

Home
Improvement
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Guide

Special
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MONROE COUNTY'S
\$31 MILLION JAIL

Page 3

A BIG CITY
TRAFFIC SOLUTION:
PARK-AND-RIDE

Page 6

COUNTY BREAKS
ITS OWN CODES

Page 10

THE STEPCHILD:
STOCK ISLAND

Page 12

BUTTERING UP
THE STONE CRAB

Page 27

CREATIONS
FROM THE SOUL:
FOLK ART

Page 36

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are uncertain of the county's liability in the case of an inmate who hung himself last year in the Marathon jail. (The man did not die, but is still in a coma.)

A federal judge has advised the county to build a new jail as soon as possible to avoid costly ramifications. Clearly, the county cannot afford the risks of continuing to operate the existing facility.

The proposed jail, however, includes some progressive features that would provide much better inmate care than the county is providing now. What's more, it will cost the county less money in the future.

The butterfly-shaped design appears to cut guard needs considerably. Because of the building's shape, a single guard (as opposed to several) would be able to monitor both aisles of his "butterfly wing" and the recreational area. Also, inmates would be able to reach the visitation area unescorted.

According to County Administrator Tom Brown, who is also a member of the Jail Advisory Committee, the proposed jail would require five less guard positions than the existing jail (based on the same number of inmates.) In a relative sense, this would lower operational costs by about \$1 million per year.

It should be noted that jails are not prisons housing hardened criminals. Jails are, in a large part, holding tanks for people who are awaiting arraignment. By law, these people are considered innocent until proven guilty, and should be treated as such. They, as well as prisoners, deserve clean and safe detention facilities.

The county now faces possible fines and/or closure of the existing jail as the result of a lawsuit over unconstitutional conditions dating back to 1981.

The county may be held responsible for other jail-related incidents as well. Officials

The cover photograph of carpenter Brian Vaughan was taken by Dick Burke.

You Get What You Pay For

The proposed Monroe County Detention Facility rests heavily on the minds of county commissioners as they near approval of the colossal project.

Down from \$31 million (\$91 million if you count the figure tossed around by former Sheriff Allison DeFoos), the proposed jail will probably cost Monroe County taxpayers \$25 million to build—if county commissioners approve a two-wing version of the original five-wing design. The scaled down version will house 338 beds and, if needed, will include a 50-bed dormitory.

Based on the county's incarceration needs, cost comparisons with similar jails and long-range financial considerations, it appears that the \$25 million plan is acceptable.

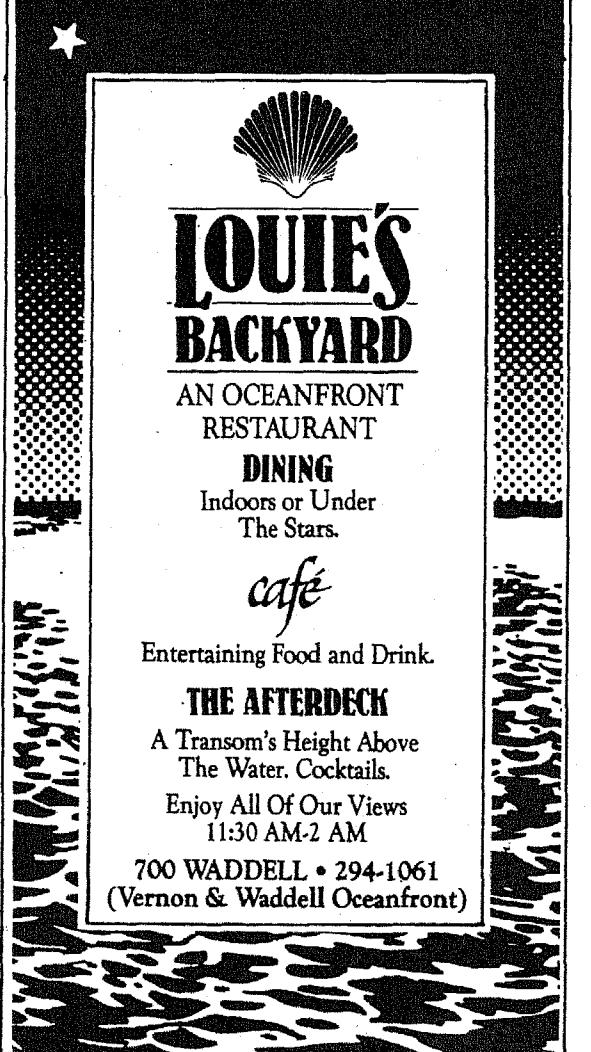
Projects such as jails are never popular and appear to carry a stigma. Taxpayers seem reluctant to spend money on incarceration facilities, probably because the people in them have—or may have—broken the law.

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The Cost of Incarceration

Overcrowding and lawsuits pressure county commission to approve \$31-million jail

by J.D. Dooley

When you say "jail" in Monroe County, you've said a lot. The ACLU is preparing to sue Wackenhet, the company that has been managing the jail, over the strip searches of female college students arrested for underage drinking. Wackenhet is terminating its contract with the county, citing financial disagreements—\$2 million worth. The newly elected sheriff must take over managing the existing overcrowded facility.

What's more, the county is facing a possible fine or jail closure stemming from a 1981 lawsuit, which alleges unconstitutional conditions in the Monroe County jail. As a result, the county commission is under considerable pressure from United States District Judge William Hoeveler to rectify the problem.

Building a new jail, advises the judge, will help the county to avoid similar problems in the future.

Although the county commission has been researching the county's jail needs for several years, it appears that commissioners are on the brink of approving the proposed jail project so construction can begin.

"Anything that delays the construction of the new jail jeopardizes our chances of avoiding such an event and the substantial financial burden it would impose on the taxpayers," wrote County Commissioner

Earl Cheal in a letter to Mayor Tony Taracino dated January 14.

At the judicial hearing on February 11, the attorney for the plaintiff requested the county close cell blocks 4 and 5. In response, Judge Hoeveler gave the county 60 days to come up with a consent agreement, according to County Administrator Capt. Tom Brown. The agreement will detail steps that county officials will take to improve conditions of the old jail until the proposed jail is built and functioning.

Construction is expected to begin in June.

million price tag as the hold up. The county commission voted to withhold approval of the building estimates, while the city commission voted not to approve the community impact assessment statement and master development plan presented to them by the county.

The proposed jail will be located on a 13.9 acres of waterfront property on north Stock Island. The county commission acquired the land parcel in July 1990 for \$4.85 million. Construction is expected to begin in June.

The plans for the proposed jail are based on recommendations by the Jail Advisory Committee, a group of over 30 appointed members. The committee determined the county's jail needs after 22 months of research, which included visiting other jails and assessing the future needs of the Monroe County judicial system.

As planned, the jail can be built in three phases, giving the county the flexibility to

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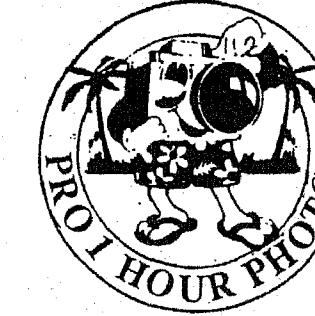
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build only what is needed immediately. The county can then expand the facility, as necessary.

Phase 1 of the project will house 530 inmates. It will cost county taxpayers \$31 million to build, and \$712,000 each month in operational costs.

Phase 2, when completed, will house 671 prisoners and cost \$902,000 each month in operational costs.

The final phase of the jail facility will bring the count to 1160 beds. The completed, 295,200-square-foot facility will cost the taxpayers more than \$1.5 million each month of operation.

That is a yearly cost of \$18,708,480—\$623.61 for every citizen in Monroe County.

The county commission is charged with the task of designing and approving the facility. "We took every jail built in the country in the last ten years and transplanted them to Key West, then added ten percent for the cost of building in the Keys and came up with the figure presented," says Capt. Brown, who has monitored the procedure from the start.

Brown says that by building an efficient jail, the county will save money in employee salaries in the long run. "Part of the reason why this jail is so expensive is the design," says Brown. "The layout of this jail is [ultimately] less labor intensive than a less expensive design."

The Department of Corrections mandates the number of jail employees necessary to man a given facility. The proposed jail, says

The jail will cost \$623.61 yearly for every citizen in Monroe County.

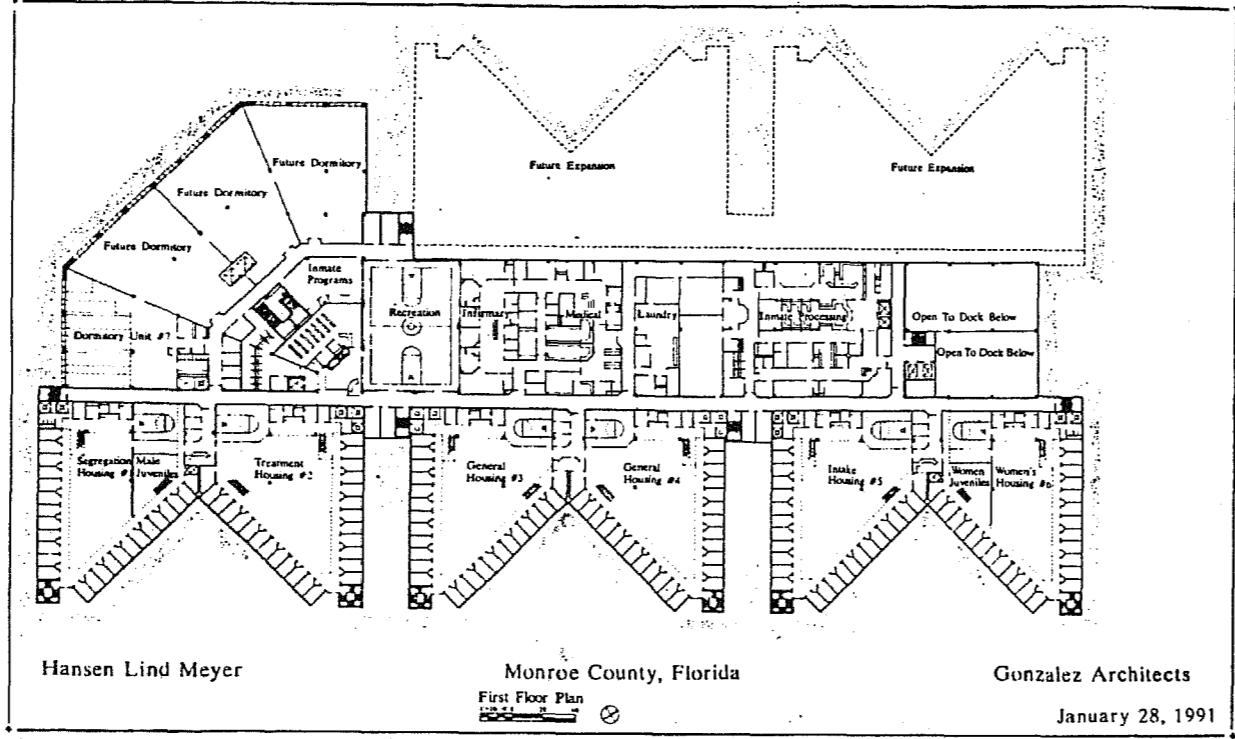
Brown, will require three employees to do the same jobs that require eight employees in the existing jail.

"That's a savings of \$800,000 to \$1 million," says Brown. It costs \$200,000 to fill each position per year.

Also, federal guidelines determine the space allowed for detainees. There should be at least 70 square feet per inmate in a cell environment. A facility may "double bunk" inmates in a space no smaller than 90 square feet. The proposed jail is planned with 90-square-foot cell spaces, allowing for double-bunking later, if necessary.

The present design shows the facility arranged in "pods," or butterfly-shaped, two-tiered architectural wings. Each butterfly-shaped wing will contain 192 beds. Guards positioned in a central location will be able to monitor inmates throughout the cell block as well as in the recreation area, which will be located in the center of the pod.

In 1988 Boulder County, Colorado completed construction on its new jail, which is similar in layout and design to the proposed Monroe County plan. According to Boulder County Jail official Lt. Larry Hank, the 287-bed facility was constructed for \$14.5 million. This indicates that the price of the



MONROE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

JAIL FLOOR PLAN: Phase 1 of the proposed Monroe County Detention Facility, if built according to plan, would consist of three "butterfly" wings, the core facility and an administrative area. Buildout would then be completed as needed.

Monroe County facility is in line with other such projects.

Although they have no direct control over construction or maintenance costs, City Commissioners Sally Lewis, Harry Powell and Jimmy Weekley question the huge expense and the impact on city taxpayers. The commissioners want to know what citizens would get for \$31 million that they could not get for \$20 million or \$25 million.

Since the jail site lies within Key West city limits, the city must approve the impact assessment and development plan prior to construction. Until the county commission presents the city with a finalized building plan, however, city commissioners have no way of assessing impacts.

When the county commission met on January 29 to discuss jail construction with Hansen, Lind, Meyer and Gonzales, the architectural firm on the project, commissioners expressed concern about the \$31 million construction cost and the additional \$10 million estimate for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

José Gonzalez, project architect, said he believes the county could save up to \$5 million in building costs by removing one wing of the proposed jail. The 192-bed loss would drop the total number of beds to 338. A 50-bed dormitory could then be added as needed.

Brown says he supports cutting the wing, and agrees the savings would be about \$5 million.

By dropping the wing, the 338-bed facility would be about \$43 per inmate per day. The national average is \$48, largely because of employee costs.

The county commission advised Gonzalez to take the plan back to the drawing board and prepare a less expensive alternative to be presented at the scheduled February 19 commission meeting.

Project manager Douglas Fuller said he expects to review as many as four new jail proposals from Gonzalez at the February 19 commission meeting. Fuller said it is too

early to predict the final cost of the jail.

One year ago the county retained the services of Morrison Knudsen/Gerrits as construction program managers for the \$100 million in capital improvement projects now underway. The jail is one of several projects the firm will oversee for the county during the next four years.

Whether the county settles on 300 beds or 1000 beds, Gonzalez architects, who will also build the jail, will be paid \$2 million to complete the project.

Although 56 percent of all Monroe County arrests occur in Key West, the city has refused to help fund the jail, which must lie within the county seat in order to accommodate judicial activity. The city is not required to fund the operation.

At a city commission meeting, County Commissioner John Stormont voiced his disconcertion over the city's failure to waive impact fees in order to save the county money.

In his letter to the mayor, County Commissioner Cheal had also urged city commissioners waive the fees.

"This is not revenue," said City Commissioner Harry Powell. "This will result in a definite impact on the citizens of Key West, this will raise our taxes." Powell suggested the tax increase might be 5 or 10 percent, although a figure cannot be arrived at until the cost of the jail is determined.

Key West will bear the responsibilities of fire and police protection as well as sewage, waste removal and traffic impacts.

County Commissioner Earl Cheal, however, has warned the city commission that if the "city does not do everything in its power to reduce the costs of this facility and expedite its construction, I intend to petition the county commissioners to pay for any and all imposed permit and construction fees out of ad valorem tax revenues."

In other words, said Cheal, by charging impact fees, the city would "be imposing an additional tax burden upon its own residents."

The construction of the jail is to be financed from the monies generated by the one-cent sales tax. About half this tax comes from tourist dollars.

Maintenance funds will come from ad valorem taxes. With an operating cost of \$180,000 a year per inmate, a 338-bed facility would cost \$6.1 million each year to maintain.

In addition to cost, the question before the two commissions is not whether to build a jail, rather how much jail to build.

There are currently three detention facilities in operation in Monroe County, a 47-bed facility in Plantation, a 57-bed facility in Marathon and the 172-bed Key West facility which is now housing 220 inmates.

Brown says Morrison Knudsen/Gerrits has already saved the tax payers nearly \$8 million by monitoring the various construction and design costs on county projects. "They pay for themselves, they are on our side," said Brown. "They are our checks and balances."

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For several years, overcrowding has plagued the existing county jail, which now faces the revolving door problem: as one prisoner is admitted another must leave to make room.

"These jails are operating at or near capacity every day," said Deputy Greg Artman of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Jails in Plantation and Marathon will remain open after the new jail is built. The Key West facility will be shut down.

Until a new facility is completed, anyone sentenced in Monroe County must either enter the state penal system or receive probation. Currently there is no post-sentence detention facility under Monroe County jurisdiction.

"We are releasing people we don't want on the street," said City Commissioner Virginia Panico. "This has to stop, we have to build this now, the problem won't just go away."

The \$65,000 Question

The county is currently paying the firm of Morrison Knudsen/Gerrits the sum of \$65,000 per month to oversee construction and engineering on county projects. Jail architect José Gonzalez says his firm could build the detention facility without the outside help, thereby saving the county about \$1 million.

"We are being paid a set fee, we don't need an outside firm to tell us where to cut corners, the commissioners can do that themselves," said Gonzalez. "The final cost of the jail has no bearing on our fee."

County Administrator Tom Brown says the county could not manage without a projects manager. "I don't have the staff or the expertise to personally oversee the \$100 million capital improvement projects that we are now involved in," Brown said.

"Morrison Knudsen/Gerrits have built over 40 jails totaling \$1.4 billion since 1982, if we had a project manager on site during the construction of the existing jail that project would not have been such a disaster."

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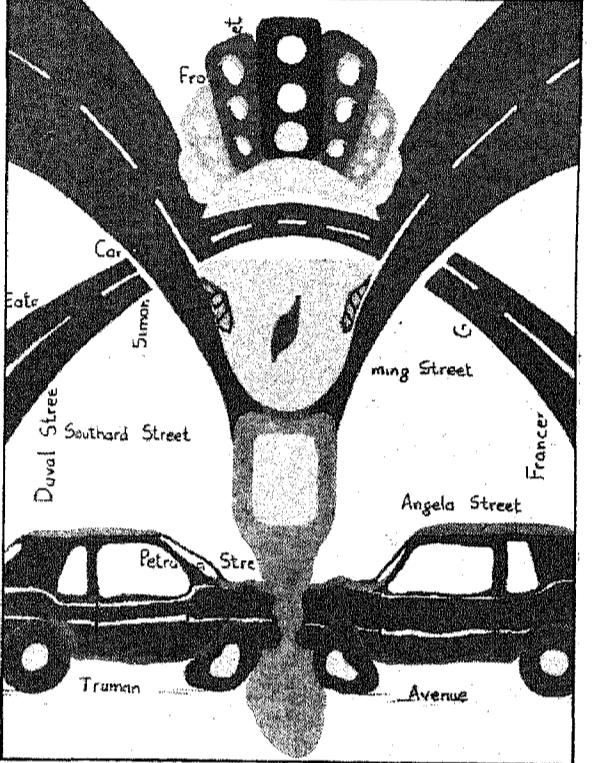
Bumper-to-Bumper

Park-and-Ride Project May Cure Traffic Problem

by Wade Wasserman

In an informal survey conducted on Duval Street one Friday night in January, *Solares Hill* found that 70 out of 100 people questioned were from some point between Miami and Orlando, Florida. Most of these people drove here in their own cars. Add rentals and local vehicles to this traffic, and watch the streets of Old Town become clogged with tires and steel.

There are no signs directing traffic to particular attractions or major avenues once tourists leave Stock Island. Instead, all traffic is funneled into the downtown area, where a new traffic light system has been installed but not synchronized. The result is a traffic flow and parking problem.



TRAFFIC ART: Artist Andrea Garcia's interpretation of Key West's traffic problem.

Over the last year, the city commission has considered several proposals to help alleviate traffic congestion. Only one—a park-and-ride plan—has been accepted. Funded by the Urban Mass Transit Association, the program should be operational this summer.

According to Chuck Hamlin of the Key West Port and Transit Authority, a concrete date hasn't been set since initiating construction depends greatly on various degrees of permitting red tape. Groundbreaking, which will include about 190 parking spaces in a two-acre area, is currently hinging on approval from the state.

The park-and-ride will work like this: The users, tourists and locals alike, will park their cars at a specified parking facility at the corner of Jose Marti Drive and Truman Avenue. Costs will be \$1.50 per hour and \$6 for all-day parking. Residents who work downtown will pay \$40 a month, similar to the arrangement at Truman Annex.

These costs, says Hamlin, are competitive with those of meters and other parking facilities in the area.

The park-and-ride program will be publicized through television, radio, and signs along U.S. 1. Incentive for using the program, says Hamlin, is that it's a reliable solution to the headache of parking downtown.

Once it is approved and permitted, the plans and designs of CH2M Hill, an engineering company hired by the city, will be up for bid for construction. Since the facility is a two-year experimental project, says Hamlin, it will be generic in design and include a meter system, bus shelter, restrooms, and perhaps, a Chamber of Commerce information center. One city employee will be hired to run the lot.

Should the program be successful, funds have been allotted to build a multi-level parking garage out of the existing structure.

"If this program works, \$6 million are waiting in a five-year-plan budget for building a multi-story parking garage," Hamlin says.

The trolleys that will shuttle individuals to and from the facility will be leased and then purchased if the program peaks. Riders will take one of three trolleys, which will depart in 15-minute intervals. The cost of the trolley ride will be covered by the parking fee.

The trolley will proceed down Truman Avenue to Duval Street, then return to the parking lot via Eaton Street and Eisenhower Boulevard. Chuck Hamlin says these routes are the most heavily trafficked areas. Riders will be picked up or dropped off anywhere along the route.

Hamlin believes the park-and-ride program will cure Key West's traffic and parking problem.

"One transportation vehicle replaces approximately 20 cars traveling downtown," he said.

Initially, the park-and-ride will operate 16 hours a day. A public committee of various representatives of the community, including local businesspeople, members of the hotel/motel association, and members of the Chamber of Commerce, will be appointed to recommend additional routes and times the trolley will best serve the public.

According to Hamlin, these routes will be determined before the program goes into effect.

The Urban Mass Transit Association has allotted \$600,000 for construction and leasing costs of the trolleys, plus an additional \$98,500 for implementation. These funds will be used to cover costs for the two-year experimental program.

