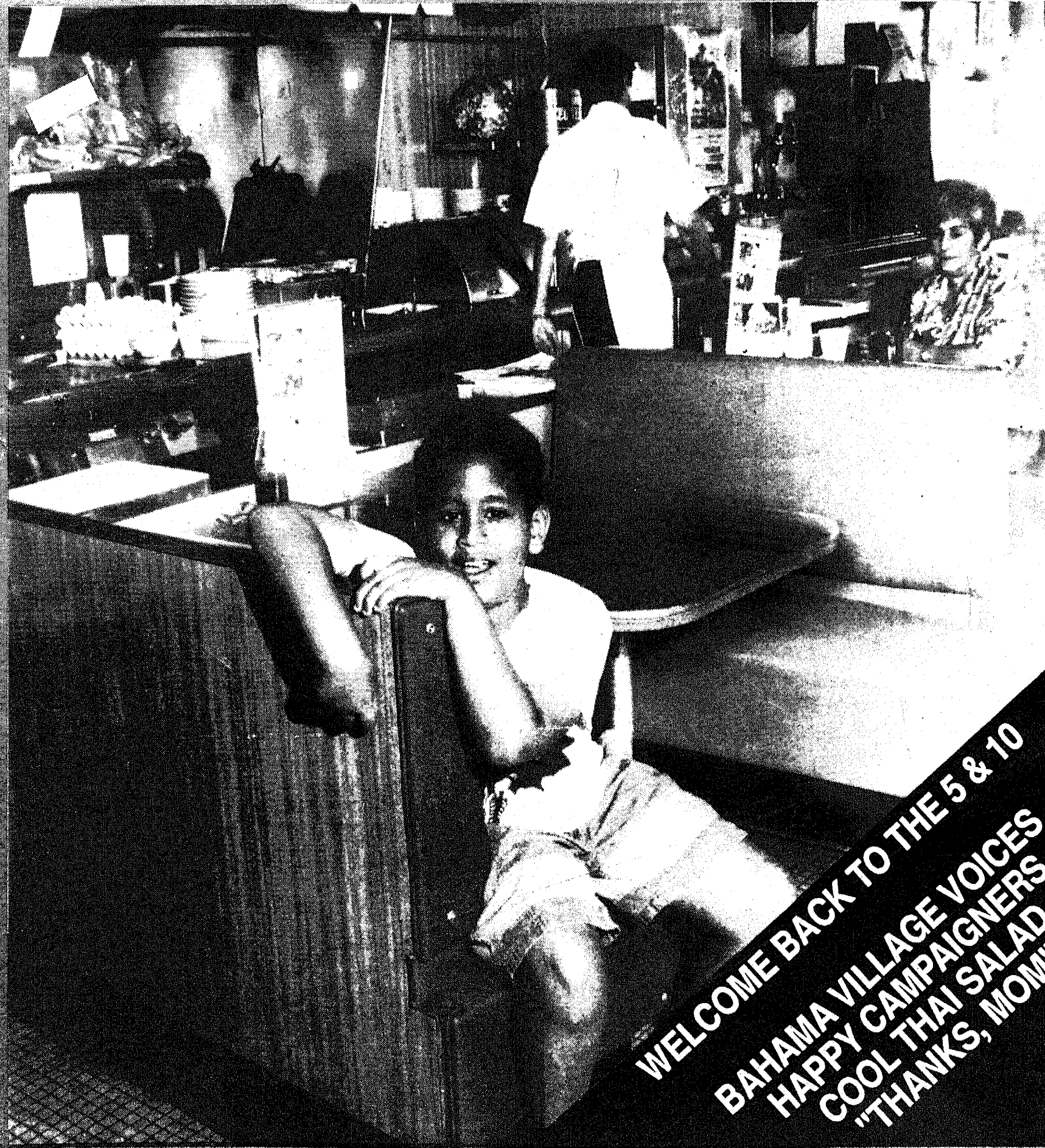


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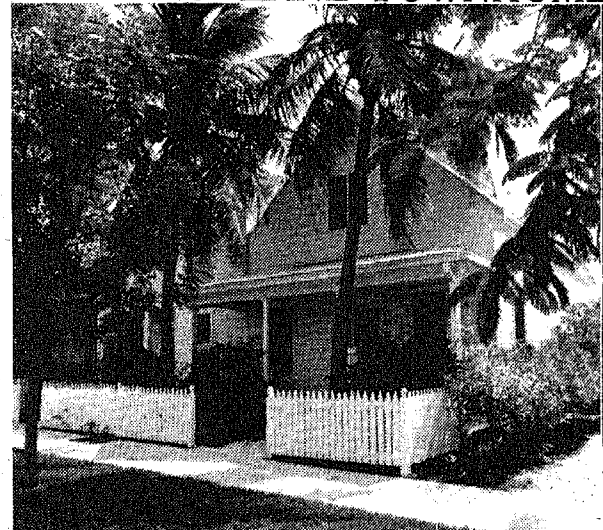
SOLARES hill

Vol. 17, No. 8 • April 30 - May 13, 1992



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First, the Good News . . .

The good news is it appears the latest attempt at redeveloping Bahama Village may come to fruition. The bad news is there are now two factions interested in running the redevelopment process. As a result, people with good intentions are finding themselves caught in a power struggle.

It is understandable that members of the Neighborhood Improvement Association, which has been working on bettering Bahama Village since 1975, would want to be involved in (if not control) redevelopment activity. They have vested interests, and they will not passively move aside to let a new group usurp their position.

It is also understandable that the people behind Main Street, the nationally sponsored community improvement program, would want complete control over their own efforts. They have received \$10,000 in redevelopment seed money, and expect to get \$100,000 in services and consultation.

A merged effort, however, would yield the most favorable results.

The NIA is a well-rooted organization which has the trust of Bahama Village residents and a record of successful projects—the Nelson English park, for instance—with the city. Its executive director, Roy Grant, has a long-standing reputation for community and political involvement and years of valuable grants-writing experience.

One of Main Street's goals, says Rick Tribble, the city's community relations director, who has been charged with running Main Street's day-to-day operations, is to fund its own projects and eventually to become independent. Tribble has been with the city since October, and it appears that he has tackled his responsibilities with the energetic attitude necessary to keep projects moving and people talking.

It seems obvious—especially given Key West's history of planning improvements for Bahama Village and then funneling the resources elsewhere—that the two groups should work together. By uniting their efforts, they will avoid duplication and negative results. In a town the size of Key West, and in an area as small as Bahama Village, the key to success and survival is tight planning and a conservative use of resources.

Solares Hill hopes NIA and Main Street can reconcile their differences (if, indeed, any exist) and move forward with plans to help Bahama Village avoid gentrification. Their visions so strongly overlap, as becomes apparent in our article which begins on Page 3, that halving their potential power instead of doubling it would be counterproductive.

Ann Boese

The cover photograph of *Roli Gonzalez* at the Woolworth's lunch counter was shot by J. D. Dooley.

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Bahama Village: Bringing It Together

by Mark Hedden

It's easy to confuse the Key West Neighborhood Improvement Association and the newly formed Key West Main Street program. Both groups hope to guide Bahama Village to a brighter economic future, while steering it clear of the gentrification that has already consumed much of the island.

At this point, group members themselves seem unsure of how to harmonize efforts. It is clear, however, beyond the struggle for position and balance, everyone is striving to improve the quality of life for residents in the primarily black neighborhood. They even appear to agree as to how to accomplish it.

"There's just confusion as to what our tasks are, and what our individual goals and objectives are," says Roy Grant, executive director of the Key West Neighborhood Improvement Association (NIA). "People don't seem to understand both programs, and they see us as being in conflict with one another."

Members of NIA are the elder statesman of the area, their group having been in existence in various incarnations since 1975. As a



COOPERATION: During a recent Earth Day project, Bahama Village residents pitched in.

result their activities tend to be more visible and tangible.

A recent example is a workshop that attracted over 40 participants, among them city planners, politicians, bankers and community activists. Also, they've just opened a temporary office in the Douglass Square apartment complex, which will later move to a permanent home at the nearby Frederick Douglass Community Center once it is complete.

Main Street was formed last December, when the City of Key West won a grant from the State Historic Preservation Board to ini-

tiate the nationwide Main Street program here. The grant consists of \$10,000 in funds to begin restoration and facelifts of selected commercial properties, and another \$100,000 in historical, legal and architectural consulting fees.

Main Street is concentrating on a targeted area, roughly Petronia Street from Duval to Emma, and the group expects to become independent, to fund itself and to bring its own plans for the area to fruition.

Grant says he's optimistic about the positive influence Main Street and his organization can have on the area.

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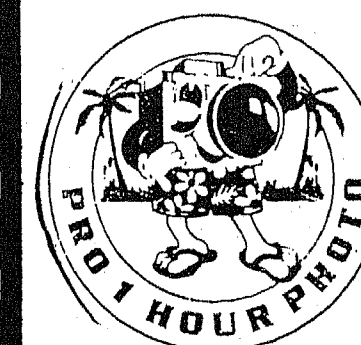
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The blurring of distinctions between the two groups (especially anything that suggests it is subordinate to the NIA), seems to irk some of the Main Street members, who are now in the process of hammering out their bylaws. Board member Merlin Curry is among those who want to keep the groups separate; he seems to see the situation as an existing group not wanting to be co-opted by a new group.

"The same people have been running [the NIA] for a long time, and I have a personal feeling that they should groom some younger

people to try to take over," he says.

Fellow member Glenwood Lopez agrees. "The NIA had a vision some time back," he says. "And I think because of the Main Street organization, they kind of revitalized their goals. But because we have similar goals, we each have to have our own identity. If you don't have that you start to duplicate things, and somebody is stepping on somebody else's toe."

While members of the NIA agree that there are differences between the groups, they believe their goals are compatible.

"We have a lot of the same goals, but I think Main Street, per se, is trying to deal with things from a more economic point of view, and the NIA is trying to deal with things more in general," says Charles Major, president of the NIA. "The more positive organizations we have helping to combat the problems around here, the easier it's going to be."

Paul Whiteurs, pastor of the Cornish Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church on Whitehead Street, is both president of the Main Street board and a member of the NIA board. He believes that he can serve both boards adequately and without compromise.

"I don't believe in duplication, but I believe in dialogue to increase corroboration, so we can all concentrate on working together to reach a common goal. Once you can do

that, the bickering ends," he says.

A Common Problem

One problem that both groups face is the stigma that they feel has been attached to the name "Bahama Village."

"The name Bahama Village is not real popular [among the people who live there]," says Rick Tribble, the city's director of the city's community relations, and a non-voting member of the Main Street board, who is paid by the city to handle the Main Street's day-to-day operations. "There are some people that just don't like it; there are others that do."

Tribble says that personally he thinks it's a good name. "It's just been used negatively by the press. A lot of people think it's just another way of saying Colored Town or Black Town, or just another way of saying 'those people over there.'"

Merlin Curry says the name, which was created by NIA in the early 1980s, was a product of good intentions. "But it backfired," he says. "It became a stigma, because it divides the city again. When you say 'Bahama Village,' most folks get scared. Crime happens all over the city. The same kind of crime."

Pastor Whiteurs agrees the name is deepening lines of segregation. "When you cross Whitehead street, you're in a black area," he says. "It's obvious. People cross the line and they look at this monolith. It's fear, that's the problem we face."

Jobs and Ownership: Getting Businesses Involved

The goal of both the groups seems to be to overcome local stigmas and get businesses to invest in redevelopment and to hire residents from Bahama Village.

"We're looking to try and help establish business opportunities for minorities in the area," says Major. "Especially young folks. Our young folks graduate from high school and they go somewhere else, and then never come back."

Major wants Bahama Village to offer its residents positive, legitimate opportunities.

"Gentrification is happening, slowly. But we're hoping that we can assist the residents in this area to maintain and hold onto their

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residence or their property, and try to help them upgrade things and make things happen," he says.

Merlin Curry's view of the future of Bahama Village does not seem as hopeful.

"I find that the future for young blacks in this town, even young educated blacks, is very, very dismal," says Curry. "I mean, they don't have a fighting chance. Doors are closed, other than the judicial system. There are people here with degrees who can't even get jobs."

He points to the lack of opportunities for locals, even in such lucrative fields as tourism.

"Gentrification has already taken place," he says. "And I think black people in Key West at this point in time are an endangered species. Five or ten years from now that there won't be that many. And even the Housing Authority will be turned into condos."

"With Truman Annex happening over there, it's like the writing's on the wall. I mean, Ray Charles could see what's happening. I don't see why nobody else can. It's just a matter of time, I would imagine," says Curry. "So my heart's not really into [Main Street], because black people don't own the property that you're trying to facelift."

Pastor Whiteurs disagrees. "Main Street is not an answer to social problems," he says. "Main Street is an answer, or a temporary answer, to what's happening or going to happen in the corridor that's been targeted."

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Presidential Campaigning: It's A Tough Job But...

by Lee Irby

"One concern that's really not Republican or Democratic is that the number of registered voters in Monroe County has dropped by 4000 since 1988," says Brooks White, a member of the Republican State Committee. "It might be a sign of voter apathy."

This general indifference in Monroe County toward voting in the national election seems to mirror the country's attitudes toward the presidential suitors, none of whom seem to be generating responses much more enthusiastic than a yawn. (Even the *Miami Herald* decided not to endorse any current candidate.)

It might come as a surprise to learn that some people are actually involved in the presidential campaigns—right here in Key West, the alleged isle of no tomorrow.

Supporters of Democratic Gov. Jerry

Brown and possible independent H. Ross Perot are rallying in favor of their choices. And though rumblings can be heard from Monroe County's Democratic and Republican headquarters, representatives from both official camps contend that it's too early to begin generating enthusiasm for one runner over another.

Meet Greg Jones, who says his life will never be the same. Almost overnight he went from the thronging sidelines to the thick of the fray. He now spends many hours a week circulating H. Ross Perot petitions.

"I was sick and tired of what was going on politically in the country," said the businessman, who says he felt alienated from the two-party system. So when he heard about the Perot candidacy, he did what fewer and fewer people do anymore: got involved.

Perot isn't officially a candidate unless he

gets on the ballot in all 50 states. (It was announced last week that Perot had two-thirds of the 60,312 signatures needed for Florida.) The ballot drive promises to be hard-fought. Perot himself has spoken of Republican sabotage efforts in New York and elsewhere.

Jones held up an innocuous-looking petition form, the battlefield of this war. "Look at the bottom," he said. It read, "Paid for by Perot for President."

Jones explained that such petition forms are invalid as Perot is not officially a candidate. "I don't know where this came from," he said. (Carmen Turner, the assistant supervisor of elections in Monroe County said her office hadn't received any invalid petitions to date.)

"We've got to dot all our i's and cross all our t's," Jones said. "If we make even the smallest mistake the petition will be invalid the atmosphere is highly charged."

Once the process really heats up, one problem the Perot campaign might face is lack of organization. The petition drive is "up to individuals," Jones said. "They want us to be creative."

But in Key West there are separate Perot camps, one lead by Jones and the other headed by Ashley and Richard Hotz. Currently they are not working as a team. There are obviously kinks to be worked out, and much work to do.

"To get 50,000 signatures validated, you'd need at least 90,000 signatures," said Ashley Hotz. "Our number one goal is to make our petitions legal and unchallengeable."

In their efforts, the Hotzes say they have encountered what Perot claimed he found when he looked into the belly of the American beast.

"There's a lot of anger out there," Richard Hotz said. "People want another choice, and many people are saying that Perot makes them want to get involved again. Perot's saying what they want to hear."

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The Perot people don't have the onus of fundraising. A self-made billionaire, Perot, has pledged to spend \$100 million of his own money to support his campaign.

Still the petitions cost plenty—each signature has a county fee of 10 cents, says Richard Hotz.

Jerry Brown is also jockeying for position in the Anger Sweepstakes, hoping that his "outsider" message will blossom into something significant—a new political party, for instance.

"The Democratic Party is dead," pronounced activist Min Peyser, who heads Brown's local campaign. "The interest groups have gridlocked the entire system."

