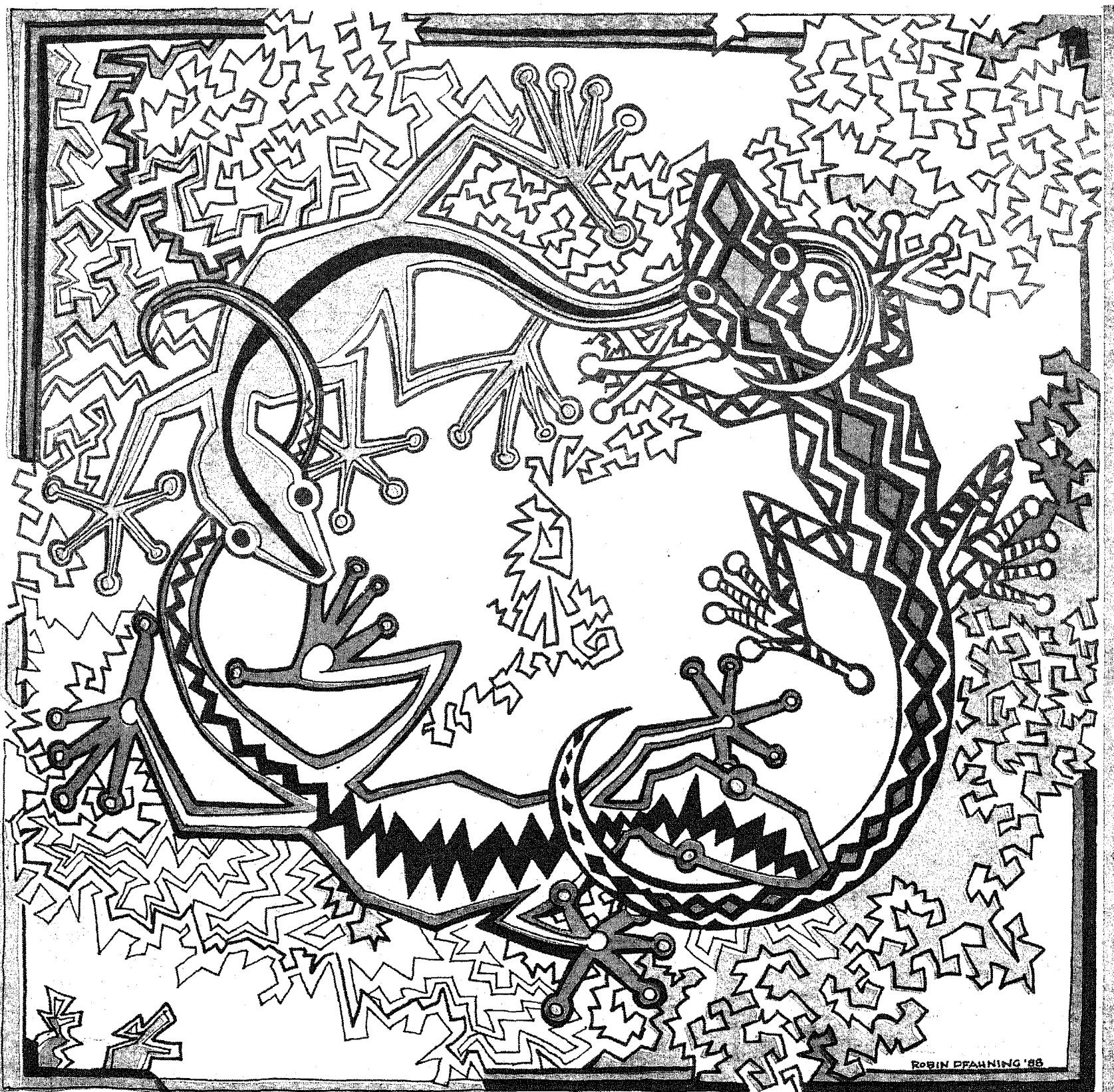


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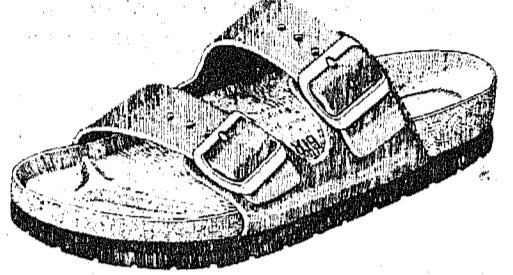
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already (can you believe it?) the candidates are circling.

Harry Bethel, recently retired from CES after many years, has been quietly mentioning to friends that he is "very interested" in running, probably against John Robinson, the board member who was appointed to complete the term of Dr. Delio Cobo. Bethel is a native; Robinson is married to a local woman with strong political links.

Getting back to our friend the boater in Garrison Bight, he also reports that often he has gone past the site of the to-be-built \$36 million sewage treatment plant, at the end of Fleming Key. It is supposed to be finished by December 31 or the city faces huge fines from the federal government.

"The walls aren't even up," reports our friend. "And how come city building inspectors have been barred from getting inside? That's all public money being spent there. I wonder what the grand jury has to say about it? We would like to know, too."

Over in Peary Court, which is owned by the Navy, the government plans to build about 120 housing units for its military men and their families, hard-pressed because the rents and utility costs demanded by this town's super-taxed landlords are just too much for them to pay.

Continued on page 54

*On the Cover: This month's cover art was created by Robin Pfahning. A native of Key West, Robin is a freshman at the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design where she is studying hard and earning honors.*

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**Profile: Kyle Wickware***The Man Who Takes Troubled Youths to TASC*

by June Keith

**K**yle Wickware was 21 years old when he decided he'd had enough of being in trouble. He'd been in reform schools, military stockades, and a federal penitentiary.

"I had a long time to think," he said. "I wanted to do something unusual with my life so I decided to be an inventor."

While living in a Chicago halfway house, Wickware constructed a model locomotive with the very cheapest materials he could assemble -- 56,000 toothpicks and Elmer's Glue. The model caught the attention of editors at *Mechanics Illustrated* Magazine, and Wickware received the magazine's Golden Hammer Award in 1971.

The excitement of national attention, the glory of being a winner, intoxicated the young man, and he learned the value of achievement and ego gratification. "Chasing that ego feeling can direct a person for the rest of their life," Wickware said.

His next project was an award-winning three-wheel kit car. In three years, 650 kits were sold.

"One guy told me that I couldn't possibly build a car kit for under a quarter-of-a-million dollars," he reflected. "But I did it, and



Kyle and Sarah Wickware. Photo by June Keith.

I learned that the experts weren't what I thought they were! Experts aren't inventors! The first thing they say is: 'No, it can't be done.' An inventor is a radical who won't accept 'No.'"

Today Wickware makes a modest but comfortable living from royalties from inventions like a computer program called *Toy Shop*. He and his wife Sarah live aboard their 55 foot sailboat -- the *CAVU* --

anchored off Big Pine Key. *CAVU* is an acronym meaning "clear air visibility unlimited." Sarah Wickware is a watchmaker, with a master's degree in horology -- the study of time.

"I read about Sarah in a newspaper article -- she was the only woman to graduate from a Swiss-sponsored master's degree program in watchmaking," Wickware said. "I'd never met a woman with a mechanical mind who understood gears and gear ratios. I thought Sarah was a woman I wanted to communicate with."

They married 90 days after their first meeting, and, the couple readily and happily admits, theirs is a marriage made in heaven.

Currently Wickware spends most of his time working on yet another invention. He is designing Key West's pilot Juvenile TASC (Treatment Alternatives to Street Crimes) Program, which he manages single-handedly. His raw materials are incorrigible adolescents, usually from dysfunctional homes, who seem headed for lives of crime. Wickware's objective is to turn them in a different direction before their fates are irreparably sealed.

The TASC program is new to Key West. In fact, there are no other programs at all for kids like these locally, nor have there been. When it began in February, the program was funded by grants from HRS, and the

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City of Key West. Today the only funding comes from HRS. City collars (the original grant was \$4,500) were withdrawn when local citizens balked at proposed tax hikes and cutbacks had to be found. Still, Marsh Wolfe, Executive Director of the Mental Health Care Center of the Lower Keys, and the mastermind behind the planning, grant writing and hiring for the TASC Program, has high hopes of keeping the struggling program alive.

"We're right at the starting point," says Wolfe, "but I think this program is one answer to some of the big problems in our community. I think it has great potential."

Those big problems include, according to Wickware, a high proportion of juvenile delinquents and social aggressors.

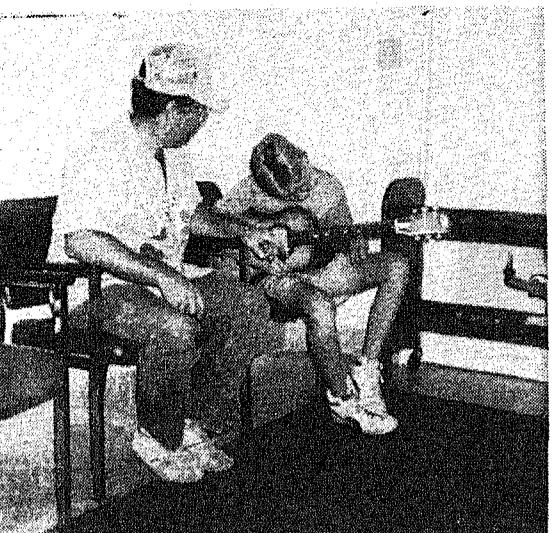
Wickware became involved in the rehabilitation of wayward youths when he worked for an Arizona-based program called Vision Quest, which is still in operation. By placing street kids in a

no-frills wilderness environment, the program enables them to develop new strategies for survival and teamwork.

Wickware, a soft-spoken and peaceful man, has the magical ability to attract people into the comfortable and safe space that surrounds him. He loves toys and he enjoys entertaining others with his creations.

"It doesn't matter where we are," Sarah Wolfe said, "we're always out doing something fun -- like flying boomerangs, playing with kites. There are always kids flocking around us."

Wickware's keen understanding of the myriad problems his young clients face comes from personal experience. Raised by tough Mormon rancher grandparents until he was 14, Wickware learned skills like cooking, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, building fires, making butter from fresh cow's milk, and the fine art of entertaining himself.



Kyle and friend. Photo by June Keith.

"I was never bored as a child," he said. "I loved to work with my hands -- to embroider -- make afghans, and help my grandmother to cook for 20 cowboys."

Wickware's parents eventually settled in El Paso, Texas, and their two sons joined

them to attend an inner city high school. Wickware had great difficulty adjusting.

"The controls originally in place in my life on the ranch were suddenly gone," he explained. "My parents came and went and I was exposed to lots of bad influences and lots of unorganized time to fill."

To compound his problems, his parents suddenly divorced and the boys lived alternately with their father, a missile maintenance technician, who hired a housekeeper to care for them, or their alcoholic mother.

Like many of the kids he works with in Key West, Wickware says his unemotional father was a poor role model, too busy keeping up with his job to offer his sons any guidance. At the juncture between childhood and adulthood, Kyle began to get into trouble.

Juvenile delinquency finally took him to the point where he had to decide between a jail sentence or the army. He enlisted. In the army he earned a General Education Diploma in order to qualify to study electronics. He also studied diesel mechanics.

For a year, he served as personal cook for a general. In Korea, where he was stationed during the Vietnam war, he became enchanted with the Eastern approach to life, which he says is "more delicate."

"I realized that if you build something carefully and well by hand, and you treated it gently, it would last you a lifetime," he said. "What I've always liked to do best is work with my hands."

His loathing for the often illogical regimentation of army life grew throughout

his military career and Kyle went AWOL -- not just once, but several times. He always got caught. His misadventures landed him in the federal pen.

Today, Wickware applies the wisdom he gained from this and other experiences to the rehabilitation of kids that no one else seems to know how to handle. Youths are assigned to be evaluated for the program by a county judge. Wickware interviews repeat offenders and decides whether or not he feels he can help them.

The 10 kids currently in TASC work with him regularly, one-on-one, through an agenda that includes various activities and exercises, all liberally sprinkled with Wickware's subtle coaching on what he calls "appropriate behavior." Four kids have graduated, which means they have spent most of their free time for six months with Wickware. Hopefully they have learned to replace trouble with healthier forms of self-gratification.

Wickware has a number of theories about why kids go astray. Most of the youths he deals with are of above average intelligence. He believes they act out because they are not being challenged.

"They know they have the ability to be outstanding," Wickware explained, "so they fight back against their less-than-desirable home circumstances by calling attention to themselves."

He also thinks our society has not preserved any rites of passage from childhood into adulthood. Our children are not trained to survive as adults.

"American Indian boys were taught to take care of themselves, and when they reached a certain age, they went into the woods for two or three weeks to show that they could survive," Wickware explained. "When they returned, there was a ceremony, they were called 'braves,' and a lot of respect went along with that."

Wickware pointed out that in our society the fathers often are missing from the home. Mothers who raise the children haven't the time or energy, after working at making a living, to teach their kids hobbies or skills to occupy their often unsupervised leisure hours, or appropriate ways of behaving.

"In Key West," Wickware said, "there really is very little for kids to do!"