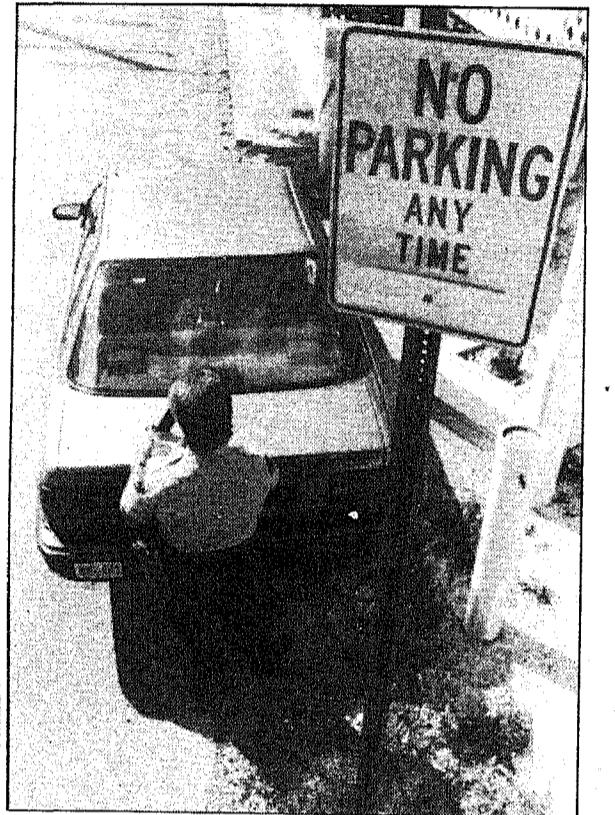
Although the park-and-ride should go into effect within about 90 days, the city commission has not ruled out other plans.

One solution is to turn Duval Street into a one-way street, with traffic on both Simonton and Whitehead Streets going in the direction opposite to that of Duval. Ideally, this would allow traffic to flow more smoothly, as it would be routed down Duval, returning back up to Roosevelt Boulevard along two streets. This configuration

should alleviate turning problems and traffic jams at Mallory Square and at the corner of Duval and Truman.

Another proposal is to create a promenade from Fleming and Duval Streets down to Mallory Square. Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., no cars would be allowed on Duval Street; it would be open to cyclists and pedestrians only.

Hamlin says the same advisory committee appointed for the park-and-ride will consider incorporating these alternatives into an over-all traffic-control plan.



BUSTED: Officer Yolanda Niles of the Key West Police Department writes up a ticket.

where the trucks ordinarily park to unload their goods.

At a commission meeting in August 1990, Commissioner Jimmy Weekly stated that he was going to start fighting the traffic problem by limiting the number of pedicabs in the downtown area. Since that meeting no other action has been taken on the issue.

And then there's the problem of the unsynchronized traffic lights.

"North from where Eisenhower and Roosevelt cross, the new traffic signal system is installed but not synchronized," says David Lariz, head of the Special Operations Department of the Key West Police Department. "Duval Street has the old traffic signal system [in addition to] not being synchronized.

"Traffic would flow somewhat smoother if the signal lights were synchronized," says Lariz.

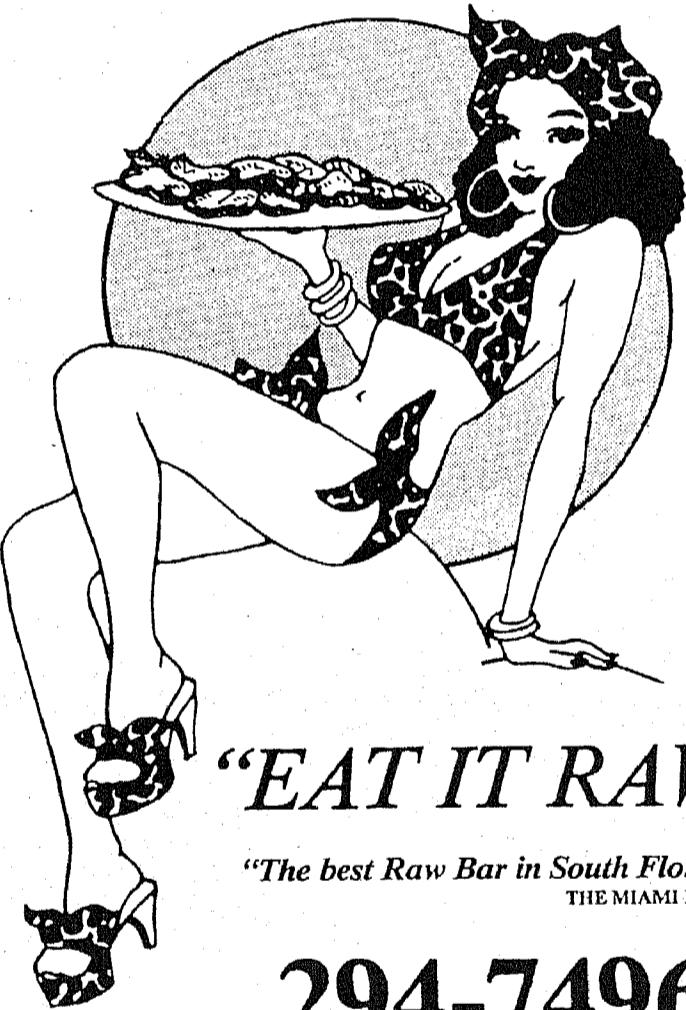
The lead-lag traffic-light system, says Lariz, is also confusing to most tourists who have never seen it.



DON'T BLOW AWAY: Officer Yolanda Niles slips a parking ticket under the safety of the windshield wipers. Tourists and locals alike often return to their vehicles only to find one of the city's bright yellow envelopes on the windshield.

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Meanwhile, more people take to the roads. *Leisure and Travel Magazine* reported in January that more people are taking short three- to five-day in-state vacations rather than the normal seven-day out-of-state winter excursions.

It appears likely that more South Floridians will be driving to the Keys than in years past.

PAUL KELLY

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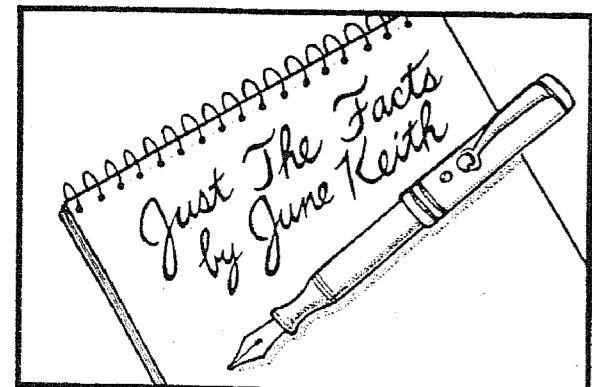
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I Told You So

Monroe County Mayor Wilhelmina Harvey says the county commission made its biggest mistake with the county jail when it voted for privatization, not when they hired the firm of Wackenut over CCA (Correction Corporation of America)—the Jail Advisory Committee's recommendation—to manage the jail.

"I was the only commissioner to vote no to privatization," says Harvey. "I hear rumblings that we may try to give it to another company now that Wackenut is gone. I am definitely against that. Corrections Corporation of America would be up against the same disadvantages that Wackenut was."

Harvey says that Wackenut was not to blame for breaking their contract with the county, and that they were excellent at finding better ways of managing the facility.

She says she is still "strongly in favor of Wackenut."

"Monroe County was wrong," Harvey says. "We did not tell Wackenut everything that went with the job."

More Fun with Dick

Police Chief Tom Webster was bewildered by a barrage of congratulations on a recent Monday morning.

Congratulations for what, the chief asked?

For being named Outstanding Law Enforcement Professional of 1990 by the International Police Management Association, he was told.

The news appeared in the Sunday, February 3 edition of the *Key West Citizen*. The chief says he knew nothing about the award or about the International Police Management Association.

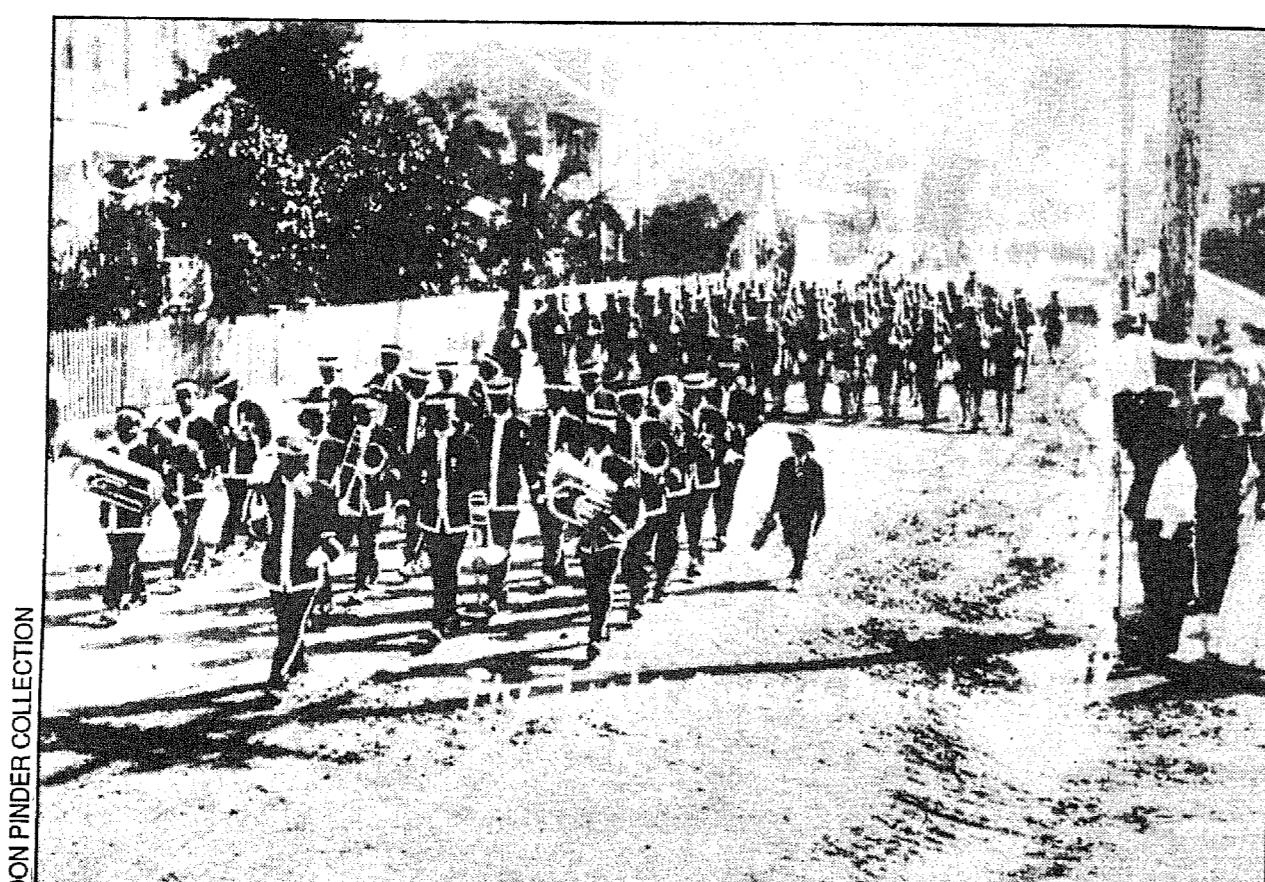
Charlie Maddox, president of the Florida Police Benevolent Association, said from his headquarters in Tallahassee that he had never heard of the IPMA.

"Check with Willis Booth," Maddox advised. "He is the executive director of the Florida Police Chief's Association. If he hasn't heard of it, we're in trouble."

Mr. Booth hasn't heard of it either," said his assistant. "Nobody here has ever heard of the International Police Management Association."

Citizen editor Steve Fellers says the situation is bizarre. The International Law Enforcement Association sent the press release to the *Citizen* from an address in Corsicana, Texas.

Further research revealed that the association consists of two members and a secretary. Luis Morton, one of the members, explained that the association mails letters to community leaders, asking if they'd like to nominate someone from their city for the award.



DON PINDER COLLECTION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: The Light Guard Band marches past the Audubon House at Greene and White Streets. This band was popular in the early 1900s.

According to the *Citizen* report, Morton said he received a signed response from Webster on September 13, 1990, indicating he'd like to be a recipient. About 300 people received the award.

"I don't know anything about it," says the award-winning chief.

Your Papers, Pleeze

At a regular city commission meeting on February 5, commissioners discussed the matter of city board members' résumés.

City Clerk Josephine Parker was directed to mail out certified letters to all board members who have not yet submitted résumés to present résumés to her office within 14 days of receipt of the letter.

Elected officials and city employees, who already have résumés on file, will not be notified.

Parker explained that in several instances, committees were formed by appointment, and the customary procedure of requesting résumés from those being appointed to city boards was not followed.

Examples are the Crime Task Force, the Spring Advisory Committee, and the Malory Area Committee.

Jay Ridgon, investigator with the State Attorney's Office who is currently investigating

tigating the Chris Devereaux hoax, says that according to Florida Statute 837.06, it is illegal to turn in a false résumé to city commissioners.

The statute says: "Whoever knowingly makes a false statement in writing with the intent to mislead a public servant in the performance of his official duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree."

What's the Harm?

Joe Gilvary, owner of the Key West Youth Hostel, says that people he's talked to think Chris Devereaux's phoney résumé is a great scam.

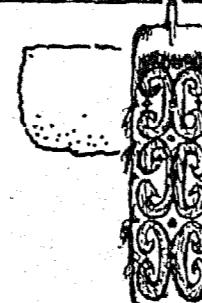
"Everyone thinks the story is a scream," Gilvary says. "What's the harm?" they ask. I'll tell you the harm: I lost out on that job at WKIZ Radio because of Devereaux's phoney résumé where he said that he had been a foreign news correspondent.

"I knew it was all bull, but Greg Artman told me that he decided to hire Devereaux over me, even though I had the experience, on the strength of that résumé. It's not funny when a person lies and wins out over a more qualified applicant for a job."

"At the time I really needed that job, too," says Gilvary.

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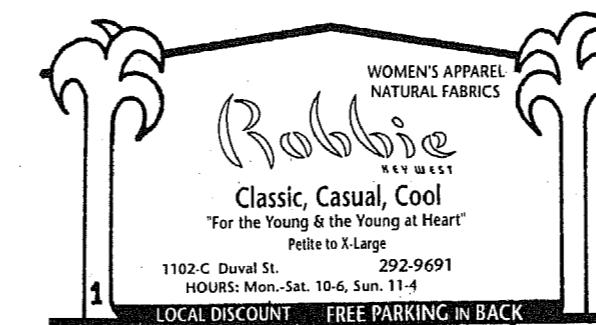
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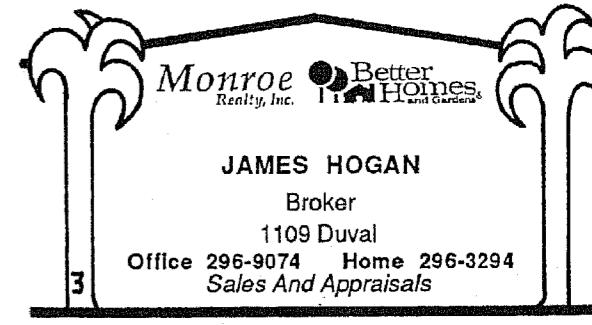
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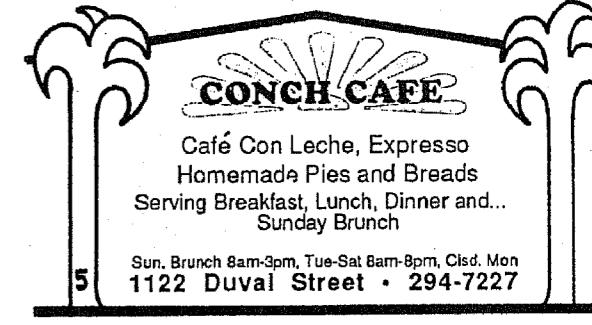
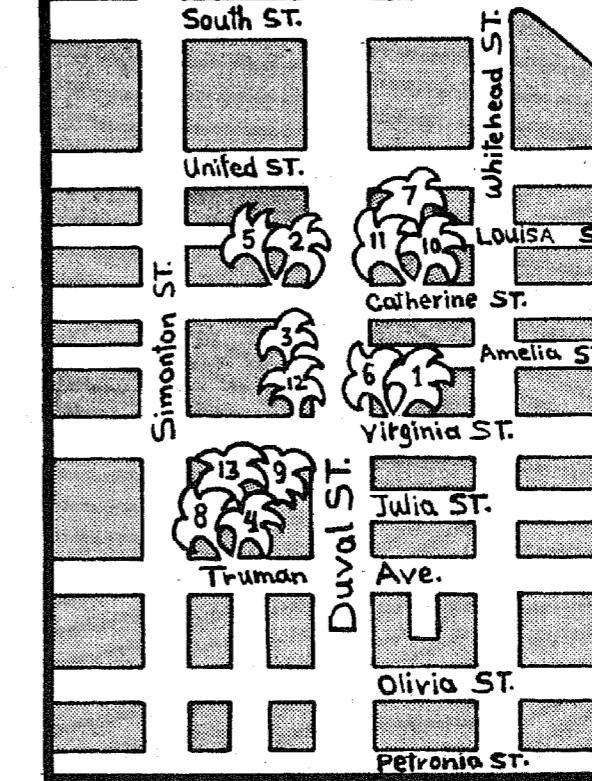
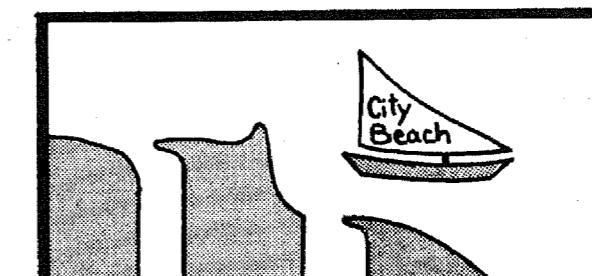
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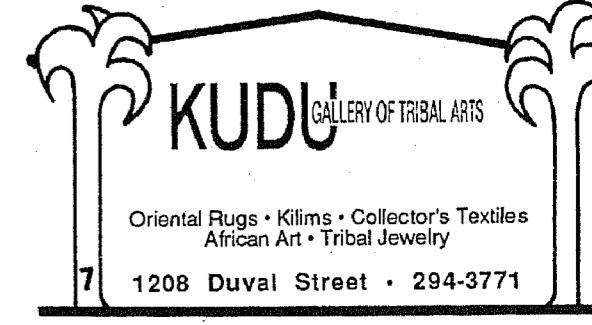
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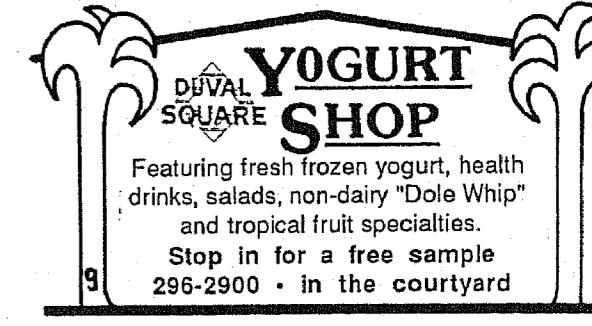
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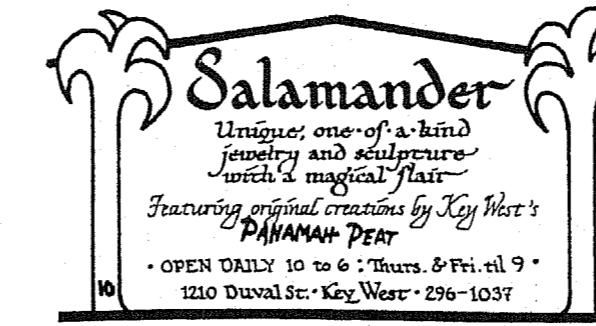
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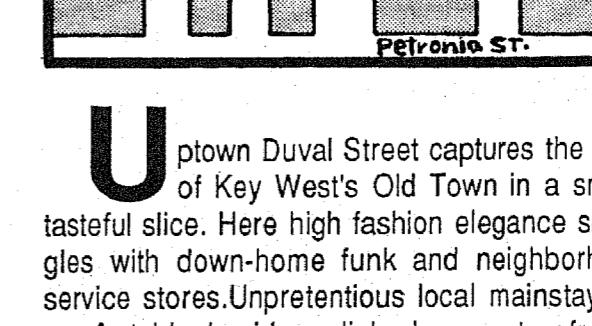
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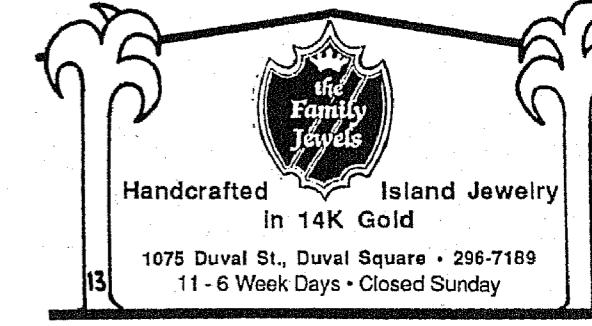
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Up and Down the Keys

by Kip Blevin

ROCKLAND KEY—An area with one of the heaviest concentrations of code violations in Monroe County, Rockland Key is emerging as a dumping ground for county agencies as well as residents.

Code Enforcement Chief Peter Horton confirmed that both the Municipal Service District and its pollution control division are violating codes in at least 26 cases.

Horton said that his agency received reports from Rockland Key residents, who were the targets of a recent crack-down on building permits, that the county had abandoned county vehicles and construction debris on its own right-of-way, but was citing only the residents' violations.

Code Enforcement has since been ticketing county agencies in violation.

