door prizes. For information, call 294-9905 or 872-0212.

3/16 • Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado, a one-woman performance featuring Nancy Hoffman 8 p.m. at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911 for ticket information.

3/17-3/21 • A Day in Hollywood: A Night in the Ukraine, a musical double feature by Dick Vosburgh and Frank Lazarus at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

3/18-4/5 • Camille directed by Cameron Murray at the Waterfront Playhouse. For ticket information, call 294-5015.

Entertainment

Beach Club Bar • The Pier House, 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

The Bull & Whistle Bar • Corner of Duval and Caroline Streets. Happy Hour at The Whistle, 5 to 9 p.m. daily.

Captain Hornblower's • 300 Front Street. Jazz on the patio every night. Call 294-4922.

Captain Tony's Saloon • 428 Greene Street. Call 294-1838.

Club Havana • The Pier House at 1 Duval Street. The Byrds on March 9 from 8 to 10 p.m. Call 296-4600.

ClubLand • The Strand Theater, 527 Duval. Multi-media dance party Wednesday through Sunday. Thursday is Ladies' Night.



THE MIKADO: A one-woman performance of this Gilbert and Sullivan work, featuring Nancy Hoffman March 9 and 16 at the Red Barn.

Bar Wars Sunday feature two-for-ones until midnight. Call for events and concerts. 293-0016.

Coconuts Comedy Club • The Top at La Concha at 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.

Crazy Daizy's at La Concha • 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.

Flagler's at The Casa Marina • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.

Full Moon Saloon • 1202 Simonton Street. Call 294-9090.

Green Parrot • 601 Whitehead. Call 296-6133.

Harbour Light's Barrelhead Bar • Garrison Bight Marina. Call 294-9343.

Hog's Breath Saloon • 400 Front Street. Nightly entertainment from sunset until 2 a.m. No cover charge. Call 296-4222.

Islander Restaurant • 528 Front Street. Call 292-7659.

Mangrove Mama's • MM 20 Sugarloaf Key. Tim McAlpine and Ron Sommer jazz dinner every Friday night from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Sam Anderson on guitar every Saturday from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Island dancing with The Survivors on the last Sunday of every month. Call 745-3030.

Margaritaville Café • 500 Duval Street. Live entertainment. Call 292-1435.

Martha's • S. Roosevelt Blvd (A1A). Call 294-3466.

Memory Lane • The Econolodge 2820 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5511.

Nick's Bar and Grill • Hyatt Key West 601 Front Street. Mel and Tracey Wed-Sun. 7 to 11 p.m.

Nightfall • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. Mickey and Squirt 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a spectacular sunset nightly. Call 296-5000.

Ocean Club Lounge • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. Larry Smith on piano 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Drink specials and canapes. Call 296-5000.

Pirate's Den • 300 Front Street. Adult entertainment nightly, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Peek A Boo Lounge • 300 Southard Street. Live adult entertainment nightly, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Call 294-0959.

Poinciana Lounge • 3432 Duck Avenue. Call 294-6800.

The Quay • 12 Duval Street. Call 294-4446.

Ramada Inn Top O'Spray • 3420 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5541.

Red's Place • Corner of Duval and Caroline, behind The Bull. The Carl Davis Group plays blues-plus nightly from 9:30 to ?

Rooftop Café • 310 Front Street. Vocalists Cathy Grier or Leanna Collins alternating nightly either 3 to 9 p.m. or 9 p.m. to midnight. Call 294-2042.

Schooner Wharf • 202 William Street. Every Thursday jam session with 10 to 15 musicians. Every Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. songwriters group where local songwriters sing their latest. Call 292-9520.

Sloppy Joe's • Corner of Duval and Greene Streets. Entertainment beginning daily at 2 p.m. Call 294-5717.

Square One Restaurant • Duval Square. Joe Lowe on piano Thursday-Saturday evenings. Call 296-4300.

Stephen's Bayside Café • 1970 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Call 294-5066.

Sun Sun Pavilion at The Casa Marina • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.

The Top at La Concha • 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.

Turtle Kraals at Lands End Marina • 1 Lands End Village. Call 294-2640.

Two Friends Patio Restaurant • 512 Front Street. Call 296-9212.

