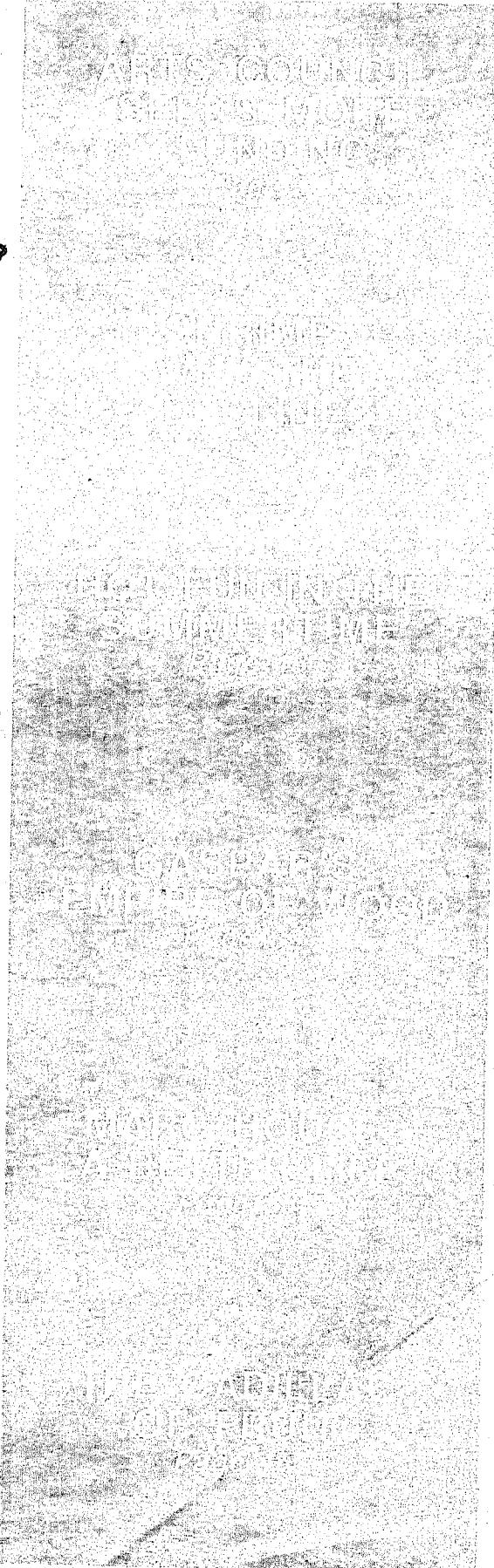
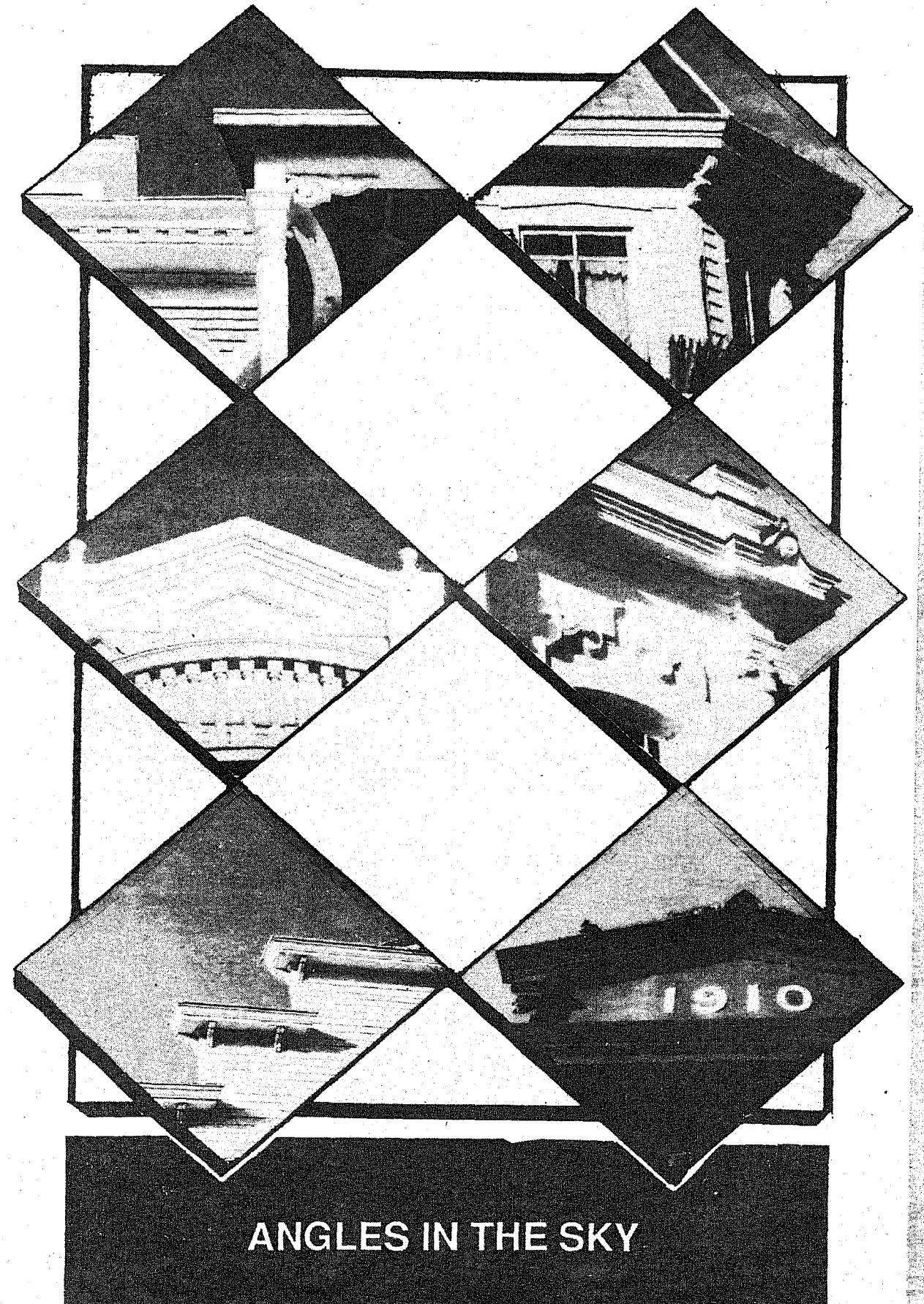
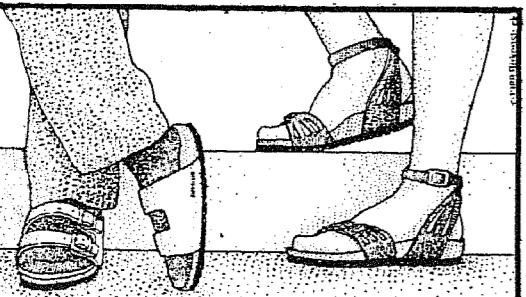


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NO. 18, VOL. 6 • KEY WEST, FLORIDA • JUNE, 1990





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## EDITORIAL

For years, members of Key West's artistic community have complained that the Monroe County Fine Arts Council has failed to meet their needs. In most counties, a fine arts council provides services to its artists in the form of writing for grants, matching funds with state and national resources, assembling mailing lists and coordinating schedules. Under the leadership of the Parvan Bakardjiev, MCFAC, critics say, has done none of this.

While MCFAC is hoping to gain control of TDC dollars earmarked for cultural funding and to push through an ordinance which would supply it with a steady stream of county money (See "Fine Arts Council Under Fire," Page 3), members of the artistic community have banded together and formulated a counter strategy.

This month the Key West Art and Historical Society, directed by Susan Olsen, will present Monroe Commissioners with a proposal to make the society an umbrella organization for TDC cultural funding, which amounted to \$450,000 last year. Olsen says she can double that amount in two years through matching funds; the additional money can be used for purposes other than advertising.

The proposal makes good sense. Olsen has a strong success record in matching funds. In her work on Lighthouse Project, for example, Olsen was awarded \$297,000 in state funding to match the \$365,000 the TDC put toward it. Additionally, she raised about \$300,000 in private donations.

MCFAC, last year, received \$50,000 from the county and \$75,000 from the state. That money went to promote the Festival of the Continents, which involves no local

talent, and Arts Explo, which does.

One of the primary purposes of an arts council is and should be to assist and promote local artists. Susan Hawken, a founding officer of the Red Barn Theater, says that her group has never been able to cultivate productive dialog with MCFAC. She says it's cost the theater opportunities. When Norm Easterbrook—the county's contact at the State Division of Cultural Affairs—was in town, MCFAC failed to notify the Barn, as well as others, of the official's visit. It was a potential meeting that Hawken sorely missed.

George Brashears, former artistic director of the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, says TWFAC's relationship with MCFAC is "non-existent." And one local musician, who spent countless hours attending MCFAC meetings and pleading for a chance to benefit from the council, finally, about two years ago, threw his box stuffed with letters and memos and notes into the street and lit it with a match.

Key West teems with artistic talent, ripe and ready to be nurtured, fueled into action. Susan Olsen says the Art and Historical Society should run the cultural show because it's the most qualified and because it will focus its energies on local talent, local needs.

Based on past performances, *Solares Hill* agrees.

Ann Boese

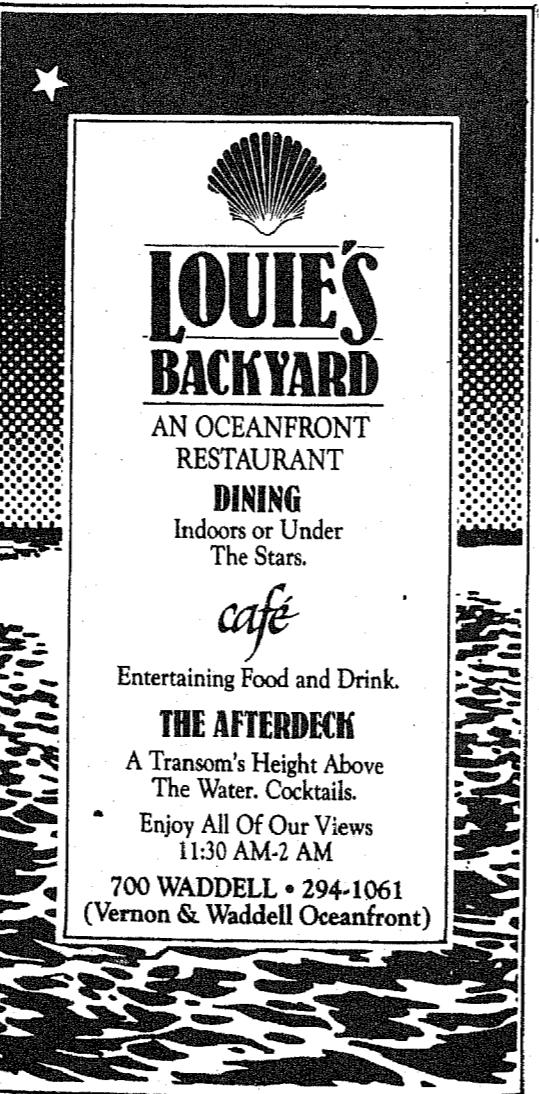
This month's cover, "Angles in the Sky," was photographed by Kevin Crean and designed by Tracy Livesey. All photos were shot in Key West. Both artists live and work on the island.



*Solares Hill* is a community newspaper published monthly by Key West Publications, Inc., 1217 White Street, Key West, FL 33040. Phone: (305) 294-3602.

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## Fine Arts Council Under Fire

Ordinance proposal, TDC funding and arts community heat up debate

by Kip Blevin

Monroe County, touted as one of the most artistically rich areas in the country, is home to some angry artists. The issue is money. Who gives it? Who gets it, and how much? At the core of this conflict lies the Monroe County Fine Arts Council, which may be on the brink of receiving a substantial increase in funding. Many local artists believe that if the council gets the money they will never see a penny of it. The council claims otherwise.

The next few months may be significant in deciding whether MCFAC can become a significant, unifying catalyst for the many and diverse art communities in the Florida Keys or whether it will wither away into oblivion. The first skirmish will come on June 29, when the Monroe County Commission will consider an ordinance which would give the MCFAC a steady source of governmental income. The council says it needs that kind of support in order to meet artists' demands.

MCFAC's most reliable source of funding now comes from associate memberships. A council spokesperson says these are now 500 strong, ranging in size from \$3 student memberships to \$1000 benefactors. State grants and a share of the county's contribution to non-profit organizations, recently raised from \$75,000 to \$125,000,

assist the ten-year-old arts organization's income picture. MCFAC's current budget is \$176,771.

Like many other non-profit organizations, MCFAC is counting on a steady stream of Tourist Development Council money. The TDC, with its deep financial pockets and formidable cash flow, has none of the problems of MCFAC. The fine arts council would like a generous slice of the TDC's budgetary pie, about 20 percent, or an estimated \$1 million a year.

MCFAC's strategy is twofold: obtain a solid base of respectability through a special relationship with county government, and use that status to become the countywide distributor of TDC largesse to the arts.

This bold strategy has its risks. There so far appears to be no appreciable middle ground toward it. You either hate it or you love it. And that creates a potentially volatile situation for consensus-seeking local and county politicos.

Members of MCFAC are not expecting a cake walk. The TDC board guards its financial control, and is not expected voluntarily to give up something that might diminish its own power.

### A Dubious Image

MCFAC is battling other fronts as well. Much of the Key West theater community is

polarized against the organization. And most, both friends and foes, agree the council has a public relations "image" problem to conquer. Parvan Bakardjiev, the council's paid executive, is central to that image.

Perceptions of the council appear to rise and fall with Bakardjiev, the MCFAC's Bulgarian-born general director since January, 1986. Personable and sometimes controversial, the director, who left a similar post in San Antonio, Texas under a financial cloud, has been praised and vilified.

Valid or not, Bakardjiev's reputation has become inextricably linked with the MCFAC, causing the director to go to great lengths to de-emphasize his role. "Don't quote me," Bakardjiev is fond of saying. "I do as the council directs me."

Bakardjiev traces much of his notoriety to his early outspoken support for the tourist bed tax, which has become the accepted way to tax users of the county's tourist attractions.

Is he hero or villain? Many Bakardjiev supporters, such as Monroe County Commissioner Wilhelmina Harvey, credit him with injecting renewed vigor and *haute couture* into the county arts community, which in previous years was based almost exclusively in Key West. Others, notably the outspoken theater director Rae Coates, call Bakardjiev "a con man" and marvel at

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Unafraid of burning bridges, Coates speaks freely, as might be expected of a man preparing for a return to his native England.

"The emperor has no clothes," Coates says about the man who he perceives as being all style and little substance. He attributes much of Bakardjiev's support to an "elite *nouveau riche* easily swayed by his Continental accent." Or, the outspoken director jokingly suggests, there is a "photo album of Parvan's supporters all caught in compromising situations," resulting in what Coates calls "a coverup" of Bakardjiev's excesses.

Bakardjiev's defenders, in contrast, see a hard-working diligent individual, a Kennedy Center advisor with selfless devotion to the arts. "Why else would he be willing to work at half what he was making in San Antonio?" asks Ann Mravic, vice-chairperson of MCFAC. Bakardjiev was paid \$100,000 in San Antonio. His salary here is \$47,000, which, minus the 25 percent in county benefits he figures he has to pay himself, amounts to a "real salary," as he calls it, of \$35,000.

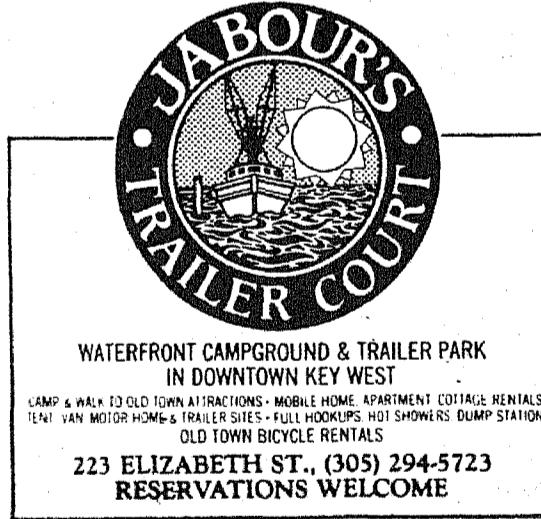
Coates zeroes in on The Festival of the Continents. He dislikes TDC money going to a festival that he says Bakardjiev controls. Bakardjiev says that neither he nor MCFAC controls the festival. In 1988, a year after its inception, the festival billed itself "a self-supporting, non-profit corporation, structurally independent of the fine arts council." The TDC, however, allocated "up to \$140,000" to Tinsley Advertising to promote the festival.

#### We Don't Write Checks

Bakardjiev and two part-time staff members are the administrative nuts and bolts of MCFAC's day-to-day operations. "We don't write the checks," points out Bakardjiev. "The county writes the checks." MCFAC also receives support from private contributors and volunteers.

Other arts organizations complain that MCFAC's obligations and interests leave no money for them. Funding appears to be a strong factor influencing the disaffection within the Key West theater community.

Mravic and others say it is unfair to heap criticism on Bakardjiev, that much of the friction between the MCFAC and the Key West theater community existed before he



"The emperor has no clothes," Coates says about Bakardjiev.

appeared on the scene. Some of it could be attributed to the normal competition among arts groups for public and private funding.

Richard Magesis, artistic director of the Red Barn Theatre, is one of the calmer voices on the Key West theater scene. "The idea of a fine arts council is wonderful," he says. "But right now the Monroe County Fine Arts Council is more of a title than anything else."

Magesis says he often sees areas where the council could step in and help, citing a recent example in which three of the Key West theaters had opening nights within three days of each other. In most counties, according to George Brashears, former artistic director of the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, the council would have coordinated theater schedules and spread out the dates.

#### Meager Beginnings

The MCFAC was established by county ordinance in 1980, with \$1,000 in funding. In 1986, the council contracted with Bakardjiev to fill the full-time position of the general director, a post previously held by Grant Spradling, whose focus was to develop the arts as a cottage industry. Specifically, Bakardjiev was hired to create an international arts festival.

During 1986 and 1987, the MCFAC budget more than tripled. The Great Performance Series introduced cultural events throughout all five county districts. Arts Expo expanded to six weeks, seeking to incorporate all the county's arts organizations, including visual and literary arts.

Expo events have included art shows in Tavernier, an oil painting exhibition in Marathon, film festivals, poetry readings, a chamber music series, and Buskerfest—for which Bakardjiev is now applying for funds. Recently, the Southeastern Tourism Association designated Arts Expo one of the top 20 events offered in the southeastern United States. Even Rae Coates begrudgingly credits Bakardjiev with introducing arts events to the Middle and Upper Keys.

During a recent meeting at The Reach, Bakardjiev announced that the MCFAC no longer falls under the same category as the other non-profit organizations, and that plans were afoot for putting it within the county structure via the comprehensive plan, thus making it easier to fund. County Administrator Capt. Tom Brown acknowledged that he had discussed that proposition with Bakardjiev, but he said that county commissioners would have to initiate any such action.

Bakardjiev notes that County Commissioner Gene Lytton has emerged as a MCFAC supporter. And, at the meeting at The Reach, Commissioner Wilhelmina

Harvey, long a patron of the arts, offered to sponsor the new ordinance initiative. Austin Laber, owner of The Reach, has been one of MCFAC's biggest supporters, allowing Bakardjiev and staff rent-free quarters there for the past four years.

#### More Begets More

If there were more local government support, MCFAC members like Ann Mravic contend, the organization could attract more state and federal matching grants. Mravic is convinced that behind-the-scenes actions of some TDC members have been aimed at undermining the MCFAC. She gives as examples the relatively recent partial funding of Key West theater groups by the TDC and "false rumors" spread among those groups to the effect that big-city productions would always be favored over displays of local talent.

"It is my personal opinion that the TDC is only doing it now [funding some of the theaters' advertising budgets] to show [the theater groups] that they are getting money that they didn't have before," says Mravic. Because MCFAC is not limited to supporting tourist-promotion advertising (as is the TDC), Mravic says it would be eligible for much greater amounts of state and federal matching funds. "Where the TDC might give them \$120,000, we could give \$500,000," she says.

Mravic admits that she can understand the reluctance of the local theater groups to risk alienating the TDC. "They are afraid. They don't want to bite the hand that feeds it," she said.

Magesis succinctly states his view. "We don't feel that it's in our interest to turn all the TDC money over to MCFAC at this time," he said.

Meanwhile, the ordinance which Harvey offered to sponsor has been referred to county attorney Randy Ludacer, who recently said that he understood there were "technical and policy problems" with it.

County Mayor John Stormont notes that the 20-percent portion of the TDC's funds would have to come from an amendment to the TDC ordinance and not from an MCFAC ordinance modeled after Broward County's.

Stormont explains that originally it was thought that a MCFAC ordinance similar to Broward's would be the way to go. But, he says, Dade and Broward are charter counties, which gives them more local discretion, and Monroe is not. Therefore, he says, the county might be precluded from following in their footsteps.

The mayor's chief criticism of the MCFAC is that it is not geared to the common denominator but "to the cultural elite." And he is fearful of allocating funds to Bakardjiev "until he better understands

the process of accounting for public dollars."

#### Victimization?

Ralph Cunningham, Jr., a Marathon attorney who has been volunteering his legal expertise to the MCFAC, believes that Bakardjiev and the council have been victimized by negative publicity.

"My opinion is the politicians and others should give the MCFAC the opportunity to do what they were created to do," he says. "If they fail that, they should be taken to task. But they are being prejudged without being given the chance."

Meanwhile, Bakardjiev continues to accentuate the positive, as though county-sponsored funding were already a *fait accompli*. He points with pride to a 200-percent membership growth throughout the Keys and a *Cultural Grants Procedures Manual*, which was "warmly endorsed by the state." Sounding like a veteran political campaigner, he talks of MCFAC's efforts in the black community, of helping the blind,

Bakardjiev is holding out the olive branch to Key West theater.

and of coordinating with the county for transportation to cultural events for the elderly and the handicapped.

In the near future, he plans to unveil two mobile stages. One will travel up and down the Keys on U.S. 1. The other will set atop a floating barge, which Bakardjiev envisions plying the shallow Keys waters and docking off hotels and various other locations for night-time stage performances.

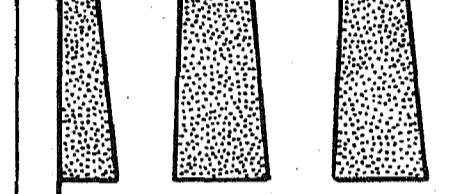
Bakardjiev is also holding out the olive branch to Key West theater interests which

oppose him. "I'd like to help them ... and I will," he says.

For MCFAC officer Ann Mravic, the pivotal question remains: Where is the money? She likens the council's predicament to a that of critically ill patient: Do you begin the healing process or do you pull the plug?

Plaintively, she presented the dilemma to the county commission: "Fund us or abolish us!"