Peyser characterized Brown's campaign as a "grassroots" movement that encompasses environmentalists, labor and Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition.

"We're amassing a war chest for a possible new party or movement," she said. "It might be like a Green Party—whatever, the two-party system is gone."

Peyser hopes that work begun in 1992 will carry over into 1996, making Brown a major figure in the future of presidential politics. To that end, she said many fundraisers and neighborhood meetings were planned. "We're going to be hitting the shopping centers," she said.

The local Clinton campaign's most notable feature is that there isn't one. "There might be a brokered convention," said Fred Butner, who sits on the Monroe Democratic

Party Executive Committee. "The latest poll shows Bush beating Clinton."

Butner, however, says he's almost certain that Clinton will be nominated.

"We're all waiting for Perot," he quips, offering an explanation for the local democrats' inertia. "He'll probably split the county, but Clinton should still win in a plurality."

Earlier in the campaign season, Butner emerged as a Harkin supporter. Now he says he's working on unifying the Democratic ticket. "[I'm] linking it together from dog catcher all the way up to president."

Speaking of the president—George Bush, for our boat-dwelling brethren—be assured that the local GOP is going to campaign for him. "It's pretty quiet now," admits Brooks White, "but we'll get geared up after the convention."

"It looks positive now," he says.

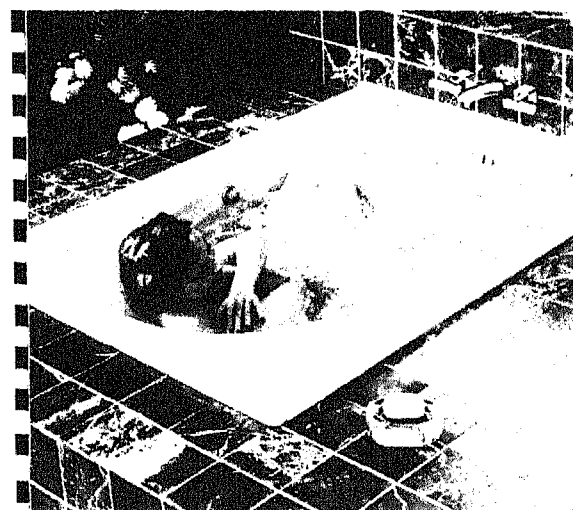
According to White, the Democrats are making it easy for Bush's re-election drive by squabbling and hanging out the dirty undergarments.



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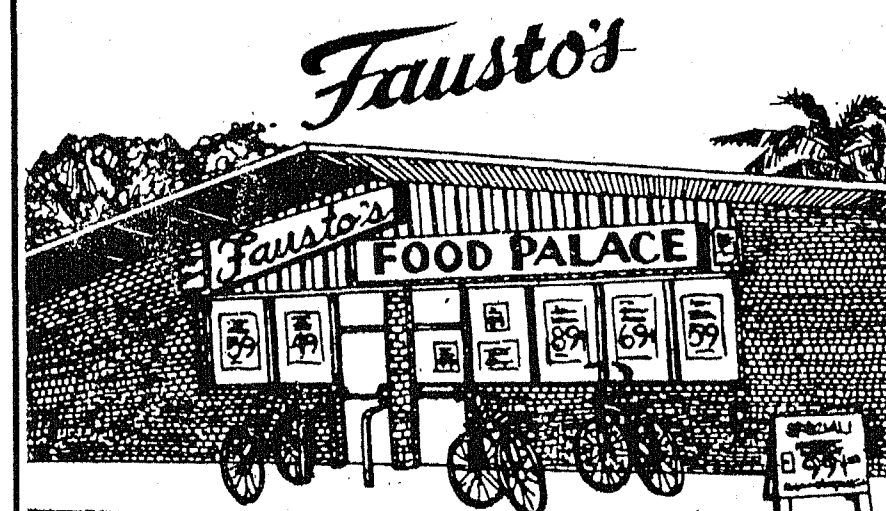
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by J.D. Dooley

The doctor's residence is difficult to locate. The address, hastily jotted on a scrap of paper, is written in such a way as to disguise its contents should it fall into government hands. But eventually it does lead Todd Swofford of WKIZ Radio and me to a modest neighborhood in downtown Havana.

After a cab ride from our quarters at Marina Hemingway to the Havana Libre hotel, we strike out on foot. Taking a taxi to the doctor's house would have been simpler, but we have been warned about recent house-to-house searches by the Cuban government. We don't want to pull up at the front door in an automobile reserved for visiting capitalists.

After a brief conversation through a locked door, we convince the doctor we are emissaries bearing news and a note from relatives in Key West.

Over tall glasses of Havana Club rum, available only on the black market, with lime and water, a poor man's *mojito* cocktail, the doctor speaks of the cutbacks now affecting the professional class. In this socialist society, professionals have always had privileges not available to common workers. Higher salaries enable them to afford more than others have and gives them more latitude on the black market.

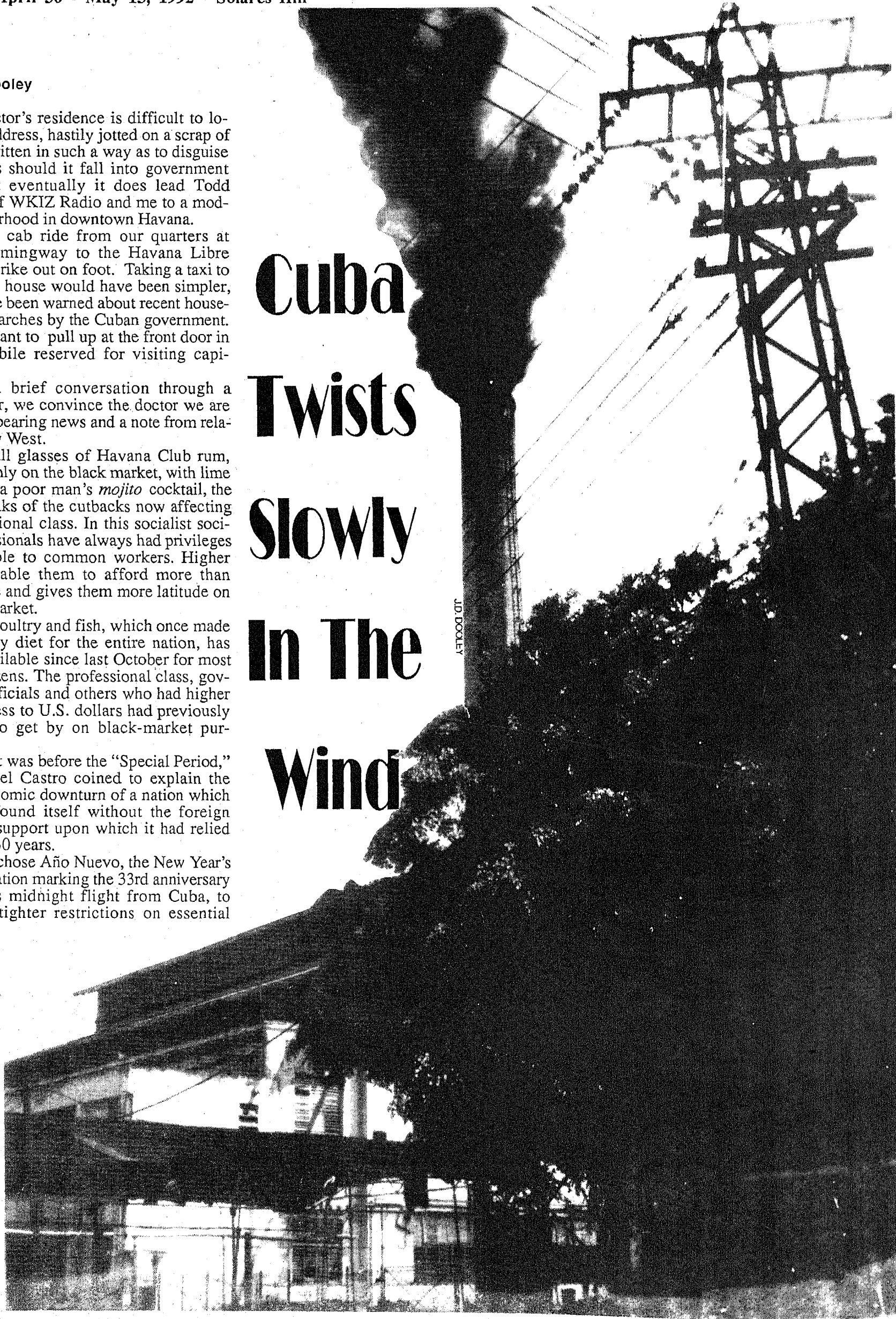
Meat, poultry and fish, which once made up the daily diet for the entire nation, has been unavailable since last October for most Cuban citizens. The professional class, government officials and others who had higher pay or access to U.S. dollars had previously managed to get by on black-market purchases.

But that was before the "Special Period," a term Fidel Castro coined to explain the recent economic downturn of a nation which suddenly found itself without the foreign economic support upon which it had relied for nearly 30 years.

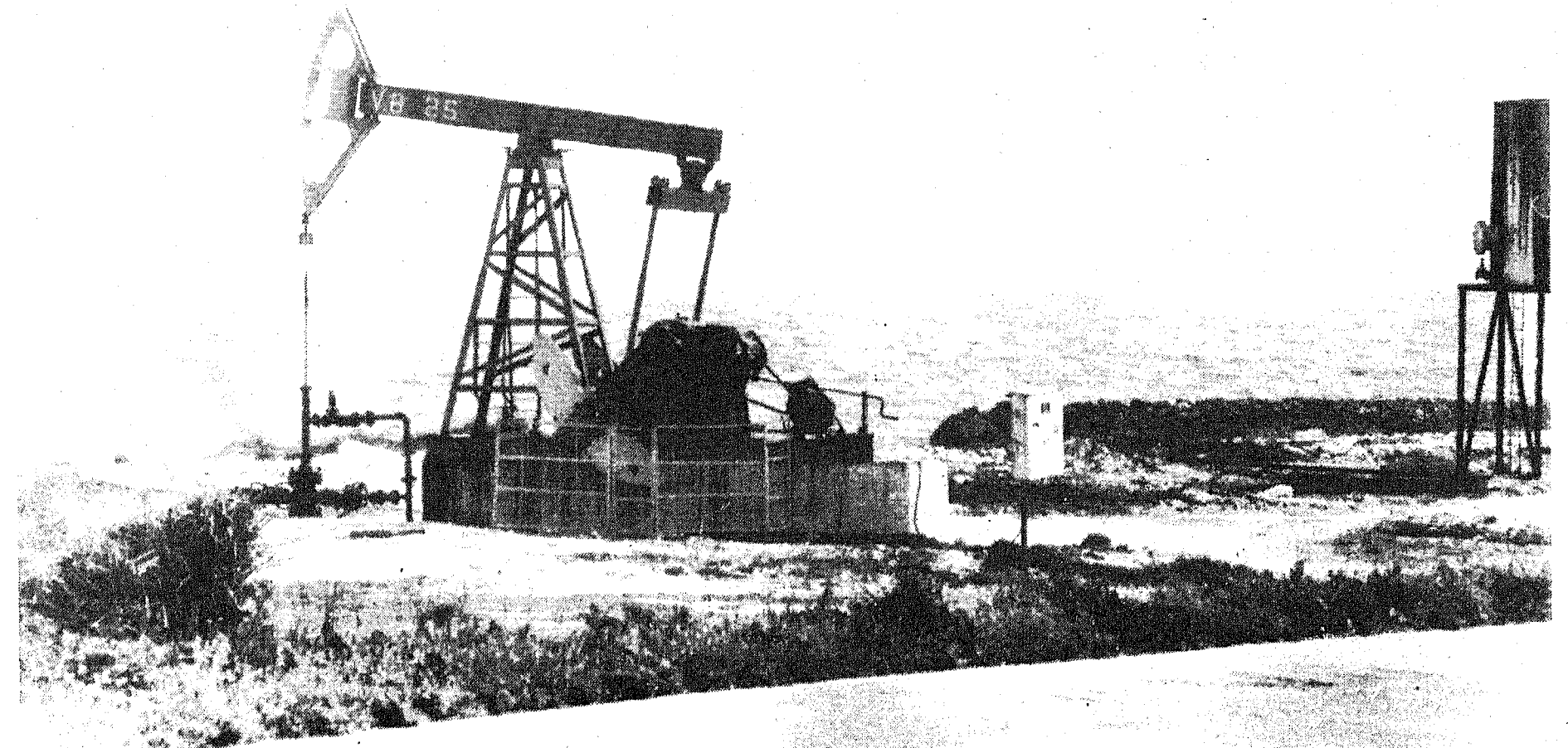
Castro chose Año Nuevo, the New Year's Day celebration marking the 33rd anniversary of Batista's midnight flight from Cuba, to announce tighter restrictions on essential

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J.D. DOOLEY



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The doctor's bright and airy home has a modern color television complete with VCR and a late-model Sony stereo. But there are signs of austerity. Not even a respected physician is able to obtain soap, light bulbs or shampoo.

As we bid our farewell, the doctor scratches a note, one of several that would come into our charge during the next week, to his Key West family.

The minister is even more difficult to locate. We are unable to find our way through the teeming blocks of crumbled buildings, archaic industrial structures and abject poverty of the municipality of Central Havana. Finally, we find it necessary to take a cab.

I am sure we have been misdirected. The building appears to be a stark, windowless, dingy-blue warehouse last painted some time during the Nixon administration. No number marks the address. We pound on the door for several minutes, and are finally admitted and led through a dark stairwell to a second-floor apartment.

The apartment is on the verge of collapse. The only thing preventing it from falling is a series of beams spaced three feet apart to form crude support.

The minister offers to take us to see another relative who is ill. We want to video this patriarch for his family in Key West. Some younger family members have never seen him and, given the current condition of his health, in all likelihood they never will.

The minister apologizes for the condition of the building. "It is under reconstruction," he explains.

We climb into his Lada, a Soviet-built Fiat station wagon, and drive back through

the industrialized section of Havana. The minister explains that this is his father's car. He has been on a waiting list for one of his own since 1980.

"I am allowed 40 liters of fuel each month," he says. "After that I must purchase fuel with money sent from the church in the United States."

In Cuba, even the Lord's work isn't performed without the help of the black market. Offering hard cash to a gas-station attendant or purchasing counterfeit gasoline coupons is strictly illegal. The acts carrying stiff prison terms. Despite the government's renewed efforts, the flow of black-market transactions continues.

After capturing the elder uncle on tape, we treat the minister and his wife to lunch in a fashionable Old Havana restaurant. While eating we are entertained by strolling singers, who are introduced to us as members of the church. During a break, one of the sing-

ers pulls the minister off to the side for a brief discussion. A short time later he returns to

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"The singers wish to know if it would be possible [for you] to buy them soap in a dollar store," he says in hushed tones. "I hate to ask this of you, but it is the only way for them. They have money saved from tips."

Cubans are not allowed to possess U.S. dollars and are constantly warned they will be imprisoned if they are found in possession of even one greenback. If they are accompanied by a foreigner, however, they are allowed into stores where United States dollars are the only form of currency.

It is the same at bars and restaurants. Cubans are welcome, as long as they are accompanied by a tourist who plans to pick up the tab. In fact, the government encourages the practice.

We are happy to oblige the singers and rush to the nearest dollar store.

"Another world," the minister says upon entering the store, where everything is available to those with a foreign passport.

Americans cigarettes, bearing no tax stamps, are \$1.50 a pack. American beer, soap, toilet paper, detergent, clothing, food and nearly any other item in your standard Key West convenience store are available.

Cubans, hungry for U.S. dollars, have many methods of obtaining them, from outright theft in the form of padding bar tabs and pocketing the difference to stopping tourists on the street and offering to exchange dollars for pesos.

The current rate is 30 pesos to a U.S. dollar, up from 20 pesos in December. Since it is not recognized on the world market, the peso has roughly the same value as

Monopoly money. In other words, you can't stroll into a bank and exchange pesos for any other currency. Once an unsuspecting tourist finds himself with a pocket full of Cuban currency, he may as well consider it a souvenir.