Viva Zapata • 903 Duval Street. Call 296-3138.

The Wine Galley • The Pier House at 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

Events

2/27-2/28 • Vocal Choral Workshop with pianist Derek Hyde and Emily Lowe at Florida Keys Community College. For information, call Lois at 296-9151.

2/27-4/1 • HRS 20 Hour Daycare Worker Training Course on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

2/27 FKCC Annual Book Sale 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day at the Florida Keys Community College library.

2/29 • Celebrity Waiter Dinner 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Beachside. All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association. Tickets are \$60. Call 294-3158.

3/1 • Wrecker Race classic, monohull and multihull sail race from Key West Harbor to Sand Key. First in a series of three races. Captains meeting will be held at the Schooner Wharf bar 2/29 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call The Schooner Wharf bar at 292-9520.

3/7 • "Awareness Into Silence," a day of total meditation with Niro and Paul 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Hyatt's Bottling Court. Cost \$35. For information, call 294-7244.

3/7 • 22nd Annual Florida Keys Health Fair 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Key West High School and Big Pine Methodist and Baptist churches. Free screenings and other low cost health services.

3/7 • Saint Mary's Flea Market 7 a.m. in the ballfield of Mary Immaculate School on Truman and Windsor Lane. Spaces available for \$10. For more information, call 294-1031. Event will continue every Saturday at the same time.

3/8 and 3/15 • Miss Pepsi Spring Break Bikini Contest at the Holiday Isle Resort in Islamorada. Call (305) 664-2321.

3/8 • AIDS Help Volunteer Training Course 4 to 8 p.m. at the AIDS Help office in Key West. For information, call 296-6337.

3/9 • An Overview of Financial Concepts 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through April 6 at First State Bank, 1201 Simonton Street. Call Florida Keys Community College at 296-9081, ext. 495.

3/9 • Music for Pre-schooler Instructors 8 to 10 p.m. Mondays through March 20 at Florida Keys Community College. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

3/9 • Poetry Workshop 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through April 13 at Florida Keys Community College. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

3/10 • AIDS Education for Cosmetologists and Barbers 8 a.m. to noon at FKCC. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

3/10 • Choral Education 7 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays through May 5. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

3/11 • Grants Writing Workshop 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Florida Keys Community College. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

3/11 • Recorder Ensemble Training 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through April 1 at Florida Keys Community College. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

3/12-4/16 • A Series of Six Childbirth Classes in Big Pine. \$5 registration fee. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

3/14 • The Key West Botanical Society 4th Annual Garden Party noon to 4 p.m. at the botanical garden on Stock Island on Junior College Road past Bayshore Manor. Featuring a day of food, refreshments and fun in a beautiful setting. Free.

3/15-3/18 • Florida Research Water Conference at the Delta Orlando Resort in Orlando. For more information, call 1-800-432-2045, ext. 6003.

3/17 • Time Management for Entrepreneurs 6 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays through April 7 at Florida Keys Community College. Call 296-9081, ext. 495.

3/18 • Australian Gold Spring Break Body Building Competition at the Holiday Isle Resort in Islamorada. For information, call (305) 664-2321.

Meetings

2/28 • CES Bid Opening Session 10 a.m. in the Louis Carbonell Board Room located in the William Arnold Service Building, 1001 James Street. Call 294-5272.

3/2 • Women's Aglow of Key West Meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Gerald Adams Elementary School on Stock Island. Featuring Monica Dumell as guest speaker.

3/3 • City Commission Meeting 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/4 • Board of Adjustment Meeting 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/5 • Monroe County Planning Commission Meeting 12:30 p.m. at the Key Largo Library. Call 292-4422.

3/5 • Tree Committee Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/9 • HARC Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/10 • Special Development Review Committee Meeting at the Marathon Library (tentative, call to confirm). Call 292-4422.

3/10 • Board of County Commissioners Meeting 9 a.m. at the Key Largo Library. Call 292-4422.

3/11 • Board of County Commissioners Meeting 9 a.m. at the Key Largo Library. Call 292-4422.

3/11 • Development Review Committee Meeting 1 p.m. at the Marathon Public Library. Call 292-4422.

3/11-3/12 • South Florida Water Management District Meeting 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in West Palm Beach. Call 1-800-432-2045.

