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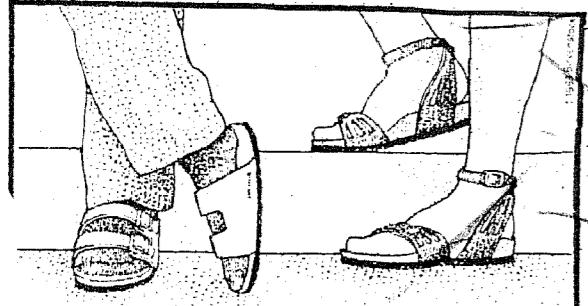
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Protecting Our Waters

When I first moved to Key West, I spent a good portion of time on the flats, fishing with my friend, who had left publishing career to become a flats-fishing guide. Day after day, he poled through the barely lapping water of the back-country, while I scanned the surrounding blue for a ripple, or a glint of sunlight reflected off the scale of a surfacing fish: signs that permit, tarpon or bonefish were near.

As conservationists and people who make their livings in the back-country attest, the balance of nature in the waters surrounding the Keys is truly delicate. Its beauty takes your breath away.

To see a spotted eagle ray rise vertically from the warm-green waters of the Gulf like phoenix from a liquid fire, its flattened fins an unlikely mode of propulsion for such a maneuver, and then to hear the splash of freedom, is to experience the wonder of nature unspoiled.

Or to sit quietly in a drifting boat, while hundreds of magnificent frigate birds, roosting in the mangroves, inflate their brilliant red throat pouches in courtship display, humbles the spirit to a state of respectful silence.

Consider the value of the rich backwater areas—home to spawning fish, crustaceans,

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REPRODUCES THE MATING CALL OF THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN AS WELL

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turtles and seagrasses, along with that of our truly magnificent reef, and it becomes obvious that protection of these ecosystems is essential. They are simply too delicate to endure the insensitivities of unregulated use.

In these hurried times, we must keep a watchful eye on our environment and try to tune down to a more pacific mentality. Until we can transcend our tendencies toward environmental destruction, we must pass legislation to protect both the environment and ourselves.

The federal government is the logical choice of agencies to control Keys waters, and we should support it in organizing the details for management of the Marine Sanctuary Bill. The state and county should abandon their isolated efforts, and assist in implementing the larger plan.

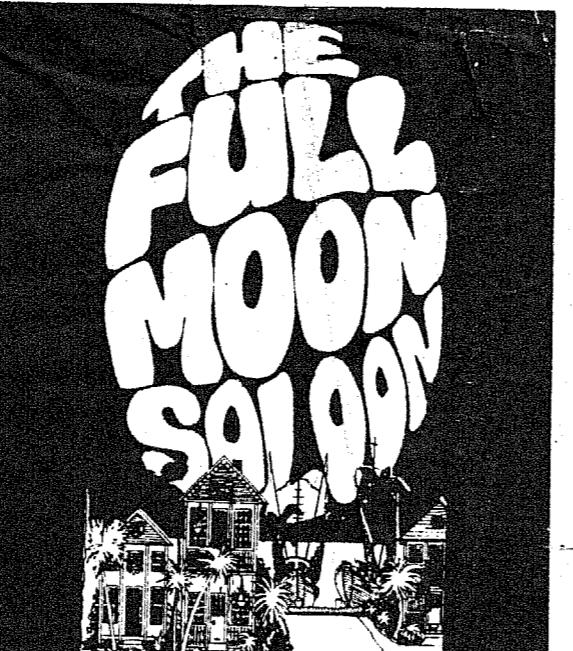
If we expect to survive on this earth, the 1990s must become an age of environmental legislation and compliance. The sanctuary bill has holes, but it is a start at protecting a resource that does not have second chances.

Read John Cole's article, "Shallow-Water Saviors," on Page 8 for a deeper look at this environmental issue.

Best wishes for a peaceful New Year!

Ann Boese

The cover photograph of Coco Robicheaux, a blues singer from New Orleans, was taken by Dick Burke in front of the Bull & Whistle Bar on Duval Street.



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They still grant variances, don't they?

Good Code Enforcement Makes Good Neighbors

by Anne Carlisle

Land use stories frequently find front page space in Key West newspapers. Recent headlines—"DCA finds 604 objections to county's land plan," "Historic commission rejects Peary plans"—suggest large-scale politics decide development issues.

But it is also true that the fight for what happens to our finite space is waged in our own backyards: An individual's actions in regard to his own property—what he builds on it, legally or illegally, and what the community does or does not do to enforce its own codes—are determining factors in the look and feel of the island.

It was 10 a.m. on a cool Sunday in October, about seven years ago, when I first saw my Old Town bungalow. There was virtually no traffic on Southard Street. A neighboring Conch came over to check me out as I stood beside my realtor and surveyed the charmingly berserk lines of the tin-roofed garage, which falling down on the property line.

The neighbor didn't seem too disturbed by the apparent encroachment of previous owners; his solution had been to plant morning glories up against one caved-in side of "my" garage. It was too small to shelter a car, we all agreed, but it made a nice shed.

Nobody mentioned the words "code enforcement."

Blinded by love at first sight, I failed to notice, as we walked around the back side of the property to where an outdoor jacuzzi gently burbled, that on the other side of a chain-link fence, not more than five feet from my jacuzzi area, was an institutional heat pump belonging to restaurateur Paul Tripp. The noise, I would discover later, was so annoying that it became a determining factor in my leaving Old Town.

Fifteen feet is the required setback for air conditioners. However, enforcement regarding that setback has started only recently. At least one air conditioning case has been heard by the Board of Adjustment during five of the last six months.

The three boards which preside in a legal or quasi-legal way over land use in the historic district are HARC (the Key West Historical Architectural Review Commission), the Code Enforcement Board, and the Key West City Commission, which sits once a month as the Board of Adjustment.

"Setbacks and density are two of the most commonly requested variances," says Ted Strader, who has been on board for nine months as city planner. In the past six months, a total of 90 zoning variances and special exceptions have been requested by the city commission.

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In an average year, according to Strader, there are about 150 petitions for variances; about half will be approved, including most of the air conditioner cases. (This is partially because 15 feet is a long setback on a property that may be as shallow as 25 feet.)

About two to three variances per month are "after-the-fact" requests—that is, a code has already been violated, either by the present or previous owner of a structure. In the overwhelming majority of cases, this is because the builder has gone ahead with work without getting the necessary permit, believing that if he gets caught, he will be granted the variance anyway.

Historically, city commissioners have taken a lenient approach toward such cases. Also, the fact that elected officials rule on these issues makes for a built-in leniency.

"Granting variances on the basis of emotion instead of fact is universal," says City Manager Felix Cooper. "We are not way off the chart." However, at his instigation several months ago, the city commissioners held a workshop session on variances with their city attorney Bob Gray.

"Gray explained to them that nine out of ten variances that were being granted shouldn't have been granted because there was no legal justification," says Cooper. "They said, fine, thank you. The next few times they pay attention, then they go right back to making decisions based on their own personal feelings."

By "legal justification," Gray meant compliance with the four points outlined in City Code, Section 12.02 (30) A. According to law, variance applications must dem-

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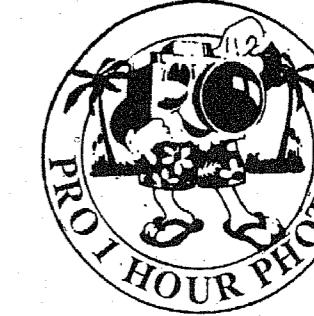
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2. That literal interpretation of the zoning provisions would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same district;

3. That the special conditions and circumstances do not result from the actions of the applicant;

4. That granting of the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied to other lands, structures or buildings in the same district.

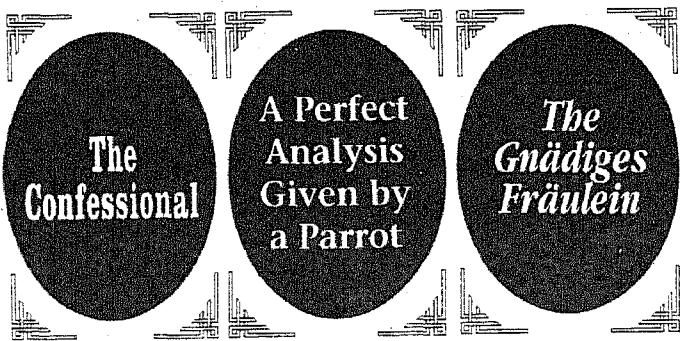
City Commissioner Jimmy Weeklye acknowledges that, prior to the workshop, "if it was within reason and not a lot of neighbors were complaining, normally the commission would grant the variance.

The issue seems to be personal accountability.

"When Gray said, 'Hey, you're doing this all wrong,' that was the first time I had ever heard of it being brought to the commission's attention," says Weeklye. "Gray said that to grant a variance the committee

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has to show a hardship, not of economics, but an unusual situation."

Weeklye says lot sizes in Key West are exceptional. "There really are unique situations," he says. "But historically the four points that have to be satisfied are something that none of the commissions has ever followed."

The adjustment board's application form has now been changed, according to Weeklye. The applicant has to answer, in writing, the four points.

"It was probably okay," says Strader of the commission's historically "humanistic" approach to variances. "And it was a reasonable process in a way, but it wasn't meeting the points of law, which are stated quite coherently in the code."

Strader says if the commission adhered strictly to the code, it would grant "a couple of variances a year."

With all the changes in the building department hierarchy, Strader finds himself playing the role of code interpreter—heading off variances in cases which are not justified.

Area contractors and builder/owners agree that the Building Department's new orientation toward making the system user-friendly while strengthening code enforcement should improve compliance.

"The days when the Bubba system was in force are virtually gone," says sculptor Art Kara, who has restored several Key West homes. "Previously, power was more respected than the rule of law. But more sophisticated people have come in and now the rule of law prevails. However, the rules are so complicated that sometimes the en-

forcers have no idea what they are."

According to Cheryl Troxel of Nablo/Troxel Building Contractors, "You often find encroachments. After all, it's not a subdivision. Living in the historic district requires tact and negotiation."

"The existing system gives you a lot of help, if you are willing to work within it," she says. "The Building Department didn't write the rules. The community did, so it should abide by them."

The overriding issue seems to be personal accountability. One homeowner who is disgruntled at the treatment he received at the Building Department, over an air conditioner dispute in his lane, fixed up a porch on his house without getting a permit. Somebody else reports seeing a code enforcement officer washing his car while Monroe County was under a water moratorium.

"People would leave those meetings crying . . . "

"What it comes down to," says Troxel, "is that it's okay for someone to do work on his home without a permit, but then if his neighbor does it, it's another story. If society doesn't want the rules, it should change them. If it does, it should enforce them."

According to Strader, review of the land development code, which covers everything

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from installing a bathroom to building a shopping mall, is required by law every ten years. An update is due this spring.

Meanwhile, Strader's department has presented isolated sections of the code to the city commission for revision. One such item is the signing ordinance, which was first deliberated on December 17.

"No one has tried to enforce the historic rules," says Strader. "There is a section written in the first half of the century that is still on the books: 'Anyone owning any horizontal projecting sign except a marquee which extends over any portion of any sidewalk, street or any public way or property shall remove the sign before July 1, 1959.'"

About the signing issue, however, Wright Langley, director of the state's Historic Preservation Planning Board, makes this point: "The perception that all the signs should be the same is not historically correct. If you go back and look at the history of signing, it had a great variety. A limitation on size makes some sense, but the individuality of how it is done could be better interpreted in the ordinance."

(The Historic Preservation Planning Board presently is in limbo for want of the governor's appointment of a Board of Trustees.)

"We need it desperately," says Vince Macini, HARC building inspector, about code revision. The sections of the code that cover zoning and signing are being studied in conjunction with the Architectural Guidelines for Historic Preservation.

According to a memo from the planning department to Gene Burr, who has just been brought in by Ted Strader as the city's in-house historic preservation planner, there have been "recent and recurring conflicts between the code of ordinances and the guidelines."

Changes are also afoot at HARC to make the system more user-friendly, according to both Mancini and Langley. "In the past, when it was the Old Island Restoration Commission," says Mancini, "there was a stigma. People would leave those meetings crying, or they would be talked down to."

"Staff is being given more responsibility for the automatic things, such as painting your house white again. It is no longer necessary to sit through a three-hour meeting to get approval for something like that."

"Our orientation is to try to get away from confrontation. The city does not want to make money by levying fines. People think we want fees, and that's why all the

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permits. It is not true. Our first concern," says Mancini, "actually is safety."

Or, to put it another way, the prevention of lawsuits. Several years ago, a house collapsed on renovators who had gutted it improperly.

City Manager Cooper comments on the diversity of opinion regarding the proper level of enforcement and adjustment: "If you are too harsh you get criticism, and if you are too lax you get criticism. It's the same in Key West as it is in Newport, Rhode Island, or Hollywood, California."

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ors. The board sits once a month, and is empowered to issue stop-work orders, levy fines (of up to \$250 a day) or enforce removal of a structure, though this happens rarely. (Three years ago a Poorhouse Lane owner paid \$3000 to remove a cinder block wall; safety reasons were cited.)

Is the hammer falling softer or harder these days? Harder, says Addleman. Yet it is the perception of many that code enforcement is not so strong as it should be.

"I'm getting a feeling from the staff that the enforcement board is not in tune with the real issues," says Cooper.

Addleman points out, however, that he does not have the luxury of manpower: "In cities where there are 15 or 20 inspectors, they can do neighborhood sweeps. Here we rely on neighbor's complaints."

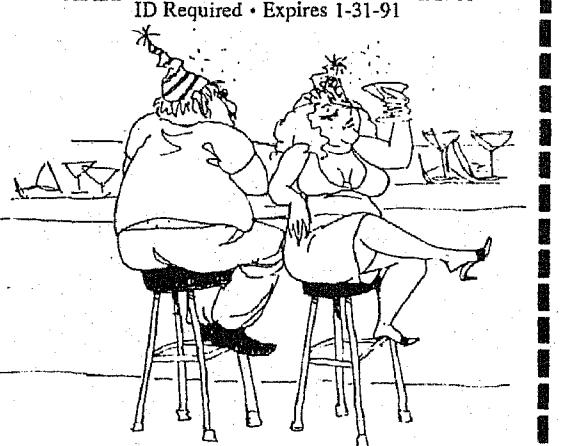
So what are the real issues? One, says historic preservationist Lang-

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ley, may be the over-utilization of Key West's tiny land parcels. As new homeowners with bigger incomes enter the market, they tend to spread out to the property lines, putting in pools and decks and taking down little outbuildings and shrubbery.

"Everyone wants to use every damn square foot they've got on a lot," says Langley. "It changes the whole complexion of the island, the relationship of buildings. People are asking for variances so they can add on—and lots are already small in Key West."

It's not quite the Manhattan skyline, with concrete skyscrapers huddled shoulder-to-shoulder. The phrase "zero setback," however, crops up on a number of variances. Smaller setbacks are commonly asked for—and commonly granted. It may be only a foot here and a foot there, but those feet add up.

On an historical scale, less is often more. Yet the HARC building inspector sounds more like a libertarian than an historian when he pointedly states that "landowners do have rights."

"There weren't air conditioners before 1948, but that doesn't mean people should not have them now," says Mancini. "I'm not on anybody's side. My thing is working towards solutions. I often find myself in the role of mediator."

The typical reaction of a homeowner going through either the permitting process with HARC or a variance petition was perhaps best summarized by writer David Kaufelt after his experience: "It was ridiculously bureaucratic."

Sculptor Kara, who gives kudos to the administration for the new open-window policy—"the people in the field have a service attitude"—also points out that "the paperwork is daunting."

Technical difficulties may indeed be one

reason why so many homeowners don't get permits, or build beyond their restrictions.

"We can all see those situations where there's been a lack of enforcement in the field," says Strader. "If you know the code, you can see them everywhere."

Another reason may be the homeowner's unwillingness to pay the price. "I know that the automotive shop diagonal to [where I live] is supposed to have built a dense landscape buffer," says Strader. "Instead there's a ratty fence and old cars parked there. As a citizen that pisses me off."

Some situations are not all that clear cut. At the December 5 Board of Adjustment meeting, for instance, there was an "after-the-fact" variance requested by an owner who had discovered, after buying his lane bungalow, that a previous owner had illegally installed a shed—not only up to the neighbor's property line but three inches over it.

The neighbor now claims the shed should be entirely removed. The new owner, however, had purchased his property believing the shed was his to use. The commission's decision was to allow the shed to remain, but to require that it be moved back three inches.

Both parties are inconvenienced by a situation that was neither individual's fault. This is fairly typical of the complications that arise, especially in the historic district.

In a case where neighbors contested the placement of an air-conditioning unit, HARC inspector Mancini mediated, and was pleased at the results.

The architect and owner agreed to install a plexiglass shield and double fencing to protect the neighbors from noise. With that compromise in place, the board granted the variance, putting the air conditioner within 30 inches of the property line rather than beyond the required 15-foot setback.

"Normally the commission would grant the variance."

One neighbor at least came away feeling that the inspector had been overly attentive to the developer's side. In this case, as in most, the perceptions of the parties about what was going on were very different.

"To say the least, interpreting this stuff is not easy," says Strader.

Which leads to a nasty little issue. If the code is difficult to interpret, and even more difficult to enforce, what about individuals who set out to thread their way through the loopholes? Is it easier to get away with erecting a 16-foot fence—such as entrepreneur Ed Swift did along Gloria's Garden restaurant—if you have money and/or political influence than if you don't?

Political activist Elliot Baron, who manages Mangia Mangia Pasta Café for building owner Robert Tillinghast, is one of the "after-the-fact" air conditioner cases heard by the Board of Adjustment recently.

In November Baron's application to receive a zone variance to allow a condensing unit to be placed within eight feet of the rear property line was granted. An agreement to build a fence was worked out with neighbor, Marcia Tugwell. (At presstime, the fence was being erected; Baron complained it had taken "about 30 hours of my time to get all the permits.")

Baron, who wrote a series of articles for *Solares Hill* on various code issues such as

signing and outdoor seating, says he "had no idea that this part of the code existed."

He says he had hired a reputable contractor to install the unit—it turned out the contractor didn't have a proper license—and was surprised when the mechanical inspector came around and said that the unit had to come out.

"The ordinance is defective," says Baron, in that it doesn't weigh the noise-producing effects of differently sized units. "The code summary dismisses a class of equipment. Virtually no one has 15-foot setbacks."

The disgruntled Marcia Tugwell's point of view is that this is simply the latest of Baron's successful manipulations of weaknesses in the code enforcement system.

"What Elliot wants, Elliot gets," she sums up, adding humorously, "Elliot likes to sing opera after midnight. I wish he would go to Broadway with this stuff."

Tugwell is not happy living with the code enforcement decision. "I can smell the cigar smoke. I can hear the dinner conver-

sation."

She has a for-sale sign in front of her home.

The neighbor to the other side of the restaurant, lifetime resident Margaret Skully, has sold her home to Tillinghast.

HARC inspector Mancini says, "I think what they have done in [Mangia Mangia] is beautiful. I can't imagine why the neighbors would complain."

Commissioner Weekley, however, seconds Tugwell's opinion. "There have been a couple of times [Baron] has somehow weaved his way around procedures," he says. "He let code enforcement take him in, they lost the case, and no one challenged the decision. The code enforcement board ruled in favor of Mangia Mangia and no one challenged that."

"If they want to pursue it, they would have to take him through the court to override the decision."

Weekley says: "Believe me, if the shoe was on the other foot, Elliot would be out there screaming the loudest."

Baron's comment on last year's victory: "That is water over the dam."

Is Elliot Baron a sheep in sheep's clothing? Or is it just case of baa-d variances making baa-d neighbors? Tune in for the next round of code enforcement and adjustment meetings and decide for yourself. ☺

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Shallow-Water Saviors

Preserving local marine environment is a hot government item

by John Cole

Shortly after word circulated in October that President George Bush and Congress were about to sign a law to make the waters on both the Gulf and Atlantic sides of the Florida Keys a National Marine Sanctuary, Florida's Department of Natural Resources began planning a Florida Marine Reserve whose boundaries would encompass much of the same shallow-water territory.

The state's official announcement came in early November, right after Election Day. About a week later, on November 16, Bush signed the federal bill, HR 5909.

Meanwhile, a year-long effort by the Monroe County Port Advisory Committee was nearing its final stages.

The document, titled "Report to the County Commission by the Port Advisory Committee Concerning the Issue of Vessel Speed and Operation in Monroe County Waterways," will be distributed to Monroe County Commissioners early this year.

Although the county's report zeroes in on damage created by boats, it raises, like the federal and state reports, this question: "What controls can be devised and justly enforced to protect a diminishing resource from its own increasing popularity and accessibility?"

The diminishing resource is the diverse shallow-water environment that spreads from the southern waters of the Everglades

to the Marquesas, some 26 miles west of Key West on the Gulf side, and from the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary to the Marquesas on the Atlantic side.

That's a vast sweep of territory—about 3000 square miles. It includes national wildlife refuges, state preserves, marine sanctuaries, federal wilderness, county waters, state waters, federal waters, and, some may be about to argue, municipal waters.

It also encompasses islands, keys, hammocks, coral reefs, flats exposed at low tide, an intercoastal waterway, navigable channels and an entire range of demonstrably fragile marine environments in various stages of degradation, according to the majority of public opinion quoted in the report.

The new law, an act "to establish the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary" is, according to its stated purpose, designed to protect and preserve marine resources of the Florida Keys environment.

This is also a fair description of the intent of county and state proposals. At this point, however, all three proposals are relatively empty vessels waiting to be filled.

The heart of the federal measure is its management plan, which currently exists in name only. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has 30 months to draw up that plan, after its representatives spend time in the Keys soliciting and listening to the recom-

mendations of each of the shallow-water interest groups.

The DNR's sketchy plans, some suggest, came in political response to the glowing headlines about George Bush's signing of the sanctuary bill. The boundaries of the state's Marine Reserve would include much of the territory encompassed by federal legislation and county waters, if they exist.

As far as the county's potential role in protecting the area, nobody—including the authors of the county's report—seems able to draw a line on any nautical chart to define what the report calls "Monroe County Waterways."

"There's no such chart in existence," says Jeffrey A. Fisher, director of the county's cooperative extension service, who coordinated the committee's report. "And there probably never will be."

Capt. Marshall Cutchin, a light-tackle flats guide and member of the Reef Relief board of directors, has no confidence in either the state or county efforts.

"There is absolutely no reason to expect either the state or the county will ever produce an effective policy for conserving the shallow-water resource," says Cutchin. "Their performance record is hopeless, absolutely hopeless."

"That's why we [Reef Relief] have been working for five years to assemble information for the federal government," he says. "Only the feds can be counted on to come up with a water-use plan that will protect most of what is so fine about the Keys marine resource. And only the feds have the indisputable jurisdiction that can make the

plan function."

Reef Relief and other organizations, says Cutchin, are assembling additional information to help the federal team come up with an effective plan. He has doubts about the state's motives.

"When the National Marine Sanctuary Act was passed, Florida was allotted 45 days to give the governor time to exempt designated state waters from the national sanctuary, provided the state comes up with its own protection plan for those waters. As far as I'm concerned, when the end of the 45 days comes on January 30, the state won't have made a move."

"The DNR introduced its so-called Marine Reserve plan to make sure the state wasn't going to look so empty-handed when Washington came up with its sanctuary bill. But I'll bet the state never follows through. And the county won't either."

Shallow-Water Saviors

Why are so many at every level of government anxious to become the shallow-

water saviors?

If you'll settle for a one-word answer, try this: 1990.

The essence of last year's marine turmoil was captured in the violent moment when a yacht skipper and a jet-ski rider faced off in local waters. Irritated by the early-morning sounds of the personal watercraft (the designation preferred by manufacturers and users of the small, water-jet propelled recreational vehicles), the yacht owner emerged on deck with a rifle and, according to news reports, began shooting.

The jet ski was hit, as was its rider, who suffered a wounded leg.

At coffee counters and marinas from Key West to Miami and beyond, fishermen, boat owners, marina operators and hundreds of recreational sailors asked, "Did you hear about the guy who shot ... ?"

The public had come to realize that critical mass had been attained: the shallow waters in and around the Keys had reached the explosive point of overuse.

