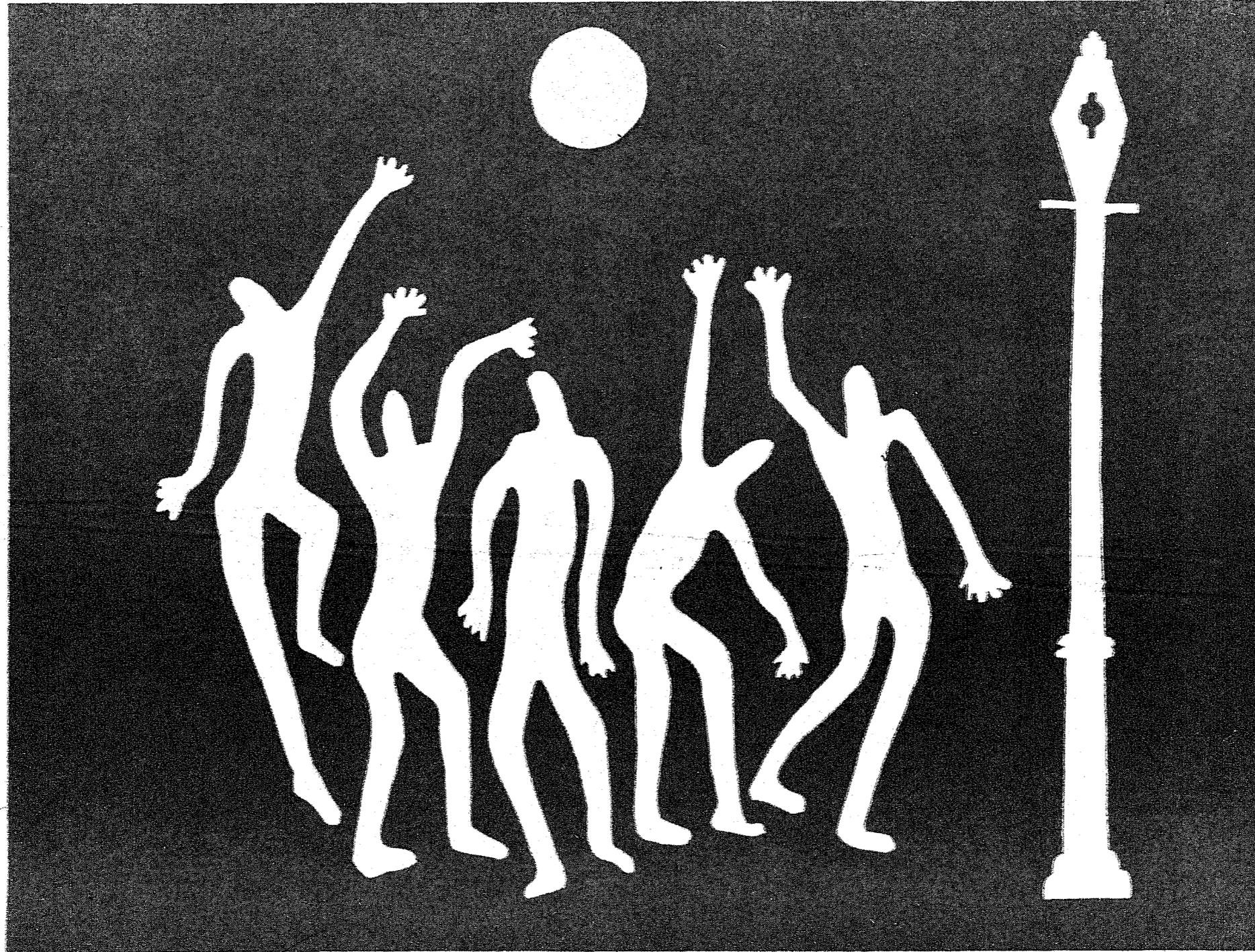


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VOL. 17, NO. 4 • KEY WEST, FLORIDA • APRIL, 1989



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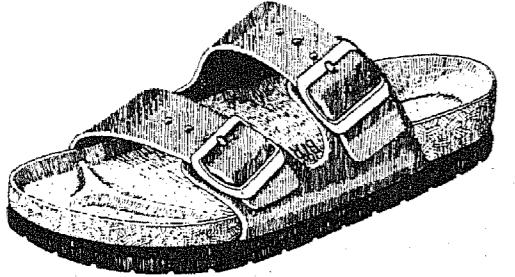
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EDITORIAL

The other day a friend--a catch-release flat's fishing guide--was looking for permit near the Marquesas. Poling silently through the tourquise water, he noticed a styrofoam "peanut" floating by the skiff. What a shame, he thought, repulsed by the pollutant scar on nature's delicate complexion.

From out of the blue swam a beautiful young turtle that gobbled up the styrofoam, then disappeared. For anybody who understands cycles and the dependency of one species upon another, that should about sum things up.

Writer George Halloran represented *Solares Hill* at the recent Leadership Conference--an admirable first step toward realizing and correcting our problems--sponsored by the Key West Chamber of Commerce. One of his observations was that some folks longed for a return to the past. In a world oriented for the future, this is not good. Growth in this city has happened so fast that it's pulled the rug out from under its citizens--they feel uncertain and insecure. And what is a town but a reflection of its people?

I'm sure everybody would just as soon forget last month's fatal accident at dead man's curve. It was awful, particularly upsetting to a community in which a good portion of citizens are still laid back. Plain and simple, people in the BMW were driving too fast. They pulled the rug out from under themselves.

Maybe we need to invite visitors down to Key West on *our* terms. Maybe we should ask them to slow down, and tell them that we love and respect our town. And our beaches. And our reef. And our

streets. And our people. How do we do this? Through signs, educational brochures, tourist brochures with an element of educational sophistication. And most importantly through attitude--that of a community that takes care of its own.

We've got a healthy group of articles this month. Amy Fischer, whose been following the city and county's solid waste problem, brings us up to date on our options. Elliot Baron explains the proposed airplane noise reduction ordinance. Elizabeth Smith researches day care in Key West, basing her findings in part on answers to a questionnaire she sent to all our centers. John Leslie strolls through the cemetery and Colin Jameson relays a fascinating comparison of a Williams College expedition to the Keys in 1857 and a followup by students in 1986.

We regret that Gordon Lacy will no longer be writing "Gallery Hopping." Surely, Gordon will be contributing to the Art (as he writes it) world in other ways. *Solares Hill* is structuring a new art department which will begin next month. As always, Vaughan Gibson will be commenting on local culture.

April is child abuse prevention and Key Deer protection month. (We applaud Hank Morgenstern's efforts to protect the dwindling Key Deer.)

Until next month,
Ann Boese

Ann Boese

This month's cover art, "Full Moon on Duval Street," is a block print on canvas by John Rankine. His work is exhibited at Is It Art... Designs, 913 Duval Street.

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Leadership Conference: Where Should Key West Head? Some say forward, others say back

by George Halloran

It was billed as the Leadership Conference of 1989. John Parks, president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, called it a meeting of "the most powerful people to come together in Key West in ten years." His organization was largely responsible for the all-day affair.

While no one objected to his definition, quite a few string-pullers in town were not present. There were no developers, no lawyers, no bankers, no Spottswoods, no tourist attraction moguls and only two elected officials -- Sally Lewis and Ervin Higgs.

The intent of the conference was to generate ideas and spark future action to improve the city. It turned into a bull session at which the majority agreed the future of Key West should be a return to its past. And it now appears the whole project may have sunk without a ripple.

Most stated goals were never attained, proposed committees were left unformed and half the day was used to little avail on the first item of a long agenda. Participant Steve Sosinski, new publisher of the *Key West Citizen*, didn't even bother to run a story the next day in his newspaper.

And yet ...

And yet there was some kernel of genuine hope at this meeting. Strangers from different squares of the Key West quilt found they had more in common than they would have believed.

Strangers from different squares of the Key West quilt found they had more in common than they would have believed.

building only with new infrastructure, and said the current population is large enough.

Tony Falcone from the Tourist Development Association suggested a slower paced "bicycle mentality" and the encouragement of "quality tourists who appreciate Key West, not just numbers."

Wright Langley of the Historic Preservation Board said we should "look after ourselves, not just the tourists," and proposed banning automobile traffic completely on most downtown streets.

Ervin Higgs, county tax assessor, said Key West has changed so much (and his tone suggested he meant for the worse) that the only way he can hang on to his heritage is to "drive through the cemetery or down the back alleys to get a sense of where I came from." He said he'd like to turn the clock back 25 years.

The conference began at 9 a.m. in the Learning Lab at Florida Keys Community College. Representatives of over 100 organizations in the city had been invited. Thirty-five showed up. A professional "facilitator," Dr. John Elstrott, was brought in from New Orleans to run the show. After first accidentally knocking the legs off his easel, he went right to work cutting the agenda down from eight items to four.

Our modest goal for the day? We were

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to discuss, brainstorm and form task forces for solutions to the problems of affordable housing, crime, the high cost of living and the threatened environment.

The morning was spent thrashing about in the affordable housing swamp. Everyone agreed the rents and purchase prices of living units in Key West are too high for low-income people to afford. But what to do about it?

Bob Herman of Monroe County Growth Management said we ought to be honest enough to tell newcomers: "If you don't earn at least \$30,000 a year you can't afford to live here."

Ross McKee of the Florida Keys Land Trust recalled his college days centuries ago and recommended young people "double up."

Leo Carey of City Electric Systems suggested they do so in mobile homes and tents. "Let's relax some of these government regulations and approve more campsites," he said. "It's better than people sleeping in trees."

Others called for fleets of houseboats, government subsidies, housing by employers, rent control, etc. Terry Horton of the Florida Keys Memorial Hospital Board called for "less seasonal workers" and spoke of a program to train local school children as employees in the tourist industry so we wouldn't need to import workers.

Michael Whalton of the chamber of commerce noted affordable housing was the Number One problem checked off on questionnaires distributed prior to the meeting.



Turn back the clocks? This photo proves that there's no way Key West can return to its past. But what we can do is look ahead, reintegrating some of the values of a quieter, more caring and sensitive era. Photo from Solares Hill files.

Murmuring broke out. Several speakers agreed the problem was important, but stressed that they did not necessarily want to spend all our resources solving it.

Peter Anderson from Last Stand held that

taxpayers shouldn't and couldn't pay for anything more. He said employers should provide the housing for the good of their own businesses.

"But we have to pass the cost on to

somebody," said DeFeo, who also runs the Pier House. "Otherwise we will price ourselves out of the market. Maybe there is no place for affordable housing in Key West."

It almost seemed like heresy: city movers and shakers admitting in public that we might have to "just say no" to affordable housing!

Col. Frank Braden from U.S. Forces Caribbean picked up the theme, questioning how much people would sacrifice to create unlimited affordable housing.

"How much do we want on a two-by-four island? And what must we give up to reach this goal? Do we accept 1800 Atlantics, pave the Salt Ponds, put more buildings in Old Town? Do we give up the shrimp docks on Stock Island, change the airport? Do we really want it at all?"

Just before noon Peter Herrick, new director of the Hotel/Motel Association (the only group besides the chamber allowed multiple representation), found concurrence in his definition of the morning's problem:

Housing is affordable when prospective occupants perceive the cost as reasonable in relation to income and aspirations.

It was a meager enough product of three hours of wrangling by 35 adults who pride themselves on their problem-solving and leadership abilities.

At lunch I sat across from Elstrott. He told me the same problems exist in New Orleans: high volume tourism, high crime rates, high taxes, high prices for real estate and lots of low-income service workers

with no place to live. They have no solutions there, either.

We regrouped after dining and prepared for a triple-header: resolving the issues of crime, taxes and the environment. Right Elstrott, who had confided earlier that he was used to working with much smaller groups, accepted a change in the agenda.

We all agreed that we needed a destination before we could seek a path. Elstrott asked everyone to write their idea of what Key West should be like in 20 years, and then read it aloud.

It was the clear consensus of this group that Key West has gone too far too fast and it is time to take our collective foot off the gas.

Mike Wolpert of the Jaycees said we

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have to "turn the tide now, so in 20 years we can look back and be proud." He felt we should diversify from tourism.

"We've gone too far towards Miami Beach -- let's regress 10 years," urged Marvin Hovel from the High Noon Lions.

Langley wanted to "recapture the 1965 spirit and quality of life," and keep the existing housing stock as residential, not transient.

Robert Walker, principal of award-winning Horace O'Bryant school, agreed we should reduce our transient population and push for "a community of owners with a stake in the future and a commitment to quality of life." Walker also wanted a four-year college.

Whalton called first for "protection of the environment," then "controlling the growth

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of government, nourishing the arts and cottage industry," and finally moving Key West toward "self-sufficiency."

Hotel/Motel's Herrick bravely suggested "low-impact tourism," and hoped in 20 years we'd still have a "tolerant, bohemian attitude," plus low crime and excellent hospital care.

Horton, by title representing Florida Keys Memorial Hospital but in philosophy still a member of the Hotel/Motel Association wanted to "keep our small town atmosphere."

William Seeker, president of Florida Keys Community College, said we should have "Santa Claus for our mayor," and should "set a population cap at 50,000 people." This prompted groans and whispers. Many were in consent that we needed to limit population, but thought Seeker's number far too high.

City Commissioner Sally Lewis, speaking for the cultural preservation board, said we are already at 50,000 when you add locals, winter residents and tourists, and pointed out that our police department is already overburdened. She had a long wish list including saving recreation areas, eliminating the drug problem and improving water quality and city services before adding

any new development.

At this point, Peter Anderson bubbled over with amazement.

"We're all of one mind," he said. "What have we been fighting about all these years?" He went on to suggest that it had been the developers we fought, and now they were nowhere to be found.

Hotel/Motel Association's Herrick bravely suggested "low-impact tourism," and hoped for a tolerant, bohemian attitude.

Sheriff Allison DeFoer went a little further. "It doesn't do any good for all of us to agree here, if we let the bozos drive bus," he said.

The rest of the afternoon passed quickly. Everyone agreed there is too much crime,

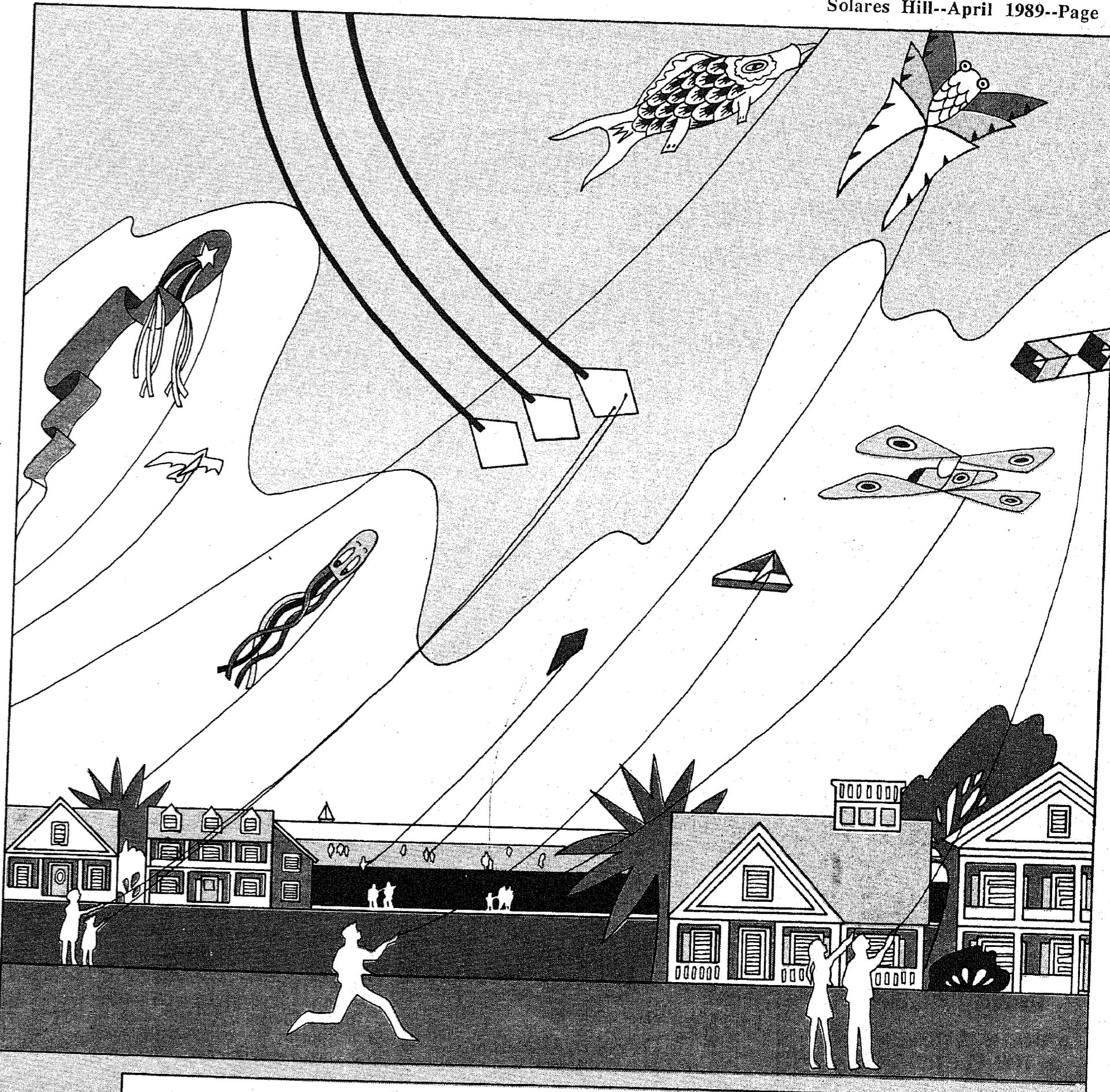
taxes are too high and we need to protect the environment.

After a final hour of platitudes about the environment, the meeting ended and everyone went back to their jobs or their homes. Big John Parks said we had made history. My feeling was we had produced a temporary agreement in a laboratory setting, like a hybrid ear of corn.

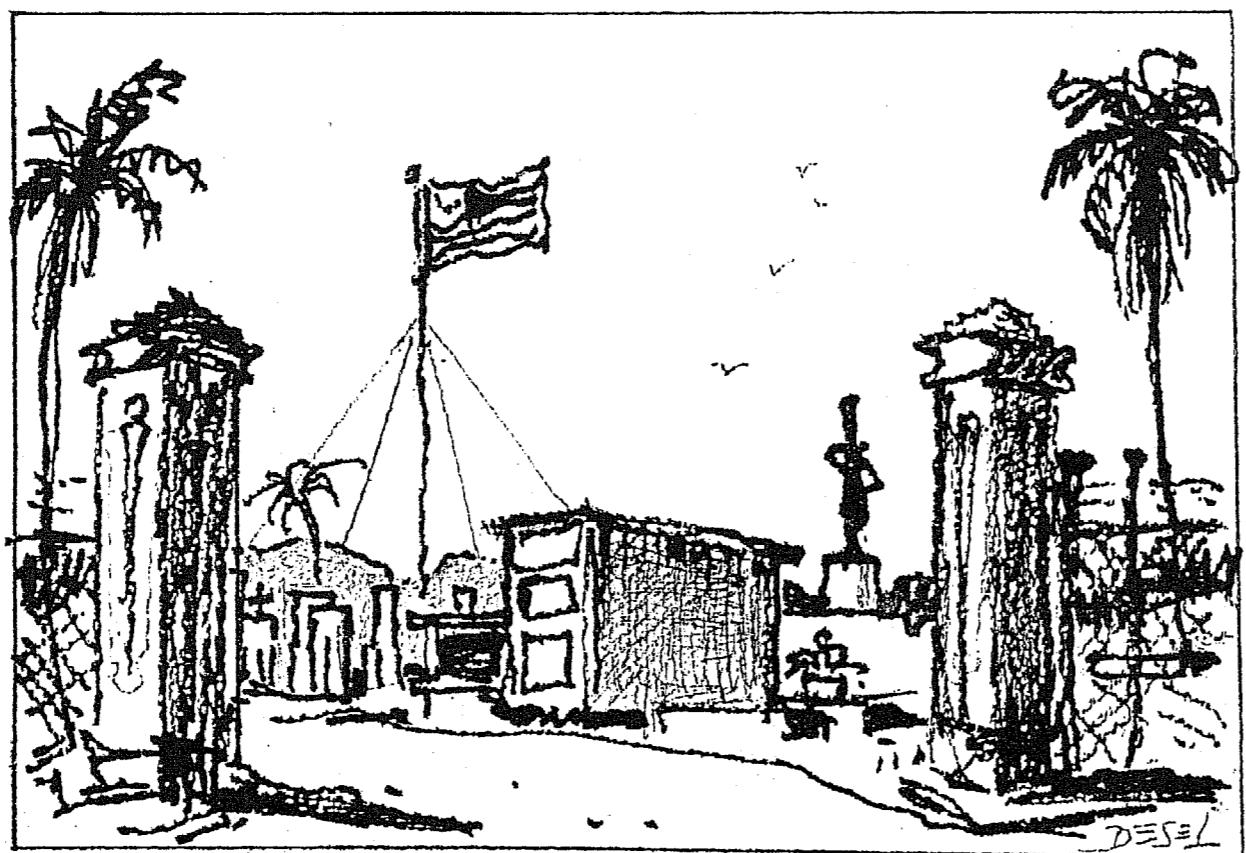
Yes, we had said, we've overdone development and tourism in Key West. And yes, we had concurred, the quality of life for residents has declined and we need to reverse this trend.

But back at our desks, would we base future decisions on today's agreement? Would public expression of thoughts many of us hold in private create a strength in numbers and a climate for change? Or would the pressure of deadlines and profit margins take over, leaving this day's ideals in the dust?

More meetings are planned. Maybe they will work, producing a kinder, gentler Key West. But just now, between the rock of spring break and the hard place of spring taxes, I understand why many locals have left for quieter pastures and why many more may follow if we don't make changes -- soon. 



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water from the blue is as sharply drawn as the line of the horizon."

1986

We find ourselves 129 years later at Ft. Clinch on Amelia Island south of St. Mary's River, following the fortunes of the modern Williams College group. This outfit traveled by camper and used transport equipment for its original purpose -- camping.

On their way from the North the explorers slept in tents and made few restaurant stops, most meals being cooked outdoors. Camping and sharing the work was a useful leveler; people got to know each other. General campfire talk particularly impressed one 19-year-old, who wrote "conversation in my experience had rarely had such depth."

After a sodden week in the rain the group packed up in the middle of the night and headed south "while literally dripping wet." After another damp day they wound up at Hurricane Lodge in Marathon, where one member reported that he was at last "snug and warm in my sleeping bag on the dry floor." But being from the North, he had the air conditioner running.

Next day, in chamber-of-commerce sunshine, the budding scientists confronted their first Keys wildlife -- burrowing owls -- on the par-three golf course at the airport. Then on to Sunshine Key, which was short on biology but "we learned what an RV is. There were compact RVs, RVs with sunroofs, RVs with supersonic radar devices, RI and VT RVs -- some even had vegetable gardens, complete with watchdog and sprinkler system.