3/12 • HARC Workshop 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/12 • Civil Service Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/12 • Spring Break Advisory Task Force Meeting 11 a.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/16 • Last Stand Annual Meeting 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall.

3/17 • City Commission Meeting 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/18 • Citizens Advisory Task Force Meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

3/19 • Monroe County Planning Commission Meeting 10 a.m. at Marathon Jaycees building. Call 292-4422.

3/19 • Key West Planning Board Meeting 5 to 10 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

Ongoing

Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 p.m. at Holy Innocents Church, 901 Flagler Avenue. Call 294-8912.

"A Course in Miracles" study group meets at the Crystal Loft, mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine, every Monday at 7 p.m. Call 872-9390.

AIDS Help needs volunteers to assist in the office, as well as to be buddies to people with AIDS. Call Steve Smith, director of volunteers, at 296-6196.

AIDS Help Support Group Meetings for PWAs, ARC, HIV+, families, friends and lovers are held each Thursday at 6 p.m. at 2700 Flagler Avenue. Call 296-6196.

Anchors Aweigh Club, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings daily at 404 Virginia Street. Call 296-7888.

Audubon Society of the Keys meets the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at Indigenous Park. Call 294-4927.

Blood Pressure Screenings (free) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the registration area of the emergency room of South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8118.

Blue Moon Trader Art & Craft Market every Saturday at mile marker

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And Other frozen beverages
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Pinball
Indigenous to the tropics.

29.7 on Big Pine. Artists from throughout the Keys display and sell their wares. Call 872-8864.

Breast Cancer Support Group holds meetings at South Miami Hospital the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call (305) 662-9611.

Breezeswept Beach Estates Civic Association holds meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Youth Center of Big Pine Key Methodist Church. Call 872-2861.

Cancer Support Group for Family Members meets Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8196.

Cancer Support Group for Cancer Patients meets Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8196.

Card & Game Night, Senior Citizens Center, Big Pine Key. Call 745-3698.

Children Problem Solving Group for ages 8 to 12 years meets Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Childbirth Classes begin monthly at Key West and Big Pine locations. Sponsored by The March of Dimes and FKCC. The course is affordable for everyone. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

Codependency Group meets Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Community Learning Center at Harris School offers Adult Basic Education, Job Preparation and Placement, English as a Second Language, GED Preparation, Vocational Evaluation and Counseling, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free to eligible applicants. Call 292-6762.

Florida Right to Life meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Key West Baptist Temple, 5727 Second Avenue, Stock Island. Call Patti Baldwin at 296-7337.

Guardianship of Monroe County helps disabled adults and elderly residents in decision-making. To volunteer or for more information call Elizabeth Covino at HRS, 292-6728; Betty Cambell at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, 294-5531; or Liz Kern at Hospice, 294-8812.

Helpline the 24-hour Monroe County Crisis Intervention telephone service needs volunteers to man the phones. Training will be provided. Call 292-8445.

Island Wellness at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled courses and activities. Monday: Daily R & R at noon; Tuesday: Tai Chi Ch'uan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Wednesday:

Community Education Series dealing with the disease of addiction meets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Tower Building of South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8118.

Community Guitar Orchestra meets in Key West at the Share School of Music on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Big Pine Group meets at the United Methodist Church on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. All guitar players are invited. Call 294-5299.

Depression and Manic-Depression Group meets 3 to 4:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Eating Disorder Group meets every Friday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Early Recovery Group meets Wednesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Florida Right to Life meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Key West Baptist Temple, 5727 Second Avenue, Stock Island. Call Patti Baldwin at 296-7337.