Until a few years ago, the shallow-water

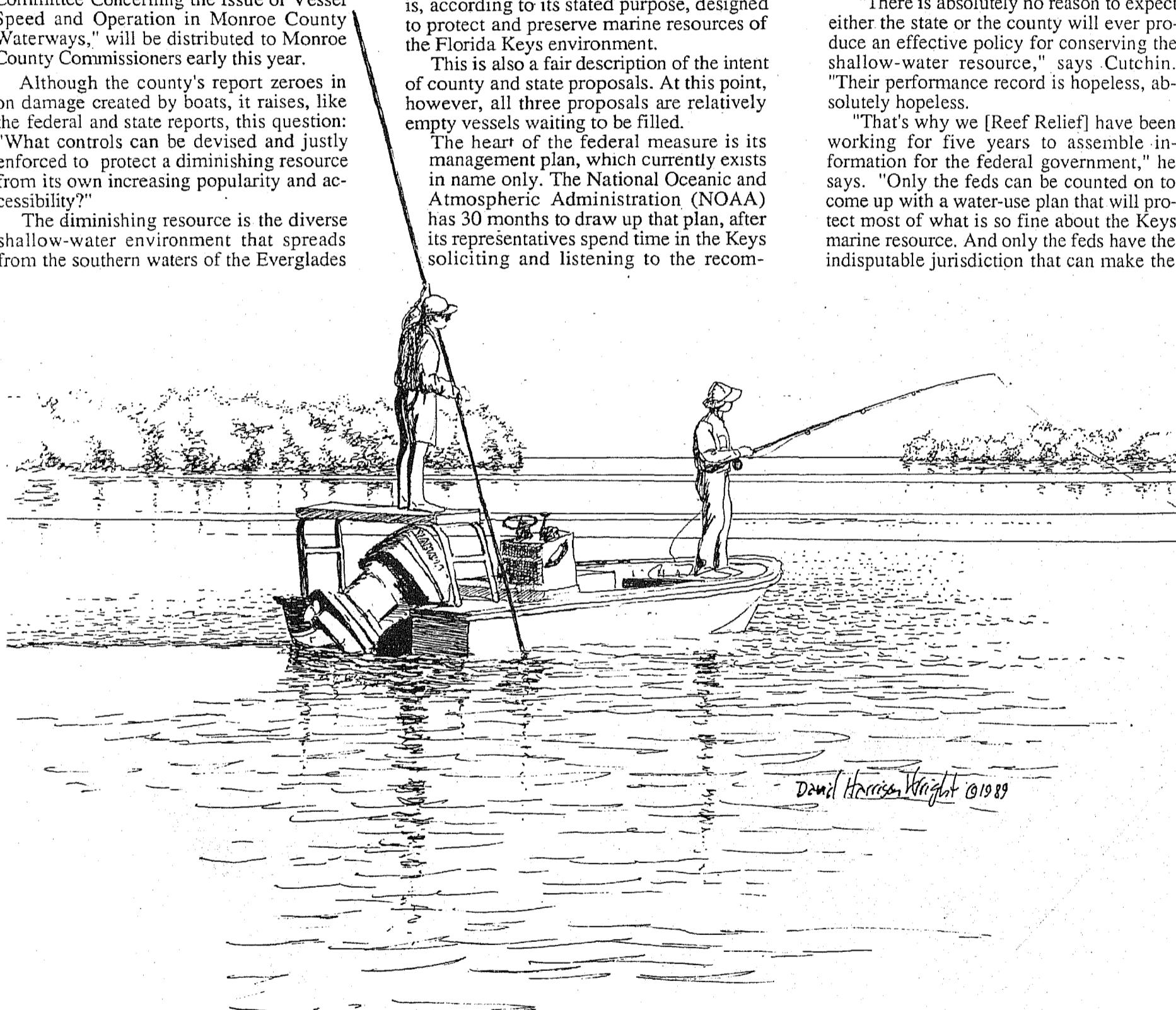
Solares Hill • January 1991 • Page 9
resource was utilized primarily by Keys commercial fishermen: shrimpers, stone crabbers, lobstermen, spongers and food-fish catchers.

In 1989, however, the Florida Marine Patrol estimated there were more than

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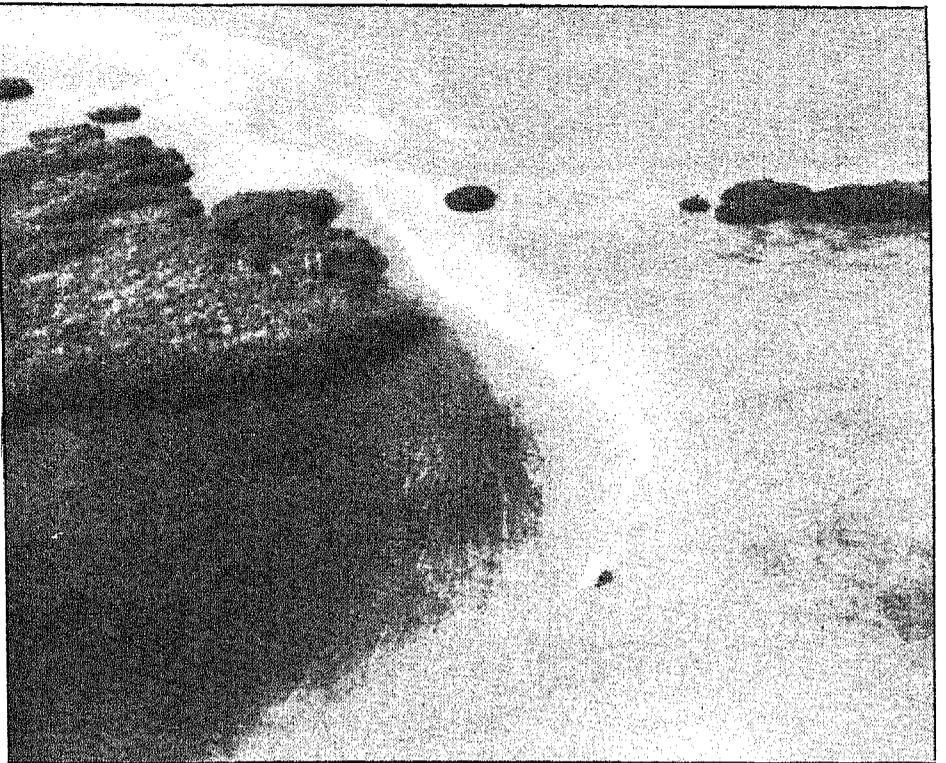
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LETHAL LINES: A powerboat wrecks havoc on the bottom of Mangrove Creek, where many species of birds nest.

10,000 personal watercraft being used in Florida waters. The same report projected jet ski ownership would increase at 40 percent a year. At that rate, there will be twice as many in less than three years, and we're already in our second year.

And while the "thrillcraft" (as conservation organization newsletters now label personal watercraft) segment is the fastest growing part of Florida's recreational boating business, conventional vessel registrations have doubled during the past decade, climbing from about 436,000 in 1978 to more than 800,000 in 1990.

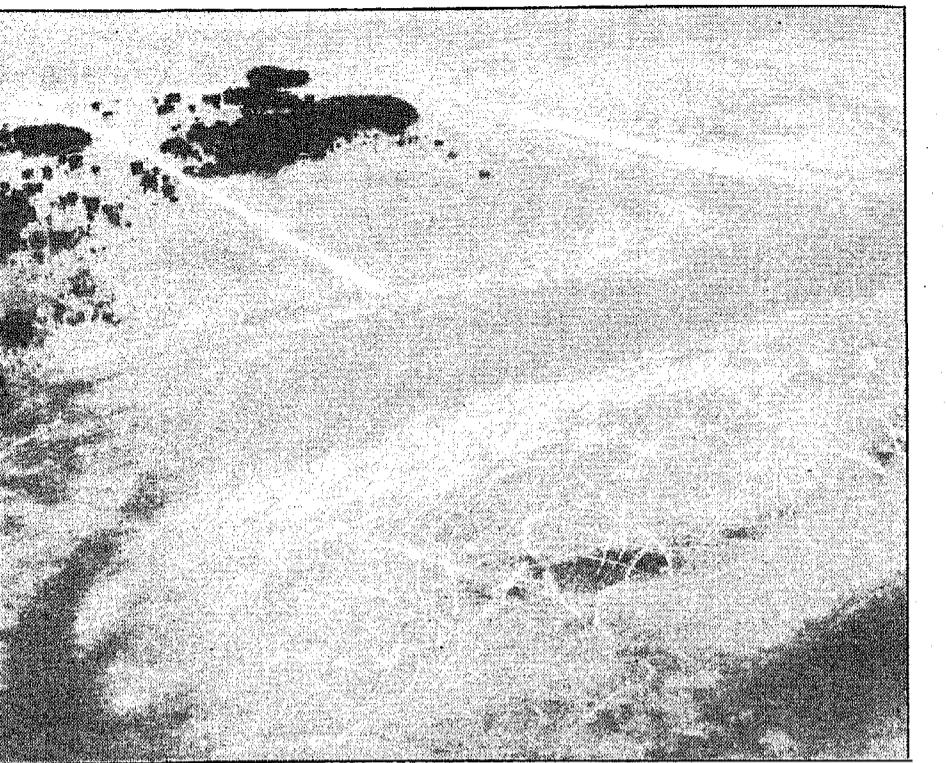
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MORBID MAZE: This scramble of lines marks damage to submerged sea-grass meadows.

Add the dive-boat, snorkel, reef exploring boom to the burgeoning excursion-boat, air-boat, charter-boat, flats-boat activity. Then fold in the as-yet uncounted weekend skippers who trailer an infinite variety of watercraft to Keys launching ramps from landlocked locations like Orlando and Ocala, and you've got a veritable army of watercraft converging on a relatively small, absolutely finite and fragile shallow-water environment.

Like most armies, this one leaves destruction and rubbish in its wake. In a joint report issued in mid-November, the Wilderness Society and the Florida Keys Audubon Society, assisted by Lewis Environmental Services, detailed some of that damage.

The Damage Done

In a covering letter to the DNR, Florida Keys Wilderness Society representative Ross S. Burnaman wrote: "[This report] is a graphic depiction of damage to, and disturbance of shallow-water habitats in, the Florida Keys."

The report's Boating Impact Work Group, a coalition of 11 Keys organizations, including Last Stand, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association, agreed that the issues include human as well as environmental well-being. The increase in speed boats, for instance, has generated an in-

crease in accidents, some of them fatal.

Among other effects, the group says, escalating boating pressure on the shallow-water system has threatened federally protected endangered species; severely damaged, perhaps irreparably, more than 10,000 acres of seagrass beds; increased turbidity and siltation; disturbed fish, sea turtles, wading birds and shore bird rookeries, often so violently that breeding bird populations are diminishing because nests are so frequently abandoned.

Additionally, it says, boats are traveling too fast and going where they should not be, often running aground and doing more damage. Motor noise is becoming a nuisance, the quality of life in the Keys is diminished. In some cases, life and livelihoods are being lost.

Public hearings are peppered with horror stories. Like the flats-skiff captain who watched six jet ski riders circle a school of sharks on a flat, riding the fish into panic. Or the airboat that repeatedly sped past a wildlife refuge forcing its birds to leave their nests over and over again.

Included in the Port Advisory Committee's report, a citizen from Snake Creek near Islamorada wrote: "No one is willing to claim the responsibility for enforcing boat speeds in no-wake zones... As a matter of fact, the Florida Marine Patrol is one of the most frequent violators... Excessive boat

speeds endanger life, limb and property all along the creek... Mangroves are being destroyed... boats are being banged against docks... Controls are needed before someone is killed..."

Prop Scars

Few testimonials, however, equal the impact of the four-color aerial photographs in the Wilderness Society/Audubon report. Take the cover shot: the approaches to Whale Harbor and the flat just beyond the harbor channel look like a blue-green blackboard defaced by a pupil gone berzerk with a stick of chalk. From every angle, across the entire flat, prop scars have left their pale, indelible defacements. There is a long stretch totally stripped of its seagrass blanket.

Other photographs show similar scars in areas from around Marathon to No Name Key, including one overhead shot of a Coast Guard churning a half-mile of bottom in the Coupon Bight State Aquatic Preserve off Big Pine, while tending to buoys.

"There's no way jet skis can be blamed for this," said one report reader about the scarring. "First, there weren't that many [jet skis] on those flats before 1987 when the photograph was taken. Second, jet skis don't leave prop scars. Like the name says, they're jet propelled."

According to Dan Sirois, a member of the Florida Personal Watercraft Association's Government Affairs Committee, there have been problems with what he calls "reckless outlaw" types. But, he says, these are a minority of the growing numbers of personal watercraft owners, who are, on the average between the ages of 25 and 50, with average household incomes of more than \$40,000 a year.

What's needed, Sirois says, are more education programs to teach personal watercraft safety and explain existing regulations. "If those regulations are strictly enforced," he says, "the number of complaints will drop significantly. We want to help South Floridians reach a compromise with personal watercraft users that's beneficial to everyone."

What else can be done to prevent the continued diminution of the Keys shallow-water resource? Those who attended the three public Port Advisory hearings, which ended on December 4 in Marathon, had plenty of suggestions. Several offered drafts of model ordinances.

Former county commissioner Mike Puto helped draft a minimal set of regulations that would impose idle-speed-only limits on all watercraft within 300 feet of any Monroe County waterway. Representatives from the Personal Watercraft Association said they would be willing to designate areas.

Curtis Kruer, on behalf of the Florida Keys Audubon Society, drafted the most comprehensive model legislation. "We see this effort [by the Port Advisory Committee] as a way to get at the entire issue of husbanding the shallow-water resource," he says. "This goes way beyond issues of boat speed and safety."

Among the model's sections are those to impose uniform idle-speed regulations on all waters within 600 feet of the shorelines of all waters, creeks, bayous, canals and chan-

nels in Monroe County, excluding the Florida Intracoastal Waterway; to establish watersports zones; to prohibit personal watercraft use in any waters except designated watersports zones; to restrict regattas and speed trials; to improve the system of channel marking; and to begin extensive public education.

In Response

"They're going to regulate us right out of business. Pretty soon there's not going to be any more fishing down here," says Capt. Bill Moore of Big Pine, state officer of the Organized Fishermen of Florida. Moore might have a point. Similar legislation in Long Island, New York drowned the commercial fishing business in that part of the country.

"We need a comprehensive set of laws along with a comprehensive enforcement policy. The present piecemeal approach just isn't working," says Curtis Kruer of Florida Keys Audubon.

"Monroe County is being picked out in regard to regulations. We have a valuable resource, but Keys residents should not have to bear the whole burden of protection," says State Rep. Ron Saunders.

"Keep the bureaucracy away from the flats. A private organization of interested and concerned individuals can do a better job than the government," says Alan Farago, Key West flats angler and conservationist.

"I think they should establish large areas of the flats and shallow-waters, especially on the Gulf side, where all internal combustion engines of any kind are prohibited," says charterboat skipper Capt. Buzz Owen of Key West.

"Anyone who wants access would either have to sail, pole, or use an electric motor. Whichever they used, it would be silent. And anyone who has to pole a mile or two to get on a fishing flat has got to really want to go fishing."

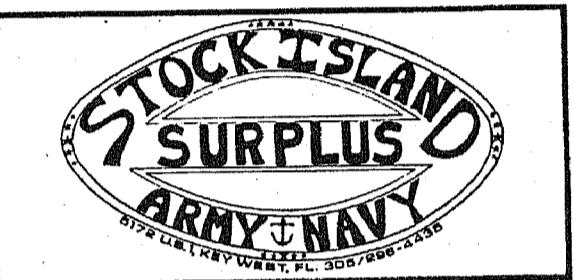
"It would be tough on some interests,

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but think how great it would be for the flats. And what wonderful fishing you would have once you get there. There would be all kinds of fish around. And the seagrass would get a chance to make a comeback."

"What needs to be done, really, is to set up a marine version of a land-use plan," says Jeffrey Fisher of the Port Advisory Committee. "We need a plan first, then the establishment of shallow-water zones allowing some uses here, prohibiting others there. Doing this fairly and properly will be a gargantuan task."

The new year begins with one part of that task, the committee's report, headed for the Monroe County Commission, which will probably schedule more hearings. If you miss any of these, you can catch up at the state hearings on the DNR Marine Reserve proposals. And if you miss those, the feds will be along soon to listen to input before they draw up their shallow-water management plan.

This is only the beginning of the effort to save what's left of the Keys shallow-water resource. One can only hope there will be a happy ending.



Don't Just Recycle. Complete the Cycle.

No doubt you've heard a lot about recycling. In Key West many people are presently engaged in voluntary recycling and curbside recycling is scheduled to begin in January, 1991. It's a start.

Recycling isn't fun. It isn't especially easy. Or convenient. But when you consider the alternative...well, there is no reasonable alternative.

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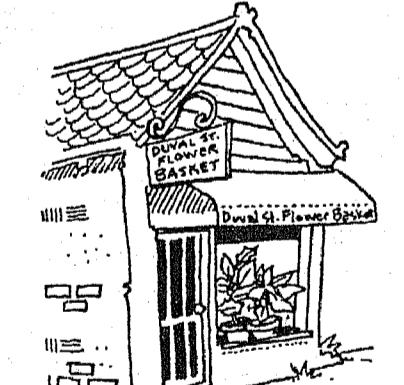
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South F-L-A Law
The City of Key West is still looking for legal assistance in preparing the City vs. Tom Webster in a contract dispute over the police chief's employment contract.

The Key West City Commission decided to seek a declaratory judgment in the situation, which officials said would take six to nine months. Work on seeking the judgment has not yet begun. The reason: an attorney has not been found to handle the case.

First choice for the job was Michael Burke, of Burke, Bosselman and Weaver. But Burke is already representing Chief Webster, on behalf of the City, in another legal tangle.

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Burke suggested a Miami attorney, who declined, saying that she, too, had conflicts that would prevent her from taking the case. As of press time, nobody had been assigned to the case, which remains in abeyance. Meanwhile the chief remains the highest paid employee in the history of Monroe County government.

About Face

In mid-December city officials reported that Chief Webster, whose habit of taking off Mondays to offset accumulated compensatory time was criticized by City Manager Felix Cooper, has shown up for work bright and early Monday mornings for the last four weeks.

Search Party

The search for a new city attorney is on. Serving on the City Attorney Search Committee are: City Manager Felix Cooper, City Commissioner Virginia Panico, State Attorney Kirk Zuelch, former Key West City Attorney Bob Gray, and local attorneys Jim Hendrick and John Moore (who were nominated by the Monroe County Bar Association as per a request from the commission.)

Panico is the task force chairperson.

After the commission organized the committee, Mayor Tony Tarracino approached Kathy Woodman of the city manager's office and asked to appoint another member to the committee: Police Chief Tom Webster.

Woodman suggested the mayor discuss his after-the-fact appointment with the city manager.

At the beginning of the December 17 commission meeting, City Clerk Josephine Parker announced an add-on resolution, sponsored by the mayor, appointing a representative from the police department to sit on the committee.

Commissioners Panico and Weekley asked who was to be appointed.

"First, let me explain," responded Tarracino. "This was just a last minute thing. I was approached by the police department and they wanted some representation on this committee for the simple reason that they are heavily involved in a lot of legal things."

Weekley expressed concern about a department employee, particularly the chief, helping to select an attorney who would most likely prepare the city's case for a declaratory judgment on the legality of the police chief's employment contract.

"Maybe we could have a representative from the police department there for preliminary interviews, so they could have input and ask any questions pertinent to the police department," suggested Commissioner Sally Lewis. "The meetings are open to the public."

"Either you are on the committee or you are not," said Panico. "I represent the commission on that committee, and I say no to this add-on."

Our Apologies

In last month's column, in an item about City Manager Felix Cooper's analysis of perks in Key West Police Chief Tom Webster's contract, we reported: "Cash total of these benefits, not including standard em-

ployee benefits: \$140,740." That figure should have been \$104,740. We regret the typographical error.

See It Like a Native

The mayor's many obligations sometimes prevent him from watching "Eye On The Keys," Thursday night broadcast on TCI, the show's producer, A.C. Weinstein and Capt. Tony watch a videotape of the show the following day on a VCR and television installed by Weinstein in the mayor's city hall office.

But Is It Legal?

Advertisements for weekly rentals at the Truman Annex Shipyards affordable housing condos continue to appear in the classified section of the *Key West Citizen*, despite the city's claims that its agreement with the Annex calls for those units to be strictly affordable housing—not high-priced transient rentals.

"If they are renting them by the week, that's illegal," says City Planner Ted Strader. "The terms of that agreement are that they are affordable housing. There should be a deed restriction in the instrument signed upon closing."

Carolyn Walker, the city's licensing chief, says that nobody from the Shipyard Condominiums has applied for an occupational license for transient or long-term rentals.

"No one has applied, nor has anyone received a license," says Walker.

Walker says that the definition of a transient unit is one that rents for less than 28 days at a time. More than 28 days is non-transient, but a \$15 license is required for either type of rental agreement.

"If anyone is renting units in the Shipyard, they are in violation of city codes," says Walker.

Who cares if you rent your condo out by the week or by the month?

The State Revenue Department cares.

To rent out a home or condo for less than six months, requires payment of seven percent sales tax to the State of Florida, plus four percent tax to Monroe County. Those are tourist development—or "bed"—taxes.

If a unit is rented for more than six months and a day, the lessor is required to pay only the seven percent sales tax.

"Condo owners should get a certificate of registration and sales-tax number from our office before renting out a unit, just like any other business," says Billie Davern, Florida Revenue Department area administrator. "Then you need an occupational license from the city. The city doesn't award an occupational license unless you show them you have a tax number first."

Whoops! There's the crack.

"You don't need to show us a sales-tax number to get an occupational license to rent a rental unit," says Vivian Arencebia, administrative assistant at the City Licensing Department. "We've never asked for it, so I guess it's not a policy to ask for it."

"Any rentals have to be licensed, any units whatsoever," says Ted Strader. "The Shipyard units cannot be rented for less than 28 days."

"This is the first I've heard of this. I'll have to give Pritam a call."

The next question: Where's Pritam?

Who's Who in the Search

Among the 42 applicants for the position of city attorney, five were local attorneys.

Seven finalists were announced at the end of a selection committee meeting on December 17. They are: Ginny Stones (currently a prosecutor in the State Attorney's Office), Gerry Clark, Gregg Schwartz, Jose Alvarez, Maria Chiaro, Susan Connelly and William Capito.

Also announced was the following list of "maybes": Ronald Howell, Stan Campbell, Erol Vural (of Cudjoe Key), Allan Dubow, Charlie Brown, Albert Sessoms, and George Schmitt.

Among these, only two—Ginny Stones and Erol Vural—are from the Keys.

The committee will meet again at the end of December to refine the list of finalists. It hopes to make its choice by February 1.

Rumored to be among the applicants was former Monroe County Sheriff Allison DeFoor, who said he was not even remotely interested in the job.

Foot-in-Mouth Disease

Back in September, Democratic candidate for sheriff Mike Young attended county commission budget hearings and stated: "I am here to tell you that any increase over the existing sheriff's budget is a criminal waste of taxpayer's money."

Before running for sheriff, Young was a detective with the department. When he lost the election, he asked for his old job back.

No way, said Sheriff Roth, who beat Young by 20 percent in the November election.

Young recently applied for a job with the Key West Police Department, where his application is pending.

Sylvia Van Dresser:

Less Is More

Sylvia Van Dresser, who has been directing traffic and answering telephones in city hall's reception area for the last ten

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years, says being named Employee of the Quarter is a much better deal than being named Employee of the Year.

"Employee of the Year only gets a day off and one plaque from the Civil Service Board," says Van Dresser, a communications technician. "I got a watch with the Seal of the City on it, \$250 cash, and two plaques."

Van Dresser was nominated for the honor in a glowing letter sent to City Manager Felix Cooper by citizen Peter Anderson. Cooper read the letter aloud at a city commission meeting where Van Dresser was given her awards.

Employees for the quarter are nominated by the city manager's Employee Advisory Committee. Employees of the Year are nominated by the Civil Service Board.

No More Smoky Back Rooms

Do you smoke at work?

I don't know. I never looked.

Bad news for Mayor Tony Tarracino and City Commissioners Harry Powell and Sally Lewis. No Smoking signs will be posted in every room of city hall by January 1. In accordance with state laws, City Manager Felix Cooper says he's snuffing butts in all city offices.

Other nicotine addicts at city hall: City Planner Ted Strader, Police Chief Tom Webster, Police Major Lew Mertz, A.C. Weinstein.

"What! I can't believe this! I'm the mayor of this city, and they're going to tell me I can't smoke in city hall," Mayor Tarracino reportedly complained when a No Smoking sign went up in the city manager's conference room.

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The Only Home We've Ever Had

Key West softball players say goodbye to Peary Court

by John N. Cole

In the last softball game ever to be played on the Peary Court diamond in Key West, Florida, at around 9:45 on the last Monday night in November, Richard Powell got his third straight hit in the seventh, and last, inning. Final score: Blaylock 8, Garcia 3. Powell's perfect night at the plate was a major contribution to Blaylock's win.