"The entire island had been commercialized, save a small rim of sand around its edge and a marshy area south of US1. But to our surprise, birds were nearly everywhere. A dense population of pelicans blanketed the marina, lying in wait for the fishermen ... cattle egrets prowled the campsites, with palm warblers dancing in the bushes above them.

"The highlight of the day was our first



Members of the 1857 Florida expedition gathered on campus for this photograph with specimens they had collected. Professor Chadbourne is shown seated on the box at the left. Note the Spanish moss draped artistically on the New England spruce tree. This is a reproduction of an original photograph from the Williamsiana Collection, taken from a photo album compiled by Richard Halsey Ward, Class of 1858.

view of a great white heron. It was standing on the back porch of a trailer. It was so still that we at first mistook it for an ornament like those flamingo garden statues seen so often in Williamstown.

"Scampering in the shadows nearby, a single ground dove was searching for food... Here, too, we experienced the first few coconuts of the expedition. The consistency and flavor of the shredded form on candies has always kept me at arms length. But so tasty was it in the natural form that I took great pains in preparing enough for a fruit salad for dessert at supper..."

Key West, 1857

It was midnight when *Dew-Drop* first saw the Key West and Sand Key lights. The latter had been working for only three years; 131 years later, they still are on duty.

By four in the morning, the ship had anchored in what was called "the Middle Ground," four miles from shore. The nearest visible land was Key West, which later proved to have stunted vegetation and

"not a single tree." After breakfast the group anchored near the town and went ashore to explore.

"The city, which numbers about 3,000 inhabitants, is filled with elegant tropical residences ... surrounded by tasteful gardens of blooming oleanders and choice southern plants. Notwithstanding the dryness of the sandy soil, everything appeared green and flourishing, and the beautiful pink blossoms of the favorite rosebay [oleander] were bursting over every fence.

"The business portion of the city is inferior in appearance, very little local business being carried on, and the traders depending mostly on the visits of the California steamers, the ships of war, and the spoils of the wrecking business."

During this period, of course, the "inferior appearance of the city" had not prevented "the spoils of the wrecking business" from making the town the richest per capita in the country.

"A gigantic fortification [Fort Taylor] is nearly completed on a shoal half a mile

south of the harbor." The fort was originally on an island.

The Army commanding officer, a Major Sanders, extended every courtesy to the students, supplying a pilot and numerous biological specimens. He advised the leaders to concentrate their scientific endeavors on the Dry Tortugas and Bahia Honda.

The next day was rainy, a boon to the residents, whose cisterns were nearly empty after a dry five months, but not much help to specimen hunters. Heaps of shells were everywhere, but ones with living creatures inside were scarce. Whatever washed up on the beach during the day was soon scavenged by small boys and invalids from the hospital.

When the sun came out, prospectors aboard one of the *Dew Drop's* boats discovered a pelican rookery. They brought back a basket of eggs and young birds. The bottom of the boat was covered with birds they had shot and with various other marine wonders, chiefly shells.

Key West, 1986

The modern expedition had been forewarned that their biological studies would not be much advanced by studying

...the travelers were convinced they saw drug smugglers.

Key West itself. The island had grown hundreds of handsome trees -- generations of them -- but it had also become citified. The 1986 group was therefore more interested in their forthcoming voyage to Dry Tortugas. They viewed Key West more or less as downtown-trippers.

"Key West looked very touristy ... every other shop was selling souvenirs which included everything from shell necklaces to T-shirts. The rest were selling bikinis, bright clothes and scuba gear.

"After a delicious seafood meal we split into groups to see the town closer up. From this vantage point it took on a new character."

Still dominant were T-shirt shops and the like, but the travelers were convinced they saw drug smugglers. Certainly there were "big fat bouncers, undercover cops, bums that begged and some great rhythm and blues, too.

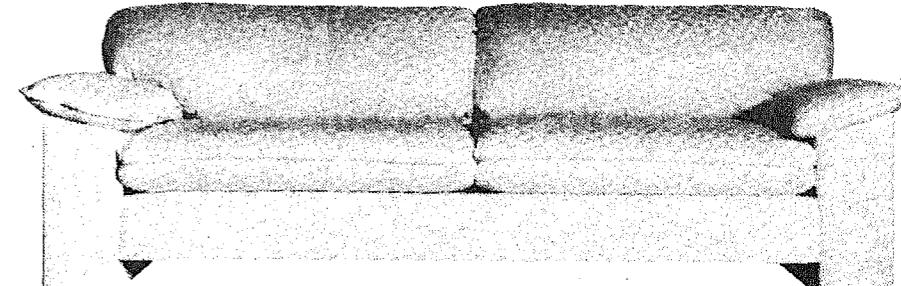
"We walked through tree-lined alleys alight with lanterns posts and one or two solitary musicians."

One of the party ascribed importance to Key West for its novelty. "How can you set out to discover and explore without a frontier town, a jumping off point, a last bastion? In this age of professionalism and middle class barbecues, it is heartening to know that there are still places in the U.S. where the white collar john with no hair on his face is still laughed at.

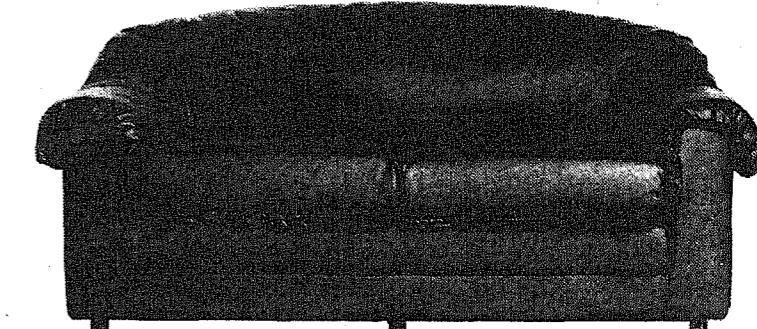
"Key West has a huge population of 'alternative' lifestyles. As a local said, 'It's the end of the road. Everyone has a story to tell of bad things gone by in another place.'"

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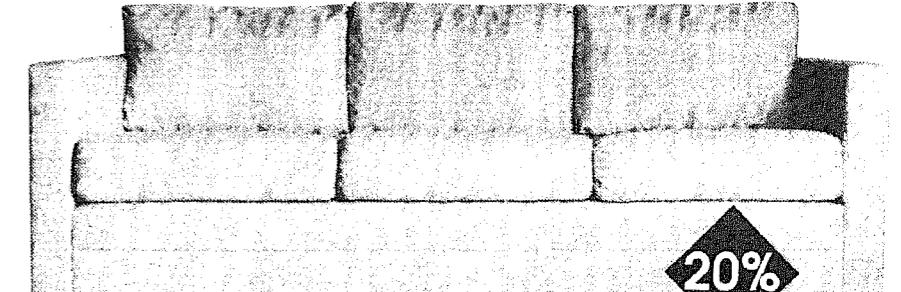
...and the armchairs, coffee tables, lamps and rugs to go with them.



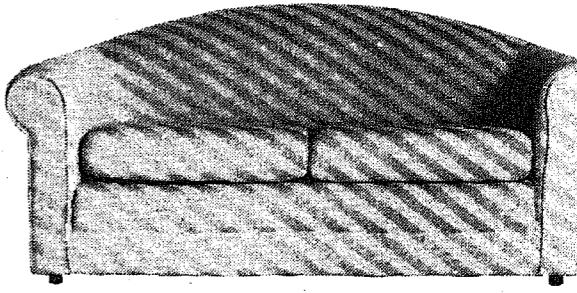
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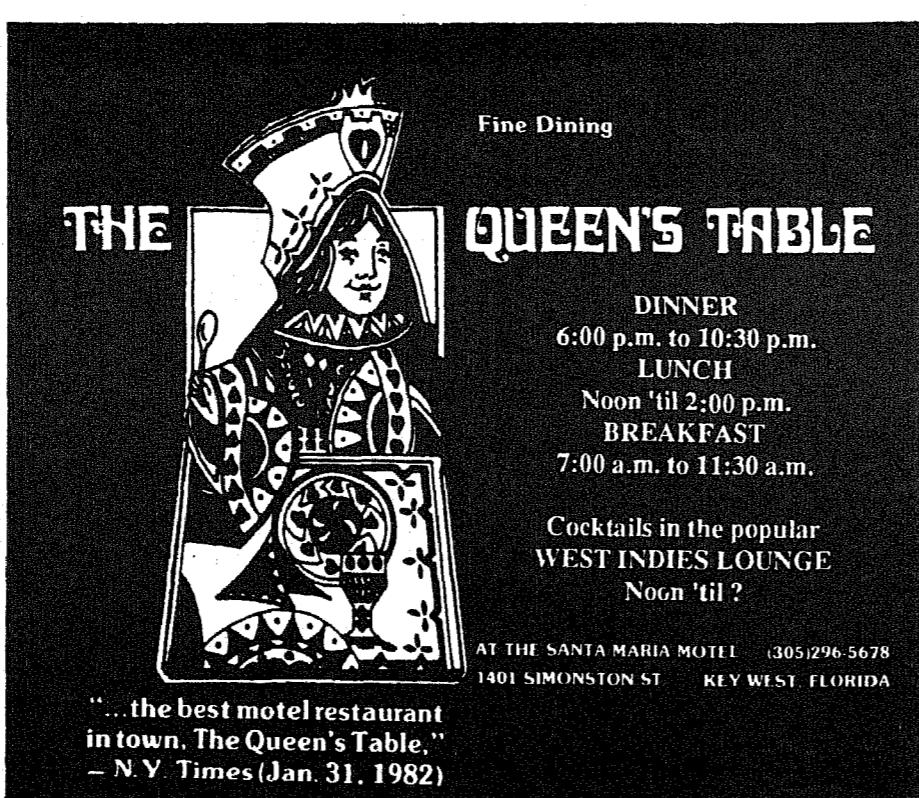
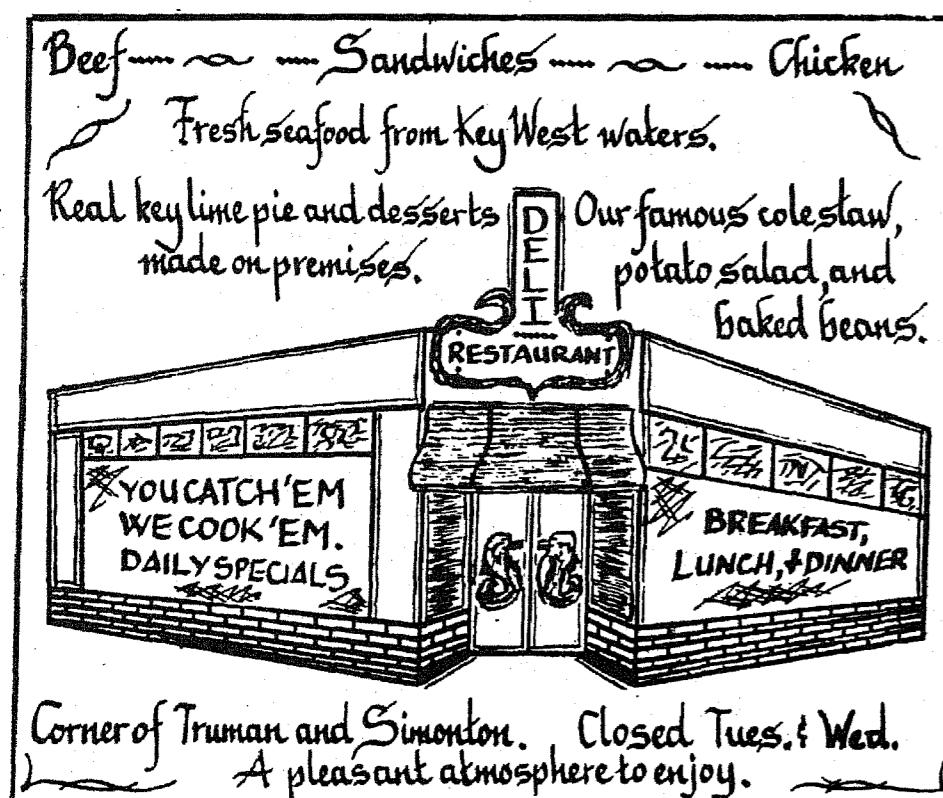


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Big Pine and Bahia Honda, 1857

The focus of each expedition was the Dry Tortugas, but there were minor points of biological interest at Key West and its environs.

The 19th century group was fortunate enough to employ a man in Key West whom they described as "an experienced wrecker." Whatever his true calling, he proved to be a satisfactory guide to Big Pine and Bahia Honda. They anchored their schooner under the lee of Big Pine, since the experienced wrecker told them it was unwise to risk the reefs and shoals at night. They busied themselves catching "poghees, grunter and catfish."

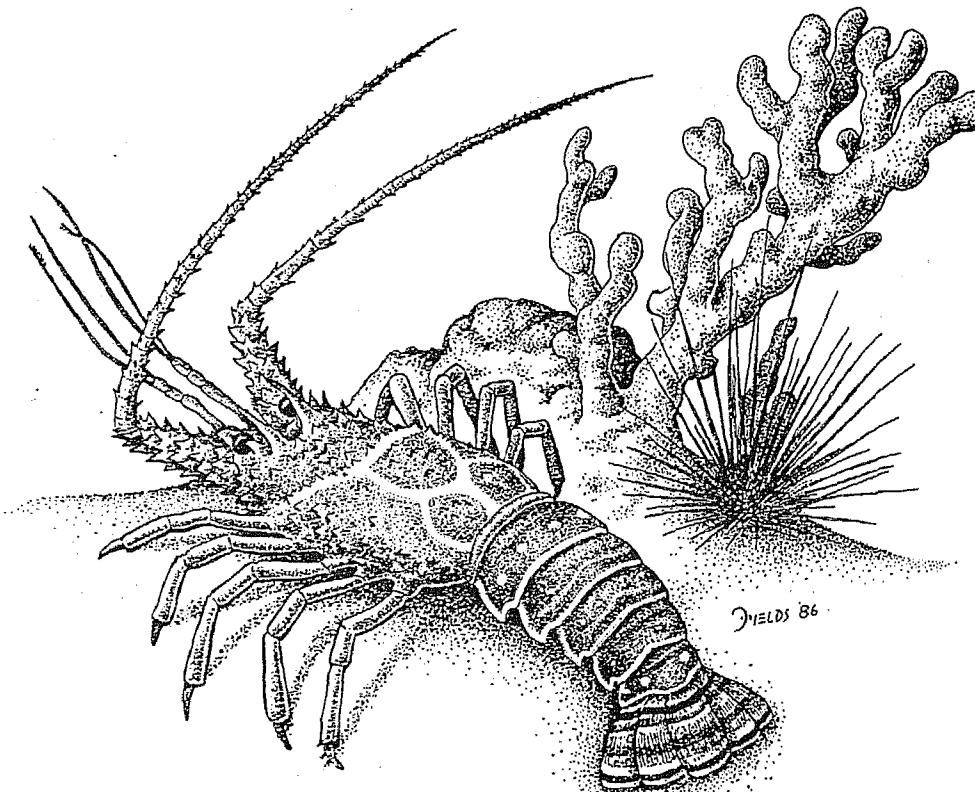
"We found Bahia Honda tenanted only by the Coast Guard tide markers, who lived in a tent on the beach and watched the tide gauge day after day. A more monotonous existence could hardly be imagined. [Some of our party] took the large boat and sailed over to a shoal about a mile distant from the anchorage ... They found here an immense quantity of valuable specimens; sea fans and feathers, corallines, corals of the pebblestone and lichen-like varieties; sponges, polyps, sea urchins and starfish, cuttlefish twisting their snaky folds, crawfish darting away from under the feet of an intruding naturalist, conch shells and tritons.

"Two hours had not passed before the boat was loaded with one of the most valuable cargoes it had ever contained and the party was obliged to return to the vessel, leaving a pile of conch shells large enough to fill the boat a second time."

Bahia Honda and Big Pine, 1986

At Bahia Honda the '86 explorers, unlike their predecessors, found the shelling poor and blamed it on the tourists. "The large conch shells for which the Keys are famous are very difficult to find."

They did sight a Louisiana heron and the



"reddish egret," as well as many types of sandpipers and plover running in the shallows. "Cormorants dived and stayed under for a minute at a time."

On Big Pine chameleons (anolies) climbed in the trees. A "dwarf Key deer" seemed wholly unafraid. A long morning was spent in searching for a particular variety of cactus. In the afternoon, they hiked through Watson's Hammock.

The following day they finally found the cacti. "I think the effort necessary to see them protects them and also makes them more fascinating."

Dry Tortugas, 1857

After their short stay in Key West, with side trip to Bahia Honda, the earlier party set sail for the Dry Tortugas. "The wind was fresh, and we rolled merrily along

before the white-tipped waves. We spied the lighthouse and the rising walls of Fort Jefferson about the middle of the afternoon... At four o'clock we anchored under the walls of the fort. The massive foundations encircle the whole island ... promising to become the largest and most impregnable fortification in the world." (The fort became obsolete five years after this was written.)

"The days were very warm and clear; the evenings were calm and bright. After spending a long laborious day ... we would take the little boats and float around in the silver moonlight, watching the bright stars of the Southern Cross ... The weather was especially propitious to our undertaking ... and the deck was covered with barrels, boxes, kegs and baskets."

"It was with great reluctance that we prepared to leave this productive area of scientific investigation. No Pacific coral reef could be richer than these reefs of the Tortugas. During the week there we preserved no less than 12 barrels of marine curiosities. We had, however, received imperative orders to leave Key West on the 10th of April.

"Just before departure [from Key West] the usual tranquillity of the harbor was broken by the simultaneous arrival of three ocean steamers, the *Isabel* from Havana, the *Tennessee* from San Juan and an iron

propeller from Philadelphia. The *Tennessee* had a large number of General Walker's soldiers onboard, returning from the wars in Nicaragua. They were a sorry looking set of men -- pale, emaciated, suffering, many of them, from wounds and disease, and destitute of everything but the clothes on their backs.

"At an early hour next morning we loosed our sails to a favoring breeze ... it was with no small satisfaction that we viewed the remarkable success which had attended the progress of our cruise."

Dry Tortugas, 1986

The group was invited to spend the night aboard ship, so a start could be made at five in the morning, when Key West harbor proved to be "where lay the ships in a depthless jungle of masts."

The *Flying Horse*, the larger and faster

Continued on page 46

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UPSCALE

Solid Waste and the 30-Percent Solution

An investigation of the county's trash management options

by Amy Fischer

In the wake of the final public hearing regarding municipal solid waste disposal in Monroe County, held at Key Colony Beach on March 14, 1989, it is apparent that some of us are still looking for a quick fix solution to our trash problems. After decades of "bury it and forget it" or "burn it and forget it" attitudes, we are now faced with a solid waste crisis. It seems inconceivable that Monroe County would continue to entertain ideas of massive incineration, or experiment with some of the "miracle" solutions that alleviate the need for trash separation.

In 1987 Monroe County hired Hazen and Sawyer as consultants at a price of \$599,000. They were to advise the county in solid waste management planning through the next 30 years. Their report was to be finished December, 1988, but the deadline was extended for six months.

During the past month Hazen and Sawyer have held public meetings to introduce their plan to Monroe County residents. Their "integrated solid waste and energy conservation program" involves 40-percent recycling combined with waste-to-energy plants. These will process 375 tons of waste per day, with 50 to 100 of those tons being composted. They also plan

for a new long-term landfill.

By far the most volatile issue at the meetings was the siting of the long-term landfill. Sites under final consideration are Crawl Key, Long Key and Carysford. Citizens living near these sites don't want to acquire a landfill as a neighbor. But if

It is encouraging that citizen reaction to recycling was overwhelmingly positive.

Monroe County continues to grow, some of them will. And with the current Hazen and Sawyer plan, with its emphasis on incineration, the landfill could be used for both unrecyclable, non-burnable trash as well as fly and bottom ash -- some of which routinely exceed hazardous waste specifications.

One method of reducing the volume and toxicity of trash destined for the landfill is to aggressively pursue a broadbased recycling program, seeking out new markets for recyclable materials and concentrating time and money in this area.

Hazen and Sawyer recently mailed a questionnaire to Monroe County residents to help determine attitudes toward trash management. Of the 266 residential and 130 commercial questionnaires distributed, 100 and 63, respectively responded. It is encouraging to note that citizen reaction to recycling was overwhelmingly positive. Over 60 percent of all respondents were in favor of some type of curbside recycling program.

Sixty-seven percent of residents and 40 percent of businesses polled stated that recycling would only be a slight inconvenience to them. Only 15 percent of the residents polled felt recycling would be a major inconvenience. Businesses were concerned primarily with added storage and labor needs and possible insect and rodent problems.

What about burning? Monroe County operates eight incinerators: three at Key Largo; three at Long Key; and two at Cudjoe Key. When these incinerators reach the end of their useful lives -- about 1995 -- the county has two choices. We can refit them with all new components, or the complete facility needs to be scrapped and we will have to build anew. What's more, existing incinerators do not have the required air pollution control devices; the cost of fitting our incinerators with these

devices is \$20 to \$25 million.

Weighing the Options

Several companies, in hopes of eventually managing the county's waste problem, presented the county commissioners with programs which would take our entire waste stream, change it to a useable product, create no residue, and cause no public or environmental hazards. Sound too good to be true? It may be.

The first such option was the *pyrolysis system*, presented by the Recovery Company. This moves the entire waste stream, minus large ferris pieces, through a reaction chamber, which removes the oxygen and heats the material to a high temperature. The by-product is then cooled and stored for sale.

By-products include a heavy crude-like oil which could be used in oil refineries or a generating plant; producer gas which would run the pyrolysis system or be sold to other facilities which need gas; and carbon black, a "mixture of glass, red metal, clay,

aluminum, silver and gold which can be further refined" or used as a fuel in power plants.

The only commitment the Recovery Company requires of the county is a site for their plant and a contract for the waste stream at current tipping fees: \$60 per ton.

One pyrolysis plant operates in the United States. Its waste stream consists of only tires. Can Monroe County afford to be a guinea pig for this method of trash disposal? What are the environmental evaluations of the crude oil, the producer gas, or the carbon black? Is it really possible to take a waste stream of toxic substances, heat them at high temperatures, and get a by-product with no pollutants? Perhaps 20 years ago, that would have been believable. But we have learned since that there are no easy solutions to waste disposal and toxic contamination.

Agripost presented the second "miracle cure" offered for our solid waste problem. This composting process takes all municipal waste except that which is toxic, hazardous,

or too big to fit into the hammermills. Here toxic and hazardous are defined as wastes classified by the EPA as *industrial*. But what of normal household products that enter the waste stream every day? What about paints, varnishes, insect sprays, some detergents and plastics? If there is no separation before composting, how can environmental safety standards be maintained?

Assuming that municipal waste is non-toxic, this is Agripost's method: The total waste stream is shredded twice to reduce it to a manageable size. It is sprayed with a "special bacterial inoculant," and is then windrowed to begin composting. After about 21 days, the material is sent through another shredder and the large pieces are removed and sent back through the process. The rest is bagged and sold on the market as *agrisoil*. Agripost promises an environmentally safe by-product.