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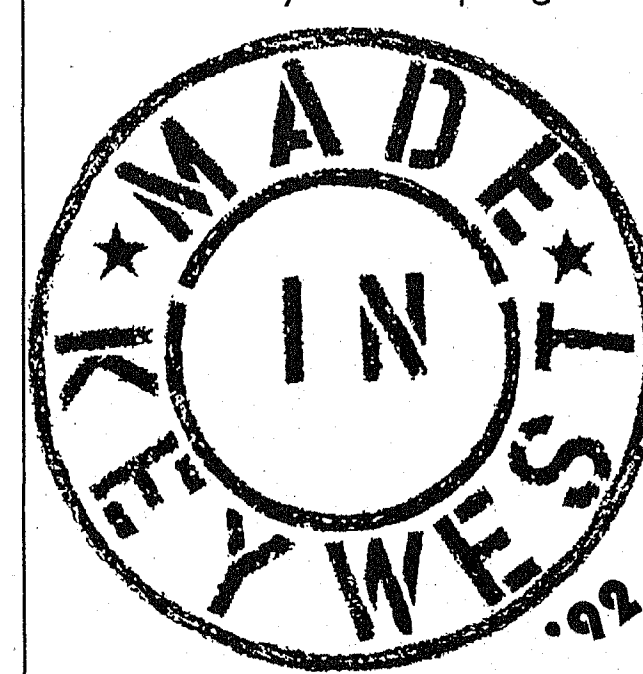
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Daily R & R; Thursday: Tai Chi Ch'uan at 10 a.m. and Daily R&R at noon; Friday: Daily R&R at noon; Sundays: alternating schedule. Call 296-7353 for details.

Just Say No supper club meets Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. 292-8248.

Key West Community Band meets in the Key West High School Band Room Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone who can play and read music is invited. Bring your own instrument. For information, call June MacArthur at 294-9329.

Key West Garden Club Ramble Work Sessions held every Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. until noon at the Garden Center (West Martello Tower). The public is invited. Call 294-3210.

Key West Maritime Historical Society Traditional Rowing Program meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the northside of Garrison Bight Marina on the 32' long boat *Wilhelmina*. Memberships cost \$10 per year for individuals and \$25 per year for families. Call Capt. John Duke at 292-7903 or 872-3536.

Key West Rowing Club meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in their historic boathouse at the Land's End Marina. For membership information, call 292-7984.

Key West Sports Car Club meets at 8 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of every month in the back room of Wag's restaurant on N. Roosevelt Blvd.

Kiss AA (gay preferred) meets every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30 p.m., plus every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the rear of Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street. Call 294-8912.

KWAMI Come Back Club-Project Return, a self-help social club where people with emotional disturbances and mental

illnesses gather with KWAMI members. Group meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Peace Covenant Church, 2610 Flagler Avenue. Call Helen Gerbracht at 294-4875.

La Leche League of Big Pine Key meets the second Monday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Big Pine Baptist Church. Call Joanne at 872-2861 for meeting information.

Last Resort Codependents Anonymous meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the rear of Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street. Call 294-8912.

The Law and You with Attorney Fred Butler, "Live from Key West." Wednesdays from 8 to 9 a.m. Radio debates. Guests include judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers and lawmakers. Broadcast on AM 1600 WKWF Talk Radio. Number to call in during broadcast: 294-1600.

Literacy Volunteers of America meets 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month and offers volunteer training programs as well as workshops. LVA also offers one-to-one tutoring for adults in basic reading and math, GED preparation, or English as a second language. Call 294-4352.

Literacy Volunteers of Monroe County is seeking volunteers to help in working with the media and in teaching others to read. Students are also needed. Call Lisa Snyder at 294-4352.

Lighthouse Program, 5825 Jr. College Road, Key West offers drug and alcohol rehabilitative services for adolescents (age 13 to 17)—individual and group counseling, education, prevention, tutoring, vocational, day treatment and outpatient services. Call 294-5237.

Lower Keys Friends of Animals helps animals that are victims of misfortune. Group meets 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings at the

Ramada Inn. For membership information call 294-7467, or 296-3926.

Marine Archaeology Expedition. Third Sunday of the month. Each session focuses on wrecks and the coral reef environment. Membership fee goes toward seminar and monthly newsletter. Call 800-468-3255.

Meditation and Relaxation Support Group for Oncology Patients meets the second Tuesday of every month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 669-0400.

Monroe County Public Library, Fleming Street, offers preschool story hour on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; Saturday movies 10 a.m. 294-8488.

Monroe County District School Board Meeting is held the second Monday of each month in the board room of the Administration Building, 242 White Street. Call 296-6523.

Mulch for Gardening is free to anyone who wants it. Provided by City Electric System, the mulch pile is located on Atlantic Boulevard at the intersection with Stevens Avenue.