"We treat them the same way we do any county resident and give them a specified time to clean up the problem," Horton said.

"Needless to say, county staff meetings have become interesting since the ticketing has begun," he added.

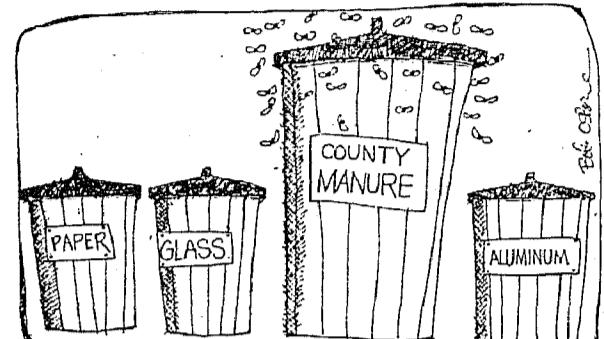
MSD and pollution control cite lack of funds to properly dispose of unwanted materials as the reason for the violations. Eight cases are still pending.

County Administrator Tom Brown seemed surprised that Code Enforcement has taken such a stern approach, and wondered why he had not been told about the activity. He said, however, that he agreed with the even-handed approach to enforcement.

"The county should not be violating its own rules; it should instead be setting the

standard for the rest of the county," said Brown.

Recently, Code Enforcement has been aggressively pursuing health and safety violations on the secluded key, known for years for its illegal cockfighting activities. Such activities came to a screeching halt last year when it was revealed that a since-dismissed Code Enforcement officer was involved in the activities.



STOCK ISLAND—As a cost-cutting measure, Monroe County employees will be going to work a half-hour earlier beginning March 1.

County Administrator Capt. Tom Brown announced recently that he has directed the staff to begin working at 8 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. However, doors will not be open to the public until 9 a.m., with the added hour to be used for staff meetings and preparation.

The county work day will continue to end at 5 p.m., and employees will take their usual hour for lunch, along with two, 15-minute breaks during the day.

Brown said that the new working hours will "result in a savings of about 16 work

days per year." In other words, employees will work an additional 16 days, spread throughout the year.

In other budget-related news, the administrator applauded the presence of the county commissioners at the early budget workshops. He noted that it was important for the new commissioners, in particular, to see the process from beginning to end.

"We're real tight on revenue," Brown pointed out. He also stressed that county services could be adversely effected if revenues fall and the county is not able to handle the expected increases in growth management issues, such as the land-use plan revisions.

The county is looking at a \$1.5-million cost to develop its plan. "The board has said I have to eat that expense," said Brown.

Final action on the budget is still months away. The board has already gone on record for supporting a no-increase in property taxes.

Brown predicted that the board will allow county employees the same three-percent cost-of-living increase that the governor has proposed for state employees.

However, he said that merit pay hikes may not make it.

PLANTATION KEY—Waiving county policies and procedures is the most abused practice in county government, according to Commissioner Doug Jones.

Jones recently lived up to his claims, when he led fellow commissioners to vote down the purchase of \$91,000 in medical equipment for the Mariners' Hospital on Plantation Key.

The 3-to-2 vote denied the purchase by the Upper Keys Health Care Taxing District of a hematology analyzer and angiography suite, both of which district spokesperson Elaine Gorman said were necessary to save lives.

Monroe County has frequently bypassed competitive bidding procedures, often citing

tight deadlines imposed by Tallahassee. Jones stated that the commission's two newest members, Jack London and Earl Cheal, ran platforms opposing waivers that would preclude competitive bidding.

Jones asked why the taxing district could not write specifications in such a way that only their favored vendor would win. "Our staff does that quite often," he said. "You can write this so that one company can bid on it."

Cheal said he agreed with Jones that the Mariners' Hospital group should go to bids, but disagreed with Jones' somewhat cynical claim that they should structure the "specs" to favor their favorite.

While there were lower bids, the group's spokesperson claimed that their handpicked vendor would provide better service to the equipment and be more acceptable to local doctors.

When Cheal attempted to restart the process by having the county staff solicit RFPs (request for proposals), the spokesperson said that there was a time factor and

delaying would cost more. Cheal was unsympathetic, however, since the hospital representatives had planned the purchase a year ago.

"You could have already had RFPs," Cheal responded.

Commissioner John Stormont, the Upper Keys representative on the commission, defended the hospital's request, calling it a "unique situation."

Added Commissioner Wilhelmina Harvey, "If it's an emergency, I'm for it."

The vote to go out for the bids saw both Stormont and Harvey on the losing ends on the 3-to-2 vote.

Community Notes

U-G-L-Y: You Ain't Got No Alibi

This month over 50 local bars and restaurants will compete in the 7th Annual U.G.L.Y. Bartender Challenge to benefit multiple sclerosis. (U.G.L.Y. means understanding, lovable, generous, you.) All monies raised from the contest will help research

and patient services in the South Florida area. Bartenders from many of Key West's fine drinking establishments will hold fund-raising events to accumulate votes and win prizes, including a trip to the National U.G.L.Y. Bartender Convention in Ft. Lauderdale. WWUS1 Radio will be broadcasting updates and event information. To join the challenge, call WWUS 1 Radio at (305) 892-9100 or (305) 599-0299.

An AA Alternative

Alcoholics who say the spiritual philosophy of Alcoholics Anonymous, or AA, clashes with their personal beliefs have spurred the growth of a self-help program called Rational Recovery. The goal of Rational Recovery, or RR, is to wean the alcoholic first from alcohol and later from the recovery group. Adherents to RR believe the primary difference between AA and RR is an issue of dependence versus independence. RR meets at The United Way Building, 724 Truman Avenue, Sundays at 1 p.m. and Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.



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Stepchild in Paradise: Stock Island



DON PINDER

HOLY MACKEREL: Shrimpers and fishermen relocated to Stock Island after waterfront development chased commercial fishing out of Key West in the 1970s.

by Bud Jacobson

Stock Island is not everyone's cup of tea.

The small island, just east of Key West, over the Cow Key Channel bridge, was described once by a county commissioner as "having a split personality." Running east and west, U.S. 1 cuts the island roughly in half.

The north portion (most of it owned by the City of Key West) is loaded with culture, education, sports, facilities for health care and a major arm of the county government. Plus the city dump.

The south side is owned by Monroe County. The south side is where the action was, and is.

It's a mélange of churches, well-kept single-family homes, manicured mobile-home parks, jumbled together with bar docks, a sprawling junkyard for old cars and rotting tires, shrimp docks, trailer parks of dubious reputation—and at one end, a marina for yachts owned by millionaires.

You don't see cute little painted tourist trolleys slowly meandering through pock-marked byways, extolling quaint power plants and trailer parks.

It was called Cow Key back in the dim days when it was used mostly for penning the livestock and fowl that provided victuals for the tables of Key West when the natives yearned for something besides grits and grunts.

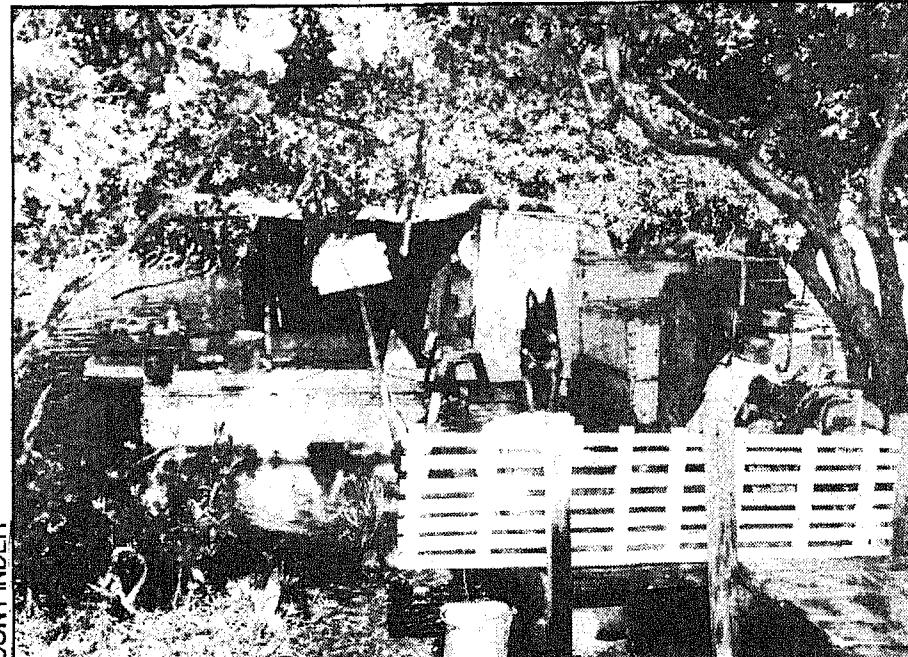
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DON PINDER

HOMEY HOVEL: Up until the 1980s, makeshift shanties were common Stock Island abodes.

In the 1940s and 50s, when the Navy ruled the roost and the shrimpers were just starting to mine their pink delicacies from the grounds at Tortugas and Campeche, Stock Island relinquished cows and chickens for the sporting life. Painted ladies and garishly lit saloons, with dark backrooms for exotic pastimes, sprouted like palm trees. It was safest to order a beer during a late night romp on Stock Island, because the bartender opened the bottle in front of you.

There are pockets of resistance, favoring old-line Bohemians who prefer to live rustically, occasionally hitting on a funny cigarette.

Rowdy joints like the Bucket of Blood, the Raceway, Weaver's, Boca Chica Bar, Black Magic, and Mom's Tea Room, a barely disguised bordello featuring thinly clad young ladies, offered up a lively variety of entertainment for "our boys in uniform."

Stock Island turned on about sunset, and it was not unusual to see leftover patrons stumble out into the sunlight around 8 or 9 in the morning. But like everything else

around here, it's changing. Getting more respectable, sort of, and not all the hard-core bunch of characters who've lived there for many years like the change.

"We want it the way it was, kind of loose and wild, filled with spice and good times," growled Mike, a shrimper and sometime mechanic for bikers on Stock Island.

"Listen," he leaned closer, adding beer fumes to the conversation, "the word's around some of them lawyers and yuppie kids are pushing the county bigshots to clear some places and build condo high-rises—that's the end. Next comes the damn tourists and the Conch trains and a bunch of smart-ass stores like downtown!"

Mid-level county officials smile and say, "That's way down the road, if you live that long." The cry in town for affordable housing, however, might push the developers to Stock Island, they admit.

There are pockets of resistance, though, favoring the old-line Bohemians who prefer to live rustically, leading their lives by their own clock, breathing the salty tang, staring in crazed fascination at the cloud formations and psychedelic sunsets, occasionally hitting on a funny cigarette.

Some of the middle-aged dudes, whose tattoos are fading through the sweat on their beefy backs and whose ladies are slightly frazzled, hang around the wharves near Safe Harbor where, in the early 1960s, slim powerboats painted dull black, with no numbers, slipped in and out. They were

steered by members of the CIA in a warm-up for the Bay of Pigs.

On the west shore of Stock Island, the bar at the Cow Key marina is about the last of the old watering holes for the locals. Nearby are the remains of a couple old outdoor movie drive-ins, the Riviera and the Islander, with its skeleton of a movie screen still there.

MacDonald Avenue is the island's main stem and follows the original track, going back to the 1920s and '30s, of old U.S. 1. It curves through the east side of the island, past upscale mobile-home parks, and others not so upscale, past fish houses and boat repair yards, to the end where Jimmy Yacarino has his well-liked Hickory House bar and grill.

Over near the dog track, the neighborhood gets a little muddled—the last remaining shrimp docks are on the other side of the track. A popular restaurant that used to be Sug and Yale's, now the Rusty Anchor, offers booze and vittles to the locals and the gamblers from across the



WATER VEHICLE: An innovative fisherman gives himself a car's-length advantage.

road. Down the street, Alex is famous for his junkyard, and other things.

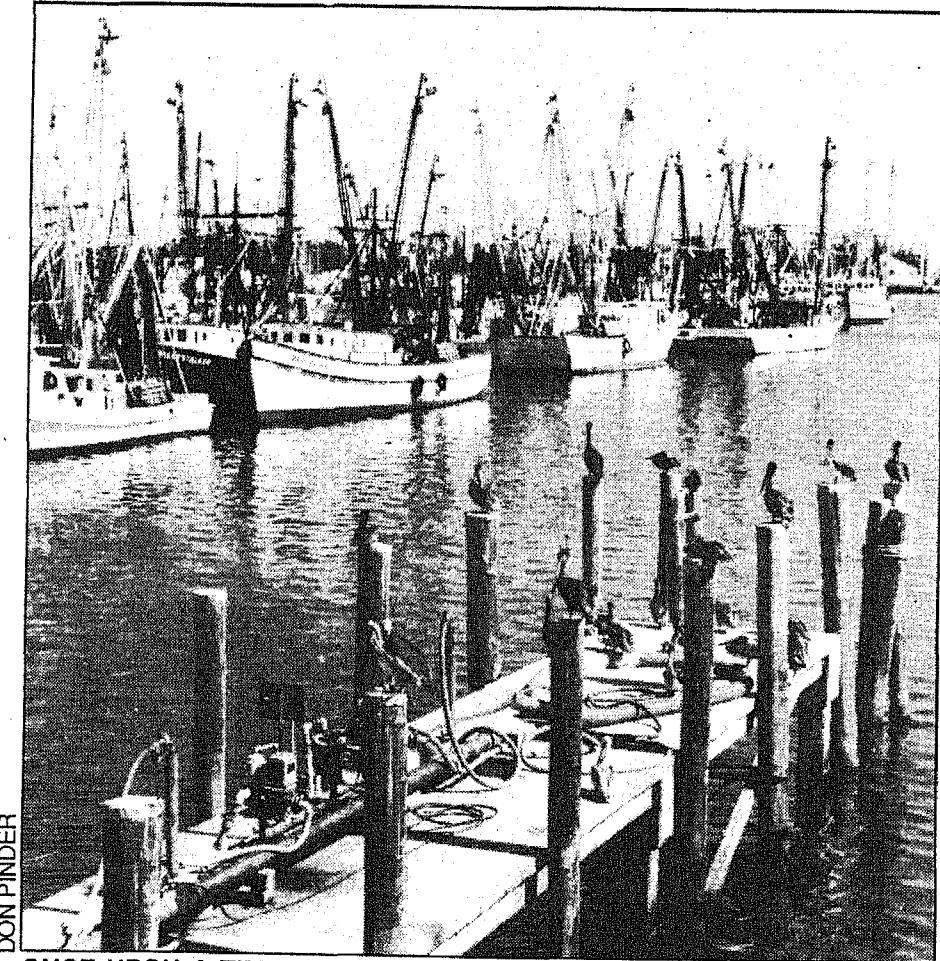
On part of the island is a jungle-like property facing the water. The Jack Kerouac characters who hang out there call it the Old Plantation. It's filled with trees and tall

shrubbery, swooping hawks and fly-by pelicans are kind of taken by the wildness of it. The place is a home-away-from-home for the characters, some of who live aboard boats which are definitely *not* fitted for luxury cruises.

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DON PINDER

ONCE UPON A TIME: Commercial fishing fleets neatly ensconced in the waters surrounding Stock Island in the 1970s.



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Guy like Stoney and Max work on various projects, and even prepare for their winter season showings of arts and crafts. Their paintings are immense, like five- and six-feet square, that finding a downtown gallery is difficult. Besides, the high-class gallery owners get nervous when Stoney shows up unshaven, with a pint of Myers rum tucked in his back pocket.

George, one of the gang, looks like Ichabod Crane after a night on the tiles. His opinion is voiced in a gruff snarl: "Stoney is the second-worst artist on the island. The first is Roberto." He wobbles off on his bike.

Late in the day, all the busy activity simmers down and the cocktail hour arrives. Cold beer and chips. Time to kick back and check on the fleet anchored in the Bay, swap stories about the hundreds of towns they used to live in, their beautiful ladies and the wives they had narrow escapes from.

The light is unreal, the water is deep blue, the boats even look grand, there's a cool breeze. The quiet comes in, the light fades, clouds pile higher and higher.

The stepchild, Stock Island, can bewitch you, if you're looking in the right direction.



OPEN SPACES: Probably shot in the 1950s, a aerial view of Stock Island shows Berenson's Greyhound Track, Shrimp Road to the left of the track, and Toppino's plant.

DON PINDER

Community Notes

Cobb Says It's Showtime

Cobb's Cinema 6 Movie Theatre in Searstown is now completely finished. Combine this facility with the Plaza Two Theatre, and you've got a different movie for every night of the week—and then some. A Cobb press release calls its new six-screen theatre an example of "the theatre of the future," complete with a fully-staffed, multi-station refreshment center, computerized air conditioning/heating and dynamic ultra-modern screen design. All of this, Cobb representatives say, is essential to the "ultimate in movie-going experience." Don't worry: shorts and T-shirts are still acceptable attire.

Keys Remain Prime Destination

Blaming it on the war, the recession, whatever, local business owners say this season has been sluggish. At a recent Florida Huddle gathering of Florida tourism agents, international tour operators, and wholesalers, however, the Keys and Key West were the most requested destinations. "International interest in the Keys continues to increase," said Annette Cavanaugh, sales and marketing coordinator for Monroe County Tourist Development Council. "Our destination represents an attractive alternative to traditional Florida vacation centers, and the world travel trade is recognizing this."

February Events at FKCC

Florida Keys Community College has several short programs planned for

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February. These include: research techniques for business and industry, culture and environment of the Everglades, ship-board operations/Dry Tortugas Trip, and the annual book sale. For more information call 296-9081, ext. 283.



FLORENCE RECHER
BROWSER: Old Island Days Art Festival.

Old Island Days Art Festival

Artists will be competing for over \$10,000 in awards at the Old Island Days Art Festival on February 23 and 24. Co-sponsored by the Key West Art Center, Inc. and the Key West Players, the festival will feature 125 artists from the U.S. and Canada. Works range from realistic to decorative to abstract in various mediums. Displays will be set up along Whitehead Street between Greene and Caroline Streets. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sterilizing Stock Island

The Monroe County Sheriff's Department reports that it's ridding Stock Island of debris in a dual effort to make it more attractive and less appealing as a hiding place for transients and criminals. Monroe County Public Works/Municipal Services, the Department of Transportation, and Alex's Towing Service on Stock Island are all combining forces. The most visible difference so far is the removal of brush along the southbound side of US1. The overgrown area is a popular hangout for transients, drug users, and prostitutes, reports the sheriff. For more information call Larry Berk, FKCC library director, 296-9081, ext. 322.

War-Time Security Measures

City Electric System has beefed up its security due to conflict in the Persian Gulf. Richard Padron, general manager of CES, said a request from the Department of Energy Emergencies has asked for all utilities to review contingency plans and upgrade security. CES has increased roving security around the plants by 50 persons. Additionally, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office has increased patrols around its substations.

Wildlife Pond Plank-Walk

Daughters of the Conch Republic and the Florida Keys Audubon Society are sponsoring a "Walk the Plank" party at the Schooner Wharf on March 1 from 7 to 11 p.m. The goal is to raise money to build an observation deck and to post interpretive signs at the new wildlife pond. The party's costume theme party is "pirates and winches." All donations will go directly to the project. For info call 294-4927.

Miami Medical Ride

AHI Notes, the AIDS Help, Inc. newsletter, reports that the medical transportation program, formerly operating under the auspices of Monroe County, is now being handled by Veterans Affairs. Veterans and non-veterans must have a verifiable medical appointment in the Miami area to be eligible for this service. Patrons will be dropped at most medical destinations in Miami. The bus departs at 6:30 a.m. every Wednesday from 1315 Whitehead Street, and returns the same day, between 8 and 9 p.m. Calls should be made at least 24 hours in advance to Ann Adkins at 294-1717.

No Experience Necessary

Florida Keys Community College Library needs volunteers to assist with the new Federal Documents Collection and with automation activities. No experience is necessary; the library staff will train interested volunteers. For more information call Larry Berk, FKCC library director, 296-9081, ext. 322.

Solares Hill • February 15-28, 1991 • Page 15

Solares Hill's Home Improvement & Garden Guide

A Special Pullout Supplement

Sun, Water & Fresh Paint

This pullout could be subtitled "How To Be Resourceful with Our Resources." While the articles are intended to spark your interest in improving your dwelling without draining your pocketbook, they also offer valuable information on making your home environmentally sound.

As John Cole notes in "Key West: Where the Sun Could Be King," the Keys have an environmental bonus—lots of sun. Solar power is inexpensive, non-polluting, non-destructive and (presumably) infinite

form of energy. It seems an ideal solution to our emerging and inevitable energy crisis. What other energy source can match such an impressive description?

Although the Keys are blessed with limitless rays of golden sunshine, fresh water is scarce. P. Pallino tells us how he rigged his washing machine up to his lawn's sprinkler system, so laundry water is directed to his tomato garden and not down the drain. (P. Pallino, incidentally, is known for his big juicy tomatoes.)

For thoughts about making the most out of the limited living areas in Key West, as well as tips on how to turn nightmarish yards into healthy, useful greenspaces, we consulted local nursery specialists, interior designers, plumbing contractors and store owners for up-to-date, financially realistic suggestions.

We hope you find these tips practical and harmonious with Keys living.

—E.M. Smith

Key West: Where the Sun Could Be King

by John N. Cole

All of Larry Marks' tenants at 1800 Atlantic may not know it, but their hot water is heated by the sun. At the Southernmost Motel, the agreeably warm waters of the large swimming pool are kept cozy by solar energy. More solar-heated water flows at the Hibiscus Motel and the Hukilau Restaurant.

These are just a few of Key West's functioning and dependable solar-run systems. Evidence of how well a company called Solar Technologies did its work is visible the length of the Keys—especially in Key West.

From the high rambling, aging Victorian mansion in the 700-block of Eisenhower Drive, to the Maxi-Taxi radio dispatch station, solar energy is being collected and stored. It is being for everything from running power tools to heating swimming pools to illuminating lights and transmitting the Maxi-Taxi dispatcher's voice to cab drivers.