The company has not had a plant in operation since 1972, and that was in Jamaica. Twenty years ago the Jamaican



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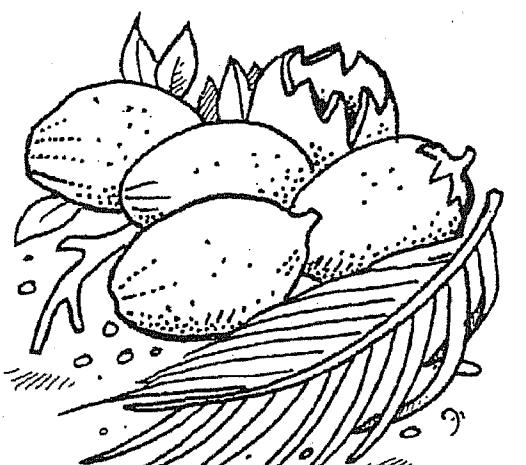
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waste stream differed greatly from today's American municipal trash. Agripost has not operated a plant in the United States since the 1950s. Since then, environmental testing has become much more stringent.



TRASH: JAMAICA 1972

Is Monroe County going to settle for potentially hazardous "soil" being made from our trash? What of the possibility of heavy rains leaching toxins out of the composting pile? Who will be held liable if it is determined that the final agrisoil causes human health problems or contaminates the environment where it is used?

The final alternative to the Hazen and Sawyer plan was the Lundell System, which appears to realize that recycling is a necessary component to waste management. In this method large items would be

removed, then the garbage bags spread out. Some high density and PET (two-liter soda bottles) plastics will be removed by hand. Through several mechanical processes, ferrous metals; leaves, grass and wet organic materials; glass; aluminum; and more plastics are removed. The final component of the trash, mostly paper and soft plastic items, would be densified into "energy pellets" which are used as a blend for coal-burning industrial plants.

About 15 percent of the solid waste stream, including soft plastics and disposable diapers, is landfilled. Glass is removed with compost items and crushed, screened out, and either landfilled or sold as crushed glass. A company spokesperson indicated that EP Tox Tests on the energy pellets, dioxin and furan emissions have been within EPA requirements.

The EPA EP Tox Test (Extraction Procedure Toxicity Test) is used to detect hazardous waste. The test requires samples to be tested in a pH5 acid solution. But there are ways to treat material to help it pass the test. Consequently, the EP Tox Test does not necessarily ensure public and environmental safety.

No single method of solid waste disposal may work for Monroe County; we should be hesitant about adopting the Hazen and Sawyer plan as it now exists. The newly appointed Solid Waste Task Force needs to aggressively pursue non-burn alternatives for solid waste disposal, using incineration and landfilling only as a last resort, not as an integral part of Monroe County waste management.



TRASH: KEY WEST 1989

Controlling the Flow

A simple method of determining how much waste will be generated in the next four years will be to embrace mandated recycling programs 100 percent. Instead of paying lip service to recycling and then planning for high-tech solutions to solid waste, the task force should closely study the pilot programs for recycling which are to be implemented in July.

They should follow and interpret the results of these programs before committing to other waste solutions.

If participation in the pilot programs in Marathon and Key West is positive, the programs immediately should be expanded, both in the number of citizens involved and in the type of waste being recycled. A commercial pilot program should be implemented as well.

The municipal service district and the

City of Key West hope to have their recycling programs implemented by July 1, 1989. There is some question with Senate Bill 1192 as to whether the plans need to be formulated by July 1, 1989, or actually implemented. But both the municipal service district and the city would like to begin recycling by July 1, 1989.

The most obvious recyclables are aluminum, newsprint, and glass; these items are targeted in the pilot programs. In the future, the programs may add plastics (both PET and high density), scrap steel, bimetal products, other paper, and corrugated cardboard. How many items we recycle will depend on how easy it is to find markets for these products.

There are rumors of a plastics recycling plant on the drawing board for Florida. This would facilitate recycling soda bottles and milk jugs, since at the present time these high-bulk, low-weight items would have to be shipped out of state.

Although the county has been charged with overall implementation of Senate Bill 1192, the City of Key West and Monroe County have an agreement by which they agree to work together on solid waste disposal. The county has hired a recycling coordinator, Connie Grabois, formally of the county planning department, who begins her duties on March 27.

Grabois will work with both the Marathon and Key West pilot programs to determine the most cost effective and efficient manner of curbside pickup. She will also direct public awareness campaigns, and assist participants in programs. Grabois, who was not available for comment on this story, has participated in the planning and development of a similar program in a five-county area before moving to the Keys. We look forward to discussing Monroe County's recycling potential with Grabois.

Who Will Try?

The Marathon pilot program will include 3,000 to 4,000 households. These will not include condominiums, trailer parks or commercial units. The MSD will choose routes that service the most homes with the least amount of traveling for the trucks. The program aims to achieve a balance of low, middle and high income families.

Once a week participants in the program will set out their separated trash. There will also be a weekly pickup for just

nonrecyclables. Though participation in the program is voluntary, if enough citizens do not comply, steps will be taken to insure we reach the 30-percent recycling goal mandated by the Florida legislature.

Key West plans to test two areas of town in its pilot program. One area is in New Town behind the North Roosevelt strip, where the majority of housing is single family. This will encompass 500 to 1,000 households. The second area is in Old Town. Though the exact routes have not been established, this area will also include 500 to 1,000 households. Again, condominiums, trailers, apartment buildings or commercial units will not be included.

Separated trash will be picked up once a week..

Separated trash will be picked up once a week and incorporated into the regular routes. As with Marathon's program, Key West will begin with voluntary participation. If that proves ineffective, the city will consider mandatory recycling.

Neither MSD nor Key West has finalized the types of equipment to be used. Bids have been opened at MSD for trucks, crushers and balers. The county is looking at a single container, that mingles the recyclables with newsprint on top. The city is undecided on the choice of container, since in part it depends on the hauler.

State grants are available to help counties develop waste-stream-reduction systems. Grants are determined by the number of permanent residents in the county. This is unfair to counties like Monroe, because much of our municipal solid waste is generated by transitory residents and tourists. South Florida counties are negotiating to have the grants based on tonnage.

Paul Wicks, the county grants writer, is applying for two grants: one for two hazardous waste storage facilities in the Keys, and one for an oil recycling center. Waste storage facilities would handle hazardous wastes collected from municipal trash, such as paints, sprays, etc. The county would be able to hold hazardous wastes for 90 days, and then contract with a licensed hazardous hauler for removal.

Currently the county has no method of dealing with municipal hazardous wastes.

There are no recycling options for residents of Big Pine, Summerland, Sugarloaf or any where between Key West and Marathon. Residents of those areas are encouraged to drop their recyclables off at the Stock Island recovery center (the incinerator) or the processing plant in Marathon.

By placing recycling igloos in accessible locations in the Lower Keys, the county could increase the recycling program to include these residents, and help reach a goal of 40-percent recycling by 1992. Trucks taking recyclables from Key West could stop at these locations on the way to Marathon.

The Naval Station, too, could be included in the recycling program. Currently the Navy contracts with the city to pick up its municipal solid waste.

There are many recycling options. But adequate public participation must be achieved through awareness, education and peer and regulatory pressure if we are to reach our mandated 30-percent goal. Then the municipal service district, the City of Key West, and the solid waste task force can develop safe, efficient, cost-effective and non-hazardous disposal for the 70-percent remaining waste stream.

We have the chance to develop a comprehensive waste disposal plan for our environmentally sensitive Florida Keys. Let's begin by a concerted, aggressive curbside and drop-off recycling program now. ☐

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Knee Deep in the Trenches

A Working Parent's Guide to Child Care

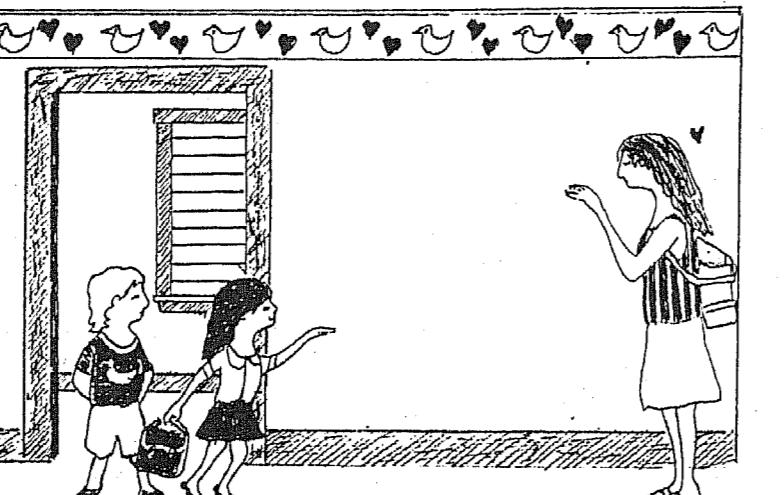
by Elizabeth Smith

Twenty-five years ago the notion of large groups of toddlers under the supervision of a "Supermom" seemed like something from the distant future, an episode of the *Twilight Zone*. Then again, society had yet to experience a New York businesswoman strolling down Fifth Avenue, the protrusion of a six-month fetus covered stylishly by Liz Clairborne.

In the last year, Key Westers have accepted a pregnant Spectre on stage, bopping to Motown; and we've applauded Box Office Poison, a locally written play in which a couple brings their little bundle of joy to rehearsals. Key West society is flexible; we create our rules around life, not our lives around rules. Or do we?

In this article, writer Elizabeth Smith researches the day care options for people who procreate in paradise.

Just where does a working parent stand in Key West? Too often, up against the wall. Between the high cost of island living and the fact that Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) doesn't figure rent costs into its calculations, a job is an absolute must. Arguments about full-time parenting vs. career are, for most, moot.



Illustrations

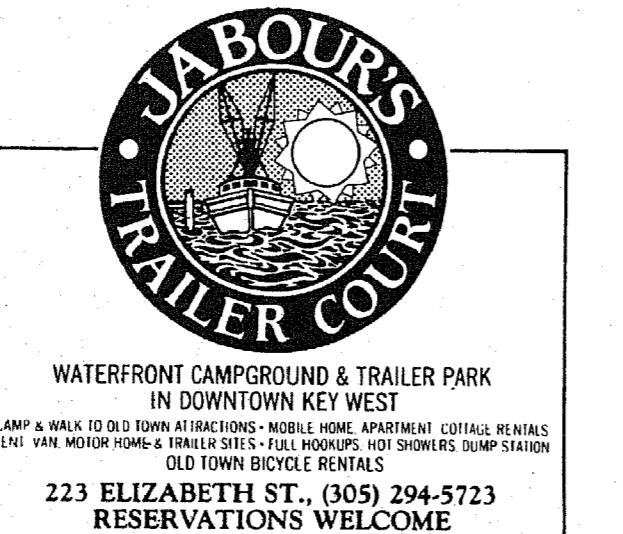
by Jim Sherrington

Statistics indicate that the number of mothers of preschool children who work in Monroe County is slightly above the national average of 50 percent. There are alternatives to leaving baby in one place while mother toils in another. But for most the frantic search for child care is on.

In the Key West/Stock Island area, we have the choice of five preschools and nine day care centers available to the general public. A list can be obtained through the Monroe County School Board or found in the Yellow Pages. Friends, other mothers, pediatricians and Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) can also be a source of information.

In my visits to day care centers, I witnessed a lot of love and interest in warm and pleasant environments. But I also saw workers smoking cigarettes around children and in kitchen areas. I saw a roomful of unattended children: the caregiver was standing outside, monitoring children on trips to the bathroom. I visited a few centers where the director never seemed to be on the premises and one center in which a single caregiver was in charge of a darkened room full of "napping" children.

So, when "shopping around" for a day care center for your child, the key words would seem to be: observe and compare. Several factors should be considered:



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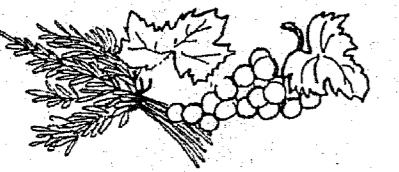
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location of the facility, age of child (few day-care centers will take a child below three months; the minimum age for preschool enrollment is two years), your work schedule, and fees. Automatically, the choices can be narrowed down.

Some children thrive on the stimulation of a center, while others prefer the individualized attention of a family group. La Leche League leader Janet Griffin offers these suggestions in making the decision: "Look at the individual child and his special needs and match the child care to those needs." All child care involves trade-offs or compromises; each parent has to weigh the options.

Day Care Centers

Most Key West day care centers and preschools have a waiting list. This

includes Wesley House, which is primarily funded by HRS and subsidizes day care according to income. The waiting period for a space at the center averages from three to six months; HRS referrals receive priority. HRS refers victims of abuse or suspected abuse; children whose families have volunteered for HRS supervision; or children whose parent/parents are enrolled in HRS Project Independence -- a job-training and skill-development program.

Joe Barker, executive director of Wesley House, said HRS referrals have increased 700 percent in one year. A second subsidized center is slated to open on Truman Avenue by May or June. It will accept about 50 children, aged from two to six years.

Fees for day care centers other than Wesley House range from \$40 to \$55 for a

full week; most are open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Costs for a family day care home are comparable.

According to state law, day care centers must be licensed by HRS. Church-affiliated centers are exempt if they are registered by a recognized religious organization such as Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools. In the Key West area, only one day care center and two preschools have no religious affiliation. These are either church operated -- which entails acknowledgement of God as part of their daily program -- or their premises are on church-owned property.

All church-operated facilities are licensed by HRS except Temple Christian Day Care Center on Stock Island. All preschools are HRS-licensed except Mary Immaculate Star of the Sea School. It is accredited by the

Day Care in the Big City

The relative isolation and fiscal stress in Monroe County have, thus far, pre-empted us from two day care options gaining in popularity in other areas of the country.

On-site day care for working mothers, such as is provided for employees by Cigna Insurance Company of Connecticut would seem to be the best option in terms of convenience and peace of mind. Studies have found significant benefits for employers such as lower job turnover and absenteeism, improved employee attitude toward work and the employer.

Some of Monroe County's larger businesses are considering assistance to employees with preschool-aged children. A reimbursement system for day care costs is one option. According to the personnel director of one of our larger hotels, one of the biggest obstacles to on-site day care is the prohibitive cost of liability insurance.

B.J. Clawson, Child-Find Specialist for South Monroe County Schools, reports that Key Largo Elementary School has provided an on-site day-care facility for its staff.

It is directed by a parents board which plans curriculum and hires caregivers. Clawson expressed the belief that on-site care for a commercial establishment, "given the room and the right instructor, could pay for itself."

One of the national chains of "early learning centers" such as Kinder Care, is a second option to hope for. These are at the big-business end of the babysitting market. Centers that have been established around the country can each accommodate over 100 children. The organization may be slick, but the downside of these behemoths may be "production-line child care."



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Preschools

Key West offers five preschools with academic enrichment programs to children older than two. There is Pre-school Co-operative and Montessori. Children must be toilet trained. Grace Lutheran School accepts children older than three, while Mary Immaculate Star of the Sea School and the Pre-school Learning Center enroll students in their fourth year. Although registered as a day care facility, Wesley House follows a "strict educational program that is age appropriate," says Joe Barker.

While it may be comforting for working parents to know that their children are receiving intellectual stimulation, a child in preschool often requires additional care for after-school hours and vacations -- since preschools follow the public school calendar. Both Montessori and Grace Lutheran offer after-hour and year-round day care.

The Pre-school Co-operative is considering a year-round schedule also. Presently they are open 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Parental



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participation, such as working in the classroom on a rotating basis and attending a monthly general meeting, is required. This may present difficulties for those working 9 to 5.

For parents with a more flexible schedule, it is an opportunity to share an exciting developmental stage with their children and like-minded adults. Parents own, administer and staff this preschool on a nonprofit basis. Three of the other preschools are also nonprofit, funded mainly by tuitions and fundraising events.

Preschool fees are higher than day care. The price range is \$100 to \$140 per month for morning school and \$150 to \$210 for a full day. The teachers are, in most cases, better qualified than most. All but one (not including the Preschool Co-op) -- Grace Lutheran -- require a degree and/or teacher certification for their staff. At the Montessori School a \$1000 scholarship is available to previously registered students.

Curriculums at the two church operated schools -- Grace Lutheran and Mary Immaculate -- include religious instruction and church attendance. Tuition at Mary Immaculate is slightly less for a child from a Catholic family; both schools require their teachers to profess a belief in God. Grace Lutheran specifies a Christian belief in its hiring requirements.

All local preschools, except the co-operative, presently have waiting lists.

Outlook for the Future

What should we look for in an educational program? B.J. Clawson is an advocate of the "high-scope" approach, in which students and teachers come together in a decision as to how to spend their school day. "The teacher should be a facilitator," adds Clawson.

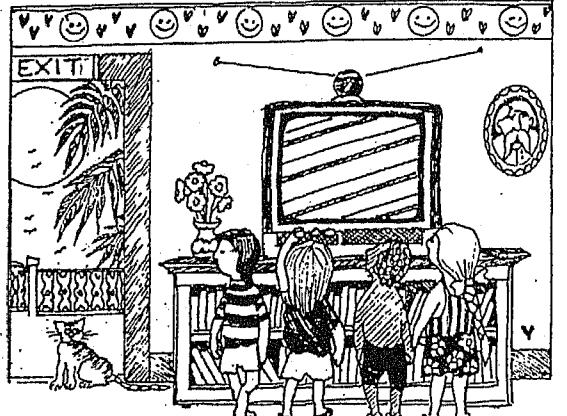
This is similar to Montessori's child-led approach.

"The benefit to the child involved in the decision-making process as opposed to rote learning," says Clawson, "is that it is not such a shock for them when they eventually leave high school. They are used to making their own decisions; these formative years are so important."

According to Ron Herring, chairman of Monroe County HRS: "One of the major problems we have in this county is lack of day care." Since the center on Big Coppitt closed last year due to a drop in enrollment, there are no center-based facilities between Stock Island and Big Pine.

"We can't keep up with classroom space," complains Clawson. "We outgrow them as soon as we build them. This area needs more subsidized day care. Wesley House shouldn't have a waiting list; there are children in need."

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Joe Barker agrees. "We should have a wider variety of day cares," he says. "We need more facilities and stricter licensing of those that exist. We are handing our children over to strangers. We don't know if they are cruel or manipulative. Society needs to see child care as a priority."

Clearly Monroe County has a long way to go. Perhaps one answer lies in a pattern created by Bill Ewing, Child Care Director of Pomona, California, Schools. The facilities offered within this system include:

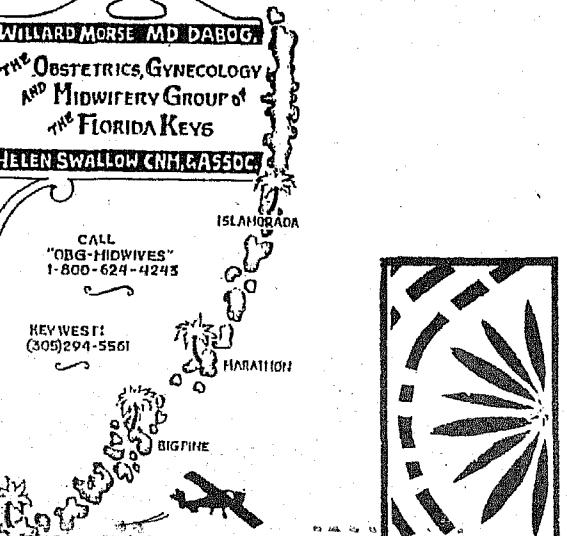
- A center that is open seven days a week, year-round;
- A "health home" for care of mildly sick children who would be refused admittance to other day care centers;
- A center that offers weekend/evening care;
- A nursery for babies of teenage mothers to allow them to resume their studies as soon as possible.

The highly trained staff at these centers are paid \$25,000 annually, a figure three times the national average for child care workers. Parents are charged on a sliding fee scale according to ability to pay. One mother paid 80¢ per week for the use of several facilities.

How does Ewing manage all this on a relatively small budget? He utilizes a combination of state and local grants and keeps costs to a minimum by utilizing existing buildings such as disused schools. (We have several here in Key West.)

His policy is to provide the right environment for the child at a price that parents can afford.

Ewing bemoans the lack of major funding for quality child care and sees it as an "indictment against the government." He is "convinced that parents have the right to expect decent child care," and he predicts a "child care revolution" before we achieve it.



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Reef Relief Cleanup to Focus on Reefs & Out-Islands: "Reef Dance" Follows

by DeeVon Quirolo

Reef Relief will be coordinating a cleanup of local area reefs and nearby Keys on Saturday, April 8. Private and charter boats are invited to participate. All Key West area reefs and the following Keys will be targeted -- Christmas Tree Island, Boca Grande, Woman Key and Man Key.

Boaters can pick up free garbage bags and data cards at Key West Seaport -- Club Diamond, at the foot of William Street, on Friday and Saturday. Boaters should bring their trash to the Key West Seaport dock adjacent to the Club Diamond. All fishing line that is collected will be weighed in on Saturday starting at noon. Trash will be received until 3 p.m. Look for the Reef Relief banner marking the weigh-in station.

Volunteers will be given a free Reef Relief poster for every two bags of garbage collected and recorded. Pro Photo is the local sponsor of the cleanup.

The cleanup will be followed by a "Reef Dance," open to the public, at Club Diamond, starting at 5 p.m. There will be a cash bar, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Reef Relief. The Survivors will provide live music.

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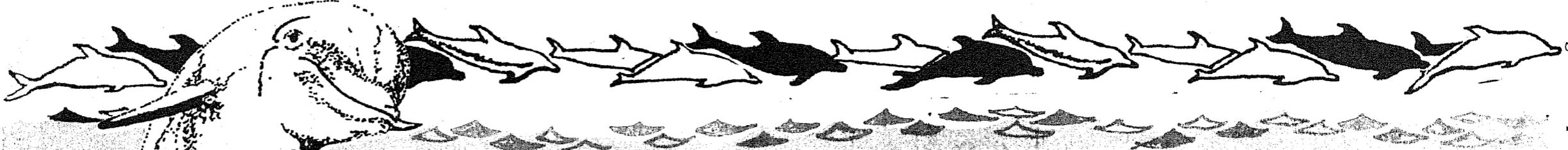
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WILD ENCOUNTER

by Chris Adair

In July of 1977, underwater photographer Chris Adair spent several weeks photographing a wild male spotted dolphin off the coast of the island of San Salvador in the Bahamas.

Conditions at San Salvador were great. The water was warm and visibility was beyond 125 feet. It was perfect for an underwater photo session of human/wild dolphin interaction. Encounters longer than a few moments are rare and only a few have been photographically documented.

Adair has worked on numerous scientific expeditions in the Keys and Bahamas, filming underwater footage of researchers working with sharks, some of which appeared in National Geographic's The Sharks. His still shots have been published in National Geographic's book Ocean Realm and Skin Diver Magazine. Adair took all photos on this page; partner and ironsculptor Reen Stanhouse designed the layout.

Adair and Stanhouse own a phototour business that operates from their boat, the Baiji, named after the Baiji River dolphin in China. Both artists exhibit their work year round at Guild Hall Gallery, 614 Duval Street.