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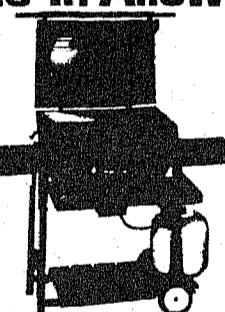
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## Citizens, County Ahead of City in Recycling Efforts

by Pamula Mason

The island's recycling effort, Recycle Key West, which is sponsored by the Women's Resource Center, has come a long way in the past year. Originally started by Ann Johnston and located on Truman Annex, it has developed into a serious force, whose volunteers have adopted the motto, "Recycle or Die." Along with support from the Monroe County Recycling Program, these folks, and others, mean business—and it shows.

Lucy Mularz, present leader of the group, says participation is steadily growing. "The first truck [a semi-trailer] took 15 weeks to fill," she says, "the next three trucks took eight weeks each, now it takes less than four weeks."

But recycling may be catching on even faster than Recycle Key West figures indicate. In January, the county took responsibility for recycling newspaper, and Reynolds now takes the aluminum. "This reduces the products handled by us to two—just glass and plastic," says Mularz.

Additionally, the county contributed two large partitioned containers for the Perry Court and Wicks Field sites, and it provides employees to cover time slots no longer filled by volunteers. Mularz says her group has had 60 different volunteers, over the past year, "all suffering from a high rate of burnout."

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Where Locals Eat

The two sites are open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The last two weeks, county bins have been filled by 10 a.m.

Surely, handling trash is not a fun job, yet some people continue to do it for free. There's a new little band of recycle warriors—the people who coined "Recycle or Die"—who say they won't quit their efforts until the entire city is safely and conscientiously handling its solid waste.

Clair Davis, a member of this group says, "We sent a questionnaire to all the businesses in town and were real surprised and happy when 10 or 15 of them responded." The first to get involved are El Loro Verde, Gloria's Garden, Compass Rose, Arthur's Garden and the Lighthouse Café. Pick-ups are Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Davis, who says she is "not a radical environmentalist," expects the project to grow. In fact, her group is looking for another team with a truck.

"I just know—like everybody will sooner or later—that we're all going to have to get off our butts and do something," she says. "This is everybody's problem, and it will require everyone's help to solve it."

To assist in total recycling cooperation, Recycle or Die provides a mailing to local businesses, which contains a simple formula worksheet for figuring out their weekly accumulation of recyclable glass in pounds.

The Restaurant Store, located on Truman Avenue, has offered to sell businesses large trash cans for recycling at cost through June. "An essential commitment from [a participating business] is to designate one employee to work with us," Davis says. "These businesses are saving \$200 a month by recycling. We don't charge, but we

gladly accept donations to help pay for gas."

Fuel is the least of Jerry Waters' worries. The group's driver, who donates his truck for the service, says, "Finding half a Cuban sandwich halfway down the can is disgusting. People have to clean out recyclable items or else no one will pick it up."

"Even the guys paid to pick up your trash refuse to pick up anything really disgusting. People need to clean up their trash as well as making less of it."

Davis believes Key West has a lot going for it, but she wishes the city would get more involved in the recycling effort. "They signed a contract for an incinerator, which turned out to be not such a good deal," she says. "And we have to worry about ridiculous things like—if we are too successful, could there be friction with the garbage company?"

Key West Commissioner Harry Powell agrees that solid waste is the most important issue facing citizens today. "Unless we're careful to include recycling in our [comprehensive plan]," Powell says, "there might not be any recycling. Recycling or pre-recycling is the best solution."

But recycling or no recycling, the city's biggest move toward solid waste management thus far was to present voters with \$27 million bond issue to pay for closing the Stock Island landfill and opening a new one. Voters said no, opting for higher trash collection fees, which were scheduled to increase in October. Why, then, are our bills going up in July?

The original date was part of the referendum which the people voted down. This left the date open to revision, says Powell. "I'm sure Dave Fernandez, head of city finance, changed the date because the top priority of his job is to pay the bills."

Of the city's options, Powell says, "The city should do the trucking and get heavily involved in recycling." But regarding the efforts of both city and county commissions to solve this issue jointly, Powell despairs. "There's been a woeful lack of cooperation," he says.

Connie Grabois, who coordinates the Monroe County Recycling Program, has a much brighter view. "The level of cooperation has never been higher," says Grabois. "Things are becoming more and more critical daily. There have been two joint commission meetings so far, and we are making progress."

Grabois says the county is concentrating on developing curbside recycling and educating residents and businesses on how to change their habits. "I gave three workshops last October for large businesses," she says.

"Interest was not great at that time, but now they're beginning to see the financial impetus. We teach people in homes to influence the workplace. At best 10 percent of recyclables come from residences. It is critical that the commercial sector recycles."

The county program offers a free recycling audit to any business that requests

it. The audit shows businesses ways they can reduce solid waste through recycling. This involves avoiding environmentally harmful materials and/or using products with packaging that creates the least possible disposal problem.

The county will assist Key West's recycling program until sometime the beginning of this month, when the city is scheduled to take it over, operating the centers five days a week. The centers have begun accepting office paper and cardboard, which should encourage participation from the commercial sector.

Some businesses are strongly committed to recycling and are vocalizing their opinions on the subject. Ed Kolesar, who represents the Key West Association of Realtors, is circulating a petition asking local government to initiate curbside recycling immediately. "The petition is not just geared toward property owners," says Kolesar. "We urge everyone to sign the petition so local officials will realize that the public knows what's going on."

Petitions for a mandatory curbside program can be found at Greenpeace, real estate offices, restaurants and shops around town.

Three years ago trash collection cost a household \$132 a year; now it could go up to \$551 per year. "We're talking about people already scraping for food and rent," says Kolesar. "People just can't take these constant increases. Our incinerator only reduces the trash to around 50 percent instead of the promised 13 percent."

Kolesar says a new landfill is not the answer, either. He refers to 300 acres of baybottom, which was purchased by the city in the mid-1960s to provide dumping space for 100 years.

"This dump has already been closed with 190 acres still unused," he says. "Who's to say the 40-acre proposed site wouldn't be similarly stopped? Recycling is the only answer. Forty percent of our trash is construction waste and yard waste, and another 30 percent is recyclable—that's a potential 70-percent reduction."

Presently, trash collection rates are

Solares Hill • June 1990 • Page 7  
established per residence as opposed to volume. In essence, this method could undermine recycling incentives. "If people paid less for producing less trash," Kolesar says, "there would be a greater reason to recycle."

But in Key West, the only way to recycle successfully is through tourist cooperation. "Reaching the tourists must come from public office," says Kolesar. Fortunately, there seems to be immense goodwill and sincere efforts from county and city staff members, working behind the scenes on the recycling issue.

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## A New Leaf: Tree Commission Changes Leaders

by Tricia Keegan

Merilee McCoy recently stepped down as chairperson of the Key West Tree Commission, turning her responsibilities over to Wesley Calvin. McCoy, who lobbied long and loudly in the late 1960s to create a commission for tree protection, is widely identified with the legislation. "I made it happen," says McCoy, who is quick to credit former state representative Billy Roberts and former Key West attorney Paul Sawyer for their efforts in behalf of Tree Ordinance No. 86-5.

Enforcing Tree Commission mandates has not always been easy, according to McCoy. Disapproval in her voice, she recalls the case of the ficus tree that was removed from Douglas School, causing an uproar in that neighborhood. "That ficus is not going to happen again," she says firmly. "It could have been prevented if the Tree Commission had been consulted during the site-plan stage."

She says the Duck Avenue project was "the most recent glaring example of non-compliance with Tree Commission laws. They cut down some fine trees."

These and other violations occurred, says McCoy, because the Tree Commission was left literally out on a limb. "All city commission approvals were done long before they got to us," she explains. "We were the last ones to be seen." McCoy places a great deal of faith in the newly appointed city engineer, Paul Mitchell, who she says is "initiating a procedure to prevent this from happening again."

Permits, free of charge, are required of both the public and private sectors "to remove or perform major maintenance on any dicot tree which is five inches or more in diameter, or any monocot tree (such as palms) which are eight feet or more in height ... or on any size tree listed as specifically protected."

Code enforcement specifies fines of up to \$500 per day. Anyone planning to build in Key West or to cut down a tree that falls under the Tree Commission's jurisdiction should apply at least one week prior to commission meetings, which are held the

first Tuesday of the month at City Hall. Applications, available at the Building and Zoning Department, are part of the Permit Approval Checklist given to potential developers.

City Engineer Mitchell makes the initial determination as to whether an applicant has to apply for a permit. His recommendation then goes to the Tree Commission, which votes on it at its regularly scheduled meeting. Prior to the meeting, each member of the commission visits the site and examines the tree in question, which is designated by a red tag.

According to Mitchell, liability is a prime concern for the city. He must "carefully look at the potential of a tree being a hazard."

The Tree Ordinance, revised in 1986, reads: "The City Commission hereby finds that trees on private and publicly-owned property within the City of Key West are economic and aesthetic assets to the citizens of the City, and finds that a public purpose benefiting the health and economic welfare of the citizens can be served through protection of the trees and through encouragement of additional plantings."

Seven residents of Key West are appointed to the Tree Commission by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the City Commission. Nominees are provided by the Key West Chamber of Commerce, Latin Chamber of Commerce, Old Island Restoration Society and Key West Board of Realtors. By law, there is a licensed member of the landscape industry on the Commission.

Avowed cooperation between City Hall and the Tree Commission has not stifled debate. "We are having a problem replanting palms on North Roosevelt," states McCoy. "The State of Florida mandates all plantings meet their clear zone requirements and have got to be 15 feet away from traffic."

"As I understand it, this is to prevent someone from being killed by hitting a tree and bouncing back into traffic, or from being killed on contact. I don't feel the palms do either; they snap at the base. I've seen cars mow down three in a row. I'd never put a tree before a person. I just question if it applies to the palm."

Mitchell notes that a six-inch curb or non-mountable barrier is required to replant on a State Department of Transportation roadway. Because of road repair buildup, many spots on the curb on North Roosevelt are less than six inches high. Restoring or replacing the curb is cost-prohibitive and would require state involvement.

Mitchell sees a simple solution: Since there is a wide promenade on North Roosevelt, move the palms away from the roadway. He agrees the palms must be replanted: "They are part of the character of the town and what sets it apart—having all the vegetation that grows well here."

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## Who's on first?

"Foot patrols are not efficient. The liability is extensive as to their safety."

That's what Key West Police Chief Tom Webster told the Crime Task Force. But later, when Monroe County Sheriff Allison DeFoor assigned a two-man unit from his department to walk a Bahama Village beat, Webster, who was supervising the deputies, ordered them to split up and walk separate beats. He told one deputy to walk on Duval.

Lew Mertz, Webster's right-hand man, said the two deputies walking around Bahama Village are "only making friends."

Webster told Tom Netting of WKIZ Radio News that everybody in the sheriff's department is great, except for Sheriff DeFoor, who has an ego problem.

Sheriff DeFoor replied, "It takes a big ego to get to be a police chief or a sheriff."

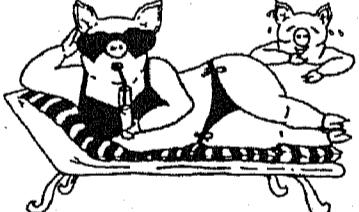
Netting asked Webster if the squabbling would affect police protection in this community. "Definitely not!" said Webster.

Soon after, deputies were back under DeFoor's supervision.

## School dazed

## and who could blame them?

Florida State Education Commissioner Betty Castor has announced public school dropout rates for the 1988-to-89 school year. At 7.34 percent, Monroe County's dropout rate was slightly lower than the state average of 7.5 percent. Monroe County's teacher turnover rate is the highest

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in the state.

And while the state contributes an average of \$2,070 for each student enrolled in Florida's public schools, Monroe County schools receive only 22 cents per student.

Why Monroe citizens aren't up in arms about this inequity is hard to guess. Last year, the Florida legislature proposed that \$650,000 be granted to Monroe County, simply because the state's contribution to our school budget is so piddling. Governor Bob Martinez vetoed the grant.

This year, the Florida House and Senate are calling for a law that would place a 90-percent cap on what any Florida county must spend on education through *ad valorem* taxes. Monroe County currently pays over 99 percent of our school's annual cost, making our county the state's highest contributor to education.

Debbie Horan, assistant to Senator Larry Plummer, says the senator expects the 90-percent cap will pass and believes relief is in sight for local taxpayers.

A second proposal called for a \$4.2-million appropriation to Monroe County, which would be a line item in the budget going before the governor. But the idea was abandoned in fear that the governor would again veto the cash for the Keys.

"We won't know what's going to happen until the lights go out," says Janet Hayes, spokeswoman for the school board.

## Pool days

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Pool will be closed this summer, leaving Key West children with one less public recreational facility to play in during vacation. (See "Hot Fun in the Summertime" on Page 18 for recreation alternatives.)

Last September, engineers from CH2MHill advised the city that to keep the pool in service would cost about \$400,000—a figure that sounded high to then-City Manager Rick Witker and pool manager Lee Thompson.

Witker budgeted \$250,000 for the repairs, and the city went out for bids, attracting only one response: Frank Keevan and Sons said it could do the job for \$437,000. Repairs would include a new deck, plumbing and filter system.

Paul Kenson, Jr., an architect from Marathon who designed pools for Ocean Walk, Key West by the Sea, and 1800 Atlantic, has been hired by the city to work on the project. He is currently meeting with Keevan contractors to identify areas where costs could be cut.

Randy Sterling, the city's director of parks and recreation, says the meetings are going well, and Keevan has said substantial cuts are possible. The project is expected to take 120 days, and work should begin this month.

City staff has learned that completely replacing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Pool would cost about \$1 million. Why didn't they believe CH2MHill's \$400,000 estimate back in September?

## Shutter shudders

Starting in July, all city commission meetings—and some county commission meetings—will be in the newly restored Old

City Hall on Greene Street. The police department will take over the city commission chambers on Angela Street.

The city has contributed \$256,000 to the restoration of Old City Hall. The money came from the sale of the U.S.O. Building on Whitehead Street to the county several years ago. The county has, thus far, contributed nothing to the project.

Restoration coordinator Steve Nichols is asking the city and county commissions to donate \$25,000 each for shutters, which would Old City Hall a safe hurricane shelter.

Sorry, city commissioners told Nichols at a May 21 meeting—the city can't afford to spend that much.

The next day, Nichols said, Commissioner Jimmy Weekley phoned him to say that the funds were available. Weekley, who sponsored the resolution to provide the money, said he would put the request back before the commission. Two days later, it was on the agenda for a special meeting.

At the May 23 special meeting, Nichols was again told that the city simply didn't have the money, and the resolution was tabled. The matter will go before the county commission on May 30, but without the city's matching funds, Nichols fears that the county will refuse also.

County Commissioner Doug Jones can't afford to vote against the donation. He is one of three owners of the Historic Key West Shipwreck Museum, which is housed on the ground floor of the Old City Hall building, who is under fire for failure to pay their rent.

"Nichols should get the whole \$50,000 from the county," said David Fernandez, city finance director. "The county is going to use the meeting space, too, and they haven't contributed a cent so far. Why don't they pay the entire \$50,000?"

"It's a donation," said Commissioner Virginia Panico, "and the city doesn't make donations. The taxpayers simply can't afford to pay for another thing."

## Remembering a champion

This year's July 4th Swim Around the Island is dedicated to the memory of June Rice. To celebrate her 40th birthday, the attorney swam around Key West in seven hours and 17 minutes back in July, 1986. Two years later, Rice's husband, then-City Attorney Steve Stitt, decided to participate in the annual swim, but no one seemed to be in charge of the event. So, Rice jumped in, organizing publicity and managing registrations. On the big day, she kept things moving and supplied moral support to her husband, who finished in six hours, 16 minutes. Earlier that week, Rice had undergone the first of six agonizing chemotherapy treatments.

In April, Rice lost her battle with cancer. Organizers of this year's swim, Anna Fugina and Tom Pennella, say the event is dedicated to Rice's unsinkable courage and tenacity. Any proceeds from swim go to the June Rice Scholarship Fund at the Children's School of Key West. Call 745-1331 for information on the 1990 Swim Around the Island.



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## All That Glistens Is Not Gold

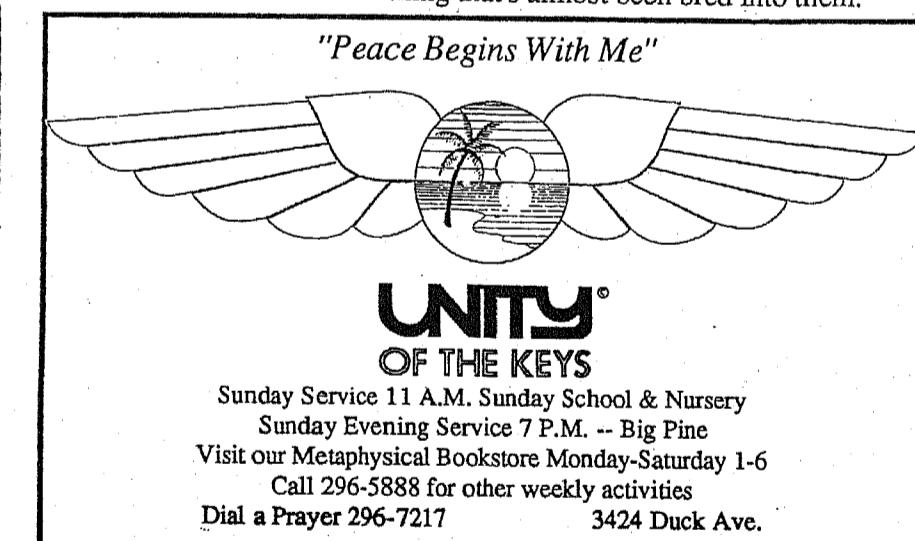
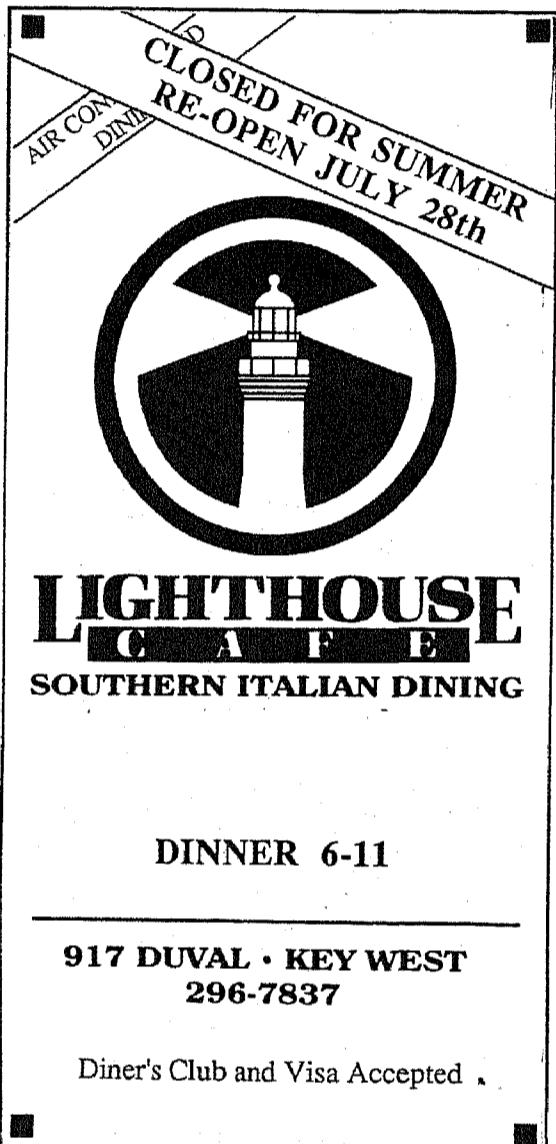
Now that the shrimp rush is over, people are wondering: why the decline?

by Barbara Bowers

**P**ink gold doesn't glitter. It glistens.

It comes from a seemingly endless blue mine where salt residue—not gold dust—cakes on surfaces. It's not a precious metal. But like black gold, the pink variety, which is better known as shrimp, converts quickly to cash.

The pink gold rush is over. It peaked in 1960. Similar to the Old West's ghost towns, deserted warehouses along the coast mark the decline of a significant industry in the Florida Keys.



shrimp.

"The taste of shrimp ranges in varying degrees of mildness similar to the taste range from grouper to salmon," says Monte Little, fishing reporting specialist for the National Marine Fisheries Service. "And at least 15 shrimp packing plants throughout the Keys distributed 'pink gold.'"

No more.

Fewer shrimpers are catching fewer pink shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico at the same time worldwide consumption of shrimp has gone up.

Mother Nature and man teamed up to produce this paradox. In an area 30 miles north of Key West to just a little north of the Dry Tortugas, high production and high effort yielded a yearly average of 9.8 million pounds of pink shrimp between 1960 and 1980, with 1960 topping out at 13 million. Between 1981 and 1987, the annual average yield was 8 million pounds, with 1986 bottoming out at 5.5 million.