There is more solar-energy activity up the Keys. On Cudjoe, the solar house that John Murphy, one of the owners of Solar Technologies, built almost single-handed in 1985, is still drawing everything it needs in the way of utilities from the sky above.

Rainwater fills the cistern, the sun heats the water, photo-voltaic cells convert the sunlight to electricity that powers every household appliance, including the television set. And time has proven it fail-safe.

Which is one reason why Jim and Deborah Davidson got in touch with Solar Technologies a few years after the place on Cudjoe proved itself. The Davidsons, who built a home on what was then Russell Key (since re-named Seabird Key) have the small island to themselves: an ideal situation for energy independence.

And the Davidsons have not stinted.



KEVIN CREAM
ENVIRONMENTAL ART: John Murphy's solar panels stand like sculptures on a Petronia Street lawn.

at their drawing boards.

"We've done such a good job," Murphy explains, "that we've just about run out of markets here. Especially since Ronald Reagan killed federal solar subsidies. Nowadays, alternate energy systems are a relatively hard sell in the United States. Consumers are just too conditioned to the idea of utilities and monthly bills."

"When we show prospects a solar house, even the one on Cudjoe that's been doing a great job for five years, they always ask: 'But does it work?'

"It's going to take much more education and putting the government back in the picture to get solar energy the kind of acceptance it ought to have among Americans. With a Texas Oilman in the White House, you know there's no real chance for a solar

change of heart."

Murphy says the Australian government mandates solar supplements for new homes and businesses.

"Thinking solar is a way of life there," he says.

The relatively rapid market shrinkage in the Keys was foreseen by Solar Technologies founder Howard Finkle. He left for the Dominican Republic two years ago to install a prototype system as a pilot model for many of the nation's remote communities.

Working on the project, he fell to his death from a rooftop.

"That was a hard loss," says Murphy. "Howard was Mr. Outside, the salesman, the promoter, the planner. I was the hands-on-guy, the one that put the stuff together the way Howard and architect Tom Pope wanted it to go. All of a sudden, I had to try to do Howard's job too."

Murphy changed the company name to Thermal Maintenance Company which he operates out of a small (try minuscule) office in back of the Restaurant Store at 925 Truman Avenue in Key West.

"We have five employees," he says. "Most of them are busy with the regular

maintenance of all those systems we installed 10 years ago, or more.

About the lack of new orders, Murphy says, "The Keys solar market is about saturated. Besides, no one really believes there's going to be another oil shortage.

"So I'm thinking about developing a catalog of solar technology. Everything

Murphy shrugs his shoulders, resigned. "I don't know why, but everyone assumes it's a difficult process. Say solar to someone, and they're thinking about some exotic technology. That's not the case. Our systems are more reliable and need less care than City Electric's."

Murphy says he prefers the Third World markets, because he doesn't "have to buck the politics we do in the Keys."

In Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, says Murphy, the establishment is on his side. He says it's just the opposite here.

"We had a set of 25 solar-powered street lights ready to install along Smathers Beach," explains Murphy. "We were asked to bid on the job, and our bid was as low or lower than standard electric lights that needed a City Electric hook-up. And ours would have been maintenance free for a longer time.

Murphy says the deal was set until behind-the-scenes influences caused local politicians to change their minds.

"After that, solar never had a chance," he says.

"That's why I'm on the phone these days with so many people who can't speak English. That's where our future is, in other countries where solar energy can solve real problems better than any other energy system."

If John Murphy's concept works, the office at 925 may not be large enough. After all, Key West will become company headquarters for an export industry with a future as bright as the sun.

KEVIN CREAM

JOHN MURPHY: The solar specialist says Third World countries prefer solar energy.

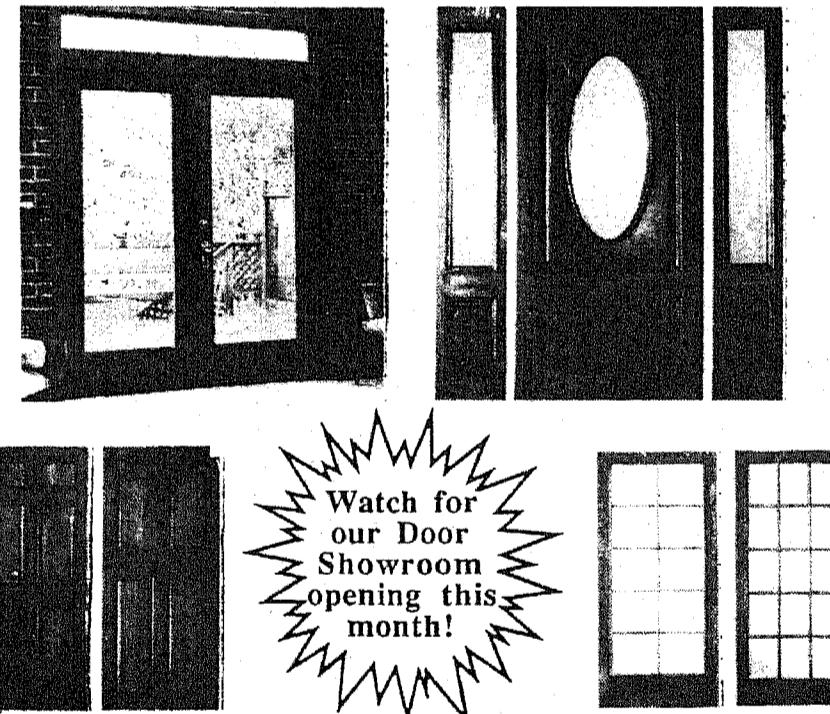
from water heaters to solar-powered street lights. With a little help from the governments, we can get orders, say, for 100 rooftop solar hot-water heaters. We'll put each of the individual kits together with everything that's needed, including a basic installation and operation manual.

"It's not complicated, you know," John



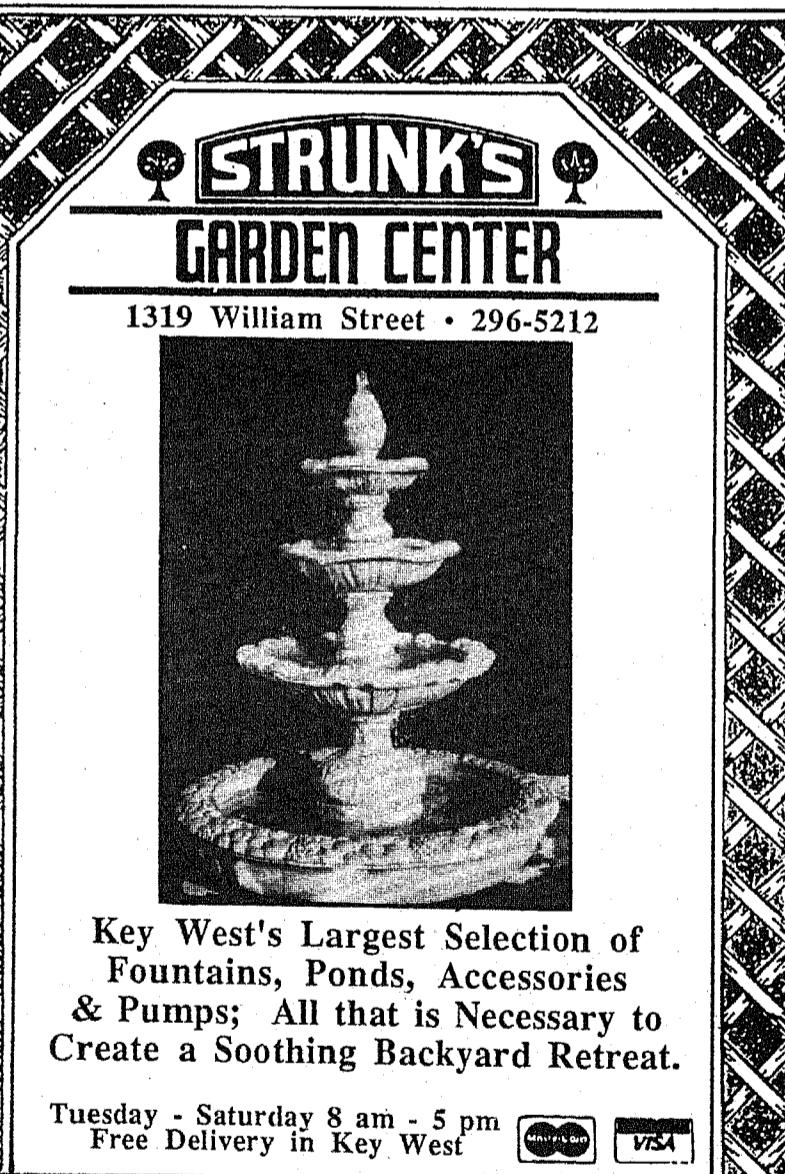
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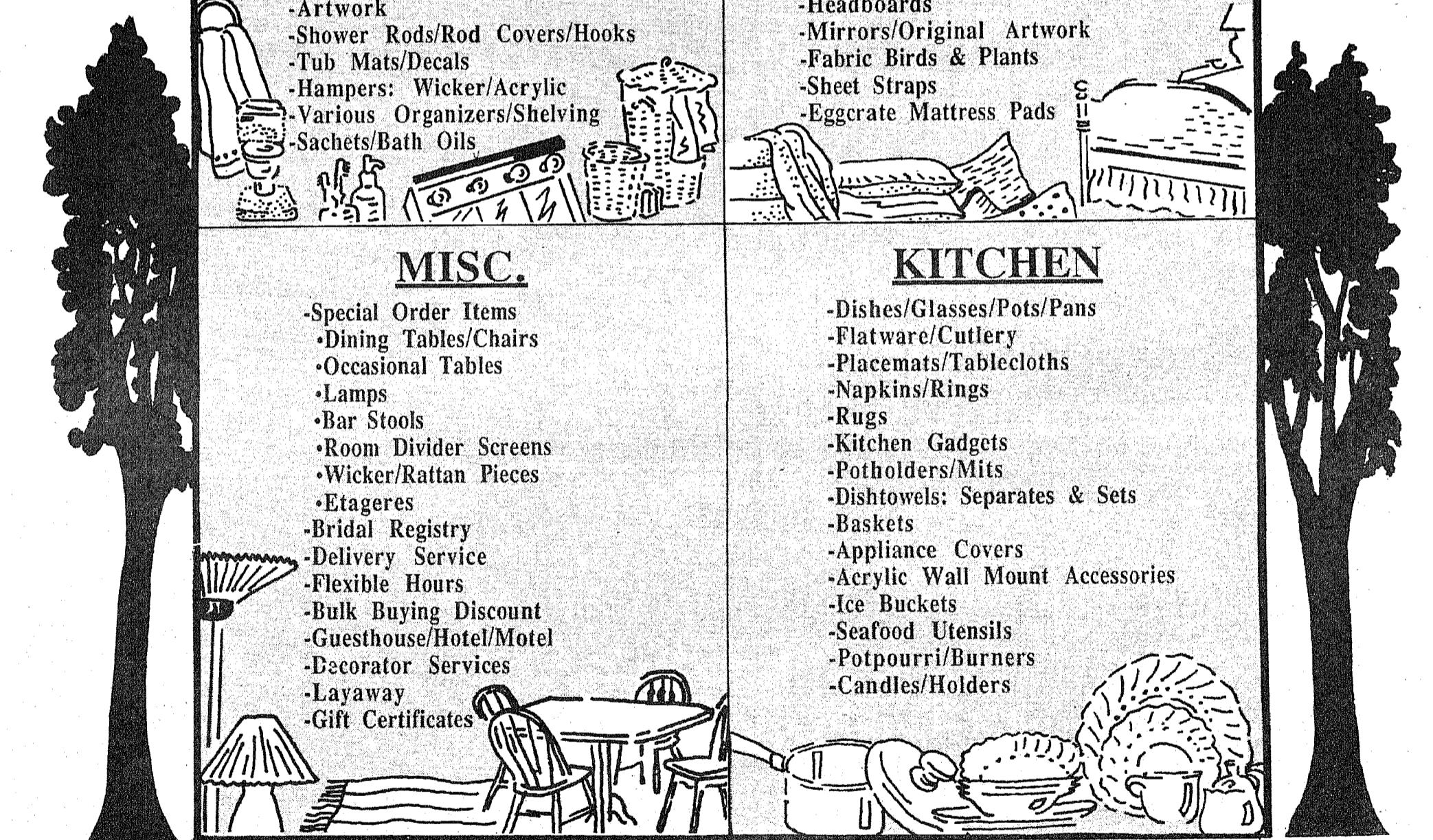
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Kitchens & Bathrooms

Today's fixups include new flooring, recycling bins and paint

by E. M. Smith

Fixing up a kitchen or bathroom is simple. A fresh coat of paint or a few new knick knacks can make a big difference without costing big bucks. And let's face it, when your house looks good, you feel good.

One of the easiest and more practical changes is adapting to recycling, which has finally hit full force in Key West with the curbside program. Since separating and storing materials is essential to the process, the furniture industry has devised a recycling contraption to help organize the recycling mess. It resembles a microwave cart, but is longer and narrower. The interior space is divided into three sections to store separated recyclables. The top can be utilized as counter space.

At a cost of \$80 to \$100, it is a worthwhile purchase. And it even comes in a rainbow of colors, appealing to the serious yet environmentally conscious decorator. It's a new product, so check the stores for availability.

For those who prefer a more sophisticated approach, Nabil/Troxel Building Contractors can install several types of custom cabinets, constructed to suit individual recycling needs.

Now let's talk serious alterations and structural changes. A new coat of paint is always a good starting point. According to Mike Freebery of Carpet and Casuals, peach, teal, rose and gray are popular Key West colors; so are pastels and Miami Vice colors such as Caribbean turquoise and pink. Bright bold colors can also create an invigorating environment.

Tom Walsh, co-owner of Interior Designs, suggests a monochromatic scheme for bathrooms to maintain an airy effect.

Paint the whole room the same color as

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the tub—in a white or off white," he recommends. Contrasting color can then be introduced in towels, accessories or a designer shower curtain, which can be a focal point in itself.

Paint is also a good remedy for ailing kitchen cabinets. Now there's even a paint especially for Formica. Tom Walsh recommends adding trim to cabinet doors in contrasting shades for a "special effect." He also suggests removing the cabinet doors and displaying nice china pieces on the shelves, if the existing ones are simply unbearable. Ah, beauty meets function.

Floors in Key West homes can be a nightmare. Area rugs and runners can disguise and brighten an ugly floor. Colorful carpet remnants at ridiculously low prices are available at the Sunday flea market in Key West. And vibrant Mexican blankets can be found at street vendor stands lining Duval Street.

Carpet and Casuals' Mike Freebery insists that "nothing is as stain or moisture resistant as vinyl flooring." A practical choice for kitchens and bathrooms, new vinyl, in roll or tile form, can be placed directly on top of old flooring, which has been prepped with an embossing leveler and compound to fill in the old pattern.

Vinyl is relatively inexpensive—about \$10 a square yard for do-it-yourselfers, or \$15 when installed professionally.

The finishing touches can make all of the difference. Art, artifacts, framed posters or moisture-loving plants make any place "homely." Wanda Wilcox of Interiors suggests using mylar paper as a wall covering to enhance lighting and add color. Wilcox reports that mylar paper creates great effects in bathrooms where there often is no natural light.

If these ideas sound great, but are not ideal for your limited budget let your creativity go wild. Paint a mural on a wall, turn the kitchen floor into a checker board, collect menus or beautiful magazine covers and mount and frame them. Get a hammer, nails and some scrap wood, and build a rack on the kitchen ceiling to hang your pots and pans.

The options are endless if you use a little imagination.

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TOGA PARTY: Nadine and Christopher Toriello of Discount Bedding and Bath in Searstown drape themselves in shower curtains. The curtain on the left costs \$4, the other \$89.

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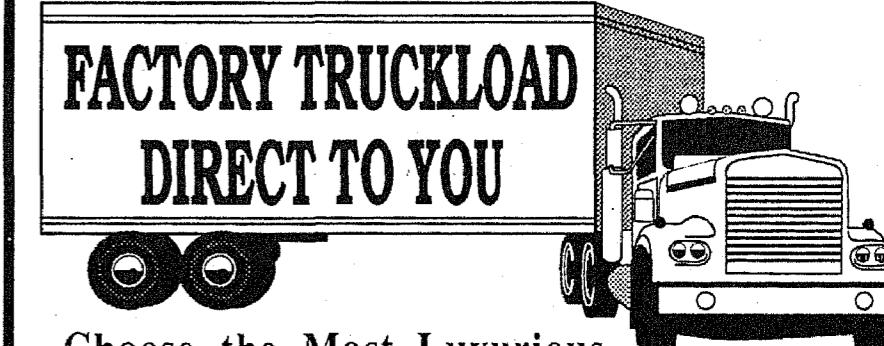
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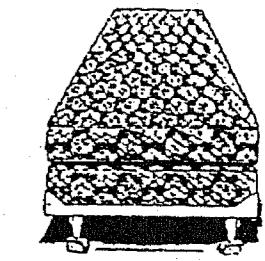
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Water-savings devices, which can be installed in shower heads and faucets, are available locally and will fit practically any model of hardware. Used properly, these often slash the volume of water consumption from 10 to 25 percent—or about 5 or 6 gallons per minute during a shower.

New and inexpensive, an on/off switch that controls waterflow can be attached to shower heads. This eliminates the need to re-adjust the controls for temperature and water pressure every time a person turns off the shower to soap up and shampoo.

The newer toilets now have smaller tanks — down from 5 gallons to 2-1/2 or even one. Bowls are designed to flush with less water. This is great news for those building a new home. Renters and owners of older homes, however, may have to rely on the plastic jug in the toilet tank to keep water consumption down. Avoid garbage disposal units, which gulp down water. Compost waste instead.

Adding Green to the Scene

by E.M. Smith

Consider this scenario: you move into a new domicile, and when you get there, the yard is bare. Or it's such an unappealing combination of dirt and haphazard growth that you wish it were bare. What to do? You want a beautiful outside area, and you want it now.

The truth of the matter is, a lush, attractive lawn doesn't happen overnight. Like anything else, the more you put into it, the more you get out. However, if you

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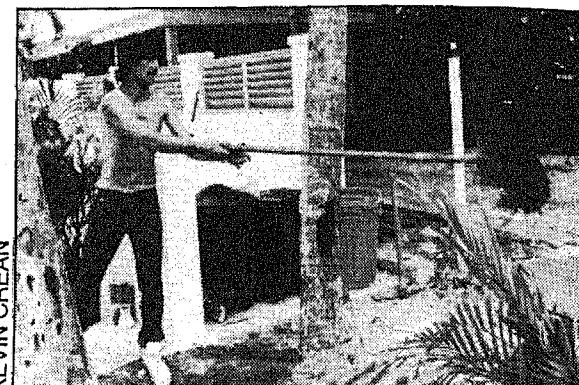
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KEVIN CREAM

HEAVE HO! Gerard Saint Jacques cuts through roots and coral to plant new shrubs.

dedicate yourself to planning and preparing your new lawn, maintenance can be kept to a minimum.

Homeowners might consider consulting a landscaping service. One advantage of professional help, explains Rick Crerand of Greenleaves nursery, is "we can plan ahead and plant according to future growth. You don't want plants to grow into power lines or hide each other one year down the road."

Your garden will be gorgeous from the onset and, if you agree to a maintenance plan, will continue to grow that way.



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Light is another important consideration affecting plant choice and the look of a yard. If the space to be greened receives plenty of sunlight, go for the bright, flowering look. If the area is shaded, lush tropical greenery is a wise choice.

Some plants that take well to our climate can survive in either sun or shade. When cultivated for commercial nurseries they are raised in both fields and greenhouses. At the point of purchase, ascertain whether they are shade or sun-grown plants and place them accordingly.

Agents at the Monroe County Extension Service are excellent resources. They can provide scads of information relevant to the special needs of Keys' gardeners. The telephone number is 292-4501. Advise is free.

Environmental concerns factor into any yard design. Organic fertilizers—commercial, manure or compost—are more user-friendly than chemical compounds, which may leach into the aquifer. Think xeriscape: use plants that need minimal watering.



KEVIN CREAM

DON'T FENCE ME IN: Landscaping on Elizabeth Street shows due respect to an old tree.

Recycle! Coffee grounds make excellent acidifying mulch as do Christmas trees. City Electric offers a free service early in the New Year, rendering discarded evergreens into bags of mulch. Vegetable trimmings, leaves and plant stuff as compost.

Preserve! The extension service can provide lists of endangered and threatened indigenous plant life, many of which can be used to beautify a backyard in a most environmentally conscious fashion.



Sara Cook Inc.