One afternoon before getting into the water I noticed that the gold ankh I wore around my neck on the last dive was missing. It was not on the boat so I figured it must have fallen off while I was taking closeups of a black coral tree.

Sandy was acting funny, slapping his tail on the water's surface, signalling me to get back in and take more photos. Or so I thought.

When I entered the water Sandy headed straight down to a patch of white sand near the coral tree. He put his nose to the sand. There lay the ankh and the broken chain.

Dolphins are a gentle race. They deserve a place right up there next to if not above us in functional intelligence. The dolphin's smile fits his disposition perfectly. There is not a mean thought toward humans in that large brain of theirs. Still humans continuously mistreat dolphins on a global scale.

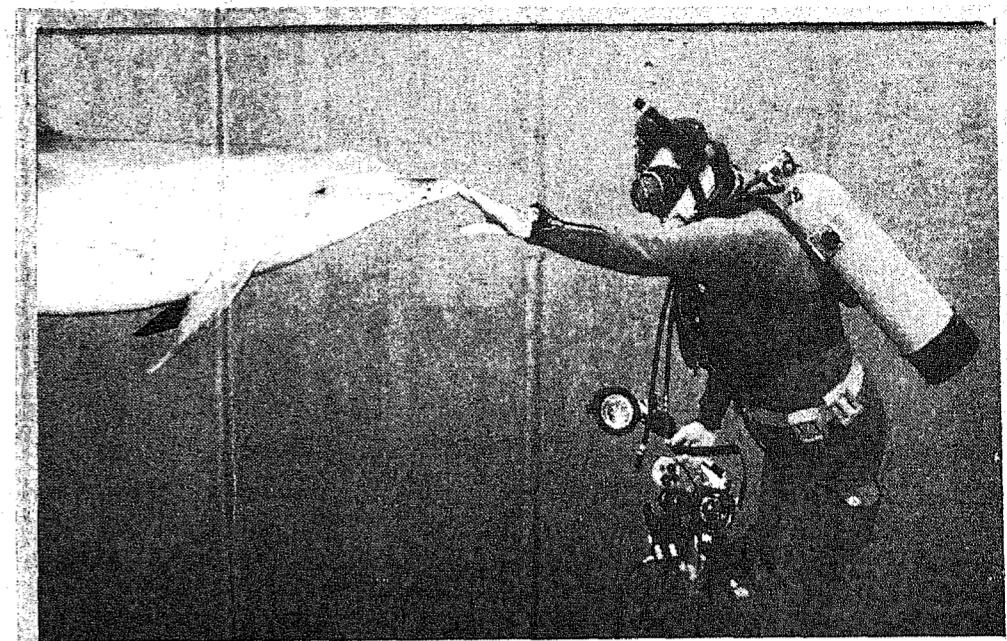
Dolphins are capable of astounding feats. Their sonar method of communication is far superior to our sonar equipment. Their evolution has solved the problem of laminar flow by controlling water turbulence at the skin and reducing drag. They get three times more power from their muscles than does any other species because their muscle cells hold a reservoir of oxygen.

Dolphins are curious and able to reason. I believe they also have a sentimental and emotional side. A dolphin will die before doing something he doesn't want to.

I like dolphins. People like dolphins. These feelings stretch back thousands of years to a time when religion and mythology blurred together as one.

Intrigued by the order of the universe, the Greeks observed everything about them including dolphins. Along the shores of ancient Greece, human/wild dolphin interactions were commonplace. There was great respect and admiration for these elegant water creatures.

Aristotle wrote about dolphins in 350 BC, in *The History of Animals*. He noticed they



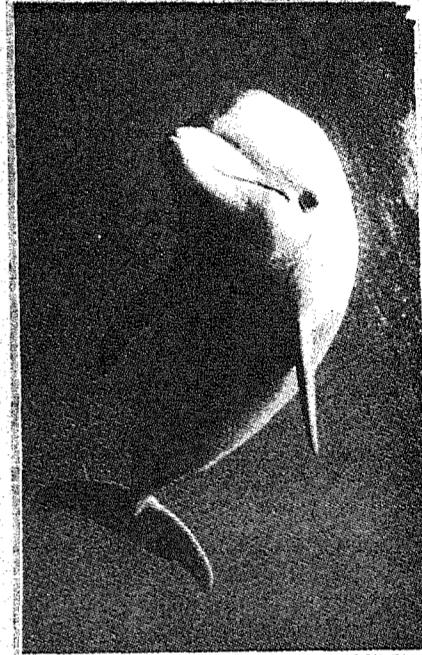
Paul Tzimoulis, editor of Skin Diver magazine, touches Sandy for the first time. Paul was at San Salvador Island to teach an underwater photography course.

formed strong maternal bonds and showed care for injured companions and friendliness towards humans. Most of what Aristotle wrote, including that dolphins were mammals, has been proven since as true.

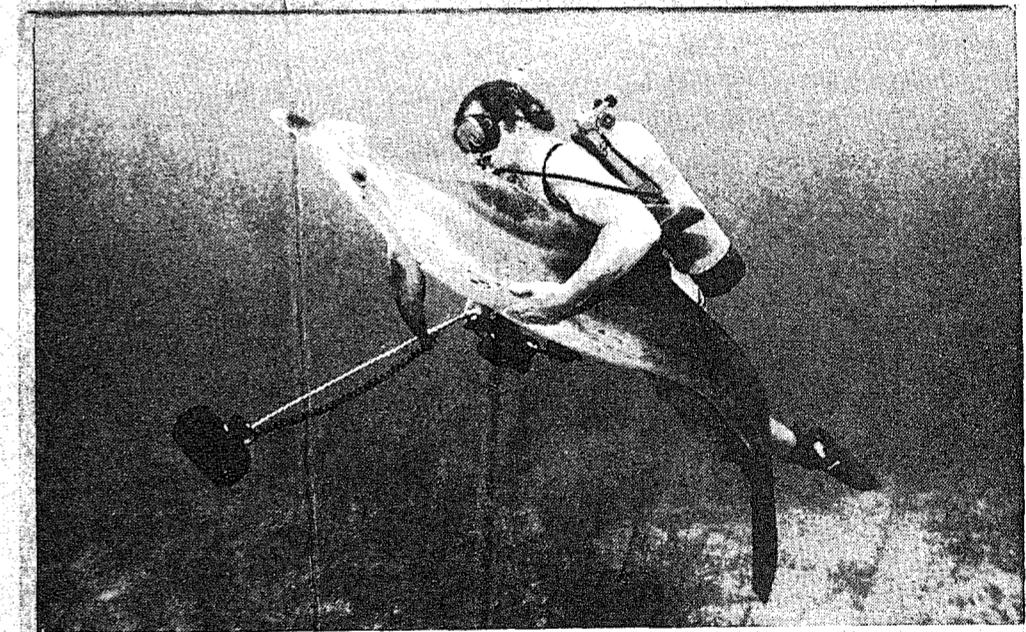
Between barbarian conquests and misguided religious doctrines that put dolphins on the table to be eaten as fish on Fridays, the close observation of nature was lost. For a while in history all the artistic interpretation of dolphins developed fish fins and large scales, vertical tails and big heads. This defaced version of reality was passed down from person to person until we arrived at the point at which we find ourselves today--back to a close observation of nature.

I believe my photographs of Sandy are inherently powerful, that they produce deep feelings of awareness. I experience joy when a moment of vision comes together in a print that I feel right about. I feel fortunate to create underwater portraits that reproduce my feelings in others.

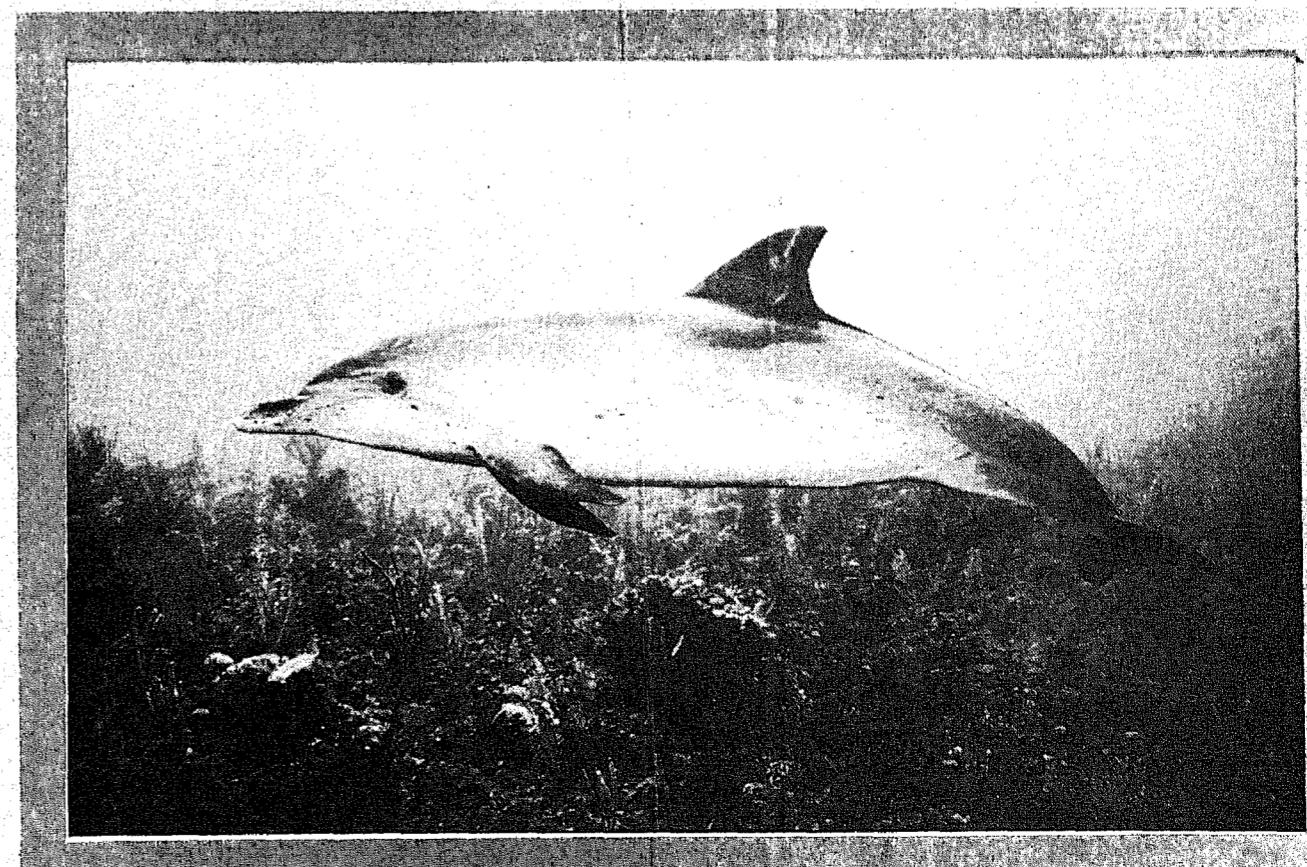
Sandy remained in the waters of San Salvador for about two years, entertaining divers from around the world and lending insight into an ancient and, in some ways, wiser world.



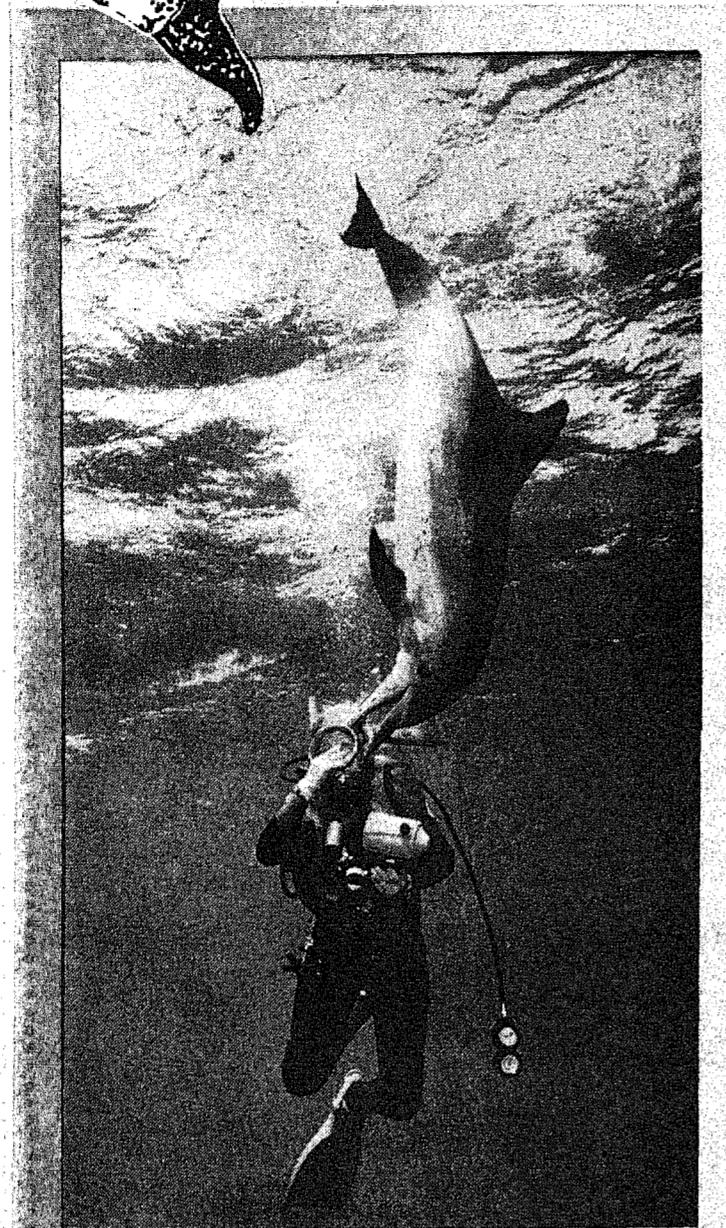
The waters off Key West are the home of many bottlenose dolphins. Here, one of them pings me with his sonar. The sonar that we use today was largely developed from dolphin research.



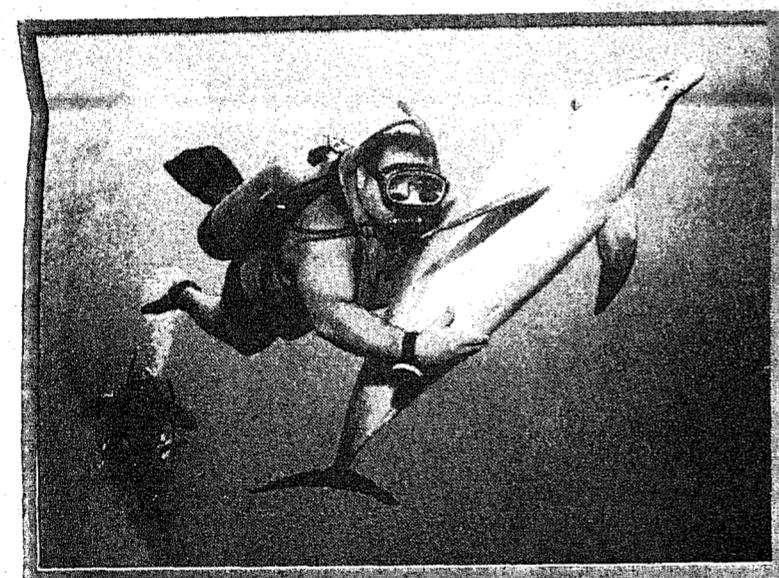
Underwater cinematographer Al Giddings gives Sandy a hug after an afternoon photo session. Al filmed the underwater footage for the movie The Deep. The first commercial motion picture to use underwater footage was Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, in 1913.



Spread throughout our planet's waters are many types of dolphin, both freshwater and saltwater. Sandy belongs to the genus Stenella. The bottlenose dolphins that were used in the TV show Flipper belonged to the genus Tursiops.



Photographer Geri Murphy has documented many subjects underwater, and I'm sure Sandy is one of her favorites. Sandy enjoyed playing with Geri and would often try to flood her mask.

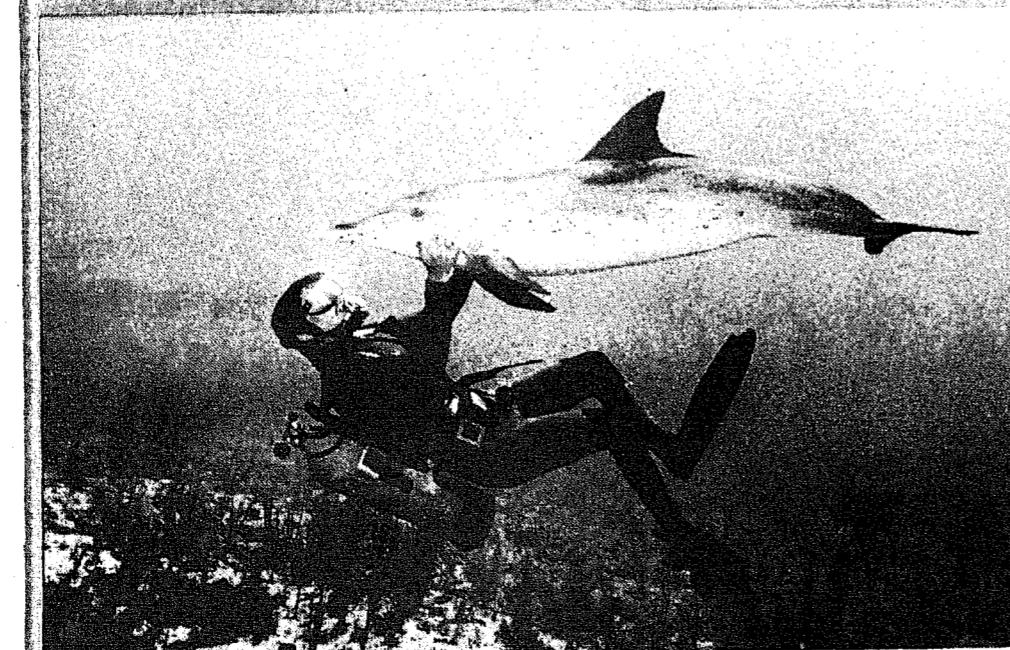


This diver -- an insurance agent from Ohio -- flew over to the island just to meet Sandy. He used up a tank of air trying to catch him. Finally, when there were just a few breaths of air left, Sandy slowed down and allowed himself to be held. Right after the picture was taken this diver had to ascend 20 feet to the surface to get his next breath.



A rendering of a silver coin from Syracuse, 479 BC. It was struck to commemorate victory over Carthage.

©All photographs by Chris Adair



Sandy enjoyed interacting with divers from all over the world. Each diver reacted to the wild spotted dolphin in his own way, and everyone who experienced Sandy came away with a new insight into these intelligent creatures.

Conch Grove House: A Reminiscence

by David A. Kaufelt

Lynn and I first came to Key West on a pre-honeymoon in the early summer of 1975. We had a big, satisfying fight in the Chinese restaurant on Simonton and Truman -- now Cafe des Artistes/Kokomo -- chow mein flying; and we made up in the Italian restaurant -- where the Full Moon Saloon now lurks. When we asked for *pasta al dente* the mustached waitress assured us that "all our spaghetti is cooked in the morning." We decided we were in love in the then-dishabille gardens of East Martello Towers, vowed we would marry and one day return to live and love in a place that looked to our jaded New York eyes like paradise -- ten minutes after the fall.

Coincidence helped. My new agent and instant best friend, Dick Duane, invited us, two years later, to spend an unseasonably hot Thanksgiving at his Pinder Lane house. "Toy town," he said, as we stood drinking rum and Diet Coke on the second-floor deck, looking out over the tin roofs of his neighbors.

"We have to have a little house here," Lynn said, as we trekked through Old Town, bewitched by the bougainvillea, Floy Thompson and friends, unpainted porches, an elderly barefoot person of indeterminate gender wearing a bikini, lolling down Simonton Street, singing, "We're having a heat wave, a tropical heat wave."

"Listen," Jimmy Kirkwood called to say, on a dreary Thursday, a month after we returned to the dirt, crime and noise of Manhattan. "There's a cottage in Conch Grove for sale. You should run down to Key West and buy it." So we did.

Conch Grove is one of the early compounds, situated in Cuban Town on the corner of Watson and Catherine. It's multi-walled, which explains its extraordinary lushness. It came into being when Danny Stirrup and company bought a dozen or so cigarmakers' cottages, separated them with a swimming pool and gardens, and walled the whole business to form a secret hideaway.

Now, such compounds seem self-breeding. But then Conch Grove was unique, steeped in faded romance, our Dade County pine cottage looking more South Seas than South Florida. Bob Thixton, Dick Duane's partner in virtually everything, made me crawl under the house to observe the pristine Dade County pine floor, some hundred years old. We expected Dorothy Lamour to emerge from the pool.

The cottage was a Technicolor dream, but strictly small screen. The house was no larger than a rich woman's shoe closet. One nicely proportioned room; one bitty and forever mildewed closet; a barely functional bath; and a kitchen updated in oh, maybe the late forties. Not that it didn't come equipped with built-in joys. There were original and working shutters on the windows; an oversized revolving fan dangling from the peaked roof; mahogany

French doors that led to the porch. Decorators manqué, we painted the walls turquoise, filled the kitchenella with Fiesta Ware, bought a bamboo dining table at Cavanaugh's and gave our first luncheon -- a modest but delightful success.

A holiday party later that year was somewhat less of a triumph. It was planned to be by the pool but the temperature dipped to the mid-fifties. Everyone huddled in the compound's houses except for one clever woman who had the foresight to wear a white fox jacket, evincing green-eyed envy.



Compound living is a test in getting along with one's neighbors, never my strong suit. But luckily, we liked virtually all of ours. We could rail against those we didn't during afternoon drinks by the pool -- the heart and soul of the compound. When *People* magazine did a story on Key West, they photographed Lynn with a hibiscus in her hair sitting near the pool and me in it, hands on an electric typewriter, unplugged.

We couldn't have been happier. It seemed as if we had been searching all our lives for some impossible island place, the sort the film *Key Largo* suggested. We had found it in Key West.

We made plans to give up our jobs, our apartment, our weekend house and life-long collection of clothes, books and valuable *chatkas* to live on love and hog bananas in exquisite simplicity in Conch Grove.

We went back to New York but left our hearts in the island city, returning so often we were on a first name basis with Air Sunshine's somewhat lackadaisical flight crew.

This dual life of high heels and high anxiety in Manhattan and shoeless sybaritic serenity in Key West had to stop but it needed an event, some sign from above -- or, in reality, below -- to bring about a resolve. It arrived in the thoroughly delicious person of our issue -- our heir, our very own Jewish American Japanese Crown Prince, that conceptual Conch, Jackson Shigeru Kaufelt.

Lynn took a three-month leave of absence, most of which was spent in Conch Grove, Jackson in a crib on the porch, Lynn and I hovering over him, savoring the magic of it all, along with that evocative, enveloping, quintessential Key West perfume -- three parts jasmine, three parts Gulf Stream air, the rest cat urine.

The perfect babysitter, Ralph from Brooklyn had brought up half dozen or so brothers and sisters and lived and worked in the compound. He and Jackson took to one another like lox to bagel. Ralph was the only human who could deal with Jackson's

daily colic at 5 p.m., at which time we would flee to the Sands Club and call in periodically to see if it was safe to come home.

