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NO. 18, VOL. 8 • KEY WEST, FLORIDA • AUGUST, 1990



SAGA OF  
HOUSEBOAT ROW

*Page 3*

WANTED:  
SINGLE STRAIGHT  
SHRIMPER

*Page 8*

WHEN EVERY  
DROP COUNTS

*Page 10*

COUNTY  
PLANNERS  
NEAR MUTINY

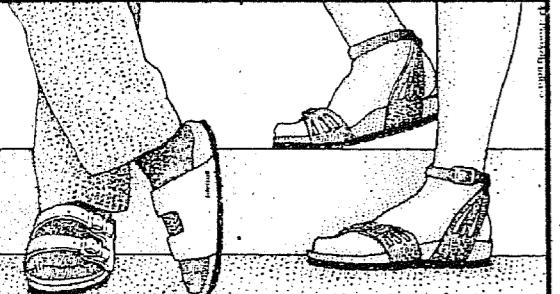
*Page 20*

DAMN, THAT  
TRAFFIC JAM

*Page 25*

PERESTROIKA:  
EAST MEETS  
KEY WEST

*Page 34*



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### Keep Houseboat Row Afloat

Should Houseboat Row stay or should it go? (See story by June Keith on Page 3.) Local DNR officials say their agency will adhere to its decision to require the City of Key West to move Houseboat Row residents from state-owned bay bottom. City officials support their agreement with the DNR. According to officials in Tallahassee, it was the city that approached the DNR in the first place.

Although both entities say the deal is done, there are other possibilities. But somebody—either from the city or Houseboat Row—needs to initiate the action.

"We don't go looking for work," says DNR environmental administrator Leonard Nero, who supervises the local DNR office in Marathon. "We didn't solicit a management agreement with Key West."

And the DNR is not going to search for additional solutions, either, he says.

However, Nero agrees that it is "within the realm of possibility" for Houseboat Row people to stay against the seawall which borders South Roosevelt Boulevard. He says the city could lease the bay bottom from the DNR. The city could then charge Houseboat Row residents accordingly.

Dealing with sewage from the houseboats within environmental guidelines is the main problem. Included in the city's plans

for a houseboat and mooring field at Garrison Bight is a pumping service. Couldn't the same pumping service swing by Houseboat Row and pump out its sewage? Leonard Nero doesn't see why not. Of course, Row residents would need to buy holding tanks. "They cost about \$50," Nero says.

DNR field investigator Gordon Roberts in Tallahassee says that another possibility might be to extend the city's sewer line to the houseboats. This was done in Sausalito's houseboat basin in California.

Citizens and commissioners point with distaste to the so-called riff-raff who live on sailboats and other floating contraptions and tend to cluster out beyond the Row, sometimes staying for years and contaminating bay waters with raw sewage. Even houseboat residents disapprove of them.

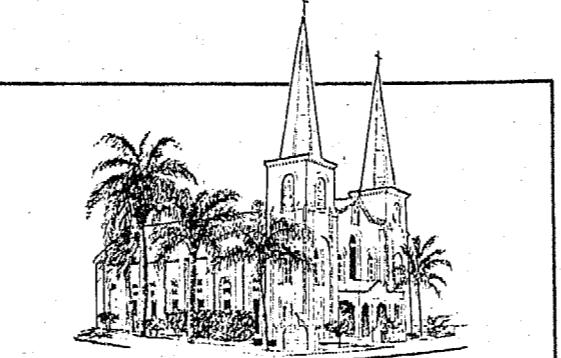
This is a problem throughout the state, and Nero says no one has been able to solve it. Officials in Tallahassee say those boaters should be dealt with locally by city police, marine patrol or sheriff's department.

All told, two factors seem to distress city officials and citizens. One is the low cost of houseboat living; the other is the outlying boats. But should Row residents be condemned for the activities of their freeloading neighbors, or for taking advantage of a good deal? We don't believe so.

Why not allow just those 26 slips remain as residences? After all, water, cable, telephone and electricity hookups are already out there, and trash collection has been arranged. The city should make the residents pay their fair share for services and additional costs incurred on their behalf. Make these maritime squatters citizens, we say. Allow them to vote and pay a fair cut of the taxes. And then leave 'em alone.

Ann Boese

The cover photograph was taken by Solares Hill contributing photographer Kevin Crean, who has recently opened a photo studio, The Dark Room, on Petronia Street.



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## Houseboat Row: Should It Stay or Should It Go?

by June Keith

Local legend has it that country-music star David Allen Coe wrote his big hit "Take This Job And Shove It" while living aboard the Scalawag on Houseboat Row. It's probably true. No one else in Key West but a resident of the row could afford such a devil-may-care sentiment. The rest are too busy scrambling to pay relentlessly escalating living costs: rents, mortgages, sewer bills and taxes. Island living ain't cheap. That's one reason the city's landlubbers tend to give liveaboards a hard time—they figure the houseboaters have life too easy.

People on Houseboat Row, however, are living there on borrowed time. The city, which manages the row, has an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to relocate houseboat residents as soon as possible. The DNR plans to restore the state-owned bay bottom, over which the row is located, to its original condition. Houseboats, the DNR says, have destroyed the seagrasses.

Houseboat Row residents want to stay; city and state officials say they've got to go. But while the city's Port and Transit Authority has plans to create a new facility for houseboaters, the old Houseboat Row symbolizes a freewheeling, some say derelict lifestyle. It's a funky segment of Key West history that seems reluctant to come to an end.

KEVIN CREAN



Dream float: Houseboat Row resident Michael Angelo enjoys the great outdoors-indoors.

The Sea Dog was the first boat to tie up at the seawall that borders the Cow Key Channel at the southeastern tip of Key West at South Roosevelt Boulevard. That was in

1957. Writer/illustrator Morgan Dennis and his wife Margaret owned the Sea Dog back then. The couple requested and received permission from the city to live there. Other

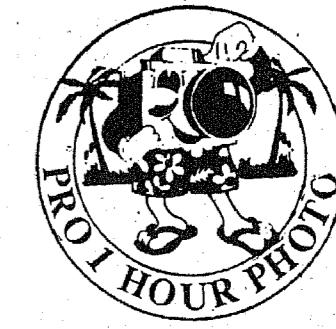
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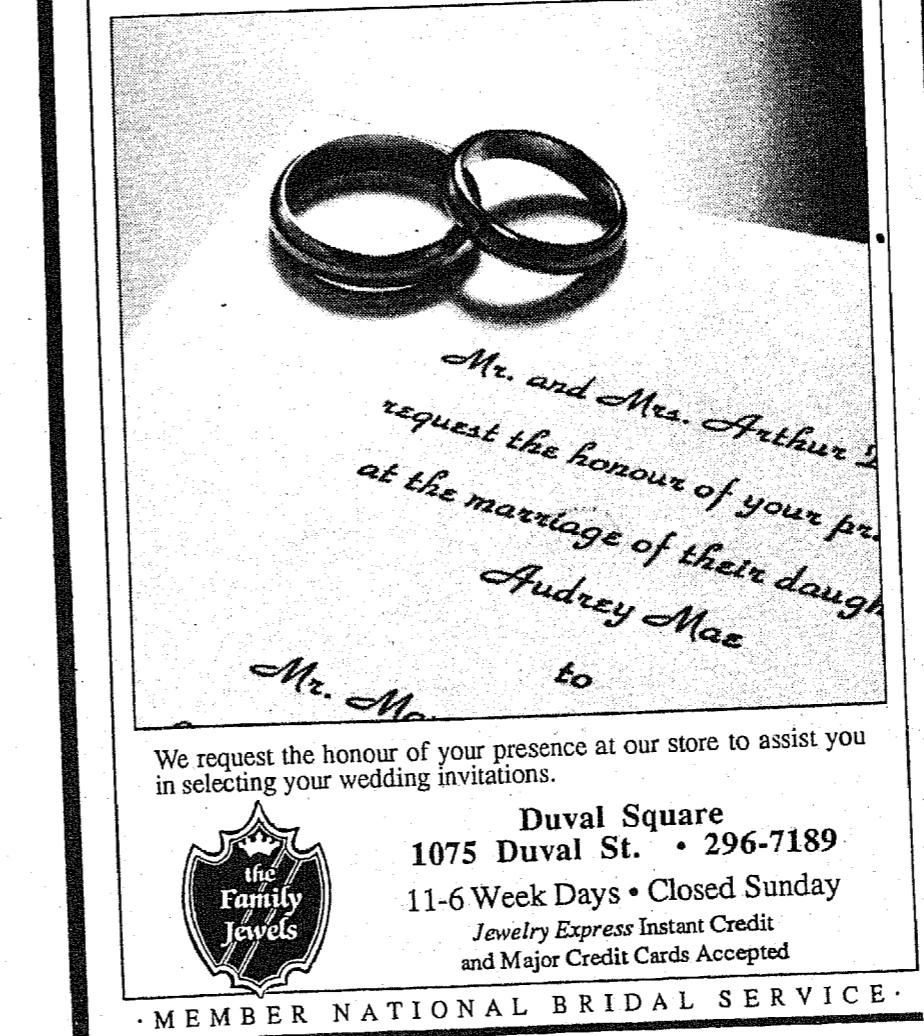


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In 1973, the city passed a series of ordinances aimed at cleaning up what newspapers referred to as "the blight" at Houseboat Row. New laws prohibited houseboats in any area of the island except Garrison Bight Marina or the City's Yacht Club. Margaret Dennis, by then a widow, and nine of her neighbors hired an attorney and filed for a temporary injunction until the case got to court.

Five years later, Circuit Judge Ignatius Lester ruled that the city had the right to order houseboats off the seawall. More legal wrangling followed, and Judge Lester's decision was reversed in 1980 by the Third District Court of Appeals in Miami. By then 25 boats moored in the area.

"The people who should not be here have just stayed," Margaret Dennis said in an interview in 1980. "The city has allowed just anybody to come in here with their boat."

A former Key West mayor, Dennis Wardlow made cleaning up Houseboat Row a top priority during his term in office from 1981 to 1983. Wardlow pushed for a management agreement between the Florida Department of Natural Resources and the city to manage the row and the state-owned baybottom.

In August of 1983, management rights went to the city, and vessels along Houseboat Row were given 90 days to come into compliance with city codes for houseboats. Twenty-six houseboat vessels passed inspections and their owners agreed to sign leases with the city. There are 26 slips —that's the limit.

Following completion of his term, Wardlow wrote a letter to the *Key West Citizen*, urging the newly elected city commission to continue enforcing regulations on Houseboat Row. Wardlow, describing the harassment he and his family had suffered because of his position on the Row, said sugar had been poured into his car's gas tank, and threatening letters signed "Houseboat Row" had been placed in his mailbox.

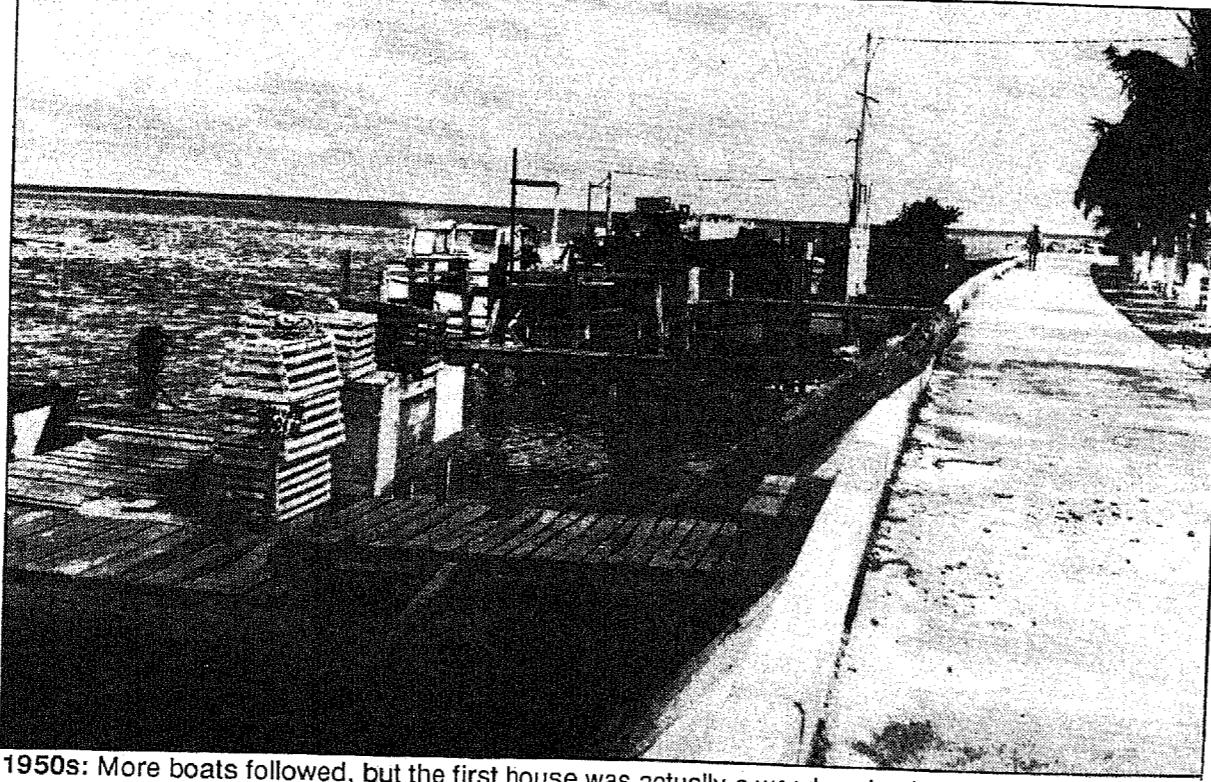
During Wardlow's term, the city promised the DNR, which was concerned about the condition of the bay bottom, that it would build piers in Garrison Bight Marina, to accommodate the 26 Houseboat Row residences as soon as possible. In the meantime, the DNR agreed to allow Houseboat Row residents to stay put for five years, with the provisions that they would pay the city \$46.45 a month in administrative fees and would agree to pay for trash pick up.

DNR's grace period was up on June 21, 1988. But by the winter of '88, plans for a liveaboard pier at Garrison Bight were no closer to completion than they'd been in '83 when the interim agreement was made. Every year at budget time, director of Port and Transit Authority Chuck Hamlin says he and the city commission were told there was no money for the expansion of the marina at Garrison Bight.

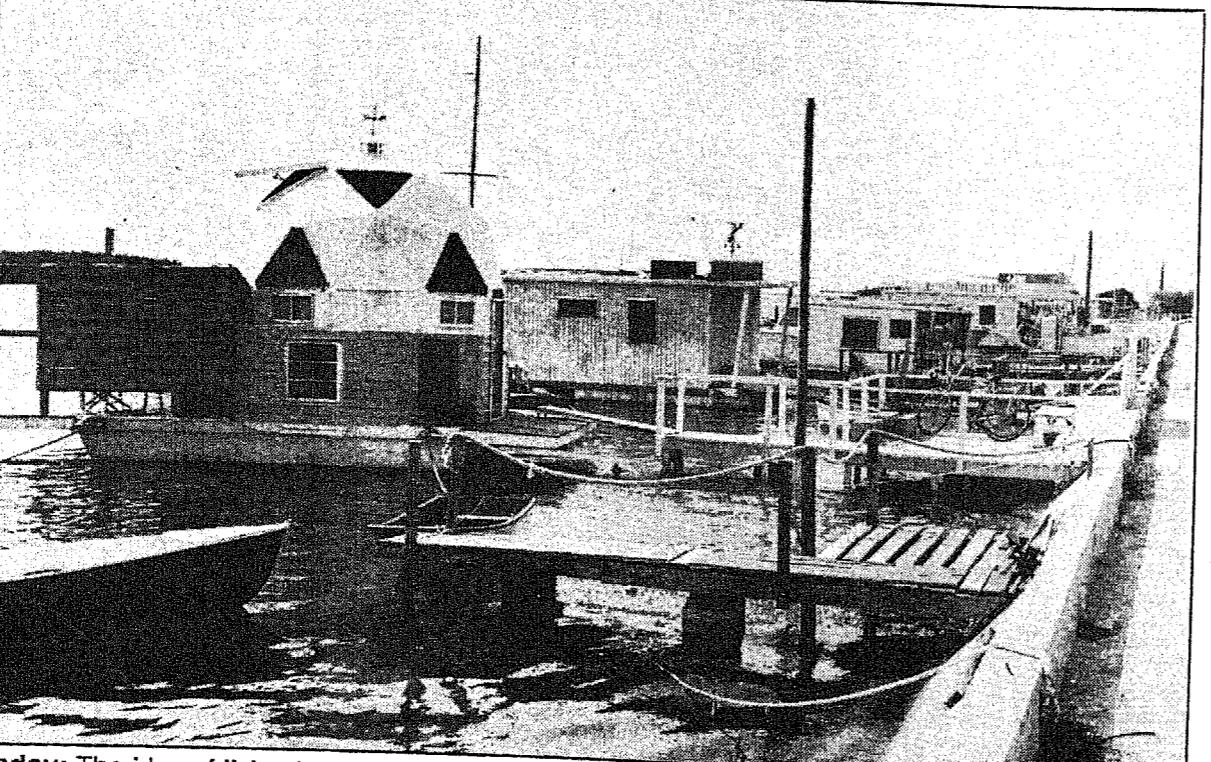
In March of '88, City Commissioner Jimmy Weekley sponsored Resolution Number 88-76 that directed the city to "enter into immediate and formal negotiations with the [State of Florida] to develop options to the City of Key West in its intent to



1946: Old-time locals say the Row started when crawfishermen docked their boats for free.



1950s: More boats followed, but the first house was actually a wooden shack.



Today: The idea of living in the bay caught on, and Houseboat Row seemed to spring up overnight.

permanently manage the area known as Houseboat Row."

Peter Anderson, who calls himself the "designated spokesman" for the loosely-knit Houseboat Row Association—an organization that has never met or elected officers—says people who live on the row want it to be a permanent facility. They do not want to move to Garrison Bight.

"One proposal we made under Resolution 88-76 is that we wish to be full-fledged citizens, to pay property taxes on our boats to the city. We have also stated publicly that we wish to pay to the state appropriate rent for the right to float over their bay bottom," Anderson says.

The result of negotiations mandated by Resolution 88-76 was an extension of the original management agreement; another stall while the city attempted to get it together at Garrison Bight. The DNR is sticking to the plan that says the houseboats will vacate Houseboat Row when liveaboard piers are available at Garrison Bight. By now, all houseboats have leases with the city and have paid hefty impact fees to link up with water and electrical services.

In a letter to Chuck Hamlin in February of 1989, DNR's division director of state lands, Percy Mallison wrote: "We prefer phase-out in a reasonably short duration from Houseboat Row to Garrison Bight. Since five years have already elapsed since

owner. Registration fees are small, based on the length of the vessel—around \$55 for a modest houseboat like the Andersons."

Another way to satisfy the taxman is to pay personal property tax to the county. Last year the tax was \$16.50 per \$1000 of original value. A luxurious houseboat, such as the Sea Dog, which now belongs to writer George Murphy, has a tax bill of around \$350 annually, probably the highest on the row.

But for those who bought a houseboat back in the good old days for one or two thousand bucks, and there are many in that enviable position, the tax is just a drop in the bay.

The people along Houseboat Row pay commercial rates for their garbage pick-up: \$41.05 a month. Landlubbers pay \$24.33 per living unit. It's because the row pays for services just like a city marina does, says David Fernandez, the city's director of finance.

Theoretically Houseboat Row is a city marina, officials say. However, liveaboards in the other city marina, Garrison Bight, pay only \$5 per month. There is a dumpster at Garrison Bight, and so pick-up costs are divided among many. There can be no dumpster at Houseboat Row, says Hamlin, because the Florida Department of Transportation, which manages the sidewalk in front of the row, won't allow it.

Houseboat Row residents are angry about their garbage bills, which they call an inequity. How much garbage can they make? Why should a houseboat pay \$15 more a month than a house? In fact, much of the garbage removed from Houseboat Row seems to be contributed by the liveaboards who anchor their boats in the bay, beyond Houseboat Row.

On a recent afternoon just before dusk,

"No one wants to mess with Houseboat Row."

removal was anticipated by all, 12 to 18 months for completion is suggested for the phase-out."

Still, liveaboards at Houseboat Row enjoy some of the most economical housing on the island. They pay for their utilities—electric, water, TV cable and telephone, but no sewer. They are required to maintain U.S. Coast Guard approved sanitation devices, also known as "porta potties," aboard their vessels. They are not hooked up to the city's sewer system, so they don't get a sewer bill.

PATA collects \$46.45 monthly from each boat to cover administrative fees and city services like police and fire protection. Chuck Hamlin says the DNR has indicated that it would support an increase in house vessels' monthly payments during "the phase-out period." But when Hamlin took the proposal before the city manager to present to the city commission, he was blocked by Richard Witker, who was city manager at the time.

"No one wants to mess with Houseboat Row," Witker told him. "Forget about that."

As for taxes, there are two ways to pay. Liveaboards, who choose to call their houseboats vessels pay annually to register them with the state, just like any other boat

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tourists enjoying the ocean breezes along Key West's funkiest neighborhood came upon a huge pile of trash, overflowing in cans and black plastic garbage bags. A stench of stale beer wafted through the air,



**SIMPLY MARBLEOUS.**

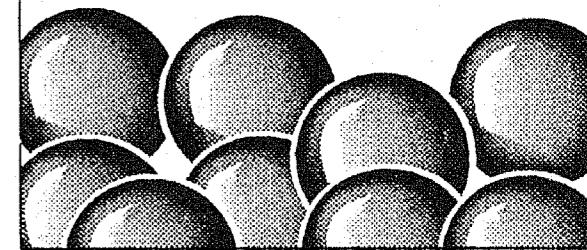
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Page 6 • August 1990 • Solares Hill and indeed many beer cans littered the area. The heap was located near the end of the row, on the sidewalk in front of slip "V." A Florida Disposal truck came along, and several brawny men tossed the trash into the dark mouth of the huge truck and sped away. Within a few hours, a new pile began to form in its place.

**W**ho pays to pick up *that* garbage, the offshore refuse?

"I believe [the people moored out in the bay] have an account with Florida Disposal," says Anderson, who recently went before the city commission to complain about the row's high garbage bills.

"The citizens who pay garbage bills in this community pay for that," says Hamlin. "Those people out in the bay don't."

"I wish that some of the people here would have more pride in their homes and themselves," says Anderson's wife, Judith. "We have friends out here who are into recycling, into keeping their boats nice, and they have jobs. But some of the boats out there [offshore] are out of control. It isn't always a pretty picture."

Houseboat Row residents have gone to PATA on several occasions to complain about the undesirable offshore liveaboards and vagrants who live in the area around Houseboat Row. However, Anderson says there is a strong citizens' crime watch in place nowadays, and the police department has been more responsive to complaints about vagrants in the past few years.

In the four years that Anderson has been living on Houseboat Row he says he has spent thousands of hours promoting ideas designed to make life better for those who choose to lead a houseboat life.

Anderson says he has researched admiralty laws, as well as constitutional issues, and he believes that Monroe County should exercise its right to manage the waters. However, he says, bureaucrats don't seem interested in any plan that means improving ecological and economic conditions for liveaboards in Monroe County.

"Peter Anderson and I have never spoken on this matter," says County Commissioner Gene Lytton, "but it would seem like an overlap of several jurisdictions."

### Hamlin envisions a full-service facility for liveaboards.

"I have been knocking my head against the wall for four years," Anderson says. "I think it's easier for [politicians] to gripe about it than to do anything."

Anderson has suggested a dinghy sticker system to PATA, whereby all dinghys docking along the sea wall at Houseboat Row must buy a sticker to show that they are tethered there legally. The cost of the ticket would also pay for garbage pick up and for upkeep on dinghy docks. Dinghies without stickers would be issued tickets.

Five years ago, Chuck Hamlin came up with an idea to create a 150-buoy mooring field for liveaboards between Sigsbee Park and Fleming Key. Water there is very clean, and from 8- to 15-feet deep. Turtle grass is healthy and lush, and moorings would be designed so as not to injure the ocean floor.

Boats would moor in a no-discharge zone, which means that absolutely nothing could be thrown overboard. Refuse like sewage and trash would be taken to a support station at Garrison Bight Marina, or picked up by special barges. Sewage would ultimately be emptied into the city's sewage system.

Hamlin envisions a full-service facility for liveaboards at Garrison Bight Marina, with restrooms, showers, laundromat, and water (for an extra fee). Boaters would dinghy in and tie up at specially designed docks. The entire facility would be contracted out for private management, and would cost each boat about \$150 a month.

Hamlin says the project would make money for the city and provide affordable housing.

"This project is my baby," says Hamlin,

who is currently wading through a swamp of applications for permits from the Coast Guard, DNR and Department of Environmental Regulation. "I'm not going to give up on it."