Old Island Harmony Barbershop Chorus, Old Stone Church, Key West, meets Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

Open Poetry Reading meets the first Sunday of the month. Bring original work only. Also prose, music, dance; listen or perform. Free, refreshments served. 296-0785 or 294-1848.

Ovarian Cancer Support Group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-7146.

Overeaters Anonymous meets in the chapel at DePoo Hospital Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8 p.m. Use emergency room entrance. Call Sharon 296-8802 or Patti at 745-2033.

Pool & Dart Tournament, Big Pine Moose Lodge, Wednesdays. Call 872-9313.

Pool and Dart Tournament at Stick & Stein in Key Plaza. Blind Draw Tournament every Saturday at 8 p.m. Eight ball every Thursday at 8 p.m. Nine ball every Sunday at 8 p.m.

Pool Party every Sunday at the Key Wester Resort, A1A on the Ocean. Live music with the Survivors, food, fun and exotic swimming. Call 296-5671.

Prenatal and Postnatal Exercise Classes are held Monday through Saturday from 10:45 to 12:15 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. at the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-5335.

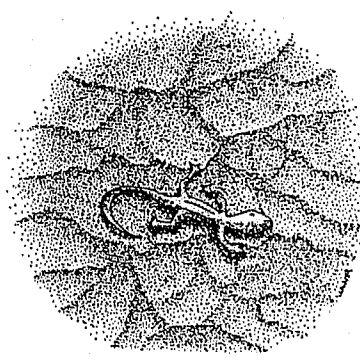
Preschool Story Hour for 4 and 5 year olds, 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at The Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 292-3595.

Problem Solving Group meets Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. No charge but referral required. Call 292-6843.

Problem Solving for Teenagers Group meets Tuesdays 4 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

PWA's Living Room, a support group for PWA's, HIV +, friends and family, is held every Monday night at 5:30 p.m. at 816 Fleming Street, Suite 2. Call 294-5332.

Quaker Worship Meetings every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the garden in the rear of 618 Ginnell Street. For more information, call Sheridan Crumlish at 294-1523.



Quality Time—Parenting News for the Keys, a half-hour television talk show focusing on family issues presented by MOMS inc. on TCI Channel 5 Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 294-4837.

Recorder Class for the children of Bahama Village at the Martin Luther King Junior Community Center. Call Lee Thompson for more information; 292-8248.

Recycling Drop Off Center, located on Stock Island, is open daily. Accepting clean, separated glass, newspaper, aluminum and plastic. Call 292-4433.

Schizophrenia Support Group meets alternate Tuesdays 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

SCORE-Key West (Service Corps of Retires Executives) offers free business counseling to the public and will assist anyone in furthering their business plans. Call Mike at the Chamber of Commerce for an appointment, 294-2587.

Small Business Counseling third Friday of each month at Barnett Bank of the Keys, Tavernier. To make an appointment, call 352-2661. Counselors are members of SCORE.

St. Mary's Flea Market every Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. in the ballfield of Mary Immaculate School on Truman and Windsor Lane. Spaces available for \$10. Call 294-1031.

Stress and Anxiety Management Group meets every Tuesday 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Survivors of Incest Anonymous meets every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the rear of the Mental Health Center. For details call 296-4357.

Survivors of Sexual Assault Support Group meets Mondays at 8:30 p.m. at the holy Innocents Episcopal Parish Hall, 901 Flagler Avenue. For more information, call Christine Smith at 292-3400.

Sweet Adelines, Presbyterian Kirk of the Keys, Marathon, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

T'ai Chi Ch'uan Exercise Class, instructed by Will Jones, is a "soft" form of physical conditioning. Classes are at 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursdays at Island Wellness.

Toddler Story Time for 2 and 3 year olds 9:30 every Friday at The Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 292-3595.

Transportation Program, available to those over 60 years old, weekdays 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In Key West call 294-8468; Middle Keys call 743-9089; Upper Keys call 852-3204.

Writers' Walk, about one mile, takes place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10. Meet at the Hemingway House, 907 Fleming Street, Suite 2. Call 294-5332 for reservation/ticket information call 745-3640.