Continued on page 57

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# Lest We Forget

## Lease on City Property Remains an Island Sore Spot

by Elliot Baron

One of Key West's longest running developmental battles involves a piece of its own property -- the prime chunk of Old Town real estate located at the corner of Simonton and Front Streets. The 21-year-old, two-story, CBS building standing on that property was once the showpiece of Key West Hand Print Fabrics, Inc. Today, the Pier House owns the lease on the land and the shuttered white elephant. But its plans to convert the structure into 24 suites, a spa and meeting rooms were halted in August when the State Department of Community Affairs filed an appeal.

The DCA appeal is only the most recent in a series of legal squabbles which feature the city grappling to regain control of its property. At issue is a lease that generates just \$300 per month for the city and runs through the year 2020 without any increases.

At present the building sits, its future on hold. The Pier House is prohibited by law from proceeding with construction until the Governor's Cabinet renders a decision on whether the project can go forward. An attorney representing the DCA says that could take until next June.

In reaching this point, the project has been faced by and has bitterly split the last three city commissions. A recent example is the mayor's allegation, based on an incident related to the development, that two fellow commissioners violated the state's Sunshine Law. The state's attorney filed charges and the two have been under a cloud since June.

### The Lease That Won't Quit

The origins of the overall pickle trace to 1965 when the land was leased to Hand Print's founding owners for \$3600 a year. The lease required construction of a factory building which would become the property



The Hand Print Fabrics factory. Photo by Don Pinder.

of the city upon expiration of the lease. The expiration date of May 31, 2001 subsequently was amended to run through May, 2020. (A complete history of the Hand Print lease will appear in next month's *Solares Hill*.)

The company fell on hard times in the 1980s and was forced into bankruptcy in 1985. On September 3, Key West Hand Print Fabrics, Inc. filed its Voluntary Petition of Reorganization in Federal Bankruptcy Court. It listed Hand Print's principal assets as a parcel of property located at 201 Simonton Street and the Front Street lease. As part of the reorganization, the Simonton Street property -- along with inventory, equipment, trademarks, etc. -- was to be sold. The debtor's attorneys intended to satisfy remaining obligations through the sale of the Front Street lease.

On October 22, despite city objections, Bankruptcy Court Judge Sidney Weaver ruled in favor of Hand Print's motion allowing the sale of the lease as an asset.

Two months later, a group of local businessmen led by Ed Swift purchased the defunct business and present Hand Print site from the bankruptcy court for the sum of \$850,000. The new business, calling itself Key West Hand Print, Ltd. set up shop in the old factory and ran through season before moving to the new facility.

The following May, the city filed a suit seeking to dissolve the encumbering lease. It charged that when the original contract was signed in 1965, the city had failed to seek bids or lease the property at a "public sale."

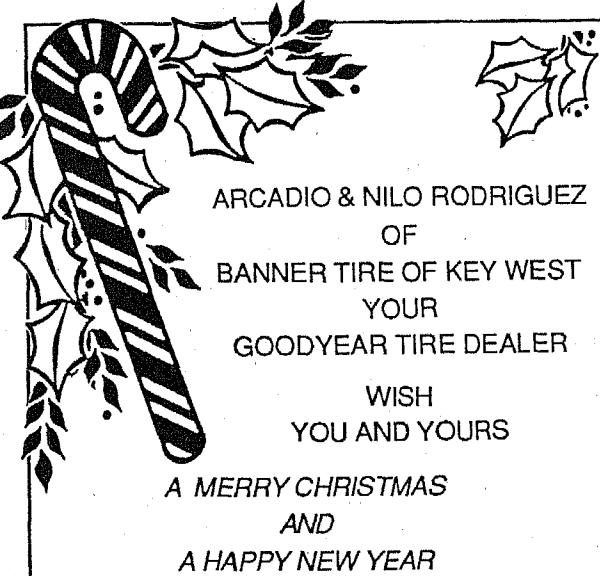
In ruling against the city, Bankruptcy Judge A. Jay Cristol stated that, by

collecting rent for 20 years, the city had benefited from the terms of the lease and could not now say that the failure to advertise constituted grounds for termination. Cristol also observed that if the city were permitted to cancel the lease, it would be a "windfall" to the city because of the building but would constitute a "forfeiture" on the part of the bankrupt firm's debtors and investors.

The city then took the case to the Circuit Court of Appeals where, in July of 1987, Judge Cristol approved the sale of the Hand Print Building and remaining lease to Pier House Joint Venture for the sum of \$1 million. The order was conditional on the city commission's granting assignment of the lease.

On September 30, after failing to negotiate an increase in the rent, the commission approved the lease transfer. Pier House attorney Jim Hendrick opened discussion on the item by stating that an offer made by the Pier House at the previous meeting to pay the city \$25,000 toward its accrued legal expenses still stood. The offer had been made as a "signing bonus" because the city had expended substantial revenues in hopes of being able to obtain more favorable lease terms. Now, by signing the lease, they were being saddled with the same inadequate rental revenues for the next 33 years.

What happened next is what Commissioner George Halloran referred to as "the old shell-game" prior to voting. City Attorney Steve Stitt noted that according to the way the resolution was worded, the city



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could assign the lease that night, accept the \$25,000, yet still keep their appeal alive. An appeal which, if won, would mean the lease was void. Clearly taken aback, Hendrick responded that he hoped the city would drop the appeal because he felt it would benefit both parties.

Commissioner Emma Cates then assumed a negotiating position and struck a deal with Hendrick and the Pier House investors. She argued that since the city's total legal bill on the Hand Print lease ran closer to \$35,000, would they possibly consider raising their offer to that amount?

Hendrick had to confer with his client, but returned to accept the increase -- only on the condition that the city agreed to drop its appeal. Halloran then stated that if the

**Solares Hill--December 1988--Page 7**  
choice were between accepting \$25,000 and continuing an appeal that could eventually be worth millions, or accepting \$35,000 to drop the appeal, the choice was clear. He called it "comparing dollars to donuts."

At that point Hendrick withdrew the previous offer which would have allowed the city to keep its legal hopes alive. He told the commission that the offer wasn't "either/or": it now was \$35,000 and the city must drop the appeal.

Prior to casting the vote, Commissioner Jimmy Weekley insisted on adding to the resolution that the Pier House would come back to negotiate purchase of the property or to renegotiate the lease. Weekley then commented on how, when it comes to legal battles, compared to developer's "deep

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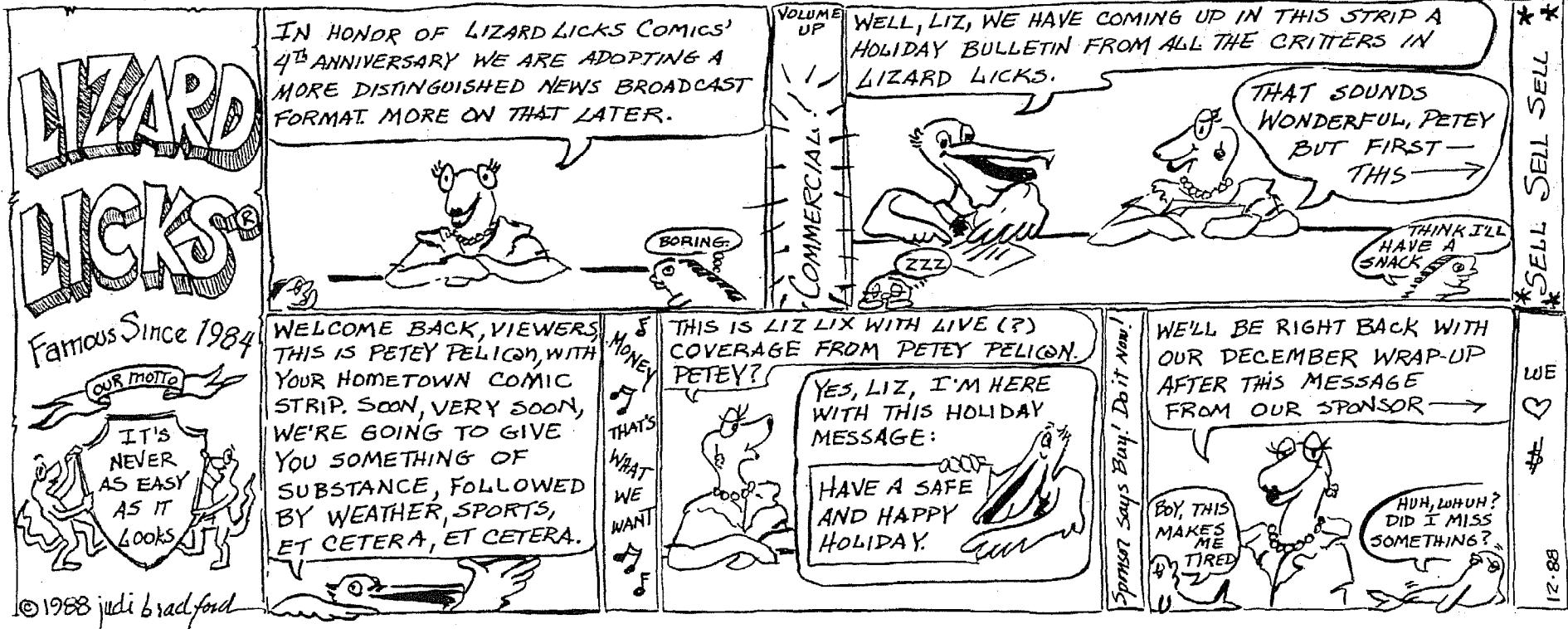
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pockets," the city's are a lot shallower. "Every time the city sits down, something falls out of them," he said. He continued that with the Pier House's agreement to renegotiate, "the city has a chance to undo some things that were done a number of years ago that were not to the benefit of the city."

The city's obligation to bargain with the Pier House in good faith was to become a familiar theme for Weekley. He has used the argument several times since that September meeting. Yet over a year later, the city is still receiving the same minuscule rent.

The lease assignment was approved 4-1; Halloran dissented.

It was revealed later that Cates' negotiating role had been scripted for her earlier that afternoon. The scene in which Hendrick checked with Pier House investors on whether the offer could be increased to \$35,000 had been staged exclusively for the benefit of the television viewing audience. Hendrick confirmed the staging this summer and added, laughingly, that the only problem arose when Cates continually missed her cues.

#### A New Commission

When the Pier House came before the city this past spring to obtain approval of its plans for the old factory, it faced a new commission. Mayor Tom Sawyer had passed the gavel to Richard Heyman and Commissioners Halloran and Cates had been defeated in November by political newcomers Virginia Panico and Harry Powell.

Although their original plans for the building, drawn up by Jose Gonzalez, called for 24 suites, spa, and meeting rooms, the city initially approved only 15 guest accommodations -- the maximum allowed under zoning laws. It was the city's granting of a variance to permit the additional nine units that brought the DCA into the picture.

City Attorney Steve Stitt urged the city to negotiate for a rent increase in exchange for permission to seek the variance. He claimed that any landlord would do the same.

Despite the attorney's insistence that not only was such a request appropriate but probably the only opportunity the city would have in the next 32 years to address an increase, the city granted the variance without receiving any additional rent.

During this same period, Pier House Attorney Jim Hendrick announced they had obtained an appraisal of the city property and were prepared to pay full value in order to acquire the land. Hendrick's appraisal was \$328,000, less than one-quarter of the current assessed value according to the Monroe County Property Assessor's office. Hendrick defended the appraisal, stating that the encumbrance of the long term, low rent lease had a negative effect on the valuation. Under the city charter, sale of public property requires a public referendum after three separate appraisals have been performed.

On June 8, the Board of Adjustment approved the variance to allow construction of the nine additional rooms. Prior to voting, Commissioner Harry Powell negotiated several "concessions" from the Pier House. They included that the hotel would maintain landscaping at the city's new Simonton Street Beach Park, and that it would not expand its private parking on Simonton Street beyond the existing space.

The final vote was 4-1; Commissioner Sally Lewis opposed. Commissioner Weekley, explaining his vote, stated that sometimes the city has to trust the developer and operate in good faith. Lewis remained unconvinced.

The following Monday, as had been suggested at the meeting, Commissioner Powell went to Simonton Street Beach to meet with Pier House General Manager Don DeFeo over what work the hotel would be willing to perform at the public park. Powell invited Lewis to come and she accepted. According to DeFeo's account, Powell began asking for more than had been agreed to at the meeting. DeFeo claims that his answer to Powell was that he wasn't authorized to offer anything more, but would check with the hotel's owners to see if there were anything else that could be done. DeFeo said the additional requests

included plantings, landscape materials and beach maintenance.

Powell subsequently charged that DeFeo reneged on the deal and announced his intention to put the variance on the next city commission agenda for reconsideration.

That Friday, June 17, at his weekly press conference, Mayor Heyman revealed that he had requested Monroe County State's Attorney Kirk Zuelch to investigate charges that Powell and Lewis had violated the state's Sunshine Law prohibiting the discussion of city business in a private meeting. Reading from a prepared statement, Heyman said it was his obligation as a public official to report suspected violations in order to maintain the public's confidence in its elected representatives.

*Continued on page 58*



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The Key West Community Pool at 300 Catherine Street has gone through a prodigious facelift and sports a Stuart Vaughan mural out front, reason enough to visit. On the playground side is another playful Vaughan mural backing the picnic tables and swings. The interior, too, is being repainted.

The American Red Cross is sponsoring a 50-mile swim and gives certificates (and

medallions and badges) to swimmers who complete the distance. In fact there are already 20 people enrolled in the health program. You simply write in the number of laps swum after each session.