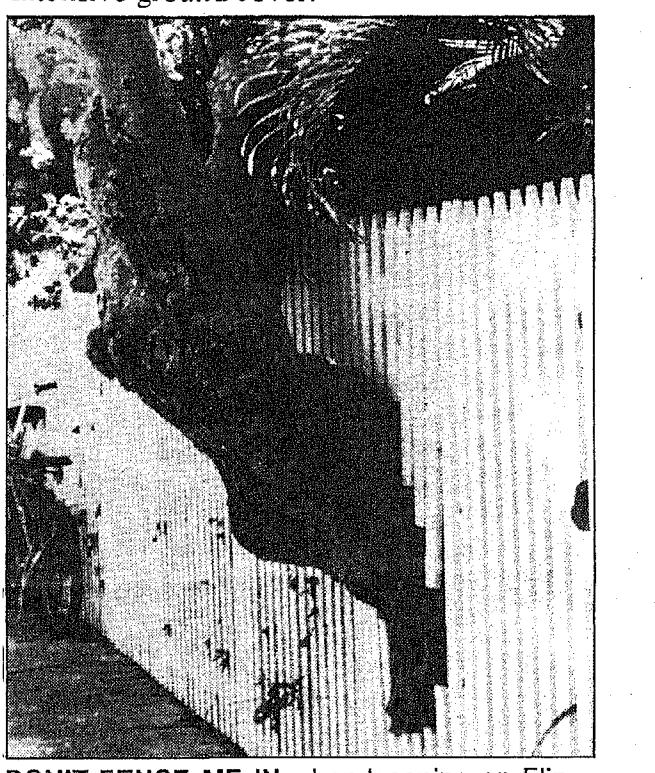
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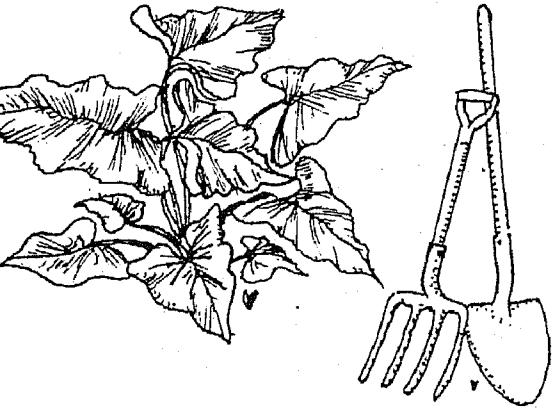
Ground covers are an easy and attractive place to start. If space permits, a vista of green lawn is pleasing. Sod is available locally. Voila! Instant green.

But, according to extension service literature: "Maintaining a lawn requires mowing, regular fertilization and, at times, expensive treatments to control pests and disease. Turf grasses can be extremely energy-intensive ground cover."



Solares Hill • February 15-28, 1991 • Page 21

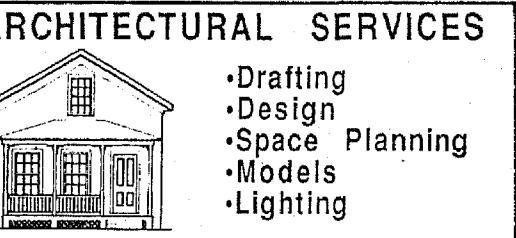
Of the larger plants, ferns, aspidistras, bromeliads, spider plants, philodendrons and begonias do well in shady areas. Others, including false heather and day lily, will thrive in partial shade or sun. Aloe is



always good to have around for its healing properties. It is easy to maintain, and new plants will easily grow from a single leaf.

Full sunlight invites the colorful glory of poinsettia, hibiscus and bougainvillea.

If space allows, trees add variety, interest and welcome shade. Silver palm and dwarf malayan palm remain at manageable size, growing no taller than 20 feet. The



J. Elizabeth Sandia

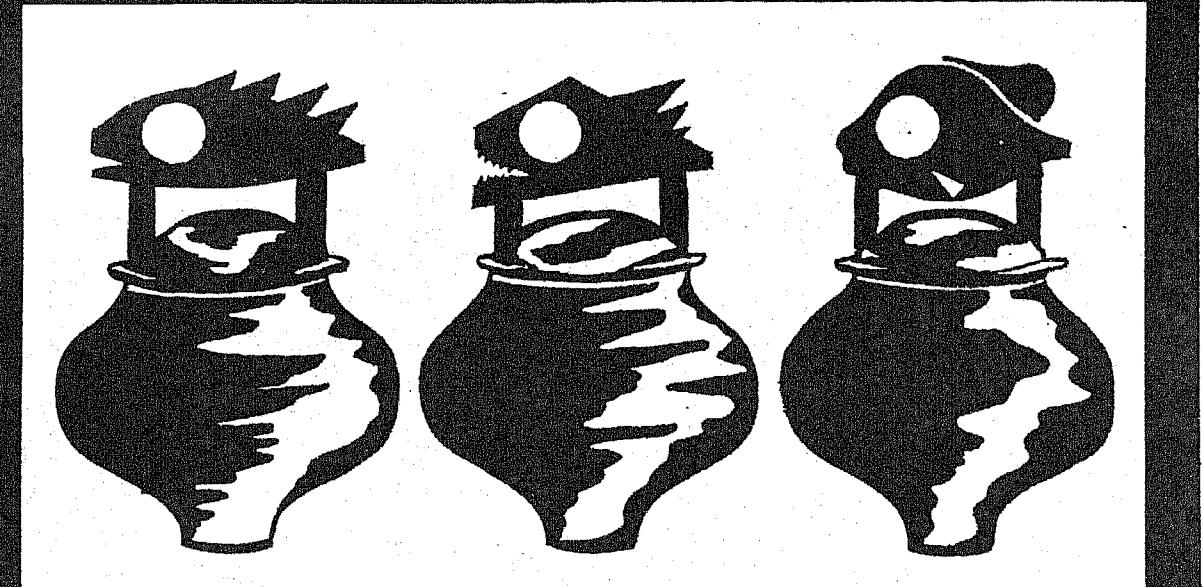
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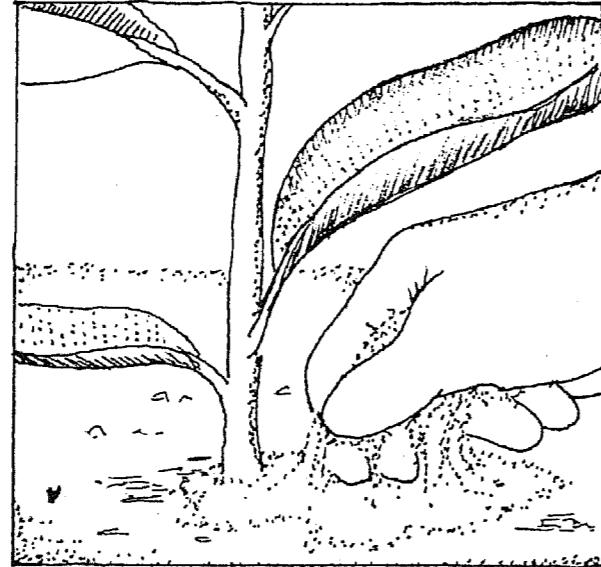
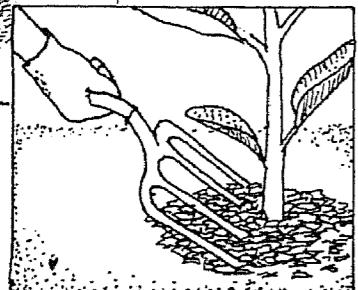
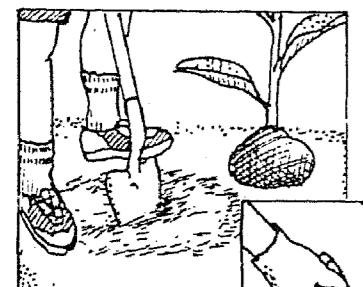
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malayan palm is resistant to lethal yellowing disease. At the MARC House nursery, a small palm may be purchased for \$12, ready to transplant. Larger specimens can be ordered.

It's always a good idea to discuss your greenery requirements and desires with nursery personnel. They can help you select the items that best fit your particular needs.



Once you've chosen your plants, the next step is to get them into the ground so they can transform that once annoying outside area into a lush, tropical yard that is perfect for relaxing and entertaining.

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local soil is nutrient poor, Leo Hicks of Strunk's Garden Center advises that plants should be lightly fertilized about every other month to keep them healthy and growing.



large as the pot your plant arrives in. Bill Snider of Sears Garden Shop recommends filling the hole with a moisture-retaining mix of potting soil, peat and regular dirt. A little fertilizer can be added to the mix to encourage new growth—be careful not to over fertilize and damage the roots.

Plants should be mulched to retain moisture and cut down on watering expense. Mulch will also discourage insects. Since

White Sheets and Red Tomatoes

How to hook up your washer to your garden sprinkler system

by P. Pallino

Tomatoes. Clusters of big, ripe, sweet tomatoes, bursting with juice. Ruby red. The deepest, shiniest red you've ever seen. Almost luminescent.

When was the last time you bought a tomato like that in a store? Never! That's when! This type of tomato is obtainable only from a home garden. Beefsteak, Better Boy, Homestead, cherry...

What's that? You don't like cherry tomatoes? Then you've obviously never grown them yourself. The little red superballs you find in stores are definitely not cherry tomatoes.

Let me tell you about my tomatoes...

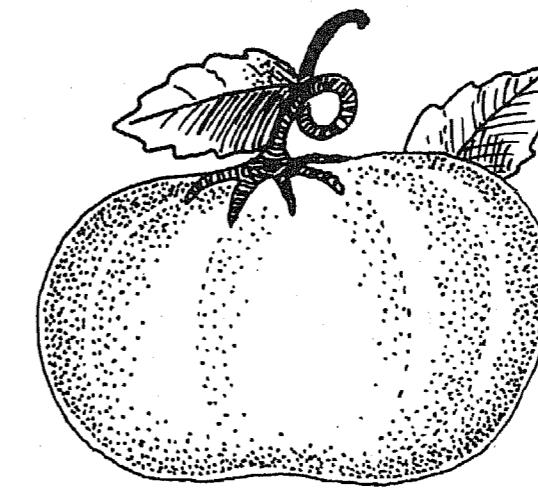
As the gardeners of Key West know, tomatoes will thrive in our backyard gardens only during the winter months. Unfortunately, these are also the driest months of the year.

For the last four years, I have been perfecting my tomato-growing technique. Despite whatever improvements that I have made in terms of frames, fertilizer or compost, the essence of successful tomato growth here in the Keys is water—lots and lots of water.

In the past, I have irrigated my plants on a regular basis using the garden hose. During the last year, however, water restrictions, the rising cost of water and the local

sewer charge, based on the amount of water used, forced me to reconsider how my tomatoes (as well as other plants) were to be watered.

Today, however, the solution is found in the largest water-using appliance in any household—the washing machine. Why contribute to an increased water bill/sewer charge when the used "gray water" from my Kenmore Heavy Duty could easily irrigate the entire yard?



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After all, the surfactants in the detergent render the water more "wettable," thereby increasing the water's availability to the plants via the soil. Additionally, the small amount of phosphorus in the detergent actually feeds the plants.

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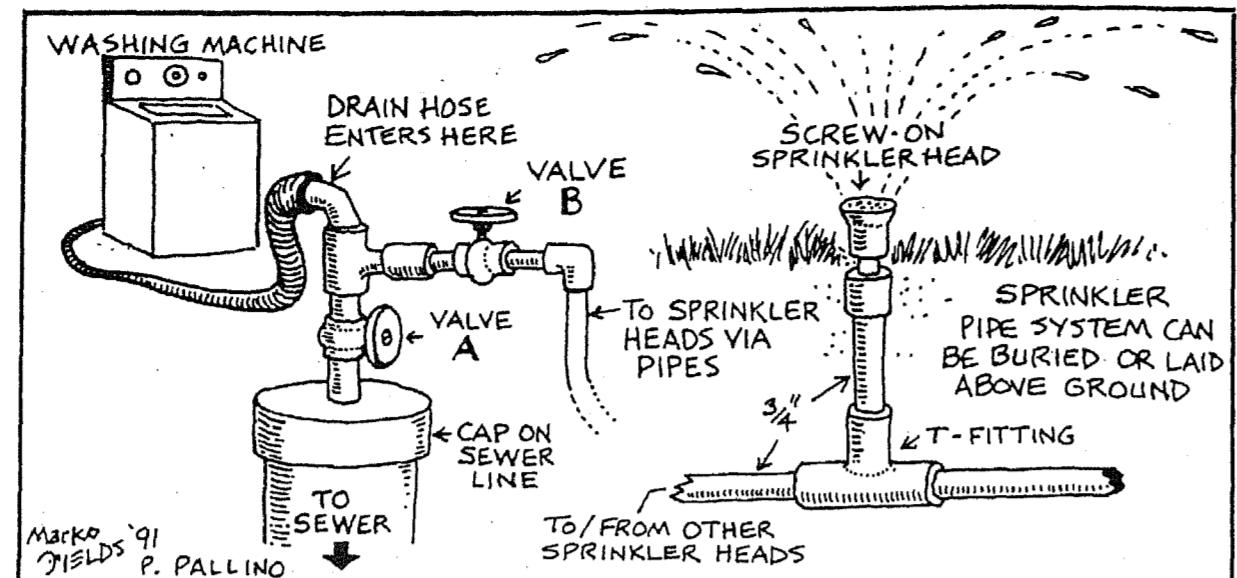
used to wash the clothes, is redirected into a network of pipes. Sprinkler heads are placed in the vicinity of the plants which are to be watered.

I used PVC-type pipes, although any type of pipe is acceptable. PVC is convenient because it attaches easily to itself—just use a little glue—and to fittings.

The sprinkler heads were found at a local garden center, and are available in quarter-, half- and full circles, depending on the area you want watered. My system employs a variety of heads.

In planning my system, I wondered: Would bleach harm my plants? Rather than experimenting, I fit the system with two valves located at the end of the drain hose.

When valve A is opened and valve B is closed, it allows the waste water to flow in-



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to the sewer. When valve A is closed and valve B is opened, water is directed to the sprinklers, which encircle the garden. This way, I can water the garden only when it is safe.

Mulch is another factor which plays an essential role in the washer-irrigation system. Mulching shields the soil from the drying effects of sun and wind. It helps the soil retain whatever water it gets. Since I wash only two or three loads per week, I would have to use the garden hose (which I'm trying to avoid) or else take in washing on the side to make up for the evaporation rate during the winter—if I didn't mulch.

I mulch with whatever is on hand. Lately it's been frangipani leaves. Perhaps at another time I'll use the free mulch available from City Electric Systems and deposited by workers at Indigenous Park.

In the meantime, thanks to the washer-irrigation system, the heliconias are blooming, the elephant ears are finally looking like, well, elephant ears, the bananas are fruiting, the papayas are dropping faster than I can eat them, and the tomatoes—ah, the tomatoes—let me tell you about my tomatoes.

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enlarge spaces. "Reflections make a room more interesting," says Nancy Cooper of Cooper Montero Interior Design Studio.

Varying levels in furniture and contrasts in color break up space and continuity. To keep the eye flowing smoothly, thus keeping the illusion of space, local designers advise that window treatments should be the same color or color value, or lighter as the walls.

Wanda Wilcox of Interiors by Wanda prefers soft cloth shades, wooden (painted to desired shade) or mini-blinds. "They maximize light and are not so heavy," explains Wilcox.

For shoestring budgets, Nancy Cooper suggests creative uses for sheets: "You can make nice, light drapes from them. Or use them to cover a sofa or make pillows. You can get some really jazzy sheets and coordinate the room."

Tom Walsh of Interior Designs has a different view of minimalism. "Let Key West come in through the windows," he says. The guaranteed daily sunshine is a big

Accentuate the Positive

Making the most of a small island space

by E. M. Smith

You've moved into a new apartment. Here's the bad news: skyrocketing rents and compartmentalizing of older houses have probably left you with no choice but a skimpy space to stash all your stuff.

Now the good news: this is Key West. You don't need all that extra baggage. The sub-tropical environment lends itself naturally to light, bright spaces, which are easy to maintain.

Crampy quarters, say local interior designers, should be a challenge and an invitation to review your belongings. Decide what is essential and dump the rest. A yard sale could even help pay those first utility bills. A friend describes this zen approach as "voluntary simplicity."

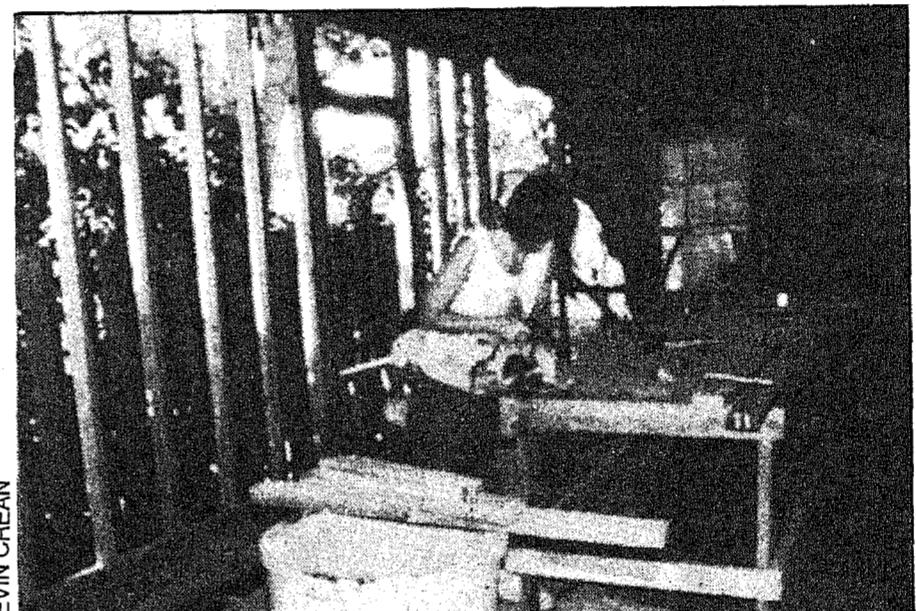
The key to effective living space and inner space is basically the same: decide what is important and accentuate it. Clutter takes

up valuable space, so keep only what is important and attractive, and display it. Storage space will be at a minimum in your smaller apartment.

To emphasize these special items, enhance the feeling of space and acquire that Key West look, the guiding principle is to keep it light. Avoid heavy prints and bulky furniture as they tend to close in space. Use whites, off-whites and muted pastel shades on all surfaces—ceilings, floors, walls.

White trim freshens a room. And if you're daring and artistic, stencil in a border. Fast Buck Freddie's carries kits for marbelizing and creating an antique finish on any type of furniture or accessory. Paint and a little imagination can make all the difference in giving small space character.

The old trick of using mirrors works to



DO-IT-YOURSELF: Naomi Van Steelandt uses the carpentry skills she learned at the Shelter Institute in Maine to renovate her home.

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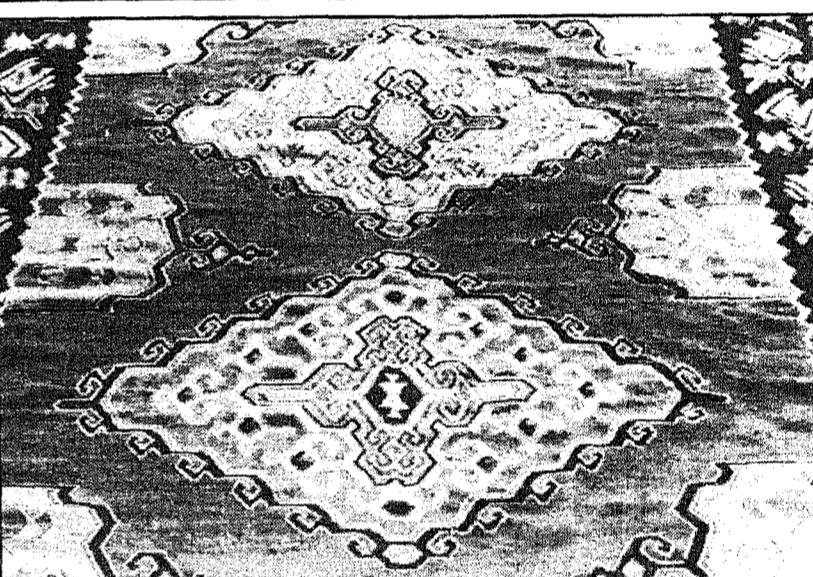
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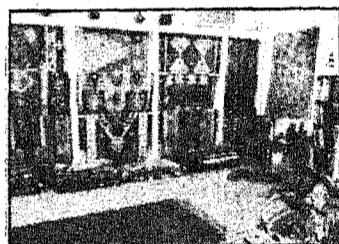
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Even dark paneling, once immensely popular and practically obligatory in mobile homes, can be updated and brightened with whitewash or light paint. Wanda Wilcox prefers to adhere textured wallpaper over a liner for this purpose. "It covers a multitude of sins," she says.

To save floor space, move furniture close to walls wherever possible. "Stuff" should be hung on walls, as part of a functional display, or on shelves, which can be placed up high for unsightly or seldom used objects.

Hardwood floors—for people fortunate enough to have them—can be revitalized by stripping and waxing to a soft glow (more reflected light.) If you use area rugs, avoid

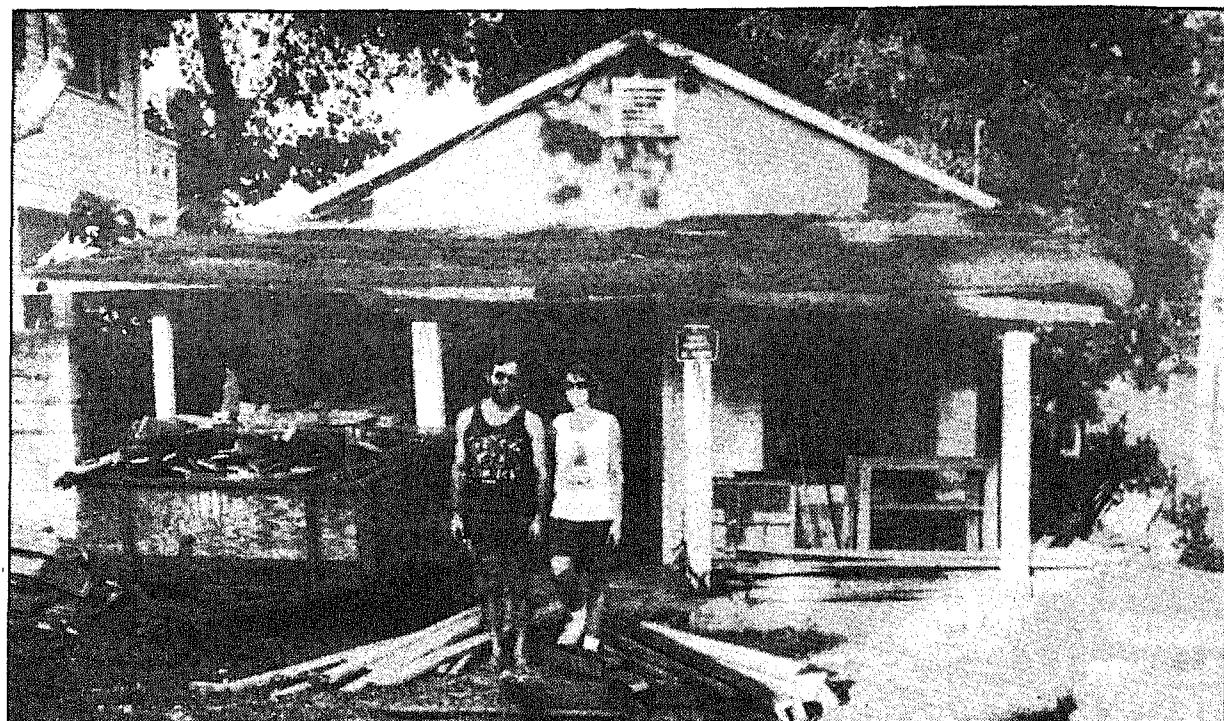
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CONSTRUCTION COUPLE: Architect Sullins Stuart and Naomi Van Steelandt have their work cut out for them at the home they are renovating on Center Street.

borders as they will make the room look smaller. Lightweight woven-cotton dhurry rugs have the added advantage of being machine washable and inexpensive.