Most Cubans say that the American money they possess came from relatives in the States. While many Americans are opposed to lifting the U.S. trade embargo, they think nothing of sending American dollars to relatives, who must risk personal safety converting those dollars to soup. In most cases, they would to bed hungry without support from the States.

The following day, my companion Waldo Valiz, a Cuban-born longtime Key West resident who accompanied us on the trip, and I decide to drive into the mountains. We want to see the countryside and plan to visit another set of Key West relatives.

We rent a late-model Jeep and strike out for a small town about 40 miles south of Matanzas. After experiencing the industrial smog that constantly hovers above Havana, I am pleasantly surprised at the pristine coastline that seems to stretch forever along the Cuban north-coast highway known as Via Blanca.

Nearing the exit for Santa Cruz de Norte, Waldo mentions remembering the town from his childhood as the former home of the Hershey chocolate sugar factory. There it is! Even as he speaks, a dense black plume becomes visible high atop a mountain above the village.

The black smoke from the refinery means two things: the plant is operational, and it is being fueled by expensive fuel oil from the rapidly depleting Cuban supply rather than the less expensive but equally inefficient bagasse, a sugar-cane fiber byproduct.

Though Hershey sold the plant, since renamed the Camilo Cienfuegos Refinery, long before Castro seized power, relics of the once-powerful Pennsylvania dynasty in Cuba still exist in the quiet mountain community.

We stop to photograph a breathtaking view of hundreds of acres of sugar cane nestled in a rolling valley and surrounded by picturesque hillsides. We watch an electric train slowly winding its way toward the mountain top. Presumably transporting the refinery's next shift of workers to the plant, it is the same train that transported their grandfathers who drew a Hershey paycheck.

Near the mountaintop, just before the last

fork in the road leading to the refinery, stands an antiquated train station. A small sign swaying in the stiff breeze bears the village's prior name: Hershey.

Each humble dwelling along the roadway displays a layer of sugar soot which grows progressively more dense as we approach the refinery until we can see no paint on the dwellings at all.

We stop and ask directions from the elderly gentleman sweeping the street in front of one of 50 or so small homes crammed along a single main street. The streetsweeper, who appears to be in his late sixties or early seventies, is wearing standard-issue beige trousers and shirt. He leans against his broom and informs us that he isn't from around here and just started this job today. Apparently, some bureaucrat saw fit to send this old man into an industrial zone to sweep forever the streets of a strange shantytown beneath a sky that continually rains soot.

Up the road the gates to the refinery suddenly appear, and we enter unchallenged. Apparently Yanquis in Jeeps are just uncommon enough that no one knows how to react to our presence. So the workers simply go about their business.

A Cuban sugar refinery in full operation is something to see. However, the Jeep, camera equipment and occupants soon begin to resemble the soot-covered houses. We decide to be, once again, on our way.

Past Santa Cruz, the coast becomes embroiled in environmental nightmares. There are oil fields as far as the eye can see. Cuba needs oil. At this time last year the country enjoyed a lucrative trade agreement with the Soviet Union. Then the hammer and sickle was lowered from the Kremlin. Now Cuba sucks as much low-grade crude from the ground and offshore as possible.

The entire Cuban economy is fuel-oil driven: Havana residents rely on public transportation. Crops, grown far from the population centers, require transit. Industrial plants, farm machines, military equipment and the sugar-cane trade are all fuel-oil-dependent. Though a token oil shipment arrived from Mexico this month, oil could be the deciding factor in Cuba's political future.

Veradero is indisputably one of the most spectacular beach-resort communities in the Caribbean. The miles of pristine beaches, plush resorts and private homes once belonged to America's elite. Offshore and abutting perilously close to the famed resorts, however, are oil derricks that pump night and day. One mishap, a scant 12 miles from the gulfstream, could spell catastrophe for much of the Florida Straits and possibly even Key West, which is situated 90 miles to the north.

Coming: The family in the mountains and navigation in the darkness. Two men battle the Cuban gas shortage, bulls in the road and sugar-cane moonshine.

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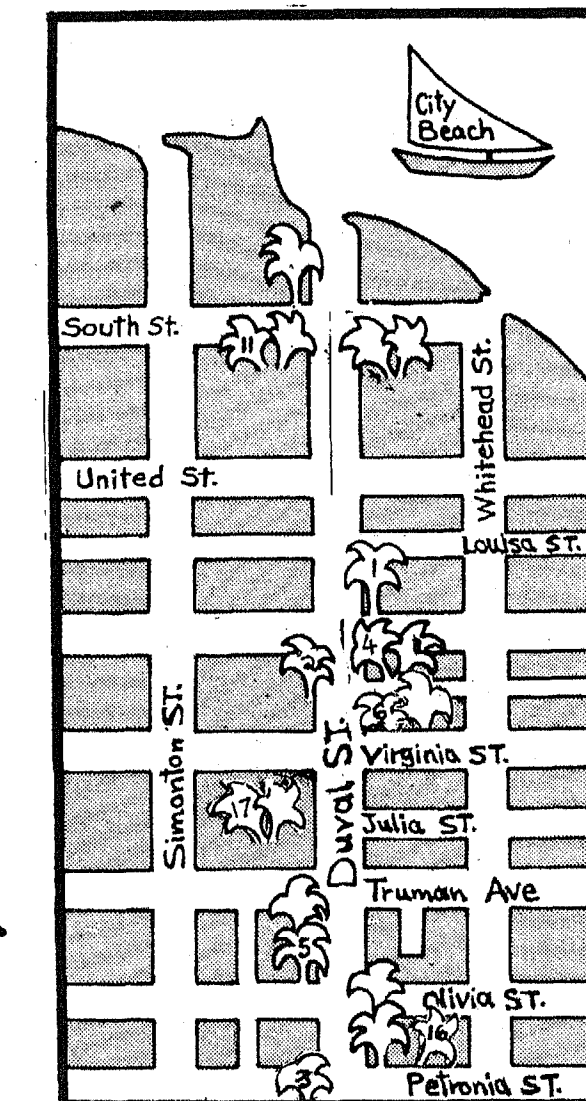
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Peary Court: State Agencies Change Tune

by J. D. Dooley

What a difference four years and a controversy make. Several state offices last week expressed a laundry list of concerns over the Navy's proposed housing project at Peary Court. When the 160-unit housing project was proposed four years ago, some of these same agencies had made "no com-

ment."

An April 21 letter from Janice Alcott of the state clearinghouse, the agency charged with state intergovernmental coordination, to Dan Hayes of the Navy's Facilities and Engineering Command included the concerns of six state agencies involved in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

As the result of a lawsuit filed by the environmental advocacy group Last Stand, federal judge Lawrence King ruled earlier this year that the original EA, which was performed by the Navy, was "wholly inadequate." King instructed the Navy to perform a new EA by May 15.

Prior to beginning the EA portion of a proposed project, the developer sends a scoping letter outlining the project to all pertinent regulatory agencies for the purpose of obtaining their input.

The input is a tool used to better perform the EA by alerting the developer of potential impacts or problem areas prior to performing the study.

According to Sue Lawley, public affairs officer for the Naval Engineering Command in Charleston S.C., the Navy sent the scoping letter pertaining to Peary Court to the state clearinghouse on April 3.

When the state clearinghouse circulated the original Peary Court EA to four agencies in 1988, three of the four—Department of State (DOS), Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR)—had replied "no comment." The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) offered no response.

Now the agencies are voicing concerns over stormwater runoff, concurrency with

the city's comprehensive plan, historic impacts, water quality and waste-water management.

No one familiar with the project was available for comment at the DNR.

"We didn't see the original EA, only a notice of the project," said Lynn Griffin of the DER.

"I wasn't here then," said Laura Kammerer of the Department of State.

Louis Tesser, the state historic preservation officer, approved the project without comment in 1988.

Why? "That's a hard one to answer, there could be a number of reasons. Maybe we didn't see the project," Tesser said. "You have to understand we have only two staff members looking at 9500 of these each year."

He said the agency spent an average of one hour on each project review.

In fact, Ruark Cleary of the DER (which acted as the lead agency during the first Peary Court EA process) said that reviewing an average of 30 projects per day was not unusual.

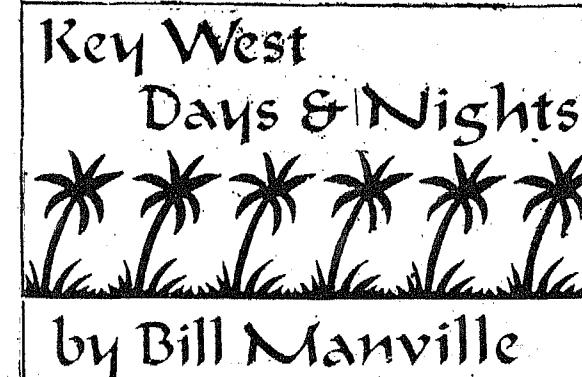
"You see 30 a day," Cleary said. "And the decision would be made with the information at hand."

"Another problem we are having is conflicting information from the Navy," said Griffin of DER. "We have heard a rumor that the Navy plans to use fill on the project. That would change our position on stormwater runoff if it's true. Dealing with them has been like trying to hit a moving target."

Judge King has instructed the Navy to produce a more comprehensive EA; it is due in about two weeks.

Though the Navy is circulating its intention of performing the EA, state agencies agree that the information that they are providing is little more than advice. The Navy is required to follow only the guidelines of the National Environmental Protection Act and certain Coastal Management Consistency Program guidelines.

"It is too early to tell if the Navy will make the May 15 deadline," says Lawley. "The Navy is doing all possible to incorporate the advice of the state agencies as well as to comply with the judge's order."



"What women bring to that which used to be called the *gaiety of nations*," said Mab, "is fantasy and magic. They express it in their silence and in their clothes, the way they comb their hair. Infinite expectation, something wonderful about to happen, the promise that if they choose, they can allow you to know something that you have always hungered to do. The imminence of life."

We were at the Miller Gallery, for the opening of the painter Helen Colley's most recent show. Betty Bennett had flown in from Palm Beach for the night, and she and Mab were dressed like beautiful sisters—silks, green and silver, the colors of swimming fish; eye shadow green and silvery, too.

"The strand Betty is wearing looped in her hair," Mab told me, "are the famous *della Rovere* pearls, once worn by the niece of an evil pope. Tiaras are the jeweled expression of the facet of femininity I most admire. Which is why I wear this." He pointed to the papier-maché-and-rhinestone headpiece he himself always sports, slightly askew, when in the very highest drag: "Happy New Year 1937." "It tells the world I know it is all a joke," he said.

One of the pleasures Proust tells us Marcel and his friend the Duchesse de Guermantes permitted themselves—Mab went on—was to read aloud the gossip columns in *Paris Soir*, recounting the grand parties of the night before. With great relish they would pronounce the names which the Suzis of their day had published. The joke was, since they did not know any of these people, the parties they attended did not count.

"I sometimes think Helen Colley as a painter has a following like the friends of Oriane Guermantes," said Mab. "There are people here tonight unknown to *Tout Key West*, but they are serious collectors, art buyers. Betty tells me the tall man in the corner with the magnifying glass is the curator of a Texas billionaire's private museum."

Mab continued: "Did you hear of the death of Larry Formica? Larry and I came to Key West about the same time, late Seventies, early Eighties. I used to drink too much and I may have lost a year or two around then. There was a picture, perhaps in the *Key West Citizen*—Larry and his gang of friends, young and fresh. They said they were going to start an unusual restaurant in Key West to be called *La Terraza di Marti*."

"There are eras, Bill," Mab went on, "in the history of the world when it was bliss to be alive. You are of course too ill-read to know of Athens in the Age of Pericles; but even you must have heard of Americans in Paris in the Twenties, Greenwich Village in the Fifties, when Jack Kerouac drank at the White Horse," Mab said. "Dylan Thomas

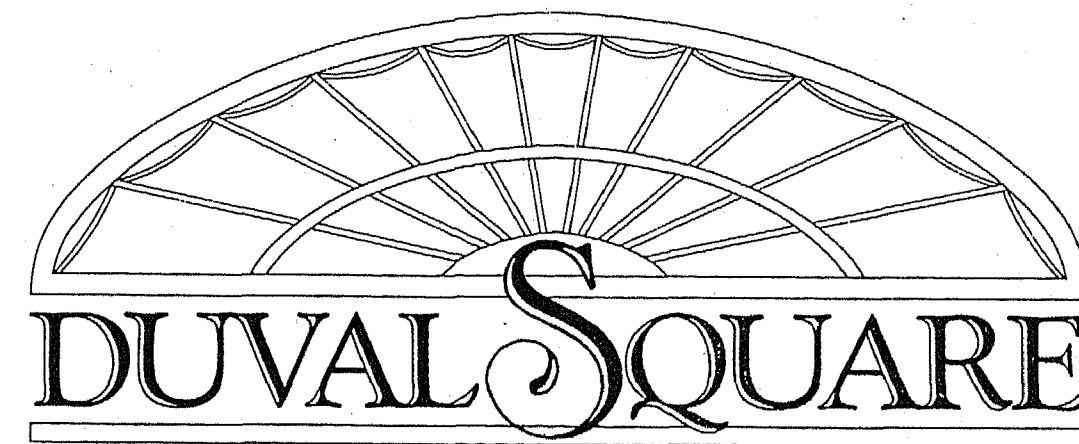
too. To be young and gay and in Key West in the early Eighties was heaven itself. Helen's paintings make me think of Larry alive."

Mab continued: "Restaurants were Larry's art, and Helen's colors express what he was always striving to do through pink menus and pink flowers, good-looking waiters and midnight piano players in condemned ballrooms, marble dance floors, mirrors, black-tie galas, kleig lights and naked diners

in the sun at noon, splashing in the center pool while waiting for wine and special-order desserts to arrive. Helen's paintings exemplify what the great art critic Bernard Berenson called, *the enhancement of life*. Larry had it too."

Mab left to approach Michael Miller to ask the price of a painting called "Havana Sky."

"La te da," he said to me. Goodbye.



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LUNCH BUNCH: (Clockwise from front left) Nelson Nodal, Pauline Garcia, Roli Gonzalez, Lucy Arencivia, Lea Gonzalez, Ernestina Feliciano and Lorraine Knowles.

Welcome Back to the Five-and-Dime

by Lee Irby

It measures 155 steps across. Big steps. Only in K-Mart is it possible for a human being to stare at a wall of paper towels at least thrice the height of an average adult male. Only in K-Mart can one actually relish a Great Wall of paper towels.

In K-Mart, enormity dominates the normal scales people grow accustomed to. Like reaching to the top shelf—it's within the grasp of most. But not here, where a disembodied voice, a pleasant-sounding female voice, the voice of the Nurturer, Mother Earth, Athena, Mrs. Cleaver, all in one, calmly suggests shopping options, including the special on paper towels.

Woolworth's has no disembodied voice or Liberace Muzak. It is roughly the size of

K-Mart's infant/maternity section. It's been in business in Key West since 1965, and many people attest to the slow rate of change the store has undergone. In fact, it is downright quaint in its attempt to provide a variety of household items.

"We like to keep a low profile," says Harry McCann, the store manager. "We stock items of definite need—where else can you get a vacuum bag?"

Well, K-Mart. You can get 5000 vacuum bags, enough to last several generations. You can also get cassette tapes of Neil Diamond and Meatloaf. Or, to enjoy with the family, how about that Bronson classic, "Death Wish 4."

Or pick up a biography of Wagner for \$2.99. Same price for a collection of short stories by Richard Yates. They were in the discount bin.

Or choose from among a hundred different species of plastic flowers. "We're trying to tailor our merchandise more towards the locals," says store manager Thomas Kaltenbrun. "The distributors are still sending us warm sweaters. What we need more of is toys. They've been selling like crazy."

Carrie, a young girl strolling the long product-stacked aisles, ponders the question a moment. "My mom got lost once," she finally said. "She went into the back and couldn't get out. She didn't know where the front was."