"For a city to be working out a plan to legitimize houseboats is really pretty good; it is really phenomenal," says Craig Quirolo, president of Reef Relief, a non-profit organization which supports conservation efforts affecting the reef. Quirolo lived in the Sausalito Boat Basin, a California houseboat community that became famous during the '70s. "I support the plan 100 percent because it is good for the safety of the ecology and for the safety of the boaters."

Quirolo also says he would like to see Houseboat Row stay, because they are viable alternative for low- to middle-income families. However, the environmentalist says that the sewage treatment at the row is "a joke" because, studies show, chemically treated sewage, which is what porta potties ultimately dump into the bay, is probably worse for the fish and bay bottom than raw sewage.

Anderson says he's not convinced that Hamlin's idea of a mooring field would be financially sound for the city, and, he says, it wouldn't solve the problems of boaters who abuse the environment and the city by not handling sewage and garbage properly.

### The plan is good for the ecology and boaters.

"What I would like to see happen is for the county commission to apply to the DNR for a management agreement for purposes of enforcing regulations over public health, safety and welfare," Anderson says. "The

DNR would grant this in a second."

"I have no idea how Mr. Anderson knows what the Governor and the Cabinet will decide to do," says Ann Lazar, planning manager in the DNR's Marathon office.

**A**nderson's plan would have the county assign the job of enforcing sanitary regulations to private contractors, who would go from boat to boat on barges, sucking out holding tanks, picking up garbage, and collecting payment for their services. That way, he says, boaters would have to pay—or be ordered out of Florida Keys waters by the Florida Marine Patrol.

"I'm 100 percent behind the mooring field idea," says Mayor Tony Tarracino. "Chuck Hamlin is doing a great job, and it will be a great deal for the city. Believe me, we need the money."

Hamlin reported to the city commission during budget hearings in July that he has found a construction company to begin expansion of Garrison Bight Marina. Work will finally begin, he says, within the next nine months.

Money for the project, according to Hamlin, will be provided by the construction company and will be repaid from proceeds once the marina is operational. Then the city will begin to reap a profit. Houseboat Row will be relocated, according to the city's agreement with the DNR.

"We're working independently with the state," says Anderson. "They would love to see us stay and lease us the seawall in exchange for good and fair consideration."

DNR's Ann Lazar says she knows of no "deal" being negotiated with the state by Peter Anderson.

Lazar explained that the agreement between the City of Key West and the DNR to allow Houseboat Row to stay was set up as an interim measure, not a permanent one.

"Beyond that interim, they will have to move," says Lazar. "It's part of the agreement, and everyone at DNR is aware of that agreement."

County Commissioner Eugene Lytton, whose background includes a career in the U.S. Coast Guard, says the matter of Houseboat Row will be decided by the state, regardless of what local feelings are.

"If the DNR as manager of state sovereign land has indicated in an jurisdictional decision that Houseboat Row is to be moved under an existing agreement, then

they are the ones that are going to relent or enforce," says Lytton.

Neither in conversation nor in letters has the DNR shown any indication that the state may relent.

"Sooner or later those people will have to move out of there. There's no doubt of that," says Mayor Tarracino. "But I'm suspicious about why the city has made it so tough on those people. When they leave I want the bay bottom to go back to its natural condition. I don't want to see a rich people's marina started there by the people who own Ocean Walk. I promise, as long as I'm living, there won't be another marina there."

Indeed, there will never be a marina there. In fact, there is no way that there could ever be a marina in water as shallow as that in the Houseboat Row area, says the DNR. It would be impossible according to state guidelines.

"No matter how rich the [developers] are," adds Ann Lazar.

"I want them to go over to Garrison Bight," says City Commissioner Virginia Panico. "I don't have a problem with Houseboat Row residents, but there are people sleeping on the sidewalks, living in vans parked around there, and there is a sewage and a garbage problem. The DNR says they have to move. The city made an agreement. That was the deal and we're going through with it."

Despite continuing threat of displacement, "For Sale" signs are not uncommon on the row. One man currently looking to sell his houseboat tells potential buyers that the slip lease with PATA is "self-renewing, continuous."

"If you ever do have to move, it won't be an overnight thing," says Thomas Ringle, a houseboat owner who says that for the last ten years it has cost him about \$110 a month to live on his floating home. "There'll be litigation, and it will cost some money, but it will take years to move people out of there. Three different dockmasters have told me frankly that we're not going anywhere."

**H**ow can [the houseboaters] sue?" asks Lazar. "They need permission from the Governor and the Cabinet to stay there. There is an agreement. No one at the DNR is pushing for removal now because there is no place to go. Why be cruel and unreasonable? But the agreement is that when there is a place to go, Houseboat Row will go

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there."

Of course the possibility of eventually being relocated is a consideration, Ringle agrees. But hey, he says, it comes with the territory.

Houseboating is a tenuous lifestyle at best. Hurricanes mean disaster, and it is impossible to get wind or flood insurance for a houseboat. Banks don't grant mortgages to people buying houseboats, either. Too iffy.

Craig Quirolo says that granting permanent leases to those 26 houseboaters on Houseboat Row would probably lead to gentrification and defeat the purpose of having an economical housing alternative. When Sausalito's houseboat community was legitimizized by the city, Quirolo says, choice permanent slip leases were "sold" at exorbitant prices.

But Anderson says he has no fear of that happening here, because a houseboat is an uninsurable investment. He says people aren't ever going to spend money on a house situated so precariously in a major hurricane zone.

"People will always want to live on the water," says Chuck Hamlin. ■

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by Anne Carlisle

Sooner or later, you're gonna be mine,  
Sooner or later, you're gonna be by.  
Baby, it's time that you faced it;  
I always get my man.

Madonna as Breathless Mahoney  
in *Dick Tracy*

On a blistering afternoon in July, I flag down two women from among the semi-dressed crowd lounging near the area marked "Topless" on the Pier House beach. Acquaintances from aerobics class, they are amused when I say I'm here researching an article on dating in Key West.

"Think you'll be able to drum up an eighth of a page on that one?" chuckles Durga.

I tell them I've been tipped off that this beach is the best place to meet someone. "Didn't you meet Gypsy here?" Cecile asks Durga.

We burst out laughing. If nicknames of Key West men are any indicator—Gypsy, Indian Bill, Whistling Tom, Smooth and Cowboy, to name a few—my prospects for a storybook romance by the end of this assignment are about as remote as winning the Fantasy Five twice in a row. (One day I looked in the mirror, and what did I see? A single white writer (SWW) with a few worry lines. Still, not bad for forty-three.)

While women naturally assume that all the good-looking guys are gay, men seem to have categorized women into a number of equally unsuitable types.

Bryan, a good-looking straight guy of 25 who operates a painting business in town, remarks: "It's hard to find a woman who isn't either too hardboiled or too emotional, and who hits a seven to ten on the appearance scale." Bryan also requires brains and personality. But, he announces, the only reason to get married is "if you need someone to do your laundry, and I don't."

"Slim pickings out there," says Suzanne, a Key West dating veteran who prefers to survey the field from a barstool at the Yacht Club. It's especially hard in the summer, confirms Liz, when all one's friends head North. And Jeanne, who moved here from Greenwich Village, claims that in coming down here she had to lower her dating standards. "The way I look at it now, all I ask is that he own all his front teeth."

My friend Jane, who's been here 17 years and is still single, suggested she might take my picture and resume along on her cruise to Alaska, where men so far outnumber women that they advertise for them in the paper. In fact, the aforementioned Jeanne has a friend who started a magazine called *Alaska Man*, which, through a nationwide circulation, attempts to coax women to the Northernmost point, pri-

## the Key West Dating Game



**Bachelor No. 1** works for a local utility company, collects gold chains, simultaneously drinks beer and plays softball, and goes by the nickname 'Bubba.'

**Bachelor No. 2**, a new car salesman, is actually married, but is willing to lie about it depending on the phase of the moon, cut off your dress and stirring in his loins.

**Bachelor No. 3** works as a form carpenter on a large development project, invests daily in Budweiser stock, and is, for as many as 3 months a year, a Cubs fan.

marily for breeding purposes. Hmm.

I had a better idea: I'd seen an article in the *Miami Herald* indicating there were dating services which charged upwards of \$1000 for introducing "upscale" clients to each other. Conventional wisdom: you get what you pay for. I decided to go see for myself what prey they had to offer me. (Pray for me!)

### Introductology

Some weeks and many second thoughts later, the day of my appointment with Choices Unlimited in Coral Gables arrived. Alas, so did a 24-hour stomach virus. Fortified with Lomotil tablets (and suspended disbelief), I trekked into the city to meet with veteran introductologist Bobbie Heiman (pronounced "hymen").

Instead of meeting with Heiman, however, I was turned over to a long-haired young person, smacking gum, who proceeded to talk on the phone for an hour with a prospective client named Ira, who evidently wished to procure a 20-year-old with long legs. Ira was a self-employed businessman, fortyish.

Meanwhile, I had a look at the audio-visuals and scrapbooks. The clients all looked as if they lived in Pembroke Pines. When my interviewer finally turned her attention to me, I was both dehydrated and infuriated. How did they expect to find through their slipshod survey—on which were numerous typos, not to mention idiotic questions—a kindred spirit for someone as odd as I? "I don't think you're odd," she replied smoothly.

"Of course I'm odd!" I snapped. "I live in Key West!"

Nonetheless, once science attaches its

cold, clammy grip, it's hard to shake it off. Too ill to drive home, I rented a motel room in Florida City and regaled myself, between bouts in the bathroom, with the Personals section of the local paper. I was amazed to see how many ads there were. Thanks to the 900-number system, self-descriptions are available to listeners via recorded message.

For 95 cents a minute, you can browse through the comfort of your own phone, and, if you like, leave a message in reply to something like this: "Hello, I'm a single white male, handsome, fit, 37, seeking a shapely, submissive, sensuous non-smoking valedictorian for cross-dressing and walks on the beach."

All this, the gum-smacker back in the Coral Gables had informed me, because "most people know exactly what they want."

I was stuck with incertitude and the Key West singles market.

Resolved to make the best of it—with Hemingway Days upon us, I reminded myself it was a writer's duty to live it, then live to tell of it—I ventured out into the bar scene with a tape recorder tucked into my pouch.

It was a dirty job—but someone had to do it. I set out in earnest on a Thursday night, cruising Duval Street in my convertible. The island had never looked so dead; the most exciting happening was a tire blowout on a Pedicab.

Discouraged but not daunted, I threaded my way through the Pier House haunts (five people in the Chart Room, three at the Beach Bar) before spotting a couple I knew at the Wine Gallery. They accompanied me upstairs to Havana Docks where Bill Blue and the Nervous Guys were playing to a

## \*Literary-Minded Lady Seeks Sexy Straight Shrimper or Best Offer

small crowd. Very entertaining, but no one danced until the band stopped and the DJ came on. (The best performance was given by a girl in penny loafers and cut-off shorts dancing by herself.)

I managed to attract two dance partners myself, one from Jacksonville and the other from New Orleans. The latter had arrived with a bachelor party. "My friend agreed to marry his girlfriend when he turned 40," said this 30-year-old. "His time was up."

### Fat Cats and Local Yokels

I had high hopes for Friday night, when the island would be fuller, I started around nine at Coconuts Comedy Club, but the scene was not promising for an unattached single, with the couples lined up like pairs for Noah's Ark and the license plates mostly not local. I had better luck at Louie's Backyard, where the Afterdeck Bar draws in an assortment of fat cats and locals—also, that night, some clean-shaven military guys from Pensacola and Italy, plus a Hemingway lookalike who shared his memories of the days when Old Town houses were sold for \$6500.

Heading downtown, I braved the Strand and was immediately embraced by a plastic cuff which cut off my circulation. Once again the crowd was sparse and the best dancer a girl twirling around alone, in harem pants and boots. I happened on a male friend and we went off to check out Nick's Coastal Cafe at the Hyatt, where everything had happened at sunset. We conferred about the difficulties of creating the right "come-on" line, then went off to dance at Sloppy's, where the noise level makes lines irrelevant.

Speaking of lines, the worst I encountered during research was, "You look like you could use a foot massage." The best was from a distinguished-looking gentleman who leaned over the counter at Camille's (his favorite place to survey) and asked if I ate as much for dinner as I did for brunch.

But I'm getting ahead of my story. On

Saturday, after being mistaken for one of the Spectrelles by a couple from Miami at the Walden's booksigning party, I went downtown to see what might be culled by sitting at Fat Tuesday's and sampling their frozen drinks. The answer is, a good buzz. A little wobbly but mindful of a young man's tip about the beach at the Pier House, I left.

At 2:45 p.m., as my friends headed out for the spa, I plunked myself down on a beach chair. The results were amazing. By 3:30 p.m. I had been approached by two men (more or less eligible), kissed on the lips and given a business card. Looking around, I realized that the cove-like beach is a kind of stage upon which men and women can parade to good effect—jump in the water, preen on the raft, and so forth. Here was light at the end of the tunnel.

### The Brown Buffet

I went home, changed my clothes and headed back out for sunset. The Top at La Concha provides a romantic view of the city, but on that particular Saturday night the view was mostly being enjoyed by tourists with large families. So after a nostalgic glimpse at the treetops and white bric-a-brac

I moved on, landing at the Whistle Bar, which is over the Bull. An 18th birthday party was in full swing. Everything on the buffet was brown, including the cake trimming. The men were amiable, but most had names beginning with "B" and were into belching, pool, or skittles. Also there was a guy staring into the fish tank.

In the end I opted for a locals party, the Reef Relief benefit at Havana Docks. Locals parties, by the way, are not the best way to meet a prospective suitor. Still, I had a nice time and some good conversation. Also a 20-year-old man from Tucson, somewhat inebriated, asked me to dance. It wasn't love at first sight, but it beat reading the personals. One divorced lady I know did this scene for several years and now she's taking Ballroom Dancing lessons with Mr.

## BECKER For The Bench

Paid Political Advertising/Campaign Fund Ruth Becker

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Right.

As deadline approached I wound up my research by returning to Camille's (in hopes of meeting up again with the distinguished-looking gentleman at the counter). I also was asked by a friend, Is there any climax to your story?

No climax, as yet, but hopefully some updates are in the future. It is a matter of destiny—which Bryan, the 25-year-old painter had suggested to me, is the only acceptable duenna after all.

There is a score, of sorts: in my three days of intensive searching, I managed to attract about seven dance partners, ages 20 to 69; I got three dates, which are none of your business. And I got a pleasing assortment of whistles, kisses and promises. Only one bad experience, fairly easily brushed off.

Conventional wisdom says it is impossible to find romance in the singles scene. Rely on work, friends, and fate and forget the bars. I'm not so sure that is true. Whatever the avenue, however, persistence and a good sense of humor are *de rigueur*. Also, if nothing else works, consider using my line: "Hi, I'm writing an article on dating in Key West ..."

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## When Every Drop Counts

Water conservation is a must for the 90s

by Elli Riley

**S**top! Don't flush that toilet!

Did you know that, according to the American Water Works Association, five-to-seven gallons of water go down the drain each time you flush? Or that rinsing last night's dinner dishes required nearly 20 gallons? And that your morning shower consumed over 25 gallons?

During the recent drought, the South Florida Water Management District, an agency consisting of nine professionals appointed by the Governor, placed rigorous restrictions on ten counties last December. In some areas, car-washing became a pun-

ishable offense, and neighborhood arguments erupted over the use of lawn sprinklers. Officials quickly learned that saying "please" was not enough to coerce people to change old habits.

Although water restrictions for South Florida were eased on July 12th to a Modified Phase 1, which restricts only the daytime use of lawn sprinklers, officials say conservation is still essential.

Encouraged by conservation groups, the South Florida Water Management District has introduced a six-point water conservation program. It includes local ordinances which encourage conservation policies, xeriscaping (drought-tolerant landscaping), implementation of rate structures which will penalize excessive water use, leak-detection programs, and public education programs on local levels.

Perhaps most significant is their request for the installation of only ultra-low volume plumbing in new construction. Ann Overton, SFWMD's media spokesperson, says "What we are trying to do is make reasonable water conservation a way of life."

Although SFWMD did not suggest regulation for inside use of water, it supports making such measures a part of local codes. Eventually computers could monitor water usage—as is projected for Dade County, where monthly consumption averages 30,000 gallons per household—and officials (called potty police) could inspect

premises.

There has been to date no threat of potty police made to Monroe residents, but Herbert Rabin, building official-director for Monroe County, reminds us that current building codes encourage the use of water-saving devices. Additionally, SFWMD warns that continued waste, complicated by the lowering of water supplies by another dry spell, could bring tighter controls to individual counties once again.

In this respect, Monroe residents have a natural advantage over neighbors to the north. Our water supply is more stable because our well fields are located nearer to the Everglades, and therefore benefit from Biscayne Aquifer's downward flow.

Monroe also boasts a lower record of water consumption. Average monthly water use per household (three-to-four people) in the Keys is only 4400 gallons. This figure is one of the lowest in the state and is below the national average.

Kathy Ovide, assistant to the executive director at Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority says higher water costs—necessary to maintain the pipeline which was completed in 1981—cause people to consume less water. What's more, Ovide says, Our landscaping is less extravagant than in other South Florida counties and, in general, Keys residents are conservation minded.

Many remember waiting for hours to shower or do laundry, as water pressure was allowed to rise above minimum standards for only brief intervals daily. Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority solved that problem by upgrading its system, and now, over 12 million gallons of water gush through the pipeline each day to service about 38,000 metered businesses and households.

How can Monroe County residents further cut consumption? According to William Ashworth, author of *Nor Any Drop To Drink*, the toilet accounts for 45 percent of water consumed in an average household. Sadly, a flush may dispose of nothing more than a dead spider or cigarette ashes. Avoiding unnecessary flushing, and using a toilet dam to limit the water lost per flush, can make a noticeable drop in water usage.

Moderation during showers, running only a full load when doing laundry, using dish pans when washing dishes, and avoiding watering the lawn during the heat of the day are ways to conserve. Turning off the water while you brush teeth can save two gallons.

Water-saving devices can be ordered

through catalogues or plumbing suppliers, and are available locally. The Greenpeace Store on Duval Street carries a kitchen-faucet aerator, priced at \$3.75, which delivers either a stream or spray and rotates 360 degrees, plus a bathroom-faucet aerator priced at \$1.25. Also, a shower head which delivers a full-pressure stream, and has a shampoo button for turning off the water while soaping. It sells for \$9. Greenpeace also carries two types of toilet dams, which are safer than improvising with bottles or bricks. One retails for \$9, the other for \$6.50. No tools are required for installation of any of these devices.

The aerators and shower heads save 30 to 50 percent over traditional types, while the toilet dams will save two gallons per flush. Store manager Amy Fields says these items have been discounted by Greenpeace in an effort to make water conservation more affordable.

Aforementioned author William Ashworth writes that when the water lost through wasteful habits, leaks, and inefficient water fixtures is added up "it becomes apparent that anywhere from 40-to-70 percent of our in-residence water use isn't used at all." In Monroe County, where FKAA billing is determined by water use—at a rate of \$5.18 per 1000 gallons—conservation can result in savings.

A local household of four persons reducing its intake by 40 percent—based on a monthly consumption of 5000 gallons—saves about \$15. The cost of several water-saving devices would be covered in the first month. An added plus for Key Westers is that the reduction will also cause a drop in

the sewer bill, which is based on the previous month's water usage.

Watch for leaks, in particular. A leak the size of a pencil point can result in a loss of over 4000 gallons in one month—and a monthly cost to the consumer of \$25. If you are concerned about a high bill, or detect leaks, contact a FKAA field representative for assistance.)

### Hints for Wiser Water Use

*Americans are leaders when it comes to water waste, averaging per capita household use of up to 90 gallons per day. Although the most extreme waste results from commercial, industrial and agricultural procedures, conservation should and can begin in the home.*

Some suggestions for saving water:

- As an alternative to a toilet dam, fill a plastic milk jug with water or small stones, and place in toilet tank to displace water.
- Flush the toilet only when necessary.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth, washing dishes, shaving, or lathering up.
- Keep a jug of drinking water in the fridge.
- Fill dishwasher and clothes washer completely before running.



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• Water the lawn with a hose rather than a sprinkler, and avoid doing so during the heat of the day.

• Minimize landscaping and use indigenous plants.

• Use a bucket of water when washing the car, and the hose only for final rinse.

• For more information read: *Nor Any Drop To Drink* by William Ashworth; *Energy Saving Handbook for Homes, Businesses & Institutions* by Edwin Feldman; or *50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Earth* by the Earth Works Group, or stop by the Customer Relations Department of the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority on Kennedy Drive for pamphlets detailing water conservation. (They even offer an informative coloring book for kids!) ☐

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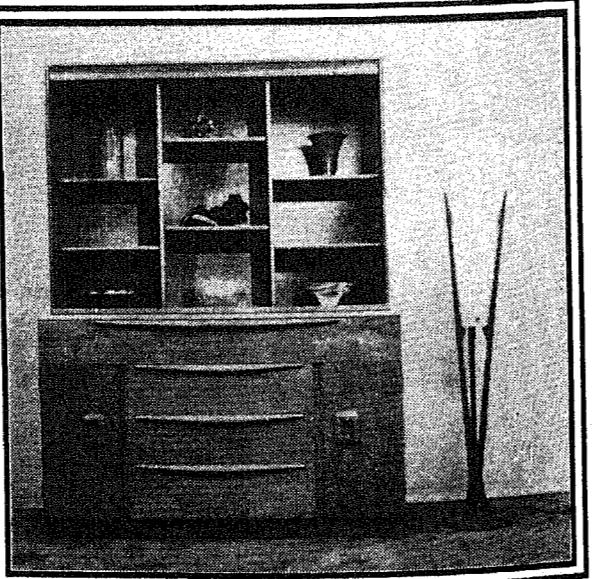
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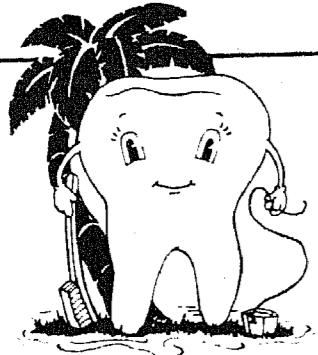
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### Hemingway Daze

On the opening day of this year's Hemingway Festival, organizer Michael Whalton said that a record 614 stories had been submitted to the Hemingway Short Story Contest. Judging the stories would be rough, said editor James Plath, who appears annually to take part in the festivities. As preliminary judges, he and Lorain Hemingway read all the stories. Bill Robertson, literary editor at the Miami Herald, was the final judge. His winner: "If You Can Hear This," a story of a woman's recollections of her father, written by Pamela Ball of Tallahassee.

### The Agony . . .

After Key West City Commissioners met with department heads and whittled all that they could out of the city budget, it was still \$1.5 million bigger than taxpayers can afford. If no way can be found to cut back the over-ride, taxes will have to go up.

Before making that decision, however, commissioners gave City Manager Felix Cooper the task of finding ways to trim back the budget even further, to avoid raising the millage rate.

Cooper is meeting regularly with City Finance Director David Fernandez. One major cut that Cooper says the city made was to refuse a request from the police department for 27 more employees—administrative aides, officers and detectives. That department will expand by two, instead.

Mayor Tony Tarracino had to give up his request for an administrative assistant. The city can't afford that luxury anymore. Several other positions were denied, too, but, so far, no one has been laid off.

Recommendations were presented to the city commission by Felix Cooper late last month.

### A New Major Case

At 3:55 a.m. on July 22, police officer Jerry Horn on routine patrol noticed a silver Mazda parked next to pine trees across the street from Smathers Beach. When the officer approached the car, a woman got out and dropped an object onto the ground.

Horn retrieved the object, a homemade crack pipe, still warm, and arrested the car's driver, Pat Major, charging her with possession of narcotic drug paraphernalia. The Mazda, which is registered to Major's mother, was impounded. Unless it can be proven that Major's mother knew her car was being used by her daughter for illegal purposes, the car does not fall under forfeiture laws.

Major goes to court on August 20 to fight forfeiture proceedings filed by the City of Key West. City police recently seized her \$650,000 Caroline Street guest house, after an earlier drug bust, involving drug paraphernalia and cocaine charges, last February.

### Oh, My Nerves!

Publication of several local news articles concerning city employees salaries—smack in the middle of a grueling week of budget reviews and a call for mandatory budget cuts—has made many employees at city hall understandably nervous about job security.

In mid-July when Assistant City Manager Ron Heron off-handedly asked his administrative assistant Glynda Cox how long she'd been at City Hall, Cox choked: "You mean how much seniority do I have with the city?"

"No, Glynda," Heron said. "I meant:

when did you get in today?"

### Crime Task Force Recommendations

After six months of regular meetings, the Key West Crime Task Force has made a series of recommendations to the city commission. The 16-member committee has suggested the city appoint an employee to the sole task of seeking grants and funding for anti-crime efforts, including a city-wide recreation program to counsel felons returning to the community after serving prison terms; a long-term plan for combating crime in the city; a crime-prevention program in the city managed by a police employee who will assist crime watch groups, help train participants and focus on hate crimes.