Blaylock is scoreboard shorthand for the Blaylock Oil Company of Key West, also the hometown of the Robert Garcia Jewelry store at Peacock Plaza. The local businesses are two of the 23 in and around Key West that sponsor—for \$377 a year—23 teams in the Key West Men's Softball League.

Powell's 3-for-3 meant something more than perfection: he is the league's past president and helped put the organization together in 1977. Ever since, Peary Court has been its home field.

Bonnie Powell kept the official score for that last game, as she did for the two that preceded it; she wrote and delivered the wrap-ups that appeared on the sports pages of Tuesday morning's *Key West Citizen*.

There were some details she did not include. She was Bonnie Garnett from Kittery, Maine, when she arrived in Key West in 1978. On one of her first evenings in town she strolled through the Peary Court park to watch the ball games. One of the pitchers was Richard Powell; after his game, he and Bonnie got to talking baseball.

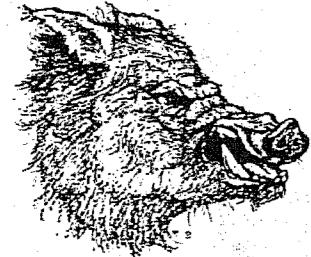
It's difficult to imagine another topic. Richard is the hefty brother of Boog Powell, the equally hefty Baltimore Oriole's first baseman who had his best years about the time his brother began pitching softballs.

Bonnie had been a Red Sox fan since grade school, but the Baltimore-Boston differences apparently didn't amount to much. Shortly after that evening at Peary Court, she moved to Key West and soon became Mrs. Richard Powell.

Which, naturally, led to more baseball—a whole lot more. For 11 years now Bonnie has been official scorekeeper for the Key West Men's Softball League. In the nation's southernmost city, that adds up to a great deal of paperwork and a great many hours of runs, hits and errors.

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BONNIE POWELL



THE BAYLOCK OIL TEAM: Top row, from left: Bert Gerez, Mano Williams, James Taylor, Mike Steward, Greg Jones, Robert Harris, Mark Garcia, Don Jacobs and Richard Powell. Bottom row, from left: David Sweeting, Joe Hernandez, Vern Griffin, Coach Tony Estenoz, sponsor Bill Hohn, Al Grijalva, Sam Shirk and Danny Sweeting.

Because baseball is Key West's game. It's played 12 months of the year by several Little League divisions, both boys and girls, by a women's league, by junior and senior high school teams and by the Key West Florida Junior Major League team, which has won state championships six times since 1964.

Then there are the 23 teams of the Key West Men's Softball League which play 32 games each during two, six-month seasons. That's 21 games a week, three each, six nights a week, and three more on Sunday; those games begin at noon. Bonnie keeps the official score five nights a week as she has every week since 1979.

But now, for the first time in more than 11 years, she's not sure how she's going to be spending those five nights during 1991. The softball league Mr. and Mrs. Powell and so many others helped to build and hold

together is a league without a field.

That's because the United States Navy has reclaimed Peary Court's 29 acres, including the baseball diamond with its high lights so dependably luminous against the soft and sultry sub-tropical night skies that bless the two-by-three-mile island. With such a surfeit of perfect pitching weather, it's a wonder baseball wasn't invented in Key West.

During November's final week, the Navy ordered those lights, the score-keeper's booth, the outfield walls (290 feet from home plate) were to be bulldozed flat. By Saturday, December 1, Navy security patrols were on duty at Peary Court's perimeter.

The baseball field had vanished, was gone, flattened, leaving only the worn pages of 11 years of scoresheets marked by Bonnie Powell. Also gone was the notion em-

braced by so many Key West residents for the past 15 years that Peary Court's green vistas, trees, playing fields and open spaces in the center of the over-built island were a public oasis, always there to refresh the urban soul seeking respite from the human and vehicular traffic that crowds every Key West byway.

But the Navy has owned those Peary Court acres ever since it first used the site for temporary housing some 40 years ago. Those two-story, concrete structures were razed in 1976, and a year later the Key West Men's Softball League helped to build its new diamond on land the City of Key West had just leased from the Navy.

Two years ago, the Navy informed the city that in 1990 the lease would not be renewed. The Navy says it needs the land for some 160 new housing units: homes for the additional Coast Guardsmen and their families ordered to Key West to swell the ranks already committed to the War on Drugs. A worthy cause says the Key West majority, but not one that necessitates the loss of Peary Court.

City Commissioner Harry Powell (no relation) has spent most of those two years trying to explain to his fellow commissioners, the Navy, and anyone else in Key West, Tallahassee and Washington who will listen that there are several alternate housing sites on other Navy property.

The battle to change the Navy's Peary Court decision has become a Key West cause célèbre. A great many island autos display the "Keep Peary Court Green" bumper stickers distributed by Last Stand, a local organization of about 600 members dedicated to "preserving the quality of life" in Key West.

Even as bulldozers leveled the backstop, Last Stand President Jim McLernan was meeting with his board to discuss strategies to get the Navy to change its mind. Commissioner Powell reassured supporters, "We have just begun to fight. This issue is going to end up being decided in Federal Court."

Meanwhile, on the last Friday night in November, the Shades of Key West took the field for seven innings of Men's League softball against the Island City Flying Service team. This time they played under the lights of Pedro Aguilar Field just off N. Roosevelt Drive, one of the island's busiest highways. The diamond is the home field of the Key West Junior Major Leagues (boys, age 12 to 14); its outfield fences are lower and 50 feet closer to home plate than those at the old field.

Bonnie Powell kept score in the elevated, glass-front booth behind home plate. Each time a home-run ball vanished over the fences and out into the night, she picked up her microphone and announced the hitter's name as he ran the bases. It happened at least once almost every half-inning.

"The fences are too close for this league," she explained to an observer, keeping her blue eyes on the field. "One of these nights, a car is going to be hit."

Sighing, shaking her long, blond hair in a resigned shrug, she said, "But it's better than no field at all. And that's what we're going to have after the first of the year, when the Junior Leaguers start their

schedule here.

"There was a lot more lost than baseball when they bulldozed Peary Court. There are 500 men playing softball in this league. Men from their teens to their fifties. These games have been their cement for years, the structure that holds their social lives together.

"Everywhere I go downtown," she continued, her eyes on the field, her pencil moving on the scoresheet, "I see someone involved with baseball. This is a small island, but there aren't that many ways to meet other people."

"Baseball is a game a lot of people can play. Its roots are deep in this community. It generates positive peer pressure. I don't think anyone realizes what a gap there's going to be."

Up comes the microphone. "That's another home run for Ronny Morrow." Microphone down.

"Peary Court was the only place we played for 13 years. The city commission says there are plans to build a new field. But even if the plans work out, it won't be ready until late next summer. There aren't any other fields available, period."

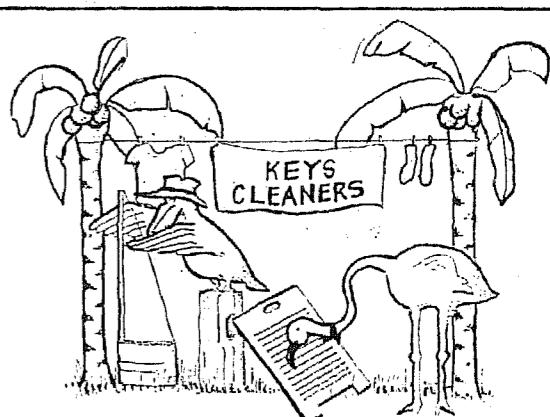
"So what are we going to do? Peary Court is the only home we ever had."

The Shades win the game, 16-11. Bonnie finishes up that scoresheet, sighs and gets ready for the next, and last, game of the night. She's thinking about the last game of the year.

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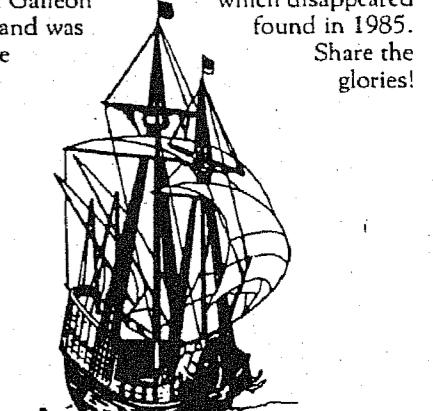
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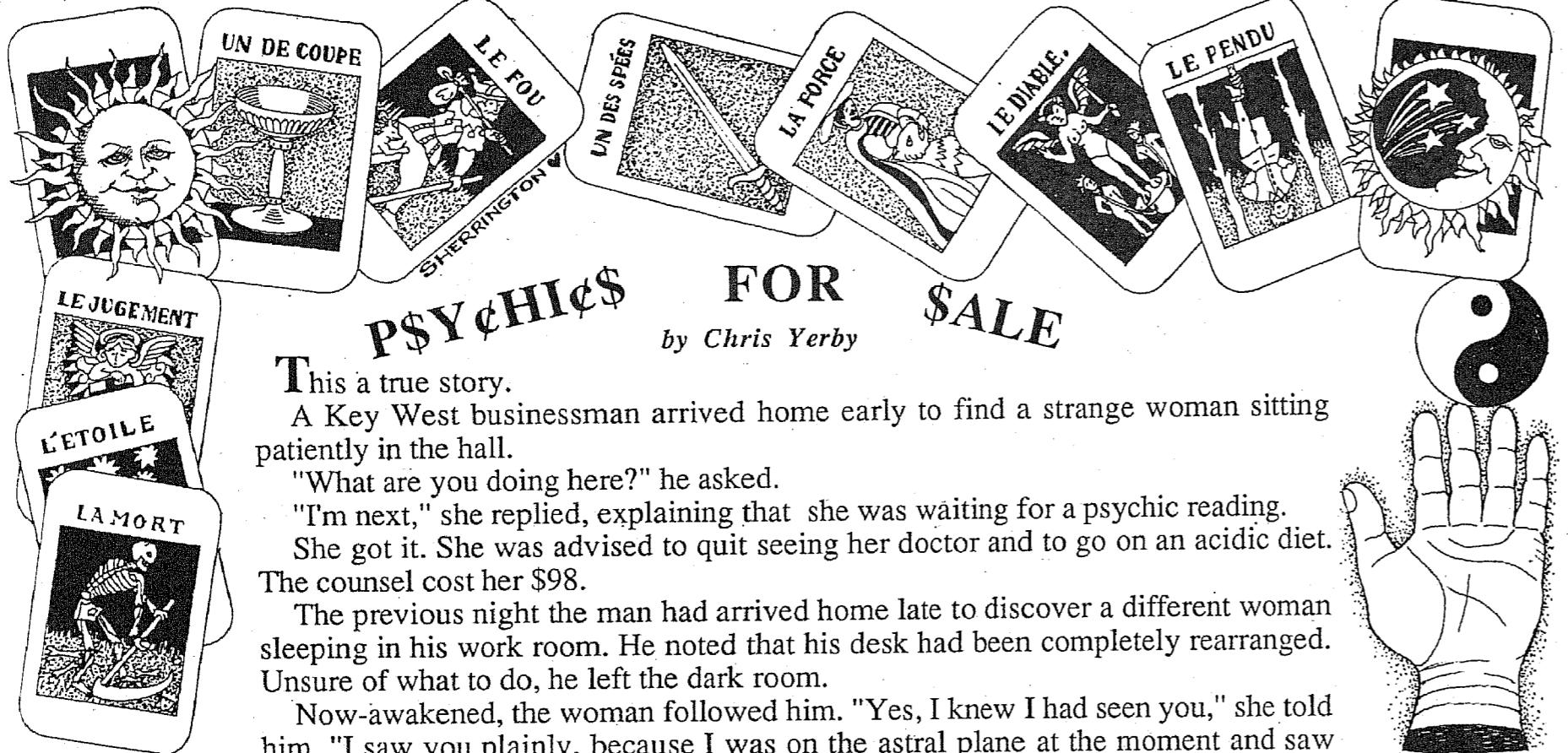
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PSYCHICS FOR SALE

by Chris Yerby

This is a true story.

A Key West businessman arrived home early to find a strange woman sitting patiently in the hall.

"What are you doing here?" he asked.

"I'm next," she replied, explaining that she was waiting for a psychic reading. She got it. She was advised to quit seeing her doctor and to go on an acidic diet. The counsel cost her \$98.

The previous night the man had arrived home late to discover a different woman sleeping in his work room. He noted that his desk had been completely rearranged. Unsure of what to do, he left the dark room.

Now-awakened, the woman followed him. "Yes, I knew I had seen you," she told him. "I saw you plainly, because I was on the astral plane at the moment and saw your face in full brightness."

The woman turned out to be a friend of a friend. She had arrived in town, taken over his office, and was seeing clients there during his absence. She accepted love offerings for her advisory services, and she was earning additional money selling handmade jewelry, which was neatly arranged on his office desk.

Dismissing the resourceful psychic from his office, the businessman rearranged his furniture and reclaimed his office. He thinks it's doubtful he'll ever seek guidance from a psychic.

The number of spiritual advisors in Key West is on the rise. Some say it is because the island is a center for psychic powers and emotional healing. The psychic source, explains one local astrologer, lies in the Atlantic energy buried under the sea.

Described by some as "a major nerve center on earth," Key West, no doubt, has its share of open wounds. As a cure, many locals are receiving what is being called "conversation therapy." Psychic help appears to offer the instant answer, a fresh perspective on personal problems.

It's also cheaper than most couch sessions with trained psychoanalysts.

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What happens if the advice from a psychic doesn't work in, say, the case of a person contemplating suicide? Psychics are not medical professionals, and suicidal people are in serious need of professional care.

"Only once has that happened," Williams says. "[That person] would have done it anyway. No one placed any blame... These people come to me. I tell them only what they should do, but don't try to force-feed anything."

Williams' shop is on Simonton Street. Like other businesspeople, she has an occupational license.

It's a good thing Williams doesn't live upstate in Dania, where a skeptical commission recently raised its fee for a clairvoyant license from \$87 to \$1000.

"I've saved people from suicides," she says. "It's the immediacy of the help that people find most helpful. When people need help, they need it now. If you call a psychologist, you may have to wait a week. That's too long for some people."

Even though called "psychics," according to Williams, "we are for a large part counselors."

Last year, three fortunetellers opened shops in Dania. Seven months after approving their license applications, the commission is now asking the proprietors to provide detailed information about their pasts and to be fingerprinted—just in case.

In Key West, the fee for a Category 66, or clairvoyant license, is an affordable \$150, and the commission approves the licenses without much ado.

Indian Guides

Sioux Rose, Key West author, lecturer, astrologer and radio/television personality, says, "Being psychic means being intuitive, perceptive, but also working with a source outside yourself." Sioux says she began talking to spiritual guides while she was very young. The Indian guides told her how to spell her name.

"I've always taken it for granted that something is guiding me," she says. "The

ultimate thing is your own intuition, but you need a sign-post."

Her signpost is astrology, which, she explains, is math—a complex science that takes practice and study. "I don't even have to meet the people [to do readings]," she says. Sometimes, she'll "read" over the phone.

Cynthia Currier, who calls herself a spiritual psychic reader, also handles psychic business over the phone. Although she practices psychometry—receiving psychic powers by holding a personal object—she says tools can be limiting.

Clients, however, find the tools a comfort. "It's too scary for people if they can't see where you're receiving the information from," Currier says. "People have a hard time identifying with anything they don't understand. They want to see where you're getting it."

Just where does she get it?

"Certainly from the traumas of my own life," Currier says. Although she has always considered herself psychic, she began intense introspection during a life-threatening illness. Like Sioux Rose, Currier engaged in an intense reading and study period to help activate the "call."

"That was the turning point in my life," she says. "I had to find out the answers for myself."

Currier credits her spiritual reading talents with the ability to alter her consciousness. She has "mind travel" experiences. "These things actually happen because you come back a different person," she says. "You feel differently. I don't take drugs or drink, so I know I wasn't hallucinating... I believe I channel from the direct Channel of Love."

Anyone can channel, or receive information from an outside source, she says, just as anyone can be psychic.

"Through Silva Mind Control Training, they teach you to be psychic," she says. "It's a connection with your subconscious. Once you get everything else out of the way, you can enter an altered state where you can perceive things you weren't otherwise able to."

Not all psychics buy the idea of training

in the field. "I don't believe in trances," says Madeline Williams. "If you're a psychic, you're a psychic with your eyes open."

Monica Geers, another student of Silva Mind Training, agrees with Currier: anyone can develop psychic ability. Geers refers to it as HSP (heightened sensory perception) instead of ESP, and feels that everyone has

Solares Hill • January 1991 • Page 17
an "inner knower or inner healer" to call upon for truth.

Geers, a certified hypnotherapist, performs psychic readings at Sunset on Mallory Pier. She also holds private sessions at her Eaton Street office.

"Psychics are for the most part sounding boards," Geers explains. "Through our own pain and suffering we can offer compas-



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Although many people may approach
psychic readers for entertainment, the more
serious people, she says, walk up and say,
"Scam me."

Clinically Speaking

The practice of meditation, common
among the psychically endowed, helps to
"ground" a person, supporters say. Many
believe answers can enter into the con-
sciousness when one spends time alone.

Key West clinical psychologist Richard
Hellman agrees. "There's a lot you can do
with your own brain, if you put it in the
right medium," he says. "Relaxed in a quiet
room, your memory will be a lot better . . .
it's maximizing your brain function."

"We may have a lot of very good per-
sonal counselors, conversational therapists,
someone to talk to about your problems,"
Dr. Hellman says. "If it works, it's not a
bad thing. It's better than people keeping
[their problems] all to themselves . . . I like
to use the word intuitive, not psychic. I
think some people have better interpersonal
skills than others, and are able to use them."

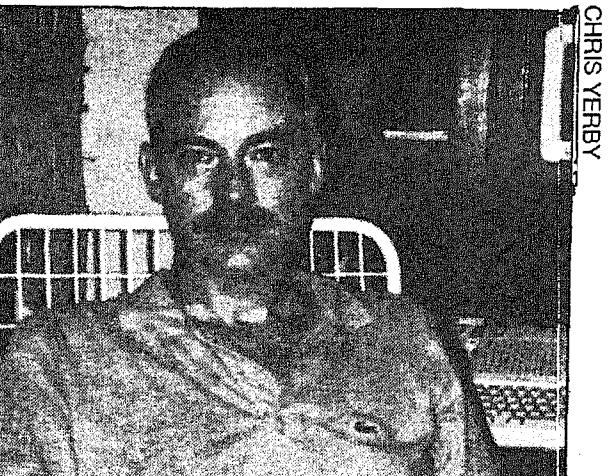
For the most part, however, doctors of
psychiatry and psychology are critics of
psychic advisors, who lack their eight to ten
years of research and training.

"Our help is geared more towards how a
person can help himself," says a psycholo-
gist from Ft. Lauderdale who asked to re-
main anonymous. "Psychics, however, pro-
vide a scapegoat, taking the responsibility
away. They say you don't have to fix it, that
you're not responsible. It's not your fault
—you can blame it on the stars."

Whatever the type of help people seek,
Geers says, it's important that they find it.

One Key West woman explains the help
she found within a local circle of psychics.
"They helped me focus outside myself," she
says. "The quiet introspection time during
the readings allowed answers to come to me
that may have always been there. I just had
to slow down and have a little help
organizing my thoughts."

Expensive psychological sessions, she



SKEPTIC: Dr. Richard Hellman says authentic psychics are few and far between.

says, focused on her depression. "Once my system was jump-started again, I began learning that a spiritual world exists," she says. "Those who are psychically connected speak of peace and joy, words I never heard in the clinical setting. I'm smiling more now than I have in a long time."

Fakes, Phonies and Frauds

Both spiritual and clinical sides agree that
there are frauds hovering in the astral plane.

"Just because I consider myself to be an
honest spiritual reader doesn't mean everyone is," says Cynthia Currier.

"Many claim to be psychic just to get
money," says Madeline Williams. "I could
not have the following I have if I were a
fake. I've seen a palmist reading a palm
while looking out at the ocean. How can she
read the palm without even looking at it?"

Sioux Rose concurs. "Some people will
size you up, then project their own prejudices
to create the dialogue."

"If there are [authentic] psychics, they
are few and far between," says Dr. Hellman.
"We may have a lot of very good personal
counselors—someone to talk to about your problems." He says that there is
probably much more money to be made as a
counselor than as a psychic.

"Follow your gut to spot authenticity,"
Geers advises. "Use your 'inner lie detector.'
It's rarely wrong."

"Look for those who speak about God,"

says Currier.

Williams says, "Real psychics have had
a tragic life. They take on the hurt of other
people. These people that feel they have to
dress up in costumes to be a psychic—that's
fake, that's just a show."

The Price Is Right

Most psychics charge \$25 to \$45 for a
reading. Usually, the customer selects the
medium. Tarot cards, for instance, are often
used to stimulate dialogue.



MADELINE WILLIAMS: Born with a caul or "veil" of tissue covering her head, she says her psychic powers were predestined.

"I get their vibrations through a regular
deck of cards," says Williams. "They con-
centrate on their question; I can tell them
what they're thinking because it comes back
through the cards. It's like me watching
television. I can see the pictures go by.
Naturally, though, some people are harder
to read than others."

Psychologists generally charge by the
hour, usually about \$75 to \$100. Not only
are a psychic's fees dramatically lower, but
seeing a shrink (sometimes called a
"stretch") requires personal strength, which
some people can't seem to muster.

"Many people have a stigma about going
to a doctor or therapists," says Dr. Hellman.
"It's admitting something is wrong. To
them it's admitting they're crazy. It takes a
lot of personal strength to say they need
help."

Hellman says psychics appeal to people
who would not normally seek medical help.
Talking with another person gives "patients"
a non-medical outlet.

Currier agrees. "I have this very strong



COURTESY SIOUX ROSE

SIOUX ROSE: This astrologer says spiritual

Indian guides told her how to spell her name.
feeling that my whole job as a spiritual
adviser is to give someone hope. Anyone who
seeks a psychic seeks hope. They want to
know there's a way out of this, that there
are alternatives."

In some cases, Geers says, counselors
are beginning to incorporate psychics into
more conventional methods.

"The professionals are discovering we
have to work with the inner person," she
says. "We've got to learn to integrate all
sources."

When it comes to solving problems in
their own lives, psychics too search outside
themselves, often consulting each other.

"We can very seldom read for our-
selves," says Currier. "Our own egos get in
the way. Somehow you just don't want to
know."

Divine Order

When Sioux Rose arrived in Key West
in 1985, magical things happened. Life be-
gan to click, which she says was the uni-
verse indicating "this is where you go."

The School of Metaphysical Christianity

calls this the realization of the divine order
—a condition in which one sees the flow of
nature, or the lining up of one connection
after another on a journey "meant to be."

"I get a lot of 'Omens of Agreement,'" she
says. "My guides are telling me this is
going to work."

"German psychoanalyst Carl Jung would
call it synchronicity," she says. "The Hin-
dus would call it Taoism, which means that
everything blends together in the Tao. This
is the realization that everyone has a spiritual
journey that all things flow together, even
though Western cultures try to fight it."

The consequences of the blend and flow,
says Rose, are unconcealed in Key West. In
our exposed environment, confusion some-
times takes over. That's when many people
feel troubled and seek help.

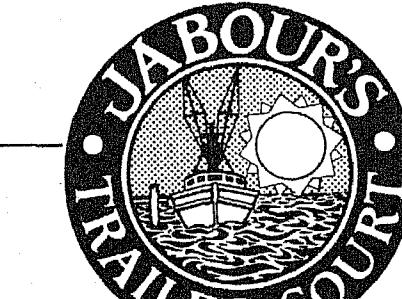
Psychologists and psychics concur that
personal healing can begin when one begins
to tune in to one's own intuition because the
"sign-posts" are then more easily read.