Metaphor? Perhaps. The new K-Mart lends itself easily to large questions; after all,



it's 80,000 square feet of pure abundance. The not-so-large Woolworth's, on the other hand, began in 1879 in the sleepy ham-

let of Utica, New York. Among the first problems Frank Woolworth encountered was finding enough items to sell for five or ten cents. Apparently there was an initial shortage of cheap merchandise.

The key to understanding K-Mart or Woolworth's is that the concept of a fixed price, which began as an experiment. Before fixed pricing, people purchased goods when they needed them, and the price was negotiated. Hagglng, it was called. No pricetags.

Then, somehow, people started buying things because of price alone. "Price-lining" is the industry term for this behavior.

In fact, the recession is abundant proof that price-lining is a success. Despite the recession, the glistening interior of the new K-Mart belies the moribund performance of the country's economy. Woolworth's is also doing a brisk business.

Or perhaps price-lining is proof that the rich have gotten richer, and the recession-garbled poor—well, more than ever, they are attuned to the cost of everything. It's a fact that the worse the economy has gotten, the better discount stores have done in the profit-generating department. Even Sears, the venerated leader of the now extinct "department" store, has torn a page from K-Mart, Woolworth's, Walmart *ad infinitum*, and has gone to the "everyday-low-price" school of retail.

Bulk rules. Nietzsche is dead.

A long-haired individual named James ruminates on the differences between K-Mart and Woolworth's. "Well," he starts slowly, "the ceilings in K-Mart are newer and higher. And it's so bright in here it's like hydroponic plants lights." (The implication: it might be possible to grow marijuana in the Gardening Department.)

That's bright.

Woolworth's by contrast is dim. But the Searstown store does have its own soda fountain, a contraption not found except in the back lots of MGM and in reruns of Andy Griffith. Behind a long counter is an array of cooking utensils seemingly flung together at random. It's one of the fun places in town to get liver and onions. In short, everything about the counter is quaint without trying to be—a gem, a paradise almost lost.

Myrtle is a waitress there. When asked if she knew any good stories, she was simple and direct: "No." Any bad ones? "No." It was obvious: Myrtle didn't suffer fools kindly.

Let's see: the location that K-Mart now occupies is the defunct home of Grant's, Field's, Zayres and Ames (and possibly a Delorean dealership.) With the Strand Theater—er, Clubland—now shut down for the umpteenth time, the question is worth asking: are certain spots in Key West haunted?

"No, the location's great," said Kaltenbrun. "K-Mart's been wanting it for a long time. We finally got it and, frankly, things are going better than expected."

And, he added, the Little Caesar's pizza parlor inside the store was the top-selling Little Caesar's in America for November and December. That's the Christmas shopping season.

Christmas shopping started at Woolworth's around 1888, when Frank Wool-

worth was persuaded to buy a small amount of "Christmas tree ornaments." Even then, the master of the five-and-dime didn't foresee the long-range potential of the garish trinkets he stacked on the shelves.

The thing is, for many people who went through the endocrinal explosion called puberty during the late 1970s or early 1980s, there was no place more gauche than K-Mart or Woolworth's. To admit to shopping there, or even knowing people who did, was tantamount to pronouncing your own social death sentence. No put-down was as terrifying as the accusation that a shirt, or, worse, a pair of shoes, was purchased at an aforementioned store.

The early Reagan years saw the repudiation of the lower middle class as a noble station in life—especially virulent in this revolt were the members of the lower middle class themselves, who wanted more than anything to live a life of fantasy. "Dynasty," "Dallas," et al: designer clothes make a splashy entrance at this juncture of American history.

But it seems that the nation is returning to a Jimmy Carter frugality, with only a touch of Reagan. After all, K-Mart has clothes designed by Cheryl Tiegs, and at Woolworth's you can buy a Rolex watch.

So, to borrow from Axl Rose, where do we go now? Are Woolworth's and K-Mart locked in an internecine battle that will leave one dead, and the other dominant in the Lower Keys? Is this the unbridled capitalistic competition Reaganauts sought to unloosen upon us?

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No, say both McCann and Kaltenbrun, who even laughed at the notion. "This is nothing," says the latter. "In West Palm Beach, within a quarter-mile of each other, was a Pharmors, a Home Depot, and a Targets which is about to open up. Right across from us, right across the street, was a Walmart that was 120,000 square feet.

"That's competition," he said.

Editor's note: We hear that a new Walgreen's will be opening in Overseas Market area.

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Actor Kevin McCarthy said, "I love coming down to Key West," as he chatted with fans after his stellar performance in *Give 'Em Hell Harry* at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. While in town he sampled island cuisine at Maison de Pepe and Ocean Club at the Reach.

Local Frank Hiron said the play "brought back memories." He was in the Navy in Key West in 1948 and remembers President Truman well—especially his piano playing. "He would play popular music one way, but when he played Chopin his touch was very delicate," he said. Did Hiron get any advice from the poker-playing President? "Never play against an inside straight." Appropriately, Hiron is a docent at the Truman Little White House.

Carolyn Cash held her annual Easter luncheon, and Tina Rice won the prize for the prettiest Easter *chapeau*. As usual, hostess Carolyn thought of everything, including two live bunnies (maybe more by now) and a tiny bonnet for her cat Sweet Pea. Enjoying the festivities were Fran Ford, Sandra Taylor, Anne Anthony, Jane Vander-



BIG TIME: Actor Kevin McCarthy greets fans after a performance of *Give 'Em Hell Harry* at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center.

grift, Barbara Reitz, Joan Houdus, Shirley Steinman, Evie Fugitt, Sue Buford, Kathleen Moody, Robbie Pfeiffer and Shirley Freeman (who showed up in exactly the same great outfit as did somebody else) and Nancy Holtcamp, who always has a series of one-liners about



GREENIES: Michele and Bob Kennedy at the Peary Court victory party.

family life: "I have a son who spends \$30 per week on mousse, but won't take a shower!"

Who could resist an invitation like this: "Please join us on Sunday—bring a swimsuit or someone you're in love with, or both." Writer Bill Manville and designer Suzie Salowe entertained friends poolside—the party was in honor of the Duchess of Guer-mantes (read up on your Proust if you don't know who that is). Sipping champagne among the flowers were John Malcolm Brinnin, Rust Hills, Helen Colley, Michael Miller, Prudence Churchill, Larry Plummer, John Mercer, Lynn Langdale and Kenneth Salowe.

"Keep Peary Court Green" supporters



COMPANIONS: Carolyn Cash and Sweet Pea.

celebrated a federal court injunction by Judge James King with a party at Curry Mansion. Attorneys Joel Sachs and Herbert Walker credited Harry Powell for his role in this issue, which they say may set a precedent in environmental law. Harry replied, "I was just doing my job as city commissioner." Among those present were Jim Farrell, Michele and Bob Kennedy, Elaine and Hy Weitzen, Kathy Price, Jake Rutherford, Jim McLernan, Kay Maunsbach, Molly Leeds.

It seems everyone in Key West attended the "Feather Your Nest" auction to benefit the Key West Woman's Club. Mary Spottswood and Charles Munroe hosted the event, and Lee Dodez and Richard Heyman were the auctioneers.

Joy Hawkins and John Wells held their traditional Easter Pot Luck Buffet—lots of talent in the kitchen as well as on stage with this gang. Among the Red Barn Theatre "family" and friends attending were the Hal and Sally O'Boyle (proudly showing off son Morgan), Susan and Michael Whalton, Jody Rae Geckler, Gary and Mimi McDonald, Dale Kittle, Judy Hults, Robin Deck, Richard Magesis, Penny Jampol, Tom Luna, Stacy Hannah and Art Nicholas.

Just like on T.V. . . . Police chief Ray Peterson burst into the Chamber of Commerce party at the Pier House and handcuffed Barnett Bank of the Keys president Harry Wooley. After a slight gasp from the crowd, everyone realized the "arrest" was part of the "Jail and Bail" Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Making everyone feel welcome were Pier House general manager Don DeFeo and Chamber prexy Virginia Panico.

Not just another pretty face . . . Andrea Spottswood was appointed by Governor Lawton Chiles to be one of seven certified public accountants to serve on the state Board of Accounting . . . Real estate whiz Lynn Kaufelt ranks among the top two percent in the 24,000 members of the Prudential Real Estate company. Harry F. Knight gave her the Prudential Award as she joined the Presidents Circle.

Top brass in chains . . . Secretary of the Navy B. Lawrence Garrett III, and Rear Admiral George Gee, commander of the

Joint Task Force IV were draped in gold chains by Mel Fisher on a visit to the Maritime Heritage Society Museum.

Judge Ruth Bender knows how to stay in shape to blow out the all the candles on her cake—she celebrated her 40th birthday by placing 10th in the women's division of the Seven Mile Bridge Run.

If anyone personified the unique style and wit of this island it was Lawrence Formica, who once reigned supreme at La Te Da. Essentially a showman, he knew the value of never staying on too long—he died suddenly in Miami and left us wanting more. Friends are hoping to celebrate his life with a last tea dance at La Te Da. He would have liked that.

There are many ways of saying goodbye. Charlee Wilbur said it this way, in her "Toast To Larry Formica":

To bathing and basking at brunch
To the very best mimosa
To flowers and cigarettes on tables
To cream-of-olive soup
To Chinese chicken wings on the upper deck
To candlelit dining below
To cruise ships and Tea Dance
To high camp and low good taste
To the beautiful boys who had to leave us
To the color pink
To La Te Da which spelled Key West
To Larry the Illusionist who felt it all
To Larry the Fantasist who made it ours



"MARVELOUS MOM" CONTEST

One lucky lady will become Island 107's "Marvelous Mom"!

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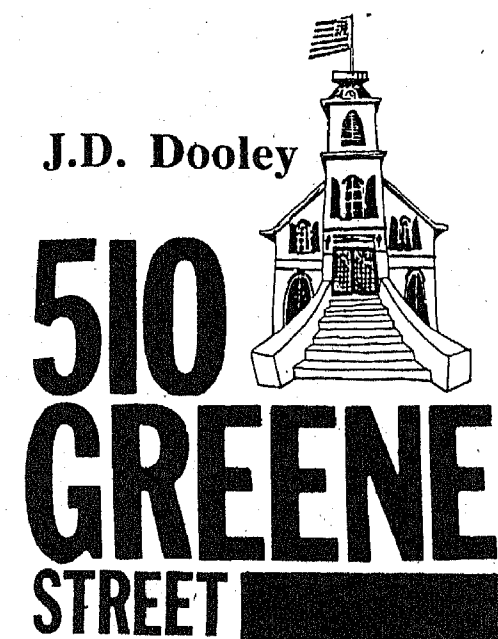
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Developer Finds There Are No More Sugarplums

'Twas the night before Earth Day, and down at Old City Hall . . . commissioners unanimously rejected the 84-unit Atlantic Villas project on one of the last undeveloped beachfront properties in Key West. The commission also heard arguments by two groups over a policy of naming rooms in the library after financial contributors.

The prior commission had refused to approve the Community Impact Assessment (CIAS) of the project at 1700 Atlantic Boulevard. The owner of the property, Donald Berg, represented by the Key Largo law firm Mattson and Tobin, took the city to court. Judge Sandra Taylor recently ruled that the city had to approve the CIAS.

But the city does not have to go further. The site plan submitted by the developers called for covering the entire property with earthen fill. Portions of the parcel lie below the mean high-water mark and even below sea level. The natural depression has created a wetland, which has become home to nesting turtles and migratory and wading birds. Such environs are protected under state and federal law.

The dispute is over how the area became wetland. And what that might mean for its value.

Andrew Tobin, counsel for the developer, claims the city created the wetland by developing adjacent lands and allowing the drainage to enter the Atlantic Villas property,

eventually creating a submerged land ecosystem.

The developers argue that the land in effect was rendered useless.

"We filed a suit two years ago claiming that the land was taken by flooding," Tobin said. "When the city allowed the land to be flooded, they, in effect, took the land and its subsequent usage away from the developer."

Property can be taken by government through zoning or other methods. But an owner cannot be deprived of reasonable use of property. Could the creation of a protected habitat constitute a "taking"? There doesn't seem much legal precedent.

But a wetland is a wetland. Or so says Charlie Ashton of the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

"Once it is determined that a project meets the criteria of a federal jurisdictional wetland," Ashton said from the Corps' Jacksonville office, "it would be handled as any other request for permit."

Project manager Bob Baron says that the site is within the jurisdiction of his office. He acknowledges receipt of what he terms a large amount of public comment but says he has not formed an official opinion. Before rendering a final decision, he says that he will give the developer a chance to respond.

Donald Berg bought the property for \$300,000, and has since paid property taxes on it. Today, he pays around \$14,000 per year in taxes. The property is zoned R2H, meaning it can hold 18 units per acre. Berg might have completed the project with little interference in past days. But not today.

"In all likelihood, the Corps of Engineers will not issue a permit," Tobin conceded after the commission meeting. "But the city has two choices: they can permit development or they can buy."

Tobin says that the property is worth \$4 million. He believes Berg is entitled to \$480,000 per year in interest while various agencies attempt to come to terms on how to handle the situation.

Henry Lee Morgenstern, an attorney representing a group of citizens in the immediate vicinity who call themselves the "Mangrove Neighbors," says the land isn't worth anywhere near what Tobin says it is.

"All the law requires is that Berg be allowed reasonable use of the land," argued Morgenstern. "Everybody is limited to the zoning code and the comprehensive plan. Mr. Berg is no exception. Just because he can't build 100 units doesn't mean the property must be condemned. I can't build 100 units on my property, but I am not asking for \$4 million."

Morgenstern believes that the courts can find a viable use for the property without destroying the wetland habitat. He believes that the issue is heading for court, and says the city needs to decide whose side it's on.

"We are not depriving Mr. Berg of all use," Morgenstern said. "We are depriving

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him of abuse."

Groups Bare Teeth Over Plaque Issue

Two very unlikely groups met before the county commission to argue their cases in Old City Hall. The meeting room, in which every piece of furniture displays a plaque denoting a donor, took on the atmosphere of an old-fashioned town meeting. Ironically the dispute is over displaying name plaques as a method for acknowledging donors of large sums of money.

Hardly natural adversaries, the Friends of the Library and the Monroe County Library Advisory Board are divided over this fund-raising issue.

While the Friends are trying to raise \$250,000 for library improvements, the advisory board is resisting naming rooms in the library in honor of individuals who have made contributions. The rooms would bear either their own name or a name of their choosing.

Specifically, the advisory board is worried that a donor's name might be removed or replaced during future renovations. Several individuals, they claim, are worthy of having a room named in their honor. They name, for instance, Betty Bruce, who put considerable effort into the library's Florida Room.

The Friends want greater flexibility. They say the recession has created a difficult environment for fund-raising, and that the naming of rooms was necessary as contributors expect this form of recognition.

Mayor Wilhelmina Harvey reminded the advisory board that it was merely serving at the pleasure of the commission. Each commissioner, with the exception of John Stormont, voiced a favorable opinion toward the naming of the rooms, recalling other facilities bearing the names of individuals who contributed time or money.

"I am astonished!" Stormont said in an admonishing tone. "I wonder if Betty Bruce will ever get a room now that you have to buy one. Let's take May Russell's name off the library because she didn't have a nickel."

"That's not what we're saying," Harvey tried to interject.

"Madame chairman," Stormont continued, "you have your votes, why don't you call the roll?"

"We are not discounting people who have given time and effort," Harvey continued. "We are recognizing people who have shared their assets, whatever they may be."

Commissioner Doug Jones' motion to allow the rooms to be named as long as they were not later renamed opened up a whole new can of worms. Whose names would be allowed, the Board's or the Friends'?

After much discussion, the commission voted to allow the naming of rooms. It told the two groups to iron out the details and to come back with a plan. The vote was 4-1, with Stormont opposed.