"The number one thing we recommend is the establishment of foot patrols in high crime areas of the city," said Dick Callahan, a detective from the sheriff's department who serves as vice-chairman of the group. Callahan presented the list of recommendations to the city commission.

The Crime Task Force suggested that government and private employers establish clearly stated drug policies for their employees; that city code enforcement officers become more aggressive; and that the city support better local resident drug rehabilitation centers by pushing state representatives to bring this community's needs to the attention of Tallahassee.

A.C. Weinstein, Mayor Tarracino's appointment to the Crime Task Force, stated to the commission that he accompanies police officers on crack patrols and, therefore, knows the severity of the city's crack problem.

Weinstein urged the commission to work at getting money from the Tourist Development Council to build a recreational center that would include a pool, a softball field, and a boxing facility.

"The City should show some compassion for a neighborhood that has been long neglected," Weinstein said.

Weinstein also said that he has been in touch with people in Tallahassee who say that State Attorney General Robert Butterworth's statement that TDC dollars could not be legally used to fund police protection for special events "will more than likely be overturned."



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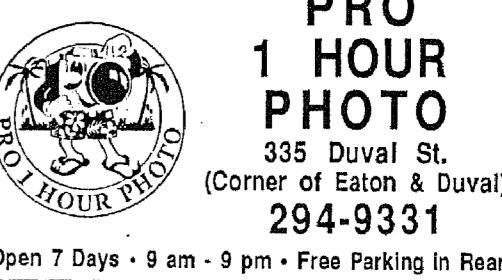
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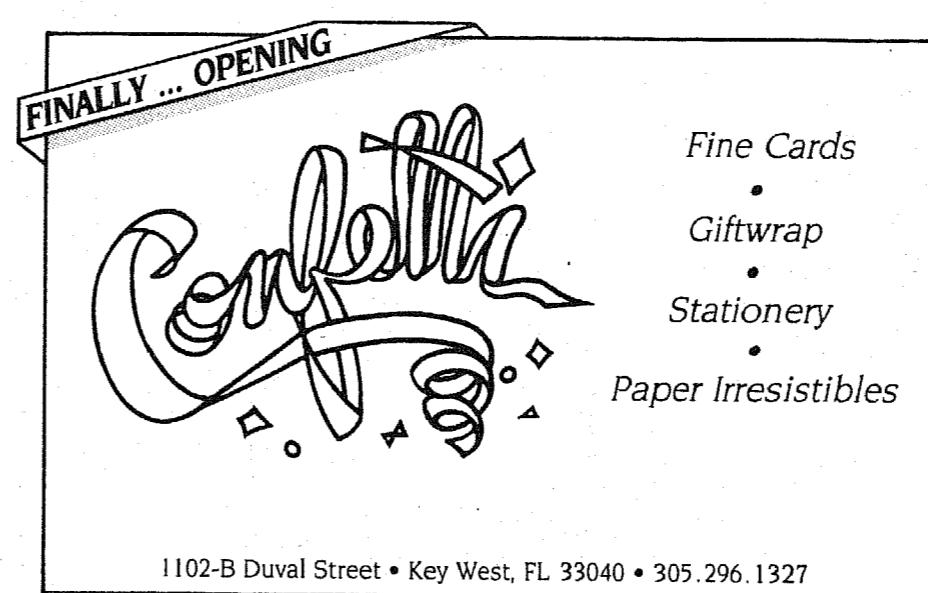
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## Cookie Lady: Living the Sweet Life

by Elizabeth M. Smith

**O**n a whim and a prayer, a social worker from Ohio sailed to Key West. She spent the winter of 1980 here, planning to leave if she found island existence uncomfortable. Ten years later, minus one for mental hiatus, Marilyn Kellner-Chabot is still here, enjoying somewhat of a celebrity status as—drumroll, please—Key West's own "Cookie Lady."

This vibrant entrepreneurial character is recognizable far and wide. Those who sample one of her delicious concoctions, from mango strudel—made "without a stitch of sugar"—to gooey, chewy, crunchy turtle bars, are instantly addicted. And anyone who hasn't caught her gig at Sunset, may have spied her on the silver screen or read about her in books or articles about Key West.

Cookie Lady's rise toward fame began when she was mentioned in a *Miami Herald* article about Fantasy Fest. She has since been referred to in several national publications, guide books, including *Fodor's Guide to Florida*. She was depicted as a

minor character in a novel, *Trap Line*, by William D. Montalbano and Carl Hiaissen, and she appeared in a Charles Kuralt segment about Key West.

In the Billy Crystal/Gregory Hines movie *Running Scared*, the Cookie Lady played herself, having become essential to Hollywood's vision of the Sunset scene. "It was great fun," says Marilyn, "because I just played the Cookie Lady. It took a long time to film with all the cuts so I sold my brownies."

A polaroid photo in Marilyn's scrapbook captures the Cookie Lady on her bicycle next to Billy Crystal who is mugging with one of her Key lime tarts. "Maaarvelous daahling" reads the inscription.

Cookie Lady is less enthusiastic about the celluloid vehicle of her cinematic debut in *Feel the Heat*, a TV movie which she describes as "a D-minus movie about drugs in Key West." End comment.

**H**ow did Marilyn, who describes herself as being "fairly quiet and non-aggressive," evolve into this veritable character who returned to Sunset this year after a one-year absence due to popular demand?

A love of baking and poetry, both influenced by her mother, have been key ingredients in shaping her persona. As a child, Marilyn helped her mother make Christmas goodies. One of Cookie Lady's lasting successes—warm and chewy peanut butter bars (yumm!) is an adaptation of her mother's recipe.

Later, as an adult, Marilyn arrived by chance in Key West, where she took a job at a local restaurant, helping them prepare for the upcoming season. In order to make room on the cupboard shelves—"they were giving stuff away," she explains—Marilyn took home some cans of spiced apples, little dreaming how they were destined to twist her fate. She baked them into apple-papaya turnovers and biked them to Mallory Square. Soon her goods became a tradition.

This was the Mallory Square of 1980—before the cruiseport and the Cultural Preservation Society—when Sunset was still a meeting place for locals. Other regulars at the dock included Iguana Man, Sister and Conch Salad Man. Nobody competed for



Twins: Cookie Lady and soft lookalike.

space; there was more than enough to go around.

"People set up with their wares," Marilyn says. "At that time there was no delineation about *handmade*—if you needed money, you sold trinkets off a blanket. The town was much quieter then."

**F**ew would argue that our town has changed drastically in its metamorphosis from a sleepy, laid back retreat to a fast-paced tourist destination. The building of the cruiseport at Mallory dock created one of those evolutionary traumas. The artisans at Sunset feared the change would affect their livelihoods and wanted to organize; city authorities feared problems that might negatively impact the potential profits of the cruiseport.

Friction developed, and police frequently attempted to clear the pier at Sunset. Frustrated and angered, Marilyn refused to budge one evening and was arrested on a trespassing charge with two other protesters. The three were hauled off in a paddy wagon and transported to the police station. More arrests followed. Public outcry arose over the fact that the trespassers were on public property. Subsequently, all charges were dropped at a pre-trial hearing. Meanwhile, the CPS, with Marilyn as a founding member, was formed.

"It's amazing," mused Marilyn, "[during earlier activism] I never got into trouble with the law. Then I come to Key West and think I'm going to retire from all this active stuff, eke out *my* life the way I think it should be, without abusing people, without taking people for granted, without destroying things, just trying to live right—and what happens? I get arrested for selling cookies."

**T**hanks in part to Alice B. Toklas and a Peter Sellers movie, the concepts of brownies and illegal substances are forever linked in the public consciousness. This spectre sometimes haunts Cookie Lady, who sells her brownies at Blossom's on White Street as well as at Mallory. "When people ask me

if there's pot in my cookies, I tell them I get into enough trouble just selling regular brownies." She also responds in rhyme, her customary mode of language while working the dock:

*If something special in my brownies is your hope,  
The Cookie Lady's brownies don't have dope.*

One of her oldest and most popular rhymes was contributed by Iguana Man. Cookie Lady likes to recite it in memory of the man who resembled his spiny pets:

*Key West treat,  
Key West sweet,  
Get one and we both can eat.*

Ask the price of the goodies and Cookie Lady may answer:

*I'm here so you can have some fun,  
And if you will excuse the pun,  
Key West is a tipsy place,  
So put a smile on your face,  
And a tip in my bowl,  
That is the Cookie Lady's ultimate goal,  
Besides feeding your face.  
A buck and a half is good  
Or maybe two—I work hard,  
It's up to you.*

**W**ith Key West booming as a tourist resort, Sunset has exploded into a multi-ring circus. At times, visitors are forced to edge sideways through the crowds. Cookie Lady is always astride her trademark three-wheel bicycle, which is adorned with handpainted signs. Two huge baskets, port and stern, carry the goods. "You have to be an acrobat," agrees Marilyn. "It's a test to get through these days; it's extremely difficult to show."

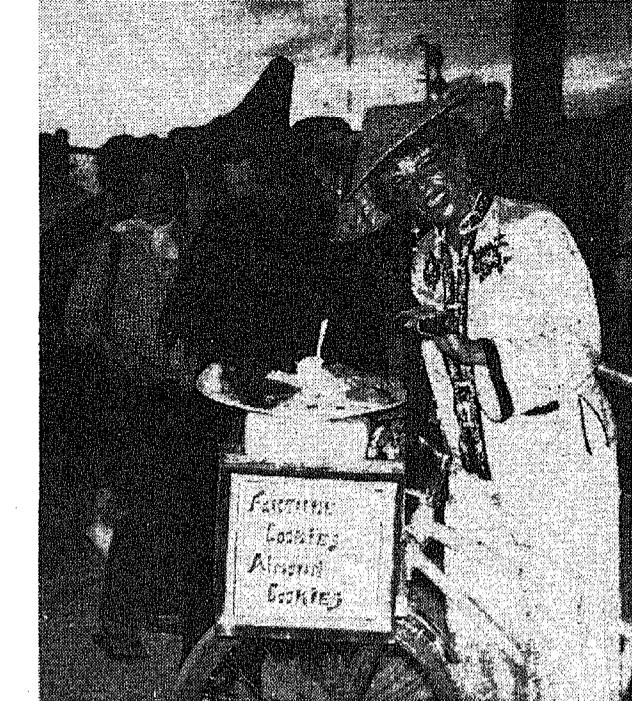
Like any business, Marilyn's has had its ups and downs. "One day Mallory Square can be very inspiring, very wonderful, a lot of good happy people coming up," she says. "And the next day the people can be as if they were fried by the sun."

Although Cookie Lady supports herself financially on the sales of her baked goods, eight years of plying her cookies at an increasingly crowded and bureaucratic Sunset took its toll. Two years ago, shortly after CPS would accept only persons it considered a food vendor or performer, Marilyn tired of the malarkey.

"I had been there for years before any of these rules and regulations," she says. "I was down there before any of the other food vendors." She believes that all the categorization and conflicts which stemmed from CPS regulations were detracting from the spirit and freedom of Sunset. Cookie Lady cashed in her chips, quit Sunset, and split the scene for more than a year.

Then her life took a detour. She married a Mallory Square portrait artist—something she did not anticipate. "Here I was at 39," she says. "I had gotten to the point where I have a good life, I live in Key West—it's a wonderful place to be. I've built my own business, done a lot of interesting things and I should be satisfied with it. I'm going to be by myself—but, you know, then whoosh!"

The newlyweds took off on an extended honeymoon—a planned three-week trip that lasted for five months. When she returned,



Ah so! Marilyn at Fantasy Fest.

Marilyn worked various jobs around town. She baked a little and spent time on other creative projects. Some of her pieces—works in clay, acrylics or a combination of the two—can be seen at Celebration and Manana Island Gallery. Her subject matter, not surprisingly, is people. In conjunction with her husband and another Mallory artisan, Marilyn has held two in-home art shows.

She has also expanded her theatrical repertoire, participating in an acting class and appearing in a Red Barn production which benefited the MARC House and AIDS research. "Theatre was fun," she says. "I thought it was something that would improve the Cookie Lady, too. It gave me ideas; it was a learning experience."

Not adjusting well to retirement and prompted by requests from Sunset visitors, Marilyn decided earlier this year to return to Mallory. Other Sunset regulars persuaded her to endure the bureaucratic hoops, rather than find herself regulated out of existence.



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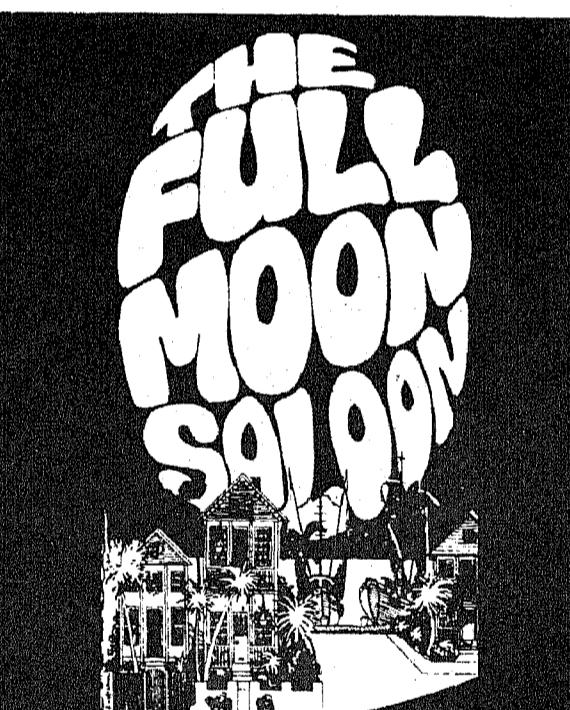
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later.

"The CPS board met," she says. "It was very nice for me; it felt good for the Cookie Lady that they had decided that she was part of the whole energy down there and they would really like to see me back. They felt that the Cookie Lady is not just a vendor [she] entertains people." CPS designated a special category of *food vendor/entertainer* for Cookie Lady and Coconut Man.

"What is really important," continues Marilyn, "is the spirit of Sunset and that's a highly personal thing. You don't standardize things. When you standardize society, you take away what is different. It blights the individual."

Today Marilyn has her sights set beyond Mallory Square. Baking out of her commissary behind Blossom's, she wants to market her creations on a larger scale and needs someone to help promote, produce and distribute the goods on a larger scale. "I want to give people a taste of Key West" Marilyn has decided. "Of course, the town itself would be getting publicity, too."

The sweet life obviously agrees with Marilyn. She looks slimmer and trimmer than ever despite—or because of—indulging in a nightly warm-and-chewy peanut butter bar. "It's really nice to be with someone who I love and who loves me," she says. "If I read the story of my life in a magazine or a book, I would say, 'Boy, that was a very interesting life!'"



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# Pride and Prejudice

by Kip Blevin

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The light reveals many factions. Well-known is the heckling of gays along Duval Street and the social tension that results from it. The Key West Police Department's efforts to meet the gay community's needs appear aimed mainly at encouraging gays to avoid situations which could result in a bashing. With the Key West Business Guild taking on a leadership role, guest houses

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But among members of the Key West Business Guild, which consists largely of gay business people, opinions on the incidence of hate crimes vary. One member suggested the number of attacks was being downplayed for economic reasons. Scaring away tourists with tales of physical assaults, he said, was probably not good for the tourism business.

Tourists stand a fair chance of witnessing a dose of prejudice and hostility, anyway. Merchants along Duval Street say it's not unusual for carloads of teenagers or college students to cruise Key West's main drag, shouting such witticisms as "Hey, faggot" or "Get out of town, faggot."

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Deborah Sichette, who works in the 1100 block of Duval, says she often hears people in cars verbally assaulting gays. "I don't think they're brave enough to do it on foot," she says.

"There's a lot of paranoia among gays, but in Key West it's happened to everyone," notes Sichette. She says that her husband, who gets off work around midnight, has been mugged three times in the last year while returning to their Bahama Village home. A gay friend of hers was hospitalized after being bashed.

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A 1988 study done by the State of New York for the Governor's Task Force on Bias-Related Violence concluded that of all groups "the most severe hostilities are directed at lesbians and gay men."

In what the report identified as "one of the most alarming findings," teenagers who were reluctant to advocate open bias against racial and ethnic groups were emphatic about disliking homosexual men and women. They are perceived "as legitimate targets which can be openly attacked," the report said.

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The light reveals many factions. Well-known is the heckling of gays along Duval Street and the social tension that results from it. The Key West Police Department's efforts to meet the gay community's needs appear aimed mainly at encouraging gays to avoid situations which could result in a bashing. With the Key West Business Guild taking on a leadership role, guest houses routinely warn gays about the risk of bashing.

Police are now required by state and federal laws to compile lists of hate crimes, classified by state statute as any crime based solely on race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, religion or national origin. Though sexual orientation is not a category, Key West requires its inclusion by city ordinance; the state is considering a similar move.

Officer Al Williams, supervisor of records and communication, has been recording Key West's hate crimes since March of this year. In this first quarter, four hate crimes were reported. One was racial. Another involved the verbal assault of a gay over the telephone, followed by a dead cat on his doorstep the next morning. The other two were physical assaults on gays. Police Chief Tom Webster suggests that such small numbers "statistically can be very skewed."

Former local mayor Richard Heyman, an art gallery owner who is openly homosexual, says he thinks gay bashings were

much worse in 1978 and 1979. "I'm not aware there is a problem now," he says.

But among members of the Key West Business Guild, which consists largely of gay business people, opinions on the incidence of hate crimes vary. One member suggested the number of attacks was being downplayed for economic reasons. Scaring away tourists with tales of physical assaults, he said, was probably not good for the tourism business.

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ease. Noreen Sofranec of Key West's AIDS Prevention Center has no data to support that conclusion, but is sure that AIDS "has not helped the bashing situation."

"I know the gay community is not going to agree with me, but [bashing] is not a big thing here," says Detective Woods. "Reported gay bashings are very low."

The statistic is deceiving. "If a gay goes back to a group of men who have verbally assaulted him to tell them off and gets beaten up," says Major Lew Mertz, the city's Number-Two lawman, "is that a bashing?" The answer, he says, is no.

A crime is not usually listed as a bashing when a gay is beaten up and then has his property stolen. That's robbery, a felony. An officer cannot directly ask a victim if he is gay, Mertz says, because that is an infringement of the victim's civil rights. The officer can, however, ask why the attack occurred.

In other words, if neither victim nor assailant mention sexual orientation as a factor, a crime will not be listed as a hate crime.

"I know the gay community is not going to agree but ..."

Another factor influencing the listing is when, in relation to police proceedings, sexual orientation is implicated. Last year, an incident took place in front of the movie theater at Seastown which resulted in the victim receiving a broken jaw, a bruised larynx and a two-week stay in the hospital.

According to the police reports, the victim—a man known as Raven who believes he was attacked because he was gay—initially did not want to file a complaint. Later that night, after learning the extent of his injuries, he expressed a willingness to file charges. Detective Woods said that the Seastown incident "was not a gay bashing," in part because neither party reported it as such at the time.

On the other hand, an 1988 incident in

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which a man received a savage beating while walking on Higgs Beach was considered a bashing by officials. The victim, a 44-year-old man, said he was approached by "three or four white males, who for an unprovoked reason began calling me a fucking faggot and then proceeded to punch me about the face, kick me in the chest and in the back."

The victim was transported to Florida Keys Memorial Hospital with a collapsed lung, internal injuries and several broken ribs. After an investigation, two of the attackers were arrested and held under \$10,000 and \$25,000 bonds. The victim, who faced "possible permanent disfigurement," according to the police report, had to run and crawl from Higgs Beach. He required surgery to stop abdominal bleeding.

Both defendants admitted that they had beaten the victim with fists and feet because "he is a faggot." Later, the prosecution reduced the charge from aggravated battery to simple assault.

(Although these incidents described here happened prior to the law mandating the reporting of hate crimes, the police department appears to have taken note of crimes that were obviously linked to sexual orientation.)

**M**ichele Woods believes most bashings can be avoided. "The majority occur late at night after [the gay men] are leaving a bar drunk," she says.

Woods and police public information officer Cynthia Edwards have been encouraging owners of gay guest houses and others to alert their patrons to the risk of walking darkened streets late at night or early in the morning. And Key West Business Guild vice-president Rick Van Hout of Key West Realty is preparing a pamphlet for tourists who are gay.

Not only has the guild been warning visiting gays, but it has also taken a proactive approach to encouraging victims to prosecute bashers. Guild president Tom Schmitt of the Rooftop Cafe, along with Van Hout and Kathy Kirkland of the guild's Crime Task Force, point with pride to successful bashing prosecutions.

The guild's involvement in a bashing case last October resulted in Judge Richard Payne imposing fines, counseling, performance of public service relating to the tourist industry and four years of probation on the assailant. What's more, shortly after

### The Dark Holy War

The gay community might find more to fear in Florida politics than they could find along any dark street. Just last month, failed presidential candidate and television evangelist Pat Robertson announced preparations in Orlando to wage "a new kind of Holy War right here in Florida."

Standing next to Governor Bob Martinez and his lieutenant governor candidate, former Monroe County sheriff Allison DeFoor, in a ballroom packed with GOP supporters and religious rightists, Robertson warned, as quoted in the *Miami Herald*:

"You're going to see, all the gays and the lesbians and these national abortion rights people and the ACLU will put millions of dollars and thousands of people into Florida."

an assault on two employees of a Duval Street establishment, the organization put up \$600 to pay for medical tests which led to charges against the 21-year-old assailant being upgraded to felonies, Schmitt stated in the guild's recent newsletter.

The guild's efforts were also instrumental in bringing to justice a Coast Guardsman who attacked a Milwaukee man because of his sexual preference. Ironically, says Detective Woods, Coast Guardsmen, because of their shorter hair, have occasionally been attacked in the mistaken belief that they were gay.

Tourists stand a chance of witnessing prejudice and hostility.

The guardsman was charged with battery, but the case was almost dismissed when the State Attorney's office assumed that the Wisconsin man would not come back to help prosecute the case.

"The State Attorney's office was advised

by the guild's anti-violence committee that they were wrong," says Walt Marlowe. The guild was willing to pay the Milwaukee man's expenses to return, and, indeed, he wanted to press charges. The guardsman was convicted and received six months probation, required to complete 16 half-day alcohol treatment sessions, 30 hours of community service. He has been warned by the Coast Guard that any further incidents will call for his immediate dismissal from the service.

The guild requests anyone who feels they have been the victim of a hate crime to call Tom Schmitt at 294-2042 or Michael Keating of the Mermaid and the Alligator at 294-1894. As Major Mertz puts it: "Hate itself is not a crime. It has to be accompanied by the commission of a crime."

**F**ormer Monroe County Deputy Linda Shearer, who as part-owner of T.H.E. Island of the Keys, Inc., an island for homosexual campers, has a unique perspective on the discussion. Unlike others in the gay and lesbian community, who are often dismissed as outsiders, Shearer was born and raised in Key West.

As a deputy, she was not directly involved in arresting bashers, but she has known a few. "I think [bashing] has increased. It's increased all over the country. I

don't think a lot of it is reported. The AIDS crisis has hurt a lot of gay people even though it is not exclusively a gay disease."

She also has opinions on the commonly-held belief that Conch teens are the primary perpetrators in these attacks. "I believe a lot of it is from Conch kids," she says. "White American and Hispanic also seem to be involved in the bashing as well." She said blacks who attack people are different. "They don't discriminate between gay and straight. They attack everybody."

Shearer deplores the violence. "I don't think kids are brought up as morally as they used to be," she says. As for the attackers, "A lot of bashers are fighting those gay feelings. They should just look at people as they are."

Looking at people the way they are appears to be increasingly more difficult for some. "The good news," Kevin T. Berrill, director of the anti-violence project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, wrote in the fall issue of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, "is by becoming more visible and vocal we are shattering oppressive stereotypes and replacing them with positive, authentic representations of our lives. The bad news is that we are becoming a more visible target for the bigots and bashers in our midst."

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## Taking It to the Limit

County planners and commissioners battle over growth

by Geddy Sveikauskas

Monroe County has been living in a dualistic universe. In one dimension is the tangible world of property rights, where an owner can build whatever his or her property is zoned for. In the other are various constraints, where under certain conditions—unavailability of road access, or presence of flood plain or environmental sensitivity, for instance—property rights are restricted.

Monroe County is evolving into a world where restrictions are increasingly more significant and more far-reaching. It's the new world of "caps," or capacity constraints, and in it constraints on development are unconnected to the characteristics of individual property. They're based, instead, on infrastructure capacity. In other words, if Route 1 can't accommodate more traffic, then it matters little where one wants to build.

At the Monroe County Planning Commission deliberations on the Comprehensive Plan in late July, a series of maps set on easels at the Jaycees Building in Marathon contained brightly colored areas which showed people what they could build and where. As one might imagine, citizens came up and peered at them, trying to determine in which zone their home might be.