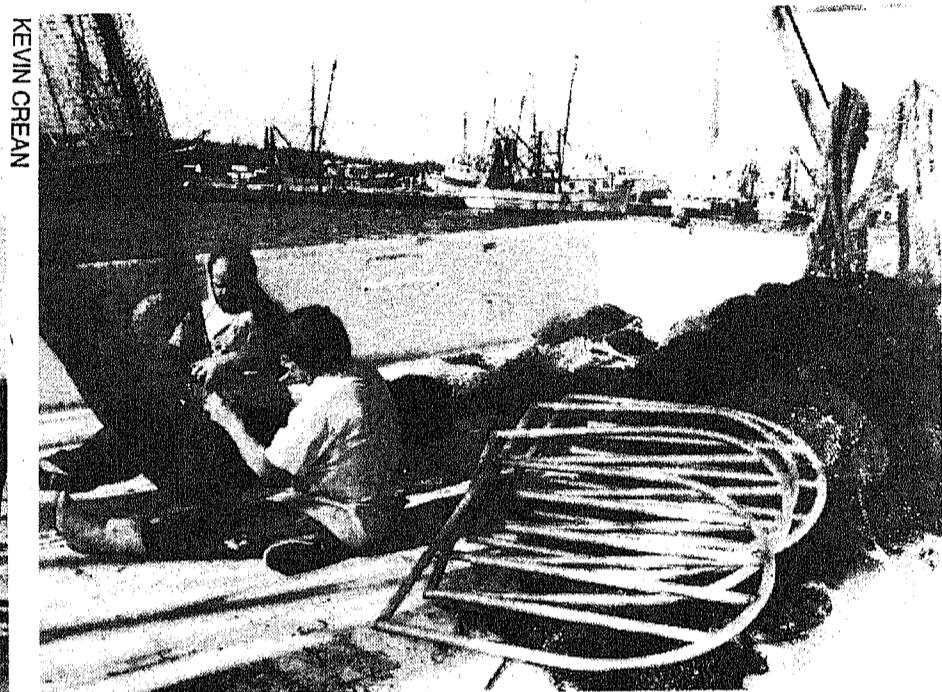
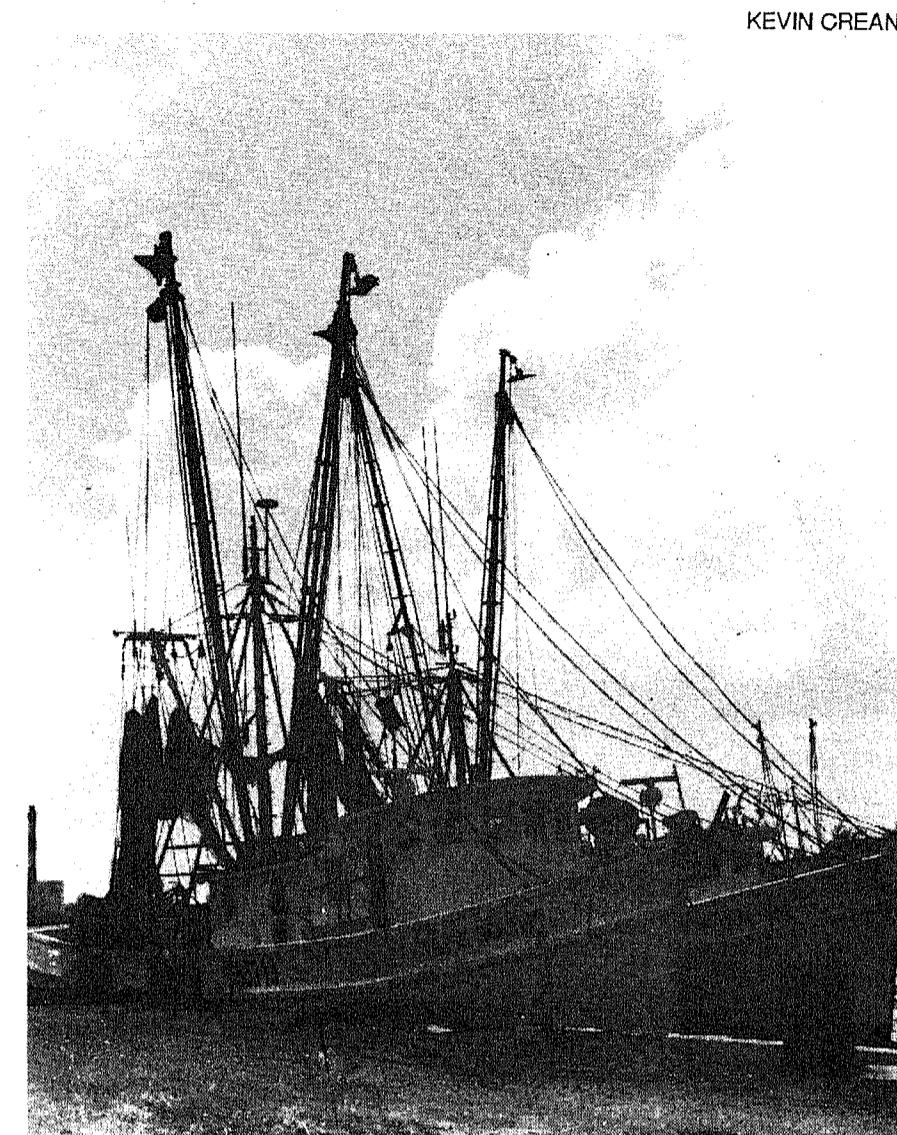
The *Nona Mae*'s catch of 6,000 pounds for eight days at sea is an average yield these days. At one time, its three-man crew brought in 12,000 pounds each trip.

Like any other fishery dependent on Mother Nature, shrimp vary in size, number and quality. And while the yield has been cut in half, operating expenses have gone up. Last year it cost \$40,000 to fuel the boat, \$20,000 for ice and \$15,000 to stock food for the crew. Hardware and equipment for the boat is a never-ending drain. And this year, more than \$1,500 was needed to buy four Turtle Excluding Devices (TEDs).

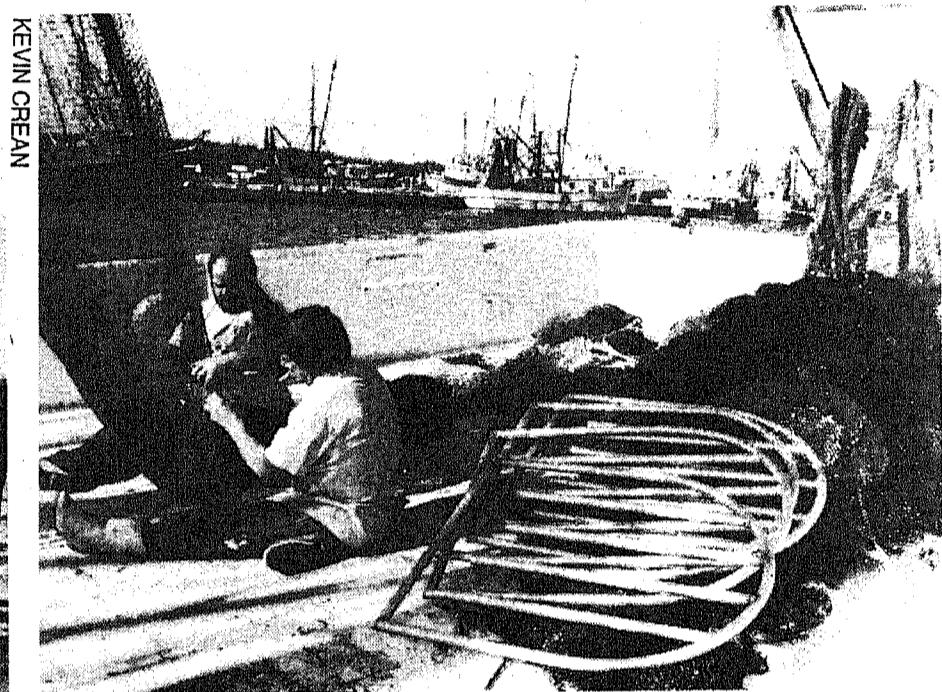
**C**ritics of the shrimp industry claim that for every pound of shrimp netted in the ocean, five pounds of unwanted and unused marine life is dumped unceremoniously on the dock with the shrimp. This includes sea turtles. A law pending since 1981, which required shrimpers to attach TEDs to their nets, went into effect last year.

"Shrimpers who have been trained for decades to meticulously patch holes in nets with the kind of care moms darn socks, must now cut 42-inch holes in their shrimp nets to let turtles, accidentally swept into the 140-foot-wide drag, escape," says Freeman Bateman, owner of Captain Cliff's Seafood Market, Inc. and regional director of the Southeastern Fisheries Association. "Overnight, we have to unteach our men something that's almost been bred into them."

**Changing tides:** The stark reality of an empty shrimp dock (below) contrasts with the frenzy of hands sizing pink beauties at a Key West fish house in the 1950s (right). Shrimpers today are required to install TEDs in their nets to allow turtles an exit (lower right).



KEVIN CREAM



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KEVIN CREAM

KEVIN CREAM

any information from the Keys. "There's no way to tell," said an academy spokesperson. The study, says the *Herald*, presents the strongest evidence so far in favor of the TED regulation. Shrimping associations believe the regulation should be applied on a location-by-location basis.

During 1988, the National Marine Fisheries, which operates under the authority of the Department of Commerce, sent observers out on shrimp boats to gather data on the use of TEDs. Controls using two regular shrimp nets and two nets with TEDs attached were set up on the boats. After over 2,000 hours of observation—more hours than the average shrimp boat can work in a year—no turtles were netted in the Key West-to-Dry Tortugas area of the Gulf, in nets with or without TEDs attached. Nets with TEDs attached, however, yielded 18-to-30 percent less shrimp because the shrimp slid through the devices.

Plenty of turtles do die in shrimp net—but not necessarily in waters off the Keys. A National Academy of Sciences study released in May found that shrimp trawls are, by far, the leading cause of turtle deaths at human hands—at least 11,000 each year and possibly three to four times that many, according to an article in the *Miami Herald* on May 21.

A call to the academy, however, revealed that the study was an analysis of existing studies, and that it may not have included

turtle-death tolls down.

Four types of TEDs have been approved by the National Marine Fisheries for use on shrimp boats. But, because of the Gulf's flat, sandy bottom, shrimpers don't think these heavy devices are appropriate for use here, especially because so few turtles are netted in the Gulf. Consequently, in February of 1988, the Keys shrimpers developed a TED that deflects both fish and turtles and weighs less than the steel frame nets, thus causing less net-weakening stress on the ropes. They rented a boat to demonstrate its use for the National Marine

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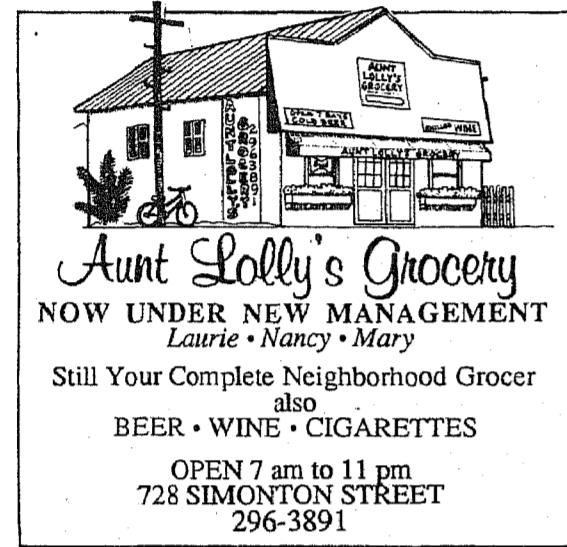


Fisheries in May, 1989. But, to date, there has been no response.

**M**idas' fingerprints are all over the shrimp aquaculture industry. A quarter-of-a-million acres of the globe's oceans are given to shrimp farming, with thousands of companies harvesting 30 percent of the shrimp consumed in the world—roughly two million metric tons. GMSB, Inc., a privately owned and operated company located in the Keys, is just one of them.

GMSB is the seed hatchery for, and a United States subsidiary of, *Granjas Marinas de San Bernardo*, a 13,000-acre shrimp farm in the Honduras.

The antithesis of a dustblown ghost town, GMSB's high-tech, squeaky-clean compound handles the delicate job of breeding shrimp and ensuring a healthy batch of babies which is sent to the Honduran farm



for raising and eventual harvesting.

"Consistency is the secret to success in this business," says Bill McGrath, Jr., president of Shrimp Culture Incorporated, a technical director to GMSB and its Honduran parent company.

Water quality and controlled lighting, which are critical to the early stages of shrimp development, are more dependable in the United States. After 15 days of life in indoor tanks at the GMSB facility, 20 million post-larval shrimp are sent each month to the Honduran nursery pond where they grow stronger outdoors in tropical temperatures and nutrient-rich waters.

Every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, six-month-old shrimp are harvested from the Honduran ponds by the likes of Hanes' Fruit-of-the-Loom Inspector #2—clean, efficient, effective. Frozen immediately and shipped within a week, consistent breeding and growth in a carefully controlled environment nets GMSB consistently perfect shrimp—about 3.5 million pounds in the 26-through-60 count range last year.

**R**alston Purina pioneered shrimp farming in the early 1960s. It was a luxury commodity back then because shrimp was limited by seasonal weather and because foreign countries were netting an inferior product to the shrimp industry in the United States. U.S. shrimpers were unconcerned about improving their technologies. And as one shrimper puts it, "We couldn't see the handwriting on the wall, or the dollars the U.S. would be putting into other countries that would develop shrimp farms to compete with ours."

The U.S., Japan and Europe were, and

still are, the biggest consumers of shrimp. Last year, the Americans alone gobbled up 800-million pounds of several different species. Pink gold is just one of them.

Purina is no longer involved in shrimp aquaculture. But its initial efforts paid off for companies that picked up where it left off. Today, shrimp is a readily available, non-seasonal seafood staple.

*Granjas Marinas de San Bernardo* has been perfecting its shrimp farming techniques since 1974. And its seed hatchery in the Keys is barely one year old.

Mike Chambers is a marine biologist and GMSB's hatchery director. "We're just getting up to speed now," he says. "We only breed *Penaeus vannamei*, a white shrimp from the Pacific. Pink shrimp don't perform with any type of consistency for growth and survival in an aquaculture situation."

National Marine Fisheries' Ed Little further notes that, "Back in the '70s, we tried to grow pink shrimp in ponds here, but the venture was unsuccessful. I doubt that a full-blown shrimp farm of any kind could operate in the Keys because of the space needed and the varying temperatures that are punctuated with severe storms."

So a brood stock of 3,000 mature shrimp from GMSB's Honduran farm are mated indoors at its compact facility in the Keys. Fifteen hours after a female is impregnated, 50,000 to 250,000 spider-like nauplii are hatched, collected and placed in one of the 42 holding tanks in the hatchery.

"The development process from nauplii to post-larval shrimp is a series of stages that takes about two weeks," says Jim Norris, GMSB vice-president and technical guru who engineered the elaborate watering and filtration system. "Our water is internally purified. Constant temperatures, pH content and salinity are maintained night and day. And specially-built back-up generators kick in if we have a power failure."

From conception in the Keys, about 50 percent of the post-larval shrimp grow to market-size shrimp on the Honduras farm.

**C**hina and Ecuador meet more than half the world's steadily increasing demand for shrimp through a combination of captured and cultured shrimp farming. In the U.S., more than 75 percent of the 800-million pounds consumed is imported.

In this massive global market, shrimp farms produce only 30 percent of the shrimp consumed. And, according to GMSB's dir-

ector, Bill McGrath, shrimp aquaculture is merely picking up the decline being realized by shrimpers fishing the ocean.

"We don't know why they are declining," says Dr. Peter Sheraton, marine biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Services in Galveston, Texas. "There's no indication that we're overharvesting pink shrimp, but something's wrong."

Hence, dozens of Everglades and ecology experts gathered at the Galveston Laboratory in late October. In attendance were scientists and marine biologists from Florida's Department of Natural Resources, the Everglades National Park, Florida's Marine Fisheries Commission and South Florida Water Management District. The workshop, conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Services, was the first step in bringing together state and federal agencies concerned with the ecology of marine life in the water system from the Everglades to the Tortugas.

Since 1981, the shallow waters of Florida Bay at the basin of the Everglades has been restricted from shrimp to give baby pink shrimp a shallow water sanctuary. As the shrimp mature, they are carried with currents to the deeper waters of the Lower Keys and the Dry Tortugas.

"Because these shrimp live close to the human environment and their food source is near the bottom of the food chain, and because they are harvested during the first year of their lives, they're good indicators of the aquatic environment and water quality," says Dr. Sheraton. "The seagrass beds for this nursery have been dying off since the summer of 1987, and we're

concerned, there will be an even larger decline in pink shrimp."

Though pink shrimp may be the caged canary in the gold mine, proposals are being developed to study more than just the pink shrimp fishery. Money is being sought to look at such critical issues as the freshwater inflow patterns of the area, pesticide spraying along the Keys and the effects of seagrass die-off and re-vegetation. Dr. Sheraton calls the project "a long-term, natural experiment."

**C**racker Seafood is an empty fish house on Stock Island where the shrimp docks are located, behind the greyhound track. Today, there are just five shrimp companies—down from ten in 1983—doing business here.

"The rent went up \$6,000 a month, so Cracker Seafood packed up its 13 boats and headed for Tampa," says Freeman Bateman.

"Neither the city nor the county offered him incentives to stay. When you consider each boat brought in \$140,000 to \$250,000 in shrimp each year, that's a chunk of change to throw away."

Or, more accurately, that's the kind of change that converted the shrimp-dock site of yesterday to hotels, condos and restaurants. In 1950, shrimp boats lined the northwest side of Key West from City Electric System to the Pier House. Yes, there are some boat slips in the Bight today. But they're filled primarily by pleasure boats, not shrimp boats.

As one lifestyle and industry gives way to another, scientists will begin researching

what forces are adversely affecting the marine life and crystal clear waters of the Keys—the very heart and soul of its tourist attraction.

And while these tanning tourist bodies—burnt gold, if you will—are covered with oil and glistening on the beaches of that seemingly endless blue mine, it becomes apparent that, alas, even the deepest, richest mines get panned out.

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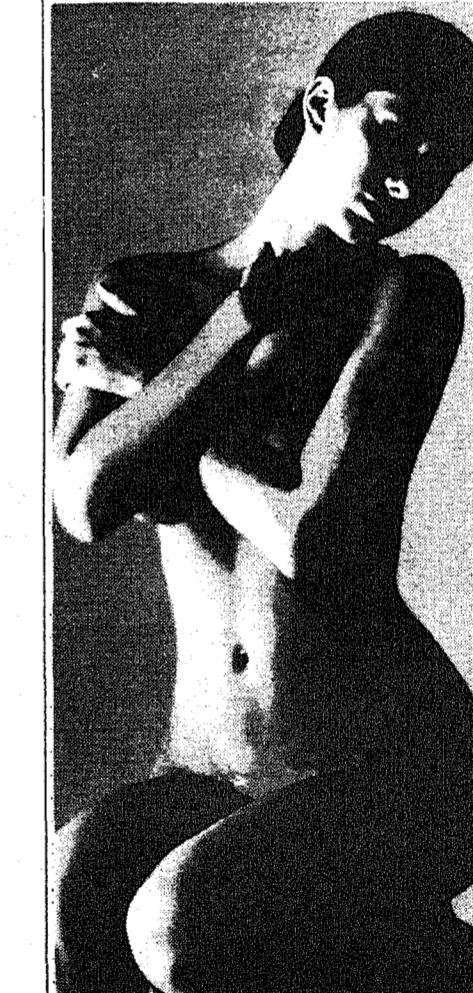
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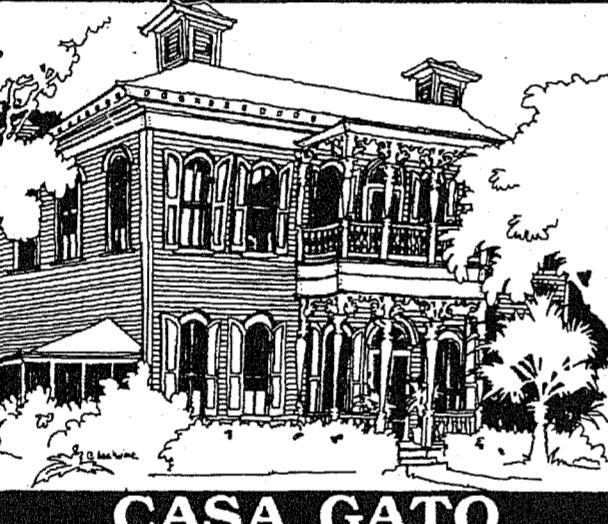
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## Bending Over Backward

Gymnastics coach Jan Beets takes flips with flops

by Sioux Rose

Jan Beets believes that children can fly, unless told otherwise. Cartwheels, hand-springs, flip-flops, arabesques: Up into the air and over soars child after child. A missed move? A small fall? No problem.

In peak season, Jan, owner of Island Gymnastics, has 80 gymnastic students, primarily girls; she hopes for more male gymnasts this year. Last year, 35 of Jan's girls competed at various events, including bars, beam and floor exercise. A team of two judges evaluated each girl, and several gymnasts won high scores of 5 or 5.3. Since spring of 1986, Jan has held classes at the Mary Immaculate School gym.

Raised in Bloomingville, Indiana, Jan spent her early life tumbling about on her own. Her home was near the University of Indiana, where winding roads allowed her to tone her body through biking and university teams gave her role models of physical fitness.

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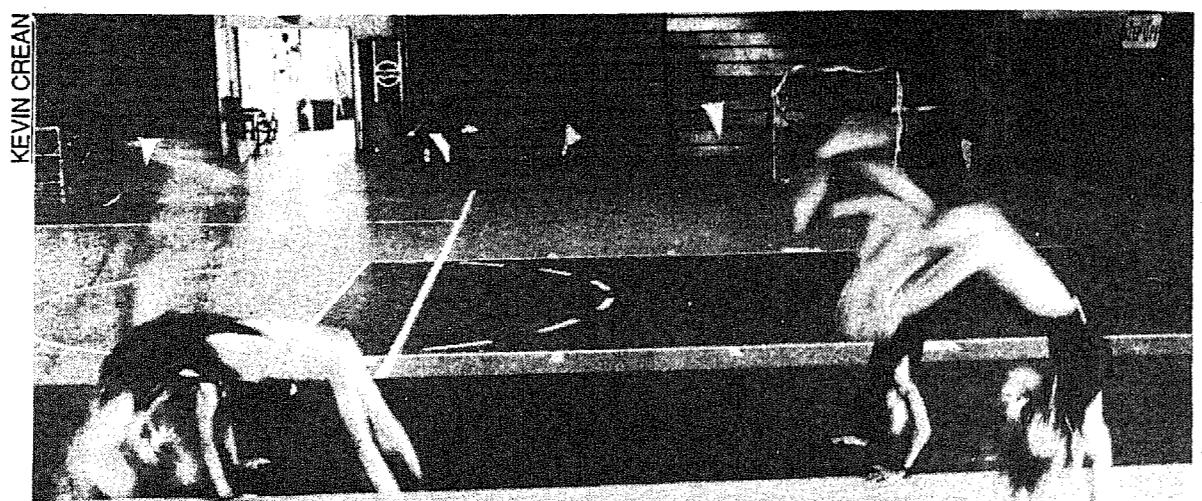
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Four on the floor: Shelley McKernan, Rachel Rosenberg, Devon Sarver and Sarah Thompson (clockwise, from front left) flip-flop along a stretch of mat in the Mary Immaculate School gym.

Her father's career change moved the family to Southern Indiana. Jan enrolled in gymnastics classes at her new high school,

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finding herself on the team. The star of the team urged her to consider taking classes, which were even more competitive, across the state border in Louisville, Kentucky, but Jan's parents, like many, didn't feel a girl's athletic potentials were worth cultivation in as far as money was involved. They told her high school participation was enough. This may be the reason that Jan focuses on positive reinforcement today.

Later, in college, Jan studied recreational development. A part of the accreditation process involved community work in one's chosen field. Jan ended up teaching beginning gymnastics to tots until she suffered a viral infection; her face was paralyzed for nearly a year.

Although weak from body strain, Jan returned to teaching in three months. But when colder weather settled in, Jan's doctor recommended that she go to a warmer climate or "stay out of the cold." About that time she met Timi (of Timi's Tuxedo), with whom she later moved to Key West.

Jan arrived here in November of 1982, and began teaching gymnastics at Key West High School the next semester. She says the general feeling at the high school was that women's sports were not essential to a balanced extracurricular program. School officials said the Conchettas and dancing



changed phone numbers and eventually negotiated a very fair deal.

To help pay for equipment and other gymnastic necessities Jan has innovated fundraisers. This year's cartwheelathon yielded 3600 cartwheels and raised \$1100. At present she needs to replace the wood on the bar apparatus; each bar costs \$450 and has metal tubing running through it. To be eligible for insurance, Jan must maintain her equipment at federal standards.

Today Jan teaches her classes in Mary Immaculate's large gym. Happily installed, she initiated a program called "Mommy and Me," which she says is more of a "Daddy and me." The tots as young as one-and-one-half years experience the spring board, low balance beam, or bar. Building coordination skills and familiarity with the pieces, these tots usually end up more advanced than children who start cold at age

Solares Hill • June 1990 • Page 17  
three. Jan hopes to expand this class, which meets on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Island Gymnastics charges a fee of \$30 a month for one class and up to \$75 a month for the gymnast who requires more classes; customized coaching is reasonable. Each gymnast has insurance coverage at \$20 a year. Island Gymnastics may be reached at 294-8897.