A monochromatic pile carpet is a comfortable way to cover a less-than-beautiful floor, while keeping the open space effect.

Too much furniture clutters a room. The smaller the area, the more multi-functional the furniture should be. This is especially true in an efficiency or studio apartment. An unused bed taking up valuable space during waking hours just is not practical.

Dual duty is the way to go. A Murphy bed, custom-made pull-down or banquette would fit the bill. Sofa beds are acceptable, although they can become nasty to backs over extended use. The Japanese have long mastered the art of simplicity with their practical, affordable, and attractive futon. Several local stores carry futon mattresses and racks in a variety of styles.

For those fortunate enough to have a separate bedroom, platform beds with drawers utilize "dead space" and can dispense with the need for a chest of drawers. Lightweight wire shelving and racks can create an attractive closet area if built-ins aren't provided. Clothing, attractively arranged, then becomes part of your personalized display. Sorry slobs, neatness is the key element in making a small space bearable.

The principle of keeping your choice "light" applies well to furniture: bamboo, wicker and rattan are ideal. These materials look great and are easy to move around. Tom Walsh says he uses white wicker pieces as much as possible. He prefers to keep stereos and similar electronic equipment out of sight, when not in use, behind the doors of wicker cabinets.

So, space cadets, the essence of making the most of a limited area is this: minimize, emphasize display and keep it light.

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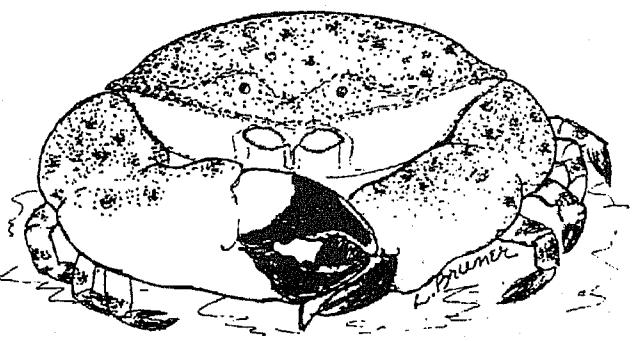
Nature Notebook

Buttering Up the Great Stone Crab

by Capt. Gaff McKetchum

The pair remains in this pose for up to a week, not eating, barely moving—just waiting for her to shed her hard shell. When the shell is finally shed and the female is protected by only soft, membrane-like covering, mating takes place.

Each female can produce up to 500,000 eggs per year. Since the female is able to store the male's sperm, a single copulation provides enough sperm to fertilize her eggs for the entire year-long spawning season.



After mating, the male stone crab, not a hit-and-run sort, continues to cradle the female for another five to seven days until her soft shell hardens, and she can again fend for herself.

The stone-crab industry in Florida is a modern phenomenon. Until the 1920s, the stone crab was considered inedible by all but the very hungriest Floridian. Then in 1922, a Harvard professor who was classifying the marine life of Biscayne Bay, tried boiling up a mess of stone crabs the way lobsters were customarily prepared in New England.

He found them delicious, persuaded an early Miami Beach restaurateur to try them on his customers, and the rest is, as they say, history: an industry was born, and a culinary legend—Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant—was created.

Commercial quantities of stone crabs are found only on the Florida Bay side of the Keys and up the southwest coast of the mainland. Most of the trapping is done from Marathon northward to Ft. Myers.

State regulations require that only claws a minimum 2 3/4 inches long be taken, and that the de-clawed crab be returned alive to the water. Experienced stone-crabbers are

adult crabs are dark brownish red, mottled with gray. The fingers of the claw are black. The young crabs, who are a dark purple with a white spot on the wrist, live along the shoreline in rubble or in the mangrove fringe and, as adults, move out to shallow water to live in burrows which they dig. These can often be spotted by the mound of discarded shells left from their diet of clams and small mollusks, which the crabs crack with their crusher claw and eat, piling the litter outside their burrow.

Marine biologists believe the stone crabs mate throughout the year, with November and December being peak mating months in Florida Bay. The male stone crab is quite the tender lover. Attracted to the female by a scent she gives off just prior to her molting, he cradles her in his claws, holding her in front of his body.

adept at removing the claws by using a swift up-and-down motion. This releases the claw from the carapace at a natural fracture plane.

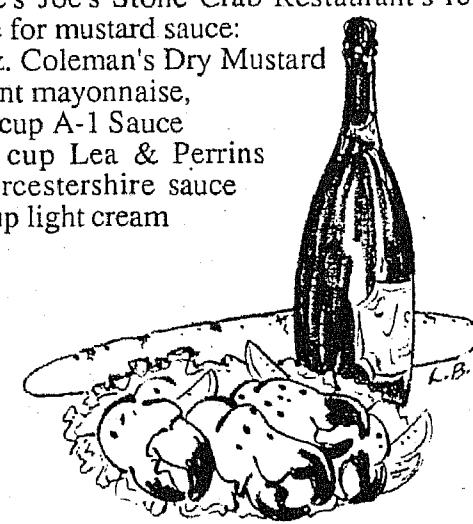
If this is done properly, the crab will not bleed to death—a certain result of improper removal. Survival rates for de-clawed crabs is estimated at 33 percent. It takes one year for a crab to regenerate a claw to harvestable size.

In 1989, Monroe County's commercial landings of stone-crab claws totaled just under one million pounds, according to preliminary figures. These were taken by 194 vessels, employing 420 crewmen and using 237,000 traps. The off-the-vessel value of the catch was approximately \$4 million. Landings for the mainland portion of the industry were much larger.

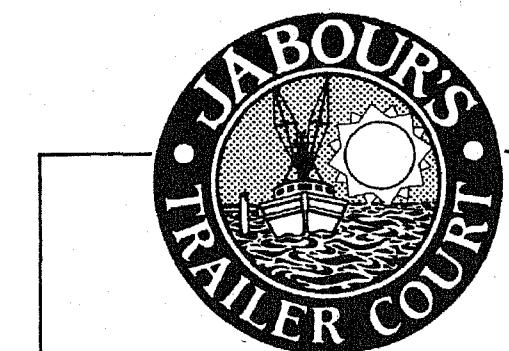
Here in Key West, stone-crab lovers are lucky, indeed. Many local restaurants serve fresh stone-crab claws in season, and unlike the practice at Joe's in Miami, it is not necessary to tip the *maître d'* \$20 just to get a table. Local fish markets also sell fresh pre-cooked claws, iced and ready to crack—and eat. So, get some claws and a loaf of French bread, melt the butter, ice the champagne and enjoy nature's bounty while you can. Too soon comes May 15, the end of stone-crab season.

The Original Recipe

Just for "Nature Notebook" readers, here's Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant's recipe for mustard sauce:
2 oz. Coleman's Dry Mustard
1 pint mayonnaise,
1/4 cup A-1 Sauce
1/4 cup Lea & Perrins
Worcestershire sauce
1 cup light cream



Mix all except cream. Gradually, beating constantly, add cream. Beat at slow speed until it thickens to preferred consistency.



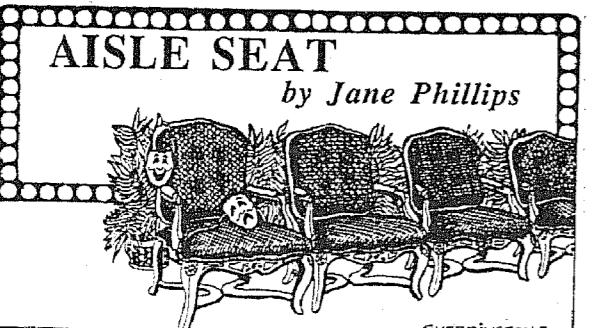
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The tradition that the-show-must-go-on didn't apply to the last production at the Waterfront Playhouse. Problems among members of the cast turned *Three by Tenn* into *Two by Tenn*. But never mind, two plays by Tennessee Williams are better than none. The famous playwright's dialogue is unsurpassed in American theatre, and this production offered an opportunity to see two of his lesser-known works: *A Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot* and *The Confessional*. The two, one-act plays made for an interesting contrast.

A Perfect Analysis examines a social interlude between middle-aged women. Their gossip is filled with memories of nights on the town at various convention-filled hotels. In perfect Williams' juxtaposition, this conversation takes place not in a beauty parlor or over lunch but in a St. Louis tavern over "fish bowls of beer."

The time is the 1930s, and "the girls" are hoping a couple of "sports" will appear to fill the male void. No such luck, so they spend the evening engrossed in idle chatter, primarily about men.

"You have no pride where men are concerned," one chides the other.



DRIVING MISS DAISY: From left, Al Campbell, Mary Ann Hiatt and Gordon Mackey perform this play about the friendship between a black chauffeur and his elderly, jewish female employer.

"Nobody's got any pride where men are concerned," her friend replies.

The title slips in when Flora (played by Jessica Steele) tells Bessie (played by Sandi Dalton) about having her fortune told by a parrot. It's a wonderful touch when the author makes the off-beat seem perfectly natural.

Play number two, *The Confessional* showed a darker side of life. Characters confront each other, and themselves, in a California beachfront bar. These folks are classic types: the boozed-up doctor, the good-looking young man with a preference for women who can support him, the sloppy drunk (in this case a teary-eyed woman), and a host of other misfits.

This is a beautifully written play about people who run from life by anesthetizing themselves with alcohol. Its powerful commentary on the human condition is high-

lighted by a soliloquy by the homosexual, who was played to the hilt by Jed Sloe.

Director George Gugliotti treated Williams' work with the utmost respect and coaxed a fine performance from Jessica Steele. She played Violet, the drunken floozy—not an easy task.

The Confessional ends as the bartender, played by Armando Lodigiani, holds up Violet's beat-up slipper, which serves as a metaphor for the lost souls in the play, and says simply, "It has passed all repair." This play leaves no hope for a happy ending.

Each character from *Two by Tenn*'s well-rounded cast delivered some poignant moments. Cast members for the two plays included: Peggy Montgomery, Jerry Campbell, Tom Simmons, Michael DeMoldau, Thomas R. Greenwood and Woody Clark.

Sets by Darryl Marzich and costumes by Kelley Moore added to the pleasure of

the evening.

Oklahoma! Was A-Okay

The Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center filled to capacity both evenings during a recent run of the Rodgers and Hammerstein hit, *Oklahoma!* It just proves a show that was first produced in New York City in 1943 can still hold Key West audiences captive.

This production was part of a road-company tour of New York-based Music Theatre Advancement. Former TWFAC director George Brashears booked the show, and the current director, Ken Byant, went along with the choice.

Thanks to this fresh, energetic production, audience members were able to

recall any number of R&B songs, ranging from "People Will Say We're in Love" to the rousing title song.

Four-Footed Actors

A traveling troupe of actors from Canada rode into town on Clydesdale-drawn wagons earlier this month. The Caravan Theatre Stage Company made a dramatic entrance—even for Key West.

The group set up a large circular tent on the Truman Annex property and performed *A Good Baby*, a morality play written by Leon Cooke. The good versus evil plot was carried out by an enthusiastic cast led by Robert Nasmith, Olivier L'Ecuyer and Ann Millaire. They were accompanied by J. Douglas Dodds' musical touches.

The company provided some inventive stage effects and dramatic moments. Visually, the entrance of a young blond man (Dan Wild) astride a Clydesdale horse took your breath away, and the ancient, beat-up car that chugged around the stage area was unforgettable.

The play's the thing, however, and this one was too repetitious—a problem particularly apparent in the role of the preacher (who was too preachy even for a preacher!) With a tighter script, this unique, theater-in-the-round experience could have been greatly improved.

Currently on Key West stage is *Smoke On The Mountain* at the Red Barn Theatre and *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Waterfront Playhouse.

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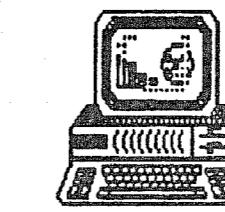
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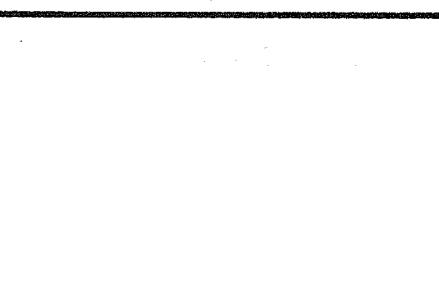
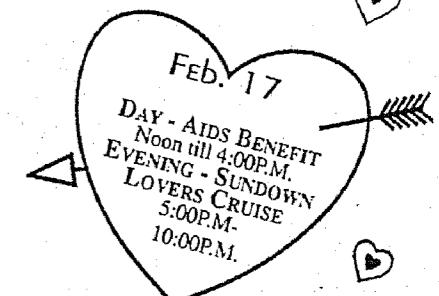
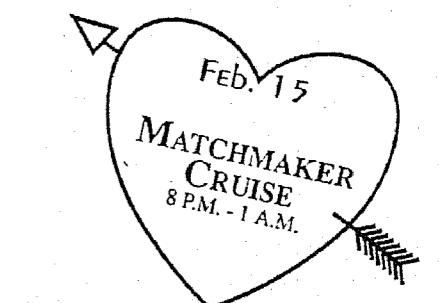
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On The Town with Jane Phillips

Around town . . .

We all know that Cupid's arrow can sometimes pierce. "Love Hurts" was the theme for Fast Buck Freddie's latest window display. There were broken hearts everywhere. It was a beauty. Hope you received your special Valentine.

The changing face of Key West: a former flophouse recently received national recognition for restoration. Erik de Boer and Richard Manley were the proud winners for the Marquesa Hotel.

Apparently, backstage antics at the Waterfront Playhouse rivaled anything on its stage. As a result, the theater had to cancel one of the three Tennessee Williams one-act plays it had planned.

Sea Shepherd buddy J.G. is presently dealing with computer glitches plaguing the local publication where he is employed. He's completely unnerved—much worse than facing a Russian trawler in a small boat with 30-foot seas, he says.

Gerri Louise Gates spotted singer Larry Harvey paying his electric bill early one morning. He was beautifully dressed, every hair in place. Gerri, who thinks in

theatrical terms said, "He looked so perfect—it was like running into Ann Miller at City Electric."

David Harrison Wright's lovely afternoon tea party had all his friends talking. It was a sumptuous repast with crumpets, all kinds of delectables and, of course—tea.

After dark . . .

I see Monroe County Mayor Wilhelmina Harvey everywhere, always looking fresh as a daisy. She credits her energy to taking vitamins and added, "I just love being with people." The conversation took place at the Founders' Party after *Oklahoma!* Attracting attention was the live centerpiece camping out cowboy style in the middle of the buffet table. It turned out to be banquet manager Gary Quirk, who volunteered for the job. That's one way to keep your eye on the staff.

The Reach provided a perfect moonlit setting for dancing under the stars to the music of the Artie Shaw Orchestra. Kicking up their heels was Judith Powers with any number of partners and snowbirds Marta and Martin White. Bandleader Dick Johnson took time out to chat with trombone player Harry Schroder and drummer Walter Friend.

Last Stand president Jim McClellan and his hardworking committee were thrilled at the large turnout for the organization's annual party in the East Martello garden.

Again, the weather cooperated and guests,

strode the grounds, listened to music and feasted on foods donated by local restaurants.

Sunset performer Will Soto provided some of the entertainment. He was joined in his act by son Nick Soto, a natural if I ever saw one.

Two people who seemed to be enjoying themselves the most were DeeVon and Craig Quirilo. They're usually hosting Reef Relief events at Martello. This time they could just relax and enjoy.

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Michael Miller are two of the most attractive and talented people in town. He's the architect who, with three buildings to his credit, is rapidly changing the face of Duval Street.

There were so many cast parties for the *Heidi Chronicles* it's a wonder the Red Barn actors found time to do the show. David Spangler, Joy Hawkins and Tom Newton all played host for cast, crew and friends. What did they chat about? Show biz, of course.

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strode the grounds, listened to music and feasted on foods donated by local restaurants.

Sunset performer Will Soto provided some of the entertainment. He was joined in his act by son Nick Soto, a natural if I ever saw one.

Two people who seemed to be enjoying themselves the most were DeeVon and Craig Quirilo. They're usually hosting Reef Relief events at Martello. This time they could just relax and enjoy.

RESTAURANT DIRECTORY

Antonia's Restaurant, 615 Duval Street. Excellent Northern Italian cuisine in friendly, elegant atmosphere. Dinner served from 6 to 11 p.m., Monday through Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. 296-2900.

Atlantic X, Key West's own cruise ship offers evening cruises featuring live entertainment and a delicious continental buffet, included in the passage charge. The menu prepared by chef Kenn MacGregor of Kenn's Catered Affair changes weekly and features island cuisine. Docked at Key West Seaport at the foot of Elizabeth St. All major credit cards. 292-1777.

Club Tropic, 700 Duval at Angela Street. A European streetside café known for its eggs, burgers and al fresco ambience. Serving until 4 a.m., weekends 292-1435.

Conch Café, 1211 Duval Street. Charming sidewalk café serving home-cooked meals. Desserts, beer, wine, sundries, eat in or take out. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday brunch, served from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Closed Monday. 294-7227.

Duval Square Yogurt, located in the center of Duval Square. Offers the ultimate in "sinless indulgence," featuring no-fat, no-cholesterol yogurt. Daily

special flavors, including non-dairy fruit twist. Also serving health drinks and salads. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dinner served from 6 to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. 296-2900.

Emma's Seafare at The Reach, Simonton Street on the Ocean. Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner; Sunday brunch. This is a room that radiates the sun and sea. Dine indoors or on a terrace that overlooks the Atlantic. The menu features fish and more fish, prepared 105 different ways. Cash only. 294-7496.

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

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

Gloria's Garden, 618 Duval at the rear of Duval Market, serves French cuisine with an Island Flair in a lovely Tropical Garden. Inside seating also available. Breakfast and lunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., dinner 6pm to 10:30 p.m. Closed Wednesday. 296-8313.

Half Shell Raw Bar, Land's End Village, foot of Margaret Street, serving lunch and dinner til? Fresh shrimp, fish and lobster direct from their own fish market at the shrimp docks. Cash only. 294-1075.

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Café, 500 Duval Street. Good food, good drinks, and good music. Open 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., daily; til 4 a.m. weekends. 292-1435.

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

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

cakes and pies. 294-2301.

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

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

Rooftop Café, 310 Front Street, in the heart of old town offers rooftop and indoor seating. Breakfast 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily. Dinner until 11 p.m. Live entertainment weekends. 294-2042.

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

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

fresh frozen yogurt, non-dairy Dole Whip and tropical specialties. 296-2900.

Carol Snider, owner of **Swimline Pool Products**, has moved her store to 906A Kennedy Drive in Key Plaza. It was a short move—just a few steps from her old store. The new space is much larger, and Snider says she will be able to stock more items for pools and spas such as chemicals, nets, gauges, and accessories. 294-6402.

Formerly of the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, Jerry Jackson is the new chef at **Rich's Café**, located in the Eden House at 1015 Fleming Street. Jackson specializes in classical French food with a Cajun flair. His dishes include Beef Wellington, stuffed shrimp in hollandaise sauce, bananas foster and strawberry flambee. Dinner is served daily from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., except Tuesday. Breakfast and lunch are served Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday Brunch is served from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 296-2961.

Tropical Window Treatments

Paul and Renne Richardson, owners of **The Pink Vac**, have moved their store to 1118 White Street, just a block away from their previous 1102 White Street address. The Pink Vac offers sales, supplies and repairs for most major brands of vacuum cleaners. The company also repairs most small appliances, including television sets and VCRs. 294-8563.

A former design consultant working in Ottawa, Ontario, Elizabeth Sandia specializes in residential space planning, renovations and additions. Since moving to Key West two years ago, she's completed work at several island residences, in addition to designing an Egyptian-theme room at the John Mitchell home, constructing a scale model for a developer at Truman Annex and designing the Art Deco facade of the Pegasus Hotel through Dennis Beebe's office. 292-1343.

Richard A. Van Hout, co-owner of **Key West Realty, Inc.**, has been appointed for the second time to serve on the Government Relations Committee of the **American Society of Notaries**, announced Eugene E. Hines, executive director of the society. Formed in 1965, the society is a national non-profit organization designed to improve notarial practices and to uphold high standards for notaries. The Government Relations Committee recommends policy concerning legislative and government relations matters affecting the office of notary public.

TROPICAL WINDOW TREATMENTS

EFFICIENT: Tropical Window Treatments.