Judged by the most contemporary political standard, the duck test, this series of images passed with flying colors: it looked like a zoning map, it acted like a zoning map, it quacked like a zoning map. Protests that it wasn't a zoning map seemed only to reinforce the significance of what the map portrayed: "It is a graphic portrayal of land use patterns likely to emerge if development decisions are made in conformance with Future Land Use goals, objectives and policies. It illustrates a general long-range development concept, and is therefore not site-specific. It is intended only to provide guidelines on a long-term basis."

The problem with the maps was not that they were imprecise, however. It was that they were inoperative. Thanks to the state's concurrency legislation, the era in which zoning was the main determinant of whether and what one could build in Monroe County is almost over. Will it ever return? Opinions differ.

There are enough approved lots in existing platted subdivisions in Monroe County to satisfy the next 20 years of growth. So no new subdivisions are needed. But how can they be prevented without violating property rights? "We've got the data, we know what needs to be done," said a frustrated planning chairman Milton Mravic. "But I'm damned if I know how we're going to do it."

At one point in the proceedings on the last day, planning staff member Dan Gaffney provided commissioners with an insight into how capacity constraints might work. You can regulate, Gaffney told the

commissioners. "In regard to carrying capacity," he said, "you add present use and future demand, and you have concurrency management."

What kind of caps could Monroe County use? Gaffney suggested a handful. It could have a traffic cap, working from a certain number of lanes on Route 1 back to the amount of traffic that would be allowed. It could set a maximum population size or an annual rate of permitted growth. It could set a limit on public expenditures to support infrastructure. It could set environmental thresholds. Or it could set maximum on hurricane evacuation times.

The county commission, its beliefs rooted in the virtues of development, has been slow in coming to terms with the world of caps. Recently it voted without debate to adopt a Big Pine Focal Point Plan which zoned for considerably more development than its own planning commission had wanted. After they review the full Comprehensive Plan in hearings beginning August 8, the county commissioners are widely expected to weaken the document before transmitting it to the state Department of Community Affairs on August 29.

This puts planning commissioners, who in their five grueling days of review of the Comprehensive Plan in late July only scratched the surface, in an awkward spot. Under no illusion as to where county power resides, they are mutinous because they regard county commission as mismanaging the planning process. They were proud that all five planning commissioners, from the conservation-minded Grace Mannillo to the conservative Big Pine businessman John Scharch, had been able to agree on a Big Pine plan. When the county commission overruled them without discussion they were rankled.

As in any budding mutiny, the participants were circumspect in expressing their opinions. Eschewing the quotable one-liners which could be picked up by even a Monroe County journalist, the planning commissioners stayed within political traces. But it didn't take a road map to see what route they were taking.

Early in the evening of July 26, shortly before Grace Mannillo made a motion that the county planning commission adopt a higher level-of-service road standard, planning commission chair Milton Mravic made a short statement.

The idea of a cap had at first been offensive to him, Mravic conceded. But no longer. "Everybody's problem is a result of everyone else's," he said. "You have to think cumulative."

How many people could the Keys handle, asked Mravic rhetorically. He had been querying people about whether they were enjoying the Keys now as much as they did ten years ago. "The answer is always no," Mravic said gloomily.

The planning commission "had its head beat in on Big Pine," he continued, but

feedback on its stand had been good. "Some board has to be responsible," he said. He didn't have to elaborate.

The county has been trying to provide justification to the state for a lower level-of-service standard for Route 1, arguing that the Keys are in fact an urban area, and that the standard state measures are flawed when it comes to measuring Monroe County traffic. The state DOT has rejected several Monroe County efforts to require a lower standard ("D") rather than a higher one ("C").

Mannillo's motion cut to the heart of that question. She said the county shouldn't have a lower standard.

"This [road standard] is so related to land use and population that it's almost impossible to separate them," said planning commissioner Michael Bier. "What if we were prudent? Wouldn't it be more prudent to take a more conservative approach?"

"I'm not comfortable with a rate-of-growth ordinance," responded commissioner John Scharch, owner of a building supply store.

"We're all gonna have to bite the bullet," replied Bier, an architect.

"Don't settle for second-best," counseled commissioner Ed Kloski, a builder.

Bier, Mannillo and Kloski voted for the higher standard. Mravic and Scharch were opposed.

The planning commission had sided with the state against the county commission on the single most important issue affecting development in the Keys.

The last 15 minutes of the four-and-a-half-day process were revealing. At first, none of the five commissioners was willing to make a motion for plan adoption. After a few moments of silence, Ed Kloski expressed his enthusiasm for the task at hand. "Let's make a motion," he said. "I may take it back."

The commissioners were pleased with the work of Robert Baggs, who had been brought into Monroe County to complete the Comprehensive Plan, and his staff. In four months of long hours and hard work they had completed a 1000-page series of documents that had a good chance of staving off state sanctions against Monroe County.

But the commissioners were unhappy with a time frame which had given them no chance to read carefully, ask for data, examine implications and debate alternatives. They felt reduced to clerks, allowed to suggest minor text changes and language clarifications before galloping onto the next plan "element." Two hours for land use, half an hour for solid waste, 15 minutes for water supply, nothing at all for housing.

Did transmittal to the county commissioners constitute approval? The planning commissioners had reviewed the Comprehensive Plan, had amended it, and had adopted its individual elements. But at first they were not willing to go so far as to say they that they recommended it.

Cooler heads prevailed. "As I see it," said Ed Kloski, "we're passing it along to the board of county commissioners." And so the planners finished their labors with a 4-1 vote, with Mravic, who had said he wouldn't vote for something of which he wasn't 1000 percent proud, opposed. ■

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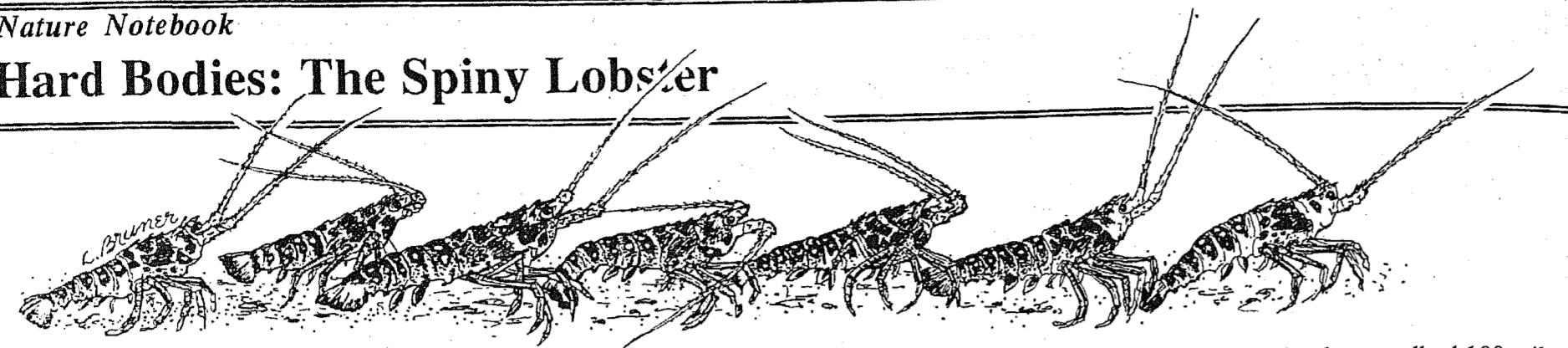
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## Hard Bodies: The Spiny Lobster



by Capt. Gaff McKetchum

August is not a good time to be a spiny lobster in the Florida Keys. If *Panulirus argus* manages to escape the hordes of ravenous amateurs during the controversial feeding frenzy known as "sport lobster diving weekend," the commercial lobster season, which follows right behind, pits him against the real pros. For the next nine months, the spiny lobster's life is always in jeopardy. If he survives, he does so by eluding hungry divers and avoiding traps set by commercial fishermen. Such is the price of being delicious.

The spiny lobster is a member of the class of animals known as Crustacea, invertebrates characterized by a hard outer shell, jointed appendages and bodies, who usually live in water and breathe through gills. They grow through a process called molting. This involves shedding the old shell, going through a brief soft-shell stage, after which the covering re-calcifies and hardens, to be shed again at the next molt.

Spiny lobsters differ from the northern lobster in that they lack the large claws, are covered by spines, and live only in warmer waters. They have a wide geographic range—as far north as Bermuda and North Carolina, and south from the Bahamas to Cuba, the West Indies, Honduras, and around South America to Brazil. While commercial lobstering in Florida prosters only in the Keys and the Miami area, spiny lobsters are found in lesser numbers (but

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much larger sizes) along both the eastern and western coasts of the state.

The life cycle of *Panulirus* begins with late winter to early spring mating, during which the male extrudes a viscous fluid. The fluid attaches to the underside of the female, where it hardens to form a dark substance known to fishermen as *tar*. Some time between April and October the female lays eggs which become attached to the paddles under her tail. By scratching the deposited *tar* with the tips of her legs, spermatozoa are released and the eggs fertilized.

Hatching takes place in two-to-four weeks, depending on water temperature. The nearly transparent, flat, spider-like larvae drift with ocean currents for six-to-nine months, undergoing a number of molts. Finally they metamorphosize into a post-larval stage. After its first molt at this stage, the creature resembles the adult spiny lobster. At this point it abandons its drifting existence and becomes a bottom-dwelling animal, heading for the shallow waters of the back-country and Florida Bay.

It is estimated that a lobster requires at least two more years to reach marketable size. Few lobster in the Florida Keys make it much past the minimum legal size of a 5-1/2-inch tail-length before being caught. However, there are exceptions: a 14-pound, 43-inch monster caught in a drop net in Key West harbor in 1979 claims a local record. A lobster that size is somewhere between 20 and 30 years old.

The spiny lobster is a life-long wanderer. Its long larval period spent drifting with the ocean currents has led biologists to a theory—known as *Caribbean Recruitment*—that the lobster population of the Keys emanates from larvae that drift here from regions south of the Yucatan channel.

Adult lobsters, too, are constantly on the move, changing haunts frequently, especially after weather disturbances. One tagged

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**Key West  
Days & Nights**  
by Bill Manville

You know the book, *Women Who Love Too Much?*" said the poet, Jim Palm. "Betty Bennett has a theory the title is too flattering. She says those women—she counts herself one—are not nobly suffering for love, but are addicted to dependency. To need a man like life-and-death, she says, that's not the sexual heat of a grown woman; that's what an abandoned infant feels about its mother."

"When did the beautiful Ms. Bennett tell you all this?" I said, beginning to ruffle.

"She took me to San Francisco for the weekend," Jim said.

"She begged you to come, I suppose?" I said. My tone by now was unnecessarily shifty.

"Halston, a garter belt and a Woolworth tiara," Jim said.

Poets not being conspicuous for the millionaires among them—I think even in all its current literary grandeur, Key West boasts only one—it is not surprising to his friends that Jim Palm occasionally has to house sit a dog to get by, usually when the bitter ex-Mrs. Palm ("The Woman Scorned" is the tag the hot supermarket newspapers hung on her) finds one new reason or another to haul him back to divorce court.

Once she claimed he had burned her old love letters. Another, that he had not given back her mother's heirloom frying pan.

"And then," Mab remarked, "she turns around and sues him for her attorney's fees for the action she began in the first place.

"And that's how it's going to be until then?" I had said to her one recent night.

"La Belle Dame Sans Merci?"

"I used to believe intensity of emotion," Betty said, "meant it would never end."

"And you get hurt when it does end?" I said.

"I get frightened when mine does," she said.

I shook off the memory. "Well, how did the weekend go?" I said to Jim.

"Betty took Mab along too."

"As a chaperone?"

"We both were," Jim said. "Betty has this dizzy millionaire in love with her. He flew in from Amarillo, owns his own Lear.

"Pinochio?" I said.

"Finochio is Italian for fennel. Also

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slang for gay. It's a female impersonator show in North Beach."

"How'd Mab like it?"

"Mab said he understood low camp, he loved high camp, but Finochio was the Mary Tyler Moore of Middle Class Camp. The kind of place a daring mother takes a son she suspects is gay to show him how broad-minded she is. Nothing is said that would bring a blush to the cheek of even the youngest vice detective."

"So Betty kept to her re-virginization all weekend?"

"You know Harlequin Books?" Jim said. "How they sell in the millions?"

"Oh, no, Randolph, you'd never respect me in the morning?"

Jim sighed. "If women don't know what they want these days, neither do men. Joe John is more in love than ever."

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What a sweetheart: Against a backdrop of chicken wire, the writer poses with her aunt's car.

My friend in a red raincoat and I arrive at Annalinda's house. She possesses a rich-lady look: grapes in her hair. Today a pale blue nervous vein quivers along her cream-colored neck. She seems to be in a significant way. This is excessive for her, as she was a cautious girl, a cautious daughter, a cautious wife, a cautious mother.

She says: "Step carefully. Don't make noise. Only one at a time." It's like she has the baby Jesus on her back porch in a bassinet made of grapevine twigs.

As promised, we are confronted by a four-foot female llama, a capricious white creature leaning against the barbecue corner. Ordered by Annalinda from a New York exotic pet shop, she came down on UPS.

She got loose while they were delivering a carton of raw-silk casual suits to Fast

## BECKER For The Bench

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Annalinda says: "My llama's name is Petronella." Sounds like a liver disease. I look out over the little flowered terrace. A black bird is burying a frog.

A car comes down the lane. This is Annalinda's husband, Florentino. He has been out driving The Dog, their 1930 revamped Packard sedan. He has driven around the island thinking over the arrival of Petronella llama.

Florentino jauntily swings a gold-knobbed cane as he enters. He's a stately, part-Spanish gentleman with white eyebrows like toothbrush bristles. He possesses the Spanish language—the aristocratic kind you find in Spain. He has made his decision: dear Annalinda may keep Petronella.

He resolves to train the llama to eat picadillo, the famous Cuban dish containing—among 12 other ingredients to be stored on the refrigerator door—capers and white raisins. Florentino's motto: When the love of picadillo becomes universal, peace will fall upon mankind.

Florentino cares nothing for the future. As a result, he has a great capacity for happiness.

We all stand enthralled before Petronella. She is a small, sweeter member of the camel clan. She has languorous brown eyes behind flirtatious, fluttering eyelashes. Her cousin camels have briary dispositions and spit on their keepers. Petronella spits only under awful circumstances. If she truly likes you, she hums.

Now she trips elegantly across the deck to inspect four sleeping mosquitoes on a metal table. Those beautiful eyes do not miss the low railing that she could easily vault. She moves back to us with gaiety, in a lissome way, altogether beguiling.

I hug Petronella. She has a clean, close smell, perhaps like the valley of Peru, her original homeland. Red Raincoat and I walk through to our car—the wee, creative cottage is so small that when you come through the back door you instantly find yourself leaving by the front door.

Look back. See Petronella, tripping hooves. See Petronella going to Annalinda. Petronella is humming. ■

Damn, That Traffic Jam

## Congestion to Increase on N. Roosevelt Blvd.'s Mall Strip

by Gregg Lasky

While a local developer is banking on bustling North Roosevelt Boulevard to deliver buyers to the new shopping center he is building, questions linger about the effects increased traffic will have on the already congested roadway.

The Overseas Market, which is springing up on 16.8 acres of land across from the Hampton Inn on North Roosevelt Boulevard, is expected to compete strongly with its next-door neighbor Key Plaza Shopping Center and the nearby Searstown strip mall.

The anchor stores for which developers have received permits include Winn Dixie, Eckerd's and TGI Friday's restaurant, says Bill Martin, vice president of construction and development for Lewis Properties Investment, Inc., the developer's construction firm, which is located in Tampa. Additionally, the development firm has also received a commitment from J.C. Penney for a department store. Shoney's restaurant is expected to commit as well.

The 55,000-square-foot Winn Dixie supermarket, which is in construction now and is expected to open next spring, will be the largest Winn Dixie in Florida, according to Martin. It will rival the best Publix and Albertson's supermarkets, popular in South Florida, he says. Winn Dixie plans to close its stores in Searstown and on Flagler Avenue when the new store opens, he says.

The 175,000-square-foot Overseas space is being built to house between 40 and 50 stores. But the prospect of a new shopping center of such size being built on a thoroughfare that already houses two centers also has some people wondering what will happen to an already bad traffic situation on the 50-foot-wide roadway.

"Whatever it takes, I think the Florida Department of Transportation has to find some method to decrease the amount of traffic on North Roosevelt Boulevard," says City Commissioner Jimmy Weekly.

That may be difficult, particularly because the owners of the Overseas Market and Key Plaza have been unable to reach agreement on a common back entrance to the centers. Some called for use of 10th and 11th streets as additional access roads, but

KEVIN CREAMER



city officials and Overseas Market property owner Jack Spottswood bowed to pressure from residents of the area who claimed their neighborhoods would be turned into a haven for truck and car traffic. That leaves North Roosevelt Boulevard as the only access to the new shopping center.

Protecting the neighborhoods around 10th and 11th Streets from the increased traffic was of utmost importance, says Weekly. "I don't think the integrity of the neighborhoods should suffer because of the development. I think it's important that 10th and 11th streets be preserved."

At the same time, others believe the new construction might actually serve as an impetus to solve some of the boulevard's mounting traffic problems. (The city had commissioned a traffic study of North Roosevelt Boulevard for 1984, 1985, and 1986, but the figures were general and did not indicate why accidents occur.)

Central to the proposal is a scenario which would include installation of a traffic signal on North Roosevelt Boulevard in front of the Overseas Market and directly across from the current Hampton Inn entrance. Owner Spottswood has already secured a permit from the Florida DOT for the new signal, according to project manager Martin.

The city also hopes to convince the owners of Scotty's hardware store across the street from the shopping center site to close one of its entrances and build a new one directly across from the Overseas Market access, thus creating a four-way stop, according to City Planner Ted Strader.

This proposal includes a traffic island at the new entrance, allowing only right turns

in and out of Scotty's, Strader said. Construction of the new access could coincide with Scotty's plans to enlarge its facility and build a new parking lot between the hardware emporium and Hampton Inn, he says.

At the same time, the city wants to convince owners of Scotty's and the Hampton Inn to use what is now the hotel's entrance as a common access road, Strader says. So far, he says, owners of the centers have been "generally agreeable" to the concept.

The city hopes a "step-by-step" approach to the different issues surrounding the new shopping center will appease developers and local government, Strader says.

Another issue at stake is the possible widening of North Roosevelt Boulevard. Florida DOT is pressuring the city to widen the five-lane road by 10 to 60 feet. That could be difficult, says Strader, because there is little available roadway on the shopping center side of the street and fragile wetlands on the Gulf of Mexico side.

According to Martin, the developer has already agreed to give up some land around the adjacent bridge on North Roosevelt Boulevard for reconstruction by Florida DOT.

But as the city approaches these issues step by step, construction and the permitting of some of the major stores continue, Strader says. According to Martin, most or all of the 40 to 50 stores should be built and opened by the end of next summer.

The goal is to attract "a little bit of everything" to fill the remaining 35 to 40 shops, Martin says.

"We feel we have good enough national tenants to bring in enough traffic for the smaller tenants to feed off of," he says. ■

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## Community Notes

**Christmas in August?** Florida Keys Children's Shelter hopes to bring out the Santa Claus in Monroe County citizens. The shelter's wish list for infants and babies includes: infant car seat, baby swing, infant washcloths and towels, Porta-crib sheets, spices, art supplies, new underwear and sneakers for teenage girls, rocking chair, nursery shelves and dressers, Nintendo game, VHS tapes of cartoons, wiffle-ball set, carving knives and cooking utensils for the kitchen, posters for the library, generator and fan. If you have any of these items in new or good condition, call the FKCS at 852-4246.

**Enviromanagement for Marinas:** The International Marina Institute will hold the world's first conference on environmental management for marinas in Washington, D.C., September 5 through 7. Marina owners, designers, legislators, planners, environmentalists, and others will learn about dredging and disposal, maximum flushing vs. wave protection, rain runoff, parking and more. For details contact International Marina Institute at (401) 294-9558.

**Oil-spill drill a real thrill:** City Electric System sent two employees to a Coast Guard-sponsored oil-spill exercise in Miami, which simulated a major oil and chemical spill. Participants included the Coast Guard, Florida Marine Patrol, DNR, U.S. Navy, DanMark Inc. and Coast Tug and Barge. City Electric System plans for a spill are on file with the Coast Guard and DNR, and revised plans are now being prepared. On August 10, CES employees will attend a "First Responders" course in Key West, which will teach personnel proper action during a local spill.

**Reef Relief news:** Last month at Reef Relief's annual membership meeting, Craig

Quirolo, executive director, noted the coral regrowth around 83 mooring buoys which the group installed and maintains. Quirolo also said that Reef Relief's new Environmental Education Center provides outreach and funding for future programs. Athena Cronk, a long-time volunteer, is the first full-time staffer at the center, which is located at 201 William Street and open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Admission is free.

**Shelter receives funds:** Florida Keys Children's Shelter has been awarded \$140,000 for non-residential counseling of pre-adolescent and adolescent children, who are considered "troubled." Those who have experienced a death in the family, are having trouble in school, or cannot relate to family members are urged to call FKCS at 852-4246. Counselors are available 24 hours, daily. Also, Taco Bell in Key West will accept donations and sell T-shirts for the shelter this month.

**Last call at library:** The Monroe County Public Library is instituting a Keys Information and Referral Service, a county-wide program available to organizations which provide: health care, day care, counseling, housing, transportation, nursing home care, in-home care, economic assistance, legal assistance, senior programs, as well as organizations dealing with abuse, handicapped persons, youth programs, education, veterans affairs, employment, family resources, animal welfare, environmental issues, disaster relief, rape counseling and other human services. To list your organization, call Clint M. Conliffe at 294-8488.

**Marine Log is no longer:** The Florida Sea Grant publication, *Marine Log*, has been replaced by the quarterly publication, *Fathom*, which is sponsored by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and provides information about the marine research, cooperative extension, and environmental education activities of the Florida Sea Grant College Program. The magazine is \$5.30

**Staff change at AIDS Help:** Steve K. Smith, a Florida native who owned and managed an employment agency in Lakeland, has been named the new director of volunteers at AIDS Help, Inc. Smith was active in AIDS support in Polk County, and has directed volunteers for public television. Here, he will direct the activities center and residential program for PWAs. To volunteer, contact Steve at 296-6196.

**CPS needs contributions:** The Key West Cultural Preservation Society, Inc., which manages the nightly Sunset celebration, recently signed a contract with the City of Key West, stating that all money paid to the city for leasing the Mallory Dock site will be used to improve and beautify the area. CPS has developed a plan for the area which includes landscaping with palm trees, benches, bougainvillea arbors, security

per year (tax included) for Florida residents, and payment may be sent to Sea Grant Extension Program, G022 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

**The road to better health:** The Mental Health Care Center of the Lower Keys is sponsoring "Dynamic Imaging, Improving Your Self Esteem," a workshop to be held Thursdays, from 6 to 8 p.m. for four weeks beginning September 6. It will teach people how to check perceptions, creatively use imagination, build self-confidence, motivate, communicate, and cultivate an appreciation of self. Call Pam Soucy at 292-6843. Registration is \$30 per person.

**Ashley wins poster competition:** The American Cancer Society sponsored a statewide poster contest with the theme "Smoke-Free 2000." Poinciana School 2nd grader, Ashley Estenoz, won local and county competitions and took third place out of 67 entries at the state level.

**Those crazy guys at CES:** City Electric Systems Utility Board authorized sending the Stock Island Power Plant's turbine to General Electric in Chicago for repairs. The turbine was scheduled to return to Stock Island on August 1, with repair costs totaling \$292,197. The outage comes at a bad time of year, and CES was forced to buy more power from other utilities in Florida. Key West residents can expect an increase in their electric bills.

In other business, the Utility Board agreed to evaluate the service building's structural integrity under hurricane-force winds; approve payment for replacement of deteriorated metal; approve a Crime Insurance package at \$2,205 per year; and award a \$124,000 emergency contract to Gerard Chimney for chimney lining and painting at the Stock Island Power Plant.

**Chamber auction:** The Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for its radio auction, August 7 through 11. Participating radio stations are WKRY FM, WKWF AM, US 1 FM, WEOW FM, WKIZ AM, and WIIS FM. For information, contact the

county is negotiating with the Navy to begin an in-house recycling program. Two seminars are planned for fall entitled "Business Recycling—with a Special Emphasis on the Hospitality Industry." One will be held at the Pier House in Key West, September 19 through 21, and the other will be held later up the Keys. John Pennekamp State Park is developing a recycling program for employees and visitors, and is showing a recycling video to park visitors several times a day. It will be the prototype by the Florida State Park System.

**Terminal change at CES:** City Electric System purchased a new mainframe computer to replace the five-year-old computer currently in use. At \$520,774, the new system, will feature two processors, so that if one processor goes down, the second can take over. The new system has twice the processing power, triple the disk space and operates five times as fast as the old system.

**Soviets study Florida sealife:** Smithsonian Institute, in response to *glasnost*, funded a Soviet-American study of tropical marine biology at Crane Creek Hammock last month. The three-day study centered on marine taxonomy, as four Soviet scientists increased their knowledge of marine biology. Dr. Brian LaPointe of the Florida Keys Land & Sea Trust, hosted the Soviets, who find studying Keys important because some of original work in marine taxonomy was done in bay waters here.