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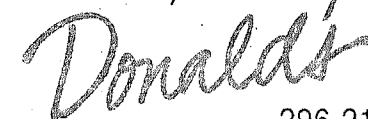
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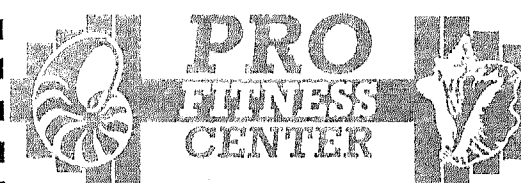
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April 30 - May 14

Will those mangoes ever ripen? They take their own sweet time, don't they. (Pun intended.) Now that May is here, they'll accelerate the process just a bit, feeling the difference in the length of days, the sun's increasing intensity and the start of the general lassitude that preludes a summer just a few weeks away. You can bet that before the solstice arrives, this island's most delectable, most delightful and most succulent fruit will be on my dessert plate: a slice of perfect mango edged with vanilla ice cream.

May defines a shift from the balmy to the warm. Oh, there will be days when chores can be done without sweat, but as the month moves along, average daily temperature will hover in the low to mid-80s, some 12 degrees higher than they were just four months ago. That's because we, and the entire northern hemisphere, are getting more sun.

By May 14, sunset will occur after eight in the evening. Prevailing winds, locked in the north and northeast just a short while back, now blow from the south and southeast. This sun/wind combination is what makes May a true portent of the months to come; not until the end of October and the start of November will our cheeks be brushed by the cooler winds from the north quarter.

May begins with a new moon on the second, which brings with it three days of significantly lower-than-normal low tides. These minus ebbs moderate by the sixth, and tides are generally well behaved until just before the arrival of the full moon on the 16th.

There are those who postulate that tarpon migrations are motivated by solar and lunar influences as well as diurnal shifts. No one is certain, so no one can claim the theorists are incorrect. What is a matter of record is the tarpon's choice of May as the month when the great creatures are most likely to undulate, roll, and, every now and then, leap entirely clear of the waters around Key West which are their favored element. The giants hang, suspended against the southernmost

sky, magnificent silver birds without wings. Such natural acts are increasingly reported to me as more of you become friends of the "Solares Almanac." The stories are a joy to record, adventures I would never have otherwise shared.

Take, for example, the tale of the frigate bird and the stickleback—a small, schooling fish, common in these waters, built like a member of the jack family, trim, averaging about eight to ten inches of gun-metal blue topped with a chrome-yellow dorsal and a touch of the same on its tail. Built into that dorsal is a needle-sharp spine, which is coated with a numbing, toxic goo. I learned the hard way when I unhooked a stickleback, touched the wrong spike and had a numb hand and arm for almost an hour.

Off the Marquesas, a large school of hefty (20-pound) jack crevalle chased an equally impressive school of stickleback. In glorious whitewater commotion, the smaller fish panicked and leapt high out of the channel, trying to escape becoming lunch. Frigate birds circled dark above the drama, and as one stickleback made a supreme leap, it was snatched in mid-air by one of the alert winged predators.

Soaring back to the heavens with the fish thrashing in its hooked beak, the frigate bird met the same calamity as I—the prey became predator as the stickleback somehow managed to stab the frigate bird's inner mouth with that painful spike. In a split second the fish was freed by the startled bird. Falling like a gleaming leaf in the breeze, the little fish that had been attacked from above and below landed in calm waters, well away from his brethren still under siege. Is that survival, or what?

A word of advice to human anglers who may also be cigar smokers. I recently learned of a fly fisherman who fought a heavyweight tarpon on lightweight tackle for more than two hours. The angler spent the entire strenuous session chewing vigorously on a dead cigar clenched between his stubborn jaws.

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Sweat rolled in the midday sun, cigar juice dropped into the fisherman's heaving gullet. Just as the fish broke off, the juice took its nauseating toll with a jolt that left its mark across the entire casting deck.

The lesson for today: don't swallow tobacco juice while you try to land a tarpon. The fish will win every time. 

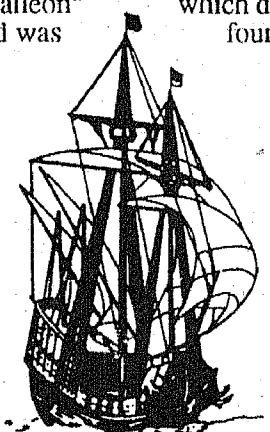
The Almanac is written for Solares Hill by John Cole, with much help from Capt. Bill Somers of the charter sloop Relevance, author and publisher of the Key West tide tables; flats fishing guides Capt. Gil Drake and Capt. Jeffrey Cardenas; the Florida Keys Audubon Society; the meteorologists at the Key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

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Henny is a widow-lady living in a truly aged, derelict Conch house that as yet has escaped being gussied-up by some energetic organization. Henny is thinking: "Everybody in Key West has seen something out there in that bright-hazy mist you sometimes see when gazing out toward Cuba."

Henny is in her kitchen with her beloved black maid they call Eggplant. Eggplant says she saw Jesus out there this morning from her matchless vantage point on the grey rock at Dog Beach. The little Mexican boy, when

she was age five in Sunday School, painted his picture of Jesus blue. And, dear Eggplant said, that's the way it looked to her out there this morning.

Henny's longtime live-in ambles in. This is Scrapper. He says he saw three flamingos drop out of a cloud and start wading off toward Casa Marina. He witnessed this while walking along the shoreline and picking up coins with his metal device.

Henny knows that flamingos dislike ocean water; in saltwater they throw up. So, Henny turns off her very large left hearing aid, which is about the size of a saucer. It may have been the first hearing aid ever invented.

Scrapper walks down the hall past a portrait of Henny's Aunt Tomasina that has hung upside-down in the hall since 1938. Scrapper has a skin-deep college education and carries on elaborate scientific experiments that generally don't turn out. He now is discovering whether brown raccoons prefer purple flowers.

Scrapper, in his room, takes a mouthful of strong coffee and shoves Henny's cat, Barbara Bush, off his desk. It's like a mouse going out to challenge the old Maine coon cat.

Scrapper usually is very put out with Henny. Actually, he lives for ways to get even with her. He never asks for anything disastrous to happen to her—such as lightning knocking the pan out of her hand while she feeds her bow-legged Dalmatian dog, Moon Pie, or a mutant man-killer Keys deer leaping at her through the window.

Henny is busy ignoring Eggplant, who has caught Barbara Bush and is giving the

once-every-six-weeks bath in distilled water. An Irish remedy. This treatment, Henny believes, keeps Scrapper, who has asthma, from blaming the cat. Henny knows Scrapper shoves Barbara Bush, as she knows most everything going on there.

Henny is mumbling, "People who don't like cats are descended from mice."

(Eggplant, Henny and Scrapper talk to themselves all day and some of the nights.)

In his room, Scrapper mutters, "Distilled water! She's always coming up with something questionably reliable."

Eggplant, within the last month, has started having conversations with "others" beside herself. They are spoken with gestures, carried on with God and other luminaries—like Jesse Jackson and Clarence Thomas—who enter her mind.

Eggplant dries Barbara Bush, saying under her breath, "White women look only half-finished."

Scrapper has decided what he will argue about with Henny at the dinner table tonight: "Women are afraid of mushrooms."

Henny is so occupied these days, Scrapper can't really get to her to pick a good fight. She tints the walls of her kitchen with instant coffee. She douses her undies in tea for a fashionable shade. She paints her bedroom wall in red-cabbage roses. It enlivens the space, she says. She puts in two hours, afternoons, reading aloud to Barbara Bush.

The cat doesn't listen, but she enjoys the sound of Henny's voice.

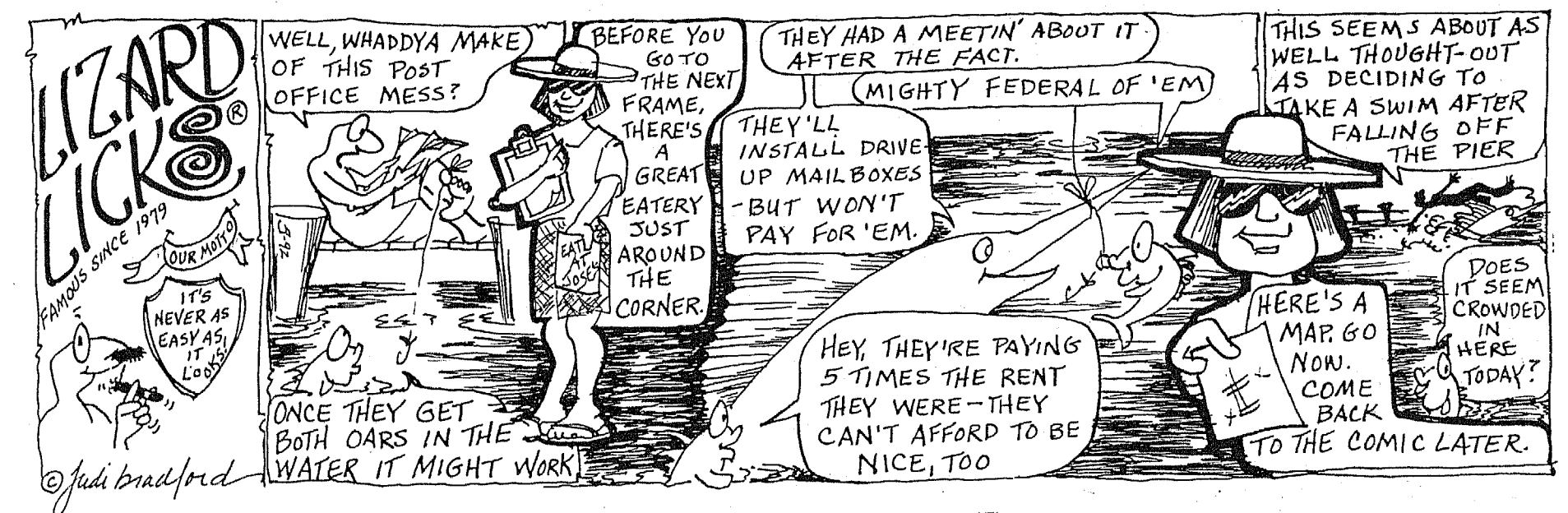
Scrapper nourishes this love-hate thing he enjoys with Henny. It raises his spirits considerably. He puts aside a paper he is writing, "The Harmless Yellow Keys Tuesday Snail: Cousin to the Squid." And, he postpones his study of that recklessly determined St. Paul.

Henny is pressing her orange dress to wear tonight; Scrapper despises it. He repeatedly has said, "Orange is openly defiled as a color."

Now Barbara Bush is back in Scrapper's room, under his bed.

Eggplant leaves for her apartment out in the back to nap, smoking a cigarette in a long holder, moving her lips in deep conversation. Scrapper is boning up on mushrooms.

There are, he finds, so many interesting, poisonous ones pictured in his 1949 *Compton's Encyclopedia*, and maybe he spotted one pushing up under a picnic table at the McCoy Indigent Park.



Readers Write

Over Singh

Dear Editor:

Haven't we had enough Pritam Singh [Solares Hill, April 16, "The Unknown Singh"] force-fed us?

Lia Lasher
Key West

Land Use Policy Is Deadly

Dear Editor:

We are now confronted by the most serious threat that we have ever faced in the history of the Florida Keys.

The new Land Use Planning Policy will allow more overdevelopment, to the extent that 36,000 people will not be able to evacuate from a major hurricane in order to save their lives. This tragic fact is shown in Monroe County's own official records. You or your family could be killed or injured.

The new Land Use Planning Policy would also degrade the quality of our environment. It allows big loop holes for development of our wetlands, which are the critical origin of the marine life cycle. This affects the entire marine environment, including the reef, which is the basis of our economy.

The policy allows more high density development, which degrades the quality of our lives. There would also be much more commercial development even though massive vacancies exist throughout the Keys. This would damage existing business and cause even higher taxes to pay for the needs of new development.

These bad policies, which were set by a majority of the commissioners, violate state law. We tried to talk with them, but most of the commissioners refused to discuss it. They won't allow anyone to block their plans for more development, regardless of the cost of lives, environment or higher taxes.

The Florida Keys Citizens Coalition was left with no choice but to initiate legal action as an intervener in the planning process.

The FKCC is a private non-profit 501 (c) (3) conservation organization, coordinating the efforts of our member organizations. We are dedicated to promote, preserve and en-

hance the environment and the quality of life in the Florida Keys. We are staffed entirely by volunteers. Expenses for all of our efforts are paid for by tax-deductible contributions.

Our effort is considered public interest litigation. We need your support with any amount you are able to give. Please send your tax deductible contribution to our FKCC Inc. Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 523, Key Colony Beach, FL 33051.

Please Help. It's a matter of life or death.
George Kundtz, Chairman
Florida Keys Citizens Coalition, Inc.
Marathon

Spring Breakers Are Tourists

Dear Editor:

I've been hearing rumors of a campaign to stop the annual movement of spring breakers to the Florida Keys and Key West in the near future. Starting as early as September 1992, I understand, some will be discouraging the future educated adult population of the United States and students of other countries of the world.

This negative movement against our only industry in the Florida Keys and Key West will destroy the economy, our tax structure, property values; our standard of living will be drastically affected by this movement.

In the 1950s and '60s we had many industries—Key West Naval Station, NAS Boca Chica, Truman Annex, Trumbo Point, sponging, kingfishing, conch and scallop harvesting, shrimping, longline fishing, etc. These trades used to be a major income factor; now they are endangered species. They either have moved away or have only a small impact on the income-earning revenues in this community.

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If we destroy our only industry—tourism—there's no way we'll survive with our current tax table and the federal regulations that have been imposed on the Florida Keys and Key West.

There are many special events—Fantasy Fest, New Years, etc.—that create uncontrolled and undisciplined situations and questionable policing problems for the community. Every year, spring break continues to be more and more controlled by local law enforcement and mandates. Past years of education of spring breakers has resulted in a more disciplined group of young adults—tomorrow's community and world leaders.

Do not throw away our current and future industry by making short-sighted decisions based on the desires of small special-interest groups who are not the true voice of the business community.

Mike Horne
Key West

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• ISLAND ECONOMICS • ISLAND ECONOMICS • ISLAND ECONOMICS •

The Key West Knights of Columbus collected \$1500 during its annual Tootsie Roll drive last month. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Monroe Association for Retarded Citizens (MARC) to help support local programs for the handicapped. Local knights solicited contributions in front of grocery stores, banks and drug stores throughout the city. "We are pleased to help the MARC house in this way, especially at a time when public and private support for these programs are not as strong as in the past due to the slow economy," said Grand Knight Peter K. Ilchuk, head of the local council.

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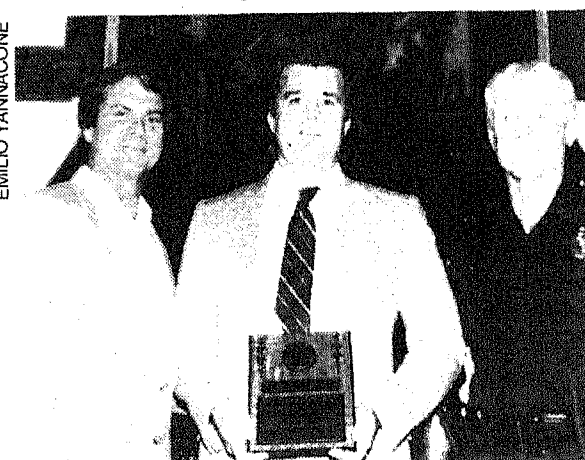
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Chef and co-owner Paul O'Neill announced that **Granny's Kitchen** is now open at 3412 Duck Avenue and is serving home-cooked meals at affordable prices. The restaurant is open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, and serves breakfast and lunch at prices ranging from \$1.99 to \$5.50. Call 296-8870.

Diane Schmidt, director of sales and marketing for the **Marriott's Casa Marina Resort**, announced that **Rick Baumgartner** has joined the resort as director of catering sales. Baumgartner has held hotel catering sales director posts for five years, most recently with the 484-room Orlando Airport Marriott. In his new position, he will coordinate all aspects of special events and social functions, both on and off site, for meeting, convention, incentive, tour and travel, and social and civic groups.