Women's Issues Group meets Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Key West Days & Nights by Bill Manville

Mab and I were sitting in the sun on the front porch of Betty Bennett's house on Southard Street, having a conchy eleven o'clock cup of coffee. He's been living with Betty since his job at the bank ended, when the bank also ended (in a merger). Wearing his lucky rhinestone-and-pasteboard tiara, "Happy New Year 1937," and combing out a long Rita Hayworth fall, he was telling me about the death of his 84-year-old Aunt Martha.

"She'd had a stroke," he said. "When she came to, and saw all the tubes and pipes up her nose, in her arm and down her throat, she got out of bed. She was half-paralyzed, and fell. But she pulled the electric cord out of the wall. 'Don't you dare touch me,' she said to the nurses and interns who came running. 'It's my life,' she said, and that night she died." The slogan on Mab's T-shirt read, "Life's Too Short Not To Be Gay."

A convertible rolled past playing '60s disco music, the occupants carefully shun-

ning Mab with their eyes. "I don't know how those guys ever ended up queer," Mab said. "They were born to be Shriners. They disapprove of me because I'm too flaunting." "Who was the woman in the back seat?" I said.

"Big Foot?" Mab said. "Just their own runner-up Judy Garland."

He put on his Charles Jourdan high heels and told me about a Japanese tourist he'd met in the Hyatt bar. "He said they were going to bankrupt Detroit, and turn America into a vast farm for their lettuce. I turned him down."

A Toonerville Tourist Train came by. The driver stopped, ostensibly to point out an architectural feature of a house next door, but not unkind of Mab's own local color. Mab merely saw them as a captive audience, and went on to do a number.

"Any of you catch the less-publicized second half of the president's mission to Tokyo?" he said to the goggle-eyed passengers. "He was assuring them the USA would continue to defend Japan no matter what. Almost fifty years since the war, Russia too weak to fight Madonna, and we still keep 40,000 troops there, spending our money, defending them." Mab did a bump-and-grind. "Bring the boys home!" he said.

By now he was walking up and down alongside the train, touching up his lipstick with a little brush and hand-held mirror.

"When I'm elected," Mab said, announcing he was running for president, "the first thing America will do is mount a campaign to save Detroit. I'd mobilize our real talent: the guys who designed the stealth bomber, the smart engineers who knocked the crap out of

Hussein's scud missiles, the rocket scientists who put us on the moon. Send them to Detroit on loan, but tell them not to come home until they have designed The Car of the Year 2000—only we want it by 1993. If we can pool our talent and money to save the Cadillac Sheiks of Kuwait, why can't we do it to save ourselves? And my kicker is we'd charge the auto industry ten percent, payable in stock. When Detroit gets rich again, that cuts all our taxes."

He smiled. "And to head this economic war on Japan, I want a tough, hard, smart military man as vice president—General Colin Powell."

"Next," Mab said, "I would legalize drugs. First of all, that takes the profit out of it. Why send our money to Colombia and Red China? Legalize it, tax it, and save fifty billion a year. Then I would put free hard drugs in garbage-can amounts on every street-corner, and invite the junkies to overdose on the house. The drug laws are supposed to save the dopers from themselves. But they are killing us. Let's get rid of the crackheads once and for all, close half our jails, and walk our streets safe at night."

A roly-poly in baby blue jumped from the train to take Mab's picture from an arty, crouched angle. Mab knocked the camera to the ground. "Not without permission," he said. "I'm going to be your next president. Not your Aunt Nelly."



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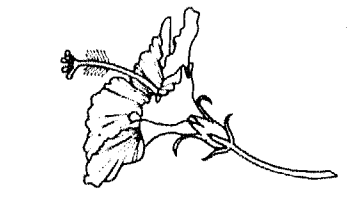
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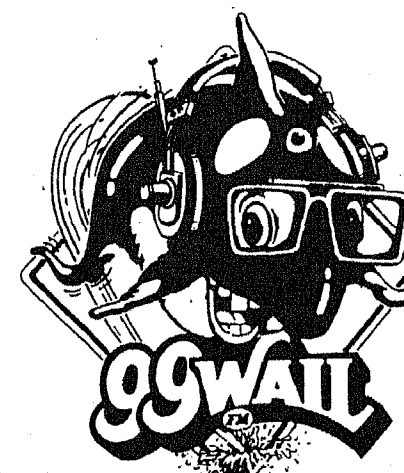
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