Lee Thompson, the pool's redoubtable manager, reports that there are 20 additional swimmers who swim up to two miles per day for fun and to keep fit. There is no particular minimum of laps to do, you take your own time. The water temperature is in the low 80s, the sun this time of year is

faithful and kindly. So pick up your goggles and get on down to the pool. It is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Admission is free.

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## Sunshine Dispute Finally Resolved

by Elliot Baron

Five months after charges were initially brought, Key West's first Sunshine Law dispute has reached a conclusion. In a stipulated settlement signed by all parties, the state's attorney has dismissed charges against the defendants, City Commissioners Sally Lewis and Harry Powell.

The settlement does require, however, action of the commissioners to help prevent similar incidents in the future. The two will co-sponsor a resolution calling for an annual educational seminar on the Sunshine Law to be given by the state's attorney. The seminar will be offered to all local public officials.

Also, since there is confusion in the city's code as to how and when a decision can be returned to the agenda, the defendants also agreed to sponsor a resolution that would establish "written rules of procedure for the City Commission, Board of Adjustment and all other city boards to insure clear, concise rules governing their procedures."

The Sunshine Law is intended to prevent government officials from discussing an item which requires foreseeable action on their part. To this day, Lewis and Powell believe that no rules were broken. Attorney Linda Wheeler, who represented Lewis, said: "There's a great deal of difference between 'foreseeable' and 'conceivable.' In my heart I believe that when Harry and Sally discussed the action they believed it was a dead issue."

Commissioner Jimmy Weekley agreed with Wheeler. "I didn't think they did anything wrong," he said after learning the charges had been dropped. He added that, in his opinion, the incident "was blown-up to try to make something out of nothing."

The commissioners also differ on the topic of whom should bear the legal costs. Lewis told *Solares Hill* that she doesn't believe the commission should be asked to approve payment of her legal bill. Lewis claims that even though the action was the result of her performance as a commissioner, the decision to hire a private attorney was hers.

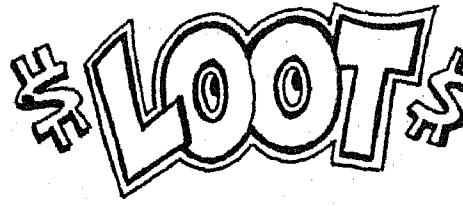
Powell, on the other hand, says he's been stung twice lately. First the commission approved a \$2,000 annual reduction in their pay, Powell's primary

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income source; now, he's stuck with an expensive legal bill. He commented, "When I took this job, it wasn't my plan to make money, but I wasn't expecting I'd lose any. I'm basically working for free." He admits, though, that he doesn't like the idea of the taxpayer being saddled with the expense either. "I'd rather see Mayor Heyman offer an apology and write a personal check to my attorney," he said.

Pier House General Manager Don DeFeo, whose complaint to Mayor Richard Heyman resulted in the charges against the commissioners, now believes that the whole incident became overblown. In a recent interview with *Solares Hill*, DeFeo stated: "I think that everybody's disappointed that it has gone as far as it has. Number one, it wouldn't have been a wise business move [for the Pier House] to have all this, as you call it, brouhaha, pinning one group against another ... No community does well when it doesn't work in the same direction. Of course there was no benefit to it, but what I was told was that there are laws and there are laws for specific reasons."

DeFeo continued, however, that he believes there's a lesson to be learned. "I think that it will reinforce the idea that deals don't get made," he said. "I mean, commissioners, mayors, are elected by individuals to represent them, not to bargain on behalf of particular groups or whatever."

In contrast, Lewis is proud of the position she took to oppose the Pier House variance because they refused to offer the city a better financial deal. "It's the best vote I ever made," she exclaimed emphatically. "[The Pier House] gyped the city and they knew it."

Powell concurred, "I'm proud of the fact that I was able to change my mind and stand up for what I believed in."

## — ANTIC HUMOR OF RICHARD WATHERWAX —



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# Business as Usual

An Editorial View

by George Halloran

*It's still the same old story,  
A fight for love and glory ...*

(From "As Time Goes By,"  
composed by Herman Hupfield)

**Y**es folks, it's business as usual down at city hall. Despite noises of progress in the past half-decade, the developers still roll in, and the special exceptions, project approvals and variances still roll out.

Despite hopes that we could curb or even reverse the crushing over-development that drives up taxes and fees, smothers the environment and drives out low and moderate wage-earners, the beat goes on.

Some are overjoyed. They fall into the camp of those making mega-bucks on the "progress." Others are dismayed. They see their city being degraded at the expense of the taxpayer. Let me take you to a meeting I attended last month -- listen carefully, and see if you don't agree that the Southernmost City is in deep trouble.

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**I**t was the November 15 Key West Planning Board meeting concerning a 36-unit time-share project to be sandwiched on the ocean between Louie's Back Yard and the Casa Marina and called Coconut Beach. Not a biggie, but on top of existing development, it's too big for the neighborhood.

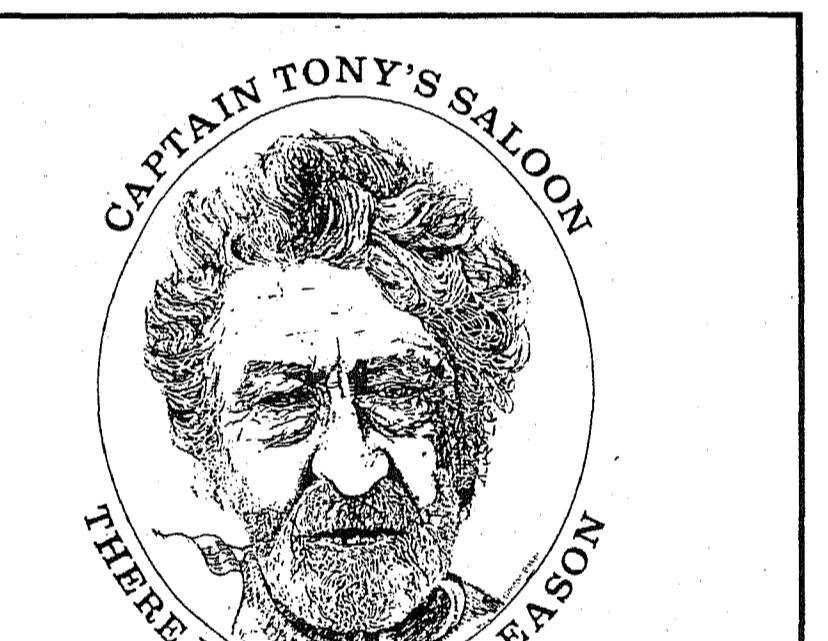
About 15 neighborhood residents voiced their opinions or read letters against the project. They spoke of the back streets already overloaded with traffic. They told of parking problems. They talked about the size of the new buildings which will loom shoulder-to-shoulder with the structures along Alberta Street.

No one spoke in favor of it except developers Jack and Bill Spottswood and their architect, Tom Pope. Two members of the Planning Board thought it was just fine, too.

**T**he developers explained how they'd owned the property for 25 years and wanted to stay within the law and do a project they could walk by and be proud of. In fact, they figured *all* of Key West would be proud of it. The neighbors didn't agree.

To keep lots of green space on the main site for the time-share owners to enjoy, the developers said they wanted to insert a parking lot half a block away from the development, between and behind residential homes. The neighbors didn't like that, and Planning Board member Howard Crane quoted in the Comprehensive Plan language that requires parking and housing to be on the same lot.

But the Spottswoods -- both lawyers -- said they would be applying for a special exception so it would be all right. The neighbors and Crane suggested the project be scaled down a little, so the parking could fit on the main site. The Spottswoods shook their heads in dismay.



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The neighbors urged the planners to actually do their job -- that is, reject the project as it was proposed and ask the developers to go back to the drawing board. Member Crane and Chairman Jerry Cash thought that was fair. But the other board members had yet to be heard from.

**F**irst came Terry Horton, who started out apologizing for her support years ago for The Reach. "I'm still kicking myself for that one," she said. Then she lectured the audience on how much better things were in general now, and how much better this project was than a larger, uglier, concrete structure.

Horton is a hotel manager and a big booster of the Hotel-Motel Association, and from my observation she keeps her foot on the development accelerator whenever possible. She prattled on about how important tourism is to our island, and how these time-share units will help protect our economy in the future. This appears to be her concept of planning.

Then Planning Board member Tim Koenig took over. There was no doubt he

was fully in favor of the project from the start. He instructed those present that his job was not to listen to the neighbors' complaints and act on their behalf. That wouldn't be fair to the applicants and their property rights, he said.

Koenig did not support a recommendation to the Key West City Commission proposing deletion of the commercial parking lot next to neighbors' houses. He did not speak against the special exception for the lot. He told us that type of decision wasn't his job and he wasn't going to do it just because a bunch of neighbors thought he should.

He had no suggestions about how any of the neighbors' complaints might be

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November 17, 1988	FOUNDERS' FOLLIES
November 18	FOUNDERS' FOLLIES
November 25, 1988	KODALY STRING QUARTET
December 8	WORKING (Founders' Night)
December 9	WORKING
December 10	WORKING
December 11	WORKING
December 15	WORKING
December 16	WORKING
December 21	JACQUELINE ROSENBLATT
December 30	WARSAW WIND QUINTET
\$15	WITH MICHIKO OTAKI
January 19, 1989	GLASS MENAGERIE (Founders' Night)
January 20	GLASS MENAGERIE
January 20	GLASS MENAGERIE
January 21	GLASS MENAGERIE
January 22	GLASS MENAGERIE
January 26	NORTH CAROLINA DANCE THEATRE
\$15	AHMAD JAMAL JAZZ PIANIST
January 29	OH COWARD! (Founders' Night)
February 16	OH COWARD!
February 17	OH COWARD! (Founders' Night)

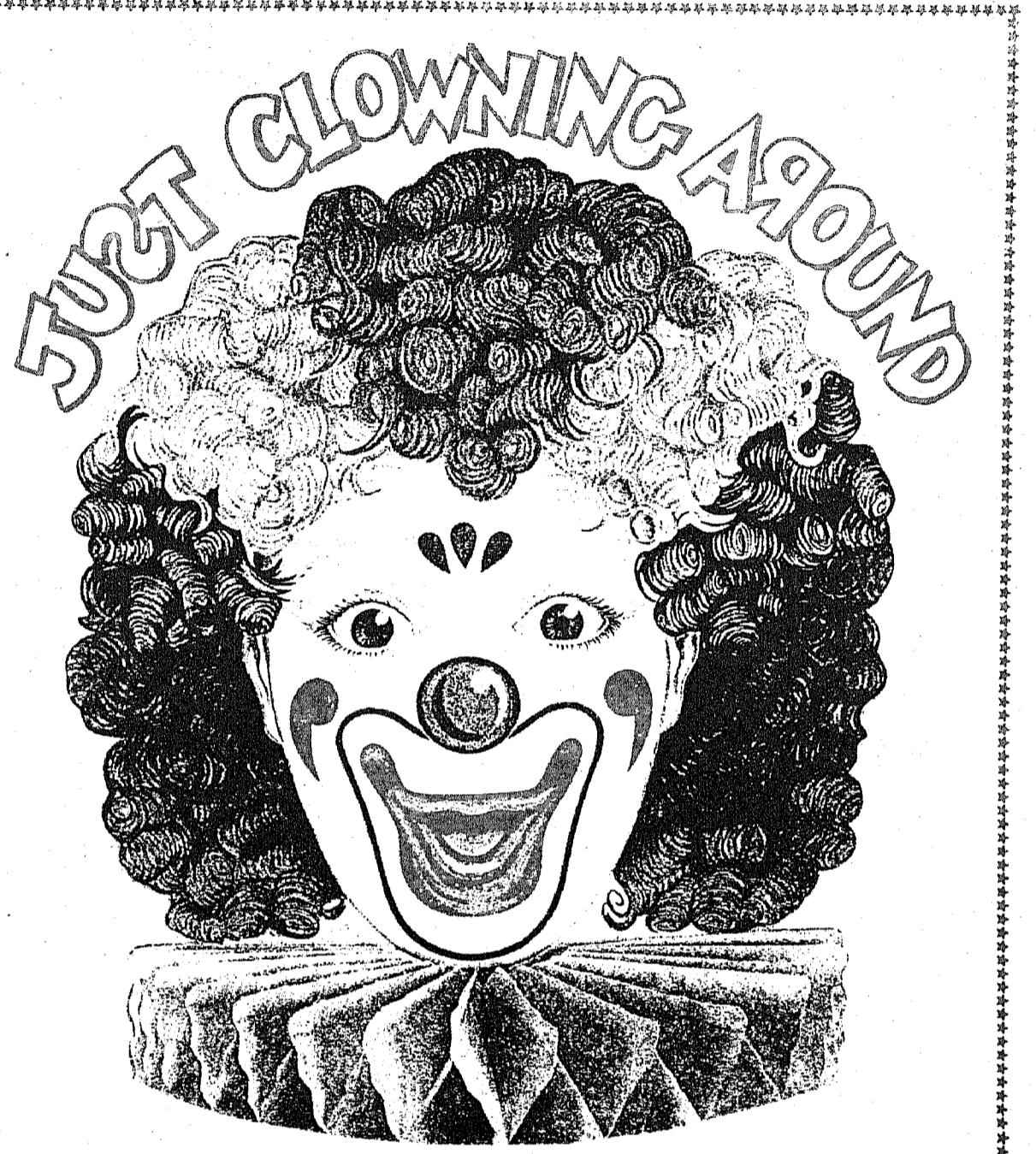
February 18	OH COWARD!
February 19	OH COWARD!
February 23	OH COWARD!
February 24	OH COWARD!
February 25	OH COWARD!
March 3	MAID OF THE MILL
March 4	MAID OF THE MILL
March 15	MITCHELL ROSE/ DIANE EPSTEIN
March 17	PYGMALION
March 17	PYGMALION
March 24	MUNICH CONCERTINO
March 25	AFRICAN AMERICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE
March 31	MOMIX
April 1	MOMIX
April 13	TBA (Founders' Night)
April 14	TBA
April 15	TBA
April 16	TBA
April 20	TBA
April 21	TBA
April 22	TBA
April 30	PENDERECKI STRING QUARTET

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resolved, and no recommendations about compromise or mitigation.