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## Hot Fun in the Summertime

Camps and programs structure children's vacation

by Elizabeth M. Smith

It's going to be a long, hot summer. With the community pool out of commission and government agencies feeling the squeeze from funding cutbacks, parents—and their fun-loving kids—have fewer summer programs from which to choose than in previous years. Thanks to community diehards, there are still options available; no child needs to find himself mid-July with nothing constructive to do. Nonetheless, parents may find summer planning less than a breeze.

Although bids for repair opened in May, the pool is not expected to re-open until the end of July. The pool at Key West High School would have been an alternative site for the summer swim program had it not also been down, for the third year in a row, awaiting about \$10,000 in repairs. Thus, there will be no free swimming lessons this year and no free lunch program at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, where the community pool is located. The gazebo in the adjacent Nelson English Park may be



the site of other summer programs.

Working parents are going to feel the crunch as less is available, particularly for pre-schoolers. Some part-time activities are being offered, but they don't address parents' needs for a safe, full-time, affordable program for their children. That leaves few obvious options: hiring a private babysitter and/or relying on friends and relatives.

Joe Barker, executive director of Wesley House, a local day-care facility, which will be open for the summer but has no spots available, fears that some parents will believe they have no choice but to lock their youngsters in the house while they go to work. "Any cases I find out about I call into the abuse hotline," says Barker. "I'm afraid that there are instances of this out there which I don't hear about."

At press time, many proposed programs were still in the planning stage or awaiting final approval. A partial list of local summer activities for children follows. Keep watching for further details.



### City of Key West Summer Youth Program

Dates: June 18 through July 27.  
Times: Afternoons, Monday through Thursday, possibly Friday.  
For: Children aged seven to 14.  
Activities: Water-related activities, supervised by lifeguards, at alternating beach sites; details have yet to be finalized. Other activities, being eyed for Fridays, await approval.

bused to relevant sites; free lunches available.  
Locations: Locally, Key West High, Poinciana, Horace O'Bryant and Sugarloaf Schools.  
Cost: Free.

### Math Explorers' Camp

This camp is funded by the Department of Education.

Dates: Three, two-week sessions, to run from June 18 through July 27.

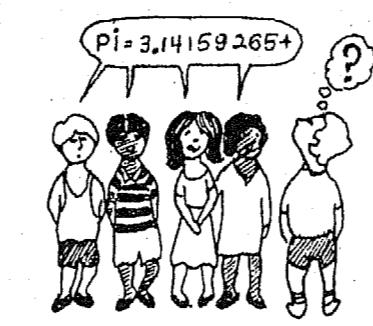
Times: Summer-school schedule.

Activities: Marine field experiences to collect data during snorkeling trips, problem-solving techniques and computer applications will be used to organize data into a data base.

For: Students, Grades 4 to 8, who performed well on standardized math tests.

Locations: Locally, Gerald Adams, Horace O'Bryant and Sugarloaf Schools.

Cost: Free.



### Summer Youth Program Sponsored by the Key West Housing Authority

This, too, is awaiting final endorsement. Based on the information available: Dates: Beginning of July for six weeks.  
Times: Noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
For: Children aged five to ten who are residents of public housing projects.  
Activities: Swimming, arts and crafts and field trips.  
Cost: Free.  
Contact: Key West Housing Authority, 296-5621.



### Schools Summer Recreation Program

This program is jointly financed by the Monroe County Commission and School Board. Watch local publications for further information on locations and times.  
Dates: Begins June 18 for six weeks.  
Times: Full day, Monday through Friday.  
For: Students, from kindergarten to 13 years of age, who are enrolled in Monroe County public schools.  
Activities: Arts and crafts, baseball and computer fun. Participating students can be

### Grace Lutheran School Summer Day Care

This private school is gearing up for its 27th annual summer program.  
Dates: June 11 until school starts.  
Times: 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
For: Children aged three to ten.  
Activities: Arts and crafts, singing, games and others.  
Location: Grace Lutheran School, 2713 Flagler Avenue.  
Cost: Full day—\$50 per week or \$10 per day; and half day—\$30 per week or \$6 per half day (five hours).  
Contact: The school office at 296-8262.

### Teen Center Summer Program

In its third year, this program is sponsored by the Monroe County School Board and the Youth Club. It will be staffed by high school students employed in the summer-work program and volunteers.

Dates: To be announced.

Times: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Early drop off available for working parents.

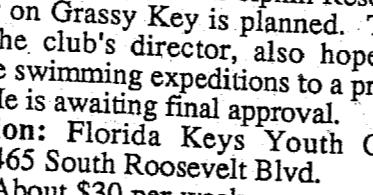
For: Monroe County children aged three through Grade 6.

Activities: This year's theme is "The Environment," which will be explored through field trips, crafts and other activities. A visit to the Dolphin Research Center on Grassy Key is planned. Tyler Hill, the club's director, also hopes to arrange swimming expeditions to a private pool. He is awaiting final approval.

Location: Florida Keys Youth Club, Inc., 3465 South Roosevelt Blvd.

Cost: About \$30 per week.

Contact: Tyler Hill at 294-2878.



### The Youth Club

For: Monroe County junior high and high school students.

Activities: Regular activities will continue throughout the summer. These include Friday night dances. (There is a \$3 cover charge for these and other special events.) Tae Kwon Do and aerobic classes are offered biweekly. Parents' Night Out meets Wednesday nights for mothers and fathers of students in elementary or junior high school. Saturday is recreation night with billiards and table-tennis tournaments (no cover charge).

Some special events are being planned for older kids: two night-time beach parties.



(no cover charge) and a concert in July. A high school summer camp, will travel to Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia from August 9 to 20. White-water rafting and a trip to Six Flags Over Georgia are on the action-packed itinerary. The cost of \$450 includes transportation, hotels and all food while at camp.

Contact: Tyler Hill at 294-2878.

### Church Programs Vacation Bible Schools

Dates: June 18 to 29.  
Times: Monday through Friday, 6 to 9 p.m.

For: Children, aged three years to Grade 5, and adults.

Activities: The theme will be "Learning from the Bible." Activities will include crafts, bible-learning and study, games and recreation. Refreshments will be available.

\*\*\*and\*\*\*

Dates: July 20 to 25.

Times: Monday through Friday, 6 to 9 p.m.

For: Junior high and high school students. Activities: For the youth group, the theme is "Christian Joy." Those attending will have opportunities to minister others in a community out-reach program.

Location: Both programs will be at Fifth Street Baptist Church, 2318 Fogarty Avenue.

Cost: Free for both programs.

Contact: The church office at 294-2255.



Dates: Last week in July through the first week in August.  
Times: Half day, Monday through Friday.  
For: Children aged three to 17 years.  
Location: Bethel Church Annex, 223 Truman Avenue.  
Cost: Free.  
Contact: The church office at 294-9951.

\*\*\*

This is a cooperative program, sponsored by all local Methodist churches.

Dates: July 30 to August 3.

Times: Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

For: Children from preschool through Grade 5.

Activities: The theme "Ways in Which Bible People Lived" will be explored through bible study, crafts, music and recreation. Refreshments will be available.

Location: First United Methodist, Old Stone Church, 600 Eaton Street.

Registration will be through July 16.



Cost: Free.  
Contact: The church office at 296-2392.

### Monroe County Library

Dates: From June 12 to the first week in August.

Times: One hour, weekly.

For: Elementary school children.

Activities: "Sea! Travel! Adventure!" These will be some of the exciting topics explored by the Summer Bookameers. Activities, which include story-telling, reading aloud, crafts, movies and puppet-making will relate to the theme of "Pirates." Preschool story hour on Thursday mornings will continue throughout the summer.

Location: The Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street.

Cost: Free.

Contact: The library at 294-8488.

### Summer Music Camp

Dates: Starts June 11 for ten weeks.

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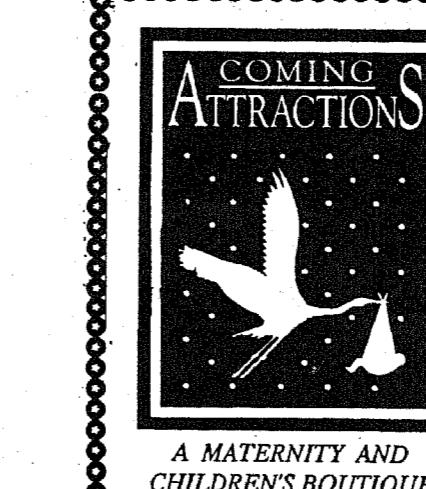
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Times: One hour, weekly.  
For: Children of all ages from the Keys.  
Activities: Sharon Frank, of Sharon Music/Keyboard Enterprises, is offering a music awareness camp. Musical fun, with games, music videos, songs and dance, is

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## Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum

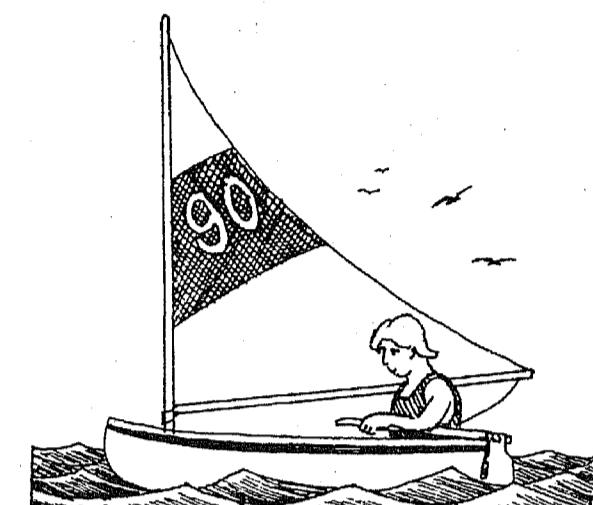
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Take a leisurely tour of the home and gardens of the late Nobel Prize winner, Ernest Hemingway. It was here that Mr. Hemingway wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *Green Hills of Africa*, *A Moveable Feast*, *To Have and Have Not*, *A Moveable Feast*, *The Killers*, and *The Macomber Affair*. Mr. Hemingway was the first important writer to discover and make Key West his home. He owned the home from 1931 to 1961. Covers One Acre including Pool & Guest House

planned. Percussion instruments and microphones will be provided; those attending will be encouraged to bring along their own musical instruments.  
Location: Grace Lutheran School and/or Sharon Music's Studio at the Key West Baptist Temple, 2nd Avenue, Stock Island. Cost: \$62 for ten weeks.  
Contact: Sharon Frank at 294-4543.

Sailing Lessons for Beginners  
Dates: Not finalized.  
Times: One afternoon per week  
For: Children aged ten to 17.  
Activities: Lots of fun and the learning of valuable skills for island lubbers.



Sailing in Sunfish boats and water safety will be taught.  
Location: Key West Sailing Club, 700 Palm Avenue.

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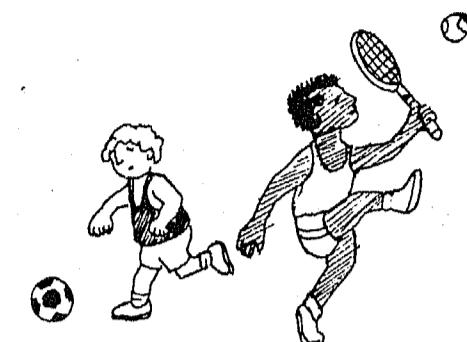
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Cost: Not established, will be nominal.  
Contact: Key West Sailing Club, 294-9125.

**Soccer Camp**  
This camp is sponsored by the Southernmost Soccer Association.  
Dates: Begins August 20.  
Times: Mornings and afternoons, Monday through Friday.



For: Children aged five through 18.  
Location: Sigsbee Soccer Fields.  
Contact: Joy Fiore, 294-7548 or Bobbi Perloff, 745-3892.

**Camp Mariner**  
Watch local publications for further information.  
Dates: A four-week session is tentatively scheduled to begin in July.  
For: Children aged four through 14.  
Activities: Sailing, wind surfing, fishing, tennis, gymnastics and music.  
Location: Mary Immaculate School.  
Cost: Last year's fee was \$100 per week.

**Keep in Mind for Next Year: Seacamp**  
Now in its 25th year, all three summer sessions have been booked since early February. Seacamp will begin taking applications for next year around Christmas.  
Dates: Three, two-and-one-half-week sessions per summer.  
Times: This is a live-in camp.  
For: Children aged 12 through 17.  
Activities: Marine biology is the orientation here—a slew of hands-on classes are offered. Also on the roster are snorkeling, sailing, windsurfing and scuba diving.  
Location: Newfound Harbour Road, Big Pine Key.  
Cost: \$1,695 per session.  
Contact: Seacamp, 872-2205.

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Cost: Not established, will be nominal.  
Contact: Key West Sailing Club, 294-9125.

**Soccer Camp**  
This camp is sponsored by the Southernmost Soccer Association.  
Dates: Begins August 20.  
Times: Mornings and afternoons, Monday through Friday.

## City Buys Time on Planning Efforts

by Geddy Sveikauskas

**A**t a special meeting May 29, the Key West City Commission bought itself 30 days of extra time before it must transmit its Comprehensive Plan to Tallahassee. The major planning document is now due on June 29.

Planning consultant Les Solin, who successfully pleaded for extra contract money up to \$20,000 for the additional work his team will have to perform in the next 30 days, warned commissioners that there were a lot of loose ends still to be tied up. Particularly hard to predict, he said, was the amount of new public input to the more controversial parts of the plan. "You don't know and I don't know what issues are going to be raised in the next month," he said.

The city commission and Planning Board will meet Tuesday, June 12 to consider the plan, and Tuesday, June 19 and Wednesday, June 27 to hear input from citizens. All meetings are in commission chambers at 5 p.m.

In rushing to avoid state sanctions and to meet a state-imposed deadline for submission of its plan, Key West finds itself under virtually the same pressure as does Monroe County (The county's deadline is September 1). Moreover, Key West is able to blame one of the same factors—inability of its staff to help with the planning effort—that the county has cited for its delays.

When it signed its contract with Les Solin, its chief outside planning consultant, the City of Key West agreed to use planning staff for some data-gathering tasks—or at least that's what Solin claimed. But then planner Tom Wilson left for greener pastures, soon to be followed by Art Moseley, the other city planning professional. There was a long hiatus. Now the city has a new planner, Ted Strader, who has only been in Key West three months.

"You didn't have the resources," Solin bluntly told the commissioners, who were expecting him to ask for \$10,000 and not \$20,000 more. "You needed me, and I did what I had to do." What he did, Solin said, to the dismayed and angry commissioners,

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was do a lot of what the city itself had promised to do.

Commissioner Sally Lewis got Solin to run through the new calendar for the submission of the Comprehensive Plan. On July 1 the state will begin a 90-day review period. By October 1 the state will send Key West a critique, judging by previous performance between 75 and 200 pages long. From October receipt the city will have 60 days to change the plan (that period might be extended under certain circumstances). Then the changes will go back to Tallahassee, and between January 1 and January 15 the city will be notified whether it is in compliance with state regulations.

**T**hat's the easy part.

Because the city has been unable to do many of the planning tasks it had been asked by the state to do, it did what any non-compliant debtor tries to do: it delayed the time the obligation was due. The Comprehensive Plan draft is peppered with 40 or 50 tasks the city has promised to complete by June 1, 1991. They all begin, "The city shall by June 1, 1991 ..."

"We've got six months to do all those shalls," Commissioner Harry Powell observed gloomily.

"Well, that [schedule] gives us five and a half months," Sally Lewis corrected him.

Some of the tasks will be easy. Some of them won't be. Many of them are connected to state concurrency requirements, which forbid new development unless public facilities are available for it. Much of the state's zeal to force localities to write and defend their Comprehensive Plans is to force them to look at their own infrastructure needs. In the opinion of many, that's an exercise that Key West has been loathe to do.

The price of Paradise may not easily be measured in dollars, but when it is, the

numbers are not consoling. Indeed, the capital requirements discussed in the Comprehensive Plan are enough to make even a river-boat gambler flinch. Key West has enormous public infrastructure demands for new facilities, for public services and for environmental compliance.

It was thus appropriate that the last subject discussed at the commission meeting that night was an economic study to assess the Comprehensive Plan, toward which the Chamber of Commerce has offered a \$5000 contribution. And it was only fitting that the commissioners were unsure of where they would get the money to study where they were going to get the money. ■

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We are walking over to Reynolds School playground, my houseguests—Step Sister and her mother, "Mama"—and I. Mama, gone 94 years, wants to ride the teeter-totter. Mama, light as a bundle of kindling, goes skipping along over Key West's lumpy sidewalks, her little goatish head of grey hair bobbing. Four or five bristles on her chin flutter in a slight post-solstice breeze. Mama has ridden teeter-totters in San Antonio, Oklahoma City, Washington, D.C. and Stuart, Florida.

When we get to the playground, Mama spies the slide and goes for it. Step Sister

### john the butler

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baron, now lives in Cleveland, keeping clear. He left the twosome when Mama, on a Sunday afternoon outing over Love Field, parachuted out of his Lear jet disguised as a nun.

Mama is persuaded to postpone a trip to the Bird's Nest pet shop to buy ant's eggs for her goldfish back in Texas. Step Sister says, "Mama, please stop. You have broken a fingernail off in my arm holding so tight."

When we are back at my place, we are settled in the front room. Robert Dole, my cat with a cast in his eye, sits under the lounge chair, mournfully watching all activity in the room.

Mama occupies her space completely and assuredly like a cat. She sits at the table cutting ice-cream cones and an apple pie out of *Country Homes Magazine*. It isn't that Mama is not short on good sense, but now she often seems to live one notch above reality. Mama says, "If you are thinking I won't ride the slide tomorrow, you can save your breath to cool your grits." Step Sister mutters, "The single-mindedness of two-year-olds and 94-year-olds!"

While we are in the kitchen, Mama shows me the tulip tattoo on her arm. "Hides my smallpox vaccination." Mama has put on her Robin Hood hat with a feather for tonight's dinner party. Her Rutabaga Delight sizzles away in the pan. She has contributed some kind of funny drink, East Texas tomato wine.

I have invited two friends who take themselves quite seriously, so this may become a dinner party of guests so mismatched it's like a stoopful of cats.

Here I fall to thinking. These two houseguests fall under the category: step relations that mistakenly I believed I'd grown away from but hadn't the courage to sack. Step Sister putting on her good store of patience but really carrying a vast accumulation of annoyances. Mama in advanced age but somehow clearheaded, unpredictable and lively. Now it comes clear that I've grown a fondness for their foibles. Never could I sack them.

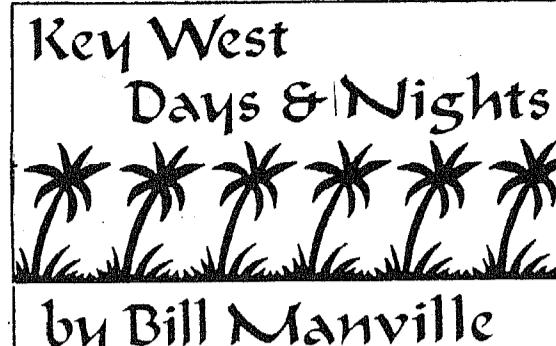
Pondering Mama and her weighty age, I'm always anxious to find merit in undiscovered areas. I quite agree that life for a human body should have an end on Earth. It seems to me better arranged like that. And, it's not Death that distresses one, but dying when one's body isn't ready to bow to its destruction. Of course the spirit within is forever. Its destination? Apparently we are not meant to penetrate this veil just yet, notwithstanding frequent and bizarre conjectures.

Oh, stout-hearted Mama. You're not ready for your closing yet.

Mama, wheezing onto her cameo, mumbles, "There are people who take the heart out of you. And people who put it back in." Now Mama topples out of her seat asleep like the Dormouse in *Alice in Wonderland*. Step Sister, with more love than chagrin, bundles her onto the sofa.

Mama rouses to cry, "Float a boiled chicken foot on each bowl of soup for decoration. Frances, can I trust you to be certain the ankle on each chicken foot is topside?"

One may well ask, Mama.



Conversations at the end of the road. Here are some things I've recently learned from my friends.

Champion Jack Dance:

1. Key West stands, in relation to the Upper Keys, much as New York City does to the rest of the nation. In Key Largo or Marathon, they tell you right off the bat, they don't even like to go near Key West. Which means there is a combination of fear and envy at work. The only answer I give them is, "I'm sorry you don't think Key West a great place to visit, but I'm glad you don't live here."

2. Don't underestimate the power of smell in romance. Every animal species puts out a secretion called *pheromone*. Biologists classify it as a "sex-attractant." For instance, one molecule of female-moth pheromone—I read this in *Scientific American* —afloat on the night air will draw males from up to a mile away.

Betty Bennet:

1. There is an enormous castle, built by nobody knows. It is night, darkness all

around. Inside the castle Great Room, there is light, warmth and music, people eating and dancing, making love. A little bird flies in from the surrounding darkness, crosses the room in one straight, quick flight, and flies out the opposite window, back into darkness again. My favorite metaphor for life is the flight of that bird.

2. I saw a car in the Pier House parking lot. The bumper sticker said, "Life is too short to dance with an ugly man."

Mab:

1. As you drive from Key West to Sugarloaf Key, you pass a little key on the oceanside so small it isn't even named on the map. Nobody lives there, but every time I go by, there is a guy in the water, wearing hip-boot waders, fishing. The water around him looks like milk in which someone has dropped transparent green ink. And it gets darker in bands —light green, dark green, blue. The last time I drove by I stopped and took off an earring. I threw it to him, he caught it in mid-air, we looked at each other. I drove off. That's all.

2. If I have only one life to live, let me live it as a blonde.

Jim Palm:

1. You can't live on a semi-tropical island like Key West and do nothing. That's the fallacy of being rich as an end in itself. You do nothing, pretty soon you're doing booze and dope, and then they're doing you. Being rich all by itself is not enough. It's like hiring people to live for you.

2. My friend Suzi had an experience along these lines. She knew this guy Charlie from back in St. Louis. He had been marking

days off on his calendar since April, 1987. "Only 647 more days till retiring in Key West," he would tell her. "Fishing, a swim, then fish some more, sleep when you want." Retirement came, and he moved to Key West. Suzi recently met him at Boulevard Travel, buying a ticket back to St. Louis. "When will you return?" Suzi said. "I'll send you a card," Charlie said. For a man to know what he really wants, Suzi says, give him what he thinks he wants.

3. I heard what Betty Bennet says about life. I have a metaphor of my own. In Canada, the lynx prey on the hare until they eat down the hare population. Then the lynx die off from famine. This creates space for the hare to breed again, which brings back the lynx. If you are a hare lucky enough to live when there are only a few lynx, you naturally decide there is a benign Higher Power watching over you. In the phase when the lynx are dominant, you feel maybe the HP is malign. Same for the lynx, only in reverse. But to the observer who sees the pattern over a long space of time, the only reasonable conclusion is that the HP is guilty of Inelegant Design, constructing too elaborate an apparatus to play what is in the end merely a zero-sum game.