**No six-pack swimming lessons:** Signs reading "Don't Teach Your Trash to Swim" have been installed in 44 places along Keys' roadways. The Clean Florida Commission, Florida DOT, County Com-

missioner Mike Puto and Reef Relief have collaborated on the project, which is designed to inform people of the seriousness of marine debris and how trash impacts bird and sealife. "Hopefully, once the public realizes how much debris is entering the environment and its devastation, individuals will stop throwing plastics and other garbage into our surroundings," says Reef Relief Executive Director Craig Quirolo.

**Cates elected FMEA president:** William Cates was recently elected president of Florida Municipal Electric Association, a statewide organization representing Florida's municipally owned electric utilities. Cates has been serving on the FMEA board of directors since 1985, and has also been the chairman of the Utility Board in Key West since 1979. Cates owns Cates Electric, Inc., a private contracting business in Key West.

**Recycling pays big bucks:** The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners' Recycling Report shows sales of \$14,380 for recycled products from August of 1989 through June of 1990. Newsprint sold from \$20 to \$34 a ton, and 249 tons were sold. Aluminum sold for \$900 a ton, and 4 tons were sold between March 30 and May 24. Glass sold for \$35 a ton, and 60 tons were sold. Office paper sold for \$25 a ton and 25 tons were sold. A 2-ton test bale of cardboard was sold at \$20 a ton, and a truckload of mixed plastic was recently sold to Miami Recycling Company, but the price per ton was not disclosed.

**Anatomically correct dolls:** Florida Keys Children's Shelter video room, designed for interviewing sexually abused children.

**Serious dolls:** Jane Bowen (left) presents anatomically correct dolls to Janet Peterson.

**More resource recovery news:** The county is negotiating with the Navy to begin an in-house recycling program. Two seminars are planned for fall entitled "Business Recycling—with a Special Emphasis on the Hospitality Industry." One will be held at the Pier House in Key West, September 19 through 21, and the other will be held later up the Keys. John Pennekamp State Park is developing a recycling program for employees and visitors, and is showing a recycling video to park visitors several times a day. It will be the prototype by the Florida State Park System.

**Chamber auction:** The Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for its radio auction, August 7 through 11. Participating radio stations are WKRY FM, WKWF AM, US 1 FM, WEOW FM, WKIZ AM, and WIIS FM. For information, contact the

**MUSEUM SHOP:** 812 CAROLINE ST. OPEN NITES AND SATURDAY 296-0785

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Chamber at 294-5988. In other news, the Chamber is urging the City of Key West to extend downtown parking-meter operations from 8 a.m. to midnight, seven nights a week, and to contract out to private companies for building, parks and landscaping maintenance.

**To choose:** Monroe County Coalition for Choice, a pro-choice advocacy group, says the best action people can take to preserve reproductive rights is to vote in November. The coalition publishes a newsletter four times a year, outlining the issues in the abortion battle and highlighting new legislation. For information write P.O. Box 664, Key West, FL 33041.

**Or not to choose:** The Florida Right to Life group meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Key West Baptist Temple, 5727 Second Avenue, Stock Island. For more information, call Patti Baldwin at 296-7337.

**Humane society honored:** The Monroe County Commission unveiled a plaque in honor on the Southernmost Humane Society at the Monroe County Animal Shelter on July 17.

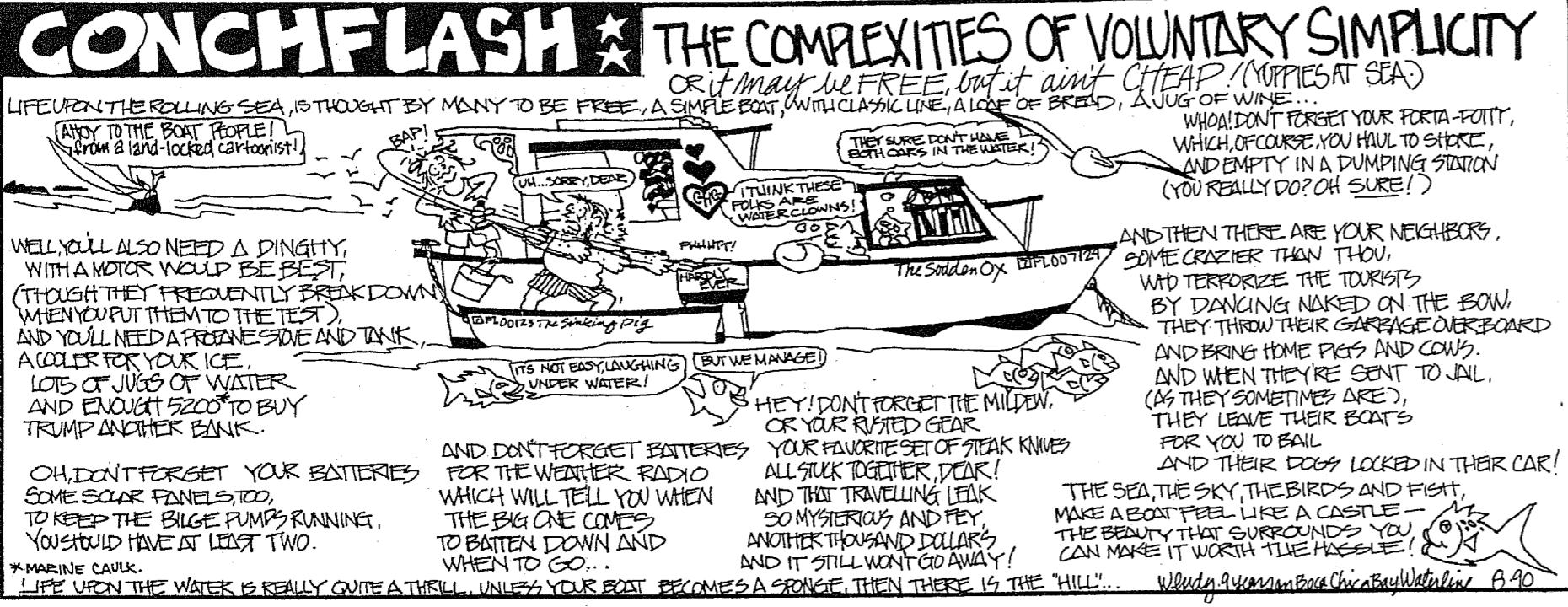
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## Readers Write

### McArt Imitates McFAC

Dear Editor:

She arrived in a long limousine escorted by two motorcycle cops, lights flashing, sirens blaring. The theme song from *Rocky* was resounding across the harbor-front. A giant klieg light streaked the evening sky. She was dressed in furs and jewels and smiled triumphantly as she exited the limo, waving like royalty to the crowd. It was opening night of *Evita*.

That was four years ago. This week, employees stole away in the dark of night, slinking out with their belongings.

All the glowing promises, the hype, it all faded away in just a few months for those who were asked to be a part of the "crown jewel of Key West theater." The glimmer faded quickly for us. I have to admit, she, too, hung longer than I ever could have imagined.

Why is it that someone can waltz into Key West with a lot of promise-filled talk, get the attention and helping hands of so many and just not follow up? And let's face it, the trouble cannot be attributed in total to the upkeep of the restrooms and vagrant problems. When the trade-off was offered, a good (actually a really great) deal on the

rent for keeping up the restrooms, it certainly seemed fair enough to the McArt organization at the time. Granted, how was anyone to know the full scale of the maintenance, but still, the agreement was heartily accepted and the glowing promises still kept coming.

O.K. What's my point? We've heard lots of big, flowery, glowing promises from another arts organization for about the same amount of time. The same things have happened. Not much of anything. Certainly the original promises never materialized. If Rae Coates were still in town (and he certainly didn't have to steal away), he would have said 'I told you so.'

Here's my point. There are lots of artists of all disciplines in Key West who have vested interests here. They live and love and work here. They are not here for a quick buck or the glory of a fancy dress-up ball. But mark my words, a person can be slapped in the face just so many times when the time comes to just fess up to what's really happening in Key West and get the heck out.

Your longtime friends are talking about packing it up and heading on out. The pastures may not be any greener, there may be little or no respect, but it will be easier to

take from nameless, faceless people than from your own longtime neighbors and friends.

Snake oil has always been popular here, but it sure doesn't preserve very well. And yet, what a pickle we're in.

Victoria L. Roush  
Key West

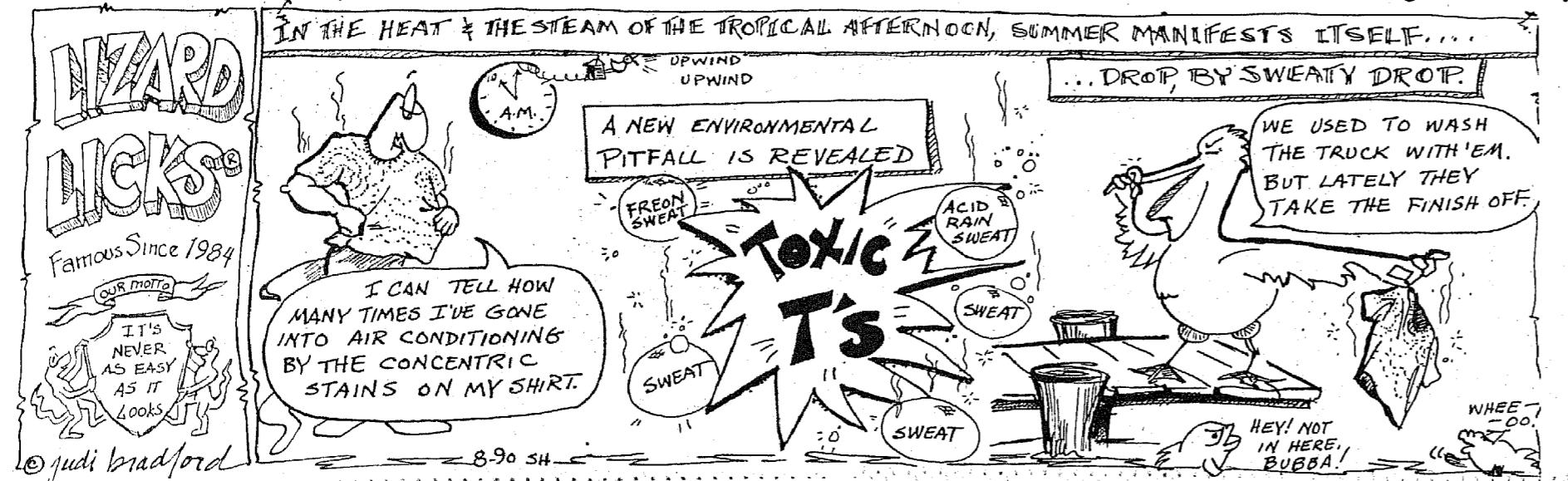
### Tune-In Key TV

Dear Editor:

The only cable company in the Keys, TCI, has refused to carry the only local programming broadcaster in the Keys, UHF Channel 34, Key TV. Key TV began broadcasting June 1, 1990, offering 18 hours (6 a.m. to midnight) of Visitor Information and local interest programming. Key TV production and programming efforts continue despite the cable company's decision not to carry the station's signal.

Key TV station owners are hopeful Telecommunications, Inc.—the largest cable system in the world—will reconsider its decision to withhold local programming service to the Key West community.

TCI is a notoriously aggressive, if not ruthless, operator, but I guess they're afraid of the competition. They have the channels available, and we had an agreement. They



gave us Channel 40 and specified the equipment we were to send them. We bought the equipment and shipped it to them. They even told us how to list them on our insurance policy. We were scheduled to go on the system July 1.

Now, they've changed their minds—no explanation. We have the active support of the community, of members of city and county government. It is hard to believe they won't listen to the community they're supposed to serve, but we're certainly not quitting, we're not giving up.

Long-time resident and Key TV station manager Chris Stone stated, "When Key West seceded and officially became the Conch Republic, we did it because we were being treated unfairly and getting the short end of the stick. Down here, we believe in free choice, free trade, and honest competition. We believe in this product and in the

right of Key Westers to enjoy freedom from monopolistic dictates."

Low-power TV stations were created to serve markets too small to support full-power traditional stations. Now, with the growing penetration and control of the cable monopolies, some cities are being prevented from receiving those services. TCI's refusal to carry the Key West LPTV station comes at a very sensitive time for the cable industry. In Washington this week, House Bill (HR #2437) is being marked-up.

The bill may contain a "must-carry" provision for LPTV stations providing local programming. It is almost certain that the bill will contain "must-carry" regulations protecting full-power traditional stations and educational television. If the bill is presented to the House without "must-carry" provisions for LPTV stations, cities like Key West may be permanently denied any TV

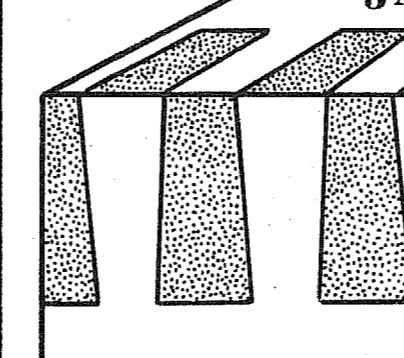
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coverage other than that which their cable system chooses to provide!

Additionally, the Monroe County Commission will hold a public hearing to review TCI's performance and determine if TCI should be granted a new lease/franchise for coverage in the county based on their quality of service, billing practices, and responsiveness to serving the community needs and interests. The hearing will be held Wednesday, August 29th at the Chapel at the Public Service building on Stock Island.

For further information regarding LPTV stations, "must-carry" regulations or other pending legislation, call Community Broadcasters Association Executive Director, John Kompas at (414) 781-0881.

Toni Davis  
LPTV Station  
Channel 34  
Key West

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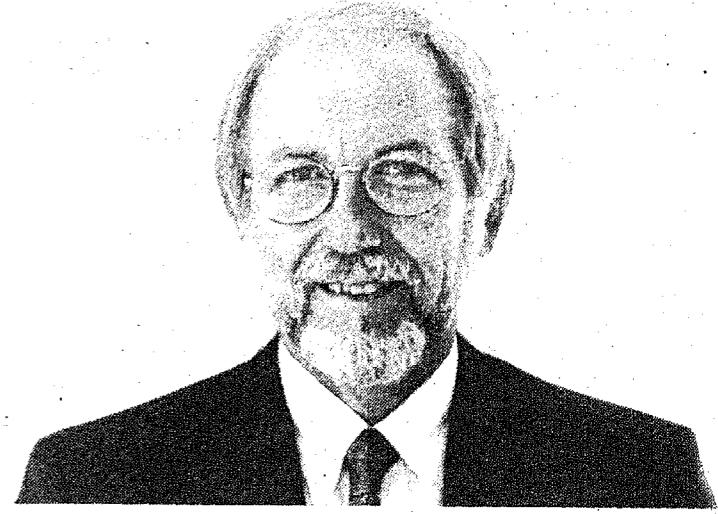
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The basic issue of the legislative process under democratic government is fair taxation. Over the years our representatives and senators in Tallahassee spend weeks of deliberations and debate on the question: Who is going to pay how much to run government?

Assessment of real estate is a prime factor in the business of equal taxation. This is a question which the legislature has never been able to solve despite the many mandates concerning the interpretation of *just value* written in the Constitution and sales of market value used by property appraisers throughout the state. Yet, even today there is a wide variation among the 67

counties, to where the objective of *equal taxation* among Florida taxpayers has never come close to being a reality.

Today the laws which govern the assessment of real property is based on a 25-year-old court decision: *Walter vs. Schuler*, Florida Supreme Court 1965. At that time it might be conceded that sales and market probably depicted real or just value because there were no land use plans, no environmental concerns or any of the restrictions which control value as are in effect today.

One can only conclude, then, that realistically, in today's world, *Walter vs. Schuler* no longer can be used to dictate state tax policy in all 67 counties if our objective is equality of taxation throughout

the state.

If this be true, one can only conclude that a new interpretation of the Florida Constitution is needed to insure each citizen and property owner in the state fair and equitable treatment in the administration of the state's tax laws. Throughout our nation's history, both the nation's and the state's constitutions have been revised or amended to meet the needs of the times. If this were not true, black people would still be slaves; women would not have the right to vote; poll taxes would still be in effect; and many other provisions which restricted our people's rights and privileges would still be in effect.

Nowhere in the state can be found a county where the inequity of our present tax laws are so unfair, so repressive and so unequal as in Monroe County. If there was ever a place on earth where property owners are as badly treated as on these islands, it has never yet been heard from. Framers of our Constitution and those who conceived the idea of taxing property never in their wildest dreams envisioned citizens being driven from their homes because of oppressive taxes. This is the case today in Key West and Monroe County.

Certain officials of state and county government are designated in the Constitution as *constitutional officers*. They differ from other county and state employees inasmuch as their offices operate under the budget system. As such their budgets provide for legal advice so that when the interests of citizens and taxpayers are in jeopardy, they are able to go into the courts to challenge such alleged infringements on the rights of their constituents which pertain to their respective offices as is written in the Constitution and statutes.

Speak to any constitutional officer and he or she will tell you that assessments as well as taxation on the Florida Keys is blatantly unfair. Each one you speak to will point a finger at the other but apparently none have the intestinal stamina to take the bull by the horns and challenge this unfair system in the right of their own particular office.

Until that time comes, Key Westers and residents of other communities on the Florida Keys will continue to experience discrimination of the worst kind and many will escape the consequences by moving to other parts of the state.

Joe Allen  
Key West

### It's a Stranglehold, Baby

Dear Editor:

The uneven surfaces of the narrow streets glisten from the rain storm that passed over us a few minutes ago, swelling the puddles already in the low points from last night's thunder storm, the one that ended the Fourth-of-July rocket show over

the eastern bay. A strong on-shore wind blew rocket trailings towards the assembled spectators. Some kids chased the falling sparks.

It is now coming onto mid-morning of a new day in this tropical paradise, where wetness is on the ground, in the air, everywhere. It was 97 degrees Fahrenheit yesterday and the humidity was a mere 94 percent. This is life in a Turkish bath. Lift a finger and you drip. In the high-ceilinged old Conch, homes the big-bladed ceiling fans furnish token relief to the easy-going natives, who have long since accepted the drip factor as the price for the peace they enjoy here at Latitude 24 1/2, just 90 miles from Fidel's Cuba. This is Land's End South for the contiguous 48. This is Cayo Hueso, our Key West. The very bottom of an unlikely string of coral reefs known as the Florida Keys.

Despite its enervating climatic drippiness, as a community, Key West has surprising energy. It doesn't all come from drinking quantities of *bucci*—the sweet and powerful coffee concentrate served in little plastic specimen cups all over this city of 29,000 souls. The town's vibrancy comes from the multi-racial and varied mix of people who have found their way here: writers (Hemingway wrote and drank his rebel heart's fill), artists, actors, environmentalists, gays, artisans, commercial opportunists, an army of retail and service people who staff and run the mammoth tourist industry, plus the stable core of families and individuals that make up the balance of any worthy community.

And then there is the Navy, the U.S. Navy. Here since the beginning, they are omnipotent, and, while no longer the omnipotent presence that kept the disgruntled locals in line during the War Between the States, they still have enough clout to reclaim their land—long used as a public park, including a much-used ball diamond, a festering issue, since park land is so scarce that the Navy's grab-back may shut down the popular girls' softball league.

A more positive sign of a healthy community pulse is the year-round repertory theater, now celebrating its 10th season with

nightly, packed-house performances of *Spec*, a blow-out satire of the military and pols (there is a one liner about Ollie running for president), which climaxes with 20 minutes of live, jungle warfare explosions and pyrotechnics that leave the actors so limp they have to struggle to make it back for well-deserved curtain calls. The playwright, a talented fellow who tired of waiting tables in Key West eateries, was reportedly away negotiating the movie rights for his play.

But encroaching on the stunning natural beauty and cultural excitement is a major problem that may, in the end, spell doom for Key West—strangulation. The city's streets are already choked by vehicles, and parking is next to impossible downtown. New Truman Annex condo buyers are paying \$6000 for a "permanent" car space. Before long, the increasing hordes of tourists may be required to park their cars in large lots (still to be built) north of town, in order to see the sights from open trams—a solution now working well in Yellowstone National Park.

Add to this the unleashed money and power of a smooth-talking, turbaned developer (hardly an endangered species), who bought the waterfront district from (who else?) the Navy, and is now busy maxing out the last remaining open space with condos and hotels. With more cars and more people coming all the time, Key West will soon lose the rest of its dwindling charm, as everything comes to a grand stall.

Is there still time? Only those of conscience, intelligence and action can say. As elsewhere, it's a race against unchannelled greed. And greed is winning.

Dwight Bartholomew  
Palm Desert, Calif.

Dear Editor:

Last month's article on our hurricane evacuation plan, "Romancing the Storm" by Kip Blevin, was interesting and thought

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Conch Key Volunteer Firefighter, Eagle Scout involved with Marathon Cub Scouts, Secretary of Florida Keys Bar Association, Board of Directors of Greater Miami Legal Services, Inc.

### FAMILY MAN ...

Married for 10 years, father of 3 children ages 2, 5 and 9 years.

### MARATHON MAN ...

Lives near Marathon on Coral Key, legal office located on Duck Key, represents clients in and around the Marathon area.

**Steven  
SHEA**

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Pd. Pol. Adv., Paid for by Campaign Fund, Gay Ann Shea, Treasurer.  
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# TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You are being asked to appropriate funds taken from the American taxpayers in order to continue the National Endowment For The Arts.

In recent years the NEA has used funds provided by you to pay for paintings and photographs depicting:

- Two naked men engaged in anal intercourse
- Little children with exposed genitals
- One man urinating into the mouth of another
- Jesus Christ immersed in a jar of urine
- The Roman Catholic Pontiff immersed in a vat of urine
- Jesus Christ on the cross shooting heroin into his arm
- Shocked at the revelation that you have been looting the Social Security Trust Fund for years
- Discouraged at your inability to balance the federal budget

This November you will face an electorate:

- Furious at being forced by you to pay for the greed of savings and loan manipulators
- Disgusted with your handling of your pay raise

Do you also want to face the voters with the charge that you are wasting their hard-earned money to promote sodomy, child pornography, and attacks on Jesus Christ?

You could choose to fund the NEA while refusing public funding for obscenity and homosexuality. So you are being asked to vote like sheep for \$175,000,000 with no strings attached.

Of course, when you vote, you may not have any risk.

We may not be able to give out 100,000 copies of the Mapplethorpe and Serrano "art" to registered voters in your district.

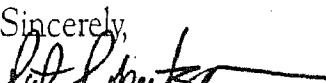
There may be more homosexuals and pedophiles in your district than there are Roman Catholics and Baptists. You may find that the working stiffs in your district want you to use their money to teach their sons how to sodomize one another. You may find the Roman Catholics in your district want their money spent on pictures of the Pope soaked in urine.

But maybe not.

There is one way to find out.

Vote for the NEA appropriation just like Pat Williams, John Froehmayer, and the gay and lesbian task force want.

And make my day.

Sincerely,  
  
Pat Robertson  
President, Christian Coalition



Christian Coalition

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## BECKER For The Bench

Paid Political Advertising/Campaign Fund Ruth Becker

As it has been presented, however, it seems less a plan than an idea that has not been completely thought out. Although I see the need to get out of Dodge before Hugo harvests our coconuts, I have some serious questions about our evacuation "plan."

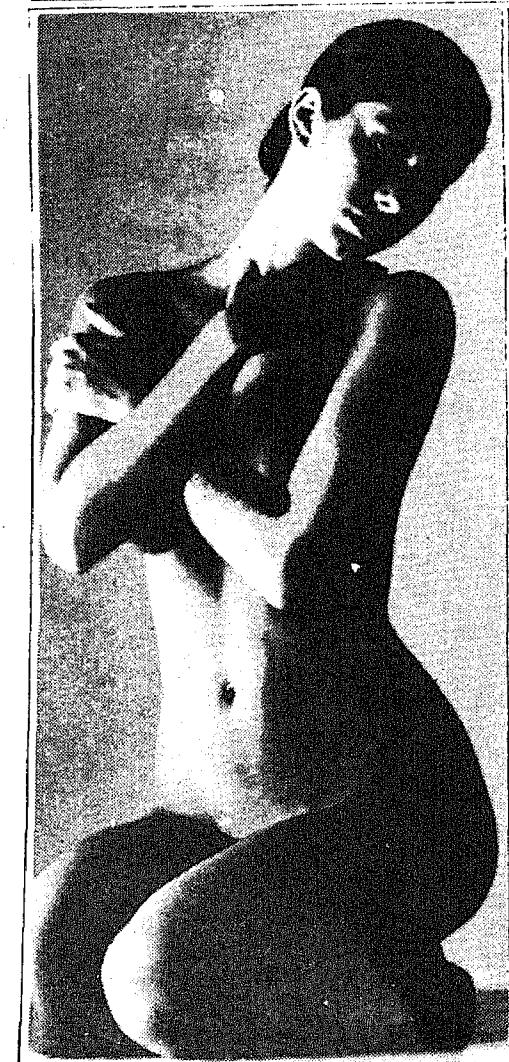
1. Where do we evacuate to? We know where the road goes. We know there is a shelter for Monroe County near Homestead. What we don't know is, how many of us are they expecting? Two thousand, 30,000, 50,000? How many of us are there during the summer? Do all of us go to one shelter?