If Koenig had read the City Planning Board's enabling ordinance, he would know that the job of the board is exactly what he didn't want to do: to hold public hearings for input from neighbors, and then to insure projects meet the Comprehensive Plan and are, in general, good for the future of the city *before* recommending them to the city commission.

Koenig is also an attorney. He should know this stuff inside out. I think he does, and I also think he has little or no conception of what is truly good for the future of this city.



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Finally, it was time to vote and we all knew there were two in favor of approving the project as presented, two against. The neighbors waited for Betty Cox, the fifth member, to speak her mind. She said absolutely nothing. We waited some more, and so did the board members. Still nothing. The roll was called, and finally Cox spoke. "Yes," she said.

So there it is, Step One of a series of approvals this project needs before it can be built. The unhappy neighbors were told they would still have a chance to convince city commissioners to vote against the parking lot or to reject the project entirely at future sessions. All they would have to do

is regroup, rewrite their letters, come to another meeting, rehash their comments and this time hope a majority hears what they have to say. In other words, business as usual.

Here's my opinion:

1. Tim Koenig shouldn't be on that board. He should be back in his law office making money where he won't be offended by listening to neighbors objecting to the destruction of their neighborhoods.

2. Terry Horton shouldn't be on that board. She should be out at her hotel making money where she wouldn't have to offend the power structure by daring to suggest a slightly smaller project.

3. Betty Cox, sweet lady that she is,

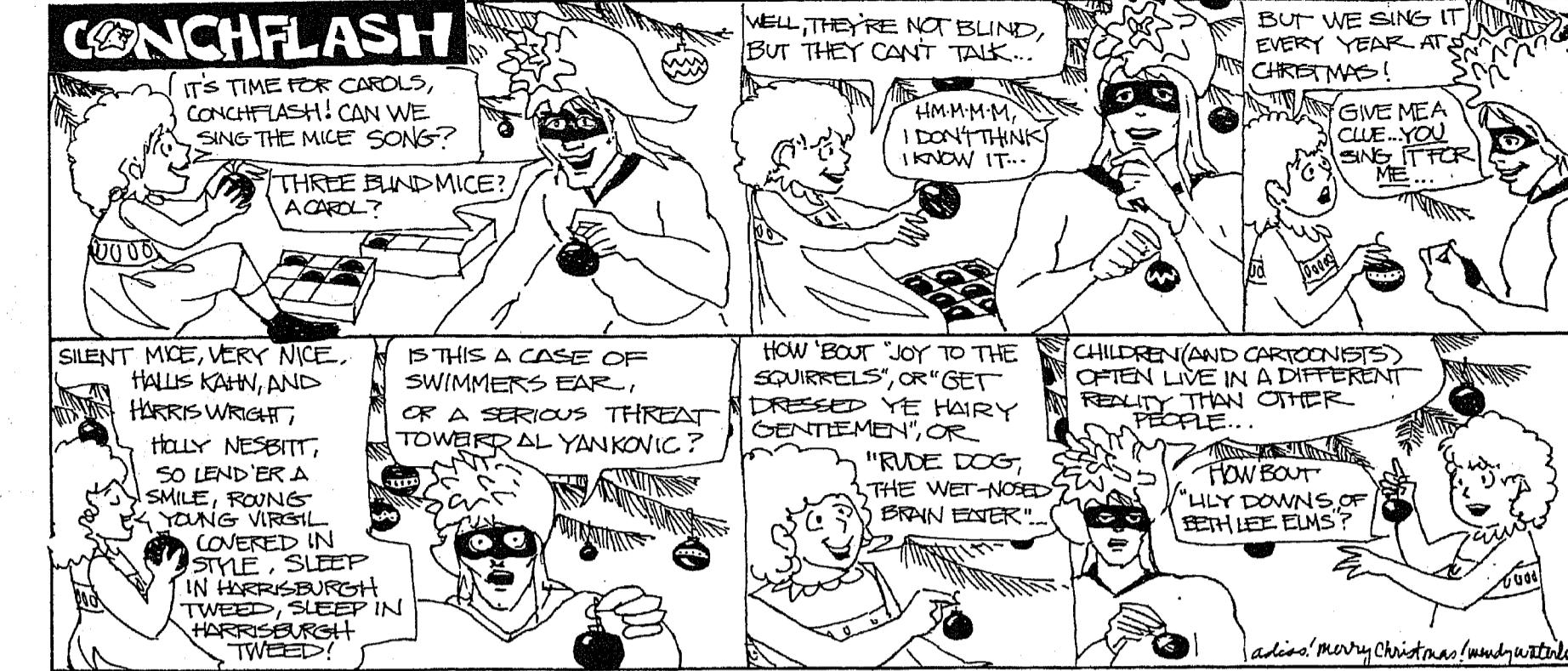


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shouldn't be on that board. I asked her after the meeting why she didn't say anything. "Because I had nothing to say," she said sweetly. "And besides I had a sore throat." She should be busy talking her husband Otha into refurbishing their burned-out building that has blighted lower Petronia Street for so long it has trees growing out of it.

4. Jerry Cash and Howard Crane should stay on the board, receive medals and be joined by three new hard-working members

who actually care about people, the law, neighborhoods and planning for the future of our city.

5. The Spottswoods should go back to Tom Pope's drawing board and plan a project that they and the entire city *could* be proud of. You don't have to build a museum over there, boys, but you sure don't have to build 59 time-share bedrooms in a semi-quiet corner of the island where a little of the old-time peace and beauty of Key West still lingers on.

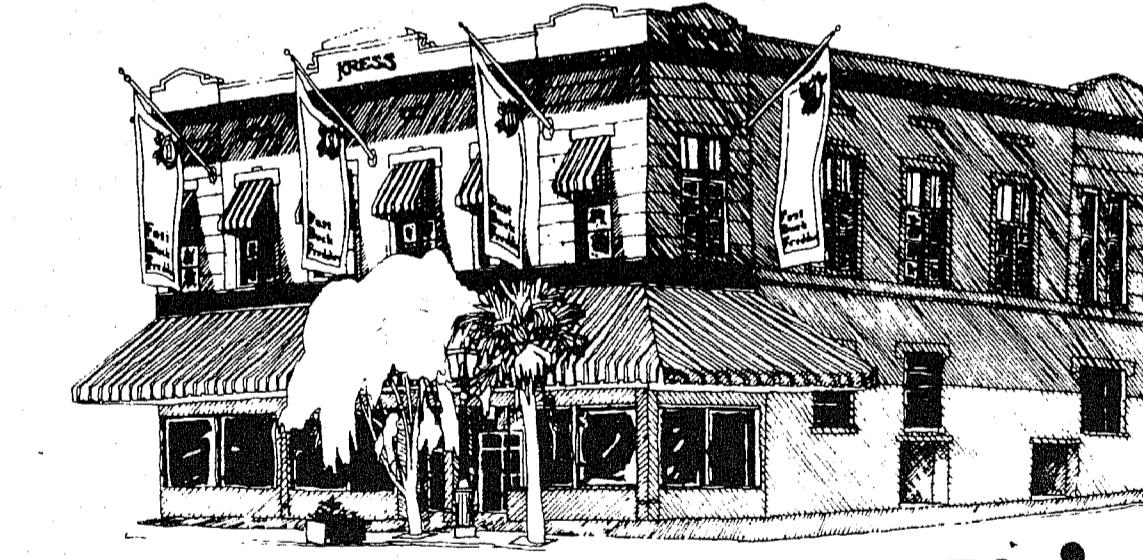


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# Ready, Set, Recycle!

Key West Must Implement Resource-Recovery Program by July 1

by Amy Fischer

This summer the Florida Legislature passed a comprehensive waste management law, SB 1192. Over the next five years, this law will be implemented, starting with a resource recovery program scheduled to begin July 1, 1989. The bill is a response to the phenomenal growth experienced in Florida. It mandates that each county in the state must report a 30-percent reduction in its solid waste stream by 1994.

Key West and the Florida Keys are among areas of critical concern in terms of waste management. With ever-increasing amounts of garbage generated by more

residents and more tourists each year, and with our landfills reaching capacity within the next five to ten years, it is imperative that Monroe County meets the 30-percent reduction. In fact, environmentalists believe we need to surpass that figure to ensure adequate recovery.

The most far-reaching impact of SB 1192 is the requirement that each county establishes a recycling program by July 1. Recycled items will include glass, newspaper, aluminum and plastic bottles. Although the method used to institute the recycling program is left to individual counties, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation is forming a management program to write guidelines facilitating compliance with SB 1192.

The first step in most programs will be curbside trash separation. This involves washing and storing glass, plastic and aluminum bottles and cans; and stacking newsprint for baling or storing it in paper grocery bags. This will take more effort than simply tossing these items into the trash, but the rewards include a healthier environment, which most will agree is worthwhile.

Clean recycled goods will be placed in separate containers and set out on curbside on specified days, just as ordinary trash is now. Eventually yard waste will be bagged or baled separately, also to be picked up on specific days. Hopefully it will be

## ...what is Key West doing to achieve compliance?

composted to be sold on the market. If not, it can be used throughout the Keys to enrich our soil.

With only seven months until the recovery program must go into effect, what is Key West doing to achieve compliance? Both the Monroe County Municipal Service District (MSD) and the City of Key West have been studying the bill and how it relates to our unique circumstances. At

present we haven't applied for grant money available through DER, but plans are forthcoming. The Key West City Commission recently met with the county tax collector to determine whether or not to use the non ad valorem assessment provision in SB 1192 to implement and finance a comprehensive solid waste treatment program.

Hazen and Sawyer also have recommended that MSD look into composting yard waste, but no specific guidelines have yet been established. Presently, it is felt that the recyclable trash will be picked up separately from regular trash.

Key West, having contracted its garbage collection to a private firm, Florida Disposal, is required to adopt a hauler amendment. This allows contractors to decide whether or not to become involved in

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recycling. Florida Disposal says it is interested in collecting Key West's recyclables, and negotiations have begun on the specific terms of the contract.

The city has earmarked \$230,000 for a recycling program for fiscal year 1988-1989. This money will be used to cover hauling costs, plus the costs of starting a voluntary residence program here. Recycled products will be stored at the waste-to-energy facility on Stock Island and transported to the material recovery center in Marathon where it will be sold. The first year of the program will involve mostly residential customers, and the city estimates involvement of 1000 households. Later

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commercial customers, as well as more households, will be added.

Several successful recycling ventures already operate in the Keys. Reynolds Aluminum runs a facility for cans on Flagler Avenue, and the League of Women Voters in Marathon manages a newspaper recycling program. Additionally, all Winn Dixie chain stores bale their corrugated cardboard boxes and sell them to a recycler. Their reason for doing this: the price of corrugated cardboard is high, proceeds from sales will pay for all the balers in two to three years.

...all Winn Dixie chain stores bale their corrugated cardboard boxes and sell them to a recycler.

These private ventures are proving to be profitable; they serve as an example to our city and county governments. Their success indicates that the initial investments in recycling pay off in the long run, both in monetary and environmental terms.

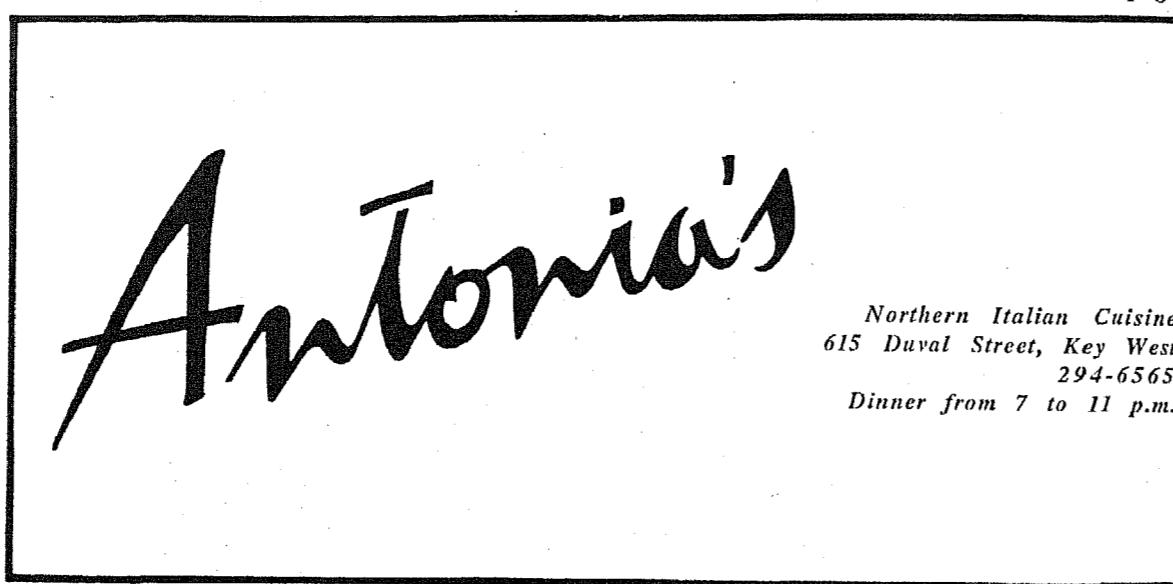
Even after the 30 percent reduction of solid waste by the year 1994, Monroe County's landfill situation still will be critical. Hazen and Sawyer recommend a new ash disposal site at Crawl Key, with possible new incinerators at Long Key and upgraded facilities at Stock Island. ("Public Participation Program Report," January 26, 1988.)