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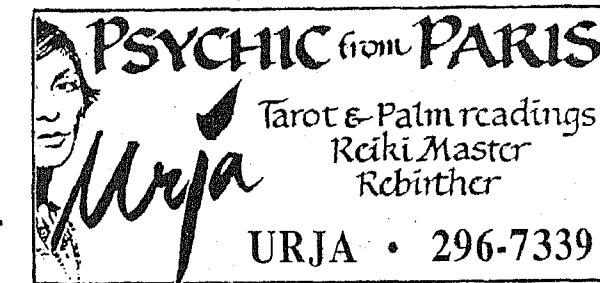
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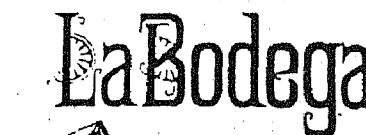
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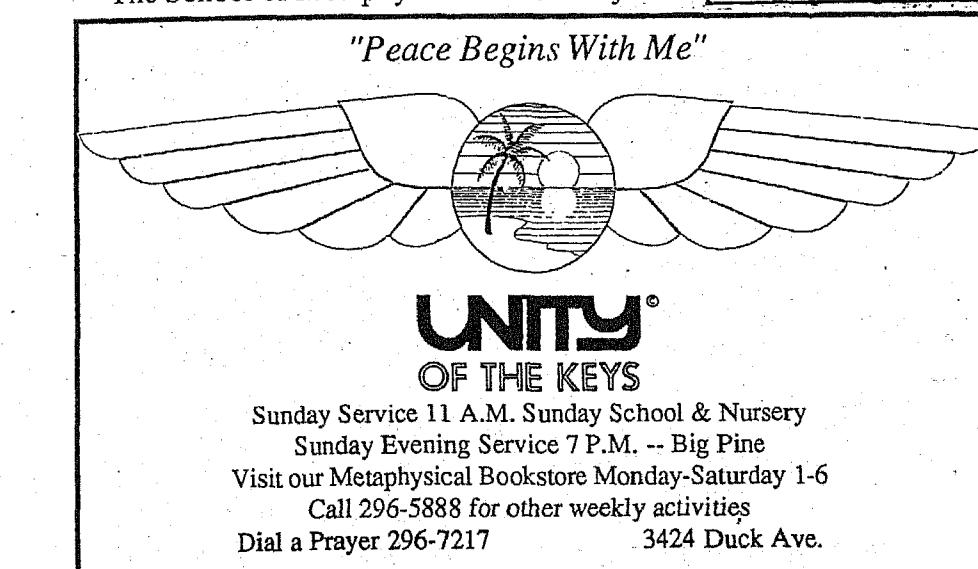
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Ecotourism, Travel Writing & the Key West Literary Seminar

Nothing Goes Overnight to Belize

by Anne Carlisle

Travel is less about romance than about protecting your side of the back seat," observes humorist Calvin Trillin in his book *Travels with Alice*. Along with 18 other pre-eminent speakers, Trillin is in the lineup for the Ninth Annual Literary Seminar, "Literature of Travel: A Sense of Place," which will be from January 10 to 13 at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center on the Florida Keys Community College campus.

Presumably, Trillin will also be putting to the test his own rule-of-thumb that "a comfortable hotel becomes economically feasible in an island paradise only when the number of tourists increases to the point at which the island is no longer a paradise."

Locals are increasingly focused on the challenge of protecting our palm-bearing rockpile. Interestingly, the role of the environment in travel writing is one theme most likely to engage the attentions of the more than 200 seminar participants.

The 45 writers and editors gathering for the two-day Writers' Workshop that follows will also discuss of the environment. Among those to be talking rainforests and diminishing habitats will be widely respected authors Peter Matthiessen and Thurston Clarke, as well as the former chief editor of Fodor Travel Guides, Inc., Bob Fisher, a New Yorker who regards Key West as his preferred residence after long stints in Japan, Germany and England, among other places.

Fisher is currently working on mostly non-travel related projects for Simon & Schuster, the publishing conglomerate which owns both the well-known Mobil Guides and Frommer, the other big gun besides Fodor in the guidebook series. Fodor is owned by Random House.

"Travel writing began with Homer's *Odyssey*," points out Fisher, who has an intriguing hunch that Baltimore novelist Anne Tyler was thinking of idiosyncratic



Peter Matthiessen Barbara Bowers
Bob Fisher

guidebook writer Temple Fielding when she wrote *The Accidental Tourist*. Fielding's guides to Europe and the Caribbean enjoyed a devoted following.

If Homer is credited with inventing the narrative form of travel writing, then the listings format credit goes to Michelin. The sightseeing descriptions were started by Karl Baedeker, the German publisher.

The king of the comprehensive travel companion, however, is *Fodor's*, according to Fisher. "Eugene Fodor was the first, in 1936, to pull all three forms together in his guidebook," he says. "It featured listings, sightseeing descriptions, and personal essays by diverse writers. He wanted all the facts and none of the opinions."

Over the years *Fodor's* has stuck to its conservative editorial philosophy: "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything." It was Eugene Fodor's belief that better global understanding can be achieved through inviting people to travel—in other words, the more who venture out and see

the world, the smaller and friendlier a place it will be.

Yet even industry executives will acknowledge that unspoiled places may suffer cultural reversals as the result of inspection, as travel writers inevitably bring with them the evils as well as the blessings of civilization. "There's an old theory," says Fisher. "Don't write about a place unless you want to ruin it."

"If you think back to the 1950s," he says, "the Costa Brava in Spain was created by travel writers saying how wonderful it was. Once the Brits wanted to go there the Spanish government and the British tour operators had to start making package deals and building hotels. It doesn't have to be great writers; professional travel writers can create a market."

"It has also happened in quite a few out-of-the-way places like Nepal. The adventure-type writers went in there and slugged it out and wrote about how wonderful it was to get away from it all. The tourist industry

followed, pell-mell."

On the other hand, ecologically sensitive writers who report on environmental atrocities they see in untraveled areas may spur corrective action, or the vigilant safeguarding of endangered species and habitats, such as our own coral reef. (Perhaps *National Geographic Magazine's* July article, "Florida's Reefs Are Dying," helped influence President George Bush to sign the Marine Sanctuary Bill.)

One of these eco-travelers is local writer Barbara Bowers, who also tends bar at the Quay. She will be attending the Writers' Workshop portion of the seminar.

This past spring Bowers went on assignment for *Conde Nast Traveler* to Belize, formerly British Honduras, a tiny Central American country situated on the Caribbean at the mouth of the Belize River. "Instead of dealing with the usual travel issues, I was dealing with things like manatee barbecues," she says.

Bowers recounts a horrifying story about the black howler monkey, which is called a howler because of its incredible hooting-screeching voice.

"It's the wonderful tree pet of Belize," says Bowers. "In the jungles you can hear them, if not see them. I was in the midwestern Belizean rainforest when I saw a dead howler monkey with a bullet wound."

Three days earlier, Bowers had gone to a sanctuary set aside for them in a different part of Belize. "I had a monkey pee on my head, actually," she recalls.

She was riding horseback in the rainforest, an area that was supposedly repopulating howlers after being without the monkeys for a long time, when she saw one that had been shot in the head.

"Ninety-three percent of the country is wilderness," points out Bowers. "So no one is out there policing it. The monkey wasn't used for food, just for target practice."

What Bowers and other writers refer to as "eco-tourism" has become a hot topic at meetings of professional travel societies, says Fisher, who is a former president of the Society of American Travel Writers.

So is Carolyn Patterson, a *National Geographic Magazine* writer, who will be

on hand at the literary seminar. Joining her and Thurston Clarke (*Equator*) for the penultimate panel, "Travel Writing and the Environment," will be Peter Matthiessen (*Killing Mr. Watson, The Snow Leopard, Far Tortuga*).

The monkey wasn't used for food, just for target practice.

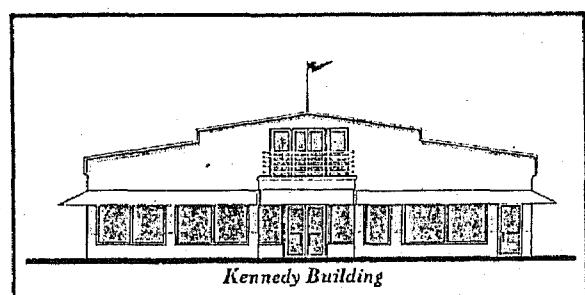
1989-90 Guide to Florida, plus the entire Keys section, agrees that a good travel writer must constantly balance her subjective point of view with the need for objectivity, especially where environmental issues are concerned. In her essay, Kilgore pointed out that development was not being controlled in the Keys, to the detriment of the environment.

She recently returned from travel-writing assignments in Pakistan—which include such out-of-the-way topics as dancing girl courtesans in Lahore, published in the *Wall Street Journal*.

"The *Fodor's* people are into ecological issues," she confirms. "They want that to be part of what they do."

"Getting all the facts down honestly is what is important. My partner Kathleen Cox is very meticulous and very honorable in what she does. We go back and forth to make sure we're being objective. I send to her how I saw it, and she does the same. We have the option of cutting whatever we want from each other's pieces."

"One of the things I don't like about the western tales of travel," says Kilgore, "is how they get bound up with the people they are with. We try to lay off the subject. It's not interesting that so-and-so was astounded by what she saw. It's not interesting that you fell off a mountain trying to get a picture of it. It is interesting how people live



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Kilgore says it is the desire "to learn something really new," to be in places, mentally and physically, where one hasn't been before, which seems to drive established novelists and would-be writers alike to scale the heights and brave the deeps.

It is probably not the money.

Kilgore, who has been successful in publishing her travel pieces in *Lear's*, *Confetti*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, among others, says that the standard fee is \$1 to \$2 per word. "Some magazines pay expenses, some don't; some say they don't and do."

Kill fees are normally one-fourth of the standard amount. Some publications, such as the *New York Times*, are rigorous in their objection to writers accepting any money for expenses from the destination point. Others regard this as nothing more

than courtesy, such as a theater reviewer accepting free tickets to plays.

Kilgore was paid a flat fee of \$5000 for her Fodor's Florida project. "It took me about four months because I was meticulous about going everywhere."

Did she make any money in the end?
"No," she says. "Actually I didn't."

In the end, Bowers made about \$1000 for her one-year effort.

Back to Bowers, who against all odds as an unknown writer landed an assignment on eco-touring in Belize from a very prestigious magazine, only to receive in the end a kill fee rather than the \$4000 negotiated for the published piece. She did receive \$2500 to cover expenses, but she had also spent about two grand traveling to New York and sitting on the editor's doorstep to get the assignment.

"I have come to trust them like weathermen," she says of her experience with two sets of editors. "The article was supposed to be out in November."

The problem, it appears, is that Belize is simply not ready for the *Condé Nast* tourist. Though the first editor on the project was interested in eco-tourism as an issue for travel media, the second was interested in a light tone—a clear conflict with the sea turtle steaks and black coral hidden in divers' duffel bags Bowers discovered during her

research.

(One of the things she had done to get her assignment was to send her prospective editor a piece of dead coral.)

The trip was expensive, too. Though a hotel room might only cost \$30 and a meal \$3, she still paid \$240 for a dive trip that was shared with three other travelers, compared to a \$30 cost here in Key West.

In the end, Bowers made about \$1000 for her one-year effort.

Does she regret it? One has a sense this bittersweet taste of adventure writing has only whetted her appetite for more—despite the obvious drawbacks.

"Finally," she says, warming to her subject once again, "it's one of these things that the more I think about it the more it is for me. I'm going to the Dry Tortugas for nine days, through the park system and their volunteer program. And I'm going to write about it, because it is eco-tourism at its most eco."

"Like Belize," she adds, with a trace of nostalgia in her voice. "There are no amenities. The finest hotels in [Belize] suck. So how do you write about that? You can't invent them. It's roosters, end of the world, no hotels, instead a wood cabin on the beach."

"If you want to go up the Monkey River on a neat nature trip, you have to go to a bar in town and make a deal. It's like dickering for a shawl in the Guatemala market."

"There is a narrow field of people who really enjoy that kind of travel, and it isn't the glamour magazines' subscribers. There's no fax machines, there's no overnight mail. Nothing goes overnight to Belize."

Key West Days & Nights by Bill Manville

Imagine, if you will what, to the untrained eye, would appear to be simply two beautiful feminine heads across a little cocktail table. It is New Year's Eve, 1990/1991—a midnight masquerade at one of the big Key West hotels. The third person at the table is me.

The first head is Mab's. He is wearing purple-and-green fantasy eye makeup and gold glitter, a glamorous Rita Hayworth fall down to his bare shoulders, topped by his lucky tiara, the silver paper-and-rhinestone confection that says, "Happy New Year 1937." Apparently living a full rich life of its own, the tiara has unmoored itself and lies raffishly cocked over one of Mab's pink-rouged ears.

The second head is Betty Bennett's: blonde and green-eyed, chandelier emerald earrings and a black-silk half-mask on a little lollipop stick held up concealing—enigmatically, half revealing too—the bottom half of her perfect face.

Beneath the table, Patti, Maxine and the

Sex Criminal—Betty's three little King Charles spaniels—play at our feet. The hotel staff had begun by saying No Dogs Allowed. But Betty had said the dogs were part of her costume, and handing the maître d' a ten, swept in.

Head One, rearing itself up the full length of a long graceful neck: "Our daughter is doing what?" said Mab.

Second Head, using the little black mask to cover a fond smile: "That Panamanian lieutenant commander," Betty said. "She's at a dance at Boca Chica with him."

"That Panamanian group up here for air training?" said Mab.

"Yes," said Betty.

"That son-of-a-bitch, looks like Cary Grant?" said Mab.

"What's wrong with that?" said Betty.

"All I can say, Betty," said Mab, "if you're a modern mother, I pity the future of the United States of America. Our daughter isn't even sixteen. That son-of-a-bitch is forty-two."

"She's seventeen," said Betty. "And he's thirty. And if you are an example of the fathers of America . . ." She shrugged. "Well, nobody claims they didn't have a good time at the fall of Rome."

The waiter came by. I asked him to bring more Mumms, some iced tonic, no gin, for me.

Mab came back from doing the Lambada with a Panamanian colonel.

"I think I'm in love," he said.

"No, but the colonel is," said Betty.

The colonel had gone back to his table, and was twirling his mustache at Mab,

Solares Hill • January 1991 • Page 23
shothing him the hot killing glances that signified the last raptures in Panamanian gallantry.

"The old rules knew what they were about," said Mab, blowing the colonel a kiss across the floor. "The surest way to keep a man forever in love is to hold out."

"Mab," said Betty, "are you advocating no sex?"

"It is not merely sex a man wants from a woman, Betty—and if you had known that when we were kids, we would not be sitting here now like this. What they want more is a woman's unconditional acceptance. The feminine mistake is to allow a man to think that if he's won her sexually, he's won her full approval too."

"That's when he begins to say he feels suffocated?" Betty said. "My mother always used to tell me that."

"I liked your mother," said Mab.

"And she liked you," said Betty. "Far more than Mr. Rat J. Rattigan, whom I married, or Jim Palm, whom I did not."

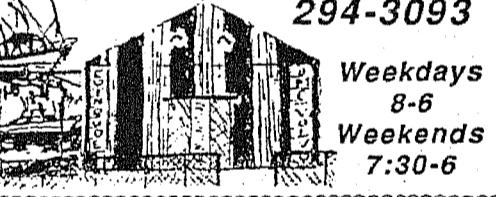
"But Betty," Mab said. "That was when we were sixteen."

"So is our daughter," said Betty.

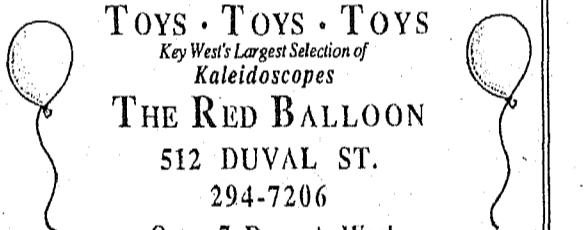
In the middle of the ballroom, a million-faced mirrored ball whirled through the night, reflecting colored coins of light that flashed across the walls and the dancers' masked faces as time ticked on, one year ended and another began. My divorce had finally been signed, and Betty was holding my hand. ■

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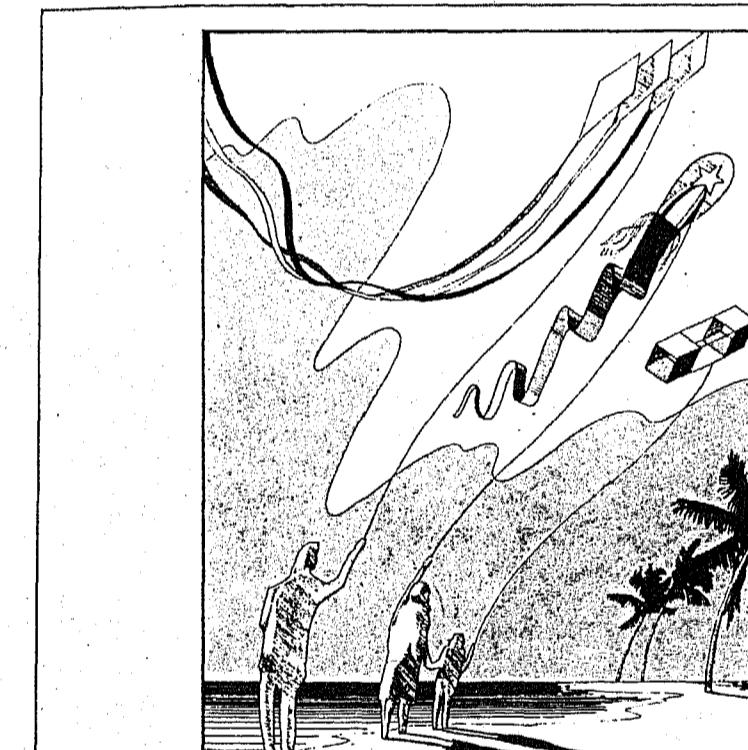
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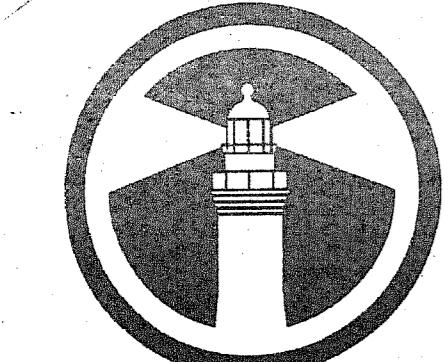
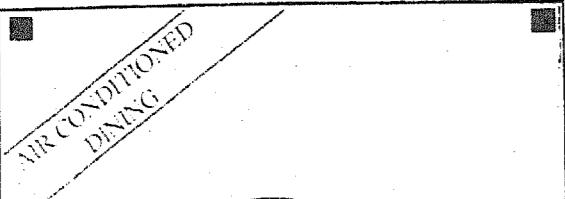


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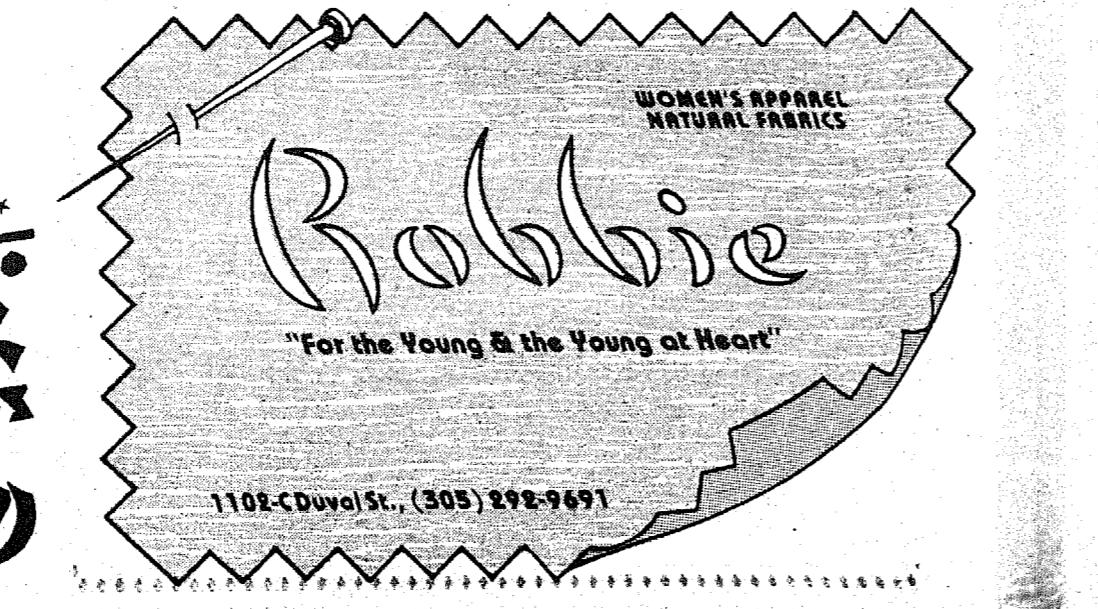
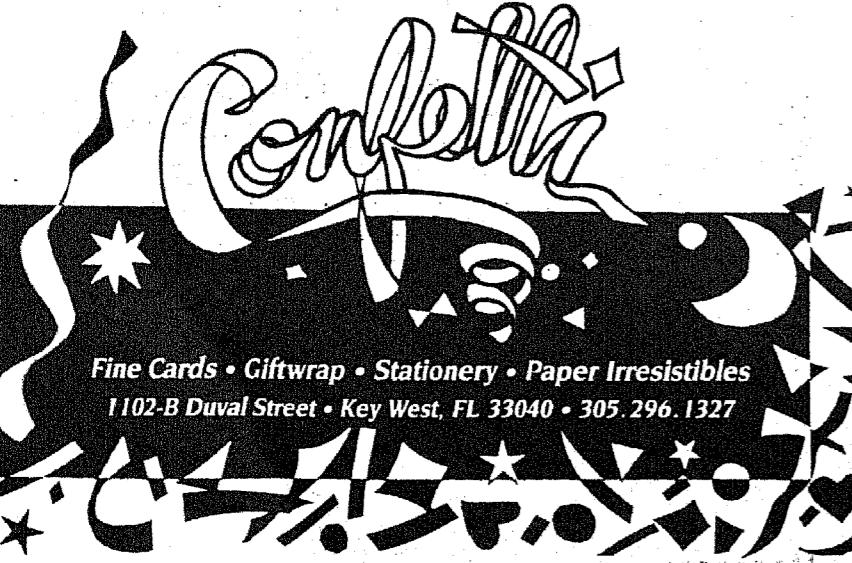


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drome," now that son Jordon is away at college.

"Hardly," replied Nancy, adding something about an "empty wallet."

On the streets . . . the *Key West Citizen* reported that Chris Doyle, who recently moved here from New Orleans, says he misses all the "dark-and-smoky neighborhood bars."

"It's almost impossible to find a local bar in Key West," he complained. "They're all filled with tourists looking for local color."

It's splitsville for drummer Skipper Krippitz and actress Paula Jo Chitty, after their trip to California didn't go too well—or, as Skipper puts it, "The show folded out of town." Paula Jo is being escorted by a very handsome Englishman.

One of the best shows in town took place at La Te Da's Crystal Room Cafe, when Lawrence Formica hosted a post-performance bash for the cast and crew of *Cabaret*. Directors Joy Hawkins and Bruce Kirle were a dynamite team, as he played and she sang.

These days millionaires are balancing their checkbooks just like the rest of us. If Donald Trump is having financial difficulties, is it any wonder that rumors are flying about Pritam Singh's Truman Annex empire? The word around town is that Pritam is seeing "spots" (Spottsworths?) before his eyes.

Chapin Leinback and Richard Cassidy hosted their cocktail party at the Carriage House. The banyan tree there was beautifully aglow with lights. Al and Shirley Steinman arrived ala *Easy Rider*, astride a motorcycle. Somehow they maintain that just-stepped-out-of-a-limo elegance. "We also never have a parking problem," announced the Steinmans.

Phillip Burton is one of the real treasures of Key West. I don't know about his other habits, but he enjoys a sip of sherry in his lovely garden. Burton recently celebrated his 85th birthday at the Buttery with well-wishers Gary O'Neal, Heiman McDuffie, Christian Anderson and Frank Taylor. Another Taylor, who goes by the first name of Elizabeth, marked the occasion by sending a beautiful floral tribute. Burton speaks only the kindest words about his former "daughter-in-law."

With all the guests at the Woman's Club Christmas party, the goodies and cheer seemed endless. Saw Roger and Nancy Holtcamp there and asked Nancy if she was suffering from the "empty nest syn-

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A cat on the roof.

My neighbor here on Big Coppitt says her cat is afraid to come down from up there. Epstein is her female cat's name. Neighbor got the name off a cemetery tombstone in the Catholic section. I am busy entertaining myself, making a list of pall-bearers for my funeral some 30 years from now.

I show up at Neighbor's for the distraction, because I never permit myself a moment of boredom.

It is a glorious late afternoon here near the Gulf. You can hear the mating cries of East Rockland Key osprey. The twilight Evening Star begins to blaze down, slightly tilted over toward The Reach.

Epstein sits thoughtfully up there on Neighbor's big old house, despairingly constructed during some juncture of time and batten board, twigs, concrete, pipes, ceramics, stucco. Three or four suicide-type roofs jut out here and there.