4. It is the early worm that gets caught.  
5. When I was over at the Key West Yacht Club the other day, I picked up a Safety Council pamphlet about "Don't drink when you drive your boat." Alcohol and saltwater don't mix, they say. They're wrong. They do, but taste rotten.

6. Familiarity breeds attempt.

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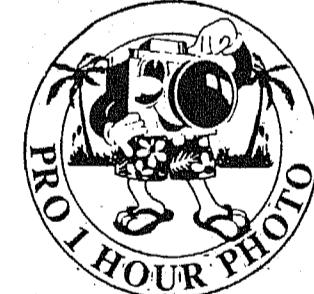
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## Community Notes

**Fantasy funds.** The notorious Fantasy Fest, which annually attracts more than 30,000 visitors to the Keys at Halloween time, received \$62,068 from the TDC last month. The council also appropriated \$3,200 for the 56th Metropolitan South Florida Fishing Tournament. For its financial support of environmental projects in the Keys, including construction of the Museum of Natural History of the Florida Keys, Key West Lighthouse restoration, and renovation of Smathers Beach, the TDC received the 1989 Phoenix Award of the Society of American Travel Writers.

**The police and you.** Last month Key West police chief Tom Webster hired Cynthia Edwards as crime prevention and public information officer for the department. Webster said the move was significant in implementing the department's crime-prevention program. Edwards, who wrote a column for *Solares Hill* in the 1980s, has been a city resident for five years and has experience in journalism, public relations and law enforcement.

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**The public pulse.** The state's department of Health and Rehabilitative Services sponsors a weekly chronic-disease screening clinic through their Monroe County Public Health unit. For a minimal fee, county residents will receive EKG; physical examination; blood pressure check; blood tests for cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose and anemia; urinalysis; Pap smear test for women; and a health history. Life-style counseling is available. Call the public health unit at 294-1021 for information and appointments.

**Shop for a better world.** The National Consumers League, a non-profit organization that is concerned with health care, workplace safety, consumer fraud and other consumer issues, is distributing a ten-page guide, "The Earth's Future Is in Your Grocery Cart." The free publication includes information and tips on how to buy with environmental savvy in the supermarket. For a copy, send an SASE to: National Consumers League, 815 15th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, Attention: Smart Shopping Guide.

**Roses are red.** The Key West Poetry Guild holds its monthly reading, which is open to the public and all poets with original work to share. The group meets at 812 Caroline Street, at the Mostly Magnificent Museum Shop, at 7 p.m., the first Sunday of each month. There is no charge, but participants should bring refreshments. For information call Jody Adams at 296-0785 or 294-1848.

**Want to be a playwright, kiddo?** The Lovewell Institute for the Creative Arts is seeking local students interested in creating original musical theater or music videos. Students, age 13 through 19, who want to be songwriters, playwrights, lyricists, directors, designers or choreographers are invited to apply. The summer workshop is July 17 through August 5 in Salina, Kansas; it is directed by Big Pine resident David

Spangler, who has written songs for Broadway shows and Warner Brothers films. Deadline for applicants is June 15. Contact David Spangler, Rt. 5, Box 42-F, Big Pine Key, FL 33043 or call 872-0011.

**Rocky retires.** Lt. James A. Portier, Jr., known to his friends as Rocky, retired from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office after 21 years of service. Portier began his law enforcement career as a dispatcher in August of 1969 and worked his way up.

**Real estate recycling.** The Key West Association of Realtors, as part of its program to educate and inform people of the need to recycle and to conserve natural resources, recently installed a public service banner at its headquarters at 1217 White Street. The message: *Realtors Are Constantly Recycling—Are You?* The association is also sponsoring a petition, for which it seeks 50,000 signatures, supporting a state-mandated recycling program as soon as possible.

**Legal eagle.** The Monroe County Sheriff's Office has hired Mark Willis to replace Susan Vernon, who recently left her position for other pursuits. Willis served as an assistant state attorney at the Monroe County State Attorney's Office for five years. During that time, he prosecuted a variety of criminal cases, including handling all child abuse cases in 1988. Willis was responsible for the first two racketeering convictions ever obtained in the county.

**The word is ...** William Clift was named to head the Literacy Volunteers of America Monroe County operation after a state-wide search by the unit's board of directors. Clift is a graduate of Yale University, with a degree in sociology. LVA is a non-profit agency which trains volunteers to teach adults basic reading. For information call 294-4352.

**Ahoy, teacher.** Ecological problems and human interaction with maritime environments will be studied during an eight-day workshop for Monroe County teachers. The program, available to 15 teachers, will include snorkeling, boat trips to the reef and historic shipwrecks, museum visits and archaeological excursions. The experience is designed to generate new classroom materials and strategies for teaching environmental marine science throughout the Keys. For information call 296-6523.

**Criminals beware.** Deputy Emil LaVache of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department reports there are 101 Crime Watch groups organized in the Keys. To start a neighborhood effort call the deputy at 296-7116 or 296-9081, extension 200.

**Belly up to the bar?** The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation reports that between 20 and 35 percent of pregnant women drink regularly and that as few as two drinks a day pose a risk to a fetus. "The use of alcohol by pregnant women is one of the leading causes of mental retardation in this country," says Dr. Reed V. Tuckson, March of Dimes senior vice president.

**GE bill is a shocker.** City Electric System received a bill from General Electric Company for \$101,228—over \$56,000 more than the original board-approved estimate—for repair work on the Stock Island power plant. Robert Padron, CES general manager, said GE underestimated the quote because it did not include time, travel and living expenses in the original estimate. "I have no intention of paying this," said Marty Arnold, a utility board member. The board is awaiting explanation from GE.

**Conservancy brochure is dynamic.** "The Florida Keys," written by David Rains Wallace and co-published by the Nature Conservancy and the Wilderness Society, delivers a powerful environmental message. The text gives an overview of problems and solutions unique to the Keys ecosystem. Tying in the effects of recent action, such as the 1988 opening of a canal floodgate which killed most of the marine life in Barnes Sound west of Key Largo, it is a learning tool for tourists as well as locals and students. Call the Nature Conservancy at 296-3880 or the Wilderness Society at 289-1010 for copies.

**Right to choose.** The Monroe County Coalition for Choice recently began publishing its newsletter, which updates members on governmental and private shifts concerning the issue of abortion. The publication's focus is to encourage people to become actively involved in the coalition's cause by writing congressmen and companies that financially affect pro-choice programs and institutions. For information contact Iva Stanley at 745-1111.

**One acre for Key deer.** As part of its Florida Keys Initiative, the Nature Conservancy, which protects 71,000 acres of wildlife habitat across the country, recently acquired a single acre for the globally imperiled Key deer. The tract of slash pineland on Big Pine Key was purchased for \$23,000 from Charles E. Mitchell, Jr. Less than 300 Key deer are left worldwide.

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Presbyterian Church, 2610 Flagler Avenue. The club, in which mentally ill or emotionally disturbed members create their own social environment, is part of network of 160 such groups. For information call Helen at 294-4875 or Rosie at 296-8491.

**FKCC registration.** From June 18 to 28, Florida Keys Community College registration will take place at all campus centers. Term IIIB classes begin June 22 and end August 7. For information on procedures and to make a registration appointment, call 296-9081.

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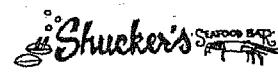
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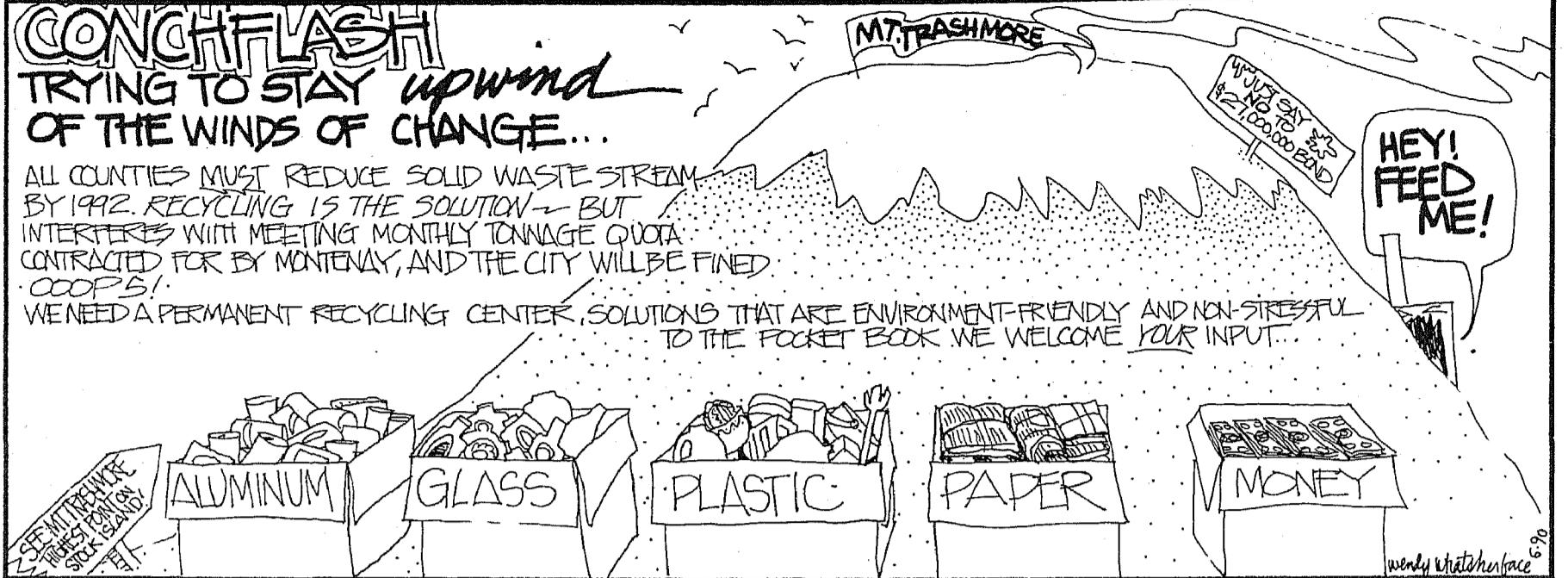
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## Readers Write

### "Pitch me, Maestro!"

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Anne Carlisle's column "Aisle Seat," published in the May 1990 issue of *Solares Hill*. In particular, it refers to her comments about the performance of "La Traviata." Some of the comments were to the point. However, the comment about the leading lady was, in my opinion, wide of the mark. I attended that performance, being in the ninth row, slightly left of center.

In most opera performances I have attended, a prompter is available, whose duty it is to give the performers the first few words of a given phrase. In this case, it would appear that function was performed by the conductor, in addition to his duties conducting the orchestra. This led to the *contretemps* in the third act, where the orchestra fell silent for at least ten and perhaps as many as 20 seconds. It was at this time that Violetta, showing extreme embarrassment, exclaimed "Maestro!" And that was all she said. She did not say "Pitch me, Maestro!"—at least not in my hearing.

It was unfair to put the entire blame on the company. While it is true that these

singers were not of the first class, the real problem was that the stage direction was done by the promoter, Mr. Parvan Bakardjiev. At least, he was so credited in the program. He might do well as a promoter, but as a stage director he leaves much to be desired.

I might mention here that I have been attending opera performances since 1957, and am quite familiar with the text of this opera. I observed many cuts, some of them only a phrase or so, in this performance. This was all the more remarkable in that Alfredo's second act *cabaletta*, "Oh, mi rimorso!" which is cut in most performances, was restored in this one. The third act bullfighter sequence was entirely cut. Mr. Bakardjiev also added an entirely gratuitous skit at the beginning of the fourth act, with a priest and an acolyte, Mr. Brian Bakardjiev. I leave it to your imagination why that was added.

I will conclude with the words of an Italian critic, "Better a bad performance than no performance at all!"

David C. Shepardson  
Key West



### A Jail Tale

Dear Editor:

Your readers may be pleased to know our Monroe County Sheriff's Department is operating at top efficiency, judging from my jail term recently.

I was at the Wash-O-Mat when a very polite deputy walked in.

"Are you Ed Bixby?"  
"Yes I am," I replied.  
"I have a warrant for your arrest."  
"What for?"

"I don't know, but if you come to the jail at 8 a.m. I won't have to pick you up at your house."

Curious, I agreed and arrived at eight to be told the computers were haywire and to return at nine.

At nine the jailers had a fancy red jumpsuit ready for me and put my belongings in a sealed bag and escorted me to the "holding tank," where perhaps a score of similarly clad prisoners were.

I asked the jailer, "What am I in jail for?" He didn't know. About eleven, all of us, with a half-dozen female prisoners, were led up the rear stairs to the judge.

I asked the judge's secretary, "What is

my charge?" She didn't know.

Finally, I asked the judge the same thing and he didn't know either, but said that if I would deposit \$100, I would be released on my own recognizance.

I indignantly informed him that I didn't have \$100 to spare, and that I'd stay in.

After a very tasty meal, we sat around for two hours and a deputy took me to be photographed and fingerprinted—he didn't know why I was in jail, either.

After my release, I was rather amused and phoned my wife, which was a mistake, because she became very agitated and called

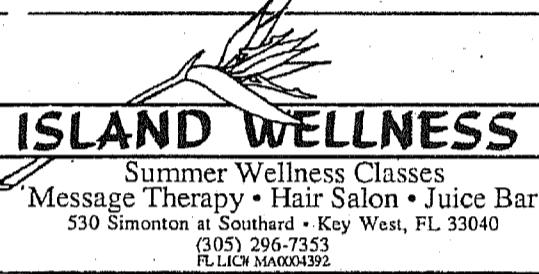
my children and told them of my ordeal.

The next day my middle son, through his lawyer in New York, found that my incarceration was due to insurance reasons—my car insurance was expired when an accident occurred, and the financial responsibility act was the reason for my arrest.

I'm sure your readers will be gratified to know that I've paid my debt to society and am once more a solid citizen!

Ed Bixby  
Stock Island

*Solares Hill* encourages readers to send letters expressing opinions on any subject of local interest. Send to: Editor, *Solares Hill*, 1217 White Street, Key West, FL 33040.



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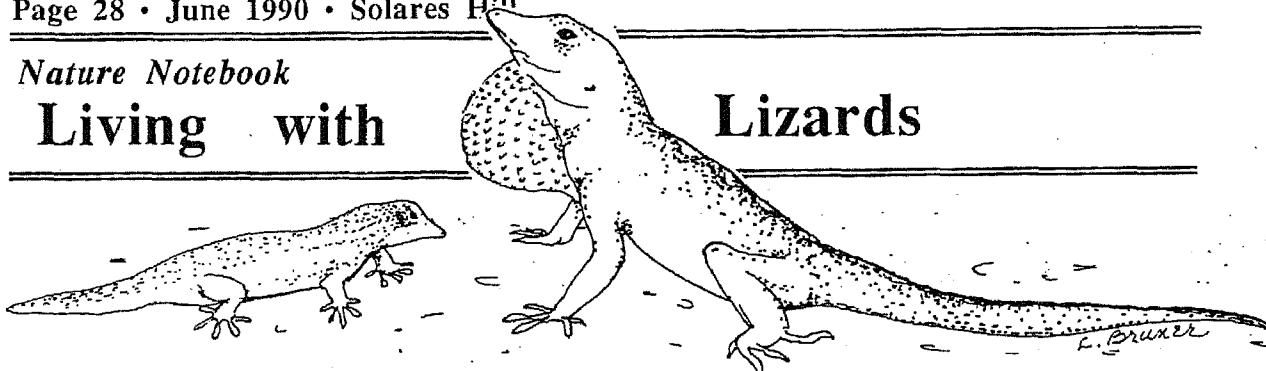
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## Nature Notebook

## Living with



by Capt. Gaff McKetchum

One attitude adjustment a newcomer to the Keys must make is in his tolerance for indoor fauna. Sharing one's abode with creepy crawlies simply is not the norm up North. But here palmetto bugs, ants, mosquitoes and lizards are our southernmost house guests -- invited or otherwise.

I admit to engaging in vicious hand-to-bug combat with mosquitoes, slapping the

## Lizards

Nocturnal or crepuscular -- active at early evening and just before sunrise -- geckos catch their share of mosquitos. And, when the termites swarm, they feast until near bursting on juicy termite bodies, leaving behind a trail of wings. For that reason alone, they will always be welcome in my wood-frame home.

Anoles are the lizards commonly seen scampering around yards, bushes and trees all over town. When fiftysomething-year-old Little Orphan Annie exclaimed "Leaping Lizards, Sandy!" to her dog, the lizards in question were undoubtedly anoles. From a perch in a bush, tree or fence anoles stalk their insect prey, then leap out, jaws open in hope of clamping down on a meal. More than half their attempts seem to be unsuccessful.

The most abundant lizard in the Keys is the brown anole, *Anolis sagrei*. Twice the size of our geckos, it can reach a length of six to eight inches, most of which is tail. The males, much larger than the females, are light to dark brown and have a deep, red extendable throat fan with a yellow border. This fan is present but smaller in females. As a territorial declaration, the brown anole extends its fan while bobbing up and down in a manner similar to push-ups.

The juveniles are even more elegant, with their brilliant bands of black and red against a yellow or olive background and red on the legs and tail. When they hatch from their tiny 1/4-inch eggs, they are about 5/8-inch long and ready to join the other house geckos.

High up on the walls or ceilings, geckos feed on small flying insects and spiders. Their ability to climb even smooth walls or across ceilings is due to microscopic hairlike structures that cover the undersides of their toes. Called *setae*, these hairs cling to surfaces through friction, not suction.

Generations of geckos have served generations of Conchs as bug exterminators long before the Orkin man came to town. Anyone who has remodeled an older wooden Key West home has seen evidence of geckos as long-term house guests. In wall cavities or beneath windowsills will be piles of gecko eggs, both broken and intact.

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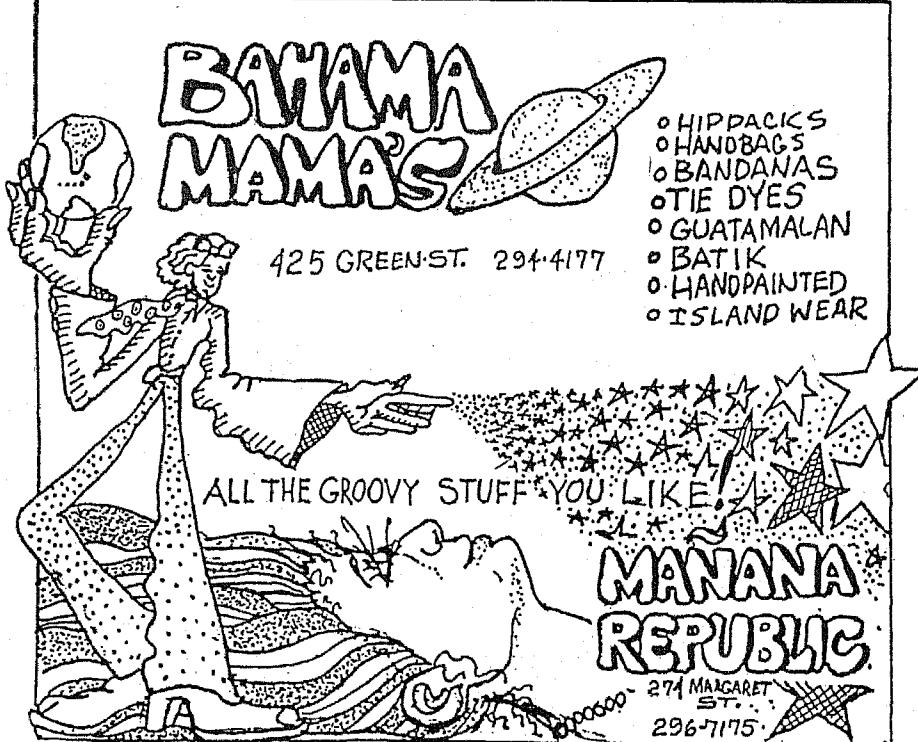
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## Nature Notebook

## Royal Poincianas Set Island Aflame

by Carl Weekly, Jr.

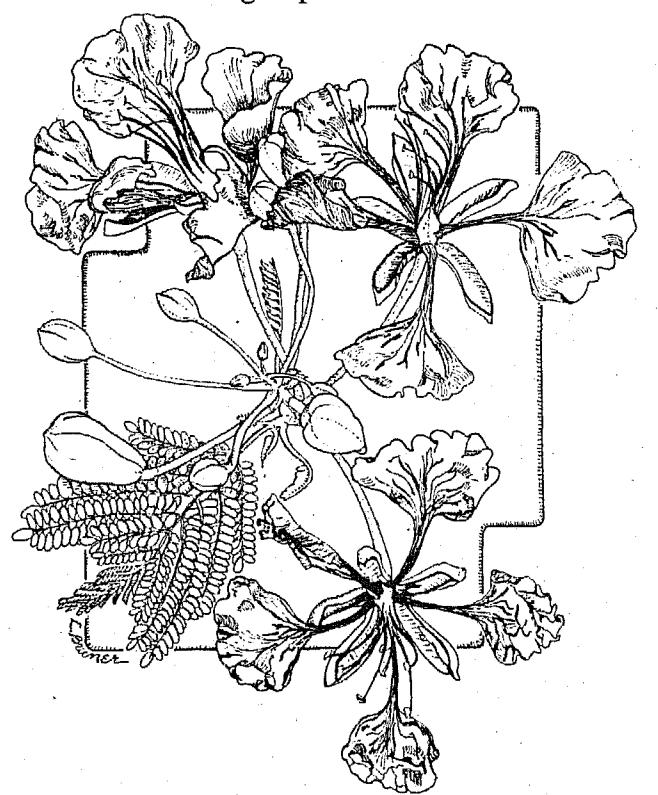
cultivated, they are pollinated by bees.

Despite its profusion of flowers, the poinciana's fruit set is sparse. Pods grow up to three feet long and contain numerous seeds. Poinciana rarely volunteers -- which means to grow from a self-sown or accidentally dropped seed -- and it is difficult to propagate because many seeds abort. The tree is deciduous. Standing leafless from November to April, the poinciana remains starkly conspicuous because of the pendulous black pods.

Over the last several years Key West has

Solares Hill • June 1990 • Page 29  
lost many royal poincianas due to land development, accident, disease or abuse. The City Landscaping Department has a policy of planting royal poincianas wherever appropriate to compensate for the losses. (Contributions to this program are gratefully accepted.)

Twelve to 15-foot, balled-and-burlapped poincianas are available through local nurseries for about \$125. To attain its glorious best, the tree needs a 30- to 40-foot spread, but requires little care after it becomes established. In the blistering days of a Key West summer, this flamboyant umbrella will do you proud. ■



der to reproduce, it is a common street and park tree in the tropics and subtropics.

A member of the large pea and bean family, Leguminosae, mature trees in South Florida are usually 20 to 30 feet tall with a wide-spreading, flat-bottomed canopy. Trees in open spaces are often broader than they are tall. Combine its growth patterns with the profuse flowering and it is easy to see why some authors liken the tree to a huge umbrella of sundry poetic hues of red.