In addition to enforced recycling, SB 1192 will prohibit some types of products from sale or distribution in the market. The products are those made of materials which will not degrade in the environment, and which pose a serious risk to wildlife, especially marine. By January 1, 1989 detachable tabs on beverage containers will no longer be produced. By July 1, 1989 standard plastic rings will no longer bind six-packs unless they are made of a plastic that will degrade within three months. By January 1, 1990 retail stores providing customers with plastic bags also will be required to use plastics that will degrade within three months. By October 1, 1990 the use of fully halogenated

chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) will be prohibited. CFC is a blowing agent used to create styrofoam found in take-out food and beverage containers. The agent is harmful to the ozone layer and emits dangerous toxins when incinerated. By January 1, 1992 all foam containers must prove to degrade within 12 months. And finally, by July 1, 1992 all plastic containers must be stamped with a label stating the type of resin used in the product. This will facilitate the recycling of plastic.

To assist in setting up resource recovery centers throughout the state, the legislation provides for a trust fund. It also manages a grant program that requires local government to match its funds.

Continued on page 25



## KEY WEST REVIEW



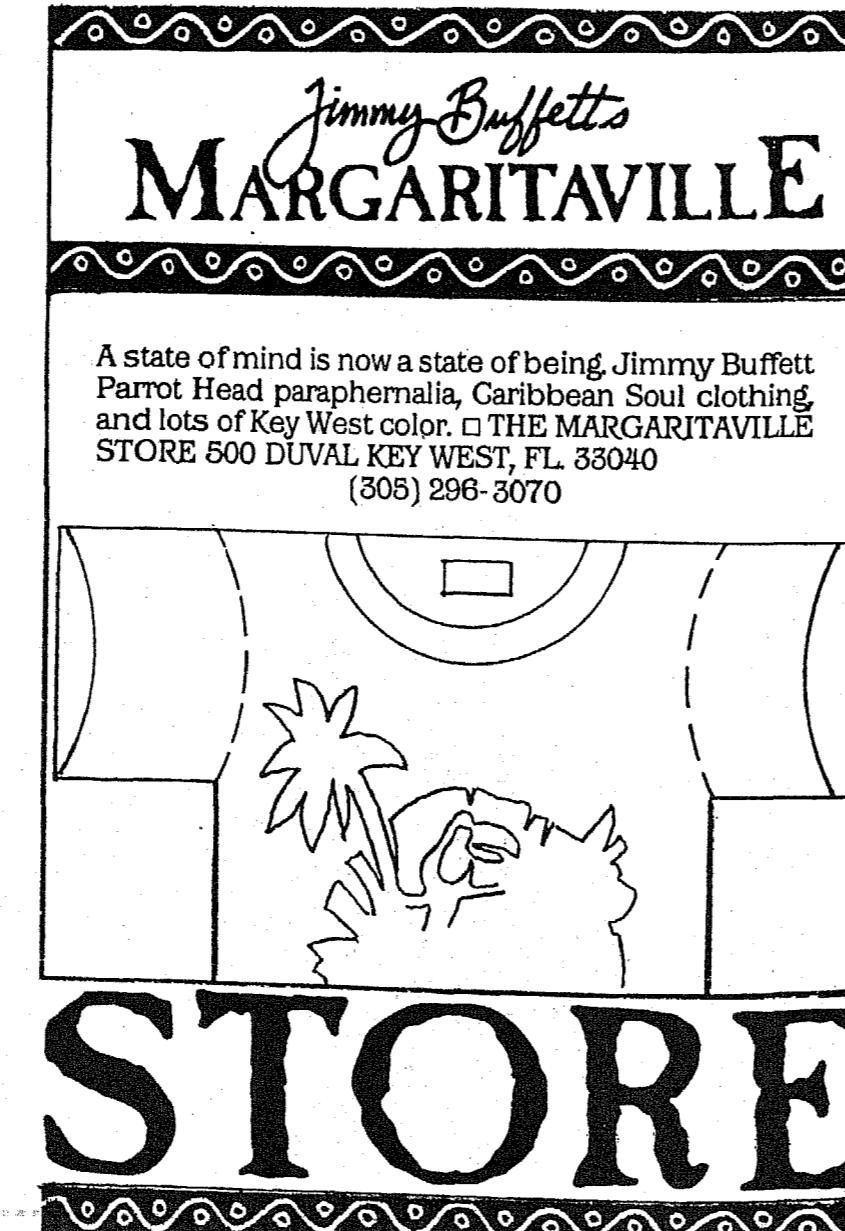
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Key West Review features the work of Richard Wilbur, James Merrill, John Ciardi, John Williams, Philip Burton, John Malcolm Brinnin, and interviews with Alison Lurie and Lawrence Durrell.



## C.R.E.A.T.E. R.A.F.T. Transatlantic Expedition

An exciting adventure is underway on Hilton Haven Drive called C.R.E.A.T.E. R.A.F.T. On property generously provided by Meril McCoy, an active citizen, children from various schools and their parents are enthusiastically embracing the daily construction of a deep-sea sailing raft made exclusively from automobile tires and plastic bottles normally discarded as trash. It is an environmental education project.

C.R.E.A.T.E. R.A.F.T. is an acronym for Creative Responsible Ecological Action Through Education Recycling Adventure Flotation Trip. It has the potential, according to J. Braden, the principal of Poinciana Elementary School, to represent the growing need everywhere to include ecological education into the curriculum of our school systems. Principal Braden has for two years supported this educational adventure, which could serve as a model project through which other schools on county and state levels could formulate their own specific eco-educational actions, to stimulate ecological awareness among children.

Individuals wishing to donate plastic bottle flotation or styrofoam products (with the exception of milk bottles) may deposit these at the Poinciana Elementary School parking lot in C.R.E.A.T.E. R.A.F.T.

containers positioned for this purpose. The public is invited to see the construction site on Hilton Haven Drive.

For more information call Principal J. Braden at the Poinciana Elementary School, 294-5111.

## KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL TERM II - REGISTRATION

JANUARY 2, 3, 4, 5, 1989



COURSE CODE	ADULT BASIC EDUCATION	DATE	FEES	ROOM #	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	CREDIT
9900000	Adult Basic/ESL	M/W	N/C	J-27	Davis/Cobo/Hall	7-10PM	0
9900000	Adult Basic/ESL	T/TH	N/C	J-35	Suarez/Cobo/Hall	7-10PM	0

ADULT GENERAL EDUCATION							
9900010	General Ed Promotion	T/TH	N/C	J-31	Soldano/Puig	7-10PM	1
9900020	G.E.D. Preparation	M-TH	N/C	J-35	Barlow	9-12AM	0
9900020	G.E.D. Preparation	M/W	N/C	J-35	Oakwood	7-10PM	0
1501340	Beginning Weight Training	M/W	\$13	Wgt. Room	Evans	7-10PM	1
2100310	American History	M/W	\$13	J-31	TBA	7-10PM	1
0104320	Art Basic Drawing/Painting	T/TH	\$13	TBA	Fatora	7-10PM	1
0201300	Computer/Processing	T/TH	\$13	TBA	Setchell	7-10PM	1
0708310	Conversational Spanish I	Tues.	\$13	J-25	Kelly	7-10PM	1
0708310	Conversational Spanish II	Wed.	\$13	J-13	Puig	7-10PM	1
0708310	Conversational Spanish, II	Tues.	\$13	J-13	Puig	4-7PM	1
1900300	Drivers Training	M/W	\$13	J-33	McKell	7-10PM	1
1001310	English I, II, III, IV	M/W	\$13	J-23	Sembert	7-10PM	1
1205310	Beginning Algebra	T/TH	\$13	J-32	TBA	7-10PM	1
1205340	Beginning Math	T/TH	\$13	J-32	Rodger	7-10PM	1
2002300	Beginning Science	T/TH	\$13	J-34	TBA	7-10PM	1
0108310	Photography	T/TH	\$13	G-12	Brogden	7-10PM	1

LIFELONG LEARNING							
9900680	Weight Training	T/TH	\$13	Wgt. room	Menendez	7-10PM	0
9900740	How to Love Your Child	Mon.	\$11	J-15	Colleja	7:30-9:30PM	0
9900510	Woodworking	M/W	\$13	E-7	Hawthurst	7-10PM	0
9900640	Video Tape Production	T/TH	\$13	J-27	Majors	7-10PM	0
9900680	Beginning Aerobics	M/W	\$13	TBA	Livingston	5:30-7:30PM	0
9900510	Art	TBA	\$13	TBA	TBA	7-10PM	0
0108310	Photography	TBA	\$13	TBA	TBA	7-10PM	0

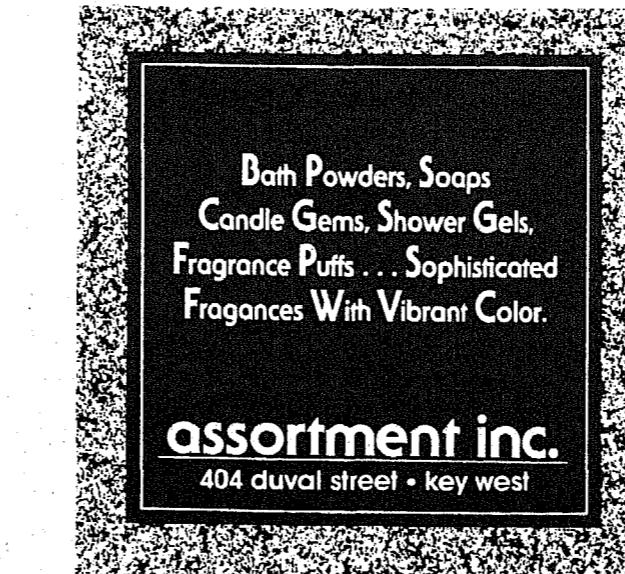
ADULT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION							
AC00001	Bookkeeping	T/TH	\$13	J-15	Papy	7-10PM	0
AR00900	Auto Body Repair	M/W	\$13	J-103	Aulozzi	7-10PM	1
AER0990	Auto Mechanics	M/W	\$13	V-102	Higgs	7-10PM	1
EE0V100	Electrical Tech.	T/TH	\$13	J-102	Truman	7-10PM	1
COE0990	Computer Processing	M-TW	\$13	J-13	Truman	9-12AM	1
COE0990	Typing Skills	M-TW	\$13	J-18	Truman	1-4PM	1
HCP0100	Nursing Assisting	M/W/Sat	\$18	J-30	TBA	7-10PM	1
HEV0210	Sewing	M/W	\$13	B-7	TBA	7-10PM	1
HEV0620	Short Order Cook	T/TH	\$13	B-5	TBA	7-10PM	1
HFT0160	Hotel/Motel Housekeeping	M/W	\$13	J-25	TBA	7-10PM	1
DFT0105	Typing	M/W	\$13	J-16	Freeman, B.	7-10PM	1
PMT0801	Welding	T/TH	\$13	Welding	Smith	7-10PM	1

ALL PROGRAMS ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR HANDICAP. For information call 294-5212 ext 263 or 264. Social Security cards are required for registration.

REGISTRATION TIME: 7-9PM nightly in the J-Wing Auditorium at the Key West High School  
2100 Flagler Avenue  
Key West, Florida 33040

NOVA UNIVERSITY — For information regarding the B.S. degree program in Elementary Ed. offered by Nova University at K.W.H.S. contact Dr. Jeff Weathers at 296-6523.  
CHILDCARE — The Adult Education Office is now offering babysitting/child-care services for students attending morning and evening classes. Inquire during registration for further information. Most classes will begin Jan. 2, 1989 and end March 17, 1989.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR HANDICAP. For information call 294-5212 ext 263 or 264. Social Security cards are required for registration.



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# Fishin' at Thompson Docks

by Ray Daniels

**B**efore Land's End Village, the Raw Bar and the tourist version of the Turtle Kraals, the area at the foot of Margaret Street was known as Thompson's Docks.

In the early 1950s turtles were still brought to the kraals and were kept in pens until butchering. Commercial fishing boats lined the piers and seawall; shrimp boats landed record catches of shrimp. A plant supplied 300-pound blocks of ice to the boats.

The ice was made in Thompson's Ice House, which stood on the southern left corner of Margaret and Caroline Streets. If you were friendly with the ice handlers and cutters, they usually left some chips or would give you some of the crushed ice left over after filling a customer's order. Kids were very friendly to the "iceman."