The cat is on the topmost one.

All assembled below wear expressions of special interest called for by the occasion. Neighbor wrings her hands. (There really is such a gesture.) Four Key Haven visitors stand together silently like Quakers at a Friends Meeting House. Epstein's lion-colored hip quivers, but she wears a Thom-

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as Jefferson looks idly studying the situation, but keeping in mind the seriousness of the thing.

Up rolls a person with a hanging garnet earring, red ringlets of hair and a hot pink blouse. He is driving a soft teal-blue '91 Rolls Royce off Highway One.

Why is he here? Perhaps he understands that sometimes you do things for their own sake. Viewing a cat on a roof might affirm for him his own personal identity. It's outside his world. He has this stylish knack of disinterestedness.

One man walks past, looks, goes on, perhaps feeling that his best life doesn't lie in that direction.

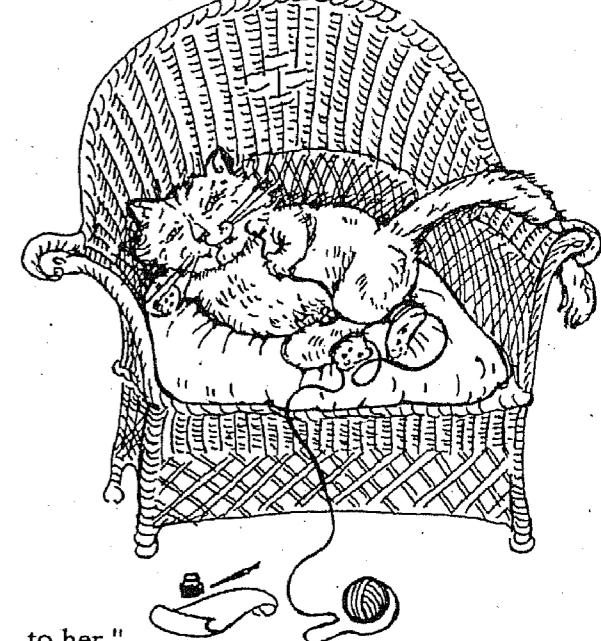
From a window leans Neighbor's parent, a man of great age. With field glasses raised, he carefully views some ladies getting out of a car down the way. Father calls out, "O, Little Sister."

Neighbor says, "No one calls me that except Father—when he wants to be tiresome." She turns her back on him.

Father enjoys response to provocation.

He lowers his field glasses and speaks to Epstein's dilemma. Father has had past experience with Epstein, who once produced two kittens in his sock drawer. One looked like the Siamese tom over on *Calle Uno*.

"Little Sister, get Epstein milk and read



Neighbor runs and fetches a bowl of milk and the *Solares Hill* newspaper. Epstein adores being read to from this paper.

Neighbor begins reading, "Group Against Tree Cutting Committee Demonstrates. Lady Straps Herself to Royal Palm. . . . 'Mayor' Cap't Tony Tarracino Appears on National Television Channel, States, 'Sex, Sex, Sex Most Important Thing in Key West."

Epstein clasps her eyes onto the news paper, onto the milk bowl. She refinedly twitches a limb, and with discernible aplomb and sophistication, slides, tumbles and scoots down a series of holds to earth.

She takes a few discreet laps of milk, and then turns her head, animatedly listening.

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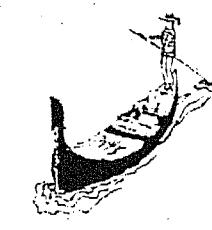
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Community Notes

Friends of the Elderly

The Senior Companion Program honored its volunteers last month for providing companionship and emotional support to the community's elderly. Volunteers say they experience a sense of achievement and fulfillment through the program. For more information about starting a program in your area, call Cristine Oliva at (305) 347-4651.

Inside Scoop on Tourism

According to a survey commissioned by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, more than half the people who made inquiries to the Florida Keys information

and reservations service, later traveled to the region. Of those, 72 percent said they would "very likely" return. Conducted between October 1989 and March 1990, the survey determined that: shopping was the number one tourist activity, followed by water and land sports; visitors like the warm weather and relaxed atmosphere of the Keys; the average tourist stays for four nights; 73 percent arrive by car, 15 percent by air, 6 percent by recreational vehicle or camper; and the average annual income per tourist household is \$60,718.

Insurance for AIDS Patients

AIDS Help, Inc. plans to administer a state-funded AIDS insurance project to Monroe County individuals diagnosed with AIDS or ARC, who meet specific criteria. The program will pay up to \$500 monthly toward health insurance premiums.

Old Island Days Festival

The Old Island Restoration Foundation kicks off its 31st Old Island Days Celebration this month. The celebration's series of over 50 scheduled festivities will continue through May. Events begin January 19 with the Oldest House Benefit Party, followed by the House and Garden Tours beginning February 1. Proceeds from the celebration benefit the preservation of Key West's unique architectural heritage. For information or a free brochure, write OIRF, P.O. Box 689, Key West, FL 33041, or call 294-9501.

The Abuse of 911

To clear the air once and for all, the Monroe County Sheriff's Department announces that the 911 telephone number is for *emergency calls only*. It is not, officials say, to be used to report barking dog or stolen cars, nor is it a law-enforcement advice line. They ask citizens to limit its use to situations in which an individual's life or health is threatened, or to report crimes in process or that have just occurred. The non-emergency numbers for the lower Keys are: Key West Police Department, 294-2511 and Monroe County Sheriff's Office, 296-2424 or 1-800-273-COPS.

Special Announcement

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We are adding three issues to our regular monthly schedule because of the tremendous demand for Solares Hill, the increase in population at this time of year, and the general need for the kind of news and information we provide. The issues will be mid-month in February, March & April, with Special Sections on the following topics:

February Mid-Month • Home & Garden
Deadline: February 8 • Publication Date: February 14

March Mid-Month • Finance
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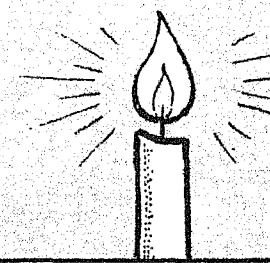
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ISLAND ECONOMICS

Computers in Paradise

by June Keith

Since enrolling in English Composition II at Florida Keys Community College last September, housewife, mother and part-time student Lisa Grahrl has realized that her trusty Smith-Corona typewriter can no longer keep up with her writing needs.

"I want a word processor," says Grahrl. "I need to be able to move sentences, save them, watch how things work together by seeing them on a screen. For copying a final draft, my Smith-Corona is just fine. But getting to that final draft is so hard!"

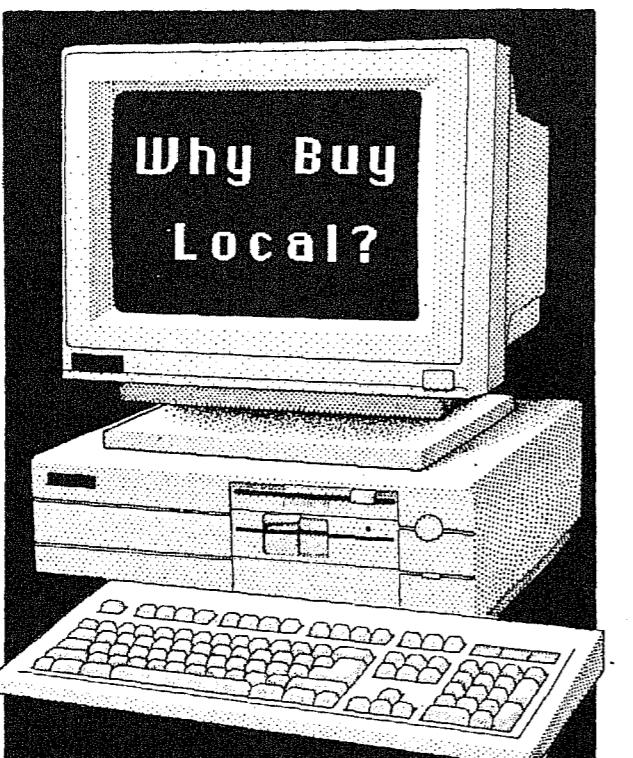
Rock-n-roll band roadie Jon Hynes has outgrown his typewriter, too, but for different reasons. Hynes says he is always promoting himself, always searching for another job, another tour—and that involves sending lots of letters and resumes.

"A typewriter isn't enough to do mass mailings," explains Hynes. "I send a lot of letters out, and handle a lot of correspondence. I'm starting to look at word processors, but everybody is telling me I should buy a computer. People who have computers are very promotional about computers."

A cautious consumer, Hynes reads three newspapers a day, scans ads and frequently uses catalogs to order merchandise he cannot buy on the island. He says he is weighing all the possibilities before making his decision.

"People tell me, 'Buy a Mac, it's a good little machine,'" says Hynes. "Then I have friends who tell me to buy something that is IBM-compatible, and they'll send me software. And I wonder, why should I want IBM software instead of Macintosh? Is there a difference?"

Lisa Grahrl finished up the semester on her obsolete typewriter, but says she has



learned her lesson: no more English classes until she gets a word processor. Since her Coast Guard officer husband is talking about writing a book, Grahrl says a word processor is definitely in the family's future.

The Grahrls have decided to wait to buy, however, until they are transferred from Key West about six months from now.

"I would say that during the next six months, the technology will get cheaper," says Lisa Grahrl. "I think word processors will be cheaper in a place with a bigger turnover. We'll shop for one when we're in a different place—not at the end of the world, or the United States, or North America. I'm sure it will cost a lot less somewhere else."

Hynes is wrestling with the same issue. Should he buy it here? Or order from a catalog?

Not so long ago, shopping for the right computer meant a trip to Miami for a whirl of comparison shopping. Happily, for Key Westers such treks are no longer necessary, nor even advisable, say those in the business.

Jim Carey, president of Caribbean Computers, Inc. (CCI), 1019 White Street, says that what you can save in Miami or ordering from a catalog—10 to 15 percent—you might end up paying to local technicians when your machine needs repairs. Often, says Carey, computer owners mess up their new machines trying to set them up at home.

"Sure you'll save by ordering out of a magazine," says Carey. "But if you have a problem and you call us, we'll have to charge you for setting things straight. We'll send someone over. But unless we installed the machine, we can't give free assistance."

Most of the time, Carey says, calls come in from confused customers; problems usually do not involve faults in the equipment. Nonetheless, CCI charges \$75 an hour to unravel computer mysteries—and there is a \$35 additional fee if a serviceperson travels to your home.

If you buy from CCI, however, assistance is free.

Those who don't buy from CCI may still purchase service plans from the company. Sales manager Tom Berwager explains that the company has teamed up with E.W.C. Electronics to offer a five-year protection plan for parts and labor repairs. The plan covers IBM-compatible CPUs, keyboards, floppy and hard disk drives, monitors and printers bought within the last eight months—whether or not the equipment was purchased from CCI.

For Apple and Macintosh computer users buying locally, assistance is also a phone call away, says Marie McCormick of Key West Computer Center, 1000 Kennedy Drive. Marie and her husband John own Monroe County's only Apple Computer dealership.

And they keep track of who their customers are.

"We have all of our customers on database," says Marie McCormick. "We repair all Apple and Macintosh equipment on warranty [regardless of where it was purchased], but our customers come first. Other people don't come before our regular customers."

Assistance to Apple and Mac users who buy elsewhere is \$60 an hour, but the McCormicks won't travel to your home—no matter where you bought your equipment. Local customers can phone or go by the store for free support.

"Some stores give away equipment, treat it as a box," says Marie McCormick. "We offer free support and assistance to our customers. It comes with the purchase."

Fortunately, one of the main characteristics of Macintosh computers is their



ISLAND ECONOMICS

simplicity. Installation is a breeze, particularly compared to other machines. Comprehensive, easy-to-understand manuals are packed with each unit.

Jim Carey says it is important for a buyer to sit down and list exactly what he hopes to do with a computer. Then, shop accordingly.

Victoria Madeya and Joyce Esquinaldo, owners of the Incubator Business and Personal Service Center, located in Solana Village, will research prices on any type of office equipment, including word processors, copiers, fax machines and printers.

"We don't push you into buying anything and your first computer lesson is free," says Madeya. "We're local girls—Conchs. If we mess up with the locals, we still have to show our faces around here for a long, long time."

The company will rent computers by the hour, by the day, or by the month. It also offers personalized advice and consultation to assist consumers in selecting services or equipment to suit their specific needs.

Based on his needs, Jon Hynes might be better off not buying a computer. Madeya says her office will maintain his mailing list and mail-outs of his letters and resumes for a fraction of the cost of a computer equipped with mail-merge and mailing list storage. Hynes may also use the company's bulk mail rate, and save a bundle on postage.

Most people, however, will end up investing in the Big C.

"If you want a fun unit that your kids can play games on, get a Nintendo," advises Carey. "Nintendo has got all other graphic game programs beat by a mile, and they're a lot cheaper."

Tandy computers, sold by Radio Shack, are handy for many households, and priced the same at Radio Shack stores nationwide. Should your Tandy need repairs, however, be prepared to wait for the machine to be shipped by Radio Shack to its central workshop in Miami, where it will be worked on, and then returned to Key West.

That can take a while.

Tandy Computers are IBM-compatible, says Jim Carey, adding that everything he sells is IBM-compatible as well. Not so for Macintosh, which is exclusive unto itself and IBM-incompatible, automatically limiting the user in terms of both hardware and software.

Recently, however, Macintosh has begun to chip away at its isolationist walls; its CPUs are now compatible with other laser-printers. Industry analysts say Macintosh, afraid of losing its hold on the market, decided to ease up.

In fact, reviews in *Macworld*, the maga-

zine devoted to exploring the world of the Macintosh, have rated other brands of laser-printers ahead of once-monopolizing Apple line.

Bob Kay, a salesperson and consultant at Computer City, 303 Margaret Street, points to laserprinters manufactured by Texas Instruments, Panasonic, Qume and GGC as suitable possibilities.

NEC, sold at Caribbean Computers, has been rated as a good choice as well.

Kay, who will research any make and model on the market to fit a client's needs, says these laserprinters are equipped with Postscript, which allows them to work with the Macintosh. Some also include Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet system, which makes them IBM-compatible as well.

In terms of peripherals to enhance the Macintosh—external disk drives, screens, and so on—the consumer is, again, no longer limited to Macintosh products. Reading several issues of *Macworld* and other computer magazines, such as *Publish* and *PC Magazine*, is a good way to get an idea of what can go with what.

If you plan to spend big bucks, however, you might consider the services of a consultant.

Whatever you buy, it's advisable to learn all you can about your machine so you can make the most of its capabilities.

CCI offers a series of frequent and inexpensive courses at their offices on Whitehead Street. Florida Keys Community College also offers computer classes, with desktop publishing the most popular.

Lisa Grahrl will probably be happy with a dedicated word processor, which she can buy locally (if she changes her mind) for anywhere from \$500 to \$1500. "Dedicated" means that's all it does, just words. It also means she won't be able to balance her

household accounts, custom-design invitations and greeting cards, or play "Concentration" or "Monopoly."

Sooner or later, you just know she'll want to upgrade.

"Hey—for \$1000 more you can get a computer with a printer," says Jon Hynes. "Computer people say you have to have one. It's like a cult. You just have to have one!"

In an era when computers are becoming as much a part of a household as the television set, you don't have to leave town to find your ideal machine. You just have to know what you want.

Check the local Yellow Pages, take advantage of Key West's computer experts—and consider spending locally.



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ISLAND ECONOMICS

Business Tides

The Kennedy Gallery, 1130 Duval Street, recently opened with its first show, "Key West—Cape Cod Retrospective," an exhibition of work from artists in both areas. Owners/ artists Michele and Robert Kennedy show their own work in the gallery, which features changing exhibitions, guest-artist demonstrations and a silk-screen area where gallery visitors will be able to see work-in-progress. 294-5997.

Steven Allerton, local artist and sailor, has created the Dolphin Whistle. His inspiration came from encounters with dolphins in waters surrounding Key West. Allerton makes these miniature sculptures in silver and gold in his studio on William Street. Worn around the neck, the Dolphin Whistle can be used to reproduce the call of a wild dolphin. 294-4524.

The Pelican Poop Shoppe, an art and gift store located in Casa Antigua, 314 Simonton Street, has opened its gardens to the public for tours. The gardens adorn the Spanish-style structure, rich in history, including an unexpected seven-week stay in 1928 by Ernest Hemingway who picked up a Ford automobile there. 296-3887.

Landscape artist Vic Brewer offers free consultations and estimates to homeowners desiring unusual additions to their gardens. Brewer specializes in the design and construction of miniature decorative pools, small ponds, streams and water gardens. 294-8722.

Loys Locklear announces the opening of her new gallery, Studio 227, formerly Artist Warehouse, located at the corner of Petronia and Thomas Streets. Locklear specializes in framing and recently attended



DICK BURKE

OUT OF AFRICA: This lion, constructed by Peter Otsinoski from wood, stone and copper wire, is on display at the new Kennedy Gallery at 1130 Duval Street.

Equipment, 535 Eaton Street. Beginning this month, **Dee and Marty Medley** will be renting out typewriters and computers installed with the latest software. The store will continue to carry office supplies and offer services, such as Western Union and faxing. 294-3036.

Southernmost Credit Consultants, Inc. has moved its offices to 517 Whitehead Street. The company is a licensed mortgage brokerage business that represents both local and national lenders. It also leases equipment. 292-0064.

"The only thing that is constant is change," say the owners of **Keys Office**

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ISLAND ECONOMICS

KWBOR



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Lana Prevost.

Lana Prevost, an associate with the real estate firm of Greg O'Berry, Inc., was recently named the Key West Association of Realtors' "Rookie of the Year," one of the top honors in the real estate business. A native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Prevost has been an associate of Greg O'Berry, Inc. for a year and a half, and works at the Seastown office.

Greg O'Berry, a pioneer in the Key West real estate market, is the 1990 recipient of the Key West Association of Realtors' "Lifetime Achievement Award." O'Berry recalls that when he founded his firm, Greg O'Berry, Inc., in 1974 everyone told him he was crazy. When he turned the business over to Gene Moody in

1989, O'Berry had 40 working agents. Today he teaches the real estate licensing examination preparatory course at Florida Keys Community College.

Key West Theatre, a locally produced Key TV television program, has been chosen "Best Local Program" by the Community Broadcasters' Association. "It's wonderful to be recognized nationally," said producer Toni Davis, who accepted the award in Las Vegas. The program may be viewed locally on TCI Cable Channel 40.

Steven P. Shea and Patricia A. Snyder announce the formation of their law firm **Shea, Snyder, P.A.**, located at First Professional Centre, Suite 1, 5701 Overseas Highway in Marathon. The firm will concentrate on bankruptcy and business matters, but will also engage in general practice of law, including real estate, wills and probate, civil litigation and criminal matters. 743-0064.

Roslyn LoPinto, author of *A Guide to Centering: The Harmonious Response to Life*, returns to Key West for the fourth season to teach a centering workshop and yoga classes at **Island Wellness**, located at 530 Simonton Street. "A centered awareness gives us an overview, a better clarity to see things around us," says LoPinto. Call Gary Young at 296-7353.

New York Life Insurance Company announces that Phillip N. Miami, whose offices are located in Old Town, has

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earned executive council status during his second year as a company agent. Miami's 25 years' experience in the financial services field includes four years as a commodities broker and eight years as a stockbroker and financial planner with the New York Stock Exchange. 296-1979.

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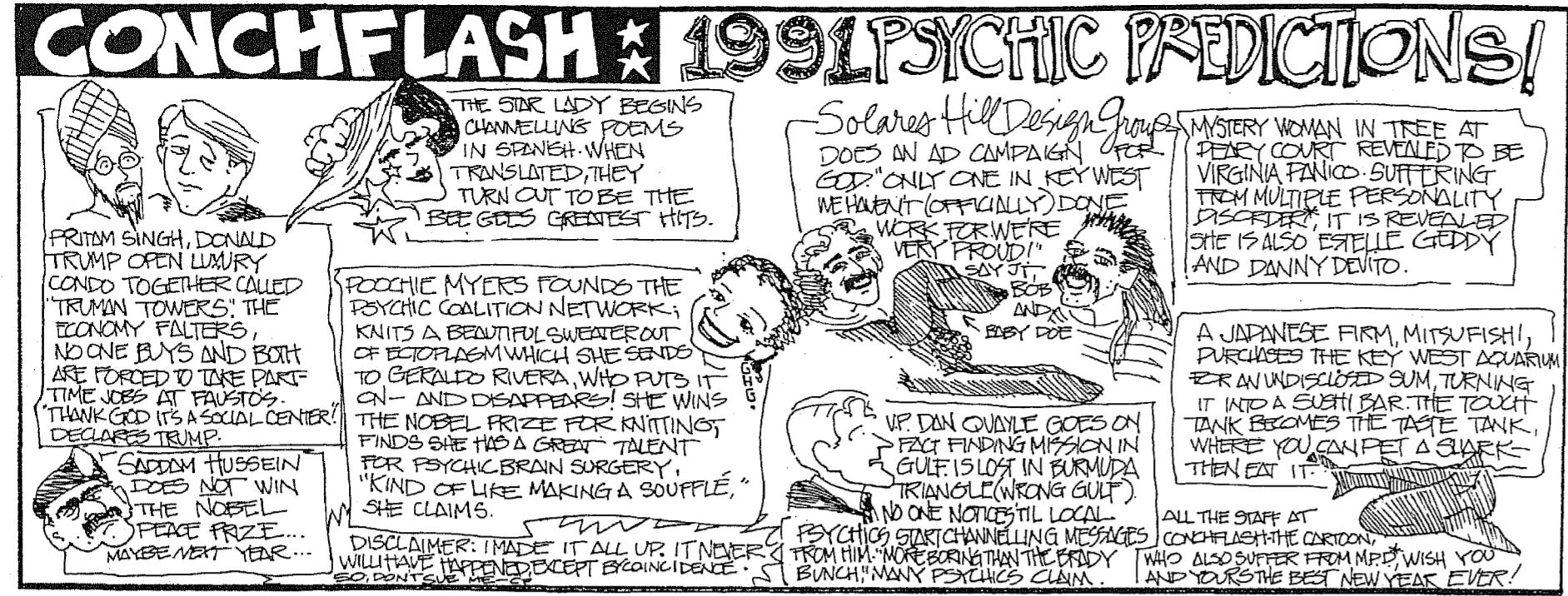
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Readers Write

Praise of Portrayal

Dear Editor:
I just returned from a wonderful vacation and read Anne Carlisle's article, "The Invisible Revolution: Lesbians in Business," in the December *Solares Hill*. I want to thank her for her excellent handling of the subject and her portrayal of my thoughts. She is a very talented writer, and I look forward to seeing more.

Sharon Smith
Key West

Where's the Justice?

Dear Editor:
This is a condensed version of a letter sent to *Island Life* and *The Key West Citizen*. It is in reference to the local court case of Nolle Prosequi, which involved alleged stop sign running, resisting arrest without violence and refusal to sign a citation.

After the subject was arrested (for running a stop sign?), went to court (for a traffic violation?) and won, why would he still owe a fine and have his license suspended?

When the state couldn't prove any of the charges, why did it penalize the motorist? Although there was a witness, the fiasco

cost in excess of \$500. Where's the justice? I'll bet I could find some cases with the exact circumstances that didn't involve suspension or fine. I suppose it depends on who was involved.

The system aids the guilty, penalizes the innocent, and no one gives a damn. Why? Because it hasn't happened to you? It very well may—sooner than you think.

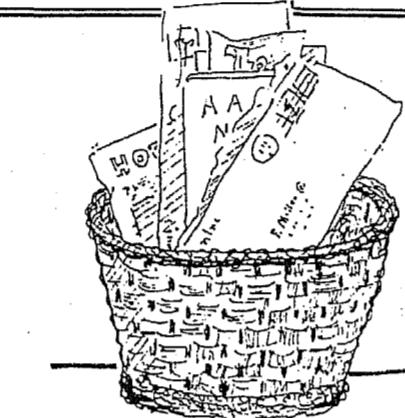
Hilda Thompson
Key West

P.S. Later, the public defender apologized for not telling his client that whether or not he signed for it, he was issued a citation—on the record—and was liable for a fine.

A Sour Note

Dear Editor:
It was with pleasure that I opened my new issue of *Solares Hill*, because Joe Silva's article on local music was in it, and I knew I would be quoted.