Health drinks have been added to the menu of the **Duval Square Yogurt Shop** at 1075 Duval Street, says **Guy McIntosh**, the store's new owner. These include Orange Plus, a concoction of OJ, cranberry juice, crushed ice and honey; a Key West Frosty, a delicious blend of OJ, plain yogurt and banana. The shop now also serves salads, such as cool chicken with cumin and citrus, pita sandwiches, and tuna, pasta and fruit salad, and of course,

Carriage Trade
529 Eaton Street
Key West, Florida 33040
93050 296-2749
Open for Lunch M-F 12-1pm
Dinner by Reservation

CALENDAR • FEBRUARY 15-28

Cultural Events

2/15 • Reading from *The Lucayans*, a book that reveals the life of the Lucayan Indians prior to European contact, will be read by Sandra Riley at the Florida Keys Community College Library at 7 p.m.

2/15-4/30 • The Doves and Pigeons of John James Audubon, open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at the Audubon House and Gardens, 205 Whitehead Street. Call 294-2116.

2/15-3/2 Florida Keys Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition at East Martello Gallery and Museum, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call 296-3913.

2/15-2/17, 2/20-2/24 • Driving Miss Daisy by Alfred Uhry at the Waterfront Playhouse, Mallory Square. Call 294-5015.

2/15-3/17 • Smoke on the Mountain by Constance Ray at the Red Barn Theatre 319 Duval Street. Call 296-9911.

2/15 • Massing of the Colors at Fort Zachary Taylor State Park. Call 292-6713.

2/15 • The Borromeo Quartet presented by Patrons of Bach at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Call 294-5105.

2/15-2/16 • Old Island Restoration Foundation's House and Garden Tour of private dwellings and gardens in Key West. Call 294-9501.

2/16 • "Ferdinand the Bull" and "The Cricket in Times Square." These films for kids will be shown at 10 a.m. at the Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 292-3595.

2/16-2/17 Florida Keys Children's Shelter Rotary Seafood Festival. Call Edith (305) 852-4246.

2/16-2/17 • Upper Keys Seafood Festival both Sat. and Sun., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Plantation Yacht Harbor, mile marker 87. Call 1-800-FAB-KEYS.

2/17 • Children's Old Island Beauty Pageant at 10 a.m. at Key West High School. Call Martha Sawyer at 294-1605.

2/18-3/12 • Feiffer's People by Jules Feiffer Monday and Tuesday nights at the Red Barn Theatre 319 Duval Street. Call 296-9911.

2/19 • The Spanish Golden Age of Theatre: "The Phantom Lady," film and dance performance from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Key West High School auditorium, 2100 Flagler Ave. Free.

2/19 • Key West Garden Club continuing Floral Design Course at 9 a.m. Call Marsha Fruth 296-0542.

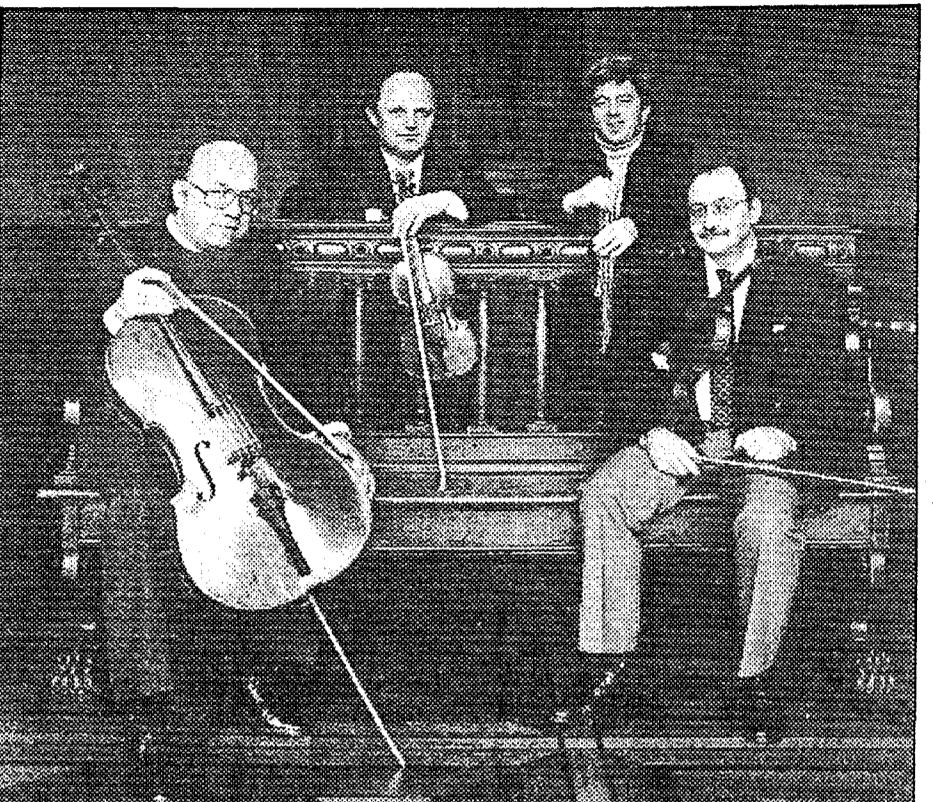
2/20 • "Treasure" Mel Fisher's crusade to uncover the treasures of the Atocha from 7 p.m. at the Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 294-8488.

2/20 • Key West Garden Club Learn "Mounting on Driftwood" by Ruth Mikkelsen. Call 294-3210.

2/22-2/24 • Elaine Silver in Concert at Island Wellness, 530 Simonton Street at Southard. Call 296-7353.

2/23 • Miss Old Island Days Beauty Pageant at 8 p.m. at the Casa Marina Resort. Call Martha Sawyer 294-1605.

2/23-2/24 • 26th Old Island Days Art Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Whitehead



CLASSIC COMPOSITION: The Pierre Feit Concertino will perform at The Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center on February 24.

and Mallory Square. Call Florence Recher 294-0431.

2/24 • Pierre Feit Concertino 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

2/26 • José Limón's Dance Company performs at 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. A gala reception follows. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

2/27 • "Great Radio Comedians" a free film 7 p.m. at the Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 294-8488.

Entertainment

Answer Café • Duval Square, corner of Duval and Virginia Streets. Call 296-3371.

Arthur's Garden • 525 Duval Street, Tues. and Thurs., Two Guys Having Fun; Wed., Sat. and Sun., Acoustic Fare; Fri., Chris Case. Call 294-9564.

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

The Bull & Whistle Bar • Corner of Duval and Caroline Streets. Rick Steffan, Bert Lee, Dan Mulberry, Ben Harrison, Clark Whitt, W.W. Oz, and Pat McCuen, alternating schedules daily from 2 p.m. Happy Hour at The Whistle 5 to 9 p.m. daily.

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

Captain Tony's Saloon • 428 Greene Street. Sun. and Mon., 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., Wed. and Thurs., 5 to 10 p.m., G.T. Weckerly; Tues. and Wed., 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Thurs., 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tumbleweed Ted. Both will alternate on Fri. and Sat. Call 294-1838.

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

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

Flagler's at The Casa Marina • 1500 Reynolds Street. Sun. brunch and Sun. night piano with Bill Lorraine; Mon. and Fri., 5 to 7

p.m. Michael McCloud on guitar; Tues. nights at 9 p.m. The Tony Bishop Trio; Wed. - Sat. 9 to 1 a.m. contemporary jazz featuring Toni Bishop. Call 296-3535.

Full Moon Saloon • 1202 Simonton Street. Feb. 2 and 16, Bill Blue and the Nervous Guys. Call 294-9090.

Gloria's Garden • 618 Duval Street-rear. Call 296-6313.

10 p.m. Sally Forester; Fri. and Sat., 9 and 1 a.m., Robin Fear; Sun. and Mon., 8 a.m. to 12 a.m., Fri. and Sat., 5 to 9 p.m., Wil Hoppey. Call 294-4446.

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

Rooftop Café • 310 Front Street. Upstairs

Fri. and Sat., 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., The Survivors; downstairs sunset to 9:00 p.m. daily, Cathy Grier; 9 p.m. to 12 a.m., Leanna Collins Call 294-2042.

Sam's Place • 320 Grinnell Street. Call 296-1399.

Schooner Wharf • 201 William Street. Call 292-9520.

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

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

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

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

Turtle Kraals at Land's End Marina • 1 Lands End Village. Weekends, comedian Clark Whitt. Call 294-2640.

Two Friends Patio Restaurant • 512 Front Street. Tues. through Sun. nights, Just A Mellow Crew. Call 296-9212.

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

Viva Zapata • 903 Duval Street. Thurs. through Sat., 7 to 10 p.m. Matthew Jampol on classical guitar. Call 296-3138.

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

Green Parrot • 601 Whitehead. Call 296-6133.

Havana Docks Late Night • The Pier House, 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

Havana Docks Sunset Deck • The Pier House, 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

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

Hukilau • 1990 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Friday and Saturday nights Coffee Butler on piano. Call 294-2188.

Islander Restaurant • 528 Front Street.

SMOKY SOUNDS: Singer Cathy Grier at the Rooftop Café.

CATHY GRIER

Well-Being

2/15-2/17 • Susan Mann Yoga Workshop at Island Wellness, 530 Simonton at Southard. For time schedule call 296-7353.

2/16 • Dialogue with Angels, Mine & Yours: Channeling from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Island Wellness, 530 Simonton at Southard.

Call 296-7353.

2/17 • Metaphysical Approaches to HIV Infection and AIDS from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Island Wellness, 530 Simonton at Southard. Call 296-7353.

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

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

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

Gulf Crisis Support Group will convene at the Mental Health Care Center located at the Southard Street entrance to the Truman Annex 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings free of charge. Call Pam Soucy at 292-6843.

Island Wellness, at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled courses and activities. Mondays: Integral Yoga at 10:30 a.m.; Group Rebirth at 1 p.m.; Tai Chi Chuan at 6:30 p.m.; Personal Growth at 7 p.m.; Audio/Visual Night at 8 p.m. Tuesdays: Tai Chi Chuan at 10:30 a.m.; Group Rebirth at 5:30 p.m.; Centering Workshop at 7 p.m.; Let's Talk Metaphysics at 7 p.m. Tuesdays: Integral Yoga at 10:30 a.m.; Group Rebirth at 1 p.m.; Integral Yoga at 5:30 p.m.; Healing Circle at 7 p.m. Thursdays: Tai Chi Chuan at 10:30 a.m.; Living From Freedom at 6:30 p.m. Fridays: Integral Yoga at 10:30 a.m.; Meditation Class at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays: Children's Playshop at 10 a.m. Sundays and Sundays: Special workshops and presentations including massage therapy, reflexology, rebirthing hypnosis, psychic awareness. Call 296-7353 for details.

Island Wellness Teenage Wellness Party is held Thursday evenings at 7:30 for teens 13 through 19. There will be a one-hour discussion on elements of self-care, followed by a dance. For more information, call Gary Young at 296-7353.

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

Key West Garden Club holds lectures the second Wednesday of the month. On the third Wednesday of each month, the Club will The Law and You with Attorney Fred Butner, Live from Key West. Wednesdays from 8 to 9 a.m. Radio debates. Guests include judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers and lawmakers. News analysis of law-related issues by co-host A.C. Weinstein. Broadcast on AM 1600 WKWF Talk Radio. Number to call in during broadcast: 294-1600.

Literacy Volunteers of America meets 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month and offers volunteer training programs as well as workshops. Call 294-4352.

Bahama Village Straw Market is held the first Saturday of every month. Located on Petronia Street between Whitehead and Thomas in Bahama Village from noon to sunset. Food, street performers and handmade crafts.

Lighthouse Program, 5825 Jr. College Road, Key West offers drug and alcohol rehabilitative services for adolescents (age 13 to 17).

Breezeswept Beach Estates Civic Association holds meetings at 7 p.m. on

the third Thursday of each month in the Youth

Center of Big Pine Key Methodist Church. Call 872-2861.

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

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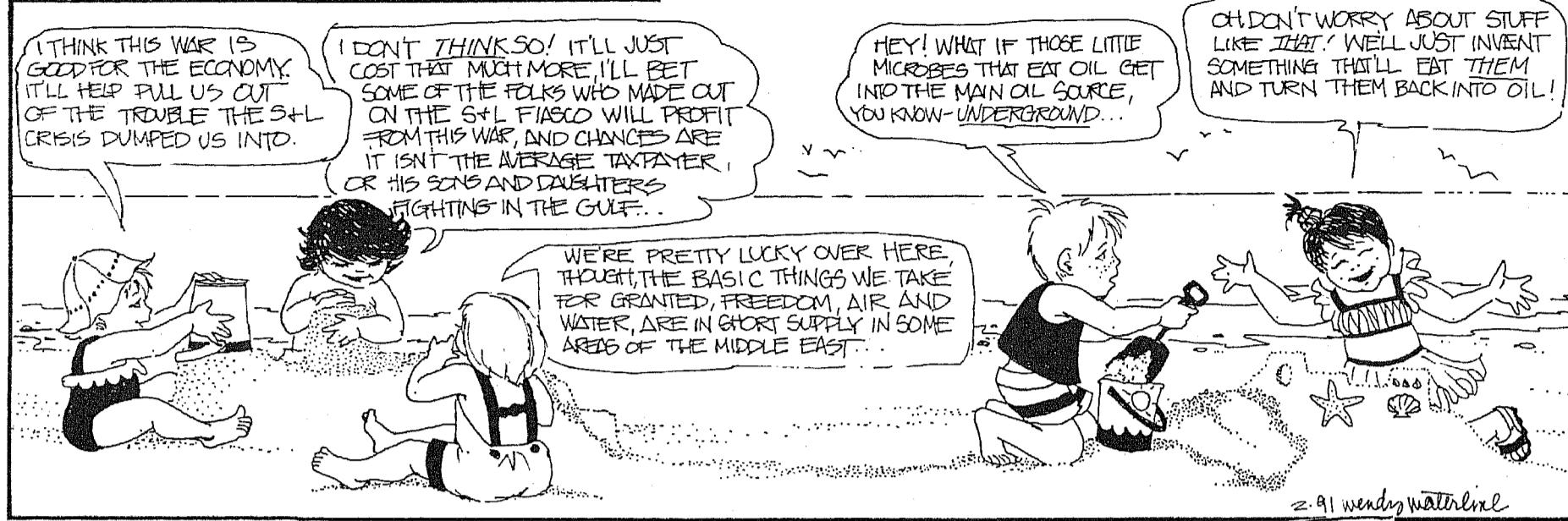
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CONCHFLASH ***Readers Write****An Example to Follow**

Dear Editor,

In the early morning hours, while most of us in Key West are groping for that first cup of stimulant, my friend Stuart, is out relishing the morning fresh air, having already recharged himself with a vegan (vegetarian, no dairy) diet and physical discipline. His walks have invariably been interrupted by the burgeoning bags of unrecycled resource set out to be thrown away, as if there really is an "away" to dump trash.

Stuart doesn't waste his personal energies, a discipline that has awarded him a blackbelt in the marital arts and one that has allowed him financial security at an age when most have just learned how to keep a personal budget. The waste that he finds around him on his walks is a source of distress for him, as he is compassionately aware of the stress our island and our world is experiencing. Stuart's walks have gradually become recycling walks, sorting through giant leaf bags of guest house cast-offs, soon to be landfill.

The response he gets from us Key Westers is pathetically humorous. Says Stuart, "People sometimes offer me money, thinking that I'm a down and out veteran. I

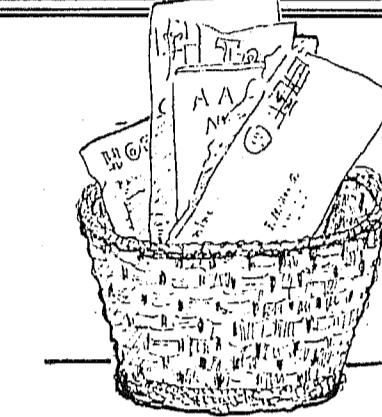
just let them know that I don't need your cash, since I'm retired." Stuart certainly does not look down and out, but his simple clothes and recycling habit fool most people. He has that crisp muscle tone that most folks associate with the military, but it's his own discipline that provides his vibrant health.

Many times Stuart has been faced with gruff demands to stop scrounging in their trash. Stuart responds, "I'm recycling not scrounging, I can't stand to see the world wasted away."

Stuart's commitment has certainly put my recycling efforts in perspective. My own efforts have been made much more difficult by the Navy requiring us to move our recycling location to Stock Island, far from the center of population and waste generation.

Amazingly, in a nation with half the municipal landfills due to close in three years or less, we have no strong national initiative. By the time you read this our nation may be at war with the war-booty being who controls the Persian oil fields. In a nation with no energy policy, the currency we use to afford our waste is the lives of our young in uniform, and the degradation of the planet.

Stuart gives me hope, he is exceedingly



thrifty, and the outcome of his thrifit is the medicine our island and planet needs. For Stuart, personal and planetary health go hand in hand. That gives me a new handle to resolve my own recycling lethargy. What a guy.

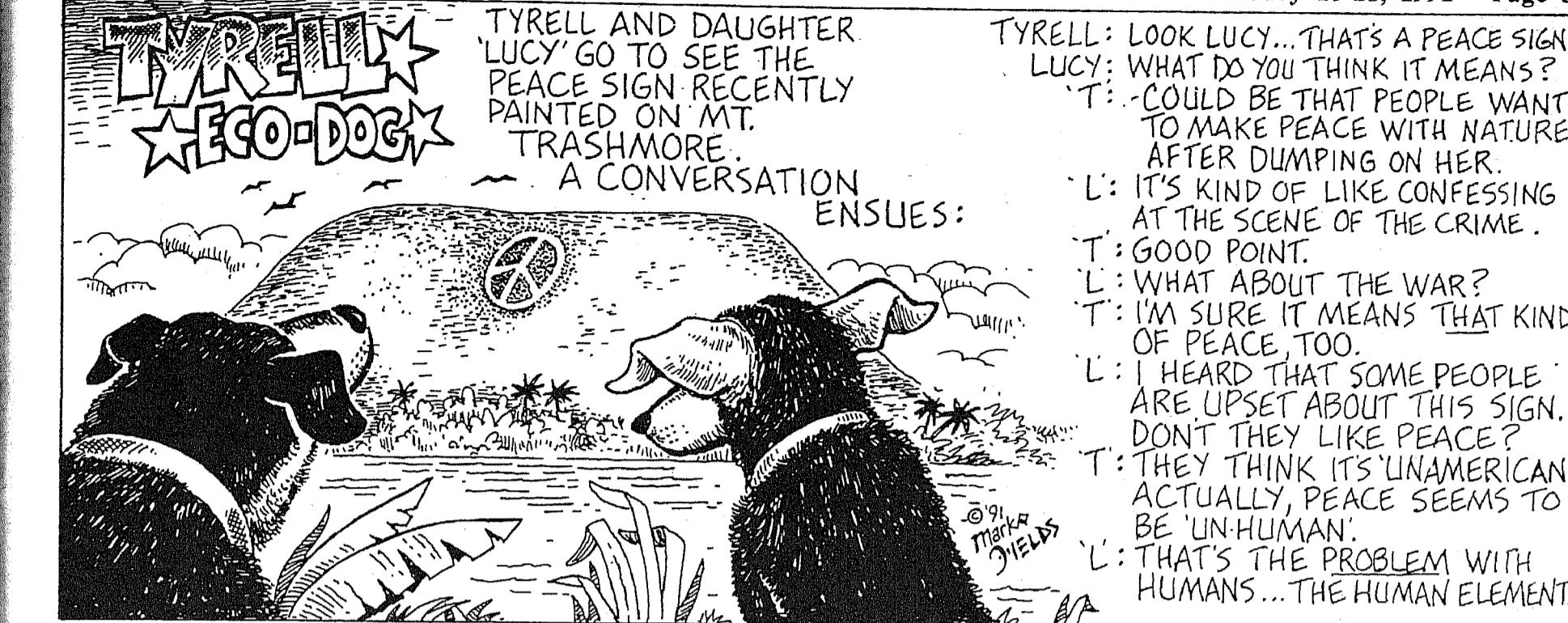
Jace Hobbs
Key West

Jefferson

Dear Editor:

I have a friend who is sort of a brother-in-law named Jefferson. He is a newly arrived soldier in Saudi Arabia. He is the quintessential young man fighting for his country. He reminds you of the character of "Woody" in the earlier episodes of Cheers.

He is over there. He isn't sure why. He never expected it, being a guy who a year ago joined a National Guard unit so that he



would be trained in a trade. He's over there. It's very hot. He is very scared. He tries to talk tough. Talks a lot about getting it over with. If he has a few drinks, he talks a bit loudly. This is usually about the time he says stupid things about dying.

He doesn't know why he is there. Why am I saying that? Of course he does, he is fighting for the future of our nation—our planet.

There is a madman loose with a bomb in his hand and he has to be stopped. This planet would be a sci-fi nightmare by the year 1996 if this madman in the Middle East is left to his own devices.

We had one in 1938 and the world knew what to do. Things were so much more simple then.

Go for it, Jefferson. Jefferson. I can't believe they sent you over there. Untrained. An ambulance driver who hasn't ever seen the inside of an ambulance. How are you ever going to survive?

Fight for us! We promise not to treat you guys the way we treated—and still treat—the men we sent to Vietnam.

Go over there, but Jefferson, dammit, please come back! The Conch Republic, your sister, and I, and everybody else are waiting for you. That's what all those goofy yellow ribbons are for.

Jefferson Breunig, 22, is from Rice Lake, Wisconsin. He is the youngest

brother of Roxanne Breunig, a critical care nurse at Lower Keys Health Systems. One of his dreams is to live in Key West and go to nursing school at the Junior College.

Rob Kunkel
Key West**Ranting and Raving**

Dear Editor:

While I was waiting in the Channel 5 studio for the League of Women Voters' candidates' forum to go on, I listened in amazement to this guy I had never seen

before rant and rave against the people who were "against" Webster.