Down a little distance from the Turtle Kraals was a shrimp-packing company. This was important to the kids who went fishing at the docks, as we couldn't afford to buy shrimp for bait. We would wait outside the building by the water where shrimp heads and debris or squashed shrimp slid down a chute into the water. When the "headers" (people who remove the heads of the shrimp) missed a good shrimp, we grabbed our bait.

If we had any money we went to Thompson's Hardware Store to buy fishing line, hooks and sinkers, and to stare lovingly at the fine rods and reels, showcase full of knives, and the great assortment of BB guns. Thompson's Hardware Store was the absolute perfection of a kid's dream. They carried all sizes of ropes and chains on reels and racks, camping gear and mystical objects we were sure would be the ultimate -- even if we didn't know what use they could be.

But most of the time none of us had extra money, so we would ask the commercial fishermen if they had some old line, hooks or sinkers we could have. Sure enough, most of them came through as long as you didn't ask too often!

**T**here were several kinds of fish at Thompson's Docks or up and down the waterfront, depending on the time of day or night. Snapper, grouper, jack, barracuda, tarpon, blue runners, and occasional strangers were caught there.

On the docks where boats refueled you could catch small jack, blue runners, an occasional barracuda or tarpon, mostly before noon. All fishing would cease from noon until 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. Then, depending on tides, you might catch a stray snapper or grouper.

Near the shrimphouse you could catch small Jack Gravalle, blue runners, snapper, occasionally a large permit, or an amberjack. The fish were attracted by the smell of shrimp as the heads hit the water to be disbursed by the tide. Almost never



The old Thompson Docks area seemed magical to young boys who thought nets and fishermen were tops. Photo by Don Pinder.

would you get "skunked." Mid-morning meant steeper fishing and this required patience, stealth, and skill. Not many kids fished the inside of the pier toward the ice dock. The main reason was the fish would strip your bait, or would take a quick run and wrap your line around a pole or the old docks.

It took just the right size monofilament, hooks and bait, placed just right, to drift just so in front of the fish and a deft, quick snatch to free the fish before he could run afoul. After much practice we developed this skill and caught our share. Putting the string of fish in our buckets we pedaled home to clean and prepare them for supper, a fitting end to a good morning's fishing.

**W**hen we caught fish we would take a line with a stick on the end, put the fish on the line and put them back into the water. This kept the fish fresh and gave us the best way to keep them alive, in case we didn't catch enough to keep. We needed three or four fish each in order to have enough for dinner. If we caught only one or two, we released them and tried again another day.

This system had only one flaw and that was a large, hungry tarpon who would swim by for an easy snack once in a while. Mad? Heck, yes -- we were hopping mad

with impotent fury. Every bait, trap, lure, and even spearguns failed to catch this tarpon. Usually adversary fish earn names like "Granddad" or "Big One." We just called this fish "Hateful."

As far as I knew he was never hooked in those years!

**W**hen I was a teenager I took my latest girlfriend fishing for her first time at the fuel pier. She wanted to catch a big fish and when she said this, two shrimpers started laughing. We asked what was so funny. They told us about all the people, even some pros, who had tried to catch this large old tarpon and had failed.

This sweet young girl said with determination, "I can catch that stupid fish." The shrimpers walked away laughing. I just felt embarrassed. After all, I was just hoping for her to hook any fish.

We fished for awhile and after catching nothing, I suggested we leave. She said, "Go! I'm staying until I catch that tarpon." I left feeling frustrated and sorry for her lonely vigil.

Two days later, in the *Key West Citizen*, in the sports section under fishing, was an article about a local teenage girl landing a 74-pound tarpon at the fuel dock.

I still wonder if that tarpon was "Old Hateful."

## Recycling Continued from page 22

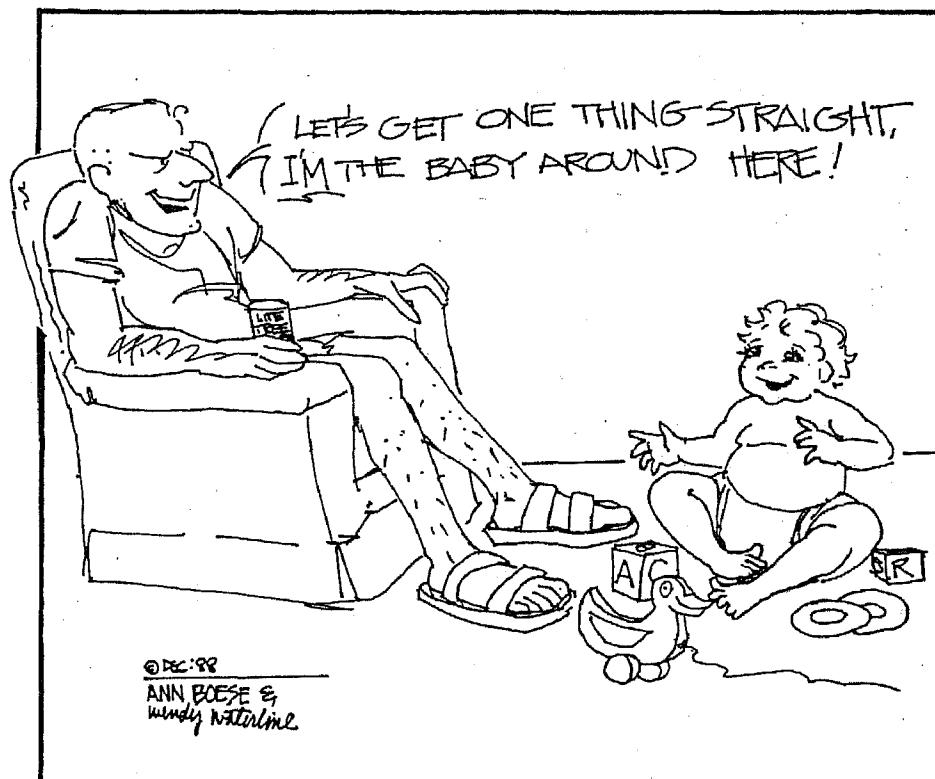
To help feed the fund a 50-cent fee will be tagged on the purchase price of new tires. Also increasing will be sales tax registration fees. Resultant revenues are expected to reach \$8 million next year.

Additionally, the bill calls for the following measures to further reduce the waste stream and recyclable or recoverable commodities. After January 1, 1989 no lead-acid batteries will be landfilled or incinerated. (Used oil presently is collected at the landfill sites and placed in 55-gallon drums. When the drums are full, the oil is hauled away by a private recycling company. This is a good plan; however, it is rarely enforced.) After January 1, 1990 no white goods (refrigerators, stoves, etc.) will be landfilled. They will be taken to collection points for salvage or disposal. After January 1, 1992 no yard trash will be landfilled or incinerated except in specially designed facilities.

Eventually, construction and demolition debris will be separated from the municipal waste stream and disposed in permitted sites. The State of Florida has requested that the DER make available information about these materials to procurement departments which may be able to use it in state construction projects.

The Mid Keys Unit of the League of Women Voters has written an excellent plan for voluntary material separation, and Florida Beverage Industry Recycling Program (BIRP) produces a brochure suggesting tips for in-home recycling. These materials are available free at the Greenpeace Store on Duval Street.

*Solares Hill* recommends that we look to other communities which have implemented recycling programs, and we should encourage our friends and neighbors to participate wholeheartedly in the curbside separation program. Recycling will become the most cost-effective, long-term approach to solid waste disposal, as markets are created for recycled and reused materials. Let's meet this challenge head on.



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# Pritam Singh and Truman Annex Corp.

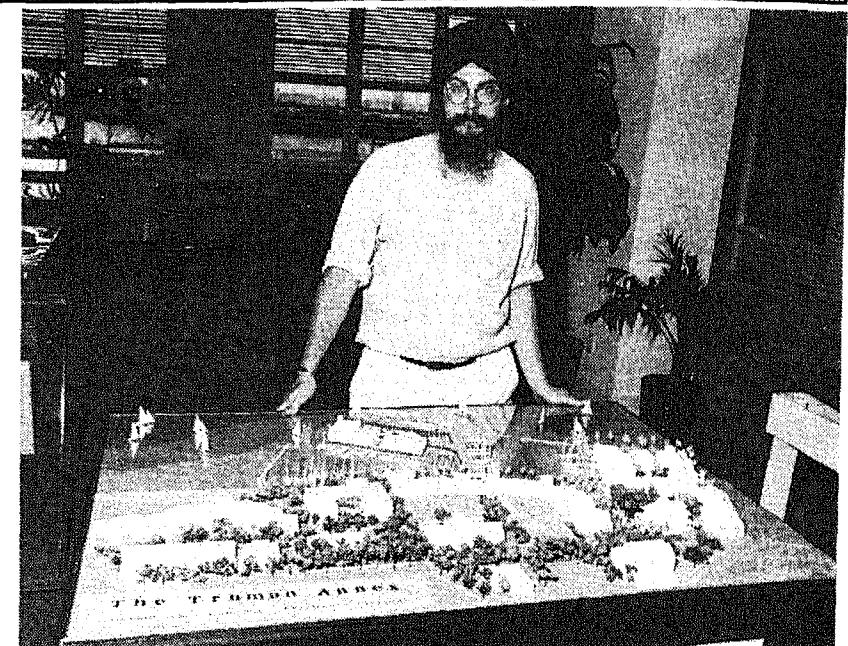
by John Leslie

Truman Annex. It sounds like the place where the high school band goes to practice. The Annex. Funk and Wagnall's defines *annex* as an "addition to a building; also, a nearby building used in addition to the main building." Hardly the stuff of the biggest real estate coup to hit Key West since John Simonton paid \$2,000 for the entire island in 1821. Perhaps the developers should think of changing the name of Truman Annex to something more appropriate. How about Key West West?

For 15 years, since the Navy turned the prime waterfront property over to the city administration in 1974, more verbal and tactical warfare has been waged over Truman Annex than the Navy ever could have dreamed up during the Annex's heyday as a submarine training base.

For 15 years a Redevelopment Agency (RDA) made up of city and county appointees tried to manage the property until the federal government finally decided to unload it. The Navy was playing fast and loose -- ready to sell one minute, threatening to hang onto it the next. The vacillation was due, in part, to corruption and mismanagement that plagued the RDA during those years. (At one time Navy audits of the RDA charged that hundreds of thousands of dollars were unaccounted for, eventually the shortages were reduced to \$120,000.)

With the imminent sale of Truman Annex in 1985, the real fun began. The principal in the purchase was one John Dent from Sarasota. Dent and his Harbor Development Corporation were going to manage the property, in effect borrowing, and then lending to Key West, money the city could use to purchase the prime real estate for itself. And, on top of that, Harbor



Developer Pritam Singh stands with a model of the Annex project which, in part, will determine the future of Key West. Photo by Richard Watherwax.

Development offered to pay the city half a million dollars a year for use of the property.

Sound good? The city thought so even though it meant giving Dent autonomous and guaranteed control of the property for 99 years while allowing him to develop whatever he wanted there. And, among other things, what Dent wanted was a 200-unit hotel with convention facilities, another marina and up to 800 high-priced condo units.

Then some smart wag had the audacity to point out that the RDA was already getting \$500,000 a year on the *undeveloped* property just from tenants and small businesses who were already operating there.

About this time the community jumped into the fray. George Murphy, an investigative reporter for *Solares Hill*, wrote a seven-part series on the RDA/Dent deal. The series shed light on a complex issue that would have a lasting impact on Key West. Citizens rebelled. They wanted more options and they forced commissioners to come up with some. Dent was no longer a shoo-in.

But other prospects for the deal couldn't seem to get the financing. Then the Navy, via the General Services Administration, lowered the boom. Buy the land, or it goes up for auction. And auction it was. Bankers from Hong Kong and Eskimos from Alaska crowded the Jan McArt Cabaret Theatre in September of 1986 to bid on the land.

Enter Pritam Singh, formerly Paul LeBombard, Jr., of French Canadian stock, now a fervent practitioner of the Sikh religion, right up to the turban that crowned his head.

These were troubling times to many Key Westers. Development was rampant, unchecked. Throughout the city there was hardly a corner where the sound of a hammer striking a nail, or a circular saw grinding through a board wasn't the sound most people woke to. The construction industry was booming despite building moratoriums and a freeze on new sewer hook-ups. Hotels like The Reach, Ocean Key House and Galleon were lining the waterfront where people once enjoyed public access to the water.

After months of frustration-turned-to-demonstration, the community would ultimately prevent what was perceived as an impending scam by the Dent group, and Pritam Singh, the successful bidder on the property, came as near to being worshipped as anyone in Key West had been since the Beatles paid a surprise visit to the island city in 1965.

Singh acquired the Annex for \$17.2 million. A couple million more than the Eskimos were willing to go; and a few million more than many thought to be a prudent investment.

## Solares Hill--December 1988--Page 27

But Singh was talking restoration and development that would be compatible with Old Town. He was talking concern about Key West's future. He was suggesting that previous development had been what everybody thought it was: cheap and irresponsible, designed to rake in fast bucks. All from the firm of Pack 'em and Gouge 'em. For many in Key West, developers, as a group, had come to garner about as much sympathy as might a gathering of child molesters on a public school playground.

Singh was different. But the question following the auction was: how deep were his pockets? To pay \$17 million for a hundred plus acres of undeveloped waterfront -- according to some, the most valuable real estate on the continent -- was one thing. But to develop it, and develop it with sensitivity, was quite another. Singh was soon talking a cost of \$200 million -- that's dollars, not Mexican pesos -- to complete the project.