Ralph, the proverbial treasure, was never more so than a few nights before Christmas. We left Jackson with him along with his friends who were decorating Jay Garon's Conch Grove house for the holidays. We felt wonderfully comfortable, as did the boy, giggling and gurgling, happily surrounded by attentive Key West elves.

Eventually, we went back to New York, supposedly for good: Lynn to her job as design director for a big-time cosmetic line; me to write a novel in solitary confinement in our downtown loft; Jackson to be attended by Daisy, the six-figure nanny we had hired from the snootiest nanny agency in town. It wasn't working. Daisy was calling Lynn out of star war conferences to announce she had missed Jackson's first smile. I was not at the computer keyboard but circling the crib, wondering aloud why Daisy never took Jackson for a walk in his Rolls Royce-and-grandmother-given carriage.

"Are you nuts?" Daisy asked, turning a shocked face on me. "No child of mine goes out in this part of town, nanny or not, until he's at least 12." Daisy then sat me down while she recited a lurid litany of what happened to babies and nannies who dared to stroll New York's daytime streets.

One night, soon after, Lynn returned wearily home to the loft, took off her Duchess of Windsor hat and her Wings of Samathrace earrings. She took Jackson from the new nurse, Robarb, a Vassar-graduated Persian woman who was sitting, as was her wont, cross-legged on the floor. (Daisy had resigned when I had insisted, one spring morning, on the three of us going to Washington Square Park, so Jackson wouldn't forget the sun.) Lynn removed the white pillow case from Jackson's head which Robarb, despite instructions to the contrary, used in the great keep-the-parrot-quiet tradition. She kissed his tender cheek, fired Robarb, and said, "I quit today."

We sold the loft in record time. Mother wanted to know, "What're you going to do there in the middle of nowhere?" Despite consternation from friends and family, we completed our own personal hajj, arriving in Key West, intending to stay.

And so we have. But not, regrettably, in the one-room cottage in Conch Grove. Reality intruded when we tried. Jackson's toy cars filled the closet and we moved on to roomier quarters. Still, we look back on that house and the days when we lived in it as a magical time, our introduction to Key West. ■

David Kaufelt is a writer who lives in Key West; his last book was *American Tropic*. He's active in literary and civic events on the island.

Airplane Noise Ordinance: A Good Sound Plan

by Elliot Baron

In what might be compared to an episode of *Mission Impossible*, supporters of the proposed airport noise control ordinance met last month with members of the Key West Hotel/Motel Association (HMA) on their own turf. Their assignment: convince local tourism industry executives that phasing out some of the noisy and obsolete airplanes that currently service Key West would not spell the end of tourism in the Keys.

For Last Stand's Jim Robinson, it was one of a number of appearances he and fellow board members are making in an attempt to clear up some of the confusion over the goals of the ordinance.

As he entered the Casa Marina for the February HMA meeting, Robinson was on the rebound from the previous day's Rotary Club get-together at the Black Angus. "I was booted from the introduction," said Robinson. "And it went downhill from there on." He said the audience was not interested in what he had to say.

Robinson is sounding the message that the proposed ordinance *will not prohibit jets*. *The ordinance is workable and legal. It's based on an ordinance enacted by the city council of New Haven, Connecticut over four years ago.*

In fact, with Eastern's Boeing 727 currently out of the picture, the largest jet flying into Key West would be allowed to continue. Ironically, it was the behemoth 727 that pushed island residents to the breaking point. Though that jet is currently grounded, noise protection advocates want to be sure it won't return. The 727 is obsolete. Designed in the late 60s, it was designed by 1970 when Boeing introduced the quieter Advanced 727.

But it's not so much a question of size as it is one of age and technology. Piedmont's Fokker F.28Mk1000, a plane designed over 20 years ago, would have to be phased out. But the F.28Mk4000, which carries nine more passengers than its older counterpart, meets noise criteria. That's because the Mk4000 is equipped with improved Spey engines that incorporate noise reduction features.

In short, the ordinance is designed to replace the "Conch Cruisers" of the airline industry -- those loud, exhaust-burping planes of yesteryear -- with the more congenial and neighborly equipment of the current decade.

Robinson said he was politely received by the HMA though its members remain unconvinced. Holiday Inn Beachside Manager Terry Horton spoke against the pending legislation at the luncheon meeting. She stated at the meeting (a recording of which was played on US-1 Radio) that:

"New Haven, Connecticut. I'm sure, is not linked to the rest of the world with a two-lane highway, nor is it anywhere near as isolated as we are because we do have a

two-lane highway. That is our only way of getting anyone down here except by air. Therefore, the impact has got to be greater."

Listening to Horton's comments on the radio, I wondered about two things. First, what kind of impacts had New Haven felt and how they were getting along with the ordinance they enacted? Second, what impact is Horton talking about? Is she suggesting that tourists might stop coming to Key West if they had to fly the more modern F.28Mk4000 rather than its noisy older brother, the Mk1000?

New Haven's getting along very well, thank you. That was the answer given by Tweed-New Haven Municipal Airport Assistant Manager, Edgar Schoonmaker.

"I don't blame you for trying to get rid of the 727s. You've really got a problem -- it's a very noisy bird."

**Edgar Schoonmaker
Assistant Manager
Tweed-New Haven
Municipal Airport**

Schoonmaker commented that the airlines "had very little problem with the ordinance." The highest permissible noise level, 78db (see chart) between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. allowed a wide range of aircraft to land. From 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. and from 10 p.m. to midnight, a reduction of only 5db had to be met. (Schoonmaker referred to reduction periods as shoulders.) The strictest sound level of 68db was enforced only between midnight and 6 a.m.

Schoonmaker said that eliminating the 727s had improved safety. "Pilots didn't like coming in here because the runway was so short," he continued. "The 727 is a high-performance plane, but if you had an engine out, you could have a real problem." New Haven's runway is 5,600 feet; Key West's, at 4,800 feet, is 800 feet shorter.

The point is, New Haven, a community many times the size of Key West, has not suffered through the enactment of this ordinance. But what are the similarities and can we assume the same would hold true here?

Terry Horton was right: New Haven isn't connected to the rest of the world by one highway. It has two. Coincidentally, one of them is I-95 (US-1). New Haven is also a seaport, but while Key West's port activity is now limited to cruiseships, New Haven has a principal US commercial shipping port.

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New Haven doesn't have our palm trees, our temperatures or our tourism. Its primary industry is manufacturing, and most of its air travel is business related. Tweed-New Haven services 35 flight operations per day, to and from New York's La Guardia and Kennedy (75 miles), Providence (110 miles), Boston (135 miles), Philadelphia (180 miles) and Washington DC (250 miles).

Key West International services 46 flight operations per day. Most flights are to and from Miami or Ft. Lauderdale, comparable to the distances between Tweed and Boston or Philadelphia. Delta/Comair's one direct flight a day from Orlando (268 miles) is the longest flight. It is offered aboard a new 30-passenger Embraer turbo-prop; it takes one hour.

Most KWI flights are to and from Miami or Ft. Lauderdale, comparable to distances between Tweed and Boston or Philadelphia.

According to Last Stand spokespersons, in some cases only five minutes additional time will be required to fly to and from Miami. Some of the new, quieter jets will continue to make the trip in 30 minutes. If Piedmont elects to use the ultra-modern DeHaviland DASH-8, an aircraft they are presently using in other Florida cities, flight time will increase to 35 minutes.

Of all the planes on which I've flown in and out of Key West, from PBA's seven-passenger, single-engine props, to DC-3s, the Saab-Fairchild 340, F.28s, and the 727, the most enjoyable flight was on the Saab. It's a 34-passenger, high-tech, turbo prop that seats three across -- a single seat on one side of the aisle and two on the other. It's spacious, well appointed and extremely comfortable. In fact, the interior resembles that of an imported luxury car.

For many flights, 34 seats are sufficient to handle the demand. But there are times when larger planes are needed. These are permitted under the proposed noise ordinance. In addition to the Fokker F.28Mk4000, Piedmont has on order several Fokker F.100s. This large, new-technology jet carries 107 passengers and because it's so quiet, the proposed ordinance would permit it to fly in and out of Key West anytime between 6 a.m. and midnight.

Noise limitation plateaus will be implemented over a 20-month period, giving the carriers time to phase in the newer equipment. Private jets will be able to operate during daylight hours. Some older model jets will need modification to the new noise control criteria here, criteria that already must be met at other airports around the country.

As Bill Westray pointed out in *Solares Hill* last June, "KWI is relatively unique

| Key West, Florida County Seat, Monroe County | | New Haven, Connecticut County Seat, New Haven County | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Population: | 27,000 | 126,000 (New Haven proper) 951,800 (Metropolitan Area)* | |
| Highway Access: | US-1 | I-95 (US-1) I-91 | |
| Airport Service: | Key West International Airport (County-owned) | Tweed-New Haven Municipal Airport (city-owned) | |
| Airlines: | feeder service to: Delta Piedmont Eastern (future uncertain) Continental | feeder service to: Continental TWA Eastern Allegheny Delta | |
| Seaport: | No longer commercial. 82 Cruise ships docked in 1988. | One of 50 busiest Principal U.S. ports; over 10 million tons of goods moved annually | |
| College: | Florida Keys Community College | Yale University | |
| Daily Newspaper: | <i>Key West Citizen</i> (6,818 Audit Bureau of Circ.)* | <i>New Haven Register</i> (103,000 Audit Bureau of Circ.)* | |

* 1989 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide ranks New Haven as a "Major Regional Business Center," one of 48 nationwide. Its ranking (2-AA) categorizes it with such cities as Orlando, Tampa, Tucson and Buffalo.

** 1989 Gale's Directory of Publications

Weights and Noise Levels of Aircraft

Based on FAA Advisory Circular 36-3E

Commercial Jets

| Type | weight (lbs) | Take-off Noise | Capacity |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Boeing 727 | 169,500 | 86.1 dbA | 120 pass. ¹ |
| Fokker F.100 | 95,000 | 72.0 dbA | 107 pass. |
| Fokker F.28 Mk1000 | 65,000 | 79.2 dbA | 63 pass. |
| Fokker F.28 Mk4000 | 73,000 | 75.5 dbA | 72 pass. |

Turbo Props / Prop (DC-3)

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------|-----------------------|
| Saab-Fairchild SF 340 | 27,000 | 65.3 dbA | 34 pass. |
| Embraer Brasilia | 21,200 | 63.2 dbA | 30 pass. |
| Beechcraft 1900 | 16,600 | 65.3 dbA | 19 pass. |
| Embraer Bandieranti | 12,500 | 71.0 dbA | 15 pass. |
| Douglas DC-3 | 25,200 | 85.0 dbA | 24 pass. ¹ |

Corporate Jets

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Gates Lear Jet 24D | 82.3 dbA |
| Gates Lear Jet 25D | 79.7 dbA |
| Gates Lear Jet 24F | 74.6 dbA |
| Gates Lear Jet 24E | 73.1 dbA |

¹ Seating varies substantially depending on individual plane configuration.

Proposed Noise Ordinance Thresholds

Time Period

Midnight - 6 am

6:00 am - 7:00 am

7:00 am - 10:00 pm

10:00 pm - Midnight

Maximum dbA Level

68.0 dbA

73.0 dbA

78.0 dbA

73.0 dbA

Based on FAA Advisory Circular 36-3E

as an air terminal in that it is located completely within the boundaries of the city and all air traffic arrives and departs over or near residential areas."

New Haven's situation is similar. Though only one-third of the airport lies within the city, the other two-thirds fall within the residential domain of its neighbor, East Haven. Schoonmaker said the city council passed its code when "it became clear that something had to be done."

With the stricter guidelines in place New Haven's businessmen, who were also dependent on being able to travel to and from clients and suppliers, didn't pull up stakes causing the city to wallow in high unemployment and bankruptcy.

What's more, aren't these upscale businessmen who fly on quiet planes in and out of New Haven the very type of tourist the TDC is trying to lure to the Keys?

Locally, the time when "it became clear that something had to be done" was years ago. Maybe now the county commission will finally do something about it. ☐

Public Hearing: April 4

There will be a second public hearing on the airport noise ordinance proposed by Last Stand and other environmental groups on Tuesday, April 4, in the Monroe County Courthouse in Key West. Come and voice your opinion!

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Signature _____

Hospice, VNA Launch Membership Drive

Divers from around the nation are expected to converge on the Florida Keys to capture the beauty of North America's only living coral reef. From May 29 to September 3 they will compete for \$10,000 in prizes for the Fourth Annual National Marine Sanctuaries' Underwater Photography Contest.

Prizes for photographs best exemplifying the splendor of the Keys' marine life include dive equipment and underwater camera gear from major manufacturers such as Nikon, Kodak, Underwater Kinetics, Dacor, Oceanic and Henderson Aquatics.

The contest includes categories in macro, wide-angle and standard lens underwater photography and prizes for the top four winners in each class. Entrants may enter a special portfolio division. The contest has added a video category.

A week-long photo contest, Saturday, April 26 to Sunday, September 3, includes free seminars by professional underwater photographer Steven Frink at the Marina Del Mar Resort in Key Largo (MM 100).

For entry forms and rules for both contests, contact Nikons Tours and Seminars, toll-free US 1-800-272-9122 or 305-451-2228; or write P.O. Box 2487, Key Largo, FL 33037. There is a \$10 registration fee to participate in either contest.

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Love and Death in the Graveyard

by John Leslie

Established in 1847, the Key West Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places. And, yes, people are dying to get in -- about 200 a year, according to sexton Richard Knowles.

Except for a few plots that were purchased years ago by those who "planned ahead," there is little grave digging these days. Plots are no longer available. What digging is done is provided by city workers using picks, shovels, and jackhammers to tackle the limestone. MARC house maintains the landscaping.

Today, cement vaults painted white and stacked up to three high reflect the need to save space. For \$825 you may ensure entombment above ground, but only upon death -- no prepaid arrangements; \$250 will buy a cremation niche. The county, which handles pauper burials, has 50 vaults; 10 to 12 indigent deaths occur every year.

Prior to 1847, Key Westers traditionally buried their dead in churchyards or on private property. The old Marine Hospital on Truman Annex also had a burial ground. Bones recently unearthed during excavation work there have since been reburied at the city cemetery.

The 1846 hurricane disinterred many bodies from churchyards around town. Stephen Mallory, who built the Key West lighthouse and was secretary of the Navy for the Confederate States under Jefferson Davis, wrote a macabre account of the bodies, describing them as they hung in trees where they were flung during the storm.

In 1847, the Key West Cemetery was purchased for \$400. Architects designed and laid out the acreage in a grid pattern and named the streets on which the dead would lie. At the time the graveyard was on the outskirts of town, as was considered fitting in the mid-19th century.

Estimates vary as to how many are interred here. Some say 30,000 to 35,000, but Susan Olsen, director of the East Martello Museum and one of fifty volunteers conducting a survey, believes the figure could be as high as 100,000.

Olsen, who wrote her master's thesis on

Life on the Edge

The graveyard is bordered by narrow, residential streets. People living on those portions of Angela, Olivia or Windsor and Passover Lanes can read the inscription on many gravemarkers, watch the MARC crew clean up, or observe preparations for a burial. They can also view those who come to mourn and those who come to look.

Frances Street to the east is a wider, busier street and seemingly a shade removed from the cemetery's dominance. It is along Frances Street that the Conch Tour Train passes the graveyard and one hears the



With no room to spare, vaults must be stacked up. Photo by Sharon Wells.

of an accidental onboard explosion.

Ellen Mallory, the first white woman in Key West and mother of Stephen Mallory, is buried here. Florida's first millionaire, William Curry, along with Filer and Von Phister, the first local real estate agents, is here. So is General Abe Sawyer, a local midget who insisted on being buried in a full-size grave.

Walter Maloney, an early mayor of Key West who found himself at the head of city government in the centennial year of 1876, has a gravestone characteristic of local culture. A wrecker by profession, Maloney's son brought up a portion of the shipwreck his father was salvaging at the time of his death and used it to build a kind of stepped pyramid over his father's grave.

Earl Saunders Johnson, a *bon vivant* affectionately known as Uncle Earl, commissioned, before he died in 1972, a fiberglass likeness of himself, in full stride and smiling, to be erected over his grave.

Mingled among the markers are the whimsical and profane. Tinfoil wrapped stones hold baskets of plastic flowers upright. The tinfoil, according to Cuban custom, wards off evil spirits. Voodoo rites have been practiced in the graveyard more than once.

Imposed on many gravestones are tiles depicting the implements of the deceased's trade. Bolo, the oldest and longest-serving *Miami Herald* carrier who died in 1986, has a bicycle carved into his marker. A local artist sculpted a nude of herself and placed it at the foot of her husband's grave. For some curious reason, her hands are bound behind her.

Another inscription on a young woman's tomb reads: "Devoted fan of singer Julio Iglesias." The Otto family plot contains family members as well as their many pets, each of which has its own gravestone including a Key deer.

One of the only full-time monument makers Key West ever had was a man by the name of Gallagher. He built a marker for Thomas Romer, a privateer in the War of 1812 who was born in 1783 and died in 1891, defying all life expectancy odds of the time. His life spanned 108 years. Part of the inscription carved into his gravestone

polite chuckles of tourists when the driver makes his monotonous announcement about the hypochondriac whose tomb is inscribed with the final thought: "I told you I was sick."

Most of the houses along Angela and Olivia are former cigarmakers' cottages, many having recently been restored.

A quirky fact is the propinquity of Key West's literary establishment, Pulitzer Prize winners, et. al., who live within two blocks of the cemetery.

Those over 40 may recall the 50's quiz

show, *The \$64,000 Question*. Remember the man who returned night after night to the studio glass booth with the quizzical look of a man looking for answers? Millions tune in to watch him until it was discovered the answers he was giving to those arcan questions were being piped into the glass booth. The revelation revolutionized TV gameshows.

That man lives along the cemetery, still with the distant gaze of a man looking for answers. Looking for answers: a fitting epitaph for all.

©DMZ-Key West



reads: "A good citizen for 65 years," leaving one to speculate on the wicked fun he must have had for the other 43.

Though her burial place is a secret known only to the two men -- now dead -- who put her in her final, unmarked grave, the body of Elena Hoyos also reposes in the cemetery. The 22-year-old died of tuberculosis in 1931 and became the love object of mad Dr. Von Cosell, a necrophiliac who stole her from her crypt and kept her for several months. He believed he could bring her back to life.

Love has always beckoned from the

graveyard. A favorite trysting place for generations, the graveyard has withstood all efforts to secure it from the urgencies of the living.

Clyde Tatum had been married for 55 years when his wife, Minnie, died in 1969 at the age of 72. Clyde, 86, returned here from Los Angeles, where he'd been staying with a sister, less than a year after Minnie's death. He arrived on a Thursday and visited his wife's gravesite daily through Sunday.

On that day, with two \$13,000 cashier checks in his pocket and \$800 in cash, Clyde paid his final call. When he was

found by the city cop who opened the cemetery gates each morning, Clyde was sprawled across Minnie's grave, a .22 caliber bullet in his head. The pistol he had used to shoot himself lay beside him, as did a note proclaiming his inability to live without Minnie.

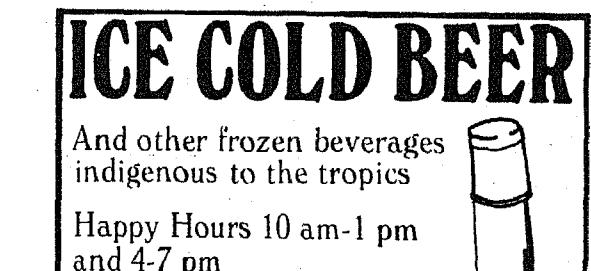
The cemetery welcomes private contributions since the state grant will not cover all the expenses needed for this project. To date they have received \$8,000. Checks should be made out to the Cemetery Restoration Fund and mailed to P.O. Box 1409, Key West. ■



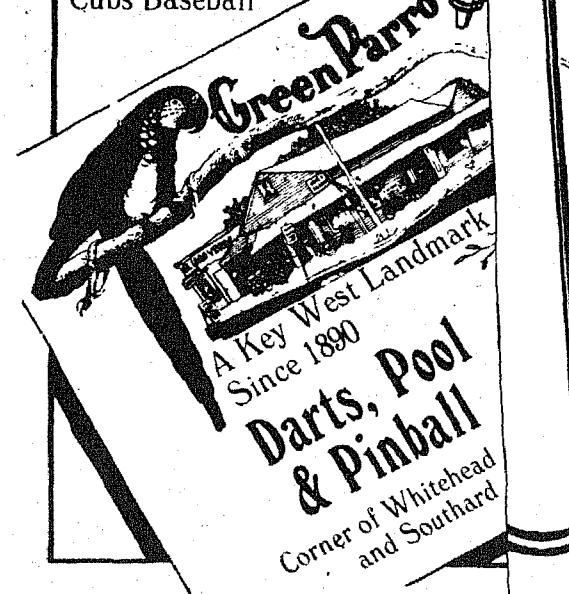
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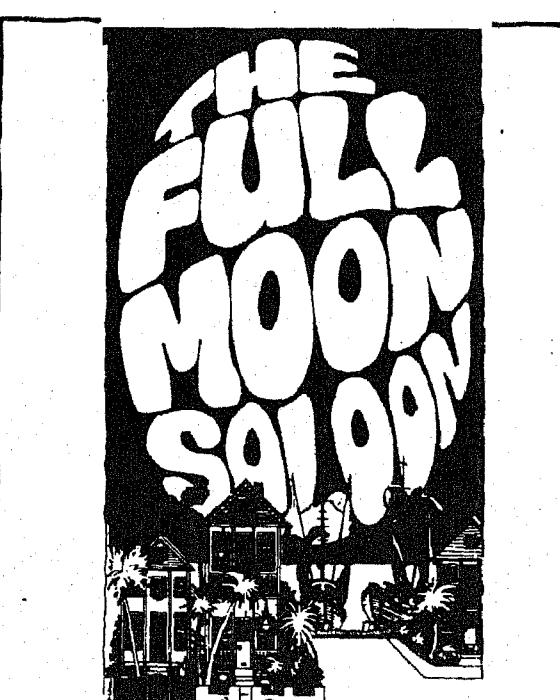
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Words for April

by V.K. Gibson

People have complained that my recent columns have been too benign. They want a bit more "bite." (Funny, these are the same folks who get mad when I do let loose!)

First, some great news. Sculptor John Martini is this year's recipient, in Monroe County, of the South Florida Cultural Consortium's award to artists. No one deserves this more than John. This choice almost redeems what I believe to be the sloppy administrative performance by the Consortium last year.

Last month my friend Gordon Lacy reported on the Alice Terry retrospective held this January at Lane Gallery. His comments were thoughtful and affectionate, but there are a couple of points which I wish to address. The sentence in question:

"There were several oils -- a medium she tackled on friends' advice and in which I felt she was never really at ease."

The first part is erroneous. Alice painted in oils from time to time throughout her long career. In fact, they helped earn one of her academic degrees.

As for her being "never really at ease," this is Mr. Lacy's opinion. I think he's mistaken. I believe her oils are unpopular

for the wrong reasons. They show little of the verve of the pastels, and almost none of the precision and dignity of the watercolors. So what?