2. What happens when the storm hits Homestead? History shows us that more storms are diverted by the gulfstream and slam into the Miami area than drive straight into the Keys. Is the shelter provided for us a hurricane shelter? Or is it a refuge with no particular civil defense features?

3. Obviously, the Upper Keys will be evacuated first. Even if that were not the plan, that would happen. Everyone with a drop of gas in a Keys cruiser is going to nose in front of the Key Westers. "Worst case scenarios" are popular emergency-team jargon. How about these? My bet is that

## BECKER For The Bench

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more than one of those clunkers is going to break down. And I bet more than one person, in a frantic dash for Grandma or whatever, will crash into someone else. A wreck on this road is a real traffic stopper.

4. If the storm is rapidly approaching, what happens when the Jewfish Creek area floods? You know we drive "downhill" from here to there.

5. Our experts have told us they plan to close the roads at some point. The people left on the closed roads are going to be from the Lower Keys. Wagner is uncertain but thinks they will provide refugees—but not storm shelters.

The Emergency Management Center says it can evacuate the Keys in 36 hours, which sounds optimistic. However, that means evacuation starts when the storm (traveling at about 15 mph) is over 300 miles away. That puts it in the Windward Passage just off Haiti, for instance. It would be a sunny day, great for fishing. The storm could turn a half-dozen times before it got anywhere near us. It could go to Jamaica! I don't think anyone could get Keys residents to leave town because there's a storm in Haiti.

There is a logic to asking Upper Keys residents to drive to higher ground. I can't help thinking it's ludicrous to ask the same

thing of Lower Keys residents. If anyone is actually thinking of safety, why don't they make arrangements to have the Air Force fly Lower Keys residents to another location—far from the hurricane's path.

There is a large Air Force base in Homestead. The military is maintained to protect us. As far as we know they aren't employed elsewhere right now. The Navy could put its high-speed hydrofoils into community service as well.

Will someone please call them and devise a new plan for the Lower Keys?

Judi Bradford  
Key West

### Thanks, Naturally

Dear Editor:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I am pleased to offer you a complimentary one-year membership to our organization. This membership is given to you in acknowledgement of your work on behalf of conservation in the Keys, and will begin immediately.

As a member of The Nature Conservancy you will receive the Florida Chapter newsletter, The Nature Conservancy magazine, and our new Florida Keys newsletter which will be published in September.

I hope that being a member of The Nature Conservancy will allow you to share in the satisfaction of our conservation work, and that you will remain a lifelong associate of our organization.

Mark L. Robertson, Director  
Florida Keys Initiative

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Fred Berry, of The Heliconia Company in Coral Gables has traveled in most countries of the Caribbean Basin collecting and studying Heliconia in their natural states. He has presented numerous papers to the International Heliconia Society and is publishing a definitive book on Heliconia this fall.

Steve Shapiro is a M.A.R.C. horticulturist and vocational trainer. He has been growing Heliconia in Key West for a number of years. His knowledge and experience with Key West growing conditions make him a valuable local resource.

For Additional Information Stop in or Call  
The M.A.R.C. Plant Outlet at 296-9556



## Marie de Marsan: Talented and Flamboyant

by Bud Jacobson

Marie de Marsan, who died last month at an advanced age, was an absolute treat to everyone who knew her. Much more than an accomplished artist, a portrait painter of great skill, Marie delighted Key West in the 1950s, the 60s and into the 70s.

She was a petite blonde lady, with small bones, delicate features, sparkling eyes, and a mad and wild sense of humor.

"Allo, dahlings, 'allo and 'appy New Year," she sang out, waving a champagne glass over the huge crowd packed into the place on a cold night in January. There couldn't have been a more marvelous way to start 1962.

Some of Marsan's fine portraits included those of old friends of hers like Brad Saunders, a Canadian Air Force captain who owned a house next door to the library (it was moved and is now the Bagatelle restaurant), Dan Stirrup, and many more friends like Cint Giese, the photographer, Frank Carpenter, Tennessee Williams ... and more too numerous to mention.

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Her legs crossed along the side of the docile old horse, who seemed to enjoy the mad and crazy scene as he marched slowly around the bar.

"Allo, dahlings, 'allo and 'appy New Year," she sang out, waving a champagne glass over the huge crowd packed into the place on a cold night in January. There couldn't have been a more marvelous way to start 1962.

"Allo, dahlings, 'allo and 'appy New Year," she sang out, waving a champagne glass over the huge crowd packed into the place on a cold night in January. There couldn't have been a more marvelous way to start 1962.

Bon voyage, Marie.



(DoDo Dangerfield was playing hostess), the wide double doors facing Greene Street swung open, and to the roll of drums and hoots of hilarity, Marsan made her entrance.

Marsan, as many of her friends called her, celebrated in no uncertain terms the Christmas season every year. In one fantastic New Year's Eve, at the Oldest Bar

when it occupied the whole house in the 200 Block of Duval Street.

Marsan, as many of her friends called her, celebrated in no uncertain terms the Christmas season every year. In one fantastic New Year's Eve, at the Oldest Bar

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AUGUST 1990

August 7, 1990  
Plan to the Board of County Commissioners  
to Start Public Hearing  
for Adoption and Submittal to the  
Department of Community Affairs

August 22, 1990  
End of Public Hearing Period

August 29, 1990  
Plan to be delivered to the  
Department of Community Affairs

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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THE MONROE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
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## \$LAND ECONOMICS

### East Meets Key West's Jim Carey

Computer consultant talks *perestroika* with Czechoslovakians

by Pamula Mason

It is hard to imagine a better emissary to represent American business than Key West's Jim Carey. This entrepreneur has traveled to Czechoslovakia five times in the past year representing his business, Caribbean Computers, and its subsidiary, Euro Vistas, located on White Street.

His involvement with the Eastern European country began as part of a joint government effort to mend the effects of nearly 40 years of economic and scientific isolation. Computerized technology transfer, as it is called, facilitates information sharing between the two countries. The development of this program was promoted by the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act passed by Congress



Prost: Dr. Vladimir Dvorkovitz, President Josef Rizman, Jim Carey and Director Havel of the Academy of Sciences toast to increased communications between Czechoslovakia and Key West.

is a computer databank listing detailed information on hundreds of Czechoslovakian businesses. He hopes to market his system throughout the new democracies of Eastern Europe.

Carey was recently honored by the Civic Forum, a group which supported the election of playwright Vaclav Havel, for his contribution to the revolution and Czechoslovakia's freedom. The symbol of their thanks was a piece of beautiful hand-blown glass for which the country is famous.

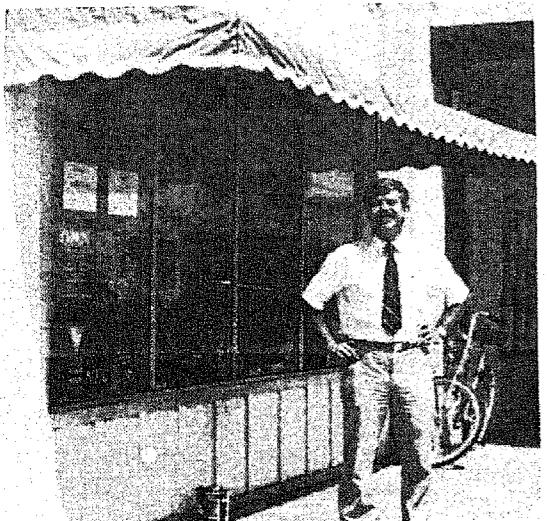
Jim Carey says modestly that he was lucky to be in the right place at the right time. The technology transfer people with whom he worked turned out to be among the Civic Forum leadership. Carey had not only taught them about software but had long and open-ended conversations with them about the problems of various social

systems. When power changed hands and many of the people he had taught were catapulted several steps up the governmental ladder, Carey found himself with friends in very high places. He chuckles at the idea. "I was their computer Bubba," he says.

Josef Rizman, president of the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences, foresaw the recent political changes and installed dissidents to operate his department. Thus, when the revolution took place, the department remained undisturbed.

Carey says his contribution to the cause was offered in casual conversation. The Czechs didn't have the easy familiarity with the free market system he had. What Carey calls his "American mind-set" proved useful to Civic Forum. The revolutionary movement used examples of what he had said to illustrate its own points.

Jim Carey says modestly that he was lucky to be in the right place at the right time. The technology transfer people with whom he worked turned out to be among the Civic Forum leadership. Carey had not only taught them about software but had long and open-ended conversations with them about the problems of various social



Back home: Jim Carey in front of his shop, Caribbean Computers on White Street.

late in 1989.

Carey's role in this international drama is a BIT part. Business Information Transfer

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## \$LAND ECONOMICS

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For instance, he offered the analogy of the family unit to illustrate a problem with Communism: "A breadwinner is willing, usually, to work hard in order to support a spouse and children, maybe willing to also support parents, but in-laws and cousins added to the household become a burden and the breadwinner's motivation wanes."

That story was passed on to the country's miners by the Civic Forum leaders trying to rally the workers to their side.

"The revolutionaries were intellectuals," Carey explains. "My ability [was] to translate their philosophy into laymen's terms, which they in turn used to convince the workers; this was how I helped without even realizing it."

In spite of the revolution, Carey says, changes in Eastern Europe will take place gradually. The old government was more willing to build new factories than to upgrade the old ones. Their first concern was full employment. Production efficiency was a distant second.

Carey is now engaged in a non-computer entrepreneurial venture in Czechoslovakia as well. He's selling modern turnkey factories. He hopes to bring local operators together with partners with capital in such deals.

Despite its backward economy and shaky infrastructure, Czechoslovakia is a relatively advanced country, with a trained labor force and a good educational system. It has a lot

to offer.

The Praxal Process, an environmental breakthrough which could eliminate acid rain, is one exciting technological advance that Czechoslovakia has to share with the world. "Yet the plants in Czechoslovakia don't utilize the process," says Carey, "because their stacks aren't even equipped with scrubbers yet."

Complicating trade with the Eastern Bloc countries is the pitfall that our money can be changed to theirs, but theirs cannot be exchanged for dollars. Also delivery of goods takes a longer time than Americans are used to.

"On the other hand, U.S. import duties were reduced in February to 10 percent; they had been 110 percent," says Carey. "So though there are differences to be resolved, the doors are opening and the possibilities are exciting."

Carey's enthusiasm for better relations between the countries is apparent as he waves his bilingual dictionary and says, "I'm learning."

Carey's computer career began in 1969 when he studied them in the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. In 1976 he moved to Key West from Troy, Michigan. His first job was washing cars at Duncan Ford, where he later became a service manager.

At age 32, Carey, with his wife, Janice, decided to go north and further their educations. Jim returned to Key West with a degree. He had \$27 in his pocket and stayed

with a friend until he found a job.

Professional Computer Services hired him as a salesman. "This was great," he says. "I discovered people would pay me to talk about my hobby. So I started my own consulting business out of my room."

Carey's organization in Key West consists of eight people: two technicians, two sales people, two programmers and two administrators. He takes pride in Caribbean Computers being a full-service dealer. "Word-of-mouth is how we've built our reputation," he says.

Perhaps with Carey's business sense, humor, modesty and willingness to learn, his work with the Czechoslovakians will lead him to new frontiers.

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## ISLAND ECONOMICS

### Pools: Go Ahead, Dive In

by Barbara Bowers

Like art, swimming pools have both a real-dollar and an aesthetic value, the latter of which is harder to determine.

For those who innately consider a pool essential to a residential real-estate purchase, a square or rectangular or kidney-shaped construction filled with cool, clear water automatically increases the value of the home—it's icing on the cake, a testament to the owner's fine taste. And even consider-

ing the possibility that potential buyers might not share a love for pools, a homeowner can derive years of personal pleasure from one. Either way—you win.

Most homeowners with a pool in the backyard, and certainly pool contractors and maintenance firms, insist swimming pools enhance the value of a home as much as they enhance the quality of life.

"My pool was the first project when I bought my house eight years ago," says Dominic Fabis. "Before I started on the inside, I converted my cistern to an 8-foot by 13-foot swimming pool so I could enjoy it while I took on the bigger challenge of renovating the house."

Because Fabis and his partner spent the summer shoveling three tons of gravel to raise the depth of the cistern from nine feet to five, and because they did all the work short of pouring the concrete, the pool cost only \$4000—a cool \$6000 less than the most basic, small pool costs today.

"A pool is really important to me, and I know it has added to the value of my home," says Fabis, who recognizes that timing, real estate demands and other home improvements have contributed to the rise in value, as well.

Scott Cates, contractor and owner of Keys Pool, Inc. has built a few pools him-



KEVIN GREEN



Tile abstract: Dominic Fabis's custom pool.

self—about 70 in the last two years—and he figures the return on investment is apparent in real-estate listings, because the pool, or room for a pool, is always featured.

"I think you can get back the cost of the pool, if not more," says Cates, whose family business has operated in Key West



## ISLAND ECONOMICS

since 1957. "Especially here where we don't have beaches, a pool has a greater value."

According to Cates, the cost of building a swimming pool in your backyard has increased 500 percent in the last ten years, not because the labor has increased significantly, but because demand is greater and building materials have escalated. Cost can easily reach \$30,000, and is, of course relevant to size, depth, decking space and accessibility, which is no small problem in Key West.

Says Cates: "If we can't get equipment in through your yard, we have to go through someone else's, and you have to pay to restore the other yard. Petty jealousies and cooperation with your neighbor are big deals here."

Gunnite and shotcrete—specialized concrete-like materials—may be the best materials from which to construct a pool in Key West. When these materials are sprayed, they adhere to the ground, unlike fiberglass, which can pop out. Cates claims concrete-block pools are "good and strong if they are built properly with eight-inch walls."

But many homebuyers get what's already in place—leaks, pitted surfaces and pool filter systems. Because of the warm climate, mustard algae can develop within days if chemicals aren't balanced. In the

rainy season, freshwater alters the chemical makeup within hours.

If concrete pitting starts, resurfacing is the only way to stop it. Resurfacing a small pool costs about \$2000. For \$35, homeowners considering property with an existing pool can have Aqua Clean Pool & Spa Service Systems inspect and evaluate the condition of the pool. Because regular maintenance is essential to pool longevity, you can find out what kind of problems, or lack thereof, you're getting into.

Some homeowners enjoy pool cleaning and maintenance; some don't. There are seven companies in town that will free you from pool chores, and each charges about \$100 per month. Service includes weekly vacuumings and all chemicals essential to maintaining the proper pH.

"I can't say what the cost-per-swim is here," says Dick Fugitt of his moderate-sized pool built by the previous homeowner. "It's certainly less than what we paid for the swims we took in our pool back in Baltimore."

The Fugitts frequently use their pool for entertaining as well as for personal pleasure. Evie Fugitt says she sometimes jumps in five times a day when she's cleaning. Additionally, the couple had a \$7500 concrete spa built into a corner of the pool. Despite upkeep and high water costs, they

consider their aquatic playpen a sound investment.

When Alex Sigmon painted Dominic Fabis' pool a few weeks back, his elegant black-and-turquoise Picasso-esque design interlocked pool aesthetics and real-dollar value forever in the Fabis household. Pool-art is coming on strong in a town where indoor/outdoor living is important.

"I spend as much time outside as I do inside, so why not decorate this space with the same care I do the house?" says Fabis. "The three coats of rubberized paint cost me \$350, and the original design and Alex's time cost more."

Geometric designs and stripes are popular. Poolbuilder Cates is personally astounded by "people's amazing taste." But he applauds decorating trends and says that tile pool art is easier than paint to clean and requires half the maintenance.

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## ISLAND ECONOMICS\$

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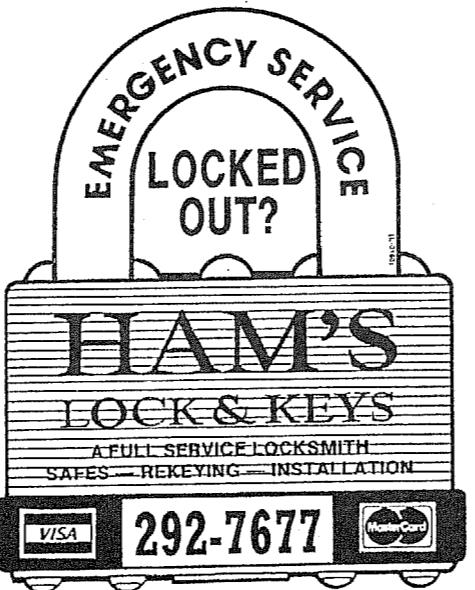
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yourself paying off an old debt or looking for employment where you thought you never would after the 25th. Avoid major decisions during the first week of August.

**Leo**

This is it! The Sun entered your sign on July 23, and Jupiter enters on August 17. The sun gives you the spotlight, putting you in your favorite place: the center of attention. Growing faith allows you to make changes you hesitated to make in past months. Retrograde Mercury (after the 25th) may test you a bit financially: keep important receipts and don't be surprised if an old bill resurfaces. You'll handle it all well.

**Virgo**

It's time to regroup your strength and psychic energies now. This is the time—prior to your birthday—to pause. Mercury, your ruler, will put you in a reflective frame. Keep a journal to review later. Electronic equipment causes more of a headache than usual. Keep patience. A love affair may begin behind the scenes; or you may learn a karmic lesson through love.

**Aries**

Mars in Taurus gives you more financial *savior-faire*. With Sun now in Leo—your chart sector of both love and creative self-expression—you may gain insight into allowing your creativity to "bear fruit." You may find an excellent commercial outlet for artistic or creative skills. Someone you love may inspire you or bring travel or expansive plans into your near future. Combine sensual needs with practical considerations.

**Taurus**

It's time to launch something new in your life. Jupiter and the Sun pass through Leo this month, enhancing your living space. You may move or enjoy an increase in property value. The last part of the month prepares you for love or romance. You will feel lighter and more daring. Family issues may come to a head with the August 6 eclipse.

**Gemini**

You possess great power to win friends and influence people. With Jupiter and the Sun in the chart sector of communications, your only problem may stem from excess. Short trips are especially invigorating now—to mind, body and soul. Mars is in your chart sector of spiritual retreat. Termed the "pioneer," you achieve personal alignment by getting away.

**Cancer**

Money matters should glow on your stellar horizon as Sun and Jupiter cross your financial sector. Cancers who wish to buy or sell, make investments or grab new job options, fare well. Mars in your chart sector of wish-power enables you to make changes through faith and willpower. You may find

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sophical rebirth. Your ideals may shift, you may travel a new route, or you may become involved with education or publishing. Retrograde Mercury puts plans on hold or encourages you to face an ethical issue from the past. Faith makes new things happen.

**Capricorn**

Spending habits, budgeting, bill writing and collecting are the less romantic aspects of August's stellar agenda. However, the 8th house enhances your sexual magnetism and stirs up a feeling of rebirth. This is a good time to free yourself from items no longer of use or value. Give Salvation Army clothes you don't wear; make room in your home. As old space is cleared, new opportunity enters—sometimes without knocking.

**Aquarius**

Partnership matters (romantic and business) are highlighted. You stand the chance of attracting a highly beneficial offer. Jupiter is always rewarding and brings increase—watch your waistline. (Aquarian women run a higher fertility level now, too). You may travel with a partner or be drawn into partnership with someone representing a different ethnic pattern. Mars in the 4th house suggests home improvements.

**Pisces**

Bring more flare to whatever you do. Creative Venus, expansive Jupiter, and the positive Sun all cross your solar sector of work. The stars bode well for employment opportunities. Your health will probably improve now, and exercise wouldn't hurt. Retrograde Mercury cues you to the fact your mate may not mean a word he or she says—after the 25th. People are apt to speak out of confusion or less-than-conscious impulses; don't allow yourself to become hurt. The ruler of communication is playing tricks. Follow your instincts toward truth.

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## Art Circle

## Helen Harrison: Fine Joints, Fine Finishes, Fine Detail

by Judi Bradford

"It all started with the boat," she says, her straight, blond-brown hair swinging at chin length. The boat she talks about is *La Dulce Mujer*, a 38-foot cutter-rig sailboat. Helen Harrison and her husband, Ben, built it with their hands, ingenuity and no knowledge of what they were getting into.

"Going into a project like that and being as green as we were ..." Helen says with a grin, "... well, when you finish, it gives you confidence. You know you can do something—figure it out, follow through and finish up."

Helen married Ben straight out of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The boat was Ben's dream; to Helen it was an adventure, way to travel. The dream took the young couple to San Francisco, then Costa Rica, where they bought a fiberglass hull. Immediately they plunged into boatbuilding, reading books to train themselves to work with wood.

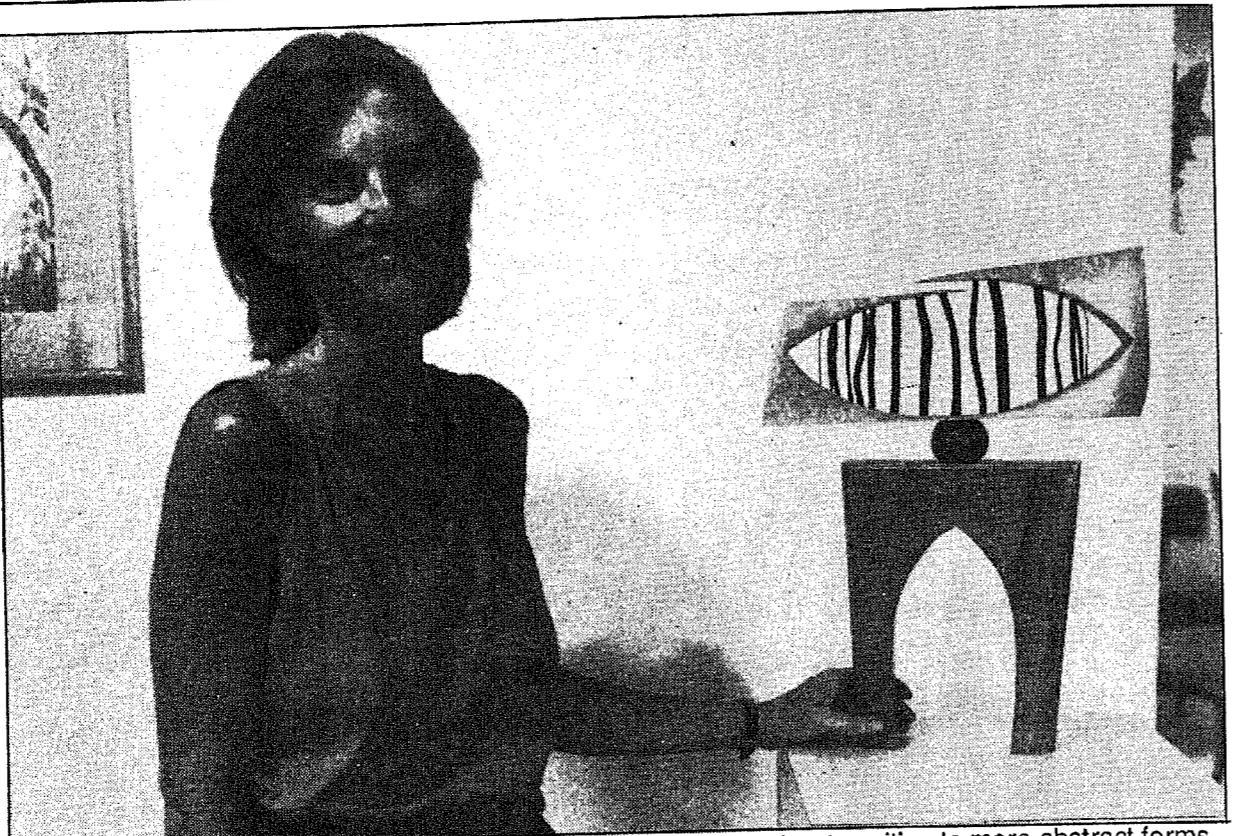
"If you get a little bit off on one thing, it really shows on the boat," says Helen. "You become real exacting with joints and all. I pride myself on that—fine joints, fine finishes, fine detail. It all stems from building the boat."

When work on *La Dulce Mujer* began to wind down, Helen found herself with time on her hands and a richly developed awareness of woodworking.

"I started concentrating on individual pieces. I don't know why," says Helen, whose major in college was art. While boatbuilding is primarily an endeavour in engineering, many of the skills needed are also used to sculpt.

Her first project was a mahogany mask. Since then, she has produced a series of coconuts in various woods. Their forms are

JUDI BRADFORD



Helen Harrison: The artist with "Chambers," a piece that marks her transition to more abstract forms. Slightly exaggerated, their features, delicately carved and exquisitely polished. The first was an old withered nut from dark wood. The second, a young, full, blond one.