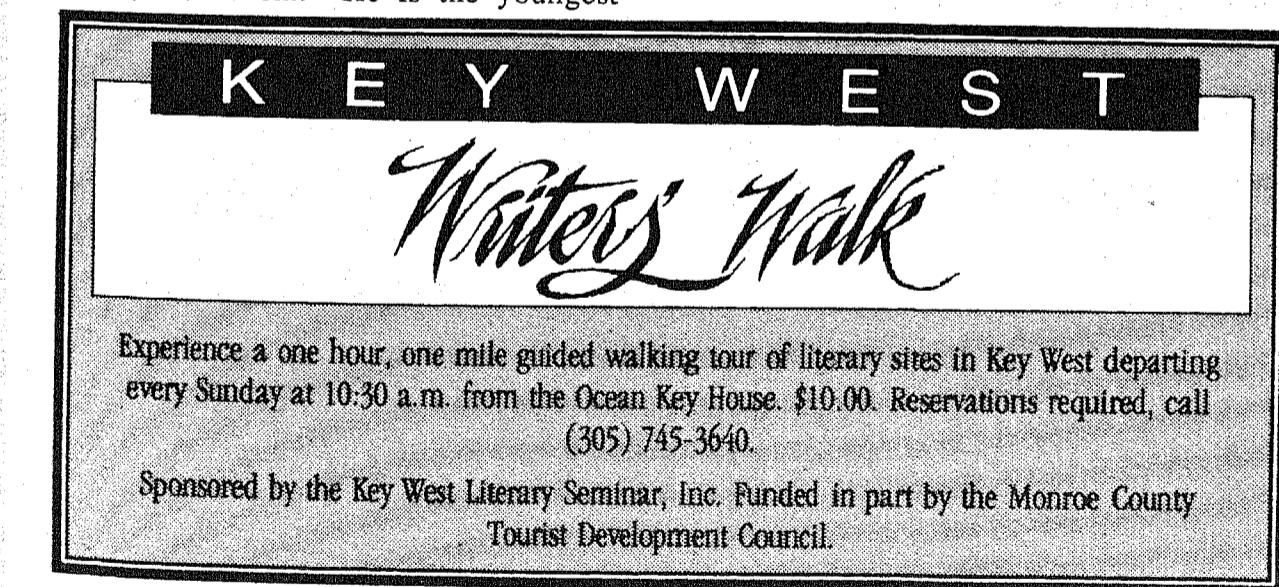
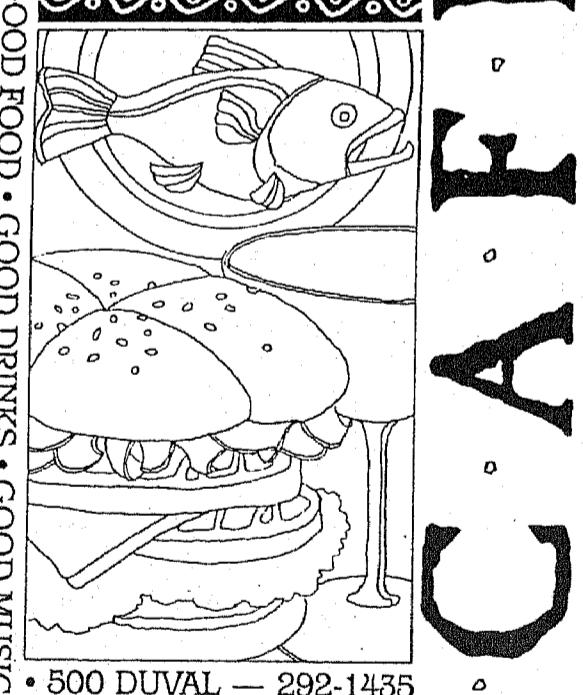
What a pleasant surprise to read about him in *Solares Hill*! If he is a "government-owned asset," then I'm a Webster fan! Me as a Webster fan is several degrees more than "a cold day in Hell."

June Keith always does a great job. Friday Lunhert
Key West

Book Bargains!

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1028 Truman Avenue

**Jimmy Buffett's MARGARITAVILLE**

Art Circle

Folk Art Grows from the Soul

by Judi Bradford

In the garden of fine arts, folk art is a weed that sprouts and thrives on its own, surprising passersby with its charming flower. Inescapably, folk art reflects the character of the community that fertilized it.

Key West in bygone years was a perfect incubator for individual expression. Its geographic isolation and ethnic derivations combined values and ways of working with materials into a rich cultural brew. Mario Sanchez' painted wood carvings and Stanley Papio's whimsical welded sculptures are, perhaps, the best known examples of local folk art. Works of both artists may be seen at the East Martello Museum.

Folk artists are not trained in art. Typically, they are unfamiliar with the trends or fashions of the art world. Their work is a pure expression of something within their own personality. And they represent tribal unity—the foundation of society.

John Martini, who exhibits folk art in his Lucky Street Gallery, feels the number of true folk artists is dwindling. "There are not going to be that many more," he says. "The culture is changing too fast now with technology."

These independent souls use materials that are at hand—pine planks, corrugated tin, old signs, mirrors, housepaint, jugs, bits of this and that. Often their designs are elaborate, embellished with textural patterns that cover vast surfaces—dots, X's, pluses, and crosses are popular. Images come from a deep well of human symbols, some universal, others starkly personal.

Andy Natissé is a commentary for the exhibit catalog of *Baking in the Sun: Visionary Images of the South*, describes these artists as "individuals quietly and intently



MAKIKI RELIGION: Samples of Makiki's artwork enshrined in a mirrored cave. Much of his work expresses religious themes.

obeying an inner voice which calls them to create works which can no longer be ignored. In most cases the artist would probably rather be left alone, but the power of their objects demands attention."

The folk artists mentioned here all decorate existing surfaces.

They are unstoppable. No matter what else is happening in their lives, they continue to embellish objects with designs that come from their experience.

Art is not a business for them. They do the work because they want to express feelings from their soul. When an object is

done, it becomes part of their home or is given to family, friends or some other appropriate person.

Mirror Man

At night, near the corner of Catherine and Whitehead Streets, lights are on in the front room of Geraldo Alfonso's house. The incredible scene within is visible through the uncurtained windows. It draws you near in stunned wonder. Completely covered in a mirror mosaic, the room—walls, ceiling, floor—is transformed into a gleaming vessel of light.

Enshrined there are photos of the mourned-for mother and brother who died 15 years ago. All that time, candles have burned there for Alfonso's loved ones. A pyramid of tableau sculptures reflects an intensely Catholic state of mind, featuring artificial flowers, statues of saints and religious icons, and arches constructed of spring clothes pin halves and colorful loops of ribbon. There is an obvious Spanish flair for drama, gleam and glitter.

Once inside the door, the rare visitor is even more amazed to find that almost the entire house has been turned into a mirrored palace. Even Alfonso's floors are slowly being laid in mirror shards, thoughtfully covered in plexiglas to prevent cut feet.

Don Makiki, as he is known to his friends, is very informal. An affable Key West native of Spanish heritage, he lives a simple life in his small house—feeding bits of bread to the neighborhood chickens in his free time under the banana trees out back and keeping up with his friends and family.

Besides religious themes, Don Makiki creates separate wall pieces using photos of the presidential family and other prominent people set in mirror collages. The works depict architectural elements of specific churches the artist admires. When finished,

they are sent as gifts to the photo subjects. Don Makiki has accumulated a box full of thank-you notes from the Reagans, the Bush family, the Ford family, Dante Fascell and others. Four collages lean against the kitchen wall, waiting to be sent.

Don Makiki sits shirtless in his kitchen on a hot day. A fan whirs on the table as he reminisces about the old Key West—when nobody stole bicycles. In his rich accent, he recalls, "You can leave it anywhere and somebody will see it and bring it back to you, saying 'Hey, you left your bicycle way up there.'"

A bongo player, Don Makiki drummed at the Latin Quarter when it was in its hey day, even sitting in with Desi Arnez. He has newspaper clippings and photos of he and other band members wearing ruffled *comparsa* shirts.

He is a romantic with strong emotions that emerge in his conversations. He tells of meeting his wife-to-be: "When I heard my wife playing the piano, I said 'I'm gonna marry that woman.'"

This man, who skipped school to play drums in Miami Beach night clubs, who fell in love with a piano player, was overwhelmed with his feelings when his mother, and then his brother, died. He prayed to the Lord to give him something to do. He says now he sometimes feels that God is doing the creating.

God has definitely answered his prayers.

The Girl Who Loved to Paint

Lina Zarate loved to paint. Since she was a little girl she has decorated shells, bottles, clothes. In her later years she settled on bottles and jugs, embellishing them with lively scenes from island life.

Zarate was born in Key West, but spent 15 years in Cuba as a young woman. She brought her family back to Key West, and lived here until her death last August at the age of 75. Her grandson, Alex Morales, has the last bottle she painted.

"She was really fun," says Morales. "A lot of people loved her."

Tireless energy seems to be a factor in the lives of folk artists. When the rest of us collapse on the couch for a sitcom or a nap, folk artists are busy putting together a new idea. Zarate was actively involved in the lives of her six children, 26 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

"She was like a mother, really," says Morales. "She was always around."

In addition to family occupations, she worked in women's wear shops. "A lot of people used to come to her to match their clothes up and show them the latest," he says.

"She always dressed, always wore high heels and was always dancin' and singin'" and she was in bands. She did a lot of nice things. People loved Lina."

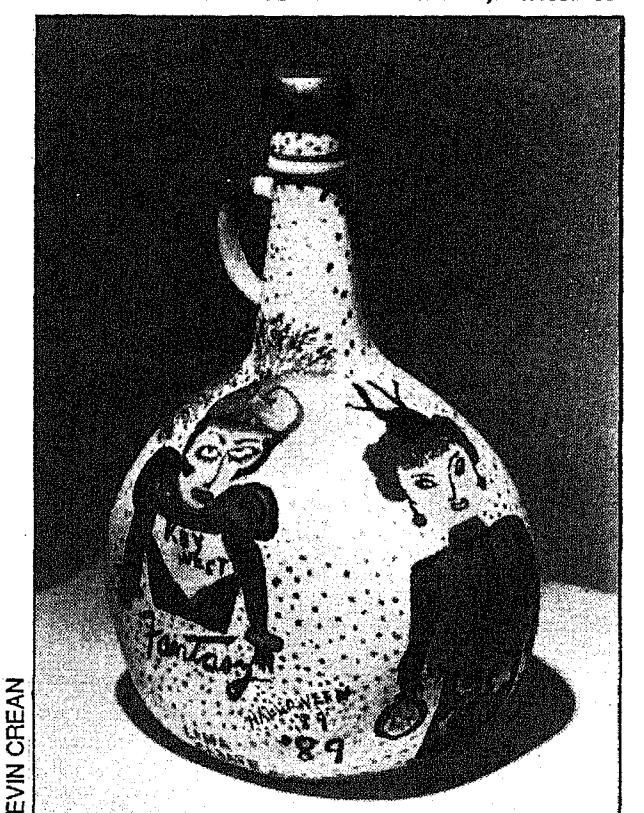
After she retired, Zarate filled her free time with a myriad of projects. "Fantasy Fest was her big thing," says Morales. "She loved to make costumes for people and dress people up."

Her painted jugs are everywhere.

Unlike many folk artists, who work strictly for personal pleasure, Zarate began to sell her work. She enjoyed a delighted reception from local collectors with an eye

for fresh modes of expression of the high life in the lower Keys.

Artist and former gallery owner, Fred Gros has a bottle entitled "Congo Boza," which he cherishes. John Martini, owner of



PAINTED BOTTLE: Lina Zarate's jugs can be seen at the Lucky Street Gallery.

He is a native Key Wester of Bahamian descent, transplanted to Rockland Key in his later years. Back in the days when he lived in Old Town, he owned various businesses, a shoe-shine shop, a bar, a restaurant. He drank wine under the trees with Hemingway.

"After he get to be knownin' me, I couldn't get rid of him," says Welters.

The Big Apple, Welters' first place on Rockland, was a restaurant on the water. He decorated it in the same remarkable style as his current place—conch shells painted blue, dots and squiggles on the walls and stones, faces and slogans painted here and there.

The Apple's interior was a marvel of photos, cards, toys, trinkets and mementos, table after table of collected objects.

An accidental fire destroyed everything.

"I'm too old to start over," he thought. But he did.

At 86 years of age, Louis Welters has experienced nearly a century of Key West: Before air conditioning and mosquito control boards. Before the Cuban Missile crisis. Before the World War II. Before the Depression. Before the roads, the bridges, even the train.

Welters was right there, playing baseball, drinking, dancing—immersed in it.

His new place is one block inland from the old place; it touches the water at one corner. Although music blares from the street side, the house seems quiet.

Several doors lead into the structure. Welters starts his tour from the least adorned. He talks about his vision to create from his home what amounts to a community center.

The first building is designed to be a shoe-shine shop. Next to it, a coffee shop. There is room for a day-care center, an eatery he'll call "The Jamaica Restaurant," a bar and a beauty shop.

He collects stuff from everywhere. Rooms are packed with mattresses, old display units from bakeries and retail shops,



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restaurant kitchen equipment—and it is all being incorporated into the building and gardens.

Welters created his own living space by fusing a school bus, which was abandoned by hippies, with an existing fish house. A door opens directly onto the incoming tide. He can sit in the kitchen and catch fish.

His son and daughter also keep apartments there.

Bathtubs painted with dots and stripes and planted with tropical foliage enliven the central pavilion—a pleasant patio with dining tables, the heart of the restaurant theme. The kitchens are still in the construction phase. He and his son do all the work.

"If we'd had help, we'd be done," he says.

Even with his business experience,



JUDI BRADFORD
PROUD PAPA: Louis Welters stands in the entrance of his artistic brainchild located on Rockland Key.

Music Review

Jay Foote at the Pigeon House Patio

by Christine Naughton

"You must remember this: a knish is still a knish. A thigh is still a thigh," sings Jay Foote. The fundamental things *obviously* apply as time goes by for this piano-bar entertainer, who regularly plays at the Pigeon House Patio.

What's more, Foote possesses those things fundamental to a successful piano-bar performance. They are great good humor, including a love of people and their foibles; musicality and dramatic flair; a highly refined sense of timing; an excellent memory for music, lyrics and musical anecdotes; and an extensive music library at one's fingertips for those odd moments when memory falters.

In the music industry, piano-bar performance is a category unto itself. It's a specialty gig, requiring a rare musician who actually likes close interaction with the audience. There's no stage—the only thing separating musician from audience is the back of the baby grand. Billy Joel wrote about it in "Piano-Man."

Not just any musician can deal with entertainers at that close range. Folks of all ages who know music from everywhere and every era would dearly love to hear their favorites played and sung. Some of these folks are probably itching to sing, as well. This is the stuff of many a

musician's worst nightmare.

On a recent Friday evening, however, Foote handled all this and more with ease and grace. He seemed right at home behind the piano in the cozy tap room.



KEVIN CREAM
HE DOES IT HIS WAY: Jay Foote tickles the ivories for a local piano-bar crowd at the Pigeon House Patio.

The Pigeon House is warm and friendly, with the feel of a country home created by soothing tones of pink, white and blue, plants in profusion, and a ceiling hung liberally with wicker lamps and fans. The bar room's back doors open onto a lush garden.

As the stools around the piano filled, others were dragged from the bar to accommodate newcomers. Foote played smoothly through several well-known show tunes—selections from *La Cage Aux Folles* and

Welters will have difficulty getting his plans passed various government agencies. Bureaucracies characteristically reject anything they cannot easily categorize and visionaries don't drop neatly into pigeonholes.

Historically, folk artists who work on this scale have trouble with their neighbors, zoning regulations and anyone who has difficulties tolerating things that are different from the mainstream.

Fortunately, these artists are seldom thwarted by peer pressure. Artist Fred Gros describes his folk counterparts as transcending their lack of formal training by sheer personal power. It is that same power that carries them against the tide of conformity.

What's Welters' opinion?

"We're born free," he says. "We don't have to ask nobody for freedom."

FEBRUARY ART CALENDAR

Art Collections Key West

• National and local artists in a variety of styles and themes. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. 600 Front St. in the Bottling Court. 296-5956.

Haitian Art Company • Paintings, wood sculpture, metal cutouts, papier mache by Haitian artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St. 296-8932.

Audubon House • "The Doves and Pigeons of John James Audubon," through April 30. \$5 admission, children under six free, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St. 294-2116.

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

Lee Dodez Showroom • Handbuilt clay pieces by Lee Dodez and raku work by Jay Goggin. Classes in handbuilding slab work. Also ceramic supplies: clay, glazes, equipment and tools for the potter. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

East Bank Gallery • Paintings by local artists, limited edition prints, pottery, custom framing and art furniture. Daily except Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 706 White St. 296-2679.

East Martello Museum & Gallery • Florida Keys Watercolor Society Annual Juried Exhibition. Workshops by Sylva plus our regular group artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for non-members. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

Farrington Gallery 711 • Watercolors by Sylva plus our regular group artists. Daily, except Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and by appointment. 711 Duval St. 294-6911.

Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery • "Music as a Thème for Art." Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

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

Gingerbread Square Gallery • Sal Salinero, oil on canvas. Ron Clemons. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 901 Duval St. 296-8900.

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

Great Southern Gallery • "Key West Corners," acrylic on canvas by Harry Greene. "The West and Key West" paintings by Tricia Hurt, opens March 1. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery • Drawings, paintings, prints, soft sculpture, carvings, printed and handpainted cards, ceramics, T-shirts, leather bags, photographs, stained glass and ironwork by 16 Key West artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Evenings sometimes. 614 Duval St. 294-3771.

Lane Gallery • Through February 19, English miniatures by Fiona Owen. February 25 to March 4, V.K. Gibson. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

Lucky Street Gallery • Tom Colbert paintings and Wes Huthing glass. Plus new Back Gallery, showing "Discovery Photographs of Marilyn Monroe." Lucky Street is the third gallery in the nation to run this show. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, Saturday til 9 p.m. 919 Duval St. 294-3973.

Miller Gallery • Thirty-four new works on canvas by Helen Colley through March 2, acrylics and mixed media, evocative of the expressionists of the 40s and 50s. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 294-7687.

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

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

Plantation Potters • Reception for ceramic artist David Greenberg on February 25 at 7 p.m. Functional and decorative ware from some of America's finest potters. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 717 Duval St. 294-3143.

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

Santa Fe • Southwestern art, jewelry and furniture. Daily, except Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 219 Whitehead St. 294-0397.

Studio 227 • Through February 16, acrylic paintings by Richard Kranck. February 18 through March 5, Robert Axford acrylic on paper. Locklear multi-media, Karen Clemens paintings, plus other local and out-of-town artists. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 227 Petronia St. 294-7141.

Kennedy Studios • Graphics, limited edition prints. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 133 Duval St. 294-5850; 511 Duval St. 294-8564.

Key West Art Center • Art Show February 23, 24 at the foot of Whitehead Street. Watercolorist, Every Tuesday in February at 10 a.m. a video art class (\$155 ea.) Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St. 294-1241.

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

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

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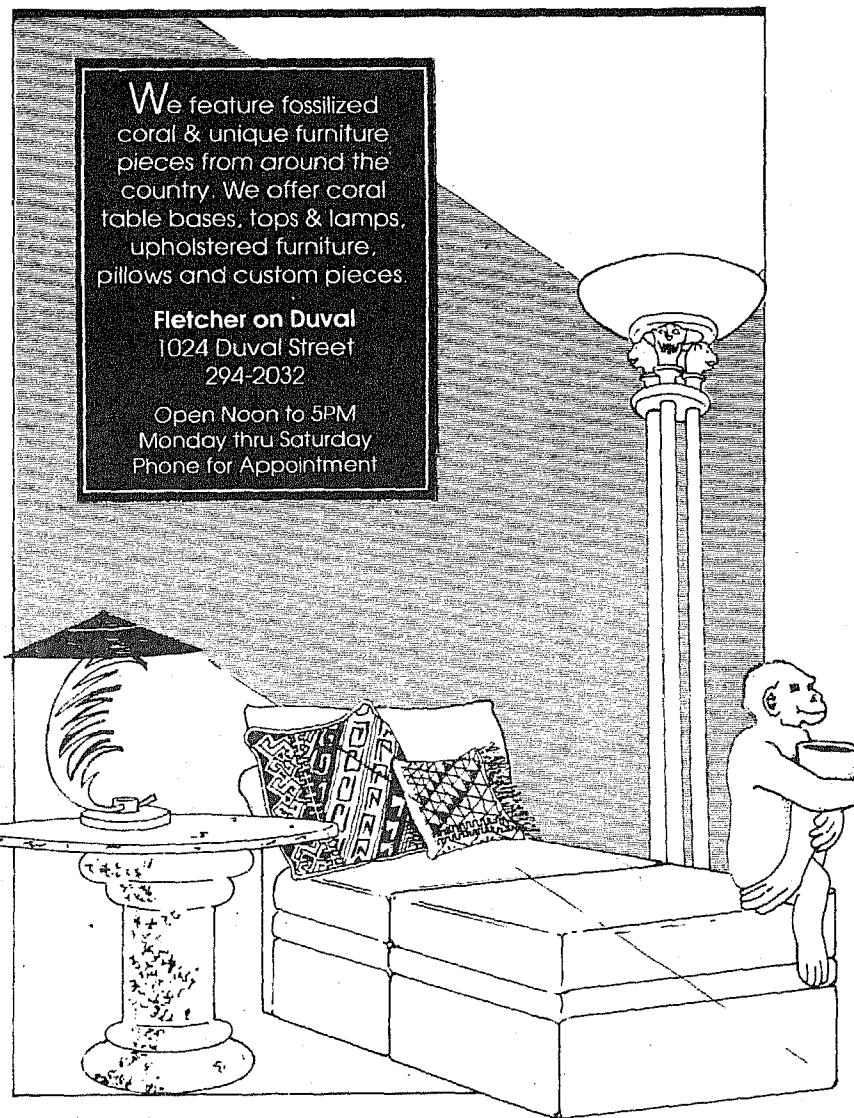
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