I well knew, from our conversations, that Alice was not interested in producing slick, conventional oil paintings. Her favorites often pleased the public the least. I believe that the best of her oils are as good as anything else she ever did.

But back to Gordon. It's regrettable that he will no longer be writing his column for *Solares Hill*. I imagine that this decision is due, at least in part, to the unkind responses which inevitably arise when a critic offers anything less than unequivocal praise. Many of us will miss him.

Congratulations are in order for Jack Baron and his recent exhibit of decorative paintings and objects at the Key West Women's Club.

I couldn't bring myself to face the packed crowds attending this "circus" upon its opening, but went later. Viewing the display, I liked the portrait of Judge Overby, and the colorful artist's palettes, which were framed and for sale along with the paintings.

It has often been publicized that the club receives a cut of the Baron exhibit proceeds

for their restoration fund. This adds up to an impressive sum, and the Ladies of the Club are understandably delighted with the arrangement.

Mr. Baron, of course, has even more cause to be pleased -- three times more, in fact. He gives the club 25 percent of the proceeds, while most legitimate galleries in Key West these days take 40 percent. All this is an artist's dream, to be sure, and I do not know any other who would not also do it if he could.

But not all are as productive and enterprising. Mr. Baron has become a public figure. His annual exhibit is a shrewdly orchestrated merchandising extravaganza conducted under ideal conditions.

But enough of commercial considerations. What of the Baron art? Many people say they find it charming and amusing. It's sometimes hard to be objective, so let's just wait: Time, the ultimate critic, will hand down its judgement after the circus has moved on.

Well, the Key West Art & Historical Society is about to get a new board of directors. I recently suggested that the current board was the worst in the history of the Society, and Susan Olsen sprang to the

defense of her associates.

"This board is the best I've worked with since I became director!" said Susan, looking as if she wanted to stuff me into one of the cannons at the fort. (I would never fit.) "There is less rancor and back-biting than with earlier boards," she continued, "and they let me get the job done!"

Ms. Olsen proudly points to the fact that \$430,000 was raised during this period (mostly for the lighthouse restoration), made possible, presumably, because of the freedom and support provided by her bosses.

If Susan has only praise for the recent board of directors, and President Rick Fowler, she does admit that her hopes for future board participation include fundraising and long-range planning skills.

Let us wish her luck! Meanwhile, what about the member who missed more meetings than he attended, or the one who was recently quoted as saying that he would not attend a Martello event because "there would probably be a party somewhere that night"?

But perhaps two duds isn't such a bad record. There is also Max McQuillan, who does the work of five ordinary members.

Next month, if Madame Director is still speaking to me, my column will focus entirely upon the Society. It may in any case. Susan came on board several years ago and I expected great things from her (and said so in this column when others were after her hide.) Many of those expectations have been fulfilled.

The long-planned Ismau Noguchi garden project for the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center has been moving forward, if slowly. Funds are still being raised, and grants are being applied for.

Noguchi's work is so widely admired internationally, the proposed garden at TWFAC will highly recommend itself to the various funding agencies which are being approached.

Meanwhile, there is available a fine set of photographs of completed Noguchi projects, as well as a model of the proposed garden at TWFAC. These items will, I am told, be exhibited at East Martello.

Why not at the college?

In the past there was Florida Keys Community College bureaucratic resistance to the garden concept. This is not surprising. The huge Picasso sculpture put up years ago in Chicago inspired much official and public criticism and opposition when it was first proposed. Now it is the symbol and centerpiece of the city, regarded fondly by all levels of society.

Recently there has been talk of growing cooperation on the part of the college. Project supporters are encouraged. Let's hope that it continues. The saga of the Florida Keys Community College Noguchi garden deserves an in-depth examination in a future article, but, meanwhile, let's see how things develop.

The recent Red Barn Auction benefited

both the Barn and contributing artists. Kathleen Elgin, Susan Hawken and countless volunteers worked their fannies off for the fundraiser (while I sat upon a throne, graciously offering advice and sipping cooling drinks). The Art & Historical Society generously allowed use of the East Martello facility. Ann Arvine was wonderful in organizing the artists at the Guild Hall Gallery.

Finally, as always, this column contains my opinions as an observer of the cultural scene.

**Mervyn Aronoff --
Sumi-e Artist**

by Marsha Gordon

Mervyn Aronoff lived life in the fast lane. For 14 years he practiced law as a trial attorney in Washington, D.C. He fought real estate, probate, commercial and criminal battles. It was a hectic, stimulating life -- one he loved. But he realized it was taking a physical toll. "A little voice told me I better get out and do something else," says Aronoff.

He traveled, living in Greece and North Africa and various locations in the United States. In 1975, he came to Key West to stay and paint.

A long-time student of the Zen arts, Aronoff studied Sumi-e painting under

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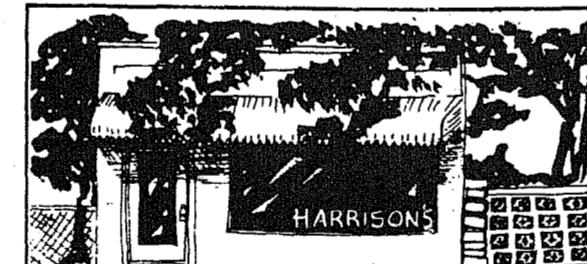
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contemporary Japanese master, Toshio Kawai. He's now adapting Sumi-e techniques and Japanese perspective to his current work with acrylics on canvas. "The techniques are basically a foreshortened perspective, a rather flat perspective without the shades and dimensions," explained Aronoff.



Mervyn Aronoff is displaying his new Sumi-e and Color paintings at Yo-Sake, 722 Duval Street, this month. Aronoff is a member of the Sumi-e Society of America and exhibits in New York and Washington, D.C., as well as Key West. His work is found in major collections in France, Switzerland, England and the United States.

"Serenity comes from taking time out to do these things. I try to depict this in my paintings. An important Zen principle teaches us to become one with the art or work you are doing," said Aronoff.

Sumi-e is a meditative method of painting. The artist prepares mentally and



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physically through breathing procedures before painting. The Zen arts are concerned with correct posture. "You practice in a sitting position on a flat surface. If everything else is aligned, the stroke will be right. Of course, you want minimal contact with the paper. The more you can express in the least number of strokes is the ultimate," said Aronoff.

The oriental artistic expression is allied to Aronoff's sense of order. "Getting involved in the Zen arts forces you to become it. You approach it, you experience it and you come away from it very much a Zen person."

He is placing his Japanese figures in Key West locales. Aronoff's geishas, Samurais and Buddhist priests do their meditative arts of flower arranging and moon watching in various locations on the island. "Watching the Night Blooming Sirius" is a serene painting in his current exhibition. 

Hemingway Short Story Competition

The Hemingway Short Story Competition takes place each July in conjunction with Key West's Hemingway Days Festival to encourage new writers. Nobel laureate Ernest Hemingway was often pursued during his lifetime by young writers hoping to learn the secrets of his success.

Original, previously unpublished stories of 2500 words or less are eligible.

"We're not looking for stories which are imitative of the Hemingway style," says granddaughter Lorian Hemingway, the contest coordinator. "We're simply looking for good writing."

The awards are: \$1000 for the top story; \$500 for second and third places.

Submissions will be accepted in May and June. Stories must be typed and double-spaced, with no name or address appearing on the pages. Entries must be accompanied by a \$10 reading fee and an entry form or 3 x 5 card upon which the author's name, address, phone number and story title have been written. All entries must be received by July 1 and will not be returned.



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"How 'bout you, my man?"
"Well, Blue,
my bucks are down
but I have some smut
if you care to look.
You haven't forgotten
have you, Blue?"

Porkchop Sandwich

by Allen McKee

I was up on
26 range in
the Allegheny County
jail
a prehistoric nightmare
in the heart of
downtown Pittsburgh
sometimes referred to as
the House of Thrills

There was a quote
on the wall
above the steel bunk:
"The vilest deeds
like poison weeds
bloom well
in prison air." -- Oscar Wilde

It was the end of November
and the Steelers
were on their way
to a fourth Superbowl
I was on my way
to more charges
more time

Yesterday they served
Thanksgiving dinner
from the oldest
turkeys in America
I could have knocked
a man unconscious
with the drumstick
the bone was
fat and long
and lethal
when scraped
to a point

Old Blue
worked his way
down the range
dirty laundry bag
slung over
his shoulder
"Three-layer
two-porkchop sandwiches
sixty-five cent apiece!"
That's two porkchops
between
three pieces of bread

"How 'bout you, my man?"
"Well, Blue,
my bucks are down
but I have some smut
if you care to look.
You haven't forgotten
have you, Blue?"

I sat down
and began to eat
a porkchop popped out
fell to the deck
and an inmate was on it
we wrestled
for the meat

like we did
in the beginning

I pushed him off
and he scurried
back to his hole and
slammed the gate

I hunched over
chewing gristle
sensing his eyes
glaring
from the dark cage
on the back
of my neck



Political Whispers from the Birdcage

by Bud Jacobson

man looked sorely shocked, then depressed, then angry as hell.

"I'll never vote for him! All that him and Jimmy Mira did was load this place with more high-rises. When're we going to get some people up there who'll get us relief from our crazy taxes and stop packing the police department with \$49,000-a-year assistants? I talked to one cop who's been on the force for three months and he's never even seen the chief!"

Balbontin and Mira were on the commission for one term and then were beaten. Their names are in the hopper again.

Charles "Sonny" McCoy is appearing at a lot of parties and in public places, shaking hands and looking very much like a candidate.

He was mayor for 10 years with Ron Stack as city manager under him, and Roger Swift as sewer director. Carl Rongo was their favorite building contractor before he traveled a one-way-street -- to federal prison.

Whispering watchers are taking some interest, too, in the everlasting tug-of-war between developers and conservation-minded folk as Steve Eid's name keeps popping up as an opponent to incumbent Commissioner Sally Lewis.

Eid and his brother, Richard, were on the losing end of a jury verdict involving their fight with the US Corps of Engineers -- they had not gotten a permit to fill wetlands near their high-rise behind Seastown. The two men are still involved in a second part of that federal court case and a hearing has been set before US Judge James Lawrence King within the next two months.

Old friends from high school are pushing the name of Dennis Wardlow forward as a runner for the mayor's chair. Wardlow was mayor for two terms some years back at the time US Customs officers tried to block US-1, at the point where it leaves the Keys, thus triggering the Conch Republic "civil war" cry.

Terry Horton, whose name came up as a possible candidate, according to friends, has backed away from the race since the illness of her husband, Peter Horton.

In the county, which isn't far from city hall -- a few blocks to the county courthouse, and even that could change if it moves to Marathon -- State Attorney Kirk Zuelch is presenting facts and figures to the grand jury on a few hot subjects.

Sandy Higgs, wife of the county's tax assessor, Erwin Higgs and administrator of the Tourist Development Council's operation -- she bid on the contract and won it even though hers was the highest bid -- has apparently fallen into hot water, again. The grand jury is checking out complaints. They stem from a couple of disgusted ex-employees who allege they worked on political campaigns at Higgs' behest when

they were supposed to be working for the TDC and were being paid with public money.

The whisper coming out of the courthouse is that the inquiry might delve into whether or not those alleged "political campaign endeavors" in behalf of certain candidates, could be considered "political contributions-in-kind" and thereby should have been declared as such on the regulation form for such activities.

Again, in the Fisherman's Cafe, a lawyer remarked, "This could be a sticky one for Ms. Higgs."

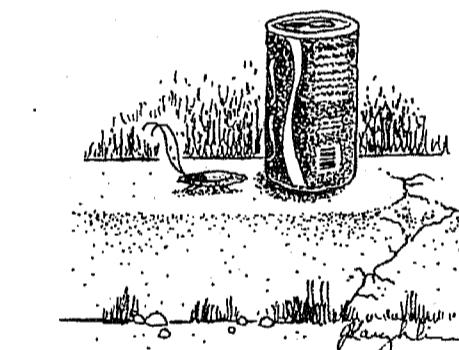
The other item on the state attorney's platter is the warning to all householders in Key West from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that their flood insurance could be yanked if eight major commercial violators of the building requirement for height are not corrected.

"There's the can of worms all you newspaper guys love to open," smirked the lawyer.

If the grand jury "gets on its high horse," in the words of the lawyer, "some heads could roll ... and then, too, being a federal agency, it could land in front of a federal grand jury, then it'd be 'Katie bar the door'."

A few Last Stand activists were rumored to have leaned on the grand jury for action.

Saying a fond farewell to the old days of 24-hour saloon drinking and capering at the Boca Chica Bar, the sign out in front says: "Breakfast and Dancing, 4 a.m. to 7 a.m." A class act, all the way. 



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Saturday at Donald's

The Conch beauty salon for curls -- and consistency

by June Keith

In his 52 years in the beauty business, Donald Barber has combed, coiffed, teased and tinted the heads of three generations of Conch women. He works 40 or 50 hours a week, and books no new customers. He hasn't in years. Still there's a two-week wait to get an appointment.

Donald thinks about retiring, but his regular clients just won't hear of it. So he continues to coax curls and body into the hair of women he has known since childhood. With them he shares friendship, expertise, tolerance, love of a good laugh, and consistency -- most of all, consistency.

He's always been a part of their lives. And in a town that has changed more than any of them ever dreamed, that means a lot.

"We all love Donald," says Faye Park, Donald's first customer at 7:30 Saturday morning. "He is our confessor."

Faye has been coming to Donald for 35 years. She has raised a family of six children, suffered and triumphed. Throughout, Donald has been a confidant.

"I was in Donald's when President Kennedy was shot," recalls Faye. "Donald thought he had heard it over the radio and he called Mary Spotswood at WKWF. She said, yes, that they'd heard the president was dead. And then Donald announced it in the shop. I'll never forget that."

The next customer is Matilda Knight Johnson, Key West High School class of '32. Matilda has sky-blue eyes and long thick hair, the color of midnight. She is attending the installation ceremony for the new priest at the Episcopal Church and wants a hairdo that's a little special. She urges Donald to hurry.

"I still have to make 300 little sandwiches!" she tells Donald as she props an envelope up on the mirror for her sorority sister Clara Liszt whose appointment is later. The envelope contains minutes of the last meeting of the Key West chapter of Beta Sigma Xi.

"Now tell Clara I'm sorry these minutes are a little messy," Matilda instructs Donald. "I'm afraid I've had a lot on my mind lately."

As she talks, Donald deftly separates Matilda's hair into four pony tails on the back of her head. He forms each pony tail into a fat, sausage curl and secures it with the black bobby pins Matilda hands to him. After a generous dousing of hairspray, he covers the shiny rolls with a gossamer net. The result is regal. The transformation has taken only a quarter of an hour.

"I'll be able to get this out tonight now, won't I, Donald?" she asks, laughing, as she hurries for the door.

Matilda has two sisters. Donald says he's never been able to decide which one is the prettiest. Fifty years ago, Donald went to the Knight home every Saturday to do the



"You don't say!"
Minerva Pazo and Sylvia Knight (from left) catch up on news at Donald's where they've spent their Saturday mornings for decades. Photo by June Keith.

hair of all three. He would put it up in the morning, and comb it out in the afternoon.

"Then," Donald says, "when everybody's hair was done, I would go home and get dressed and we'd all meet on Duval Street."

Donald started doing hair when he was 14 years old. His first customer was his mother. He rode his bicycle to friends' homes, doing hair for "a quarter and a cigarette." At 16, he qualified for beautician school and received a license from the State of Florida.

His first job was in the La Concha Hotel Beauty Shop, where he was the only male operator. One of his customers was Pauline Hemingway, whose salt-and-pepper hair, he says, took a permanent wave.

"She was a very graceful woman, very attractive," he says.

Later, after three years in the army, he founded his own business -- housed at 1222 Simonton Street, across from Dennis Pharmacy. The year was 1947; the business hasn't moved.

One of the secrets of Donald's success, he says, is that in his shop two subjects are taboo: politics and religion.

"We just don't allow that kind of talk," Donald says.

But Donald is privy to secrets and sorrows. His knowledge of Key West is unique, sacred.

"Today would have been the 20th birthday of that last baby I had," a woman murmurs as Donald combs her freshly washed, gray hair. "Remember, that last child I had, Donald -- the one who died?"

Donald nods.

"And yesterday," she continues, "was my father-in-law's birthday."

By 11:30, Donald is on his ninth customer. They talk about diets, celebrities, and friends who are sick. There is a curious lack of discussion about hair.

"Donald does whatever he feels like doing to our hair," explains Clara Liszt. "Sometimes he colors it, sometimes he cuts a little off here or there. He does whatever is needed."

"Remember when you made me a blond?" asks Minerva Pazo. "I didn't like that at all. I said, 'Donald, change it back!' And he did."

As Donald combs Sylvia Knight's hair, they recall the years when the Knights and the Barbers were neighbors on Staples Avenue.

"In those days," Sylvia says, "if you weren't at the Elks Club on a Saturday night, well, it just wasn't right! And you had to be wearing a new dress. We kept Donald and the dress shopkeepers busy back then."

Donald laughs and tells of how Saturday night revelers would awaken neighbors who had stayed home the night before, and get them to serve rolls and coffee early Sunday morning.

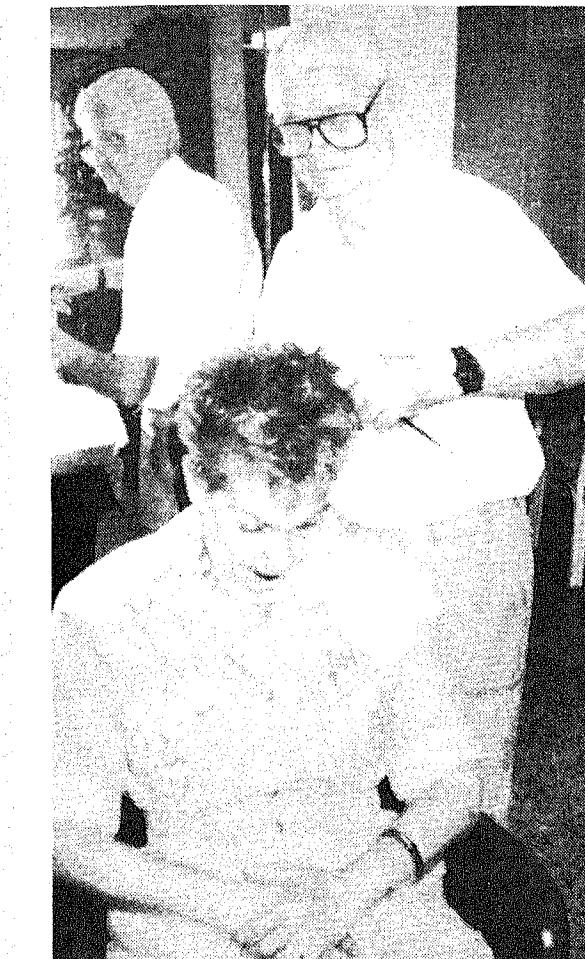
"My husband Jeff would say, 'Don't make a sound, Sylvia, and they'll go away.' But you wouldn't, would you?" she reminds Donald. "I always had rolls and coffee in my house."

Cleora Johnson, the oldest Knight sister, bustles into Donald's just as Clara Liszt is

ready for the dryer. The other ladies stop midconversation to ask Cleora about the condition of her husband, Johnny. He is 85 years old and he has just taken a fall.

Johnny is restless, Cleora tells them in exasperation.

"He said to me, 'Will you tell me what I'm living for?' And I said, 'I don't know. You'd better get down on your knees and ask God. He must have some plan for you!'"



Donald gives Minerva a final tease. Photo by June Keith.

children, Stuart, is a beautician. Recently, Donald signed ownership of the shop over to Stuart and his wife Luanna. They are Conchs, too, with a long list of faithful customers. But neither their roots nor their love of the beauty business appear to be as deep or as profound as Donald's.

"To Donald," Luanna says, "this isn't a job at all. He loves doing this."

"I really should have kept notes and written a book," Donald says. □

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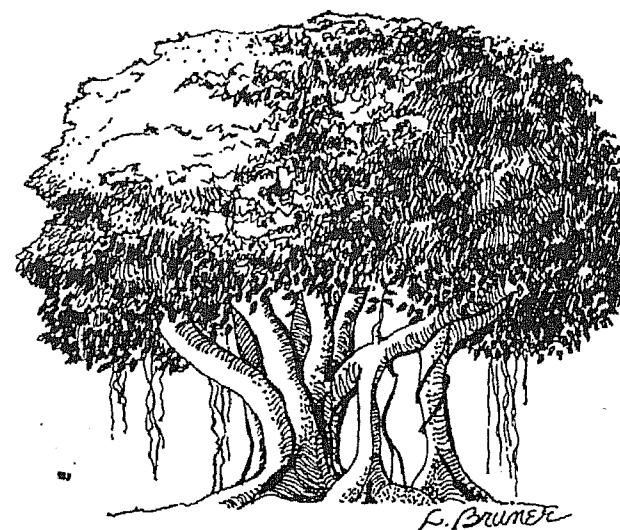
by Jeanne McClow

The Ficus Trees

There are more than 800 trees of the genus *Ficus*--the Latin name for fig. The edible fig is *Ficus carica*. Many *Ficus* have aerial roots which hang from the branches like strands of twine, reaching the ground below where they root and form new supporting roots.

Ficus trees in Key West, primarily the stately banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), have contributed to this town's appearance and aura, providing an element of timelessness and substance to an otherwise flowery, feminine landscape. These massive, twisting shapes eerily shrouded with hanging roots sprawl across the yard of one old mansion after another. Conversely, their roots break up streets and sidewalks into crazy quilt pieces--a charming tilt to more than one historic home.

Banyan trees can occupy several acres--reportedly, one specimen in India requires 10 minutes to circumambulate. With our limited space, Key West *Ficus* trees will



never be allowed to reach such gargantuan proportions. But we do have some fine examples such as the trees at The Banyan resort on Whitehead Street.

It is often difficult to identify the exact species of *Ficus*. In South Florida we have two native species, *Ficus aurea* or strangler fig, and *Ficus citrifolia*, or shortleaf fig. The strangler fig may be epiphytic, meaning

that it has germinated on another tree or even a building instead of the ground. There, it draws nourishment from the atmosphere, as do orchids.

Though not classified as a parasite, epiphytic growth can eventually lead to the demise of the "host" tree. The roots will be sent down the "host's" trunk, wrapping around it and eventually "strangling" it. Others will shoot down to the ground where, once established, they will produce a circle of new trunks around the old tree.

These trees naturally reproduce through pollination carried out by specialized wasps. Commercially grown *Ficus* trees are propagated vegetatively and are not recommended for landscaping because of their destructive root systems. They do make nice ornamental pot plants.

Most Key West *Ficus* trees are less than 200 years old. In other parts of the world some are older, including the famous Bo tree (*Ficus religiosa*) of India under which Guatama, the founder of Buddhism, received his enlightenment back in the sixth century. The tree is sacred to both Buddhists and Hindus.