In her gallery, Helen exhibits "Pair O' Nuts," two, ripe, oversized coconuts. She has also carved clams, waves, fish—a host of marine themes.

But coming ashore and "living in a house for three years" after more than a decade on the boat has had its influence. Recent pieces include an anteater with ants, some abstract forms that echo the shapes and surfaces of musical instruments, and a medicine man. She is working on a juggler.

Although an artist's subject may at first seem like a simple visual, there usually exists a symbolic level as well. Frequently it is after completing a piece that an artist will find himself surprised by the relevance of the work.

Helen is expecting her second child this fall. Life is much different now from when her son Ben, now eight, was born. She

says she's "gotten real conservative because I want to keep all my fingers and toes. I use what I have to, but I rely a lot on disk sanders with soft pads and hand tools. I love to chisel, which goes back to the boat—knocking bungs off."

In finishing procedures, Helen strives to accentuate the highlights of the wood's grain. Critics of her work praise the careful structuring which places grain patterns where they best enhance the form. A perfectionist, Helen eliminates all trace of toolwork, taking the sanding down to 600 grit; then she applies oil and wax.

Bill Ford, local birder, indigenous wood expert and owner of the Ship's Store on Greene Street, admires her work. "Helen is an excellent craftsman. She puts a fantastic finish on her work." Helen often consults Bill about the wood in newly found blocks or boards.

Burls and planks sometimes lie around Helen's shop for years as she thinks about them, studying their possibilities, storing up information and ideas. "You kind of have to live with it for a while," she says.

In the gallery, "I Never Flounder" per-

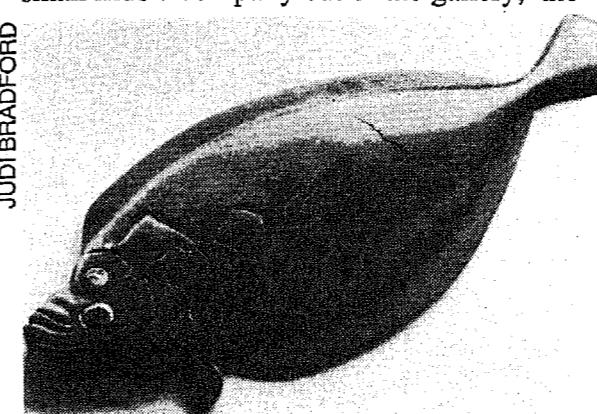
fectly depicts the strange bottom fish with migrating eye. Ripples of wood grain create its coloration. Nearby, a flat stylized fish, "Filet of Fish," has a skeleton of guitar frets. Not surprisingly, since Ben runs a small music company out of the gallery, the

coral, which presented a moral dilemma. Although the coral had been gathered ten years ago from the shrimp nets of Honduran fishermen, Helen had qualms about using it, since it is illegal to harvest it in the States. The innocence of the acquisition, however, won out.

This piece exemplifies Helen's skill in joining techniques. The tiny pillars are immaculately set into the wood, top and bottom. The legs of the base are hollowed out and weighted with lead shot for stability. Attention to detail hallmarks Helen's work.

In "Earth Flower," a laminated base of walnut and maple reflects natural striations in the Guatemalan wood. A freshwater pearl and a worn saltwater shell adorn its flower shape. The stem has been drilled and filled with a metal rod to reinforce it.

John Martini showed Helen's work in his Lucky Street Gallery until she opened Harrison Gallery on Whitehead Street. There, her work as well as that of many other local artists is exhibited.



"I Never Flounder": A wooden fish.

piece weds the influences of musical instruments and the sea. So does "Guitar Fish." Here the ugly face of a guitar fish (which actually exists) is carved into a rounded triangle—a guitar pick.

An exception to Helen's usual finishing techniques is "Anteater," a barely worked bamboo root. Upended on a base, it becomes an anteater. Helen has added a cluster of comical ants at his feet.

Over the years, the artist's work has become more abstract, and "Chambers" may mark the transition. It began as a shark jaw. Helen had finished the piece but couldn't settle on a title. At a chamber music recital, the title came to her.

"Chambers" also introduces materials other than wood. It features pillars of black



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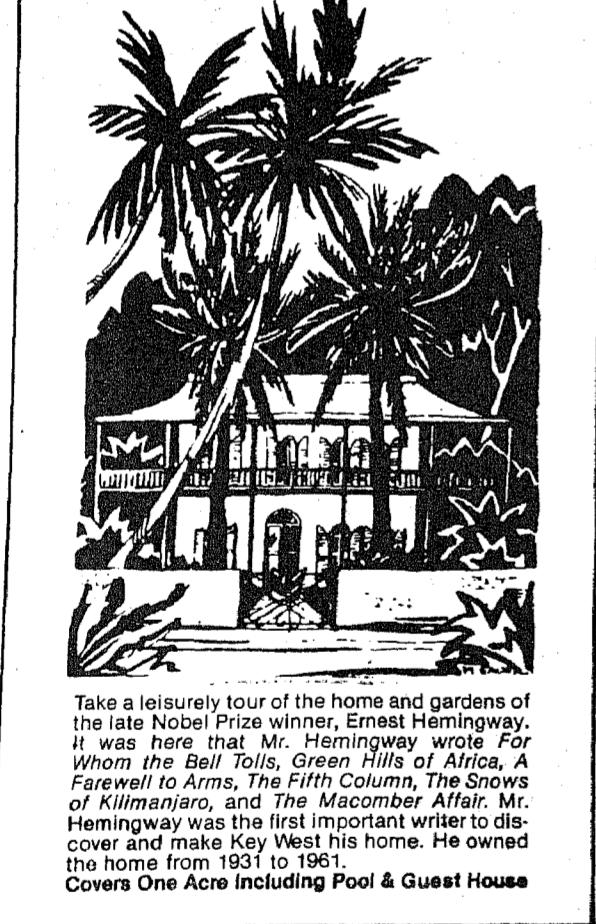
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## AUGUST ART CALENDAR

**Adam Peck Designs** • International folk art, ethnic musical instruments, tapestries, toys, oriental rugs and kilims. Also, Adam's island and African inspired furniture. Noon to 5:30 p.m., closed Tuesday and Thursday through summer. 534 Fleming St. 294-3771.

**Art Collections Key West** • Sumatra artist Jusmine's contemporary deco in mixed media on handmade rice paper. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 600 Front Street in the Bottling Court, 296-5956.

**Audubon House** • *Children of the House*, photographs of the children who grew up in the Audubon House during the 19th century, now through the summer; \$5 admission, children under 6 free, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St., 294-2116.

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

**Lee Dodez Showroom** • Handbuilt clay pieces by Lee Dodez; Jay Gogin raku work. Clay work by Lee Dodez and others. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon; weekends whenever. 901 Duval St., rear, 296-5901.

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

**East Martello Museum & Gallery** • Key West woodcarvers: Sanchez, Suarez and Balboni. Also see our collections of Stanley Papiro folk art, battleship Maine memorabilia. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for non-members. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

**Farrington Gallery** • New Errol Etienne watercolors. Greg Biolchini will be in town beginning of August. Sylva's watercolors and painted shirts.

**Harrison Gallery** • Paintings, photographs, sculpture and crafts by local artists. Daily, noon to 5:30 p.m. except Sunday and Monday. 825 White St., 294-0609.

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

**Kennedy Studios** • Graphics, limited-edition prints. Saturday through Monday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at 133 Duval Street, 294-5850, and at 510 Duval Street, 294-0411.

**Key West Art Center** • Colored and black-and-white ink drawings by Larry Selepco to August 10; Watercolor and collage by Ruby Hall, August 10 to 24. Daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St., 294-1241.

**Lane Gallery** • Group show of our regular artists, including work by Eric Hopkins whose work was just accepted by the embassy program for display in the Bahamas. July 22 until August. All new work. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Duval St., 294-0067.

**Lucky Street Gallery** • New work by Tom Colbert, Mose Tolliver and John Martini. Daily except Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 919 Duval St., 294-3973.

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

**Plantation Potters** • Stoneware and porcelain vessels, lamps. Handblown glass, wooden utensils. All made in USA. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 717 Duval St., 294-3143.

**Rose Lane Antiquities** • Pre-Columbian art. Daily, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. 524 Rose Lane, 294-2270.

**Santa Fe** • Southwestern art, jewelry and furniture. Open daily except Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 219 Whitehead Street, 294-0397.

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

**Gingerbread Square Gallery** • Ken Hawk watercolors and serigraphs plus our regular stable of artists. Daily except Tuesday, Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 901 Duval St., 296-8900.

**Great Southern Gallery** • Watercolor and drawing classes starting August 10. Instructor: Errol Etienne of Art Center, School of Design, Los Angeles. Torso in stone by new artist Glenn Dobkin. Daily except Tuesday, Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St., 296-5901.

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

**Haitian Art Company** • Annual Sale—wholesale prices on paintings, wood sculpture, paper mache, metal cut-outs by Haitian artists. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St., 296-8932.

**Harrison Gallery** • Paintings, photographs, sculpture and crafts by local artists. Daily, noon to 5:30 p.m. except Sunday and Monday. 825 White St., 294-0609.

**Harrison Gallery & Music** • LOCAL ART & MUSICAL SUPPLIES other work from NEW MEXICO • OLD MEXICO GUATEMALA • COSTA RICA Ben & Helen Harrison 825 WHITE STREET 294-0609

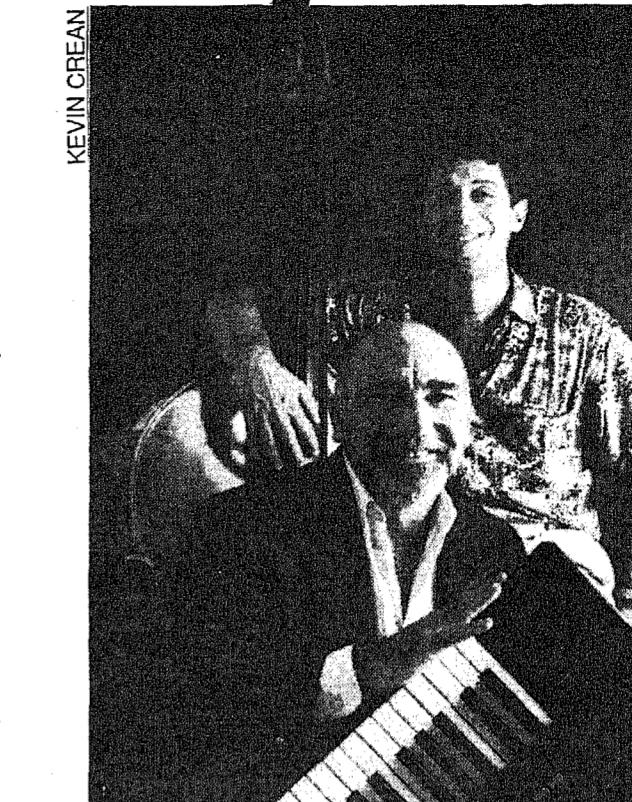
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by Christine Naughton

## Music Review

### Dave Burns and Lonnie Jacobson Do Jazz at The Top



The Top at Holiday Inn's La Concha Hotel is a pretty nightclub. Windows lining three sides of the lounge reflect twinkling candlelight from cut-glass holders on each immaculate table. Outside, as if in answer, hundreds of tiny lights glint from the island night. Dark blue carpeting and hanging plants create an atmosphere of casual elegance. A polished wood dance floor borders the stage, tucked into the far front corner of the room. The grand piano and acoustic bass stand ready.

What better setting for sophisticated jazz? And who better to play it than pianist Dave Burns and bassist Lonnie Jacobson?

Dave and Lonnie have been Key West's reigning instrumental jazz duo for six years; as such, they have garnered the respect and admiration of fellow musicians, club owners and listeners alike. Professionalism, consistently excellent performances and a touch of class have ensured their continued success. The two have evolved into a smoothly swinging unit, musically interacting with unfailing and seemingly effortless support. They have been the house band at The Top since July of 1989.

This year the club initiated a policy of importing well-known jazz performers to appear with them. Saxophonist David Leibman, singers Roseanne Vitro and Rebecca Paris, vibraphonist Dave Pike, trumpeter Barry Ries and multi-instrumentalist Joe Donato are some of the stellar performers who have shared the stage with Dave and Lonnie during the past season.

Internationally famous pianists Tommy Flanagan and Fred Hirsch have appeared for a week each with Lonnie on bass. It's inspirational to hear major innovators in the field of jazz perform in such intimate surroundings—especially since two of Key West's own are in the rhythm section.

At the beginning of a set, Dave and Lonnie usually play one or two pieces before introducing the week's guest. This is the time to hear polished arrangements from their huge repertoire. Whether nailing Duke Pearson's fast-paced "Jeannine," reminiscing about "A Foggy Day," or offering a poignant rendition of the beautiful ballad,

easy-going and conversational; they follow a course from beginning to middle to end, the fluid inflections suggesting humor and warmth. It often sounds as though his hands are dancing up the chord changes on the keyboard, finding the loveliest way to convey each statement. It's a joyful style that simultaneously manages comfort and excitement.

Lonnie's approach on bass is swiftly fingered, skillful and assured. While flawlessly keeping time, he explores the changes anew with each chorus. His solos, like Dave's, make sense and lead the ear through rich, full phrases, reinterpreting standard songs. When accompanying, Lonnie plays like any horn player or singer's dream—solidly, interestingly and tastefully.

Dave and Lonnie appear at The Top Wednesdays through Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. Watch for ads to find out which jazz giant is scheduled to appear with them during any given week. On Sundays, the duo hosts an open jam session. □

#### WEBSTER'S SAYS

**LaBodega** (bo.de.ga).i. cellar storeroom; warehouse; grocery store.

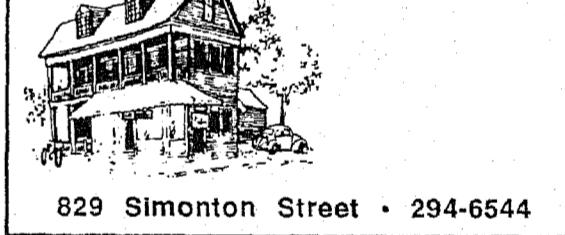
#### WE SAY

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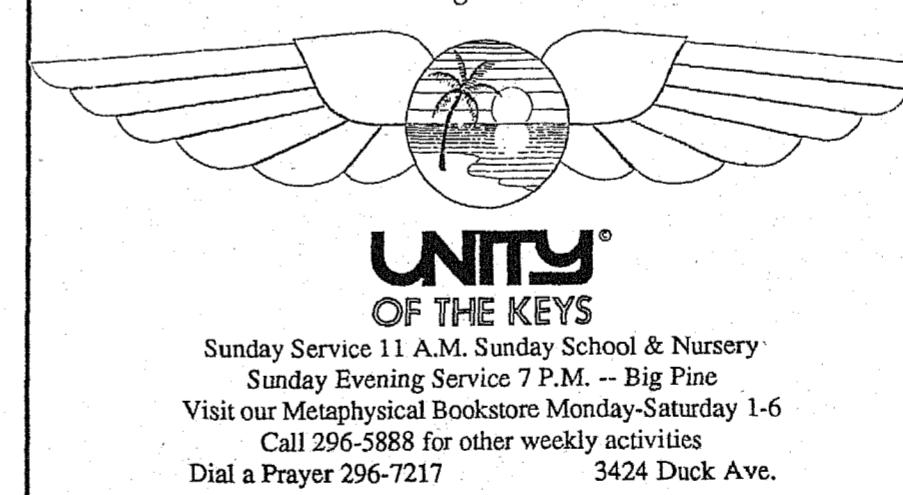


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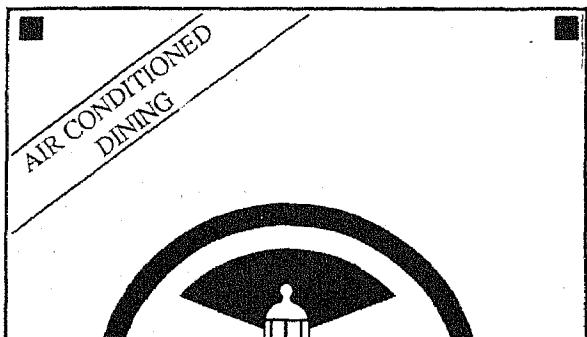
## It's Greek to Me

by Jeanne McClow

Grand and glorious, Greek cuisine is a happy blending of simple, fresh peasant flavors with complex, sophisticated, exotic highlights. Next to that of China, Greek cuisine is the oldest in the world, and has, over the centuries, earned a reputation as being one of the finest in the world. As early as 600 B.C., it had gained such repute that cooking was added to the list of Greek arts. Even the word *gastronomy*, "the art and science of good eating," is Greek in origin.

Greek cuisine is similar to that of other Mediterranean countries, the chief characteristics being a reliance on olive oil (butter is scorned in this part of the world) along with the abundant use of lemons and/or cooking wines and the savory herbs, especially garlic.

Next in importance are the regional food-stuffs: vegetables picked young and sweet, tender artichokes and eggplant, and the relatively new tomato; sweet, tree-ripened, semi-tropical fruits and nuts, especially the pinenut; and, from the sea, squid and octopus, smelt and sardines deep-fried and served whole, the deeper-sea denizens such as porgy, snapper, mackerel, cod, sea bass, and ray often flashed-grilled or incorporated into a Mediterranean-style fish stew; and, of course, the essential barrel-cured anchovy.

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Greek cuisine goes far beyond the provincial, for just across the Aegean Sea sprawls the old Persian Empire, whose cuisine has given Greek foods the exotic touch for which it is known today. This includes spit-roasted young lamb and hare; fresh cheese and yoghurt cultured from sheep's and goat's milk; foreign aromatics—cinnamon and nutmeg and ginger, sesame and anise and mint; fruits—figs, currants, apricots, dried almost to pure sugar; filo dough for the multitude of honey-drenched puff pastries still passionately consumed throughout the Middle East.

Even Greek coffee originated in Turkey, though no sane Greek would ever admit to that, and Greek ouzo is indistinguishable from Turkish raki when shot down meat.

Consumed in moderation (drunkenness is not tolerated) all day and evening, Greek alcoholic beverages are mainly limited to retsina, regional wines, and the milky white, anise-flavored, often homemade ouzo that is cousin to raki and masticha. Here, the spirit is always mixed with tepid water—iced water would make it a less refreshing drink because the contrast with the air temperature would be too great—and sipped. Ouzo is sold at Island Liquors and Big Daddy's (about \$15).

The flavor of retsina, a pine-resin-flavored wine which tastes like turpentine on first try, was stumbled upon accidentally thousands of years ago when pine pitch was used to line the huge, terra-cotta *amphora* used for wine storage. Today, retsina is fermented in pitched barrels or vats containing pine cones. It is always served chilled; and is available in red, white and rose varieties. Island Liquors carries it for \$3.59/750 ml. bottle.

Greek regional wines are excellent for the price (Faustos has four Trakia varieties for \$3.99 each; Island Liquors stocks the Domesticas) and the rich, dark, sweet Mavrodaphne and Malvassis dessert wines are appreciated around the world. The high-proof Metaxa brandy is world-class.

The following recipes are for *mezes*, wondrous spreads, dips and finger foods eaten all day long and well into the night.

If you have a question or recipe request concerning any Grits, Grunts & Gruyere column, write to Jeanne McClow c/o Solares Hill, 1217 White Street.

## Menu

Taramasalata (Tangy Red Caviar Dip)  
Tzatziki (Minted Cucumber and Yogurt Dip)  
Melitzanosalata (Garlicky Eggplant Dip)

## Spanokopita (Dilled Spinach and Feta Pastries)

## Dolmadakia (Spicy Meat-Stuffed Grapevine Leaves) with Optional Avgolemono (Egg-Lemon) Sauce

Accompaniments: Kalamata and other olives, feta chunks, and tomato wedges with lemon wedges and cruet of extra-virgin olive oil for "drizzling"; basket of thick, crusty peasant bread, unsalted flat-bread crackers, and wedges of oiled, grilled pita bread; platter of pickled peppers and pre-served anchovies, sardines, smoked oysters, etc.; bowls of pistachios and almonds; raw vegetables for dipping; ripe fruits of the region; sweet filo pastries or crisp almond cookies; Greek (Turkish) coffee, chilled retsina or wine, and/or ouzo.

## Taramasalata

2 small jars (4 oz) red roe  
4 slices or more firm-textured white bread without crusts, torn in pieces  
4 tbs fresh lemon juice  
About 1/2 small sweet red onion, cut up  
1 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
1 cup unsalted, un buttered mashed potatoes (instant is fine)

Puree ingredients until smooth; chill. Makes 1 1/3 cups (2 1/3 with potatoes). Adding the optional mashed potatoes to this dip will stretch the caviar, add body, and smooth out the natural saltiness.

## Tzatziki

1 container (8 oz) plain yogurt  
1 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded, grated and drained  
1 tsp or more fresh lemon juice  
1 tbs minced scallions  
1 tbs or more fresh, chopped mint leaves (1 tsp dried)  
1 or more pressed garlic cloves and 2 tbs extra-virgin olive oil (optional)  
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Drain yogurt in cheesecloth-lined sieve for several hours; gently squeeze out any remaining liquid (you should have about 2/3 cup left). Wrap cucumber in cheesecloth and squeeze as dry as possible (you should have about 1/2 cup packed). Stir yogurt and cucumber with remaining ingredients, adjust seasonings, and chill. Makes about 1 1/3 cups.

## Melitzanosalata

This dip is also delicious made with lots of garlic—you may omit the mint or not. Roast peeled eggplant on grill or in 375 degree oven until skin is blistered and flesh is soft (30 to 45 minutes). Cool, peel, and chop flesh roughly. Puree with cloves of garlic and fresh lemon juice to taste. Pouring in a steady stream, add extra-virgin olive oil until of the desired consistency. Add salt and freshly ground pepper to taste; chill.

## Spanokopita

1 lb fresh spinach, washed, torn up (discard stems), and squeezed dry, or 2 pkgs (10 oz each) frozen spinach, thawed

8 oz feta (cottage or ricotta cheese can be used), crumbled  
4 eggs, beaten  
4 tbs minced fresh dill or 1 tbs dried  
1/2 cup chopped scallions  
1 pkg (1 lb) frozen filo leaves, thawed  
About 1/2 cup olive oil or melted unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine all ingredients except filo and oil or butter. Spread one sheet of filo over work surface and brush with oil or butter; lay a second sheet over it and brush again. Place about 2 tbs of the spinach filling near one of the narrow ends. Loosely roll dough twice around it, bring one long edge over towards the center, roll again, bring the other edge over, and complete rolling. Repeat with remaining filling. Place each, seam side down, on a greased baking sheet, brush tops with more oil or butter, and bake for about 1/2 hour, or until golden. Serve warm. Makes about 8.

## Dolmadakia with optional Avgolemono Sauce

2 tbs olive oil  
1 lb ground lean lamb or beef  
2 medium onions, finely chopped  
1 or more cloves garlic, pressed (optional)  
1 cup uncooked, long-grain rice  
4 tbs pinenuts (optional)

## RESTAURANT DIRECTORY

Antonia's Restaurant, 615 Duval Street. Excellent Northern Italian cuisine in friendly, elegant atmosphere. Dinner served from 7 to 11 p.m. nightly. Visa, Mastercard. 294-6565.

Answer Cafe, corner of Duval & Virginia in Duval Square. Pleasant outdoor cafe serving fresh salads and fruits, sandwiches, deli specials, wine and beer. Daily blackboard specials. Breakfast and lunch every day. Dinner Friday thru Sunday. Entertainment on Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. 294-2900.

Dynasty Restaurant, 918 Duval Street. Authentic and innovative Chinese cuisine. Indulge in sizzling Hunan, Cantonese and Szechuan specialties. Dine indoors or outside in a tropical garden setting. A local favorite. Open nightly 5:30 p.m. Major credit cards accepted. 294-2943.

El Loro Verde, 404 Southard Street, is more than Mexican restaurant. El Loro Verde presents innovative yet authentic variations of both Mexican and Caribbean dishes. Popular for its cafe atmosphere, El Loro Verde now features a full liquor bar in its new dining room. 294-7298.

El Meson de Pepe, 1215 Duval Street. Delicious gourmet Spanish cuisine, specializing in Paella by Pepe. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner 7:30am-10pm 7 days. A local favorite. 296-0991.

Emma's Seafare, at The Reach, Simonton Street on the Ocean. Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. 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. 294-5000.

Conch Cafe, 1211 Duval Street.

Charming sidewalk cafe 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 gyros. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. 294-6124.

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

Full Moon Saloon, 1220 Simonton St. Open 11 a.m. to 4 a.m. Lunch and dinner specials daily. Featur-

ing an American menu. Phone 294-9090.