Leslie and Capt. Bill Grossup of **Captain's Corner** dive facility, located in the Ocean Key House, 0 Duval Street,

were voted by locals as the winner of **WKRY** and the **Key West Citizen's** annual "Best of Key West Contest" in the Dive Facility category. Captain's Corner provides PADI certification and scuba and snorkeling aboard the **Sea Eagle**.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR: Detective Bill Larkin (center) receives his award from Dr. Steve Atwood (left) and police chief Ray Peterson.

Detective Bill Larkin of the Key West Police Department was recently honored as "Officer of the Year." The general case assignment detective was recognized for the large number of burglary cases he has solved, among other accomplishments. The award was presented by Civil Service Board chairman Dr. Steve Atwood and police chief Ray Peterson.

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Pagliacci (produced by WKRY for Monroe County Fine Arts Council) Saturday, May 9, 1p.m.
Key West Battle On The Seas Powerboat Broadcast from The Pier House, Saturday, May 16th. 11:30 a.m.
Pagliacci (repeated from May 9th.) Saturday, May 23rd. 1 p.m.
Manhattan Transfer Jazz Concert Saturday, May 23rd. 7 p.m.
All that and more on the People's Choice Radio Station for 1992, KEY 93.5

• ISLAND ECONOMICS • ISLAND ECONOMICS • ISLAND ECONOMICS •



SANTA MARIA STAFF: (Bottom, from left) Carol Balducci, Dan Brown, Valerie Forbes; (top row) Bob Linberg, Jim Hoffa, Tony Sean.

The **Santa Maria Motel**, located at 1401 Simonton Street, announced that it has re-opened its popular dining room, **The Queen's Table**, for breakfast and lunch. Breakfast will be served from 7 to 11 a.m., offering everything from eggs to Maryland crab cakes. Lunch will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Choices range from soups and salads to delicious entrees such as pan-fried grouper in a delicate breaching with choron sauce. Chef **Dan Brown** and host **Jim Hoffa** say they will cater to the locals, city employees, professionals and others who want to conduct breakfast or lunch meetings. They say they promise only the freshest ingredients; all produce is from the Water-front Market.

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Las Vegas, which is considered one of the best hotel/restaurant schools in the country, the awards were based on several criteria: final appearance, solutions to special design problems and environmental considerations. The resort's design marries two renovated Conch houses with three newly constructed ones, and maximizes and enhances green space with plants and trees. Last year the **Chamber of Commerce** gave its Beautification Award to the resort.

Local writer **Helen Chapman** has joined **AIDS Help, Inc.** through **Monroe County's Senior Community Service Employment Program**. Visit or phone **AIDS Help** any weekday afternoon, and the first face you see or voice you hear is likely to be hers. A desk job is nothing new to Chapman, who has traveled extensively and held many positions. "I've had so many office jobs that if Social Security ran a print-out of them all, it would go on for pages," she says.

Michelle Neumann a.k.a. The Blind Lady of Tropical Window Treatments announced that in addition to window coverings, her company now offers a limited line of custom-furniture. "Now customers can coordinate window treatments with beautiful custom designed furniture," she says. For more details, call 296-9999 or 745-1110.

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ART ~ CIRCLE

By
Judi
Bradford

Helen Colley: Abstract Expression

by Judi Bradford

"They don't represent anything. They are what they are," Helen Colley states firmly, describing her abstract paintings. "They are strictly abstract. The expression in them has nothing to do with place or things."

It is a question that the abstract artist has to deal with frequently. Viewers want to know what it is a picture of. "It's strictly composition and color," says Colley. You can tell she is trying to be as clear and patient as an abstractionist can be in this situation. "Hopefully people will see them objectively rather than subjectively."

The paintings, on display at Miller Gallery through May 11, are energetic explosions of color. But, as far as the artist is concerned, "explosion" may be too subjective a term in



TECHNICAL ENTHUSIAST: Helen Colley approaches the canvas with an air of formality.

this instance. Colley is adamant that her images be divorced from content.

"That is the intent of the abstract expressionist school," says gallery owner and husband Michael Miller. "And I think Helen's work falls pretty solidly in that category—the New York school of abstract expressionism."

He starts to explain a tropical connection "a lot of people comment that they see, because Helen's colors are so vibrant..." but he is cut off by Colley's objection.

"My colors have been the same for the last 20 years," says the two-year resident of Key West. "There may be one or two colors that have been added, like that green." She indicates a short thin line of viridian on a large canvas. "But basically my palette's the same."

She denies any local—subjective—influence. "Basically the palette is the same. I have certain colors that I like."

Tomato red is one. Ooops, there goes another organic reference. Perhaps the term should be cadmium red, but, then, this is not abstract journalism. Colley's paintings, some on canvas and some on paper, almost always include large patches of pure cadmium red. The combination of that with olive green could be a signature.

"I like dirty colors," she says.

Looking at the paintings, you can tell it.

Predominant in them are muddy browns, ambers, khakis, tarnished greens—the dark-murky-fungal-hues-hiding-under-the-rock of color theory.

Colley likes to contrast those with pure, unmixed colors, notably vermilion and chrome yellow. Blues don't play a big part here. The tone of Colley's work is smoky, fiery. She reveals that they begin with an undercoating of the flame red and then are overpainted with restrained, sometimes tortured browns.

A discussion of the technical aspects of color bring out the artist's enthusiasm with an intensity equal to the denial of the subject. Technical conversations of all aspects of painting enliven her. She approaches the canvas formally—a somewhat alien concept on an island dedicated to a right-brain control.

Composition excites her. A comment that portions of her images seem to pose a mirror reflection of neighboring portions brings her dangerously close to the objective/subjective precipice again. However, she retreats from the ledge by rationalizing the elements of quadrilateral composition. It's a challenge she sets for herself.

"All I am trying to do," she says, "is make something that's split in half or quarters work as an entire piece. And yet, each half

can work within itself. It's just a problem I set up for fun."

The images are achieved through energetic brush strokes. A range of brushes work for her, but a four-inch has the lead role. In designs constructed so formally, it seems almost contradictory that the effect is so lively.

She objects to a description involving the word "action."

"Turmoil, maybe," she counters revealingly. "Motion, how's that? Movement. 'Action' implies something is happening. That's what a writer would say—'action.' It's not action, it's movement. If the piece doesn't work, your eye won't stay on the page or on the canvas—if the movement isn't there in the composition."

Miller evokes a musical analogy with the words "harmony and discord." Colley favors the discord side of the equation and points out that "discord" is not strictly a musical term. "I like to work with oppositions. I'll do a discord on purpose."

With all of this denial of things tangible, the question is put "what does abstract expressionism express?"

"Emotion," comes the answer.

Miller inquires, almost taunts, "Whose?"

She laughs. "Mine."

"Are you saying we're seeing you in these?" he says. It seems he's tempting fate here, but, no. Emotion is included in the technical index.

"That's a possibility," admits Colley. "But if it doesn't evoke an emotional response from the viewer, it's not really doing what it should do. It should move people the way a

good novel does. I think it goes beyond content. It involves style and technique."

Working in mixed media, Colley starts with watercolor washes and then works acrylic strokes and oil pastel accents over it until she is satisfied.

The gallery itself is a simple and creative new space that shows off the work. The paintings are bold and intelligent. They are a counterpoint to the predominant Key West artscape which is decidedly subjective. A visit to this exhibit is like skinny-dipping in a mountain creek after a summer of lazily snorkeling tropical waters that approach body temperatures.

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Carambola Gallery • Masks by Doris Christie; acrylics by Harry Greene; pottery by Tom Woodruff; hand-crocheted jewelry by Anne McWee; oils and painted furniture by Gay Cunningham. 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. Sculpture by Lee Dodez and hand-built clay pieces by Jay Gogin. 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. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 613 Eaton 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 • "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 • "Flores Para Los Muertos," a celebration of cemeteries.

Tombstones, a wicker casket, jewelry, photos, rubbings and paintings. 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 • Our regular group of artists. 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 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 810 Duval St. 292-1331.

Great Southern Gallery • Carrie Disrud, acrylic on canvas, painted furniture and papier-mache wall-hangings. Marble garden sculpture by Pat Stone. Dick Moody trompe l'oeil liquid acrylics on canvas. All 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, gyotaku fish printing, soft sculpture, fabric piecework, 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. 296-8932.

Harrison Gallery • Bonsai by Norman Aberly and ceramics by Byron Temple and Susan Thayer. Andre Henocque, Matthew Lineburger, 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 and also local artists. Affordable prices from \$5 to \$300. Packing and shipping available. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 826 Duval St. 293-0331.

Island Wellness • "Acrylics on fabric by Rochelle; 'Conch Fritters' by visiting New Mexico artist Joyce Mechelina Centofant. Paintings by Jeff Wheeler and other local Caribbean artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. 530 Simonton St. 296-7353.

Kennedy Gallery • Zbyszek, internationally recognized mixed media artist. Thom Mil-sap, dynamic oils. 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 lighthouse 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. except Wednesday. 1208 Duval St. 294-3771.

Lane Gallery • David Paul, English miniatures, and Tony Chimento draped fabric studies. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

sometimes later. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

Leda Bruce 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 • "The New World," collages and photography by Thomas Szuter. All new collection of primitive and folk art. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 to 10 p.m. 919 Duval St. 294-3973.

Miller Gallery • Helen Colley new paintings. Daily, except Sunday, noon to 6 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 paintings 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.

Pandemonium • Come and get what you need now before we cut back to minimum summer hours. Lots of new things! Distinctive art fashions, furniture and accessories. Ceramic house numbers. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon to 6 p.m. 704 Duval St. 294-0351.

Pearl-Beal Studio • Hand-painted furniture by Jeff Beal and Lenny Addoriso. Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 531 Whitehead St. 294-0815.

Pelican Poop Shoppe • Haitian art, paintings, metal

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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. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 292-1655.

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Oui, Oui Martini

by Judi Bradford

John Martini was between phone calls in his Old Town home. Ceiling fans were whisking up a breeze in the wooden cottage that reflects Martini's expansive tastes. A bunny lamp on the counter, a four-foot-tall inflatable version of Edvard Munch's "The Scream" beside a '50s *moderne* lamp and artwork from a variety of local artists all mix together in a comfortable and interesting in-



INTERNATIONAL: One of the sculptures bound for John Martini's Paris show. It is a variation on a recurring character, "The Traveler." terior. The furniture is rattan with '40s drapery floral cushions.

The artist and founder of Lucky Street Gallery, Martini will soon be leaving for France to finish 30-some works for a one-man show at *Galerie Antoine Laurentin* in Paris. The show opens June 5, but Martini will be leaving soon for Normandy, where he has rented a house and a studio. He was there for six weeks earlier this year, selecting iron pieces from French scrap yards and cutting them into his characteristic icons.



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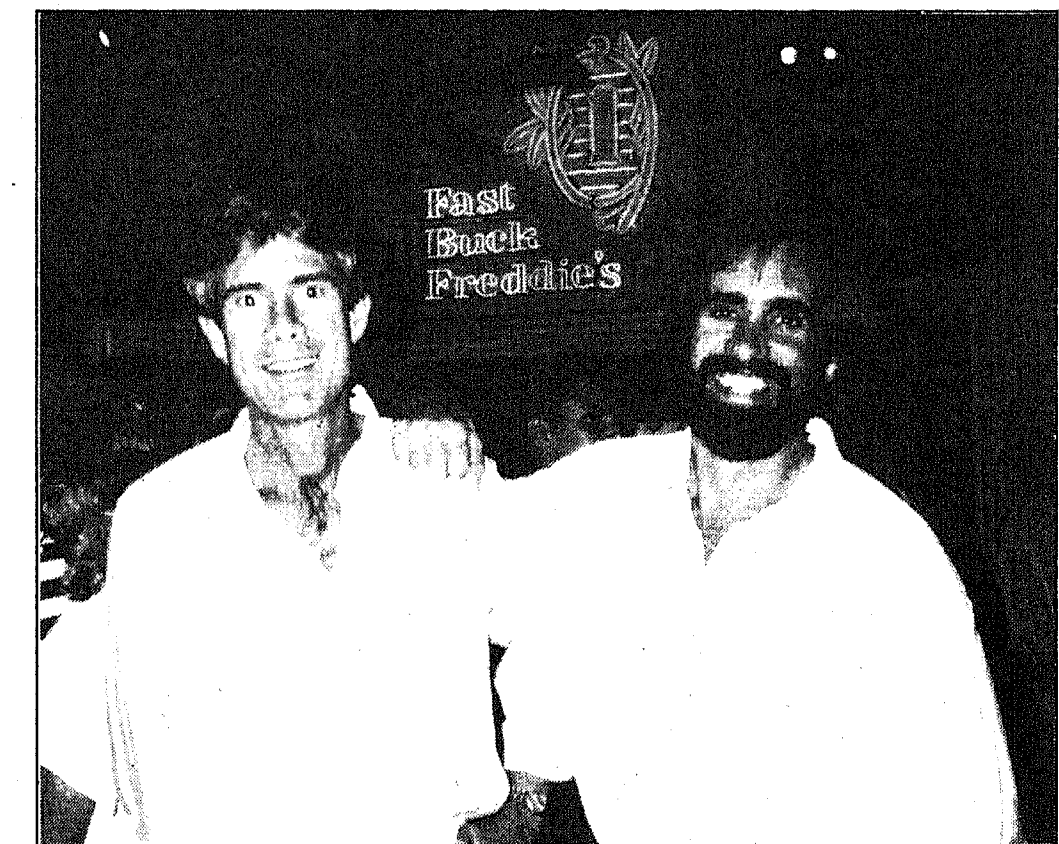


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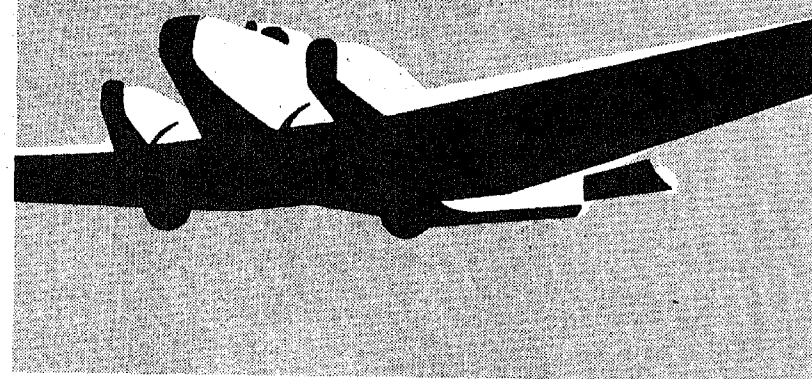
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by Christine Naughton

Lenore Troia & Friends

Imagine the inherent risks of stepping into an audience and sticking a microphone in someone's face, with no idea as to what that person might say. Or *sing!* Nightmarish as the downside of this risk may be, audience participation can be an effective tool. Sooner or later every nightclub performer decides to what degree he or she will break down the "fourth wall" at the front of the stage.

When it works, it's a guaranteed good time for all. Currently, it's working Downstairs at the Rooftop Café on Front Street, where Lenore Troia and her friend Michelle C. not only encourage audience participation, they adore it.

After passing percussion instruments to listeners throughout the room, the entertainers do endless Latin, Top 40 and Rock and Roll jams that are impossible to resist. Everybody gets involved, and from the two walls of open windows flows an unmistakable sound—group music. The energy is high and can approach the spiritual level, like a Gospel church in full swing.

On a recent Tuesday night, the two women packed them into the L-shaped room.



DON'T BE SHY: Michelle C. (left) and Lenore Troia specialize in audience participation.

During a marathon set that lasted from 7:45 to 11:15 p.m., the top-notch Rooftop Café wait and bar staff were kept busy as bees, as folks had a blast playing along with Troia and Michelle C. With little or no pause between songs, the duo kept the show going strong.

On synthesizer and vocals, Troia was clearly a musician solid enough to anchor a room full of loud and wildly polyrhythmic percussion instruments. Assisted by an electric drum machine, she held the rhythmic foundation and managed extremely musical synthesizer lines as well. A smooth and artful singer, she hinted at an underlying intensity in her controlled delivery. Though she made her job look effortless, she was, in fact, single-handedly cranking out a ton of music.