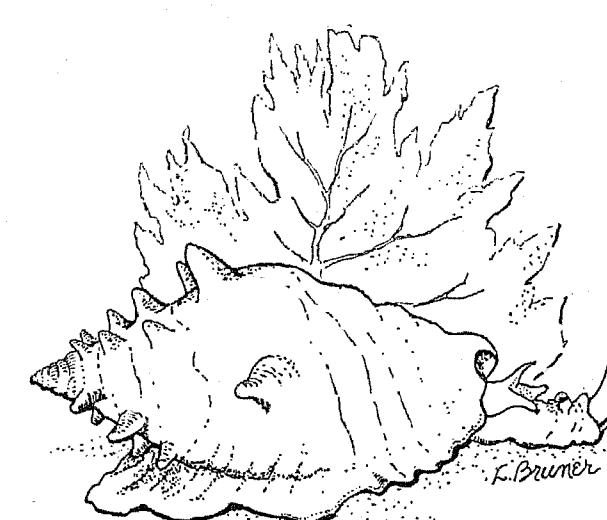
Queen or Pink Conch

(*Strombus gigas linne*)

The magnificent queen conch with its polished, sunset-hued interior was once so abundant between the Florida Keys and the Bahamas that it was a source of protein to entire populations. Then the animal's shell placed on a stick heralded a new birth; drilled with a hole, it was used as a trumpet to send news to the shore of another shipwreck on the reef. When Key West seceded the nation in 1982 the conch emblazoned the newly-formed Conch Republic's flag. In short, the queen conch is synonymous with the Keys.

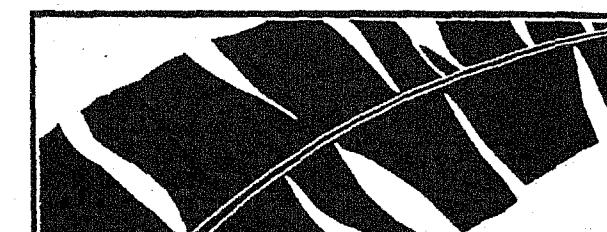
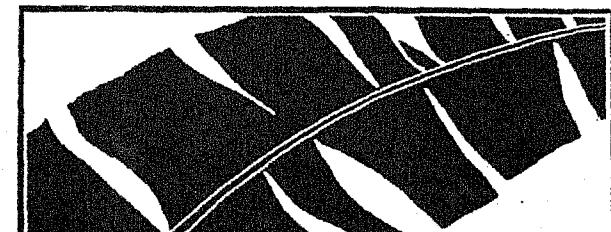
The Greek word *conch* was adapted into the romance languages to mean any large marine univalve. Unlike clams and scallops, which are bivalves, conchs have one shell. Conch is pronounced "konghk"; the study of seashells is *conchology*. The inclination to pronounce the final *ch*, as in "church," comes from the widespread acceptance into English of the Spanish word for seashell, *concha*, and the Italian, *conchiglia*.

The queen is now as rare as the pink pearl it sometimes produces. If you are lucky enough to spot one sliding across the ocean floor, look but don't touch.



Possession of a living queen conch carries a minimum fine of \$180. Disregard those heaps of broken shells you see attracting browsers to the souvenir shops--they are from the Bahamas, where they are still plentiful.

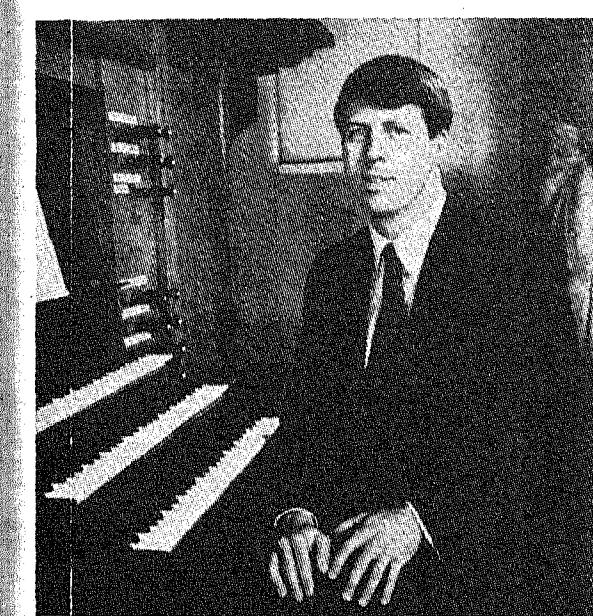
As for the two-legged "conchs" who live on land, originally one must have descended from the conch-consuming English Bahamians, who entered these waters in the 1700s while scouting for new fishing and turtling grounds. They soon found that salvaging ships that wrecked on the reef and selling the goods back to Nassau was a lot



Sweet Sounds from the Chamber

by Dr. Elwood Bear

One of the fascinations of the pipe organ is its bigger-than-life presence. Here in Key West the instruments at St. Paul's and at the Old Stone Church, while not Rolls Royces, give us an idea of the power and majesty of these musical giants.



James Johnson, organist at the Busch-Reisinger Museum at Harvard University. Photo courtesy of Elwood Bear.

Christmas Chorales

Christopher Greenleaf in reviewing this CD in the February 1989 issue of *Ovation* Magazine said: "This is the most engaging Bach organ album to cross my desk in ages. Stunningly played, intelligently programmed, and blessed with a recording technique far beyond the norm."

Titanic Records will soon be releasing a second Johnson CD, performed on the Frobenius organ at the First Church

Cambridge. It contains five works by Bach and a work by Cesar Branck. I feel the recording compares most favorably with the first, if not exceeding it in beauty and interest. The Franck Prelude, Fugue, and Variation are a welcome departure from Johnson's beloved Bach.

If these CDs are not displayed in the record shops, ask Joe Lowe at Specs Music in Key Plaza to order them. Specs has greatly expanded its classical CD offerings.



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CASEY'S COUNTDOWN

Sundays, 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

DR. DEMENTO

Sundays, 10 p.m.-Midnight

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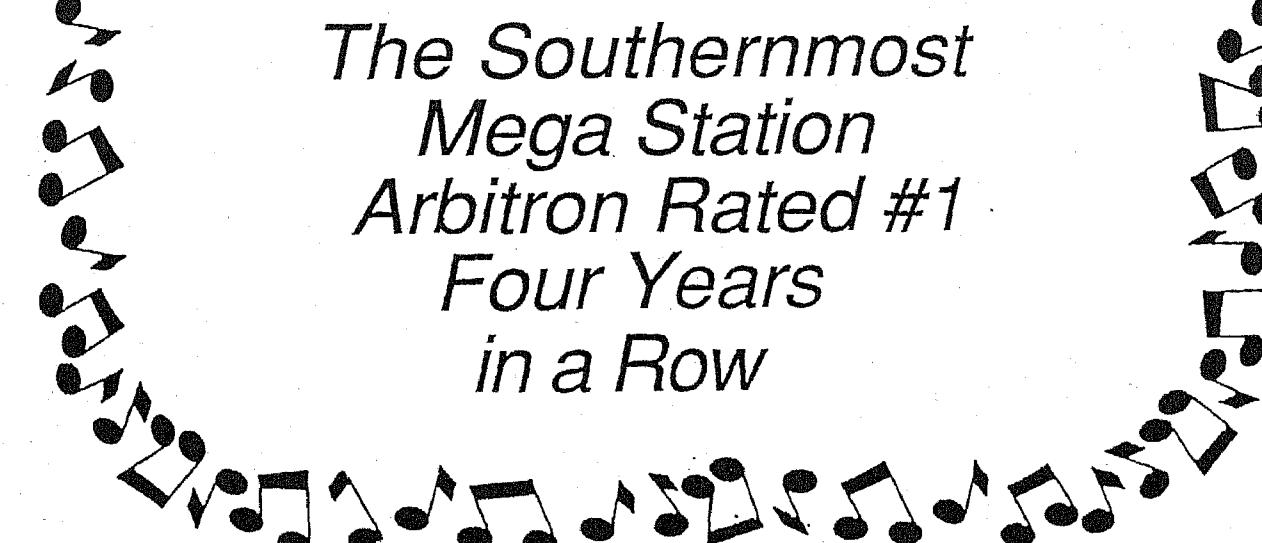
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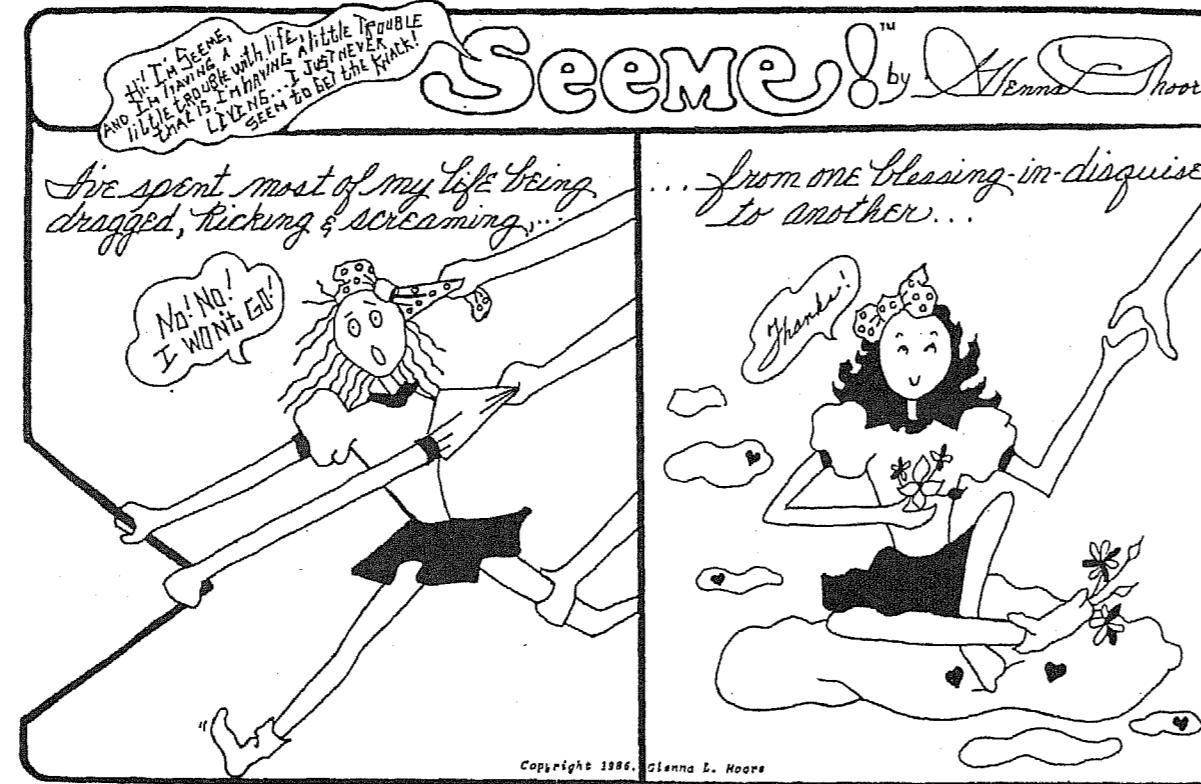
Informed Families of Monroe County will be taking several youths from the organization's Key West Children's Center at the city pool to the annual "Florida Comes Together" Conference April 14 to 16 in Orlando.

A major highlight of the event will be the Youth-to-Youth Conference in which young people from throughout Florida will learn how to share the "drug-free" message. They will learn skills in decision-making and examine the qualities of a drug-free life.

The children attending include Shemone Scott, Anita Brown, Talecia Singleton, Kisha McCoy and several others from Bahama Village and Stock Island. Charlette Ure and Bill Lee will chaperone.

Local businesses have been generous in sponsoring this project. Major sponsors include the Eatery Restaurant, Sloppy Joe's Bar, Keys Cinema, Sun Cab, Holiday Inn Beachside, Waterfront Market and Marine Bank. Many other local businesses too numerous to mention have made donations to this worthy objective, which will ultimately make a difference in Key West.

Informed Families is still looking for sponsors for children eager to attend. Donations can be made by contacting Bill Lee, c/o Informed Families, 812 Southard Street, Suite 27, Key West, or by calling 294-3694.



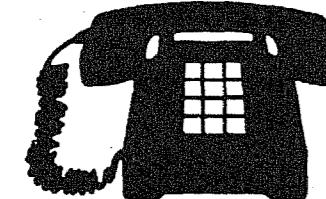
**Fund to Benefit
Local Children**

The Florida Keys Children's Shelter has established a fund to receive donations in memoriam of relatives and loved ones. The fund also accepts donations in lieu of gifts for anniversaries and other special occasions.

The children's shelter, a branch of the Children's Home Society of Florida, will provide temporary emergency housing for Monroe County's abused and neglected children as of July 1.

Donations may be made to the Florida Keys Children's Shelter, United Way Building, 724 Truman Avenue, Key West, FL 33040. For further information call the Florida Keys Children's Shelter office at 294-1092.

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Hurricane Museum
The Whys of Wind and Water

by Michael Avery

Imagine what it was like for the first inhabitants of the Florida Keys -- winds screaming at 200 mph, huge waves washing over the land. Naked, shelterless Indians suffering what must surely be the wrath of the gods. Indians named these storms *Huracans* (evil wind). Columbus was the first white man to witness them. These meteorologic monsters sank thousands of gold-laden Spanish ships. Were the winds God's punishment for their greed and cruelty?

The Hurricane Museum at the foot of William Street is over 3000 square feet of scientifically accurate exhibits. Many of the displays and models are viewer activated. You can push a button and actually create a miniature tornado. The museum is divided into three parts. It's a great place for a family outing.

In the history section are photos and statistics of the major hurricanes to strike the Florida Keys. The 1935 hurricane shattered forever the dreams of Henry Flagler and his railroad. In 1960, Hurricane Donna, a vicious storm with 180 mile-per-hour winds and a 13-foot storm tide, destroyed Marathon. A few years later, Hurricane Betsy ripped through the Upper Keys and Louisiana, killing 75 people and causing \$450-billion worth of damage. There is also a complete record of Gilbert, the last major storm.

The second part of the museum is devoted to the scientific aspects of hurricanes. Where do they come from? What causes them? Most important, where are they going?

Part three shows what man is doing to



Hurricane-powered waves crash against the seawall at Biscayne Bay. Photo courtesy of the Hurricane Museum.

understand and protect himself from hurricanes. The aircraft and satellite photos are remarkable. Perhaps in the future we will be able to prevent the death and destruction wrought by these great storms.

Vince Morrison and Rick Nicastro are the owners and founders of the museum. Morrison has a degree in computer science

and Nicastro is a sailing instructor from California. Both have been personally touched by a hurricane. Their displays offer a detailed study of nature's most powerful storm.

The Hurricane Museum is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call 294-7522.

It's Lily Ball Time!

The Easter Seal Society-Center of Hope Board of Directors are busy preparing for the 19th Annual Lily Ball to be at the Casa Marina, Friday, April 14, at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$45 per person. The Casa Marina will provide food and live music.

The Pre-Lily Ball Auction will be held

Thursday, April 13, at Curry Mansion from 6 to 9 p.m. An entrance fee of \$10 will be charged. Donated foods and drinks from area restaurants and businesses will be served.

Items available to auction include local artwork, giftware, chartered seaplane ride to the Tortugas, and weekend getaways, including one at Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale.

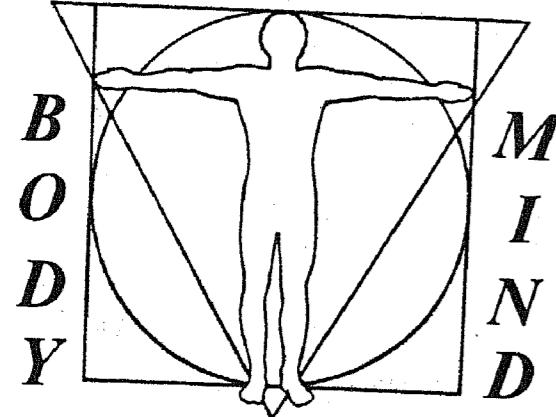
Proceeds go to community services which include physical therapy, speech-language therapy, hearing services, convalescent loan equipment and family advocacy to handicapped citizens of Monroe County.

Call 294-1089 to donate auction or door prize items, or to purchase ad space in the Lily Ball program book.

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SPIRIT



Did you hear about the two locals talking to each other? "There seems to be an apathy about committing to wholistic events here," said one. "Well, I don't know and I don't care," responded his companion.

Joking aside, is this the New Age in Key West or the Indifferent Age? Gary Young of Island Wellness, who has relentlessly promoted events for our benefit, is getting lukewarm attendance. Don't miss Peter Close. Check the calendar.

We need to support each other to make the spirit of teamwork, enthusiasm and genuine caring for each other come alive. Remember, the universe rewards those who act. The affirmation of good intentions without actions is the beginning of delusion.

A resounding thank you for the many positive responses to the March *Solares Hill*. Yes, it is a challenge to commit to your own health and wellbeing and that requires honesty, courage and action. Things do not happen by chance, they happen by change. And each of you has the potential, power, dignity and grace to carry yourself with the esteem of worthiness. Thank you to all my friends, especially Kachito, for your continuous flow of love, support and compassion.

Some of you have responded with disagreement about the use of drugs, especially cocaine and marijuana. The idea

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Renate Perelom, editor

Accepting a friend's addiction is like throwing a rock to a drowning person. Sometimes a life preserver is tough love -- a kick that breaks codependency.

The incongruities of addiction leak into the addict's energy and work. They surface in interactions with people. They mask reality and create lies. Addicts need to wake up; they must make a choice and opt for sanity.

Spring Breakers --
do we really want them?

by Zolar

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, the immortal bard, wrote the sustaining words: *In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.*

Undoubtedly Tennyson had never heard of "spring break," or what happens when the law of physics stating that two objects cannot occupy the same space is broken!

Fortunately for Tennyson he passed from this life in 1892 at the wise old age of 83 -- something I recently wished I had done!

I guess one sign of getting old is the loss of patience when confronted with 10 or 20 "breakers" atop scooters, in a great hurry to get nowhere by spontaneously making U-turns, no doubt in search of Kokomo.

As most of these breakers are too young to have learned the forgotten art of handsignals, a mail order course in ESP seems the only way a freshwater Conch like myself can survive the inevitable fender-bender.

Besides an obvious lack of driving skills -- I guess they no longer teach Motor Car 101 -- these same young people bear the countenance and arrogance of caged lions let loose and abandoned by their trainers, who,

if they are smart, are on some other island far, far away!

While I am not too old to remember my own college days and "going down the road" to drink beer, I don't recall ever joining a pack of wolves whose only intent seems drinking and debauchery and the destruction of private property to the extent allowed by their parents' Visa card credit lines!

One need only read the local news to realize this year's crop of spring breakers has really done damn little to help the Key West tourist economy. Up and down Duval Street, store signs have been literally ripped off and stolen under cover of darkness, no doubt by very tall students or Olympic high-jumpers in training.

If those performing these acts think this is the same as the harmless panty raids of the past, they had better go back to their basic economics classes. For example, how many tubes of suntan lotion must a shopkeeper sell to pay for the loss of a sign that originally cost \$500? And how much business is he now losing because people can't find his store without the sign?

This is not fiction. It happened to my store, TOUCH.

Besides the loss to merchants from deliberate disregard of property rights, Key West police have had to be called, reports written and filed, insurance companies notified and more reports and claims filed, which eventually cause rates to be raised. And all this just so some wiseguy can have something to hang on the wall of his dormitory room! If he had the guts to do this during the day, he might be hanging over the fireplace of some merchant -- and rightly so!

But what of the business these breakers bring to Key West?

Oh, I suppose if you own a bar (with plenty of cheap draft beer), sell suntan lotion or maybe condoms, you're doing a great business! But what about all the other people in town?

Too often heard on Duval Street recently has been the comment by "regular" tourists, "This is my first time here. I won't come back. I didn't think it was like this!"

Well, thank God it isn't!

But it can be again next year unless the chamber of commerce, Tourist Development Council and the merchants themselves do something about it now. Remember Fort Lauderdale!

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According to MTV, Key West is now "Number Two," behind Daytona Beach as the Spring Break Capitol. Since Avis successfully proved the advertising power of being "Number Two," I must say I am somewhat terrified at the prospect of next year's spring break.

Are we so tourist dependent that we need this kind of business? How does placing six people in a room normally occupied by two help Key West tourism?

Isn't it possible that "real" tourists who might come and spend "real" money aren't here now because they also watch TV and read newspapers?

If you were planning a winter holiday, would you knowingly book your vacation where and when thousands of college kids would be? If you answered "Yes," I have some waterfront property in Arizona to sell you.

In case I still haven't gotten my point across, try this on for size: The past tense of "break" is "broke."

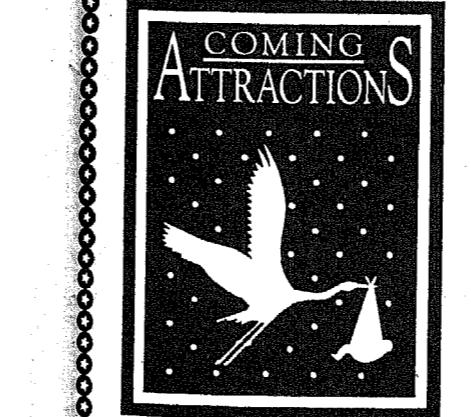
That's what we will all be if Key West moves to spot Number One!

The Astrology of Economics

by Sioux Rose

The planet Saturn brings us an individual and collective need for form and structure. Anatomically, it rules the bones which give the human body its structure. Socially, Saturn represents government, big business, heads of state and other power figures.

On the other hand, Neptune,

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Frances R. Rouse

Solares Hill--April 1989--Page 43

the heavyweight planets, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, have all begun their respective movement through the opposite sign, Capricorn. In a nutshell, this implies that the power of the United States' economic system is currently being played out largely "in the other court." This, coupled with the alignment of Saturn and Neptune, points to major economic changes this year.

I am very disappointed with Bush's campaign statement that the US economy is fine. While we may, with great ingenuity, adapt to these situations, many of our great business institutions will no longer be the same. The wave of Neptune will dissolve their structures.

Life is composed of cycles, like wavelengths. The cycles comprise the building blocks of our very nervous system (electrical impulses) and they rule everything from the tides to the rise and fall of nations.

Saturn and Neptune form two more very dynamic alignments this year. You might want to keep abreast of the news at those times. The next alignment peaks on June 24, but will be in effect from about June 15 to 28. And the final contact (for the next 36 years) occurs on November 13, but its effects will be strong from November 9 to 18. I suspect the one that occurs in June will be less severe because once an aspect forms, it gives an initial thrust that is felt on a very overt level. The secondary contact often involves some adjustments based on the first contact (such as legal gymnastics to preserve companies affected by the first contact this week).

At the last contact, however, we may see

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|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|------|------|
| 9:15 | LIA. | | | | LIA. | LIA. | |
| 11:00 | AQUA | | | | AQUA | AQUA | LIA. |
| 12:15 | LIA. | | | | LIA. | LIA. | |
| 5:15 | | | | | | | |
| 5:30 | LIA & AQUA | LIA & AQUA | LIA & AQUA | LIA & AQUA | LIA | LIA | |
| 6:45 | LIA. | LIA. | LIA. | LIA. | LIA. | LIA. | |

CLASSES: LIA - Low Impact Aerobics (1 hour)

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AQUA - Aquathletics Class held in the Reach Pool

WALK - Fitness Walking (1 hour)

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some radical government action to seek to correct this type of thing or, like in good medicine, prevent it. The Bush administration may have to revise its foreign policy toward exports and the heavy investing of foreign countries on our soil.