Kenny D's at the Wharf, 2407 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Beautiful view of the Gulf, the place to dine at sunset. Open seven days per week from 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Early bird specials from 4 to 6 p.m., great food and great fun are the order of the day. From frittatas to fritters to fajitas to fun, there's always something happening at Kenny D's. 294-8882. Major credit cards accepted.

La Bodega, 829 Simonton Street.

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Delicious sandwiches, burgers, soups, salads, pastries, baked goods and dinner entrees. Dine in or delivery. 294-6544.

La Lechonera, 3100 Flagler Avenue, is one of the oldest restaurants in Key West, serving Spanish and Cuban cuisine with a full liquor bar. Daily

specials. Happy Hour 4 to 7 p.m.

Take-out available. 294-7881.

La Trattoria Venezia, 524 Duval Street, open daily. Featuring Italian and French cuisine. Dine in an elegant Eu-

ropean atmosphere complete with Italian

music and friendly, warm service.

Yo Sake, 722 Duval. Open for

lunch 12:00 to 2:30 p.m., dinner 7

p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Neo-Japanese in-

side or torchlit garden dining; tradition-

al Japanese and original island crea-

tions. Full Sushi Bar. 294-2288.

make the classic avgolemono soup, cook rice in several cups of chicken stock and stir both gradually into egg-lemon base.

## Chilled Vegetables a la Greque

This dish is best with quickly steamed, chilled vegetables, such as artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, and cauliflower. To make it, mash 8 anchovy fillets with 2 cloves pressed garlic, gradually add 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil, and 2 or more tablespoons fresh lemon juice. Stir in chopped fresh oregano and salt and freshly ground pepper. Pour over vegetables. Makes about 1 1/2 cups. ■

Daily Blackboard Specials • Call for TakeOut



Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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- 2 Eggs
- Ham, Bacon or Sausage
- Whole Wheat, White or Rye
- Cafe' Potatoes

8 am - Noon • No Substitutions

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# AUGUST CALENDAR

## Cultural Events

**Through 8/15 • Papa.** Playing at the Red Barn Theatre. Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 p.m. curtain. Saturday shows: 6 and 9:30 p.m. Sunday shows: 2 and 6:30 p.m. Call 296-1033 for reservations.

**8/1—8/31 • Haitian Art Co. Annual Sale.** 10th Anniversary Sale. Wholesale or reduced prices. Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances Street. 296-8932.

**8/4 • Summer Heat II Benefit for AIDS Help.** Coconut Grove Guesthouse, 817 Fleming Street at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.00, includes buffet, open bar and live entertainment. All proceeds benefit AIDS help. Call 296-5107 or 296-6196.

**8/8 • Vicki Roush at Club Tropic.** Roush will perform three shows nightly, accompanied by Stuart Parker. Repertoire includes Broadway show tunes from 1930s to present. Club Tropic is located at the corner of Duval and Angela Streets.

**8/31 • FKCC Foreign Film Series.** The course will feature five films, showing one film a month through December. Films featured include *King of Hearts*, *Entre Nous*, *Persona*, *Casanova*, and *Lili Marleen*. Cost for the non-credit course is \$12.50. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

## Common Good

**7/31, 8/2 • Using the Macintosh for your Newsletter.** Final two classes. Florida Keys Community College offers this non-credit course on Desktop Publishing, including scanning graphics and word processing. 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call Penny Frank at 296-9081, ext. 282.

**8/1 • Food Service Sanitation.** Florida Keys Community College and the Pier House are sponsoring these seminars for hospitality managers and supervisors at the Pier House Caribbean Spa. No Charge. Call Trixie Phelan at FKCC, 296-9081.

**8/1 • Teleconference: Creating Quality Schools for all Students.** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Room 2214 at FKCC's Key West campus. This conference addresses federal and state laws regarding students with disabilities and how they can be integrated into the Florida educational system. Call FKCC at 296-9081.

**8/1 • County Commission Meeting** will be held at the Key Colony Beach city hall at 9 a.m.

**8/2 • County Planning Commission Meeting** will be held at the Marathon

### FEELING DEPRESSED?

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296-HELP (Key West)

1-800-228-LINE (Monroe County)

Jaycee building in Marathon at 10 a.m.

**8/3 • CPR Basic Rescue.** FKCC offers this course from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call FKCC's Continuing Education Center at 296-9081, ext. 280.

**8/6 • Key West City Commission Meeting** will be held at the City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 5:30 p.m.

**8/6 • Save-A-Turtle Monthly Meeting** will be held at the Marathon Public Library at 7 p.m. Call 872-3008.

**8/7 • Teleconference: Family Involvement Training, Phase II.** 10 a.m. to noon, Room 2214 at FKCC's Key West campus. This conference is targeted for parents, teachers and school administrators and offers practical methods on how parents and teachers can bring an educational environment into the home, and how parents can become active in their children's education. No charge. Call FKCC at 296-9081.

**8/7, 8/14, 8/22, 8/28 • Baby Care Basics Class.** This class will be held at the Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, Classroom 1, at 6:30 p.m. Call Family Resource Center 292-6823.

**8/7, 8/8 • Stress Management.** Florida Keys Community College and the Pier House are sponsoring these seminars for hospitality managers and supervisors at the Pier House Caribbean Spa. No Charge. Call Trixie Phelan at FKCC, 296-9081.

**8/7, 8/11, 8/14, 8/18 • Deep Diver.** FKCC offers this advanced diving course on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Must have Advanced Open Water Diver Certificate. \$85. Call FKCC at 296-9081.

**8/7—8/11 • Chamber of Commerce Second Annual Radio Auction.** The auction will be held on different radio stations each day as follows: WKRY FM on August 7; WKWF AM on August 8; US 1 FM on August 9; and WEOW FM and WKIZ AM simulcasting on August 10. Call 294-5988.

**8/8 • Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing** will be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church, County Road, on Big Pine Key at 5 p.m. Public input accepted.

**8/9 • Public Meeting on Boot Key Harbor.** Meeting has been rescheduled from the 8th to the 9th. Agenda: Discussion of Task Force report. Marathon Public Library, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**8/18 • Florida Keys Children Shelter Olympics.** Events will be held all day.

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Key West By Appointment

**8/9 • Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing** will be held at the Plantation Key government center at 5 p.m. Public input accepted.

**8/9, 8/12, 8/16, 8/19 • Night Diver.** FKCC offers this advanced diving course on Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Must have Advanced Open Water Diver Certificate. \$85. Call FKCC at 296-9081.

**8/10 • Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing** will be held at the Key Colony Beach city hall at 9 a.m. Commission discussion only.

**8/10 • Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held at City Hall, Angela Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**8/11 • Save-A-Turtle 4th Annual BBQ and Raffle** will be held at 4 p.m. \$5 donation, reservations requested. Call 743-6056.

**8/13 • Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held at the Scottish Rite Temple on Eaton Street in Key West from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**8/13 • Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing** will be held at the Key Colony Beach city hall at 9 a.m. Commission discussion only.

**8/13—8/29 • FKCC Term I Registration.** Classes begin Thursday, August 23. Registration held at all three campuses. Call FKCC centers: Key West, 296-9081; Marathon, 743-2133; or Coral Shores, 852-8007.

**8/13, 8/14 • Employee-Labor Relations.** Florida Keys Community College and the Pier House are sponsoring these seminars for hospitality managers and supervisors at the Pier House Caribbean Spa. No Charge. Call Trixie Phelan at FKCC, 296-9081.

**8/14 • Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing** will be held at the Key Colony Beach city hall at 9 a.m. Commission discussion only, backup day.

**8/14 • AARP Potluck** will be held at the Senior Citizen center, Key Deer Boulevard on Big Pine Key at 6 p.m.

**8/16 • Planning Commission meeting** will be held at the Chapel Building on Stock Island at 10 a.m.

**8/17 • CPR Basic Rescue.** FKCC offers this course from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call FKCC's Continuing Education Center at 296-9081, ext. 280.

**8/18 • Florida Keys Children Shelter Olympics.** Events will be held all day.

**Ruth Becker**  
For County Judge

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**8/19 • Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Monroe County Fund Raiser.** Games, prizes and contests to benefit BBBs. WEOW will broadcast live from Holiday Inn Beachside Resort. Noon to 3 p.m. Admission: \$5.00 to adults and \$2.00 for kids.

**8/20 • Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held at the Florida Keys Memorial Hospital from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**8/20 • TDC Advisory Committee meeting,** District II at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce offices on Big Pine Key.

**8/20 • Basic Law Enforcement Training.** Monday through Thursday, 7 to 11 p.m. for eight months. Allows for part-time police training. Call 296-9081, ext. 200.

**8/21 • Key West City Commission Meeting** will be held at the City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 3:30 p.m.

**8/21 • County Commission Meeting** will be held at St. Peters Hall on Big Pine Key at 1 p.m.

**8/22 • County Commission Meeting** will be held at St. Peters Hall on Big Pine Key at 9 a.m.

**8/22, 8/23 • Chemical Dependency Workshop.** Florida Keys Community College and the Pier House are sponsoring these seminars for hospitality managers and supervisors at the Pier House Caribbean Spa. No Charge. Call Trixie Phelan at FKCC, 296-9081.

**8/23 • Hospital District Board of Commissioners meeting** will be held at the Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, class 1 at 4 p.m.

**8/29 • Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held at the First State Bank in Key West from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

**8/29 • Public Hearing on TCI's Lease/Franchise Renewal.** Monroe County Commission will hold this hearing at the Chapel at the Public Service building on Stock Island. The commissioners will review TCI's quality of service, billing practices and its response to community needs.

**8/29 • Interviewing Workshop.** Florida Keys Community College and the Pier House are sponsoring these seminars for hospitality managers and supervisors at the Pier House Caribbean Spa. No Charge. Call Trixie Phelan at FKCC, 296-9081.

**8/30 • County Planning Commission meeting** 10 a.m. at the Key Largo Library.

**8/31 • CPR Basic Rescue.** FKCC offers this course from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call FKCC's Continuing Education Center at 296-9081, ext. 280.

**9/6 • Self Esteem Workshop.** Entitled "Dynamic Imaging". this course is designed to build self-confidence. Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. for four weeks. \$30.00 reg-

istration. Call 292-6843.

## Always Happening

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

**AIDS Help** needs volunteers to assist in the office, as well as to be buddies to people with AIDS. Call Steve Smith, director of volunteers, at 296-6196.

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

**Bahama Village Straw Market** • First Saturday of every month. Located on Petronia Street between Whitehead and Thomas in Bahama Village from noon to sunset. Food, street performers and hand-made crafts.

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

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

**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 Cambell at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, 294-5531; or Liz Kern at Hospice, 294-8812.

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

**Island Wellness Children's Playshop** is held Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon for children 6 through 12. Includes playful fun and concepts of self-care. Eight registrants needed to hold classes. For more information, call Gary at 296-7353.

**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 at 296-7353.

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

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

**Solares Hill • August 1990 • Page 49**  
**La Leche League of Big Pine Key** meets at Big Pine Methodist Church 9:30 Monday mornings. 872-2148.

**Literacy Volunteers of Monroe County** is seeking volunteers to help in working with the media and in teaching others to read. Call Bill Clift. 294-4352.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Pool & Dart Tournament**, Big Pine Moose Lodge, Wednesdays, 872-9313.

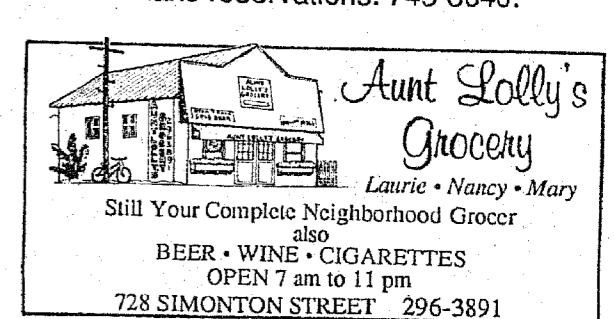
**Recycle Key West**, sponsored by the Women's Resource center and located in Peary Court off White Street, is open every Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accept clean, separated glass, newspaper, aluminum and plastic. Volunteers are needed. 294-6241.

**Sweet Adelines**, Presbyterian Kirk of the Keys, Marathon, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

**T'ai Chi Chu'an Exercise Class** • Will Jones instructs this "soft" form of physical conditioning. Classes are at 11:00 a.m. Saturday mornings on the marina dock of Ocean Key West, Zero Duval Street. Free of charge.

**Transportation Program**, available to those over 60 years old, weekdays 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In Key west, call 294-8468; Middle Keys call 743-9089; Upper Keys call 852-3204.

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



# In Search of Old Florida

by Capt. Gaff McKetchum

Last month we discussed the ravages of Rock Fever and its geographical cure. Hopefully, the day trips we suggested in the South Florida area persuaded you to "get off the Rock" and whetted your appetite for further travel. This month we have broadened our horizons to include the entire state, and we are off on a mission: to explore the natural wonders of Florida, to seek out unspoiled small towns, and to boldly go from one end of the state to the other, on as many small byways and backroads as possible.

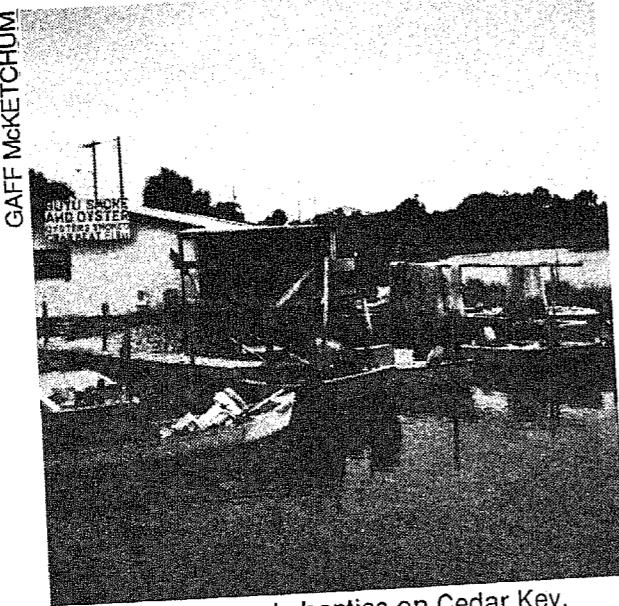
What we are looking for is *old Florida*, *vanishing Florida* or *real Florida*. This is the Florida that existed before massive condos lined the coast and the sprawl of shopping malls and housing developments replaced orange groves. It is a place of unique natural beauty and fascinating history. It is not Walt Disney World—Florida's most popular attraction, though it has nothing whatsoever to do with Florida and could have been popped out of a mold in a Kansas cornfield.

Does the real Florida still exist? We set out last September to see. An excellent time for Florida travel, late September is the ultimate off-season, especially in north Florida, where cool nights can be expected. Road traffic is light, parks and beaches are uncrowded, motel rates are reduced, and local restaurants are actually glad to see you. So with an *Official Florida Transportation Map*, a new road atlas, and a full tank of gas, my wife and I hit the road early one morning.

The first chance to deviate from the straight and narrow comes on U.S. 1 on Key Largo, where Route 905 forks off and leads to Card Sound Road. This adds a few miles to the trip, but they are worth the dollar toll. There is a great view from the top of Card Sound bridge and a funky settlement at the north end of the road, featuring Alabama Jack's, a Cuban country-western bar.

Just past the intersection where Card Sound Road reconnects with U.S. 1, we get on Route 27 north, taking it through farming country to Route 41, the Tamiami Trail—so-named because it links Tampa and Miami, covering a distance of 249 miles. Barron G. Collier, Florida's single-largest landowner in the early 1920s with one million acres in South Florida, dredged this road through the Everglades—afeat which was equated with the digging of the Panama Canal. The canal that runs along the side of the road provided the fill for his road.

After passing through Monroe Station, a reminder that this is the mainland portion of Monroe County, we come to the intersection of Route 29, which leads south to Everglades City and Chokoloskee. This is the Ten Thousand Islands portion of the Everglades, famous for fishing, mosquitoes, the Rod & Gun Club Hotel, independent commercial fishermen, and the village of Chokoloskee, built on a Calusa Indian shell mound.



Bayou: Boats and shanties on Cedar Key.

A little further along, at Royal Palm Hammock, is Collier Seminole State Park and a sideroad leading to Marco and Goodland, two old fishing villages familiar to Florida anglers and seafood fanciers. Marco Island is also the spot where, in 1897, the first artifacts from the great pre-Columbian Indian civilization of the Everglades area were discovered.

Thirty miles down the road brings a shock. Leaving the boondocks, we have entered the fastest-growing area in the state: the city of Naples and its environs. Old Naples is immaculate, with properly landscaped grand homes, wide shady streets and an air of gentility. There is no litter, an amazing sight for one accustomed to Key West streets. However, it is also typical of Florida sprawl, and so to get away from it all, we abandon our backroads policy temporarily, hopping on Interstate 75 for a fast 100-mile sprint to Venice, a beach town on Route 41 which shows its age. Venice is winter home to the Ringling Brothers Circus and a good place to stop for the night.

After a morning swim and walk on a near-empty Gulf beach, we take Route 72 east to Myakka River State Park, one of Florida's largest at over 28,000 acres—a naturalist's delight. Myakka is famous for its scenic panoramas of lakes, river, marshes, hammocks and prairies, and for its abundant wildlife. Like all the lands in Florida's park system, it is managed to appear as it did when the first Europeans arrived in the Florida wilderness.

After a quick trip on Interstate 75 around Tampa, we return to the Gulf via Route 52, which takes us to Route 19, the north-south route along the coast. We have now entered what former *Miami Herald* columnist Al Burt termed the *Mullet Latitudes*, a region that has largely escaped the ravages of over-development because of its lack of beaches. Here commercial fishermen net mullet in the autumn; the local populace eats mullet, smoked or fried, in great quantities. We spotted a roadside stand selling mullet hot off the smoker—smoked-fish heaven!

Back on Route 19. We pass through Weeki Wachee and Homosassa Springs, old

## Reading Before the Road

There is an adage stating that a traveler gets out of a journey what he brings to it. In the case of our travels through Florida, knowledge of the geology, history and people native to the areas visited will add a significant dimension to an understanding of what is encountered.

The following books, available in the Florida room of the Monroe County Library, are highly recommended.

### Historic background:

- *Florida, The Long Frontier*, Marjory Stoneman Douglas
- *That Vanishing Eden*, Thomas Barbour
- *Rivers of Florida*, Henry Marks and Gene B. Riggs
- *Ghost Towns of Florida*, James A. Warneke
- *Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State*, compiled by the Federal Writers Project of the WPA (1939)

### People and Places:

- *My Florida*, Ernest Lyons
- *The Other Florida*, Gloria Jahoda
- *Becalmed in the Mullet Latitudes*, Al Burt
- *Florida: Land of Images*, Nixon Smiley
- *Palmetto Country*, Stetson Kennedy
- *Cross Creek*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

towns noted for their healthful waters, and Crystal River, where the nuclear power plant serves as a reminder that this largely undeveloped section of the coast has not been entirely overlooked by the modern age. We are headed for Cedar Key. To get there, we leave the piney flatwoods of Route 19 and take Route 24 at Otter Creek through the sandhills into the saltmarshes of Cedar Key—a sleepy, quiet town almost as old as Key West.

First settled in the early 1840s, Cedar Key turned into a bustling shipping port upon completion of the cross-state railroad in 1861. After the Civil War, lumbering became the primary industry until supplanted by ship-building and fishing.

Like Key West, Cedar Key has gone through boom-and-bust periods, but it has not been turned into a resort. There are a few small motels, very little new construction, and a feeling that the locals like their quiet, funky town just the way it is. Fishing is good, and the fresh locally caught sea-trout and mullet at The Other Place, a small restaurant on the bayou, was outstanding. A large seafood festival held in Cedar Key every September, however, is to be avoided; Cedar Key is not a place to see in a crowd.

Back on Route 19 we drive through pine flatwoods and at Perry, a logging center, take Route 98 west towards Wakulla Springs State Park. The lodge there is a 1930s era hotel, similar to Key West's Casa Marina before its renovation. Entering the lobby is to step into a time-warp to a gentler era of dark wood paneling and marble floors. The rooms retain their original period furniture—reminiscent of your grandmother's, and the springs are crystal clear.

accessible by glass-bottom boat. All this is located within a 2900-acre state park known for its birdlife and old-growth floodplain swamps and forest.

On towards Apalachicola on Route 98. Skirting the shore of the Panhandle Gulf coast, we pass through the small fishing towns of Carrabelle and Panacea, stopping at Eastpoint to sample the famous Apalachicola oysters. They are delicious! Oyster tongs work the bay bottom a hundred yards away, where our oysters lay that morning.

The bridge over St. George Sound takes us to St. George Island State Park with its mile after mile of white sand beach, so fine it squeaks when you walk on it. In summer this beach is a popular place, but we have it to ourselves. A benefit of off-season travel.

Onto the mainland, we find Apalachicola to be a quaint community with a rich history dating back to 1831, when it was a thriving port town. The wide main street contains perhaps two dozen businesses. A block away, on the waterfront, are many deserted brick warehouses, remnants of the cotton days. Many fine old Victorian houses remain as reminders of this prosperous period. The old cemetery, its live oaks festooned with Spanish moss, is inviting. Also there are shrimp boats and old-fashioned sport-fishing camps. Apalachicola is the county seat of Franklin County, which calls itself Florida's last undiscovered paradise. Perhaps it is.

Just 160 miles from Florida's western border, Panama City, Ft. Walton Beach and Pensacola lie between us and Alabama. We would like to walk the famous white-sand beaches of the so-called "Redneck Riviera," but we are running late.

No mission to rediscover old Florida would be complete without a look at the scrub country located mid-state just south of Gainesville—in particular Cross Creek, home of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, who wrote her Pulitzer prize-winning novel *The Yearling* here. The house where she lived from 1928 through the 1940s is maintained by the park service just the way it appeared.

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when she lived in it, complete with kitchen garden, chickens and small citrus grove.

We return to Key West via Route 27, which runs along the high ridge through central Florida's orange country, around Lake Okeechobee, and down to Florida City where we meet U.S. 1 for the trip down the Keys. Our trip has covered 1800 miles and has taken one week. Two weeks would have been more leisurely.

Is old Florida still out there? Yes, it is. In the small towns we covered in this article and in the others we'll leave you to discover, and in the Florida State Park system, which bills itself as "the old Florida, something special to remember." They tell no lies.

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- As a management consultant and manager of multi-million dollar budgets, I have proven performance in cost control.

- New growth should help pay for its impact, not the taxpayer.

- I will work to protect the retirees, working people and small businesses.

ENVIRONMENT - Our environment is our economy. We must stop the continued destruction of our fishing and water quality.

ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS - I support a tough position on drugs and law enforcement. I have not and will not support drug dealers. They belong in jail. Drug education and rehabilitation are important.

DEVELOPMENT - We must prevent high density over-development to protect water quality and the coral reef.

TRAFFIC - Traffic conditions should not be allowed to deteriorate further.



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- President, A. Earl Cheal & Assoc.
- Business & Management Consultant
- Manager of Construction Operations
- Deputy Director of Resources Management (\$200M Budget)

**EDUCATION:**

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**MILITARY:** Served two years in Vietnam, RANGER and Parachutist and attained the rank of LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

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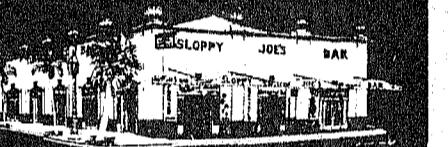
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Sunday, August 5 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Aee Moreland	Monday, August 6 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Crabmeat Thompson 10-2 Blu Blasters	Tuesday, August 7 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Crabmeat Thompson 10-2 Blu Blasters	Wednesday, August 8 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Crabmeat Thompson 10-2 Blu Blasters	Thursday, August 9 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Crabmeat Thompson 10-2 Blu Blasters	Friday, August 10 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Crabmeat Thompson 10-2 Blu Blasters	Saturday, August 11 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Crabmeat Thompson 10-2 Blu Blasters
Sunday, August 12 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Blu Blasters	Monday, August 13 Noon-4 Ots Case 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Blu Blasters	Tuesday, August 14 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 James Peterson Band	Wednesday, August 15 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 James Peterson Band	Thursday, August 16 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 James Peterson Band	Friday, August 17 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 James Peterson Band	Saturday, August 18 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 James Peterson Band
Sunday, August 19 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 James Peterson Band	Monday, August 20 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Blu Blasters	Tuesday, August 21 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Nora Wickstead 10-2 The Few	Wednesday, August 22 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Nora Wickstead 10-2 The Few	Thursday, August 23 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Nora Wickstead 10-2 The Few	Friday, August 24 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Nora Wickstead 10-2 The Few	Saturday, August 25 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Nora Wickstead 10-2 The Few
Sunday, August 26 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Nora Wickstead 10-2 The Few	Monday, August 27 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Blu Blasters	Tuesday, August 28 Noon-4 Chris Case 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Out A Hand	Wednesday, August 29 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand	Thursday, August 30 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand	Friday, August 31 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand	DON'T MISS OUT A HAND!



THE CORNER OF GREENE  
& DUVAL STREETS