Michelle C. spent as much time walking the floor with her microphone and inciting uproarious behavior as she spent singing harmony and beating her conga drums on stage. She favored Bette Midler songs when she sang lead, and did a particularly nice rendition of "Love Me With Feeling."

Indeed, Michelle C. brought to mind the spirit of Midler's nightclub persona—playful, fearless and endearing. She didn't so much stroll the floor as visit each member of the audience, exchanging a little dialogue, encouraging someone to sing a verse here and there. Displaying a gift for audience partici-

pation, she was a mixture of good music therapist and your naughty sister (the one who gets up and dances on tables sometimes).

In a mellower (and shorter) second set, Troia introduced three of her original tunes. All fell smack dab in the pop pocket, with catchy rhythms, witty lyrics and interesting signature lines. "Coconut Amnesia" was the Island offering, a Calypso cutie about a rare-but-real tropical hazard—getting bopped on the head by a falling coconut. "Rush," a well-constructed love song, captured the breathless moment of first infatuation. "Point Me South," a sort of Bluesy-Island mix, is one to which the Tourist Development Council or one of our local resorts might want to take a listen. It would make a perfect ad jingle.

Troia's 1991 album, *Jetset to Sunset*, includes the above three tunes, and is available at the Rooftop on CD and cassette tape.

Troia appears at the Rooftop Café on Mondays and Tuesdays at 8 p.m. For two weeks, beginning May 7, she and saxophonist Willy Williams will cover the sunset sets Dockside at the Ocean Key House. For the month of June, Troia is booked downstairs at the Rooftop Café nightly, beginning at 8 p.m.

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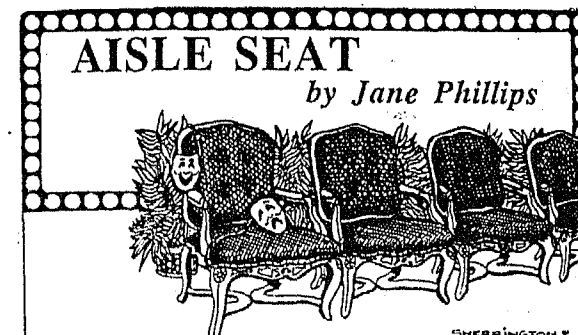
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Talley's Folly Was Broadway-Caliber Theater

No apologies necessary for any aspect of *Talley's Folly*, the last show of the season at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. This was a Broadway-caliber production, which shows that the talent is here to make TWFA one of the top regional theaters in the country. Brilliantly directed by Mike Mulligan, who establishes the waltz-like rhythm intended by playwright Lanford Wilson, the dance never falters in this Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

The place is a farm in Lebanon, Missouri; the time is 1944. A fanciful mid-Victorian Gothic Revival boathouse with heart-shaped gingerbread is the perfect setting for an unlikely romance to take place. Referred to as a "folly," these gazebo-like structures sprung up like wildflowers in unpredictable places—just like love!

He's a 42-year-old accountant "Matt Friedman" (Tom Luna)—an intellectual Jew with traces of a German-Jewish accent. His heritage reads like a geography book. He's been taught not to "get mixed up with the 'goyem'."

The other half of this odd couple is "Sally Talley" (Juliette Holland), the proverbial girl in the house on the top of the hill. Now she's a 31-year-old ex-cheerleader turned nurse's aide. Her family's roots lie deep in Missouri soil. On first meeting Friedman, Sally's father declared him "more dangerous than Roosevelt."

We meet Matt in the opening soliloquy—beautifully acted by Luna. He tells the audience "We have 97 minutes here . . . without intermission"; and, as if reading their minds adds, "If you think you'll need a drink of water or anything. . . ." He tells us about his meeting with "Sally" the year before and a lot about himself.

Luna immediately captures the warmth and wit inherent in this character—a man comfortable with figures but awkward with women. He admits truthfully, "I'm not a romantic type." He wins us over. We like him, and that is essential to the play.

He fires off a rerun of the entire opening narration and has the audience in the palm of his hand. He is rewarded with a burst of applause. He has set the stage for "Sally's" entrance. She whirls in—no nonsense, full of energy, attractively plain.

Holland gives an intuitive sensitive

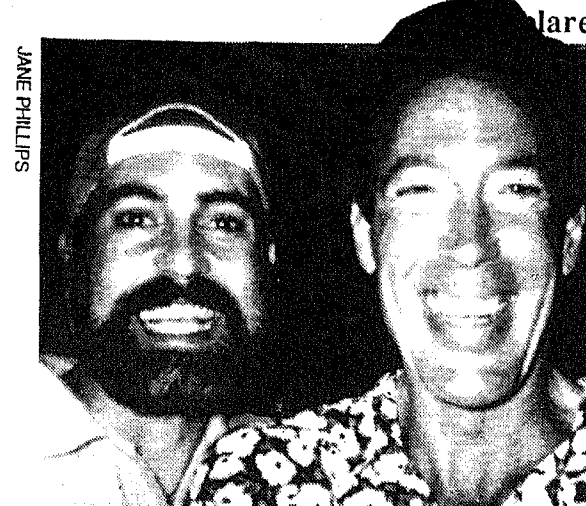
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JOLLEY: Actor Tom Luna and director Mike Mulligan share a moment after the opening of *Talley's Folly*.

performance. During the course of the play a subtle metamorphosis takes place: the character softens into a lovely woman.

Matt describes Sally's family as being "in grave danger of prosperity." He surveys the surroundings and says, "You don't get mosquitos here, do you? Rich people always know where to build their houses."

Sally has little defense. At 28 she was fired from teaching Sunday school for sympathizing with garment workers who were about to go on strike in her father's factory. She might be a daughter of the Ozarks, but she has cultivated a mind of her own from the bedrock of her family's conservatism.

The two toss political and philosophical ideologies back and forth, gathering strength to share emotional intimacies as well. The focus of the play is about vulnerability, about revealing innermost secrets.

Michael Boyer's set is breathtaking, perhaps his finest, coming at the end of a long line of successes. Mindy Jost designed the lighting exactly the same way. Mother Nature arranges nightfall. As the sun sets the sky grows darker, illuminated by moon and stars. Vacant slats in the weathered shutters catch streaks of moonlight, and we are struck with the beauty of the moment.

In the end, Matt looks at his watch and tells us that the 97 minutes are up. It was a perfect evening of theater.

Back Concert: Impressive

Patrons of Bach and the Old Stone Methodist Church presented a wonderful organ concert by James Johnson.

Johnson began the evening's presentation with a piece written in the 17th century by Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1644) and took music lovers up to the 20th century with

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Allegro from Symphony Two in E by Louis Vierne. Between selections there was music by Mozart, Schumann, Bach, Mendelssohn and Gigout.

Indeed, the program was impressive, but no more so than Johnson's musical background. Early musical training at Columbus Bay Choir School led to a degree from Williams College in 1964. He studied at the *Conservatoire de Geneve*, won music prizes from Yale, earned a doctorate of musical arts and was affiliated with Harvard University from 1971 to 1991. He has toured internationally as a concert organist, has four compact discs and five others in production. He's presently working on a musical satire, "The Key West Funnies."

Key West Classics: Larry Harvey Wears Tight Sequined Gown

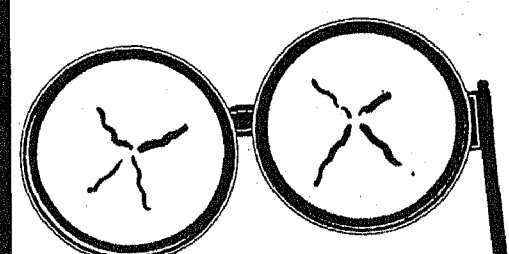
"Key West Classics '92" drew nearly a full-house opening night at the Waterfront Playhouse. It was a gem, with risque lyrics by Vicki Roush; songs by Carmen Rodriguez that would melt your heart; Kelly Moore as Mami Eisenhower; Billie Ninefingers heating up the keyboard; gorgeous Andre Paxton performing a ladylike version of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" and a lot more.

Top that off with Larry Harvey in a tight sequined gown (with boa) and platinum-wigged Joe Leahy, talking about the "good ole days," and you get the idea why the "Classics" are so popular.

Others in the cast were Tanya Duffy, Cheryl Holt, Nancy Holtkamp, Dottie Martin, Laurie Miller, Chuck Turner and Sally Lewis as emcee.

WATERFRONT PLAYHOUSE

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THE FLORIDA KEYS
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by Jeanne McClow

Surviving Summer's Sizzle Thai-Style

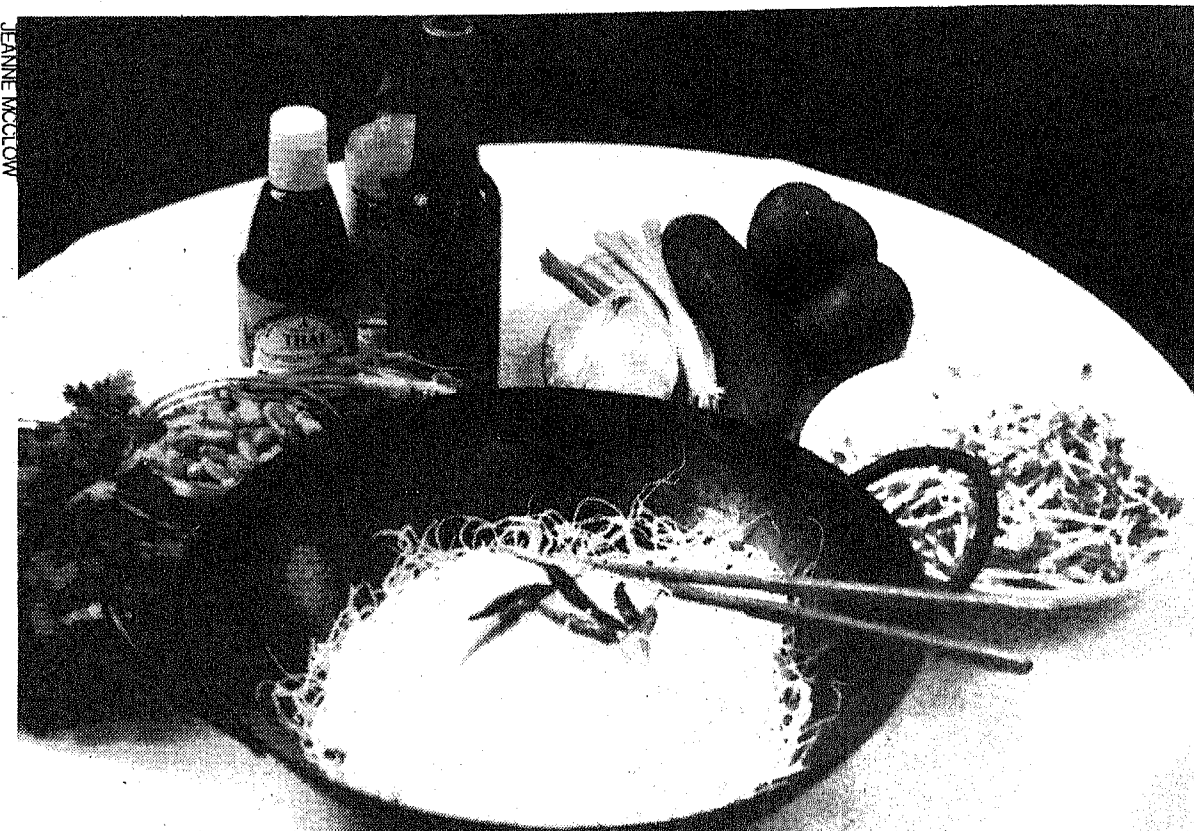
Back in the 1970s, during my early days in NYC, I, like many other big-city dwellers, ate a lot of Chinese food. It tasted good, true, but it was also filling, relatively healthful, cheap, and no more than a phone call away, since most restaurants delivered. As time went on, however, and more exciting cuisines were introduced to the American palate, the popularity of "eating Chinese" became thought of as downright boring.

Then along came a new breed of Chinese restaurant that featured a style of cooking so hot and spicy it literally took the breath away. This style was, of course, from the Szechuan province in western China, an area where the climate borders on the tropical and the temperatures can be as hot as the brown peppercorns that infuse the region's cooking oils. (Incidentally, Szechuan "peppercorns" are not at all related to the black and white varieties we know.)

Needless to say, nearly everyone who had access to a Szechuan restaurant became an *aficionado* overnight, and even the old Canton-style restaurants began adding Szechuan items to their menus, placing stars beside them to differentiate them from the bland *chop sueys* and *lo meins*.

Well, perhaps it was those peppercorns or, perhaps, the then-exotic idea of mixing noodles with a sauce made with peanuts, or even the novelty of serving a noodle dish cold, but the result was that I became obsessed with the now-classic dish known in America simply as Szechuan noodles with peanut sauce.

All rationalizations aside, the fact was



COOL & SIMPLE: The elements of classic *pad Thai*—Chinese rice sticks, Thai "bird" peppers, mung bean sprouts, fresh coriander, peanuts, fish sauce, wine vinegar, peanut sauce, garlic, scallions and cucumber.

that on a hot summer day, I thought nothing to be so refreshing as a plate of those shimmering, icy noodles playing off the scorch of that sauce.

Then one day my neighborhood produced one of the earliest Thai restaurants in the city. I found myself swept off my feet by the Thai version of the transparent noodle and peanut combination. One difference was that the "heat" of the dish was a matter of Thailand's tiny "bird" peppers, which are said to be at least as potent as the fieriest of Mexican *serranos*—in fact, Thailand is reputed to have the hottest cuisine in the world.

Also, the omnipresent soy sauce of China has been replaced by another sauce every bit as omnipresent in Southeast Asia. Called *nam pla* in Thailand and *nuoc mam* in Vietnam, it is fermented from a tiny, anchovy-like fish that swim about in flooded rice paddies and other shallow waters. The

unusual flavor of this condiment is so popular in these countries that it decorates nearly every tabletop in view. It is the ketchup and the *salsa* of the land. It is also usually heavily spiked with Thai peppers.

Another difference was that the dish, which began life as a stir-fry, seems to have been served hot originally. In many of its newer forms, however, it is chilled. Most versions are being created by the chefs in the West—particularly those in America where the "melting pot" has, over the past decade, taken on new dimensions—who are hard at work fusing the dishes of the East with those of the West to form a new cuisine.

In the case of *pad Thai*, such chefs are also incorporating ingredients additional to the basic mung bean sprouts, peanuts (or Thai-style peanut sauce made from fresh roasted peanuts or peanut butter and now already prepared in gourmet sections of the

supermarket), the Thai chili peppers, scallions, garlic, fresh coriander, lime juice and fish sauce. These days, tiny shrimp or bits of chicken or roast pork are making their way into the dish with regularity as do, on occasion, chunks of tomato, cucumbers, other garden vegetables and even tofu. Sometimes, the whole dish, hot or cold, will be presented on a bed of tender greens.

But while these innovators go on about their work with ingredients already familiar to them, they are also very much focused on those of faraway lands and are making every effort to use them as they become more available. When it comes to produce, it is not a moment too soon if growers are to meet the demand of a newly health-conscious popu-

lace insistent upon greater variety and better quality in its fruits and vegetables. The growing of plants once known as "exotics" as serious food crops is a trend just barely begun in this country.

As a matter of fact, according to a recent interview in the *Miami Herald* (4/12/92) with the director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture at the University of Florida, only 110 of the some 20,000 plants known to be edible have been domesticated and, of those, only 22 are main food crops.

In any event, with a little research, it becomes quickly apparent that there is no such thing as a "recipe" for *pad Thai*, but rather only some suggestions for ingredients one might include in a "culinary palette."

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.

Benihana, at S. Roosevelt Boulevard (A1A) and the Atlantic Ocean. Voted America's most popular full-service restaurant. Oriental chefs artistically prepare the finest steaks, shrimp, lobster and chicken right before your eyes. Full bar. Complete dinners from \$12.95. Open nightly. 294-6400.