Recently, on *60 Minutes*, Andy Rooney spoke of how much of Washington D.C. is owned by Japanese firms! There is that law of karma and it seems that having dropped the bomb on Japan years ago, the karmic powerlessness is returning to us, in part.

In 1992 Uranus, planet of revolution (or at least radical changes in philosophy and policy) opposes the United States Sun (July 4). There will be radical policy changes and foreign responses to these. We are living in a time of much redefinition, economically, for our nation. (By the way, these aspects don't only affect the United States; they also reverberate through world markets.)

On the preservative side, throughout 1989, Pluto, planet of rebirth, is favoring our nation's Sun (July 4) and helping us to be the "phoenix rising from the ashes." Pluto rules our eliminations; so much of what's happening is a cosmic enema to our nation's clogged up economic system! It can be healing in the long run.

Big business has gone too far; enjoyed too many tax benefits, and in turn raised property values to the point where the

homeless in our cities resemble scenes from Charles Dickens' London.

Special Events

Special Events at Island Wellness, 530 Simonton St., 296-7353:

March 29-April 6: During his visit to Key West, British medium Peter Close will give private readings in trance mediumship by appointment. The cost is \$45.

April 13: A slide show presentation on UFOs by Phillip Burbutes. Cost is \$5 per person.

April 15: Carol Christine, LMT, LCH, will present a 1 1/2 hour workshop beginning at 2 p.m. entitled "Health is Wealth: Fasting and Food Combining." The cost is \$7.

April 27: "Healing with Crystals," by Peter Burbutes. This three-hour workshop starting at 7 p.m. will feature Burbutes' wealth of information on crystal healing. \$15 per person; bring your own crystals.

April 29: Valentine Menchetti will present his discussion on holistic philosophy, entitled "A New Way of Living." Val's discussion includes the inspirational works of Alan Watts and other writers.

For Your Information

Unity of the Keys offers prosperity support group every Wednesday at 8 a.m., along with many other classes, workshops and special events. Call 296-5888 for details.

The Women's Resource Center on Truman Annex offers programs that support the community. Enjoy the morning meditations and stretch classes. Call Gazelle at 296-7924 or Midge at 296-4115.

Ongoing classes at **Island Wellness**, 530 Simonton, 296-7353, are: **Mondays:** 10:30 a.m. -- Charles Karp Yoga; 12:15 p.m. -- Stillpoint Relaxation; 5:30 p.m. -- Stillpoint Relaxation; 7:00 p.m. -- Personal Growth, ongoing group with Bill Schlicht; 7:45 p.m. -- Homoeopathic Study Group with Dr. R. Donald Papon; 8:00 p.m. -- Reflexology Instruction. **Tuesdays:** 10:30 a.m. -- Yoga with Carol Christine or Ava Cisare; 12:15 p.m. -- Stillpoint Relaxation with Gary Young; 2 p.m. -- Breathing Gymnastics with Marlyse Divernois; 5:30 p.m. -- Stillpoint; 7 p.m. -- Yoga with Carol Christine. **Wednesdays:** 10:30 a.m. -- Yoga with Carol Anderson or Ava Cisare; 12:15 p.m. -- Stillpoint; 3 p.m. -- Breathing Gymnastics; 5:30 p.m. -- Stillpoint; 7 p.m. -- Jung discussion led by Roy Stone, Jr.; 7 p.m. -- Group Meditation; 8 p.m. -- Experience Hypnosis with Monica Geers.

Peter continued to investigate and explore the paranormal world. He tried hard to disprove it, without success. When told he had psychic talents, he refuted it. But an inner urge prompted him to audit psychic development classes at the Spiritualist Association. He continued attending for seven years.

Peter is no longer skeptical about his interest but still holds what he calls a "healthy suspicion" about much of what passes for psychic phenomena.

Since his retirement, psychic mediumship has become his full-time occupation. In England, Peter has appeared on BBC television's *40 Minutes*, and has appeared regularly on US cable TV channels.

Peter will return to Island Wellness at 530 Simonton Street. Call 296-7353 for information.

Thursdays: 10:30 a.m. -- Yoga with Carol Anderson or Ava Cisare; 12:15 p.m. -- Stillpoint; 5:30 p.m. -- Stillpoint; 7:00 p.m. -- StressFree, a class in Stress Management; 8 p.m. -- Affirmations for Life. **Fridays:** 10:30 a.m. -- Yoga with Charles Karp; 12:15 p.m. -- Stillpoint; 5:30 p.m. -- Stillpoint. **Saturdays:** 10:30 a.m. -- Non-Impact Aerobics with Nancy Bauer; 12:00 Noon -- Meditation with Gary Young. **Sundays:** 7:30 p.m. -- Church Services with Dr. R. Donald Papon.

• Insideout Health Foods, 529 Southard, features the latest information on health and self awareness on their bulletin board.

• Yoga taught by Ronnie Dubinski of the **Yoga College**, Harris School, corner of Southard and Margaret. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.; Sun. 6 p.m. One hour classes. For information call 292-1854.

• Homoeopathic Study Group on Monday evenings 7:45-9:30 by Dr. R. Donald Papon. Fee is \$5. Call 296-7353 or 296-3574 for details.

Peter Close Returns to Island Wellness

Peter Close, a retired police sergeant with 32 years service, began developing mediumship while serving the force. Possessing a natural cynicism of psychic occurrences, he was skeptical when a woman medium at the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain meeting described a motorcycle accident Peter had in 1959. He had narrowly escaped death.

Peter continued to investigate and explore the paranormal world. He tried hard to disprove it, without success. When told he had psychic talents, he refuted it. But an inner urge prompted him to audit psychic development classes at the Spiritualist Association. He continued attending for seven years.

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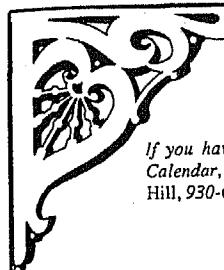
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If you have an event you wish to include in the Calendar, please send your information to: Solares Hill, 930-C Eaton St., Key West, Florida, 33040.

APRIL CALENDAR

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Key Deer Protection Month

4/1-9

STAGE
Some Things You Need to Know Before the World Ends (A Final Evening with the Illuminati), an hilarious farce at the Red Barn Theatre, 296-9911.

4/5

Antologia de la Zarzuela, at the Key West High School auditorium. A Festival of the Continents presentation, 296-5882.

4/7-8
9-10

The All New Key West Classics, at the Waterfront Playhouse, 294-5015.

4/8

Miami's "Caddy Shack Four," Key West's "Everready Quartet" and "Miami Spice" will harmonize in Barbershop style at TWFAC. Call John Viele, 745-1064.

4/12-13
6/18

In Gay Company, at Jan McArt's Cabaret Theatre, 296-2120.

4/13-16
20-22

Brighton Beach Memoirs, at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call W. Lee Bell 294-6232.

4/19-5/14

Telemachus Clay, at the Red Barn Theatre, 296-9911.

4/26-30

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, at the Waterfront Playhouse, 294-5015.

4/28

The Fabulous Spectrelles, at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, 294-6232.

4/30

Penderecki String Quartet, at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, 294-6232.

4/1-30

COMMUNITY EVENTS
April is Key Deer Protection Month! Call 743-5748 for details.

4/8

The 2nd Annual Mayor's Ball, by Parvan Bakardjiev. Call 296-5882.

4/10

La Leche League meeting. Call Joanne Singleton at 872-2861.

4/10-12
& 20-22

Stop Smoking Clinic, 7-9 p.m. Free clinic sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Call 294-9385.

4/14

Easter Seal Lily Ball. Call Heidi Rosasco at 294-1089.

4/14-16

Shark Research Tournament, call Jimmy Music at 245-3320.

4/15

"**Feather Our Nest**" Auction, call Peggy McClain at 294-4958.

4/15-30

Key West TDA Conch Republic Celebrations 1989, call Tony Falcone at 294-4440.

4/21-5/7

Texaco Keys Classic, call Findlay Sinclair at 296-7586 or 1-800-637-1102.

4/21-23

Russell F. Sullivan Memorial Golf Tournament, call Ron Weaver at 294-3592.

4/22

Seven Mile Bridge Run, sponsored by the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce. Call Nancy or Brenda at 743-5417.

4/23

Key West Garden Club Plant Ramble, at West Martello Tower. Call 294-3210.

4/28

4th Annual Celebration of John James Audubon's Birthday, at the Audubon House, 294-2116.

8th Annual Awards Presentation of the Historic Florida Keys Preservation Board, call 294-2116.

4/29

7th Annual Conch Republic Bed Race, call Joe Russo at 296-7511.

4/29

Bud Light Marathon Offshore Challenge, call 743-5417.

4/30

13th Annual Key West Kite Festival, sponsored by Key West Kite Company at Smathers Beach. Call 296-2535.

A Final Evening with the Illuminati at the Red Barn Theatre

Through April 9, the Red Barn Theatre will present Levi Lee and Larry Larson's hilarious farce *Some Things You Need to Know Before the World Ends (A Final Evening with the Illuminati)*.

Featuring the combined talents of actor Danny Weathers and Red Barn artistic director Richard Magesis ... *Illuminati* explodes with the antics of a wacky minister and his hunchbacked helper.

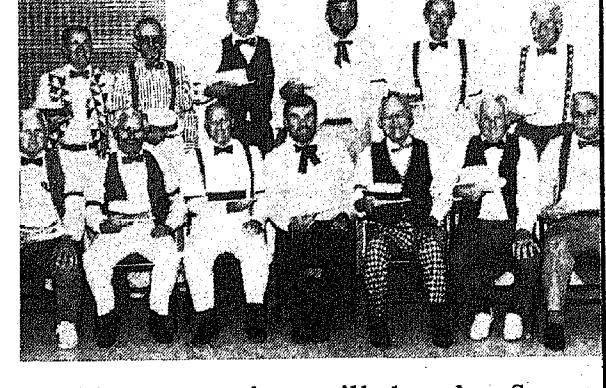


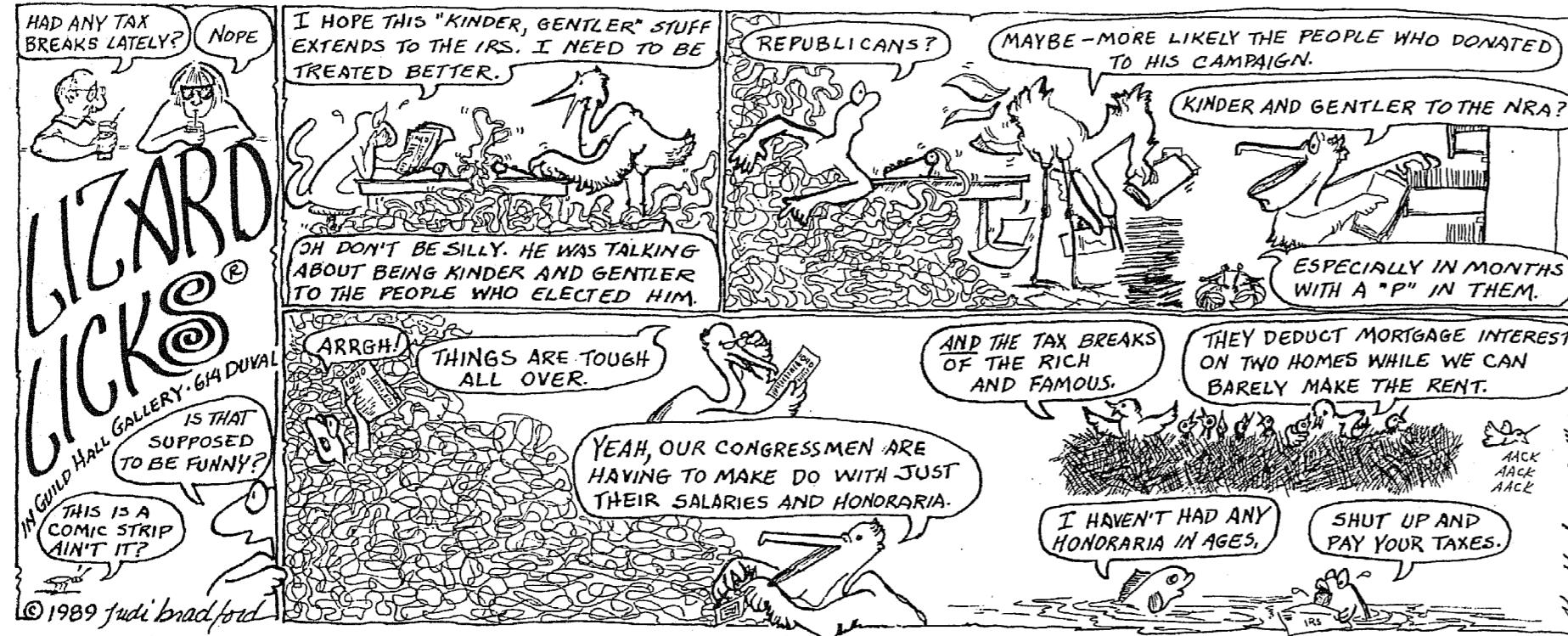
Joy Hawkins has directed the duo, whose shooting and rebounding keep them as busy in the pulpit as it does on their "basketball court." Catechism, the King James Bible, and miracles are re-explored in comic fashion, and Sunday sermons may never seem the same again.

Tickets are \$12.50 each, and can be reserved by calling the Box Office at 296-9911, or by stopping by the Red Barn at 319 Duval Street -- rear -- behind the Key West Women's Club.

Barbershop Harmonies

The Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center will present a concert of barbershop music on April 8 at 8 p.m. The Miamians will be featured in a musical version of a circus entitled "Harmony Under the Big Top."





Florida Keys Revisited Continued from page 13

of the two vessels, did not actually depart Key West until 8:10 a.m. "We saw a number of frigate birds but far the most exciting spectacle was a group of about 10 porpoises that would occasionally swim by.

"We went under sail the whole 70 miles aboard the yawl ... captained by a husband and wife team, Craig and Kelly, loaded with stories of Baja, Key West and other Jimmy Buffett dreamlands.

"The other ship was smaller ... and captained by a plump bearded Texan ... inclined to belly laughs and yahooing. [He and his] crew and cook, Bill, provided entertainment night and day.

"[En route] a great black apparition lunged out of the water about eight or ten feet into the air, its body gleaming in the spray. It was a manta ray.

"That evening [there was] one of the most beautiful sunsets. Unfortunately Halleys Comet was lost to the waning sun."

Next morning they explored Garden Key, the location of Fort Jefferson, and were struck with the difficulty the 1857 people would have had negotiating this very difficult channel.

The afternoon was spent snorkeling near the fort. Along the seawall were "some magnificent fish. Loggerhead Key proved to offer the best snorkeling on the trip. Parrot fish, angels, sergeant majors and many other colorful varieties populated its nooks and crannies. Barracuda were around in groups of about ten..."

Next night at dinner, the party learned from Craig, their captain, about a local custom. "It seems to be the practice here to trade... Since they spend two weeks at a time on the water, the trade consists of beer and pornography for fish. Men get lonely at sea."

In the Tortugas, the 1986 group either did not find or were unimpressed by the extensive beds of variegated corals heralded by the earlier pioneers. On Sunday, January 10, they set sail for Key West, being forced by head winds to run under power. They passed near where Mel Fisher found the treasure, or thought they did.

Their most vivid memories were of snorkeling off Loggerhead Key. "It was just overwhelming. There is so much life on the reefs." This impression was an echo from 1857.

A Final Note

When the 1857 adventurers finally got back to Williamstown, some of the enthusiasm with which their success was greeted was tongue-in-cheek.

"When the 'alcoholic specimens' were opened, and the perfumes that would not be confined found their way out and pervaded the college grounds, and filled the halls, and oozed in keyholes and cracks of windows, the prevailing eagerness to enter the mystic precincts whence they came knew no bounds. Then, too, the naturalists looked so grave and so responsible, and talked so learnedly of conchs and sea-eggs, donaks and gophers, that daily the wonder grew how such small heads could carry all they seemed to know."

The one, the only--Coffee Butler. Photo courtesy of the Waterfront Playhouse.

Key West's Classics at Waterfront Playhouse

Two nights only, April 9 and 10, Key West's Classics returns to the Waterfront Playhouse at 8:30 p.m.

Writer and director Frank Gehrecke and musical director Otis Clements have created "an evening of nostalgia." More than ten of Key West's most popular nightclub



entertainers will belt out their favorite tunes, some from the '40s and '50s.

Performing are Rex Brumgart; Coffee Butler, solo, singing some of his originals; Tanya Duffy; Denys Fitzpatrick; Larry Harvey accompanied by Jay Foote of Pigeon House Patio; Dottie Martin; Vicki Roush-Brown; Ellie Russell; Greg Strickland; and Viola Veidt.

The box office will be open March 29 to 31 and April 7 and 8, from noon to 4 p.m., and on performance dates, noon to curtain. Call 294-5015.

Bike Auction

The Key West Police Department will be conducting its bicycle auction on April 8 at about 10 a.m. in the city hall parking lot.

People may view the bikes beginning at 9 a.m. Lost or stolen bikes among those to be auctioned may be claimed with proof of ownership.

RESTAURANT GUIDE Solares Hill Entertainment Key West



LUNCH & DINNER
SERVED DAILY FROM NOON
John Wilcox at the Piano
6-10 p.m.
Sing-A-Long with Jay Foote
10 p.m.-? Tues.-Sun.
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STEAKS & SEAFOOD
A & B Lobster House.....700 Front
Angie's Seafood House.....3618 N. Roosevelt
Billie's.....407 Front
Bill's Key West Fish Market.....2502 N. Roosevelt
Black Angus.....3824 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
Capt. Bob's Shrimp Dock.....2200 N. Roosevelt
Crab Shack.....900 Caroline
Danny's Fish Market.....627 Duval
Eating in Paradise.....The Reach
Half Shell Raw Bar.....Foot of Margaret
Harbor Lights.....Garrison Bight Marina
Hukilau.....1990 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
Islander Restaurant.....Front & Simonton
Logan's Lobster House.....1420 Simonton
Mangrove Mama's.....MM20, Sugarloaf
Martha's.....S. Roosevelt Blvd. (AIA)
O'Brien's at the Wharf.....2401 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
Pier 1 Raw Bar (Pier House).....3800 N. Roosevelt
Portside Key West.....431 Front
Rusty Anchor.....5th Ave. Stock Island
Turtle Kraals.....Foot of Margaret
Two Friends Patio Restaurant.....512 Front St.

HOME COOKING
Camille's.....703 1/2 Duval
Deli Restaurant.....Simonton & Truman
Denny's.....3810 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
Duval St. Dell.....211 Duval
The Eatery Buffet Restaurant.....105 Duval
Margaritaville Cafe.....1202 Simonton
Margaritaville Cafe.....500 Duval
Pene's Cafe.....806 Caroline
Pier 1 Raw Bar (Pier House).....3800 N. Roosevelt
Portside Savannah.....915 Duval
Wag's Restaurant.....3850 N. Roosevelt

SANDWICH/DELI
Cafe Exile.....Duval at Angela
Cayo Hueso.....105 Whitehead
Key West Picture Show Cafe.....409 Front St.
La Bodega.....829 Simonton
Margaritaville Cafe.....500 Duval
Mr. Submarine.....100 N. Roosevelt
Mick's Deli.....812 Caroline St.
Owl Food Store.....906-A Kennedy Dr.
Paradise Cafe.....Simonton & Fleming
Pier House Market.....500 Front St.
The Grocer.....1220 1/2 Simonton

CONTINENTAL
Billie's.....407 Front
The Buttery.....1208 Simonton
Cafe at Louise's.....700 Waddell
Dolce's French House.....227 Duval
Dickle's.....320 Grinnell
Foley Square.....218 Duval
Islander Restaurant.....Front & Simonton
Margaritaville Cafe.....500 Duval
Mira.....60 Fleming
Portside Key West.....431 Front
The Quay.....12 Duval
Queen's Table (Santa Maria).....1401 Simonton

CUBAN
B's Restaurant.....1500 Berlin
Cuban Queen Cafe.....512 Greene
Dennis Pharmacy.....1228 Simonton
El Cachito.....125 Duval
El Chiboney.....914 Kennedy
El Siboney.....900 Catherine
Jose's Cantina.....800 White
La Cubanita.....601 Duval
La Luchonera.....628 Duval
El Meson De Pepe.....1215 Duval

ITALIAN
Antonie's.....615 Duval
Arthur's Garden.....525 Duval
Aunt Rose's.....1900 Flagler
Balamontes.....1223 White
Florin's.....528 Eaton
La Trattoria.....224 Duval
Nighthawks Cafe.....917 Duval
Little Nicola's.....628 Duval
Lois' Pasta.....609 Duval
Portside Key West.....431 Front
Top O' Spray.....3420 N. Roosevelt

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305-296-7298, Open Mon. - Fri. Noon-11 PM
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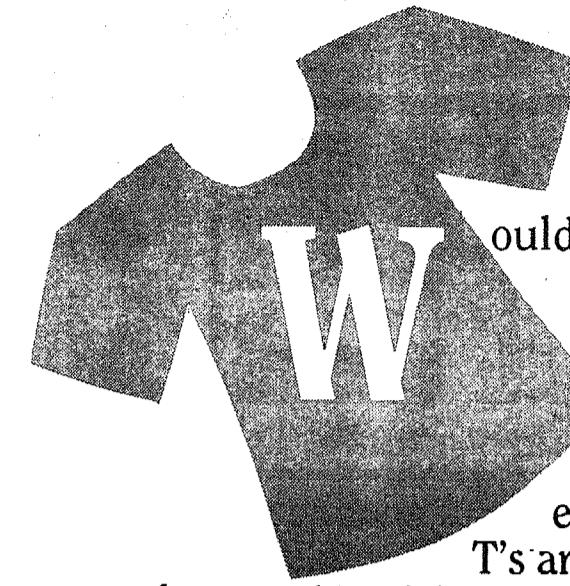
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ouldn't it be nice if the many T-shirt shops on Duval all sold quality, creative clothing that's designed and printed locally? Most, sadly, sell what is referred to as "Tacky T's" . . . apallingly unoriginal transfers on cheaply made garments. Stapled to every available inch of wall and ceiling, Tacky T's are frequently advertised at \$1 or \$2 each, but can end up costing visitors a whole lot more than that. As a result, the Key West Fashion Patrol and the Lower Keys Zoning Board have prepared a proposal that would have . . .

Mount Trashmore Zoned for Tacky T-Shirt Shops



If accepted, tourists will be able to buy overpriced trash at the very same location that Key Westers have been leaving their overpriced trash for years. In addition to improving Duval Street, the idea would convert previously unusable property into a viable (though tasteless) addition to our tax base. Public hearings on the subject will be announced soon.

Of course, this entirely fictional scene is the 1989 April Fool's spoof from Solares Hill Design Group!