My pleasure quickly gave way when I realized how I had been misquoted. I never said, "If it's decent we'll consider it." What I told Mr. Silva was that WEOW 92.5 FM had indeed used local music, and will continue to do so, but that we don't receive very much on "broadcast quality tape," by



which we mean reel to reel. If we receive local music on broadcast quality tape, and it passes our music committee, we'll be happy to air it.

It was bad enough to be misquoted and have my thoughts misconstrued, but the next sentence really horrified me. Mr. Silva states that the WEOW studio consists of "four reel-to-reel tape machines, endlessly spinning prepackaged music." As far as I know, Mr. Silva has never been to our studios. Had he asked me, I would have told him nothing could be farther from the truth. We program our own music, and it's all on CD.

After giving this much thought, I can only assume that Mr. Silva has an axe to grind with local radio, and simply ignored our conversations in drawing his own erroneous conclusions. If *Solares Hill* is willing to print complete falsehood as "news" I must wonder about the accuracy of



everything else it prints.

Kim Alexander
WEOW 92.5 FM
Key West

Gold, Green & Government

Dear Editor:

We stand by the accuracy of writer Joe Silva's quote, which actually read, "if it's pressed and sounds decent we'll consider playing it," as was recorded in his notes. That paragraph also included acknowledgement that "WEOW . . . has occasionally played local artists."

In response to "the four reel-to-reel tape machines, endlessly spinning prepackaged music," and Silva's knowledge of the WEOW studio, Silva visited the studio earlier this year, when those tape machines were in use. Since that time, the station has been sold and the new management has replaced that equipment. We apologize for this error and any misunderstandings that may have resulted because of it.

We did not write that the programs were "prepackaged," as Alexander claims, but were "precomposed." Station manager Joe Russo says the programs at WEOW are "predetermined" on a weekly basis by a committee that researches and considers local requests and music sales in its choices.

Russo says the station would like to play more local music, but points out that since he's been with WEOW, the station has received less than ten submissions. He says he certainly welcomes more. —Editor

Through the years other notes were introduced and little by little the Silver Certificates disappeared. In 1964 the last silver coin was minted. After all its lies and deception, which were as effective as being held up at gunpoint, the government now has all of our money.

By the way, if you want to buy gold today, you may buy it from the government, through the U.S. Mint at prices way above current market value.

Like my grandfather and mother, I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth. A

child born today, however, gets only a Social Security number and a piece of the national debt undoubtedly over \$100,000.

I prospected for gold in Nevada several years ago for Apco Oil Company. While searching the desert, I found a great spot where I felt, one day, I might like to live. At that time, I could have homesteaded this beautiful area, but didn't.

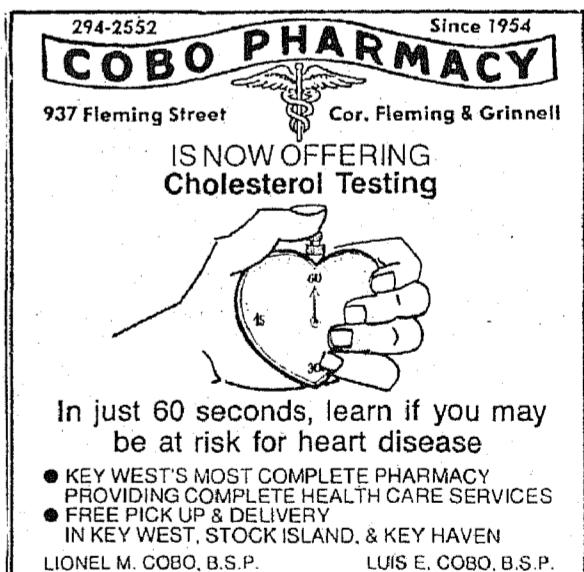
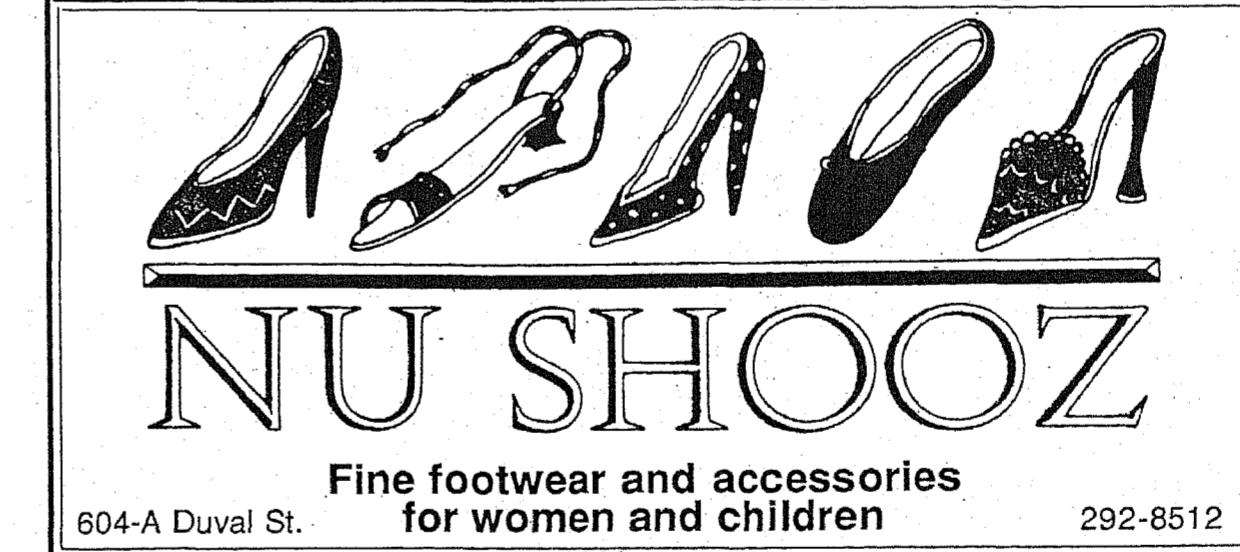
A few years ago, I returned to homestead that precious land and was informed that there was no longer a homestead law and that the government now owned all of this public space.

I am supposed to accept that the government has taken all the money and all the land in Amerika (sic).

I am supposed to accept that the Navy owns Peary Court.

I do not!
I was a demonstrator against the war in Vietnam and paid a very high price, but we won. It may be painful and costly for me (us) to protect my (our) beloved trees in Peary Court, but the ecology war must be won. It's a battle for the future of our children's children's children.

Ron Carter
Key West



Art Circle

Antique Ell

by Judi Bradford

Looking for a 1950s bowling ball? What color? Thought you'd never find a butter churn? What size? Have a friend who collects license plates? Take your choice. Duck decoys? Photographs of movie stars? Oriental rugs, period furniture, cut glass? Navajo blankets? Cloisonné horses from China? It's all here in Key West.

For those who love the adventures of antiquing or searching for obscure collectibles, a cluster of perfectly suited shops has recently sprung up along the 500 block of Fleming Street and down Simonton from Fleming to just past Eaton Street.

It's an area the shop owners are calling the "Antique Ell." And along this angled stretch of addresses, lie exciting and secret one-of-a-kind finds.

Commodore Antiques on the corner of Simonton and Fleming Streets is for the serious antique shopper. Although it carries a handful of whimsical items, including a set of jewelry made up of tiny medallions, each adorned with a 19th century engraving of an eye, the tone of the showroom is pedantic and somber.

Owner Earl Weinstein says he makes aesthetically pleasing selections based on his extensive experience in the business.

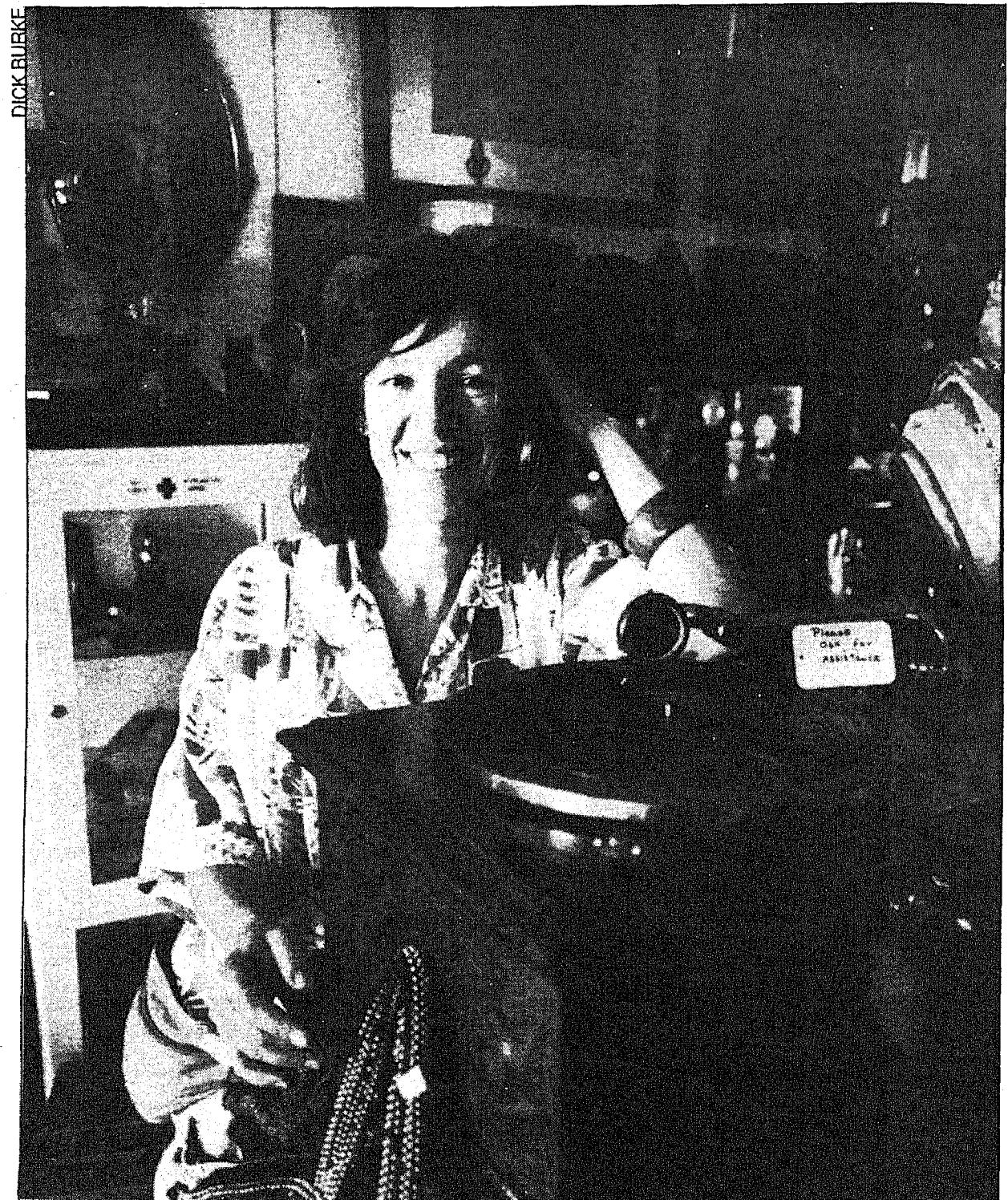
He buys "anything that's good," he explains.

On a top shelf is a hydrometer used for measuring humidity in cotton mills. "To prevent spontaneous combustion and guard against limpness of the cotton," explains Weinstein. "It is also a very handsome object."

Commodore carries a vast array of objects, including china, jewelry, glass, wood objects, statuary and stitchery. Items are neatly arranged and easy to examine.

Next door on Fleming Street is Antiques and Things: a shop in two parts. Small objects are displayed at 536 Fleming; furniture and larger pieces are at 515 Fleming, next to the Key West Island Bookstore. This is where a 19th century nine-foot-tall Italian china cabinet, which once stood in the Pitti Palace, was being delivered when this writer stopped by.

Antiques and Things deals in antiques,



NOSE FOR NOSTALGIA: Linda Semenak of Antiques and Things perches among her treasures. collectibles and interesting second-hand things—all presented in a delightful clutter that makes shopping something of a treasure hunt. Look for glass, china, books, Indian blankets, oriental masks, "His master's voice" phonographs, lead toy soldiers, a metal "5¢ Ginger Ale" sign, a U.S. Army "Mother" scarf.

This is also your stop for an authentic grass skirt, a monkey sock doll, musical instruments and a great stack of comic books.

Oriental and Navajo rugs, model boats and a bark painting are scattered about.

Owners Joe and Linda Semenak had a shop in San Francisco for seven years before returning to the Keys. (Linda is from Islamorada.) "We tried the rest of the country," says Linda, "and found it wanting."

Up a block at 519 Fleming is Memory Shop West, an emporium devoted to celebrity collectibles and memorabilia on paper.

Helio Graphics of Key West

Helio's gone underground ... (or is that under sea?)

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Photographs, posters, autographs of favorite stars from the silents to present day Hollywood can be found here—in original or reprint.

Jane Russell in "Outlaw," Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, even Bambi—all are filed and cross-referenced by actor, film and category. At the top of the list of valuables is an original French poster for "Camille," which starred Greta Garbo.

Film buffs will enjoy shooting the breeze with the shopkeepers, who really know their cinema trivia.

Meir Klapper's Collectional-Institute, located one door down at 521, specializes in deco, moderne and camp collectibles, as well as American antiques.

Merchandise is nicely arranged in a bright and clean display, showing off the items with style. Here and there are cookie jars, salt and pepper shakers, toys, alarm clocks, radios, thimbles, jewelry, and lots of china and glass. A large metal Coca-Cola sign reminds us of bygone days.

Glassware is everywhere: Depression glass, Russell Wright china, Bavarian Limoge, authentic cobalt-blue glassware, a table with a cobalt-blue glass top.

From funky kitsch to the Duncan Phyfe sofa and pre-electric phonographs, the Institute carries a fascinating assortment of decorative homewares.

Across the street is Sam's Treasure Chest, which is practically a Key West institution. The oldest of the troves of treasures, the people at Sam's have traded pre-owned stuff for eight years. Wall to wall, floor to ceiling, rafter to rafter, it's a dusty jumble of just about anything imaginable.

Doll cradles are piled high in one corner, Brownie cameras are lined up over on a shelf. Mink stoles, poker chips, Mariachi hats, tacky handbags, dime-store crucifixions, Wild West gun holsters, bed frames.

Sam's is an adventure. You've got to experience it to understand the thrill.

Ready for a break? Have some tea and shrimp toast at the China Gardens, then it's down Simonton Street along the second leg of the Antique Ell.

Antiques Key West is an unassuming little building at 423 Simonton. Inside Larry Wray—"I don't know Fay nor do I know the gorilla"—presides over a sparkling clean, neatly ordered assembly of glass and china from America, Europe and the Orient.

After 25 years in business, Wray retired to Key West last March, when his hobby became his job. "I love it," he says. "It's a delight. You meet fabulous people."

Wray will follow you around the air-conditioned shop, chatting like an old friend, while tossing in tidbits of expertise about his goods. No kitsch here. He pursues high end merchandise. A small selection of jewelry, oriental rugs and several pieces of period furniture complement the china and glass. (Wray has an eye for cut

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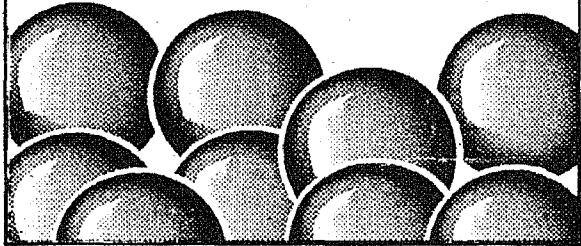
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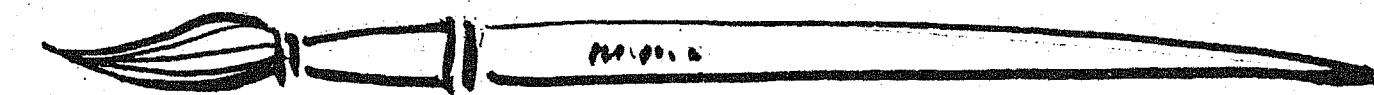
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The final stop on the Ell is at China Clipper, just off the corner of Eaton and Simonton Streets. The volume of merchandise owners Nicholas T. Miller and Hugh O'Callaghan handle forced them to move from their previous quarters at the Porter House on Duval and Caroline.

Miller and O'Callaghan do their buying in China during the summer and import the goods to their shop. Prices reflect the simplicity of this technique, and a number of dealers buy from the Key West shop.

Three rooms are filled with jewelry, sculpture, art and furniture, dominated by an impressive group of three-dimensional animals. Bronze geese, elephants, deer, cats and Fu dogs are dramatic eye catchers. The arched bronze crocodiles can make you gasp. And once you've recovered from them, prepare for the two-and-a-half-foot-tall blue cloisonné horses.

Most of China Clipper's pieces are dated from 1850 to 1900, although it does carry pieces from the Sung Dynasty (960 to 1280 A.D.) and even the Han Dynasty (207 B.C. to 220 A.D.).

Just unpacked is a shipment from last summer's travels in China and in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It includes antique Burmese lacquerware and wood carvings.

These Old Town shops share the advantage of being within walking distance of each other. Shops not on the Antique Ell include Carrie's Notion on Truman, a delightful excursion. Farther out Truman is the enterprising Trading Post.

Perkins & Son Chandlery, 901 Fleming, is a spot for nautical items. D.C. Doe and Island Antiques and Collectibles are on Greene Street.

Pawn shops are rich in small, but often worthy pieces, particularly jewelry and musical instruments and, dare we mention it, weapons.

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JANUARY ART CALENDAR

Art Collections Key West
• One man show of Henry Howell's mixed media and pastels on paper. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Front St. in the Bottling Court. 296-5956.

Audubon House • "Butterflies—Fantasyflies," a unique collection of butterfly specimens from the collection of Robert A. Belmont through January. \$5 admission, children under six free, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St. 294-2116.

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

Lee Dodez Showroom • Handbuilt clay pieces by Lee Dodez and raku work by Jay Goigin. Classes in handbuilding slab work. Also ceramic supplies: clay, glazes, equipment and tools for the potter. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

East Martello Museum & Gallery • "Key West Collects"—local collections of art, antiques and oddities, through February 10. Also Stanley Pappo folk art, battleship Maine memorabilia. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for non-members. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

Farrington Gallery • 711. See our regular group of artists this month. Also, new watercolors by Sylva and "Funky Flamingo" shirts. Daily, except Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and by appointment. 711 Duval St. 294-6911.

Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery • Student Show through January 18. "Music as a Theme for Art" opens January 26. Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

Galerie Moderne • Abstract expressionist works by Gilberte Sweeney. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 516 Amelia St. off Duval St. 296-3156.

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

Key West Lighthouse Museum • History of Keys lighthouses and technology of light-houses and technology of light-houses.

houses. Also, life of a light-house keeper. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 children 7 to 15, under 7 free. 938 Whitehead St. 294-0012.

Kudu Gallery of Tribal Art • Formerly International Folk Art at Adam Peck, Celebrating our new location. International folk art, ethnic musical instruments, tapestries, toys, oriental rugs and kilims and African art. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1208 Duval. 294-3771.

Lane Gallery • Kathleen Elgin watercolors January 21-29, plus our regular artists. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

Lucky Street Gallery • Thomas Mann Techno-romantic sculpture, furniture and jewelry. New works by Robert Carlson, Roberta Marks, Susan Farago. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, Saturday 'til 9 p.m. 919 Duval Street. 294-3973.

Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters • New paintings from South America. Back country paintings and prints by Michael Shannon. Bird prints by Marianna Bauerlein. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1107 Duval St. 296-6124.

Pandemonium • Formerly Hoh Designs. Original ceramics, tiles, clothing in urban and tropical styles by Valerie Hoh and Danny Gore. Plus, see our unique art furniture. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 704 Duval Street. 294-0351.

Plantation Potters • Functional and decorative ware from some of America's finest potters. Stoneware and porcelain vessels, lamps, handblown glass, wooden utensils. All made in USA. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 717 Duval St. 294-3143.

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

Santa Fe • Southwestern art, jewelry and furniture. Daily, except Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 219 Whitehead St. 294-0397.

Whitehead Street Pottery • Stoneware, porcelain, Raku vessels. White functional stoneware by guest artist Janet Albert. Daily, except Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1011 Whitehead St. 294-5067.

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

Key West Lighthouse Museum • History of Keys lighthouses and technology of light-houses and technology of light-houses.

I want another one, just like the other one

East Martello Exhibit Features Collectibles

by Judi Bradford

Gingerbread Square Gallery • One week showing of oils by international artist Piero Aversa. January 26 for one week, Ken Hawk watercolors. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 901 Duval St. 296-8900.

Great Southern Gallery

• Large realistic tropical plants

by new artist Carol Hughes.

New abstracts by Melba Cormane.

New acrylic and watercolor

classes start this month. Daily,

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery

• Drawings, paintings, prints,

soft sculpture, cartoons, printed

and handpainted cards, ceramics,

T-shirts, leather bags, photog-

raphy, stained glass and ironwork

by 16 Key West artists. Daily,

9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Even-

ings sometimes. 614 Duval St. 296-6076.

Haitian Art Company

• Hanging all new pieces from a

big shipment of recent paint-

ings. Also, wood sculpture, pa-

per mache, metal cutouts by

Haitian artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6

p.m. 600 Frances St. 296-8932.

Harrison Gallery

• Paintings, photographs,

sculpture and crafts by local artists. Daily, noon to

5:30 p.m. except Sunday and Monday. 825 White St. 294-0609.

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ends 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. 913 Duval St. 294-0411.

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10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.

to 4 p.m. 301 Front St. 294-

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Galerie Moderne

• Abstract

expressionist works by Gilberte

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folk art, ethnic

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ments, tapestries,

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• Kathleen Elgin

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New acrylic and watercolor

Kids, Pirates & Vanilla Ice

Horace O'Bryant School video classes produce local TV show

by Joe Silva

Throughout the day, a monotonous voice on TCI's Channel 5 reports sea state after sea state—as if someone held prisoner on Sand Key were broadcasting this stuff directly to your television set via ham radio. On Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., however, the voice is abruptly cut off and replaced with the thumping of M.C. Hammer's rap hit, "Can't Touch This."

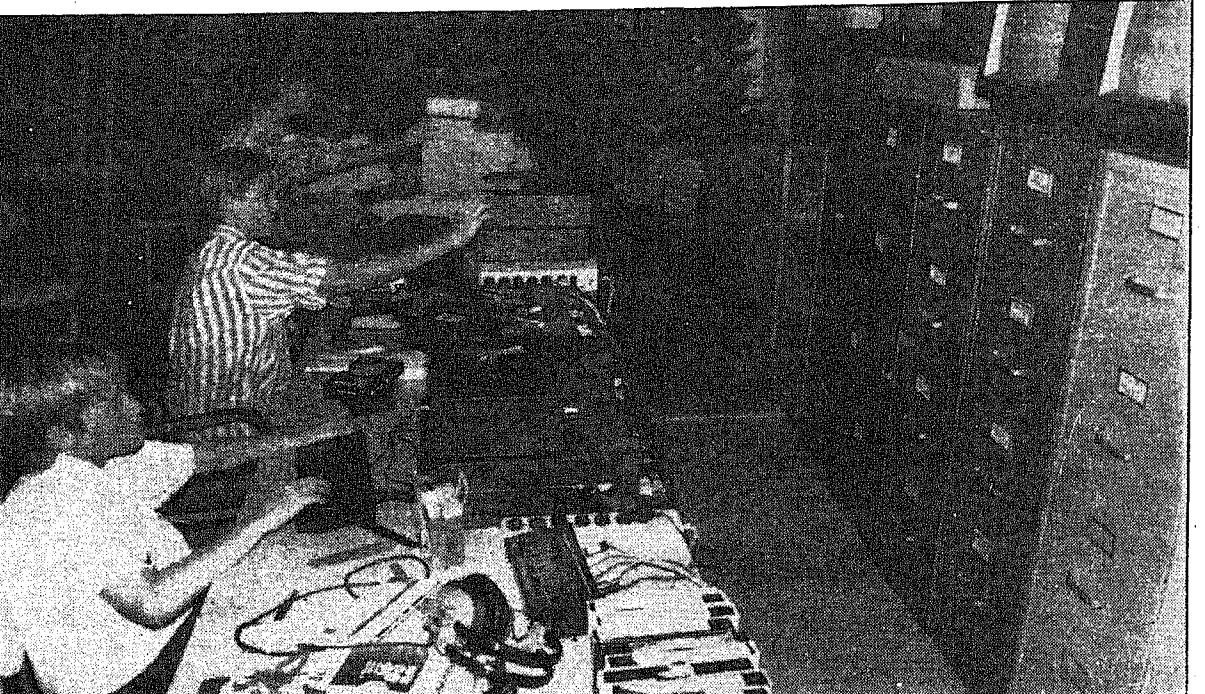
The screen, once a computerized weather map, now bursts with day-glo brilliance. Shots of sculptures at the local miniature golf course are punctuated with action scenes from a videogame arcade and the imposing image of a giant metal pirate.