The leaves of the royal poinciana resemble fern fronds. They are 12 to 18 inches long and *bipinnately compound* -- 12 to 20 pairs of leaf segments called *pinnae* are each divided into 50 or more tiny, oval leaflets. This type of leaf is common among legumes and accounts for the lacy appearance of the foliage of such related species as the tamarind.

The flowers occur in dense clusters and are individually large and showy. Each flower is three to four inches across with five claw-like petals -- narrow at the base where they attach to the center of the flower, but broad and crinkly at the margins. Four of the petals are flame red; the fifth, which is much larger, is mostly white bordered with red, and serves as a nectar guide for pollinators. The flowers are bisexual with 10 stamens and a pistil. In its native habitat, the royal poinciana was probably pollinated by birds, but in most areas where the tree is

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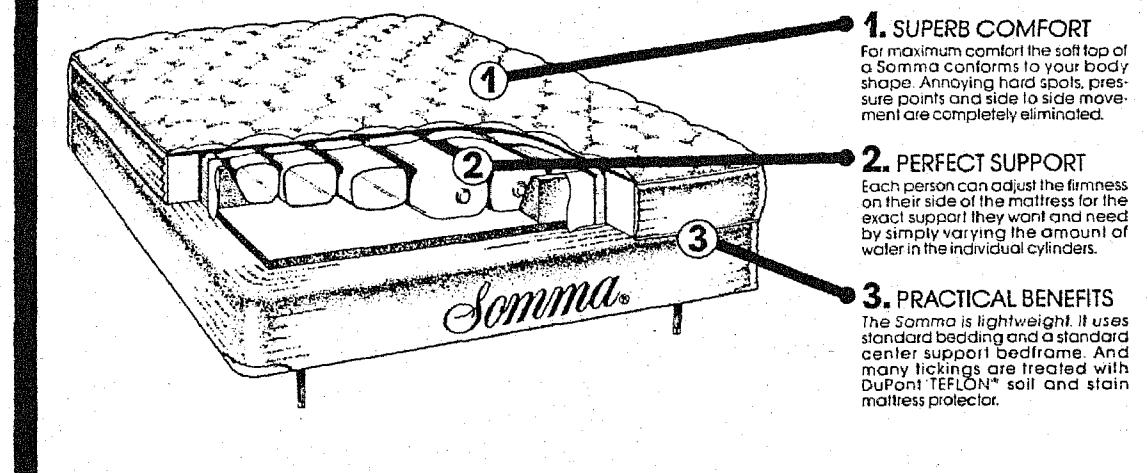
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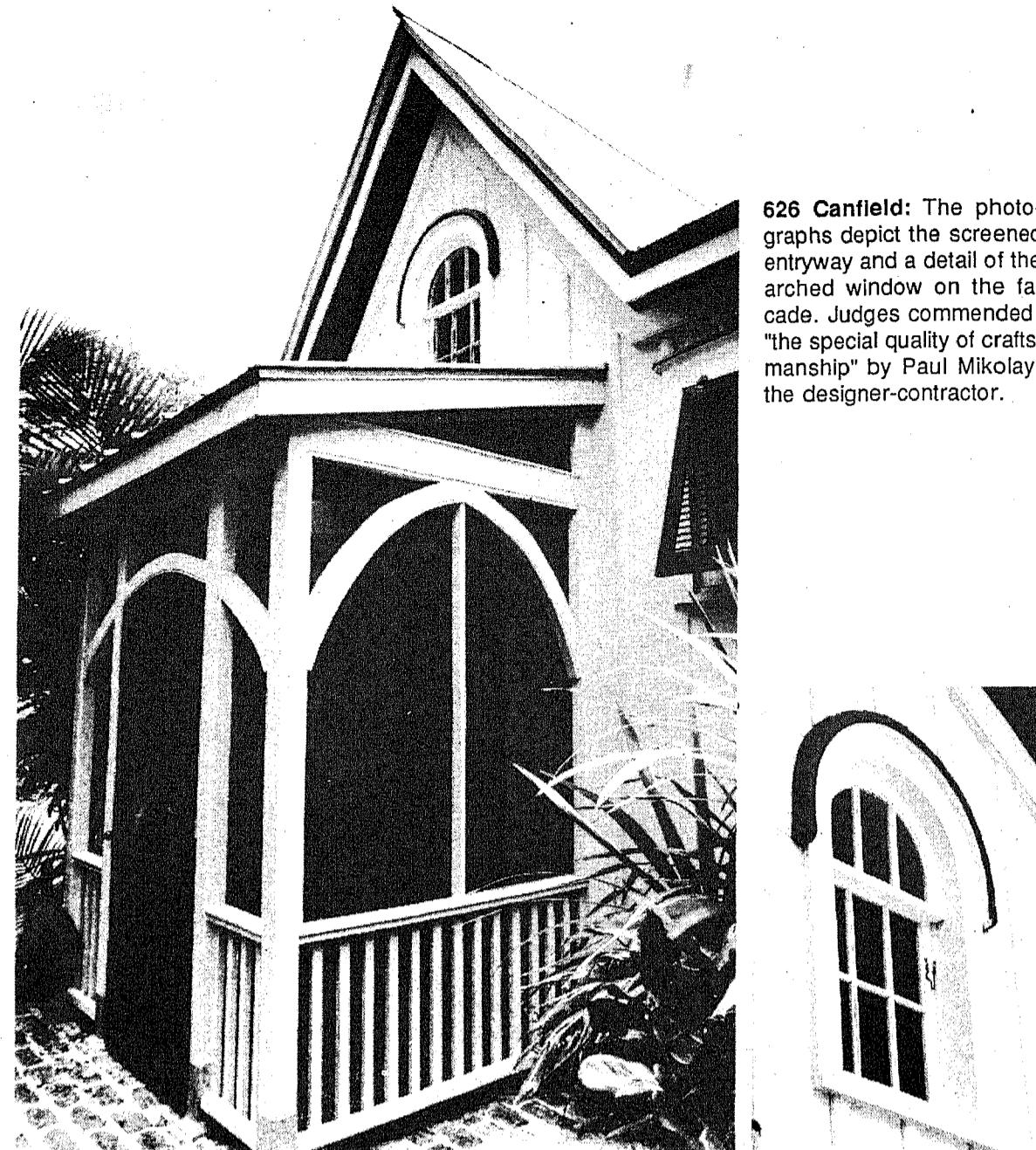
Old House Handbook

## Preservation Board Gives Awards

The Historic Florida Keys Preservation Board expanded its annual awards this year to include new construction. Work by three local architects, Bert Bender, Tom Pope and Dennis Beebe, was the first to receive recognition in this category. Awards were also presented for rehabilitation, preservation and master craftsmanship.

New work on the building at 626 Canfield, which is owned by Peter Whelan, won two awards (designer-contractor, Paul Mikolay). The addition to the historic residence was recognized for overall craftsmanship. In their award statement, jurors focused on the scale and massing of the addition in relation to the existing structure, the distinction of exterior siding, and overall interior design.

An award in the new construction category was given to for work on the Montessori Children's School at 1221 Varela (architect, Bert Bender). Gato Village at 1203 and 1205 Calais Lane won a new construction award (JB Enterprises, owners, Jaime Benavides and Joe Baert; architect, Tom Pope). The Cuban Club at 1102 and 1108 Duval won a new construction award (architect, Dennis Beebe; contractor, Golden Era Construction). In addition, two residences, one owned by the Davidsen at 6



626 Canfield: The photographs depict the screened entryway and a detail of the arched window on the facade. Judges commended "the special quality of craftsmanship" by Paul Mikolay, the designer-contractor.

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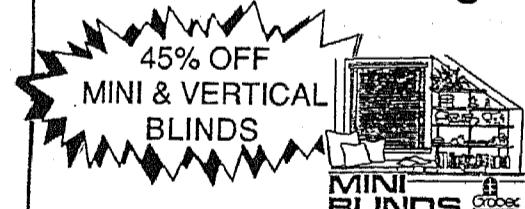
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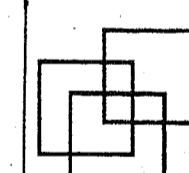
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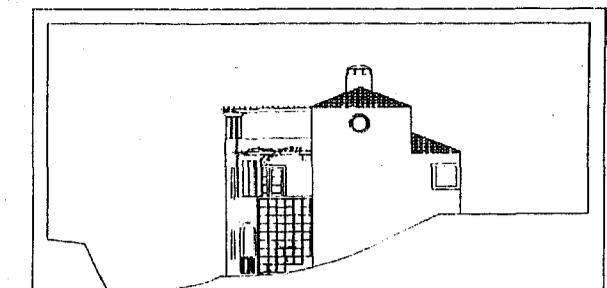


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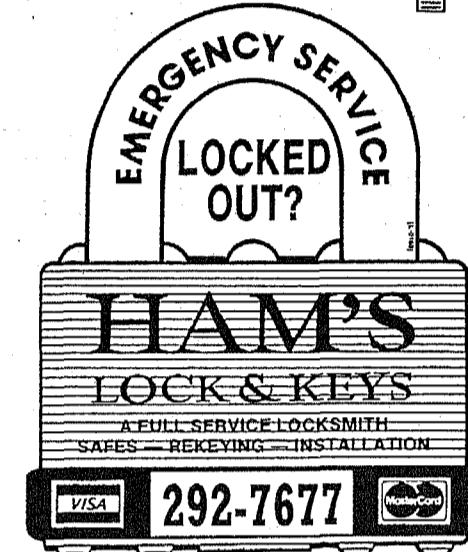
525 Margaret: The judges applauded the owners' removing a balcony and sensitive treatment of interior features and materials, particularly the return of double-hung sash windows to the residence.

and Lois Stormont, and Linda Stevenson, a Bradenton architect currently at work on Key West's Old City Hall project.



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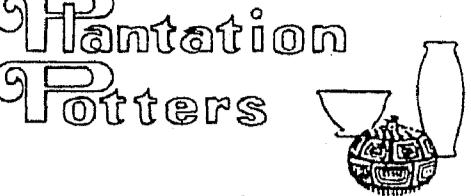
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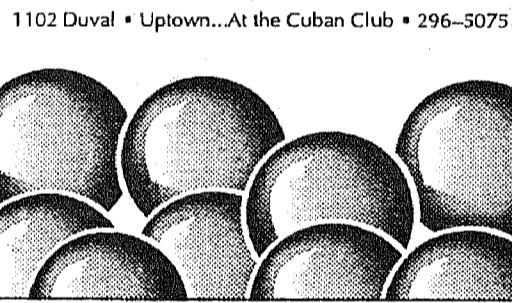
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### Art Circle

## Gaspar Mendoza Carves His Niche

by Judi Bradford

**A**s a sculptor, Gaspar Mendoza is a natural. The South American artist has no training in art. But a close look at the way he handles wood, his feeling for shapes that coax response from timber, indicates an insight into the secret life of the material. Before woodcarving, Gaspar's only similar experience had been chiseling stone for the family construction business in his native Guatemala. He is from Lago Atitlan, a 1000-foot-deep crater lake in the Central American highlands.

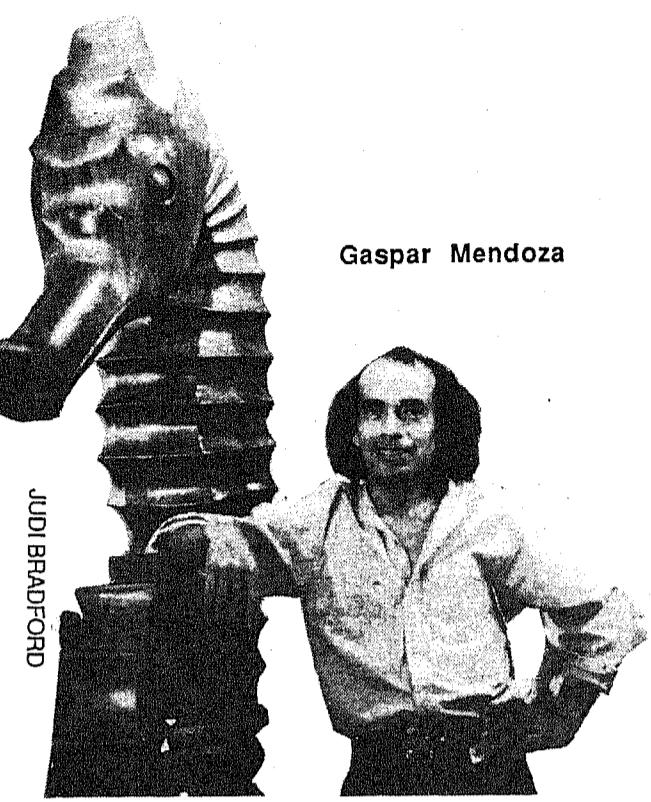
Last month Gaspar opened Gallery Mendoza in one of the new retail spaces at the foot of Whitehead Street, adjacent to the Treasure Salvors Museum. The shop is light and airy and crammed with sculpture. In addition to Gaspar's work, it carries small boxes of drawers carved by Gaspar's brother, some Jay Grant dovetail constructions, Guatemalan paintings and Gary Sibley photographs.

Key West jeweler Claude Dussel says Gaspar's artistry "comes just out of himself. He grew up in a tiny village with no museum—without anything—just himself and a few books."

Gaspar confirms art was not part of his childhood. "My family does not understand much about art. If I would do this in my village, they would think 'Who can buy this?' 'What is that for?' 'What is that?'



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Gaspar Mendoza

They look for something they can use because nobody has a house where they can put something."

Coming to Key West in the early '80s, Gaspar worked odd jobs, sometimes making mahogany frames for Gary Zimmerman's painted mirrors, other times assisting Ernesto, a Sunset artisan. Ernesto, known as much for his outrageous personality as for his zany brass creations, speaks English and Spanish—a real plus for Gaspar who, at the time, spoke no English. Even now, he says he understands only part of what he hears, although he interprets for family members who have come to the states to help in Gaspar's thriving business.

Working for Ernesto, Gaspar saw artists selling their work at Mallory Square and tried his hand at it. Claude Dussel worked Mallory in those days and observed Gaspar's first attempts. "He threw down a blanket on Mallory Square with atrocious work, he did not know how to cut wood or anything. I saw him two weeks later and his pieces were 300 times better. The progress

was so fast and there was so much thought behind it."

Claude helped Gaspar "survive in America" and offered art counseling as well. Still somewhat of a mentor to Gaspar, he has "total faith" in the woodcarver and sees great potential in his career. "When I was in Paris," Claude says in his strong Continental accent, "I was a painter. I knew Calderas, Costas, Cesar, even Giacometti. I knew these people and I know a certain quality in them. I find that in Gaspar."

"He just works hard," says Rudy Prazen, whose workshop is near Gaspar's studio on Caroline Street. "That's the secret. He's here from early morning till late at night." Prazen is known in Key West for his remarkable wood sculptures, including a giant mermaid that once reigned over the Pier House lobby. To form wood blocks from which to carve, both he and Gaspar laminate planks.

The first time Gaspar bought wood, it was a truckload of walnut from Illinois—\$16,000 worth. Now he gets most of his wood from Miami in 2-inch by 10-foot or 2-inch by 12-foot planks. Handsome burls from mahogany trees that were cut down on Simonton Street years ago, and similar pieces from trees removed for the Duval Square construction, form bases for a few of his carvings. Gaspar uses exotic woods for their color and grain: purple heart from Belize, teak, fruit woods and others.

During Fantasy Fest '82, Gaspar sold early pieces made from driftwood from the sidewalk on Duval. After a run-in with the police, he restricted sales to Mallory Square.

Carvings sold themselves, and an audience of collectors broadened. Marion Stevens carried some of his work in her Duval Street Gallery, Art Unlimited.

Gaspar also exhibited in the Key West Art Show. "People are astounded," says Florence Recher, coordinator of the sidewalk event, "at the quality and magnitude of Gaspar's work." She adds that he has won awards, including First Place two years in a row, at almost every show since he began.

Gaspar's images are predominantly sea creatures: angel fish, grouper, blue crabs, seahorses, dolphin. He has completed five abstract pieces, for which he has a special fondness, but the market here prefers his realism. His vocabulary of abstract shapes, however, speaks in the animals he portrays. Scale is enlarged, form is simplified.

These days Gaspar is doing some painting, experimenting with abstract forms in a cubist mode. On cotton fabric, he is also doing some rubbings, using woodblocks he carved with Mayan design. But first and foremost comes the carving—an empire of Gaspar's which is clearly expanding.

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• Story must be original & unpublished • Hemingway style not criterion for judging • 2500 word maximum • Entries typewritten, double spaced • Official Entry Form (below) must be completely filled out (3 x 5 card is acceptable with all information included) • Name & address must not appear on manuscript, only the title of the story • Manuscripts will not be returned • A \$10.00 entry fee and entry form must accompany each story • All entries must be received by July 9, 1990.

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## North End of Whitehead

by Judi Bradford

Walking along the north end of Whitehead Street these days is like touring the Western Hemisphere. Within a single block, art enthusiasts may buy or simply admire Spanish artifacts at the Treasure Museum, English and American antiques at the Audubon House, Southwestern contemporary art at Santa Fe, crafts from Central and South America and the Caribbean.

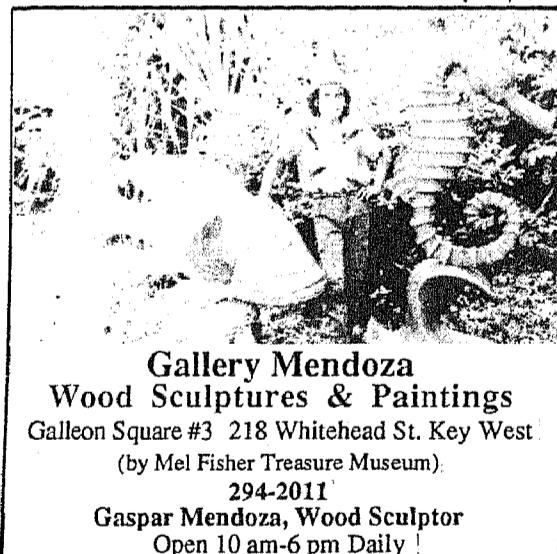
Gallery Mendoza features Gaspar Mendoza's wood sculptures, paintings from his native Guatemala and Mayan rubbings. One of the new shops in the newly renovated Galleon Square, it is adjacent to Mel Fisher's Treasure Salvor's Museum at the end of Greene Street.

Lorelei is Mendoza's neighbor to the south. Eighty-five percent of the merchandise in this gift shop is artist-made. Though none of the artists represented are local, many live in Florida. Generous wet watercolors of tropical fauna by Pat Madden, Key West scenes in prints by Bill Borough, Rick Hill prints and originals, handmade paper and clay pieces by Peggy Banks Otto, and June Decker etchings comprise the two-dimensional art. The novel crafts, copper fountains and wind chimes, blown glass are charming.

To the other side of Gallery Mendoza, Rainforest sells crafts from Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, South American and the Caribbean. Their weavings show true artistry. Flexible wooden snakes, gators and whales are painted to look realistic. Boxes with Haitian animal scenes, fruits and vegetables, airplane vases (with airplants)—all these make attractive accents. They also carry clay vessels, cornstarch dolls, jewelry and rosewood collectibles.

Claude's Bounty is closest to Treasure Salvors of these new shops. Owner Claude Dussel is a jeweler, specializing in handsome handmade chains with irregular links. Using 18-karat gold and silver, Claude designs free-form stone settings and boldly forged belts and necklaces. His shop is also a treasure outlet for piece-of-eight boudoirs.

Then, of course, there is the Treasure Salvors Museum with the bounty from *Nuestra Señora de la Atocha*. Its proper



Gallery Mendoza  
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Galleon Square #3 218 Whitehead St. Key West  
(by Mel Fisher Treasure Museum)  
294-2011  
Gaspar Mendoza, Wood Sculptor  
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## JUNE ART CALENDAR

**Art Collections Key West**  
• Hawaiian artist James H. O'Neill will be painting Caribbean scenes on site during June. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 600 Front Street in the Bottling Court. 296-5956.

**Art Unlimited** • Oldest private art gallery in Key West. First to carry Haitian art. "I go in after it." Daily, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. 217 Duval St., 296-5625.

**Audubon House** • *Children of the House*, photographs of the children who grew up in the Audubon House during the 19th century, now through the summer; \$5 admission, children under 6 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** • Clay work by Lee Dodez and others. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon; weekends whenever. 901 Duval St., rear, 296-5901.

**East Bank Gallery** • Paintings by local artists, limited edition prints, pottery, custom framing and art furniture. Open daily from 10 a.m. or by appointment. 706 White Street. 296-2679.

**East Martello Museum & Gallery** • *Remember the Maine*, one of the best collections of Maine memorabilia in the U.S.: flags, photos, artifacts from the Captain's quarters. Also Howard England model of the Maine. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for non-members. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

**Farrington Art Gallery** • Greg Biolchini pastels; Igor Galanin bunnies and strawberries. New Antique Room of framed antique prints. Thursday through Saturday and Monday, Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Wednesday and Sunday. Gallery and framing by ap-

pointment also. 711 Duval St. 294-6911.

**Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery** • The Best of Monroe County High School Art, through mid-June. June 29 through August 3, four women artists in various media. Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

**Nancy Forrester Gallery** • Antique prints of plants, and animals: 1890 to 1890. Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 518 Elizabeth Street, 294-015.

**Galerie Moderne** • Closed for the summer. 516 Amelia St., 296-3156.

**Gallery Mendoza** • Wood sculptures and wood-framed paintings by Gaspar Mendoza and others. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 218 Whitehead St. 294-2011.

**Gingerbread Square Gallery** • Our regular stable of artists. Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 901 Duval St., 296-8900.

**Great Southern Gallery** • Sensuous figure drawings by Evie Baskin. New works by Gay Cunningham. Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St., 294-6660.

**Guild Hall Gallery** • Drawings, paintings, prints, soft sculpture, cartoons, printed and hand-painted cards, ceramics, T-shirts, leather bags, photography, painted mirrors, stained glass and ironwork by 16 Key West artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Evenings sometimes. 614 Duval St., 296-6076.

**Haitian Art Company** • Paintings, wood sculpture, paper mache, metal cutouts by Haitian artists. Open in Key West daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St., 296-8932.

**Harrison Gallery** • Paintings, photographs, sculpture and crafts by local artists. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 825 White St., 294-0609.

**Is It Art** • Hand-painted art-work, prints and wall-hangings. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 913 Duval St., 294-0411.

**Kennedy Studios** • Graphics, limited-edition prints. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., 133 Duval St.,

294-5850; daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 716 Duval St., 292-0215; and a new store at 511 Duval St., 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 294-8564.

**Key West Art Center** • Edna Damron acrylics and watercolors, June 1 through 15; Nurith Gordan watercolors, June 15 through 29; Florence Recher watercolors and acrylics, June 29 into August. Also, members' work. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St., 294-1241.

**Lane Gallery** • Beth Nablo, to June 10. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Duval St., 294-0067.

**Lucky Street Gallery** • New paintings and constructions by Roberta Marks. New watercolors by Tom Colbert. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 919 Duval St., 294-3973.

**Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters** • Metal sculpture by Tom Joris. Back country paintings and prints by Michael Shannon. Bird prints by Marianne Bauerlein. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1107 Duval St., 296-6124.

**Parker Chase Gallery** • Oils by Sherrill Chase, antique furnishings, quilts, collectibles. 1024 Truman Ave. 296-0706.

**Adam Peck Designs** • International folk art, ethnic musical instruments, tapestries, toys, oriental rugs and kilims. Also, Adam's Island and African inspired furniture. Daily, noon to 5:30 p.m. 534 Fleming St. 294-3771.

**Plantation 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. Daily, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. 524 Rose Lane, 294-2270.

**Santa Fe** • Southwestern art, jewelry and furniture. Open noon to dark, Thursday through Tuesday; closed Wednesday. 219 Whitehead Street. 294-0397.

**Whitehead Street Pottery** • Stoneware, porcelain, Raku vessels. Daily except Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1011 Duval St., 294-5067.

name is Mel Fisher's Maritime Heritage Society, and it exhibits authentic gold treasure salvaged from the 16th century Spanish trading ship wrecked near Key West.

Across Whitehead Street stands the Audubon House, former home of Capt. John J. Geiger, a harbor pilot and master wrecker. Now owned by the Mitchell Wolfsen family and administered by the Florida Audubon Society, it has been restored to its 19th century elegance. Antiques, Audubon lithographs, tropical gardens and rare porcelains are among the delights to be savored there.

Around the corner on Greene Street is Silvermine South, an anachronistic boutique which carries Rawcliffe limited-edition pewter keepsakes in Renaissance themes,

and the last two pewter chess sets based on Dungeons and Dragons fantasies. A Merlin castle and wood nymphs carved from cypress by Robert Wazelle, intricately crafted jewelry, painted eggs, crystals and fetishes continue the sorcerous atmosphere.

Down Whitehead Street a bit is Santa Fe, an appealing little gallery of Southwestern arts. A peek through the windows reveals strikingly colorful sculptures and crafts combining native American and contemporary elements. Inside, wonderful wood furniture, energetic sculptures and metal cutouts in desert designs grace the gallery space. Santa Fe also carries the paintings of two women who specialize in desert scenes. It's been difficult to catch this shop open, so call first.

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## Infinite Tolerance: Rethinking Reggae

by Christine Naughton

No, no, no man—you can't drill no hole  
 No, no, no man—not even for your liquid gold  
 No, no, no man—precious are the Keys so few  
 No, no, no man—there'll be disaster 'fore you're through

Oil and Water Don't Mix  
Steve Murphy

With its Caribbean sidestreet decor, Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville on Duval Street seems a logical backdrop for Key West's own reggae band, Infinite Tolerance. Indeed, on a recent evening marking its first appearance in that cafe, the group looked in its element on the small stage tucked into the back wall. While the guys tuned up, the room filled to about half with locals and tourists, evenly mixed.

Infinite Tolerance provides a thoroughly enjoyable musical experience. There are no weak links here; each musician is a consummate professional doing exactly what he does best. Collectively, their writing is fresh, intelligent and frank—they don't speak "down" to their audience.

The set spun off with "Holy Wedding Invitation," an original reggae tune by Steve Murphy, the band's synthesizer, saxophone and flute player. On this one, drummer Devon Thompson kicked the *skank*—steady bass drum emphasis on the third beat of each measure, which creates



KEVIN CREAM

Jamming to Island rhythms: Infinite Tolerance band members Keith Ricks, Tim McAlpine, Steve Murphy and Devon Thompson (from left) set up for another Key West gig.

the heart of reggae rhythm. Murphy sang the melody line, with Thompson and bassist Keith Ricks contributing backup harmonies, and took an abbreviated solo on tenor sax between choruses.

Infinite Tolerance is anything but shy about its political philosophies, expressing them through songs such as "Man on the Street," another original by Ricks. In this piece about the homeless, Ricks handled the lead vocal, emphasizing his rich, full tenor and perfect diction. Every word was understood in this heartfelt tune which asks: "Is there no one asking why?" With Murphy playing tenor sax fills between choruses and steady rhythm coming from McAlpine, Thompson and Ricks, this song's message is impossible to ignore, and rightly so.

Again, Murphy's dramatic tendency was evident, as he delivered a rhythmic, spoken plea in a sort of reggae rap, "Eco-madness, sludge and waste / oil derricks, Arab states / mile-long tankers block our view / oil slicks—the danger's true."

At this point, the guys tried to announce a well-deserved break, but the crowd was in a veritable frenzy after that last tune, refusing to let them leave the stage without playing one more. The encore choice was brilliant—a reggae cover of Zager and Evans' 1969 release, "2525." Remember this one: "In the year 2525 / if man is still alive / if woman can survive / they may find ..." A hot tune still, after 20 years, it asks: Where are we going? Where will it end?

Thompson, who is a former member of Jamaica's "Jah Children" and possesses the most authentic reggae voice, sang lead during a cover of one of Bob Marley's most famous compositions, "Three Little Birds. "Don't you worry / 'bout a ting 'cause every little ting / is gonna be alright." Thompson produced excellent vocal improvisation toward the end of the piece. Too bad he didn't sing more lead.

"Oh Jah Free Us," another Murphy original, opened with a prodigious, somewhat ominous bass line on synthesizer, with McAlpine's guitar fills lightening the tone after several bars. This tune illustrates

Murphy's flare for the dramatic—some of his musical ideas definitely have rock opera overtones. Reminiscent of Lloyd-Webber and Rice's *Jesus Christ Superstar*—big, loud punches and hushed pauses, it was an impressive and well-executed piece.

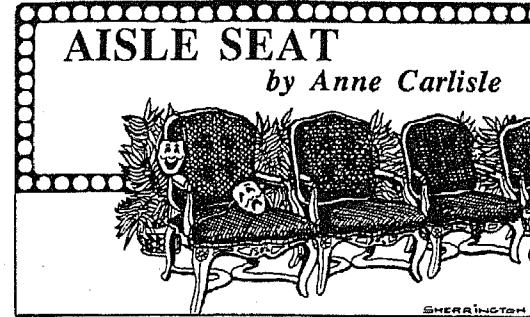
Back to politics with Murphy's "Oil and Water Don't Mix." As the title implies, this is a song protesting oil drilling and exploration in the Florida Keys, and it minces no words, delivering the message: Don't even think of drilling here. This is one of the band's showcase pieces, and with lead sung by Murphy and another beautiful solo by McAlpine, it was quite effective.

Again, Murphy's dramatic tendency was evident, as he delivered a rhythmic, spoken plea in a sort of reggae rap, "Eco-madness, sludge and waste / oil derricks, Arab states / mile-long tankers block our view / oil slicks—the danger's true."

At this point, the guys tried to announce a well-deserved break, but the crowd was in a veritable frenzy after that last tune, refusing to let them leave the stage without playing one more. The encore choice was brilliant—a reggae cover of Zager and Evans' 1969 release, "2525." Remember this one: "In the year 2525 / if man is still alive / if woman can survive / they may find ..." A hot tune still, after 20 years, it asks: Where are we going? Where will it end?

After what became a purely funky treatment of 2525, with some cool vocal interaction between Ricks and Murphy and exciting bass and tenor sax solos, the band segued smoothly into War's "Galaxy," for the last tune of this fantastic set.

"Jah bless us every one! Watch the telephone poles and listen to the coconut hotline to catch Infinite Tolerance regularly around town and up the Keys. Do it soon.



In her introduction to *Gypsy*, the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, Whoopi Goldberg makes the point that *Gypsy* was "a true artist" who took calculated risks by combining unrelated traditions into a new form. The stripper bumped and nudged her audiences into re-examining their assumptions about highbrow and lowbrow, about the connections among sex, brains and money. "Which proves," states the inimitable Whoopi, "that no matter what you do, as long as you do it with class and style, it's acceptable in a tight-ass world."

During the past season the Waterfront Players have attempted to bring avant-garde theater to Key West. With offerings such as *Psycho Beach Party* and "Lyspina," they seemed to be approaching their mission in the same way Gypsy Rose Lee did, with swerve and verve. Sometimes they got away with it, sometimes not; audiences for the most part stayed away, and that is a disappointment, though hopefully not a discouragement for future attempts.

The Waterfront's closing effort this season, *El Salvador*, represents another kind of reach—one which, alas, falls short of its aspirations. Only the most sophisticated theatergoer foregoes "Twin Peaks" and shells out his 12 or so bucks in hopes of being shaken up. (Also, only the very best of America's playwrights is able to evoke real emotions; Wendy Wasserstein's *Heidi Chronicles*, for instance, is a play which has the power to change a person's life while entertaining. But even in New York City this experience is a rare one.)

Sometimes when the artist has "been there" the work is heavy-handed. *El Salvador*, Rafael Lima's drama about television journalists undone by the daily luridness of Third World corruption and civil war, is based on the Cuban-American's own experiences as a news correspondent. The emotional content of *El Salvador* is thickly laid, yet thinly realized by the actors and insufficiently felt by the audience. Perhaps because they follow fight scenes which seem out of control, the scenes in which the six men flash back to personal losses have a deadening effect.

The result is a kind of emotional roller coaster, rather than a gradual building toward the dramatic climax, in which Fuller, a photographer played by Ira Howard, reveals that the young boy gunned down in his footage was going to get his camera bag.

"We got bang-bang," shout the men at each other when receiving news of U. S. bombardment. The supporting special effects by light designer David Bird and sound designer Dan Simpson are excellent; one feels the tremor and sees the lights

flicker as the ground heaves. The set design by Darryl Marzyck also creates the illusion of disturbances in the field.

However, the experience as a whole is not so disturbing as it is meant to be. This is because the acting and the script never quite coalesce. George Gugliotti, a fine actor, is simply not convincing in the role of a sadistic womanizer. Too bad that director Rae Coates, who has had positive influences on local theater, returns to his native England on such a dreary note—not a bang, but a whimper.

Part of the challenge for a company lies in knowing and even perhaps educating its audience. A typical theatergoer's tolerance for provocation doesn't come overnight; audiences require some training. The Red Barn Theatre over the past few years has done a good job of defining to its audience what it is they do—and then doing it.

A few years ago, the Red Barn put on *Coyote Ugly*, a challenging and first-rate production. The group's most recent venture, *Greater Tuna*, works the same mine but in a safer vein. Tourists from Ft. Lauderdale who walked out on *Coyote* probably would have stayed the course with *Tuna*, a quirky spoof on small town bigotry. Bigotry, after all, is easier to take than than incest.

In *Tuna*, as in the Waterfront's latest production, we see the media in action—in this case, two cornball radio announcers (reminiscent of the real-life types who do the farm report in the bread-basket states.) Actors Tom Rhatigan and Gordon Mackey veer toward campiness in their impersonations of the townspeople, who range from the psychotic to the dumb. Mackey, having more mugs than Dansk, as a friend says, was more than up to the female impersonations in the play. One-liners were delivered with the kind of up-and-out panache that the School of the Ridiculous requires: "Yeah, her hips are so big she has to lay down on the bed and groan into her jeans."

Rhatigan was also funny; however, his delivery was suspiciously reminiscent of the style he developed in *Boys Next Door*, the Barn's previous production. This raises the question of whether the Red Barn's stable of engaging but aging hippies is challenging itself enough. *Tuna* was chosen at the last minute, after director Richard Magesis was unable to cast *Irma Vep*. Some new faces, some broader reaches, might be in order.

With this said, an unadulterated—not to mention adult-rated—pleasure awaits Key

Westers whose hindquarters are not overly retentive. With the exception of some background music that grated on the nerves in the first act and some dead spots in the second, *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune*, now playing at the Barn provided one of the finest and most moving performances delivered recently by seasoned actors John Wells (Johnny) and Susan Hawkens (Frankie), under the attentive direction of Joy Hawkins.

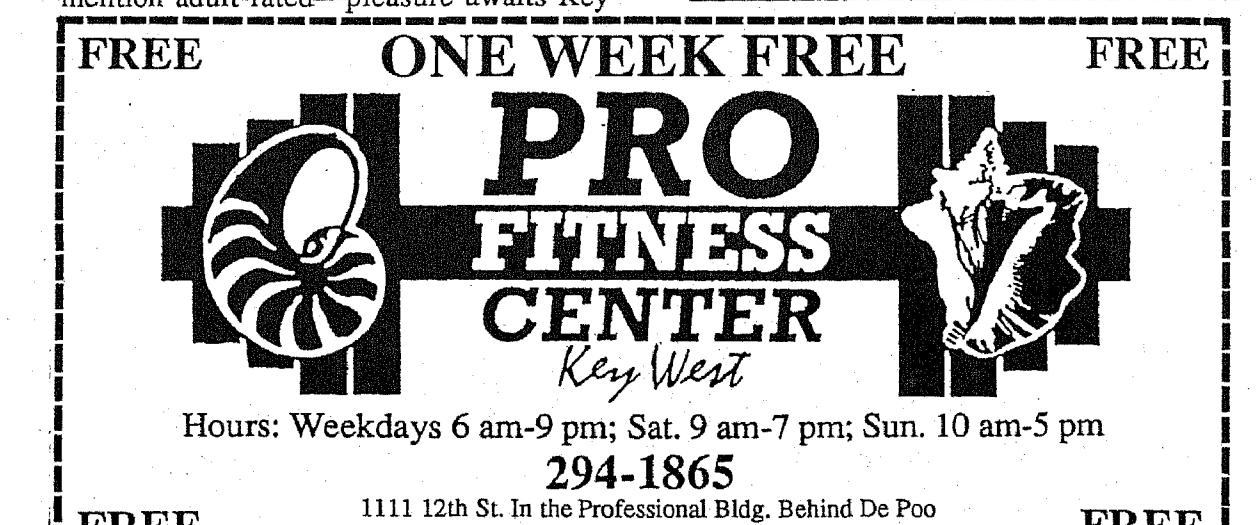
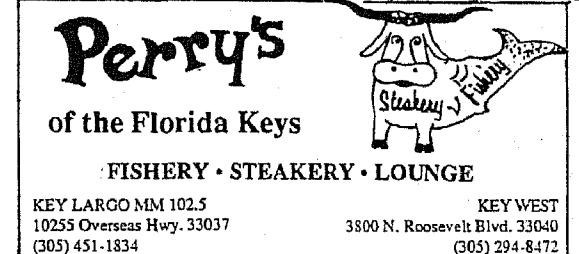
Right down to the toaster, everything works, beginning with Terence McNally's lyrical, wonderfully funny script. McNally has a Wasserstein-like capacity to probe modern love with a surgeon's sharp eye and a Jewish mother's hopeful attitude. *Frankie and Johnny* are lovers—whether for the night or for a lifetime is the question. Co-workers in a New York grille, they are also, by coincidence, both born in Allentown,

He says: "I want you to notice how we're connecting."

She says: "It isn't how a sandwich gets made."

Is he a creep? Or is she undercutting the real thing, a man who can give his heart away? The disparity that exists in all human relationships is persistently examined. Aghast at Johnny's passionate declarations of love, Frankie tries to explain her skepticism: "It's like if you sent me a million roses. I would be impressed but I wouldn't know what to do with 'em."

Considering the sex and nudity, the roles are physically as well as mentally challenging, but the actors are up to them, only occasionally stepping on each other's lines and consistently at ease with their bodies. A must see—but leave the kiddies at home.



## The Boys Next Door

MARC House residents lead secure, productive lives

by Barbara Moss

Some consider MARC Key West's place to buy a Christmas tree or a plant outlet which sells greenery for the deck. Others, such as neighbors near Windsor and Amelia Streets, are used to seeing MARC house residents and their dog sitting on the front porch at twilight. And there are those who, encountering these childlike men cleaning the grounds at the cemetery or making a run to a local store, simply avert their eyes.

The Monroe Association for Retarded Adults, Inc. (MARC) has been the principal provider of services to developmentally disturbed adults—another name for mentally *retarded*, not mentally *ill*—in Monroe County for 22 years. MARC is an extended family: the parent figures and the kids, the home and its structure, the bills and how they are paid, the rules and the recreation, the teaching and the learning, and finally the love, commitment and pride that make it all work.

MARC executive director Don Moore is a soft-spoken man with a trace of a Hoosier accent who says the private, non-profit organization is led by a team of several equally paid and equally ranked administrators. They include Moore, workshop manager Mark Lindas, client services coordinator Diana Flenard and administrative assistant David Stotts. The group's home manager, Albert Fouet, died recently, causing much sorrow among the residents. A 35-member board of directors, headed by president Sally Parr, provides the balance among parents of clients, professionals and other interested friends.

Prior to the deinstitutionalization of mental facilities 14 years ago, MARC was a volunteer service which supported developmentally disabled children and those who were not doing well in public schools. Today MARC is best known for its group home in which, according to Moore,

formerly institutionalized adults have the opportunity to live in a more normal environment.

To qualify as a client, an individual must have been retarded from birth, or if brain damage is the source of disability it must have occurred prior to the age of 18. A potential client must complete an elaborate Health and Rehabilitative Services application and evaluation process to be accepted into the program. Funds for services are not necessarily provided by the families of the applicants; technically, parents of the developmentally disadvantaged are not responsible for their sons or daughters beyond the age of 21.

### The world of the "profound borderline"

The most dramatic evidence of MARC's work is the group residential home at 1106 Windsor Lane, where 15 full-time adult males are supervised and nurtured 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Ranging in age from 19 to 63, they are categorized as "profound borderline," with IQs ranging from 20 to 69. Though Moore is quick to point out that there may be inaccuracies in these measurements due to the impaired verbalization skills of the retarded, he does characterize their capabilities as "those of a three-year-old child with 30 years of experience."

An extra bed is available for "rotational respite" for community clients. Seen as a reward or special treat by the clients, this accommodation is offered to help out during temporary difficulties. The group home is



In the kitchen: William Castro, Allan Perry and Scott Hart (from left) mingle at mealtime. now filled to capacity. There is no waiting list, in contrast to comparable agencies in Florida, which often have waiting lists in the hundreds and a waiting period of up to several years.

The Day Training Workshop in the former Harris School serves residents of the group home as well as 11 clients, from as far away as Big Pine Key, who are picked up at their homes each morning by the intrepid executive director and then returned at the end of the day by another staff member in the MARC station wagon.

"The work ethic," says Moore, "is absolutely the vital core of everything we do with our clients. Good, clean work helps our guys with their sense of identity—whether planting seeds and watching them grow or sweeping. They have the same sense of accomplishment as a working person earning \$40,000 a year."

The day program runs from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The nursery and horticulture program, which provides sheltered work for both the severely impaired and the more capable clients who need work adjustment training, is what's visible to the public. Wholesale sales to local landscapers and plant retailers have supported this facet of the program.

The retail plant outlet attracts members of the community to the facility and provides social and business interaction for the clients. The client-cum-salesman greets the browser with an offer to "get someone" for more information or help.

The Southard Street program may be the permanent worksite for a client, or it may be a steppingstone to an off-site job. Some workers maintain a portion of the cemetery through a contract with the city. Others move out into the business community and end up working successfully over the years for supportive island employers. MARC residents can be seen helping out at the Lighthouse Museum, groundskeeping for the School Board, and working at the Ocean Key House and Hukilau.

One of the men has been employed at the



Porch gathering: David Avery, Neal Dovall, Andre Levy, Larry McKinzy, James Zades and Louis LaBose (from left) chewing the fat at the MARC group home on Windsor Street.

CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

Bird's Nest for several years. Jimmy Weekley of Fausto's Food Palace says about his MARC employee of four years, "Alvin's a good employee, more dependable than most. He's always here, even when he hasn't been feeling well. He has come to work [so sick] we had to send him home."

"Excuse me?" I ask.  
"You're pretty," Billy says.

The private segment of the training consists of classes in academics, arts and crafts, community awareness, physical education, personal grooming, recreation and leisure, and coaching in banking and shopping. The workers are paid for their labor and are responsible for their own budgets.

From it appear the breakfast waffles and supper casseroles. A hot lunch is served at the day program.

The rooms in the main house of the compound are for those men who have lower levels of independent living skills or who need medication. The three outer buildings have single and double apartment-like rooms for those who can live more independently. The rooms are decorated as an adolescent boy's might be—with posters, artwork and stereos. We compliment Milton on his artwork—three birds, each fashioned from Milton's thumbprint, on the branch of a tree. MILTON is printed carefully on the bottom in huge block letters.

The grounds are well-lighted. There is a picnic table, grill, basketball hoop and the family dog, trusty sentinel. An abandoned mutt, she adopted the guys working at the cemetery. She's named Mary Grace for the resident of the final resting place over which she was found. This Mary Grace is uncommonly protective of her charges.

On this evening, the men were excited and apprehensive as they packed for the trip to the Spring Special Olympics in Miami. In

Antonia Krzykalski, one of the two senior employees, was recently named the National Council on Aging's Senior Community Service Employment Program's Older Worker of the Year. As a MARC aide, the 70-ish Polish immigrant helps to train the men in such self-help skills as cleaning rooms, preparing meals and learning proper table manners.

From the outside, the home on Windsor Lane is a simple restored Conch house—neat, tidy and trim. Several men sit on the front porch, drinking diet cola. They seem to be absorbed in private reveries, watching the stranger with restrained curiosity. Some of them are very outgoing; others, Moore says, are only "superficially friendly."

"If they see real interest," Moore says, "like children they run to hide behind mama's skirts. Strangers at the door may want to talk 'big-people talk,' and this

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brings about a sense of wariness."

Not Billie. He could well be MARC's official greeter. We shake hands six times.

Then he announces, "You're pretty."

"Excuse me?" I ask.

"You're pretty," Billie says again. A middle-aged ego is stroked. We shake on it.

Another man wanders over and wants to chat. I don't understand a word he says. He repeats himself, over and over. Jane Cook, group home counselor and acting manager, understands every word. Her patience, warmth and humor seem endless.

The visitor is struck immediately by the tidiness of the home. Furnishings are sparse, but pictures decorate the walls, and there are the omnipresent TV and VCR. *World Wrestling* and *MTV* are popular. *Star Wars*, *The Karate Kid* and *Star Trek* are among the favorite videos. The heart of the home, the kitchen, is spotless. From it appear the breakfast waffles and supper casseroles. A hot lunch is served at the day program.

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the main house, Herb rushes to catch up—he has just changed his mind and decided to make the trip after all. Cook stops to check his packing. There is a haunting portrait on the wall. Herb says it is a picture of his mother. There are two equally impressive pictures of his father. Congratulated, Herb simply nods and continues silently going through his dresser drawers.

Residents are encouraged to interact with each other

During weekdays, the house is virtually empty. The men are off to their jobs at Southard Street. But from 4 p.m. to midnight, the house springs into action. During intensive therapy and training, which occurs from 4 to 8 p.m., residents are encouraged to interact with each other and within the community, rather than be reclusive in their rooms. Lately, a number of birthdays have been celebrated.

Weekends are filled with recreation. There are trips to Boca Chica for bowling, to a local video arcade, to the movies. The guys may be treated to supper at The Deli. They share island activities and celebrations with the rest of Key West. And, of course, there are those daily runs to the store for the

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staff of life: a candy bar.