Was the guy for real? He didn't look like a developer, and he didn't talk like a developer. He was seen in a suit once, at the formal opening of the Presidential Gates; a few days later when he married Anne Johnston in a Sikh ceremony on the lawn of the Little White House, he was in traditional Sikh dress.

Otherwise he seems to favor jeans, khakis, an open-necked shirt, and of course the turban. A long, wispy beard also associated with the Sikh culture adds a certain curiosity to the boyish, deceptively innocent face and disarmingly blue eyes.



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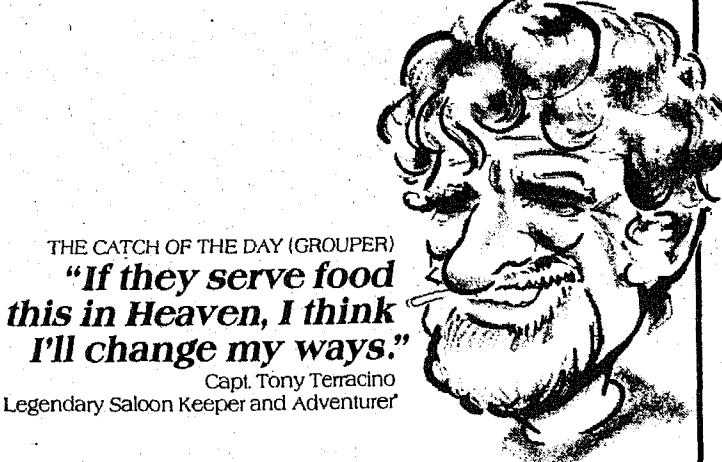
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Take a leisurely tour of the home and gardens of the late Nobel Prize winner, Ernest Hemingway. It was here that Mr. Hemingway wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *Green Hills of Africa*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Fifth Column*, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, and *The Macomber Affair*. Mr. Hemingway was the first important writer to discover and make Key West his home. He owned the home from 1931 to 1961. Covers One Acre including Pool & Guest House

**A PLACE TO EAT?**  
Ask a Friend.



THE CATCH OF THE DAY (GROUper)  
*"If they serve food like this in Heaven, I think I'll change my ways."*

Capt. Tony Terracino  
Legendary Saloon Keeper and Adventurer

**Emma's Seafare**

The Reach Simonton at the Ocean 294-FISH

Pritam Singh could be a hippy, which he was, or a zealot, which he is.

John Cole handles PR for the Truman Annex Corp. He also happens to be Pritam Singh's foster father. Pritam, then 11-year-old Paul LeBombard, showed up at the Cole's home in Brunswick, Maine, where John was the cofounder and editor of the *Maine Times*.

Cole says this about his ward: "Pritam had no identity as a kid. He was basically abandoned by his family. He grew up with nothing."

Cole sees this as the motivating factor, the driving force, behind Singh. "Pritam is emotional. He's bright, and he's driven." Cole thinks that the guy is fueled by the anger that resulted from a deprived childhood.

Consequently, Pritam began working to make a statement, working to be accepted. Working, in fact, to create an identity.

As a young man, Pritam Singh politically was a radical. During the March on Washington to protest the Vietnam War in 1968, he was arrested and jailed for three days. Soon after, he came to Key West and lived briefly on Christmas Tree Island along with a few other hippies who were camping out, literally living on the edge of society. He began a quest for a spiritual life, or in the language of the times -- he was trying to find himself.

What he wanted, what he needed, he decided, was money.

Back in Maine, he started down the road to self-discovery by borrowing a little bit of money to remodel some Portland apartments. Selling them, taking the profits and borrowing more, he would invest later in something bigger. It would set the pattern for a 16-year career culminating in the purchase of the jewel in the crown -- Truman Annex.

In his quest for an identity, adopting the Sikh religion helped him. The turban, the beard, created an image, a persona, while the philosophy behind it fired his personality. Today, according to John Cole, Pritam Singh is much more secure about himself. He is also consummately skilled in the fine art of public relations. He has the knack of being able to pick up on a community's psyche and turn its worst nightmare into his advantage. After the disastrous developments that have taken place in Key West, most out of scale

with the rest of the community and designed with the sole purpose of enriching their owners, Singh came in talking about the criteria we use for success in this country.

"Generally," he says, "success is defined as unmitigated profit. That is hollow. The process is as important as the profit ... profit at the expense of other people is not good." He is trying to bring other criteria -- aesthetic beauty and architectural integrity -- to the community.

These nuggets of wisdom are what will distinguish him from other developers, Singh believes. (And also what endears him to the intellectual heavyweights here.)

His strengths, he claims, are his vision and his integrity -- and his ability to communicate. To make his point he quotes: "There are those who see things as they are and ask why. And there are others who see things as they should be and say, why not." He leaves no doubt into which category he belongs.

He talks about the unique quality of Truman Annex. He sees it as a neighborhood with an ability to affect people, to impact the community. He sees it as a symphony, the whole only as great as the sum of its parts. He also sees the project as a birthing process, with himself as midwife rather than father. Like the man, his vision is complex.

Pritam Singh is a gambler. A man willing to take risks. Most everyone describes Singh in the same golden terms: creative, extremely intelligent, able to bring out the creativity in those who work around him. What he isn't, is a manager, administrator. He doesn't think of himself as a businessman, either. If anything, perhaps he could be compared to an artist working with a blank canvas. Though he admits that a major weakness is his inclination to deal with too many details, his inability to delegate to staff.

The core of his staff is composed of those, like John Cole, who have been with him for years, people brought down from Maine and Massachusetts, and some bright lights he has picked up along the way.

Peter Mayer is vice president and director of development. He's been with Singh for five years, the two of them having worked together on projects in Boston. At Truman Annex, Mayer is in charge of putting all the pieces together -- permitting, construction schedules, and the like.

Mayer says they got their permitting in record time. It took one and a half years to complete the various state, county and city processes. Mayer said this was the most heavily scrutinized project with which he's ever been involved. "Citizens took a proprietary interest in the project." So much so that town meetings were even organized to give locals a chance to offer suggestions, some of which were incorporated into the plans.

So far, Mayer claims things are developing according to schedule. Turner Construction is in charge of putting in place the infrastructure which should be completed by April. In December, work should begin on five of the projects.

Stephen Surowiecki is director of sales for Truman Annex. Presently, about 65 percent of all available property has been sold. Condos, affordable housing and town houses have been purchased sight unseen, because there is nothing to see. It is purely speculative. People are buying, in some instances, without even knowing exactly where on the Annex their units will be located. They purchase on the basis of models and the architectural drawings rendered by Guy Grassi of Boston. One out of 20 who

pass through the office buys; the Annex averages three to four sales a week. Unable to drive in because of the construction underway, the speculators walk across open ditches where pipe is being laid and skirt heavy equipment to get to the sales office.

Who are they? People in industry, primarily from the Northeast. Self-employed merchants with a heavy cash flow. People from Detroit and Toledo. People who can go to the bank and qualify for half-a-million-dollar loans. Young, Reagan-era entrepreneurs who have made it in the last 10 or 15 years thanks to a cash flow generated by heavy borrowing, a huge deficit -- and an uncertain economic future.

Surowiecki calls it, "fun investment." Most of those buying will not live here on a regular basis. They will spend a week or two, maybe a part of the winter. The rest of the year they will rent their units out and perhaps even make money. Surowiecki anticipates that sales will be 100 percent by the spring of 1989.

Besides the fact that a hippie who once camped on Christmas Tree Island returned to pay \$17 million for the adjacent property, *Continued on page 51*

## ON THE ANNEX

What is being built:

- 151 condos on the mainland
- 25 condos on the island
- a 98-unit hotel on the mainland
- a 77-unit hotel on the island
- 162 affordable housing units
- Commercial space, parks, artist studios, post office, and the Little White House, leased from the state and operated as a museum with two hotel units
- A marina with cruise ship capability
- A harbor walk to attract sunsetters and craftspeople