Look out television viewers: KTV has hit the air.

Somewhere in its third year of broadcasting, Kids Television (KTV) is the weekly half-hour video venture of students at Horace O'Bryant Middle School.

"We have a potential viewership of

KEVIN GREEN



DEADLINE WARRIORS: Front to rear: Jackson Sieglinger, David Amundson, Meighan Heins, Marylou Delgado.

60,000, but we're guaranteed about ten," says a smiling Alan Davis, the HOB teacher who oversees the KTV project.

Sixty-thousand is roughly the number of subscribers to TCI, the local cable television channel; ten is the number of students who make up one of four groups responsible for producing the show. Each group produces one show per month.

It takes eight official class periods—not counting any extra time they might devote—to assemble a program. This month TCI will air the 71st edition of KTV.

Amazingly, students have delivered every show to the station on time. "We've come close," Davis says with a contrived glare at his students, "but we've never missed a deadline."

"They've kept their schedule, and I'm pretty certain this program is unique for this age group," confirms Joe Dietrich, director of production at TCI. "You have a lot of high school kids doing this type of stuff, but not middle school kids. We get a lot of verbal praise for the show."

With Dietrich's initial instruction in video production, a few fundraisers and some private donations, Davis took KTV from its origins as an extracurricular video lab to the

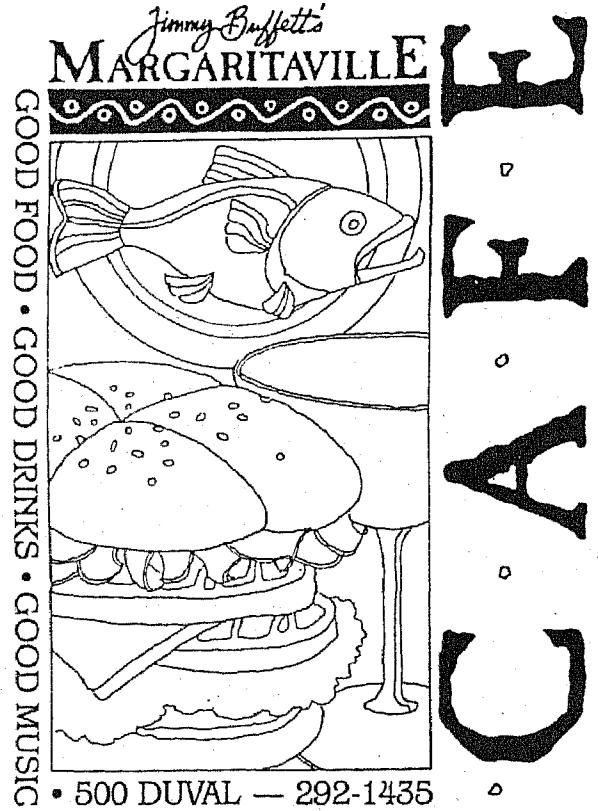
full-scale show it is today. Last year Robert Walker, the school's principal, turned KTV into an official HOB elective.

The KTV staff, 50 or so students in grades six through eight, are selected by Davis. "Most come as part of a group, but some of the kids are unofficial members who I can just call in, hand a camera to, and they'll go and tape what we need."

What they tape upholds the KTV manifesto, which Davis continually stresses: "KTV is a show for kids by kids." Segments have included clips from *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* and *Earthlings*, in addition to behind-the-scenes tours of the Key West's children's shelter and portions of the Red Ribbon anti-drug parade.

Tucked away in one of the school's many corridors, the KTV studio is similar to the other classrooms. Some of the chalkboards are covered, however, and the orderly rows of desks are dusty and appear decidedly unused.

KTV staff members work in and around stacks of matte-black video equipment and groups of large cabinets and drawers filled with video cassettes. Some kids are punching buttons, making VCRs whir and click. Others lie on the tropical print couch be-





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tween tapings and knock about ideas.

The KTV population seems to run shy on boys. "Girls at these age groups are maturing a lot quicker than boys, and they handle the responsibility of putting a show together much better," Davis explains.

Whatever their gender, the students are versatile, and go from being anchor persons, to camera people, to editors, with ease. Equipment doesn't seem to intimidate them, which makes sense: most kids have been inhaling technology as eagerly as sugar-coated cereal since the early 80s.

Glicy Novales and Tricia Sawyer, two seventh graders armed with a videocam and microphone, tramp around the halls looking for subjects to interview. It's like watching Marlin Perkins and friends stalking prey in the good name of Mutual of Omaha.

The girls are taping bits for a "documentary" they conceived to show other students how HOB teachers spend their break times and free periods. Eventually, they catch an unwary teacher sitting in the computer lab.

At the sight of the camera, the teacher's face drops. Slowly she begins to back away in protest. "They always do this to me . . . always when I'm not ready."

Tricia, as poised as Connie Chung, gets the interview on the second take, no problem. The girls march perfunctorily off, looking for others to tape.

While their other schoolmates are firmly rooted to desks, listening to a big person dictate how the class period will go, KTV staffers enjoy unusual freedom. They declare the hour they spend with Davis as their

KEVIN GREEN



LIVE AT KTV: Back row: David Amundson, Athena McAlarney, Marylou Delgado, Jennifer Brown, Regina Rivas, Lisa DeLuna, Cheryl Neves (seated); front row: Alan Davis, Jenny Bacle, Meighan Heins, Marisa Ramirez, Jackson Sieglinger and Troy Cedeno.

favorite class. It is the one time they may shoo adults from watching over their shoulders without repercussion.

"I like working by myself better sometimes," says Alex Cabrera, temporarily plucked from ISS (In School Suspension), Bart Simpson T-shirt and all. He's edited the majority of the show his class is finalizing behind him. "It's all good, I did it," he says.

Indeed, segments of the program fade smoothly in and out. "Sometimes I forget to press the 'record' button or something, but I've had good luck so far," says Alex. "Plus this is fun, and I get to get out of other classes."

"Well I'm outta here," he says, matching Bart's don't-have-a-cow-man grin. "I gotta go back to jail."

"I never said all these kids were angels,"

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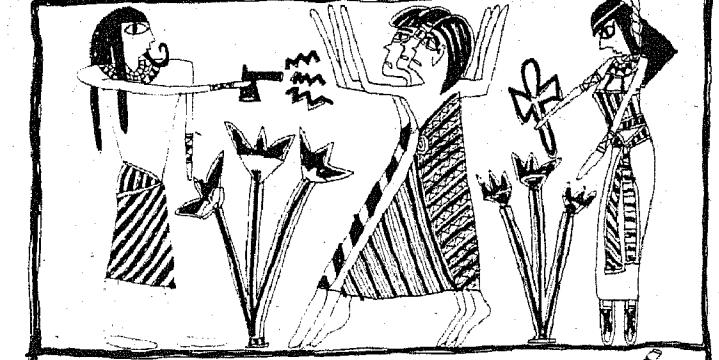
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Page 40 • January 1991 • Solares Hill
says Davis. "But they care about what they do here."

"And my mom thinks this is good for my background," says Marisa Ramirez, a zealous new member of the KTV crew.

Confidently assuming Mr. Davis' vacant seat from the moment she comes in the room, Marisa states matter-of-factly that she's an "in-front-of-the-camera person."

She enjoys soliciting material for the show, as well as interviewing. Recently, she rang up the Mayor. "I wasn't nervous," she says, flicking a few tassles of permed hair from her eyes. "We enjoyed having him."

"I came in the other day, and looked at the calendar in my office and saw 'Capt. Tony—2:30' written down," Davis says. "And sure enough when I called over to City Hall and asked, they told me, 'Yes, Mr. Davis, the mayor will be there.'

"I had no idea he was coming. The kids did it all by themselves. I always tell people this is a show for kids by kids."

The mayor arrived as scheduled and sat through the barrage of KTV questions—even those that were pointedly personal. "He was very cooperative, but we won't air those [answers]," Mieghan Heins says with an unsettling grin.

"I was very impressed with them, very impressed," recounts Mayor Tony Tarracino. "They're getting great knowledge about the media."

Along with Capt. Tony, KTV either has or will feature homecoming queens, visiting brass quintets, cheerleading routines, scenes from Children's Day at Bayview Park and a

documentary about the mechanics of the school administrative office.

Some of the 8th Grade students preview shots from an HOB dance on one of the studio's monitors. Studying the screen intently, they all mumble the lyrics of Vanilla Ice's "Ice Ice Baby" as they watch their schoolmates dance.

"That's not even the song the kids are dancing to," Davis says as he rewinds the tape. "They edited the video tape to sync with the song."

A veteran group at KTV is compiling excerpts from previous shows for a national video production contest. The winners will enjoy a trip to Washington, D.C. Mieghan and Athena McAlarney feel confident about their entry as they watch computer generated credits being added to the finished product and brainstorm titles.

Moments ago they were arguing over the merits of New Kids on the Block. "Aren't you over them yet?" Mieghan says, half disgusted.

"I have to stick with my Jon. He's my favorite," an unshaken Athena replies.

Their innocent banterings don't reflect the reality that KTV is in need of an overhaul. The VCRs, continually zipping tape back and forth during editing, are getting weary. Davis hopes to upgrade the entire operation from the standard home VHS quality to the superior Super-VHS format.

The project, however, receives no financial support from the state or local school board. "Total, about \$20,000 worth of equipment needs to be purchased," Davis

says. But continual statewide cuts to school budgets make that a hard figure to reach.

"There's a shortfall of dollars," principal Walker states.

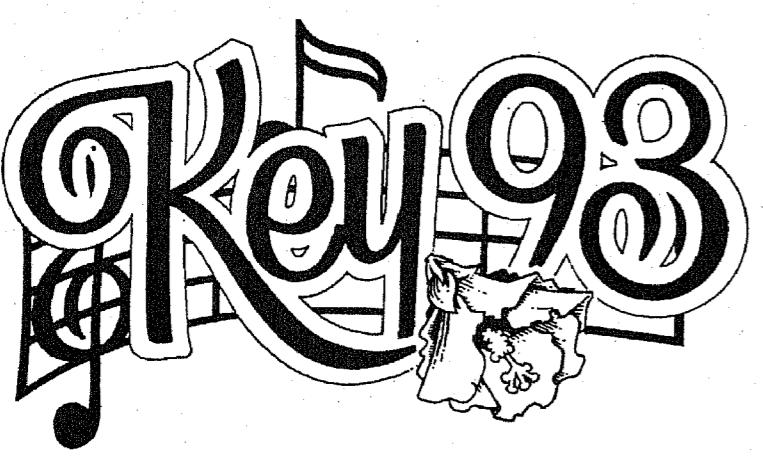
In even grimmer tones, Janet Hayes, the school board's public information officer, says the district should "brace" for more cuts.

KTV is a "wonderful opportunity" for the public to look at things going on in schools and see kids that are positively motivated, says Hayes. The tightened budget, she counters, is a sad reality.

But the KTV staff and Alan Davis are always holding fundraisers—dances and bake sales—to keep the program running. The teacher hopes to initiate a sponsorship program so that local businesses can receive PBS-style plugs—"...this program was made possible by..."—in return for direct contributions.

Moral support from parents and the school will always be there. "These are high energy kids," says Principal Walker. "And I think that's what good middle school education is about—finding outlets for that energy."

Having watched another edition of that televised energy come to a close on a recent Thursday, the shots of the huge metal pirate and miniature golf sculptures zooming at breakneck speed across the screen make sense. Until next time, the KTV hijack, it seems, is over. And, as at the conclusion of a scratchy old episode of the "Outer Limits," control of my television set has been restored. ■



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Music Review

From Brutal Poodles to Out A Hand

Band-member crossover creates diversity, distinction

by Christine Naughton



SUNSET SOUNDS: The Brutal Poodles play contemporary jazz at the Ocean Key House Dockside Bar.

smile never completely fades.

Lewis and Grose, another strong singer, held down the bulk of the lead vocals. Everybody, in fact, sang well, and the occasional five-part harmony was sensational on tunes like "Dixie Chicken," Steely Dan's "Home At Last," or Lewis' own "Alien," recorded by the Atlantic Rhythm Section.

Out A Hand, an absolute must hear, will play at Sloppy Joe's every Monday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. in January, settling in for a ten-night run, January 14 through 22. ■

The bar, incidentally, is a great place to relish the beautiful colors of Key West sea and sky, the occasional tall ship gliding by and, of course, the generously proportioned tropical drinks.

Wrapped in something warm—the salty breeze carries a chill in its caress this time of year—one can actually put aside the *hassle jour* and slip into blissful relaxation.

It was back in the steamy month of July that Hooten first teamed up with guitarist Bobby Gaines and bass guitarist Randy Lewis, who came to town from Atlanta, Georgia with the popular Out A Hand band. The combination turned out to be a winner for both groups.

Under the subtle illumination of a single white spotlight, the Poodles focus on contemporary jazz. Gaines' straightforward guitar work, Lewis' powerfully percussive bass playing, and Hooten's mastery of saxophone and wind-synth cook up some rich listening.

Playing tunes such as Jose' Feliciano's classic "Affirmation" and Keith Jarrett's "Lucky Southern," the instrumental work alone would make a fine performance.

But there's a bonus: Lewis sings.

And his vocal style hits home. On top of perfect technique and intonation, it's a boyishness, a deliciously intense, slightly husky twist on lyrics—a cry almost. There's a *feeling* about it. Kenny Rogers has it; David Clayton Thomas and Michael McDonald have it; Tom Jones, of all people, has it. And so does Randy Lewis.

Lewis takes lyrics for a ride, as in the Neville Brothers' "Yellow Moon" and Otis Redding's "Dock of the Bay." In addition to conveying deep levels of interpretation, his musicality is direct, earthy and accessible.

The Brutal Poodles appear at the Ocean Key House Dockside Bar nightly, 5 to 9 p.m. Later on at Sloppy Joe's, the same musicians join keyboardist Tom Grose and drummer Sean O'Rourke to become Out A Hand—a kick-ass rock-and-roll band.

There are no weak links in this mix. The band's mutual regard and support carry over into their sound. It's tight. The kicks are in place. The endings are crisp. The changes clear.

Soloing ranges from impressive to frankly amazing. Best among these on a recent



Morrell Music
KEY WEST

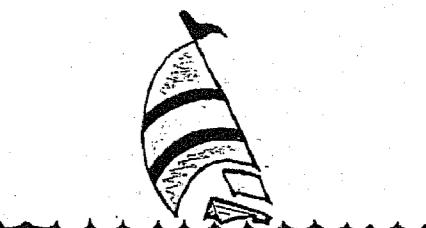
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Butterflies: Winged Flowers & Flying Gems

by Capt. Gaff McKetchum

Why have butterflies fascinated mankind for so long? What is it about this frail creature, weighing but the merest fraction of an ounce, that attracts, excites and pleases us so? Butterflies are, after all, just insects, members of the order *Lepidoptera*.

While insects are admittedly a useful group, poets rarely celebrate them in verse, and philosophers do not discourse their virtues. The antithesis of pests, butterflies, however, are the exceptions of the insect world. Over thousands of years, they have come to be symbols of beauty, grace and freedom.

From the ancient Greeks to today's conservation groups, people have spun fantasies around butterflies. And while Aristotle may have delighted at the powdery beauties resting on a flower here or a sun-warmed leaf there, today's nature lover, in his world of pesticides and development, must often re-create a habitat which will encourage formerly native species to return.

Lepidoptera contains 760 North American species, 119 of which are found in South Florida. Of the approximately 80 species found in the Keys, 50 are also found in Cuba, thus giving evidence of migration across the Straits of Florida.

To attract these and other migratory and resident butterflies and birds, the Florida Keys Audubon Society, the Florida Keys Land and Sea Trust, and the City of Key West have combined efforts to develop a wildlife refuge for birds and butterflies.

The groups plan to construct a tropical freshwater pond and wetland in the McCoy Indigenous Park, located at the ocean end of White Street.

The fundraising goal for the construction of the pond is \$20,000. So far, \$7500 has been raised. When the \$15,000 fund level is reached, Jimmy Buffet's Friends of Florida will donate the final \$5000. The deadline for reaching this \$15,000 level is January 15, 1991.

A fascination with butterflies is hardly new. The ancient Greeks thought they were the departed souls of the dead. Their mythology depicted the goddess Psyche, personification of the soul, as a maiden with

Butterflies in Danger

Six species of Florida butterflies are on the Threatened and Endangered Species List, due to pesticides and loss of native habitat. Five of these butterflies are found in the Keys.

- Florida Purplewing, found in tropical hammocks.
- Florida Leafwing, Everglades and Big Pine Key.
- Bartram's Hairstreak, Big Pine Key.
- Amethyst Hairstreak, Key Largo, and Botanical Gardens on Stock Island.
- Schaus Swallowtail, endangered, found only on North Key Largo.



Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants

Butterfly larvae are extremely selective feeders. Many species choose host plants of a particular family, some select but one genus. Development and loss of habitat has resulted in a drastic loss of host plants.

Many plants will attract visiting butterflies in search of nectar. Natives are usually better attractants because through the hybridization of many plants, fragrance and nectar are lost.

To coax resident populations of butterflies to your yard, you must provide food for the larvae. Below is a partial list of butterflies and the native plants their larvae need as food. Get out the shovel, plant

the wings of a butterfly.

Hindu mythology relates the story of Brahma, who watched caterpillars in his vegetable garden turn into pupae and finally beautiful butterflies. He was filled with a great calm and the assurance of reaching perfection in his final incarnation.

In China and Japan artists and poets have always been fascinated and inspired by the butterfly's vivid colors and intricate designs, which complement their modes of thinking and their sense of detail and delicacy.

It was not until after the Renaissance, with its rediscovery of nature, that the Western world incorporated the butterfly into its imaginative symbolism. Shakespeare, Shelley, Keats and Wordsworth celebrated the beauty of butterflies. Walt Whitman called them "beautiful, spiritual insects!" An anonymous writer described them as "winged

some natives, provide some wet sandy earth for the adult's water needs—and throw away the pesticides, please.

Larval food sources:

Passion vines for zebra, julia and gulf fritillary butterflies; Cassias for most yellow and orange sulphur butterflies; wild lime and citrus for giant swallowtails; milkweed for monarchs; nettles for the red admiral butterfly; saltwort for the great southern white butterfly.

Nectar sources:

Pentas to attract many species, especially swallowtails; Mexican flame vine, butterfly weed and Lantana to attract various species; and the firebush to attract various butterflies and hummingbirds.

flowers, or flying gems."

The odd name of "butterfly" is thought to come from the rich yellow colors of the European brimstone butterflies, which reminded country folk of butter.

Part of the allure of butterflies certainly lies in their life cycle, which involves the extraordinary phenomenon of complete metamorphosis. A small caterpillar emerges from an egg laid on a leaf of a food plant, where it spends most of its life, preoccupied with feeding. Its worm-shaped body bears virtually no resemblance to the winged, beautifully shaped and colored adult butterfly it will eventually become.

The change into a butterfly takes place in the inactive pupae, or chrysalis stage, during which all tissues inside the hard pupal covering are dissolved to an amorphous matter, and an entirely new living creature

begins to form.

After a development period of several days or weeks, the adult butterfly, called an imago, leaves the pupa. Unlike some moths, the pupae of butterflies are seldom enclosed in cocoons, but are instead attached to twigs or leaves by a spun pad.

The newly emerged imago is soft, has only small limp wings, and is incapable of flight. The wings grow to their full size within ten to 20 minutes. Even then they are very soft, and it may take up to two hours before the butterfly can fly.

The lifespan of the adult butterfly varies with species from several weeks to months, with some cold climate types hibernating through the winter. In all cases, however, the main task of the adult butterfly is to produce the next generation. After the male has fertilized the female and she has laid eggs, their role in nature has been fulfilled and they die. ☐

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• Butterfly World, 3600 W. Sample Road, Coconut Creek, Ft. Lauderdale: At least 2000 live butterflies, 80 species, a walk-through rainforest, plus exhibits.

• Castellow Hammock, 22301 S.W. 162nd Avenue, Homestead. A planted butterfly garden in a Dade County park.

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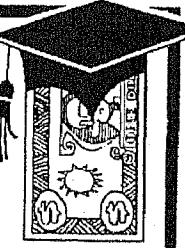
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Key West Literary Seminar

Writers and authors will gather in Key West, January 10 through 14 for the Ninth Annual Literary Seminar, "Literature of Travel: A Sense of Place." Activities will include panel discussions, Q & A sessions, walking tours of famous authors' homes and receptions. The seminar will be followed by a travel writers' workshop.

For registration information and details on the workshop, call 745-3640.

January 10

- Literary Walking Tour: 12, 1:30 and 3 p.m. Meet outside the Hemingway House. Call 745-3640 for reservations.
- Meet the Authors Reception: 7 p.m. at The Reach Hotel, Simonton Street on the Ocean.

January 11

- "Travel and the Sense of Won-

der": 9:30 a.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center.

- "Florida: A Travel Writers' Facination": 10:30 a.m. at TWFAC.
- "The Writer As Traveler": 2:00 p.m. at TWFAC.
- Meet the Authors Reception: 7 p.m. at the East Martello Art & Historical Museum.

January 12

- "Of Lands, Legends and Laughter": 9:30 a.m. at TWFAC.
- "Writing for the Traveler, the Tour-

ist, the Armchair, and Posterior": 10:30 a.m. at TWFAC.

- "Travel Writing and the Environment": 2:00 p.m. at TWFAC.
- Party at Curry Mansion: 7:00 p.m., 511 Caroline Street.

January 13

- "Discovering the U.S. in 1939": discussion with Phillip Burton. 10:30 a.m.
- Literary Walking Tours: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and noon. Meet at Hemingway House. Call 745-3640 for reservations.

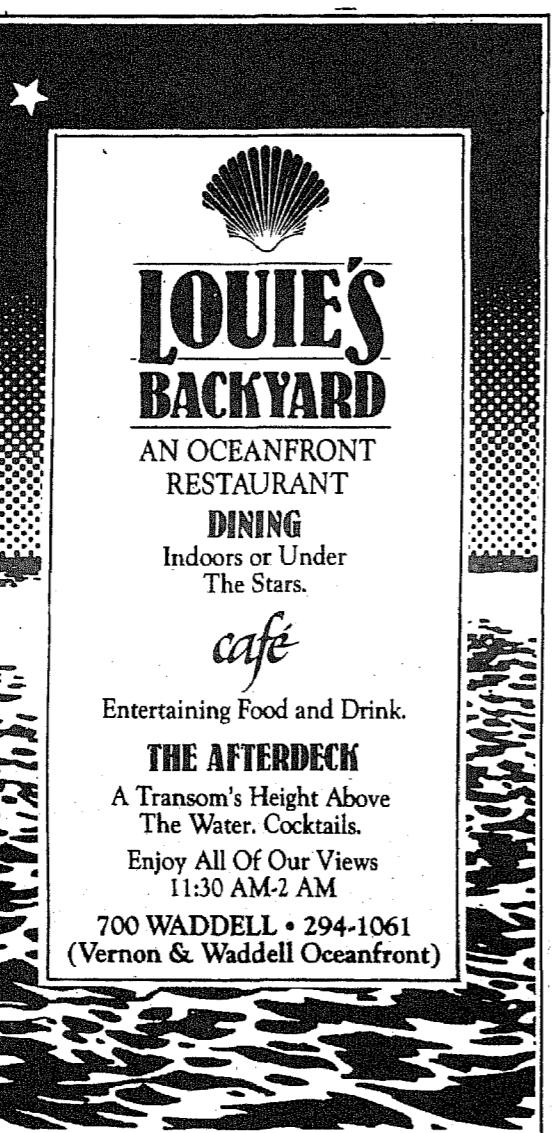
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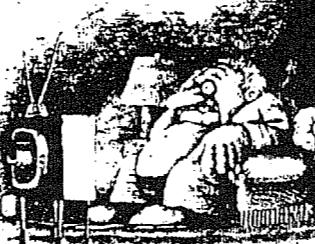
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Evolution of Key West Cuisine

by Jeanne McClow

Despite the many American-style, international, and ethnic restaurants that have claimed places on Key West's narrow streets over the past decade or so, the island does have a cuisine all its own. It is also one that is evolving rapidly.

Back when the New World was being discovered and settled our little *cayo* could offer neither riches nor fresh water to entice traffic away from the main routes through the Caribbean. For centuries, therefore, it was reliant gastronomically on just what could be found on shore—very little—and in the surrounding waters—a lot.