Days are also the time to complete assigned chores around the compound: helping in the kitchen, mopping and sweeping, picking up palm fronds. All have responsibilities.

Moore is asked about the conspicuous absence of retarded women in the Group Home. This, we are told, is a holdover from the lack of co-ed facilities. Further, it has been traditional for the parents of retarded women to care for their daughters at home. Typically more docile and easily managed, they stay under the watchful eyes of their parents and learn homemaking skills. Retarded men, on the other hand, tend to be louder and more active. At the time of deinstitutionalization, public institutions were full of these men, several of whom are now happily ensconced on Windsor Lane, after having spent more than half their lives behind locked doors.

Cook and I sit at the picnic table in the early darkness. It grows cooler, and she sniffs. One of the men stops and asks, "Are you sick? Are you crying?"

"No," she assures him. "Everything's fine."

The personalized, high level of services provided by MARC bears a high price tag. The state average for community-based facilities such as MARC is said to be around

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\$15,000 per year per client; MARC averages approximately \$17,500 for an all-client average. Though Key West is an extremely supportive community, Moore points out that "there's a lot of money involved in our operations and services."

"Clearly we're not in it for the money!"

The five managers are paid, according to Moore, less than a first-year schoolteacher gets. "Clearly, we're not in it for the money," Moore says. The higher pay emphasis is on the lower end of the staff: the lowest staff wage is \$6.69 per hour, which has made for low turnover in a vacation where burnout is common.

Where does the money come from? According to Moore, HRS contracts account for more than 55 percent of expenses. The balance comes from "an amazing combination of a little of this and a little of that," says Moore. The sale of Christmas trees has been the largest single income-producing activity, contributing more than six-and-a-half percent of the budget. Monroe County contracts added over five-and-a-half percent; United Way almost a percent and a half; and the City of Key West, including the cemetery project, seven percent.

Miscellaneous donations, including fundraisers, add three percent; and an assortment of food stamps, contracts and sales to the public add the final 19 percent. MARC has hopes that its retail plant outlet will soon become a legitimate income-producing activity. Sales have increased virtually every week.

The constant scramble for funding in the face of escalating operating costs and the

high cost of living in Monroe County hasn't stopped Moore from other plans. He'd like to establish a group home for women in the Upper Keys, offering special care and placing Group Home residents in the more independent setting of apartment houses.

Back in the MARC office, the conversation drifts back to the endearing quality of innocence of "the guys." "These are the most innocent people I have ever been around," Moore says. "Even by the age of three, most youngsters are jaundiced by the process of acquiring identity. I think that, somehow or other, innocence is a very important part of being a human being. As a basis of curiosity, it's part of the learning process—trying things that may not work out."

After seven and a half years with MARC, Moore, former art education department chairman for the University of Indiana and self-described "education generalist," expresses deep concern for the future funding of health services. The constant shifting in federal, state and local priorities, Moore says, "decreases the availability of energies and dollars to simply care for the less fortunate of our society." On the community level, he fears that in five or ten years "greater pressure may fall on the same generous and conspicuous shoulders who donate their resources to promote our work."

Moore and his staff struggle to build a "space within a small universe" for their guys, a space with "dignity and a sense of belonging." They continue to stress the credibility and worth of the service they offer.

Expressing gratitude to the community for its ongoing support, and proud of its work, the MARC family looks forward to the time when a more civilized means to care for their people becomes a graceful reality.

MARC pledges to its clients a safe and secure home; a high level of health and nutrition; guidance, education, training and help in all areas of need; friendship and a sense of family; the promotion of self-respect and concern for one another; accomplishment as the basis of self-worth and pride; and the development of values beyond immediate material gain. These goals are light-years away from the institutionalized existence provided not long ago to this country's mentally retarded.

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## Business Briefs

In an effort to support the television and movie industry in the Keys, The Advertising Agency announces the addition of its new casting, model and talent services. The Florida Film Bureau, Columbia Pictures, Orion Productions and MGM are among companies that will send the agency's casting material. Registration is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at the agency's 724 Simonton Street address. For information call 296-1843.

Artist Bruce Zabov's company, Decorative Paint Finishes, offers the owner's talents in specialized painted finished. Zabov's painted marble and wood grain can be seen at T.L. Marbles and Hair West. Les Bisoues de France, which will open in the Cuban Club, will be decorated with Zabov's white *faux marbre* floors embellished at the entrance with *trompe l'oeil* bikini panties and a long-stemmed rose in matching hot pink. For appointment call 296-7744.

For the first time since 1962, the Florida Keys played host to the Florida Outdoor Writers Association's annual conference last month. The five-day conference was based at Cheeca Lodge on Islamorada and featured reports by government officials and environmental experts on ecological concerns and areas of interest to the outdoors enthusiast. Sponsors included Budweiser, Key Largo and Marathon Chambers of Commerce and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

The Reach has named Connie Cantrell, an employee of the resort since it opened five years ago, employee of the year. Contrell, who is night supervisor for turn-down service, received \$250 in cash and a roundtrip ticket to Mexico from Pan Am airlines. Management helped Cantrell celebrate by putting on a talent show.

Keys Dry Cleaners announces the opening of its new store in Perry Plaza, next to McDonald's restaurant, on North Roosevelt Boulevard. Owners Betsy Hurst and Steve Cupery have been offering quality dry cleaning in their Marathon location for almost two years. Open seven days a week, the new store may be reached at 292-1112.

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Offering services to adults and children, Dr. John A. Hughes-Papsidoro has opened a new office at 605-A United Street. His specialties are ear, nose and throat, head and neck surgery, facial plastic surgery, allergies, hearing testing and hearing aids. Call 294-6031.

Established in 1978 by Neal E. Hirsch, Property Management of Key West, Inc., 1213 Truman Avenue, has grown from one to seven employees. The small realty firm provides service, sales and management for Villa Vacation Rentals, which offers over 200 selections in its portfolio of vacation homes. The company is currently involved in the restoration of the Casa Gato building on Virginia Street. Call 296-7353.

"Tropical Mike" of Captain's Corner, 0 Duval Street, is offering a summer diving special for Keys residents. With scheduling at client convenience, locals can discover scuba for the first time or become certified scuba divers in a few hours. A special rate, which is applied to groups of two or more, includes diver's manual, log book and use of all equipment required for the course. Call 296-7410 and leave message.

In January, Nick Dunn and his co-pilot, Dan Haggerty, opened Sugarloaf Soaring, which offers the only sail-plane ride in the Florida Keys. Sail planes provide a smooth, peaceful ride over the aqua and green mangrove islands. Located at Mile Marker 17, at the Sugarloaf Airport on Sugarloaf Key, the company can be reached at 745-2217.

Alan Sanches, formerly of Aloha, Michael Welchman, from Madge's Dropoff Donald Wilson, piano instructor and Robert Duncan have united to form Laundry Boys Dropoff. Located at Grinnell and Truman, the service specializes in pick up and delivery at home or office; it is open Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 292-1726.

Tropical Screen Service, 221 Patterson Avenue, has been owned and operated by Frank and Sandy Cartonia since 1982. The company manufactures and repairs aluminum screens, sliding screen doors, screen patios and pool enclosures.

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Diane Pansire, owner of Rich's Cafe, located at the Eden House, 1015 Fleming Street, has announced the restaurant's closing for the filming of "CrissCross," starring Goldie Hawn.

During summer months, classes at Island Wellness, 530 Simonton, will be geared toward locals. They include yoga, stress management, children's playshop, massage workshops, a gay men's group, Healing Circle, self-hypnosis, teenage wellness and t'ai chi. Call Gary Young at 296-7353.

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## JUNE CALENDAR

### Cultural Events

Through 6/10 • **Frankie and Johnny at the Claire de Lune**, a comedy, love story directed by Joy Hawkins at the Red Barn Theatre. Wednesday through Sunday, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50. Call 296-9911.

Through 6/30 • **Papa** returns to Jan McArt's Cabaret Theatre for an extended run. William Hindman is back by popular demand in his moving portrayal of Ernest Hemingway in John DeGroot's one-man play. Curtain is 8 p.m.; tickets are \$17 and \$18. Call 296-2120.

6/2 • **Festival of the Continents** grand finale, Caribbean Night at The Reach, starts at 8 p.m. Reggae star Andrew Tosh and the Soul Syndicate Band. Refreshments, special dinner available. Concert tickets \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door. Call 296-5000, extension 630 for reservations.

6/20 • **Spec**, an original play by Key West's Tom Grimes, will be the final play at the Red Barn Theater, 319 Duval Street. This first production is an hilarious show-biz farce about Hollywood writers and producers. Call 296-9911 for information.

6/29 • **Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery** presents "Six Women Artists" in various media through August 3. Reception with refreshments from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### Common Good

6/1 • **Florida Keys Community College** in conjunction with Barry University, Florida A&M University and the Miami Veterans Administration Medical Center, is holding a workshop on "Keys to Clinical Management of the Cognitively Impaired Elderly," from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Call 296-9081, extension 268.

6/4 • **City Commission Meeting**, Key

Lovers: Actors Susan Hawkens and John Wells in Terrence McNally's funny romance, *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune*. Directed by Joy Hawkins, the play will run Wed. through Sun. through June 10 at the Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval Street. Tickets are \$12.50; 296-9911.



West City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 6 p.m. Always open to the public and televised on Channel 5. Call 292-8200.

6/11 • **Florida Keys Youth Club** at 3465 South Roosevelt Boulevard will hold a bike auction during the second week of June with over 100 bicycles from the Key West Police Department's "lost or stolen" department. Proceeds benefit club. Call for exact date.

6/18 • **City Commission Meeting**, Key West City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 6 p.m. Always open to the public and televised on Channel 5. Call 292-8200.

6/13 • **Project Return**, a new self-help club, part of a 160-club network for the mentally ill or emotionally disturbed, holds its first meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellow-

ship Hall of Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2610 Flagler Avenue. Call Helen at 294-4875 or Rosie at 296-8491.

6/17 • **Fifth Street Baptist Church** will hold an outdoor service next to Astro City at 7 p.m. Puppet show and watermelon feast; all are invited.

6/18 • **Helpline** training session begins for volunteers to man phones and make referrals. Anyone interested should call 292-8445 or 296-HELP.

### Always Happening

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

AIDS Help needs volunteers to assist in the office, as well as to be buddies to peo-

ple with AIDS. Call Ann Weekley, director of volunteers, at 296-6196.

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

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

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

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

**Island Wellness**, at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled courses and activities. Yoga, T'ai Chi, meditation, rebirthing, metaphysics, gay issues, personal growth and hypnosis are some of the subjects covered. A gay rap and a healing circle are also featured. Call 296-7353 for details.

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

**Key West Worship Group** holds two meetings each Sunday at 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Quaker form of worship is held in silent meditation waiting upon the Lord. Meetings are held in various friends' homes and gardens around Key West. 294-1523.

**La Leche League** of Big Pine Key meets at Big Pine Methodist Church 9:30 Monday mornings. 872-2148.

**Literacy Volunteers of Monroe County** is seeking volunteers to help in

working with the media and in teaching others to read. Call Bill Clift. 294-4352.

**Lower Keys Friends of Animals** helps animals that are victims of mistreatment. For membership information call 296-8682 or 296-3926.

**Mental Health Care Center of the Lower Keys** conducts an ongoing therapy group for manic-depressives every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., with Dr. Elizabeth Saenger. Another new program is Coming with Depression, which meets with Dr. Christina J. Taylor, on Thursday evenings. Call 292-6843.

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

**Native American** study and participation group meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. at 1700 Flagler Avenue, upstairs. There is no charge.

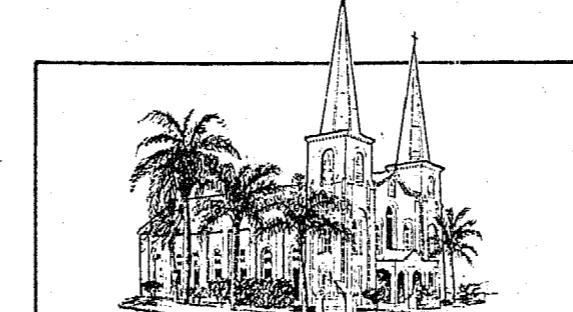
**Old Island Harmony Barbershop Chorus**, Old Stone Church, Key West, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

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

**Pool & Dart Tournament**, Big Pine Moose Lodge, Wednesdays, 872-8313.

**Recycle Key West**, sponsored by the Women's Resource center and located in Peary Court off White Street, is open every Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accept clean, separated glass, newspaper, aluminum and plastic. Volunteers are needed. 294-6241.

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



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#### MASS SCHEDULE

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Monday-Friday: 8 am  
Monday, 10:30 am at Senior Citizen Plaza  
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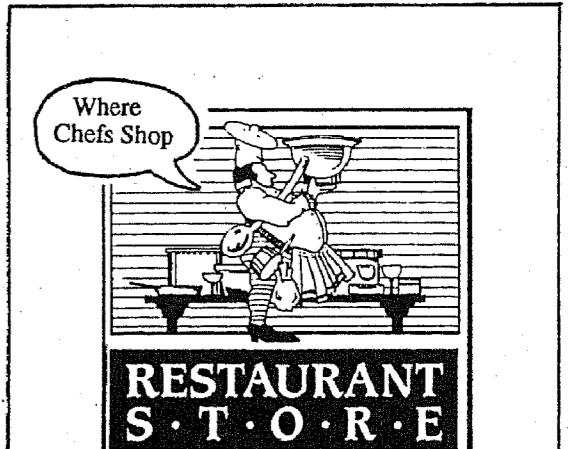
**Sweet Adelines**, Presbyterian Kirk of the Keys, Marathon, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

**Writers' Walk**, about one mile, takes place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10. Meet at Ocean Key House, 0 Duval Street. Make reservations. 745-3640.

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## Horoscope by Sioux Rose

Mars spends June in his own sign, Aries, causing many of us to spring into new or assertive action. However, Mars forms strong squares to a number of planets this month, creating resistance to plans or teaching lessons about initiating changes. Add to this the Sun in dualistic Gemini and, for many of us, the realities of forethought surface. Mars makes us impulsive June 10 to 12, confused about direction the 18th and 19th, and overzealous on the 24th.

### ARIES

This month increases your salesmanship. Keep in mind that ruler Mars, now in your own sign, increases confidence, but it also suggests that others may find you extremely assertive. Expend Mars' energy through manual work, gardening and planting, or fitness exercises. By the 22nd, you want to connect with relatives or find yourself sentimentally drawn to something, someone from the past. Southern Bell will love this.

### TAURUS

Money matters dominate. However, with Mars in the house of karmic retreat, it may be best not to lunge into any committed financial dealings now. There are too many risks. Your practical no-nonsense approach to business resurfaces next month. Meanwhile, gather data and prepare from behind the scenes. You exude sexual or romantic charisma this month. You may even treat yourself to an expensive gift, body massage, or facial.

### GEMINI

Powerful Mars favors you during your month. Life renews your efforts with a jetstream of energy. Social life is apt to be demanding and enriching. Improve your

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appearance by the last week of June, when lovely Venus enters your sign. You may experience volatility and a tendency to act without enough thought from the 10th through the 12th. Monetary issues, security or home improvements come into focus.

### CANCER

Take a backseat and watch the drama. Before a birthday it is best to recoup energy rather than squander it. Mars in Aries stimulates your professional sector. You may be asked to take on more leadership at work; or, if you own a business, you feel the pressure of your position. Don't get caught up in details. Instead, flow along to avoid conflicts. Power struggles are possible from the 10th through the 19th. You run the risk of being misunderstood.

### LEO

June brings social activities and a gift of choice. Mars in Aries suggests that the pioneer from your inner psyche comes forth strong and clean, and you want to explore new places and faces. Venus and Mercury bring news from friends. Writing, teaching or publishing efforts are favorable. By the end of June, however, you enter a more reclusive space. Respect that need.

### VIRGO

Career matters are important. Increased authority and recognition lay ahead. With planets in the dual sign of Gemini, you may find yourself making "Sophie's choices." Do what is best, but beware of rigidity or formal perspectives. Strong energy demands that old conditions yield to new forms of expression. Some Virgos will experience a feeling of starting over.

### LIBRA

The stars smile on travel. The Sun, Mercury, and your ruler, Venus, all move through the chart sector of vacations. Be renewed by the sounds, smells and tastes of a new locale. Philosophical renewal (and recharged faith) may result from this trek. Mars in your partnership sign may deliver a new Romeo or Juliet; coax new dimensions from your current mate; or bring feisty matters to a head in order to clear the air.

### SCORPIO

Money matters seem important. You may look into a loan or forge a strategy in a financial partnership. This is time for financial renegotiations; reviewing inventory or

sales strategies; or otherwise cutting losses to make space for new areas of expression and development. Venus in your partnership sign brings the aid of a supportive individual. Love may flow along well. Set energetic new work goals, or work out and reduce the flesh of winter.

### SAGITTARIUS

Partnerships dominate. You have much to discuss with a mate; Mercury opens the way for good talks and Venus brings the joys of speechless communication. Mars in the sector of romantic love boosts any active libido, and you may find yourself far more aggressive. Children will be ready for movement and adventure. Exercise feels good now—so indulge.

### CAPRICORN

It's time to innovate new strategies at work. You may change employees or employment and the systems you work with. There's a strong focus on both the work you're doing and how you're doing it. Improvement is cosmically scheduled. You may need to fine-tune your health by observing basic rules about good eating and living. Issues of partnership demand attention. If allowed, the joys of sharing will be doubly yours.

### AQUARIUS

Love is in the air. With the versatile twins on your natal chart angle of love, you may also have romantic choices to make. Perhaps more than one relationship is beginning to bloom. The twin energy may also indicate your love for two dissimilar children, both of whom demand extra attention now. Mars intensifies your gift of gab, and you may be drawn to sales, seminars, local events or community activities. Charisma runs high this month.

### PISCES

Much happens at home and you may feel pulled in at least two directions at once. Perhaps one relative comes to stay while another leaves. Act on an interest in minor redecorating or gardening, and enjoy your home—plan social events to take place there. With Jupiter in the social sector, love, the arts, and enjoyment are accessible. Mars can make you surprisingly assertive where financial matters are concerned. Don't let a squabble over money mar the social vibes this month offers to you! ☺

**Crits & Givens**  
**Mango: Peach of Paradise**  
by Jeanne McClow

I was sitting on the shady porch of my old conch house, a long, curved fruit knife in hand, a pile of mangoes in my lap, and an empty bowl beside me. Preparing my mangoes, I began to imagine what it must have been like on this tiny, tropical isle in 1910, in the days when the porch was the coolest spot around and the place to visit neighbors while pleasantly peeling potatoes—or mangoes. Then, all too soon, the neighbors came screeching up in their noisy 1990 vehicle; I picked up my mango bowl and went inside.

Native to the Himalayas, the mango has been under cultivation for more than 4000 years; today, more than a thousand varieties thrive in the world's warm climates. Buddha had a mango orchard; and it is said that an Indian emperor was so enamored of "Eve's apple" that he had 100,000 trees planted for himself. In Indian art, the mango hue and shape frequently recur. In fact, the fruit was probably the inspiration for the paisley design.

Given its wondrous qualities and widespread appeal, it is surprising the mango didn't make its way to the States until a hundred years ago. South Florida today has some 200 varieties available from May to September. But many Americans—those from the North, in particular—are still relatively ignorant of the mango because they were unavailable prior to the advent of shipping perishables by air.

To dry mangoes, spread peeled slices out on a rack and put in the oven, with the door ajar, for about eight hours at 130 degrees, until the mango is leathery but still flexible. Seal and freeze. Or for about \$100, you can buy a dehydrator, which, in Florida, may be a worthwhile investment.

For cooks, mangoes make an ideal ingredient, usable at any stage of ripeness. But before plunging into a recipe, rub a fleshy piece of mango peel over the back of your hand. Mangoes are distantly related to poison ivy and you may develop a rash. If so, work with rubber gloves or under cold running water.

Peeling a mango can be difficult, as the flesh does not pull cleanly away from the pit, which is engulfed in a nearly impenetrable fiber. Here's how to succeed: stand the mango on end and slice as close to the pit as possible around the entire fruit. To remove the flesh from the peel, cut it in sections—not including the fruit. Bend the peel back so the fruit pops up, and

either eat or cut it off the peel—a serrated grapefruit knife is a good tool for this.

Green but mature mangoes make glorious chutneys—pickles, relishes, jellies, jams and preserves. They can also be treated as vegetables, or as a substitute for green apples. Green fruits may be ripened at room temperature and may take from three days to a week unless you hasten the process by closing them in a brown paper bag.

A ripe mango has a full, fruity aroma emanating from the stem. Avoid those with a turpentine-like or sour smell. When chilled, unpeeled mangoes will last for three or four days; peeled and sliced with a little lemon or lime juice added in, they will keep about the same amount of time.

To freeze ripe mangoes, puree the pulp and pack in airtight containers, adding sugar to taste. Or cut the fruit into bite-size pieces, put into ice-cube trays or on a flat tray, and freeze in airtight bags. They will keep up to a year.

To dry mangoes, spread peeled slices out on a rack and put in the oven, with the door ajar, for about eight hours at 130 degrees, until the mango is leathery but still flexible. Seal and freeze. Or for about \$100, you can buy a dehydrator, which, in Florida, may be a worthwhile investment.

Although the mango has a fairly high sugar content, a quarter-pounder has only about 70 calories, about the same as a banana; one cup contains only 12 grams of sodium. Mangoes provide a high supply of Vitamin A, Vitamin C, potassium and even some B vitamins.

Mango is a good substitute in peach recipes. It also combines well with tropical fruits for drinks, puddings and custards, cakes, pie fillings and quick bread. The versatile fruit also offsets grilled meats and fish wonderfully, and it is very much at home in green salads or blended into a cottage cheese or yogurt. Try mango chunks in

chicken salad with green grapes, mixed into a quart of softened ice cream, or as the fruit for an upside-down cake. Possibilities are endless.

### ISLAND MANGO CHEESECAKE

Makes one 9-inch cake

12 honey cinnamon graham crackers, crumbled

4 tbsp unsalted butter or margarine, melted

3 eggs, room temperature

1 tsp vanilla extract

1/2 cup milk honey

3 pkgs 8-ounce regular or lowfat

cream cheese, cut up

1 cup sour cream or plain yogurt, drained or stirred

1 small lemon

2 to 3 cups peeled, sectioned mango

sliced, blanched almonds  
peeled kiwi slices for garnish

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees
- Finely crush graham crackers with rolling pin or in food processor. Pour butter over and combine thoroughly. Press firmly over the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan.
- Blend in processor or mixer eggs, vanilla, honey and half the cream cheese until smooth. Blend in remaining cheese.
- Wash and rinse lemon in hot water; finely grate half the peel into mixture.
- Add the mango and process until smooth but not pureed.
- Spoon cheese mixture evenly into pan. Bake 45 minutes, remove from oven, sprinkle with almonds, return to oven, bake another 15 minutes or until cheesecake is firm to the touch but soft in the center. Remove from the oven and let cool.

7. Unhinge outer ring and remove cake. Refrigerate until chilled, preferably overnight. Decorate with kiwi and serve wedges on chilled plates.

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