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.

The Buttery, 1208 Simonton Street. Praised by *Gourmet*, *New York Times* and *Bon Appetit* as one of the great restaurants in South Florida. The Buttery is truly a must-stop for the gourmand in Key West. A complete bar and wine list complement the distinctive Buttery menu, with nightly specials. Open for dinner, nightly; reservations are suggested. 294-0717.

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.

Crab Shack, 908 Caroline Street across from Land's End Village. Fresh seafood served from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., daily. Peel-your-own spicy steamed shrimp every day. Widest variety of crab dishes on the island. We also

cook your catch as you like it. For the landlubber, charcoal steak and prime rib. Blue plate specials nightly. Dine indoors and out. 294-9658.

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.

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 cafe atmosphere, El Loro Verde now features a full liquor bar in its new dining room. 296-7298.

Full Moon Saloon, 1220 Simonton 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 till! 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.

Larry's Ice Cream & Yogurt, 1075 Duval Street in Duval Square. Truly gourmet ice cream in scrumptious flavors and fresh-fruit frozen yogurt. Experience a variety of treats inside or out, including ice-cream cakes and pies. Open seven days: Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight. 294-2301.

Lighthouse Café, 917 Duval Street. Specializing in wonderful Southern Italian and seafood dishes, served in a beautiful garden setting or cozy indoor dining room. Open for dinner 7 to 11 p.m. Reservations suggested. Diner's Club, Visa. 296-7837.

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

Mango's, 700 Duval Street. Great island cuisine with a Caribbean flavor, local seafood and vegetarian dishes. Daily hours are breakfast, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; lunch, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Happy Hour, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with tropical drinks and munchies; dinner, 6 p.m. til midnight. Outdoor seating right on Duval. Large inside dining room. All major credit cards. 292-4606.

Mangrove Mama's, mile marker 20 on Sugarloaf Key. Featuring natural and local seafood served in an old 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 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. For dining reservations and entertainment schedule, call 745-3030.

Martha's, at South Roosevelt Boulevard (A1A) and the Atlantic Ocean. Steaks and seafood. Exotic island drinks and soft live piano music set a refreshing mood to complement Martha's famous menu of steaks, prime rib and fresh native seafood. Open nightly from 5:30 p.m. Major credit cards. 294-3466.

Ocean Club Restaurant & Lounge, at the Reach Resort, Simonton at the beach. Dine under the stars and enjoy gourmet cuisine prepared with Caribbean flair. French pastries baked daily. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, and a Sunday Brunch that many say is "without a doubt the best on the island." Dine oceanfront or indoors. Visit our new piano lounge open Tuesday through Sunday. All major credit cards accepted. 296-5000.

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. Sunday brunch, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 296-1183.

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.

The Santa Maria, 1401 Simonton Street. A local favorite, serving breakfast Monday through Saturday, 7 to 11:30 a.m. and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., lunch Monday through Friday, 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. 296-5678.

Savannah, 915 Duval Street. Fine Southern home cooking featuring dixed delicacies 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.

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, milemarker 17 on U.S. Route 1. Waterfront dining serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 7:30 a.m. to 9 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 evenings. 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 3:30 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday Brunch 10 a.m. to 3 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.

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CALENDAR • APRIL 30 - MAY 13

Cultural

5/1 • *Carmina Burana*, Carl Orff's "Songs of Beuren," presented by the FKCC chorus joined by the Gerald Adams Elementary School Chorus and percussionists from the Key West High School band. 8 p.m. at the TWFA. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 292-3422.

5/1-5/31 • *Cocktail Hour*, a comedy by A.R. Gurney at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911 for ticket information.

5/6 • *The Name of the Rose*, a book and film discussion group. Film will be viewed from 7 to 9 p.m. followed by a discussion. For more information, call Sheila Rowan at 296-1502.

5/6-5/10 and 5/13-5/17 • *The Lisbon Traviata* by Terrence McNally at 8 p.m. at the Waterfront Playhouse. Call 294-5015 for ticket information.

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. Call 296-4600.

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

Crazy Daisy'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.



CHEERS: Acting in *The Cocktail Party* are (from left) Peggy Montgomery, Joy Johnson, Jerry Campbell and (seated) Gregory Geswalo.

Mango's • 700 Duval Street. VooDoo at Mango's for the month of April: *Insomnia* with deejay Curtis Lee Friday nights; *Vision On* sound by London Loudboy Tony V Saturday nights; *Meister Lee & phonic phind Utopia* Monday nights; *T.V. Rush into Lisa's spaceship playground* Tuesday nights. Call 292-4606.

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). *Barbara Redfern*, Wednesday-Sunday 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. 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* 5:30 to 7:30 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 11 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.

WANTED!

Talented individuals capable of (and interested in) teaching Key West visitors about sailing, computers, languages, life skills and other wisdoms. Please send responses to: P.O. Box 4255, Key West, FL 33041. Bright suggestions are invited.

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

4/30-5/2 • Grady Patrick Invitational Backcountry Fishing Tournament on Plantation Key. For information, call George Williams at (305) 367-2661.

4/30-5/2 • Texaco-Hemingway Key West Classic featuring offshore and inshore divisions with large cash prizes. For more information, call Michael Whalton at 294-4440.

5/2 • Monroe County Youth Arts Competition in Marathon. For more information, call 296-5000, ext. 362.

5/2-5/3 • Busch World Cup Series Races at the Holiday Isle Resort in Islamorada. For more information, call Eileen McGuire at (305) 664-2321.

5/3 • Dunk-the-Hunk-of-Junk sponsored by WAIL 99. Come bash a Keys cruiser. For more information, call The Florida Keys Children's Shelter at (305) 852-4246.

5/8 • Harry S. Truman Birthday Bash on the grounds of the Little White House Museum. A traditional island party with food, music drink and a poker tournament. For reservation information, call 292-6718.

5/8 • FKCC 28th Annual Commencement 6 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center.

5/9-5/10 • Key West Fishing Tournament Kickoff, a warm-up to the seven-month tournament. For more information, call Barton at 296-8673.

Special Interest

4/28-6/1 • Special Delivery/Childbirth Preparation Class 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Tavernier Monroe County Public Health Unit. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 282.

Meetings

5/4 • Key West Women's Aglow Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Gerald Adams Elementary School on Stock Island. Featuring guest speaker Edna Weaver on establishing good parent-child relationships.

5/5 • City Commission Meeting 6 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

5/6 • Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

5/7 • City Commission Budget Review Meeting 5:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

5/7 • City Commission Budget Review Meeting 5:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

8100.

5/7 • Monroe County Fine Arts Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Chef's Restaurant at the Sombbrero Resort in Marathon. The public is invited. For more information, call 296-5000, ext. 362.

5/8 • Tree Committee Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

5/11 • HARC Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

5/12 • Board of County Commissioners Meeting 9 a.m. in Key Largo. Call 292-4422.

5/13-5/14 • South Florida Water Management Meeting 9 a.m. in West Palm Beach. For more information, call 1-800-432-2045.

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 296-3286.

"A Course in Miracles" study group meets at the Crystal Loft, mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine, every Monday at 8 to 9 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 Indigeneous Park. Call 294-4927.

Bereavement Support Group, a ten-week closed group for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close. Meets Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Free of cost. For more information, call Charmaine Jordan at 294-8812 or Pam Soucy at 292-6843.

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 Tractor Art & Craft Market every Saturday at mile marker 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.

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.

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 Campbell at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, 294-5531; or Liz Kem at Hospice, 294-8812.

Gurdjieff and Ouspensky Reading and Discussion Group meets 7 p.m. every Monday at Unity Church, 3424 Duck Avenue. For information, call 292-4964.

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 Chuan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Wednesday: Daily R & R; Thursday: Tai Chi Chuan 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

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- Other various merchants for donating prizes
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- The Key West High School Marching Band
- The Key West Police Department
- The Key West Fire Department
- And everyone participating in this annual event

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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 (Key West Alliance for the Mentally Ill) holds monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Care Center for Mental Health, 4th Street and Patterson Avenue. Each meeting will feature a guest speaker or special program. Call Helen at 294-4875 or Mary at 294-9905.

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.

KWAMI Share and Care Support Group for families and friends of people with mental illness meets 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Care Center for Mental Health, 4th Street and Patterson Avenue. Free of charge and open to all. Call Helen at 294-4875 or Mary at 294-9905.

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 Tuesdays at 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.

Positively Sober is a 12-step Recovery Group for men and women who are HIV+ positive and a member of another 12-step Recovery Group. This group meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street. Call 294-8912.

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.

Quaker Worship Meetings every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the garden in the rear of 618 Grinnell 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 Hagler 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 Chu'an 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 852-3304.

Writers' Walk, about one mile, takes place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10. Meet at the Henningway House, 907 Whitehead Street. 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.

• COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES •

Ecotourism Gets a Boost

While the increasing tourism to the Florida Keys is a blessing to the economy, the local environment has come under a lot of strain. In an effort to relieve some of the pressure, the Monroe County Tourist Development Council (TDC) recently issued a new booklet emphasizing links between the Florida Keys' unique environment and the area's vital tourism economy. "The Natural Keys," designed primarily for journalists, contains information and ideas for articles about ecotourism. Printed on recycled paper, the booklet describes Keys environmental issues, including artificial reefs, protection of underwater coral, catch-and-release fishing, injuries to wild birds and saving sea turtles.

Happy Birthday Harry!

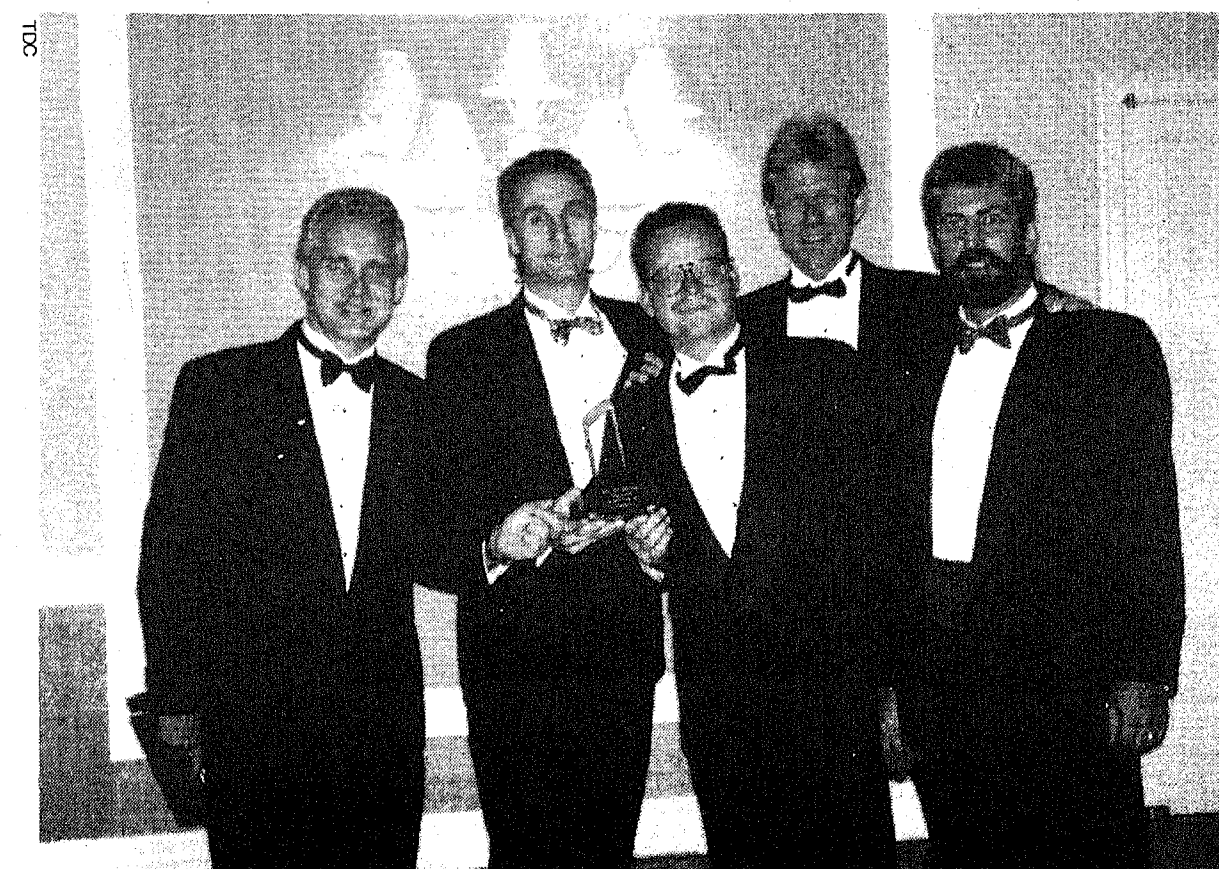
On May 8, the Historic Florida Keys Preservation Board will host the "Harry S. Truman Birthday Bash" on the grounds of the Little White House Museum. The event will celebrate the 108th anniversary of the president's birth, with a traditional island fest including food, music, drink and a poker tournament. Tickets for the event are \$25 per person and all proceeds will go to HFKP. For more information, call 292-6718.

Teacher's Union Petition

United Teachers of Monroe headed a petition drive to organize the county's blue collar workers by filing twice as many union cards as necessary with the Public Employee Relations Commission. "The successful petition drive indicates a positive response to UTM's three main objectives: dignity and respect for workers, safety and well being of students and a voice in working conditions," said United Teachers of Monroe president Leon Fowler. Those workers classified as "blue collar" include transportation, food service, maintenance and custodial. The "white-collar" petition is also underway.

New HIV Support Group

AIDS Help, Inc. now offers a new weekly support group called "Living Positively"



AWARD WINNERS: (From left) Jeffrey Petzke, John Sims, Ian Cheverton, Erik DeBoer and Larry Shulman of the Coconut Beach Resort.

every Monday at 6 p.m. in the activities center located at 2700 Flagler Avenue. The group is designed for those newly diagnosed as HIV-positive as well as friends and loved ones of people with HIV. AHI's original support group "Coping with HIV Illness," continues to meet each Thursday at 6 p.m. at the center. Both groups are facilitated by counselor John Cooper, who says the new group came about because of growing demand for informational exchange and peer support. For more information, call 296-6196.

Teachers and the Environment

Registration is now underway for a comprehensive summer program designed to help school teachers sharpen their environmental education skills. The program, entitled

"Florida's Forest and Environmental Training Education," begins June 21 and is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It will be held at the Withlacoochee Environmental Center near Brooksville, Florida. For a complete program schedule, call (904) 754-6780.

FKCC Chorus Performs "Carmina Burana"

The Florida Keys Community Chorus will present a one-time performance of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" (Songs of Beuren), a dramatic cantata, at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center on May 1. The chorus, conducted by Emily Boyd Lowe, will be joined by the Gerald Adams Elementary School Chorus and percussionists from the Key West High School Band. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. and will be followed by a reception in the lobby hosted by chorus members. Admission is \$5.

The First Annual Miss Key West Aloe Pageant

WEOW 92.5 FM announced that it will sponsor the First Annual Miss Key West Aloe Pageant. The pageant is open to any woman over the age of 18 who is ready to have a fun-filled Memorial Day Weekend. Pageant coordinator Kim Alexander says, "These ladies should have lots of energy, because we've got a party, a cocktail reception, a trolley tour, a brunch—not to mention a pageant—all in three days!" The winner will receive a pair of airline tickets to London and a modeling contract with Key West Aloe. The registration party will be held at the Ocean Key House on May 22. For more information, call 294-2523.



NEW TDC OFFICE: (From left) Terry Horton, County Mayor Wilhelmina Harvey, Samuel Feiner and Lynne Bush help to cut the ribbon.

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Killer African Snails
The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has confiscated several large exotic snails that were illegally imported from Nigeria, Florida agriculture commissioner Bob Crawford said. "These snails are voracious plant feeders in their native West Africa," he said. "Hundreds may have been sold in Florida. If they have a chance to establish in the wild, they could do enormous damage."

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