Historically, therefore, Key West's cuisine has been a very simple indigenous one, sharing many of the tropical fruits and sea-foods with the "Down Islands." To be sure, the Caribbean cuisine is far more complex, having been influenced over many centuries by all the world's great sailing nations—in particular, Spain, France, Holland and England.

By the 1700s, every major Caribbean island had been claimed and then settled by these nations. To ease the transition, the European folk took on African slaves, assigning many of them to their kitchens, and not surprisingly, an African flavor eventually became the common denominator. This new cuisine was enriched even further after the 1830s when indentured help from China and East India replaced the newly freed slaves and made its own culinary contributions.

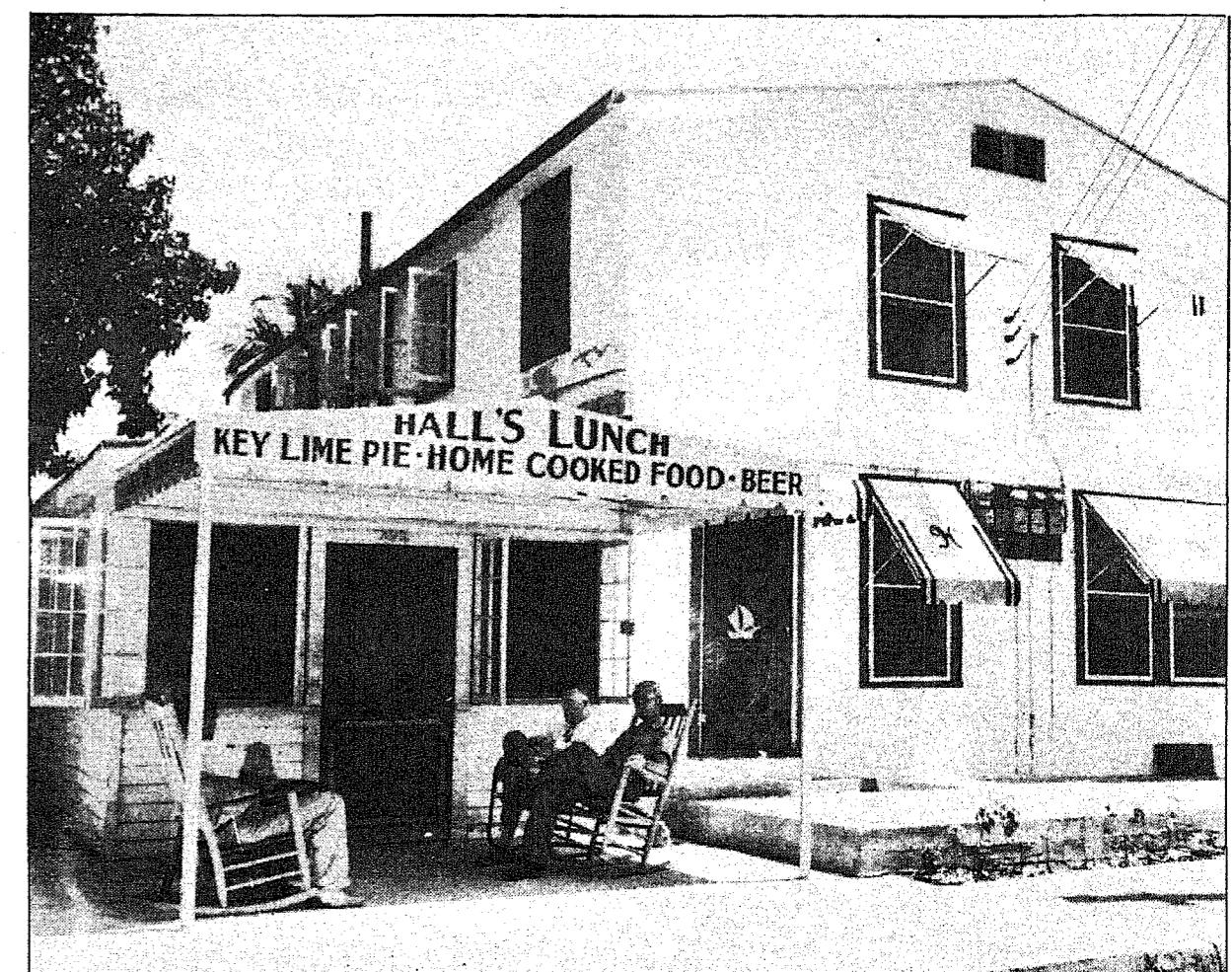
Perhaps because of our previous lack of exposure, the likelihood today of any Key Wester encountering an eclectically Caribbean curried goat or iguana stew is slim. Not to mention a crab callaloo made with the spinach-like leaves of the dasheen plant, a platter of stamp-and-go codfish fritters, or a steamed coo-coo pudding of cornmeal or breadfruit!

In fact, besides the culinary influence of the early blacks with their African and American Deep South roots, the only other cuisine to have existed on the island has been the Cuban, and this was the case until 1763 when the Keys came under British rule.

Soon after this event, the British pioneers began to explore the waters surrounding the new possession for better conch and turtle grounds. In the process, they stumbled upon a much more lucrative way to make a living—salvaging the many ships that had wrecked on the long reef offshore and carting the treasures back to Nassau to sell. This activity, in fact, proved so financially rewarding that the "salvaging"

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GREASY SPOONERS: Good old boys shoot the breeze in front of Hall's Lunch.

business eventually became the "wrecking" business, with the would-be fishermen intentionally guiding the ships into the reefs.

This practice continued unhampered until 1822, when America "guessed" that the Keys were now part of its territory and set up some laws governing the wreckers' activities, in effect forcing the fledgling entrepreneurs to establish a permanent settle-

ment. It was named Key West and its English Bahamian settlers were called "Conchs" after their great fondness for the delicate meat of the mollusk of the same name.

Of course, these Bahamians brought with them their own cuisine, kidney stew and the like, but most of their diet consisted

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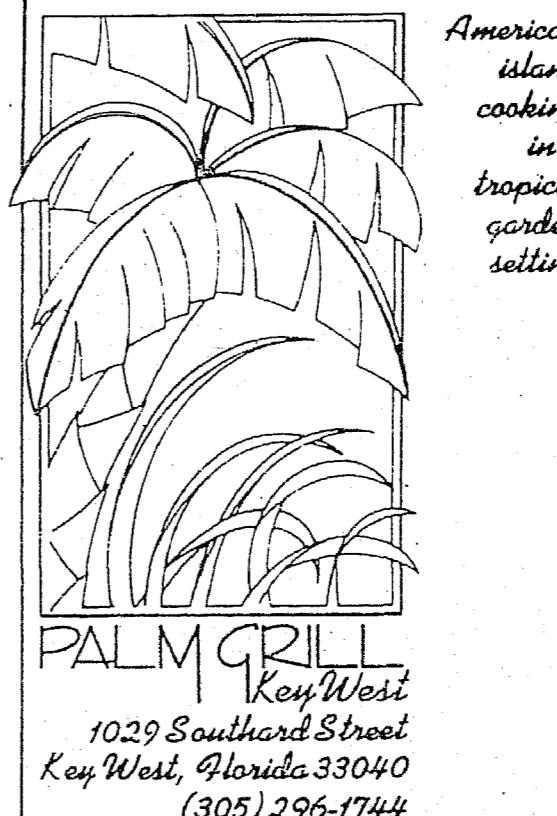
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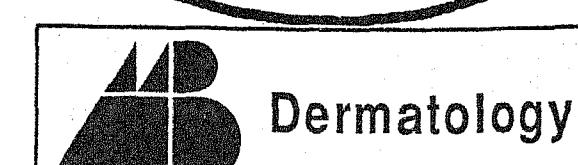
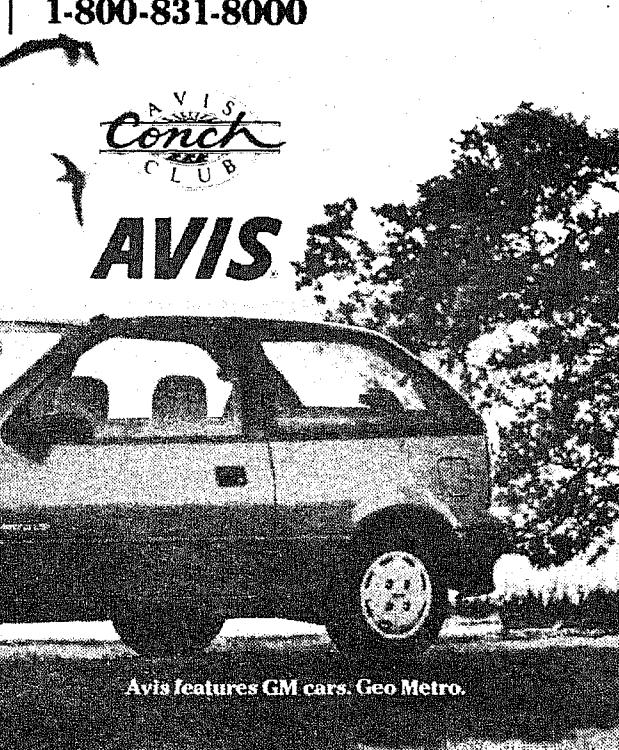
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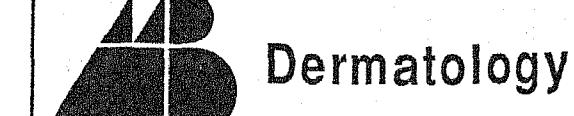
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soon proved able to transport the Caribbean produce more cheaply than it could be grown on home soil.

Pigs and cattle were also brought in, but these, too, gradually disappeared, leaving just an occasional milk cow or goat to saunter from house to house. (Canned milk was the order of the day and is still the choice of many a conch today.) Chickens were backyard staples until recently.

Because of its proximity to Cuba, Key West was, in terms of commerce, at least much more closely tied to Havana than to mainland Florida or Nassau, but the Cubans didn't come here in any numbers until after the Civil War.

Among the many hearty dishes they brought were *picadillo*, a spicy chopped meat mixture with green olives; *molletes*, bread loaves stuffed with *picadillo* and deep-fried; *arroz con pollo*, chicken and rice cooked in spicy tomato-sweet pepper sauce the Spanish call *sofrito*; *ropa vieja* (literally, "old clothes"), a spiced shredded boiled flank steak; the Spanish *paella*, and *puerco lechon*, a spit-roasted suckling pig, marinated with the garlicky *moho criolla*; with rice, black beans, plantains, and boiled *yuca* as side dishes. Salads and fresh fruit dishes tended to be reserved for special occasions, but a plethora of sugary, tropical fruit desserts attests to a sweet tooth.

Other ethnic groups have come and gone—Greek spongers, Jewish peddlers, and even some Chinese, who had worked on the railroad. Then there was the period between the two World Wars during which Key West served as a playground for the rich and famous, including those who wrote about it. The island and its cuisine remained relatively untouched. After all, if the rich and famous wanted to eat French onion soup, they could afford to.

After World War II Key West began to change dramatically. With the Keys now in possession of a freshwater line to and from the mainland, electricity and a road that connected it to Miami—all built by a prewar government for its Navy—the Keys became an attractive and readily accessible destination.



DINER DAYS: Shorty's, now another T-shirt shop, was a Key West social institution for decades.

Over the last ten years, locals have watched their dream of becoming a world-class resort come to rapid fruition, for better or worse. Of the 1.5 to 2 million tourists estimated to have visited the Keys last year, it is said that half were from foreign soils and a great many of the rest from American

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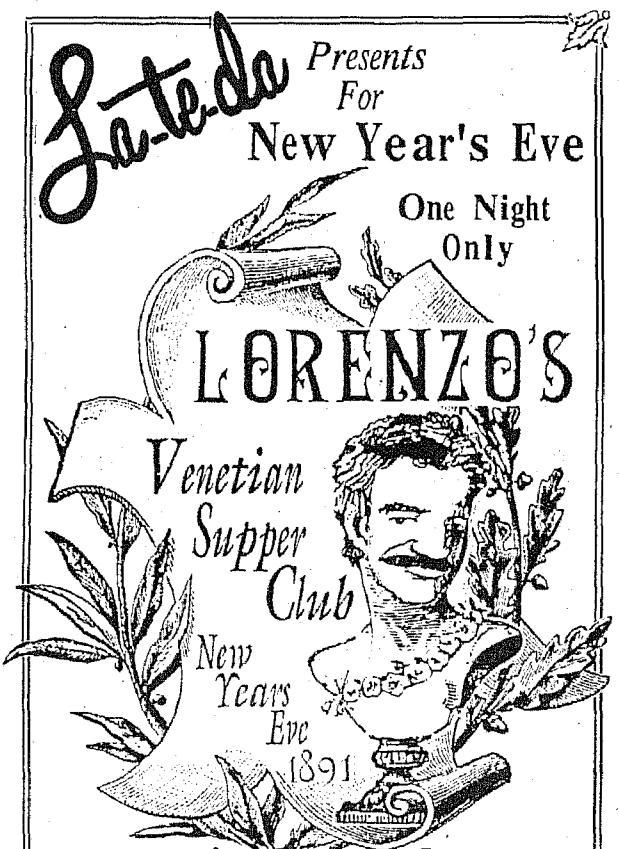
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megalopolises.

The new sophistication has, of course, altered not only the lifestyle but also the cuisine, with the cooks of old being replaced by experienced, trained chefs who are busily making forays into the "new American" cuisine, with its focus on ethnically based, regional cooking of other areas presented in new ways and also unexpected combinations, such as chili ladled over a bed of pasta. And, in keeping with the nation's new health-consciousness, they are also "lightening" many of these old dishes and introducing more fresh produce.

These chefs are also drawing increasingly on the rich Caribbean cuisine, particularly its seasonings—the scalding chili-pepper condiments in varieties as numerous as its creators; the spicy tomato-sweet pepper sauce that the Spanish call *sofrito*; the salty, garlicky lime-based marinade known alternately as *souse* and *moho criolla*; and the Jamaican marinade, traditionally made with pig's blood, that gives us "jerk" chicken and pork.

The resulting combination of all these makes up the reigning Key West cuisine, which is proving, quite fittingly, to be every bit as unique, inviting, and open-ended as the town itself.



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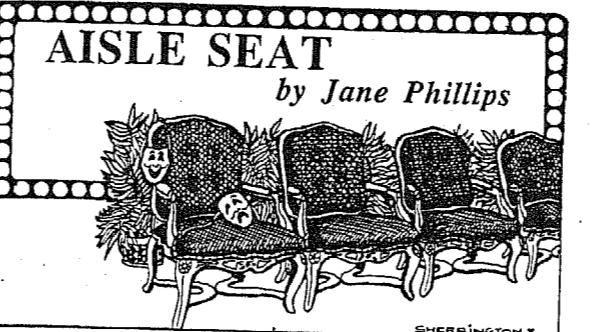
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destined to become Barn classics.

The Waterfront Playhouse ran for the safety net after last year's failed attempts at avant-garde theater. Productions of *Jerker* or *The Helping Hand* and *Lyspinka* simply did not appeal to local audiences.

The Waterfront began its season with *City Mouse-Country Mouse*, an original production based on Aesop's well-known fairy tale about a couple of rodent cousins. Bruce Peterson and Kelly Moore, two of Key West's most creative talents, collaborated on the project.

The team supplied book, lyrics and music. Cast members included Carmen Rodriguez, Sally Richardson, Kelly Moore, Tom Luna and Darryl Marzyk, who also designed the whimsical sets.

Children in the audience, many of whom cut their teeth watching videos, demanded encores. It was a first-rate production all around.

Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center opened with a spirited production of *Cabaret*, directed by Joy Hawkins, with Bruce Kirle as musical director.

Cabaret, a musical based on the John Van Druten play *I Am a Camera*, has endured numerous versions, including the popular film adaption starring Liza Minelli. The TWFAC show aptly captured the decadence and impending doom of Berlin prior to World War II.

Two love stories thread through the *Cabaret* plot. By far the most believably acted was the one between Fran Schneider (played by Robin Deck) and Herr Schultz (Fred Gros).

Deck was introduced to Key West audi-

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ences last season in the Red Barn production of *Steel Magnolias*. In her most recent role, she established herself as a major local talent.

Memorable performances included those by Marjorie Paul-Shook, Paul Haynes and dancers Paul Vitali and Victoria Bjornerud. The sets, designed by Michael Bayers, were splendid.

Also at TWFAC, the Key West School of the Performing Arts presented *Earthlings! The Ecological Musical*—a children's play. A showcase for the school, the production was directed by Richard Magesis. All 20 bright youngsters performed well, and the company plans to tour the Monroe County School System.

The new year brings Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Nile* to the Waterfront. Mid-January the theater will produce *Three By Ten*—three, one-act plays by Tennessee Williams.

Opening at the Red Barn this month will be *The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein, who won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for her efforts. Wasserstein, who visited Key West last year for the Literary Seminar, said one of the best productions of her play took place at a regional theater in Seattle, Washington. (In other words, it doesn't have to be on Broadway to be good.)

For all you theater buffs who are forever asking: "Why don't they ever do *Oklahoma!*?"

Well, they are. TWFAC will present a road company production of the show January 23.

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

Café Tropic, 700 Duval at Angela Street. A European streetside café known for its eggs, burgers and alfresco ambience. Serving until 4 a.m., weekends until 5 a.m. 296-0991.

Dim Sum, 613 1/2 Duval Street in Key Lime Square. A gourmet Asian restaurant serving exotic Chinese stir-fries, Indian curries and Thai, Indonesian and Burmese specialties. Wine and sake bar. Open 6 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., closed Tuesdays. 294-6230.

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El Loro Verde, 404 Southard Street. More than a Mexican restaurant, El Loro Verde presents innovative yet authentic variations of both Mexican and Caribbean dishes. Popular for its café atmosphere, El Loro Verde now features a full liquor bar in its new dining room. 296-7298.

Emma's Seafare at The Reach, Simonton Street on the Ocean. Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner; Sunday brunch. This is a room that radiates the sun and sea. Dine indoors or on a terrace that overlooks the Atlantic. The menu features fish and more fish, prepared 105 different ways. 296-5000.

Fisherman's Café and Crab House, 832 Caroline Street. Featuring steamed blue crabs (call for availability, market price), an array of nightly dinner specials, beef, chops, Southern-style cooking. Also Baltimore-style crab cakes made fresh daily. Maryland crab soup and sautéed soft-shell crabs. All you can eat fish fry for \$7.95, Monday through Friday 5 to 7 p.m. Lunch/dinner noon to 11:30 p.m. Breakfast midnight to 11:30 a.m. Open 24 hours. 294-7705.

La-Te-Da, 1125 Duval Street. Superb food, sophisticated but relaxed atmosphere. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Poolside. Crystal Café late night. 294-8435.

La Trattoria Venezia, 524 Duval Street. Featuring Italian and French cuisine. Dine in an elegant European atmosphere complete with Italian music and friendly, warm service. Open 7 nights 6-11 p.m. 296-1075.

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

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

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Café, 500 Duval Street. Good food, good drinks, and good music. Open

Open 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., daily; til 4 a.m. weekends. 292-1435.

Islander Restaurant & Coral Reef Bar, 528 Front Street. Casual dining, featuring local seafood, pasta dishes and drink specialties. Entertaining on weekends in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Open daily, 4 p.m. to midnight. Visa/Mastercard. 292-7659.

La Bodega, 829 Simonton Street. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Delicious sandwiches, burgers, soups, salads, pastries, baked goods and dinner entrees. Dine in or delivery. 294-6544.

La Lechonera, 3100 Flagler Avenue. One of the oldest restaurants in Key West, serving Spanish and Cuban cuisine with a full liquor bar. Daily specials. Happy Hour 4 to 7 p.m. Take-out available. 296-7881.

Queen's Table, located in the charming Santa Maria Motel, 1401 Simonton Street. "The best motel restaurant in town," according to the New York Times. Enjoy a real old-fashioned country breakfast and a delightful lunch in a beautifully decorated dining room. Superb dinners include fresh fish, shrimp, lobster, fine selections of beef, and nightly specials. Enjoy your favorite cocktail in the adjoining West Indies Lounge. Major credit cards accepted. 296-5678.

Rich's Café at the Eden House, 1015 Fleming Street. The most seductive café in the Florida Keys. A relaxed tropical garden setting with outdoor dining. Daily breakfast and lunch specialties include classic eggs benedict, omelettes and french toast. Breakfast, Monday thru Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday Brunch 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch menu also available. Beer, wine, champagne and a variety of mimosas. Ten-percent local discount. 296-2961.

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

Martha's, at South Roosevelt Boulevard (A1A) and the Atlantic Ocean. Steaks and seafood. Exotic island drinks and soft live piano music set a refreshing mood to complement Martha's famous menu of steaks, prime rib and fresh-native seafood. Open

nightly from 5:30 p.m. Major credit cards. 294-3466.

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

Pier House Restaurant, One Duval Street. *Travel & Leisure* said the Scampi in Amaretto was well worth the trip. The *New York Times* called it "Key West's premier restaurant." Reserve a table with a waterfront view. 296-4600.

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Lighthouse Café, 917 Duval Street. Specializing in wonderful Southern Italian and seafood dishes, served in a beautiful garden setting or cozy indoor dining room. Open for dinner 6 to 11 p.m. Reservations suggested. Diner's Club, Visa. 296-7837.

Louie's Backyard, 700 Waddell on the Atlantic Ocean. Featuring international cuisine in a restaurant ranked among South Florida's best. Dining inside or outdoors on the water. Enjoy cocktails on the Afterdeck Bar. Open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. 294-1061 for dining reservations.

Yo Sake, 722 Duval Street. Neo-Japanese inside or torchlit garden dining; traditional Japanese and original island creations. Full sushi bar. Lunch, Monday through Saturday, noon to 2:30 p.m. Dinner nightly, 6 to 11:30 p.m. 294-2288.

This year's Key West theater season opened with the Red Barn Theatre's annual fundraiser, *Made in Key West III*. A gathering of the theater's regular actors, it revived special memories for dedicated Barn fans, and gave newcomers a taste of what they've been missing.

The Red Barn's first official production, however, was Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. Back in 1969, when the play opened, Simon had more productions running in New York than any other playwright.

What was titillating over 20 years ago seems quaint by today's standards, but the audience appeared entertained, nonetheless. Simon's one-liners require a fast pace, and this production, directed by Richard Magesis, moved swiftly.

Joe DeLuca as Barney Cashman, a middle-aged man in hot pursuit of extra marital affairs, was up to his task and kept the audience laughing. He was supported by Carole MacCartee and two actresses—Cindy Coyle Wells and Stacy Hannah—who made their Key West debuts with this production.

Scenes between Hannah and DeLuca are

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!	The Road Ducks Are Coming To Town!	Tuesday, January 1 Noon-4 Chris Case Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand	Wednesday, January 2 Noon-4 Leanna Collins Mike & John 10-2 Road Ducks	Thursday, January 3 Noon-4 Mike McCloud Mike & John 10-2 Road Ducks	Friday, January 4 Noon-4 Mike McCloud Mike & John 10-2 Road Ducks	Saturday, January 5 Noon-4 Mike McCloud Mike & John 10-2 Road Ducks
Sunday, January 6 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Road Ducks	Monday, January 7 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Out A Hand	Tuesday, January 8 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Tino Gonzalaz	Wednesday, January 9 Noon-4 Leanna Collins 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Tino Gonzalaz	Thursday, January 10 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Tino Gonzalaz	Friday, January 11 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Tino Gonzalaz	Saturday, January 12 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Tino Gonzalaz
Sunday, January 13 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Tino Gonzalaz	Monday, January 14 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Out A Hand	Tuesday, January 15 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Out A Hand	Wednesday, January 16 Noon-4 Leanna Collins 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand	Thursday, January 17 Noon-4 Leanna Collins 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand	Friday, January 18 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand	Saturday, January 19 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand
Sunday, January 20 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Out A Hand	Monday, January 21 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Out A Hand	Tuesday, January 22 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 King Pens	Wednesday, January 23 Noon-4 Leanna Collins 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 King Pens	Thursday, January 24 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 King Pens	Friday, January 25 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 King Pens	Saturday, January 26 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 King Pens
Sunday, January 27 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 King Pens	Monday, January 28 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 Out A Hand	Tuesday, January 29 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Two Left Hands 10-2 King Pens	Wednesday, January 30 Noon-4 Leanna Collins 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 King Pens	Thursday, January 31 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 King Pens	'Out A Hand' Really Is! Don't Miss 'Em!	THE COOLEST DRINKS THE HOTTEST MUSIC ...

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