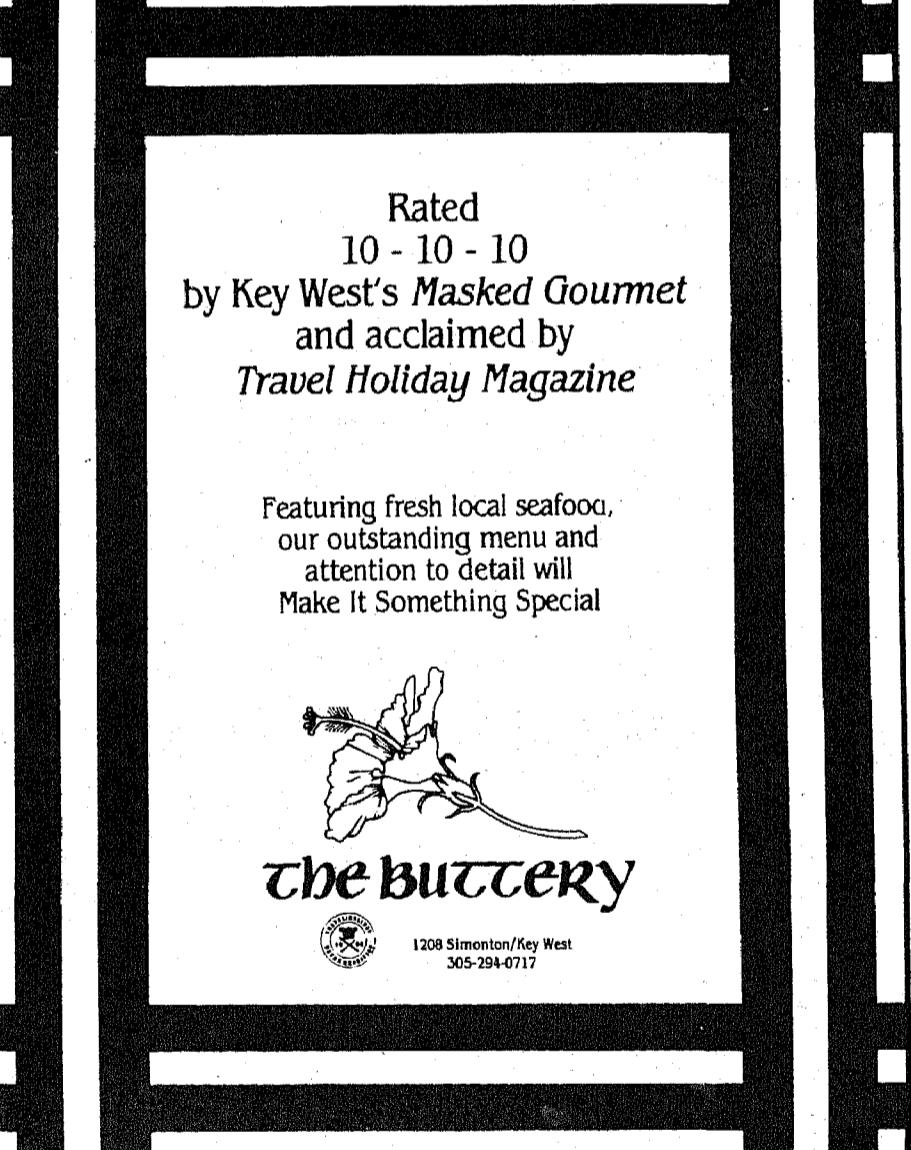
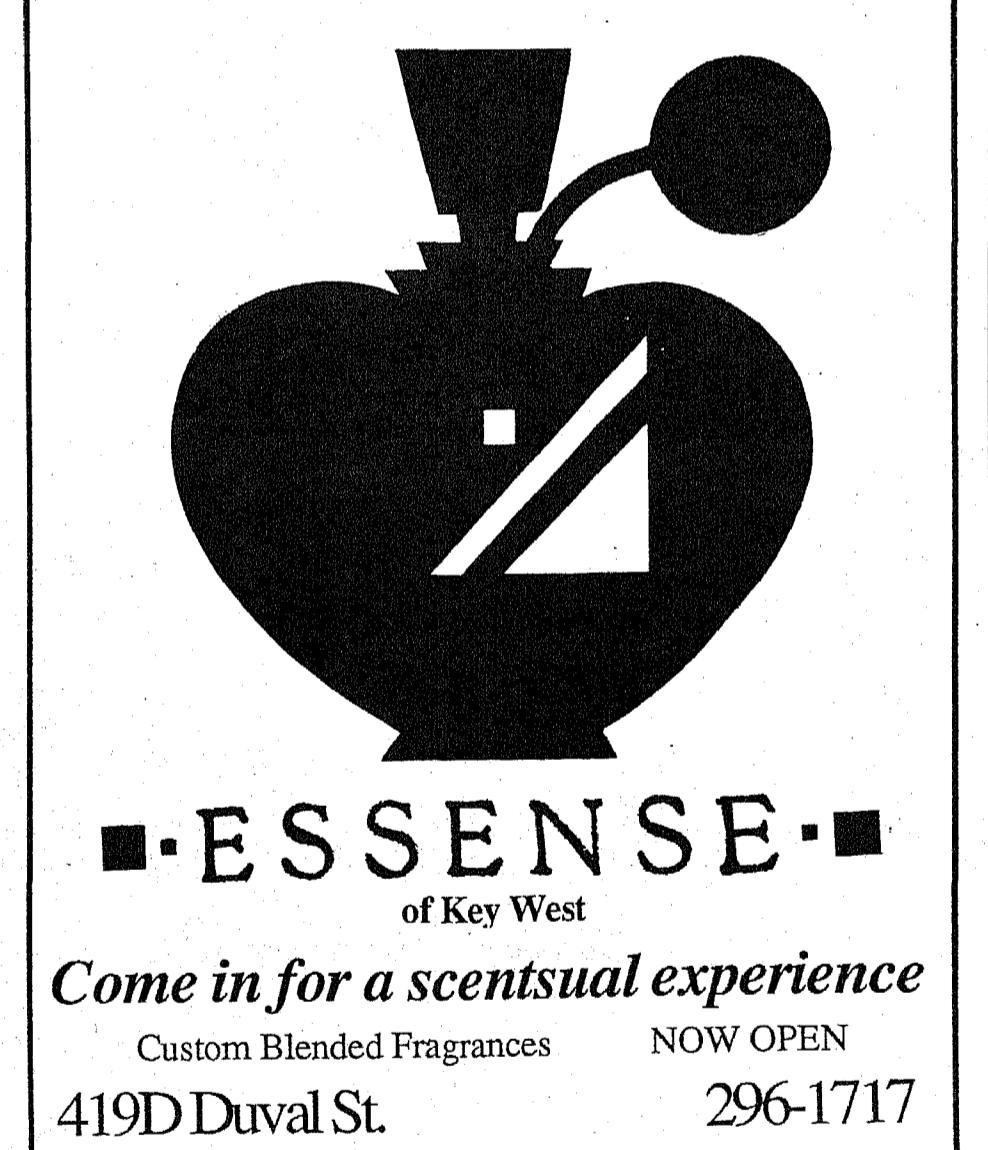
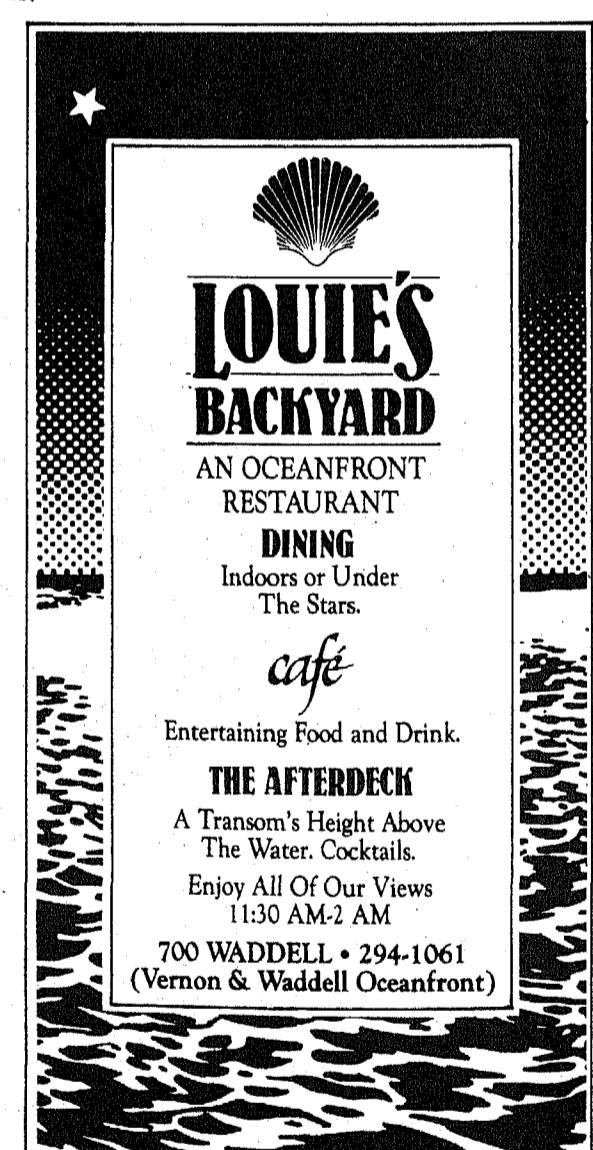
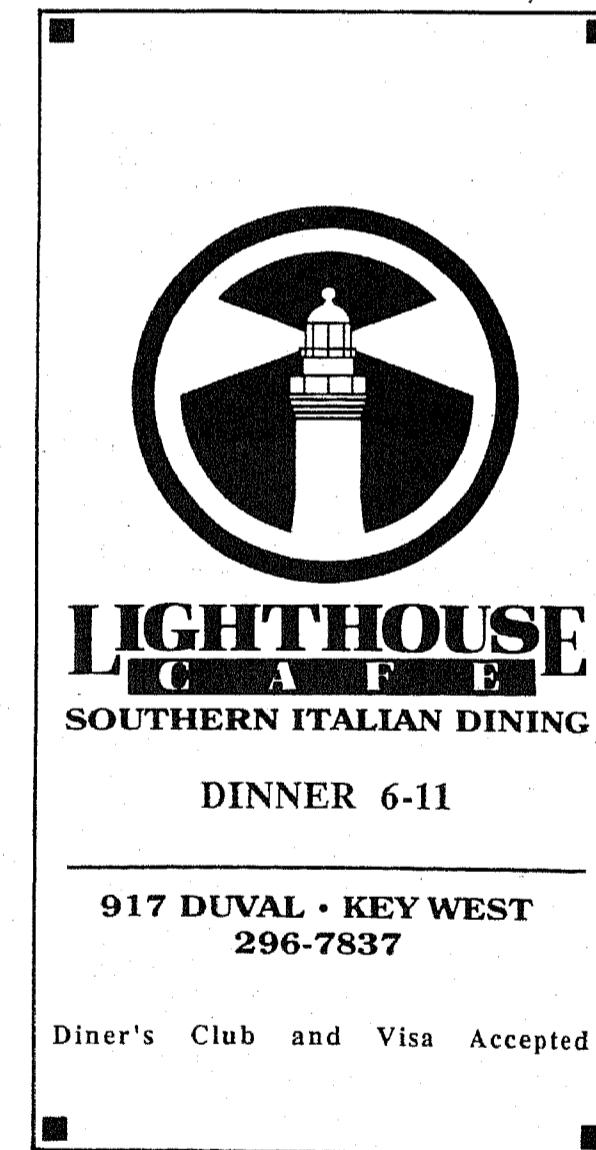
Singh aspires to turn the island into a 19th Century estate that will include:

- Hotel/villas
- A public recreation area
- Ferry service
- Public beaches
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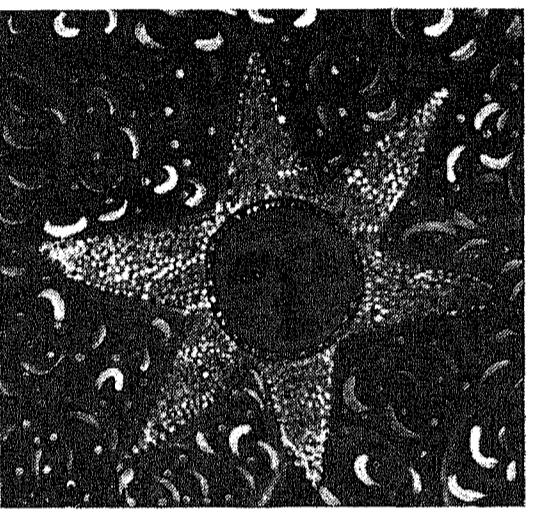
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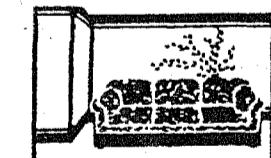
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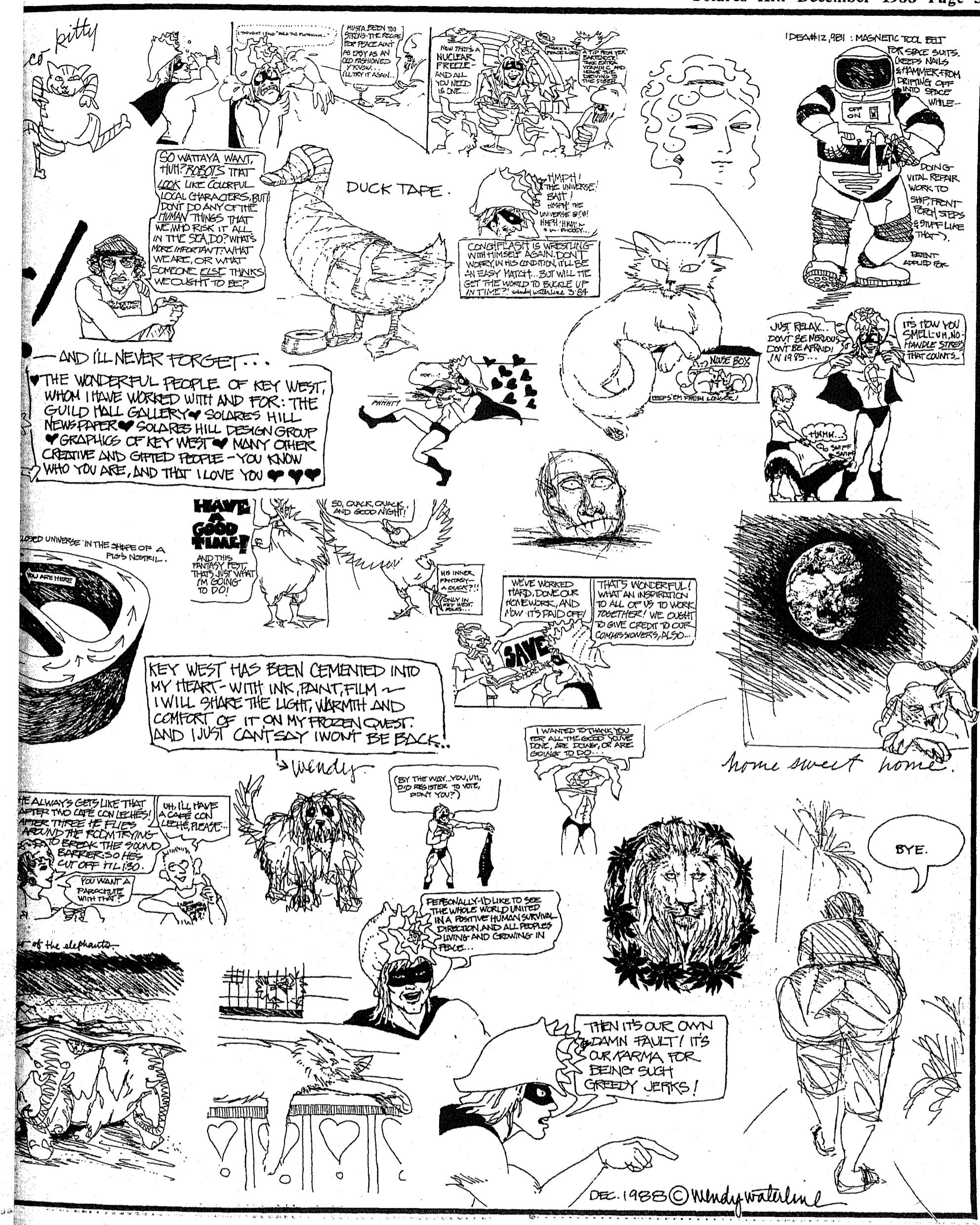
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# Dreaming of a Conch Christmas

Former New York Gourmet Discovers the Cuban Feast

by Jeanne McClow

If any one event were responsible for this Manhattanite's turning the other cheek to career and cheap rent in the East Village for the barely tasted pleasures of Key West, it was *Solares Hill's* publication some years ago of "A Conch Christmas Carol" by Ruth Perez. Back in the big city, I taped my copy to the refrigerator door, and left it yellowing and ignored until yet another Christmas rolled around. Then, everyone else ran off to a cozy cabin in the mountains or a jolly family reunion in the heartland and I was standing alone and cheerless. Burdened with last-minute gifts, in the twilight slush outside Macy's, looking for a cab, I was haunted by the opening lines of that Key West carol:

*Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,  
Came the aroma of black beans, baked pork, and "souse."  
The lawn was so green, no snow on the ground,  
Just an old plastic snowman stuck in the sand mound.  
The stockings were hung on the palm trees so green  
In the hopes that Saint Nick would soon make the scene.  
The table was filled with tropical fruit fair  
Such as oranges, tangerine and avocado pear  
In the center of the table was Florida holly placed  
Around bowls of punch, some Cuban-rum laced.  
But the best of all was the Conchs' pride --  
The world-famous, homemade Key Lime Pie! ...*

Today, colored tree lights illuminate my Conch porch year-round. And I, in shorts and sandals, have already completed my Christmas shopping -- with pleasure. But what of the really serious business of celebrating a tropical Christmas -- of planning for the feasts ahead?

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A Conch Christmas feast requires the roasting of a whole pig, one maybe 60 or 70 pounds or more, Cuban-style. The original Conchs were descendants of Bahamian English. But the definition soon expanded to include Cubans and, now, anyone born on the island. The parameters are arguable and opinions on the subject run strong. Everyone, however, can enjoy the holiday tradition of *puerto asado*.

A Cuban Christmas is always celebrated on Christmas Eve, called *Noche Buena*; therefore, the preparation of the pig must begin on December 23. Long before that, though, arrangements must be made to have on hand a "coffin" box in which to cook it.

A coffin box is probably known only in Key West and arose out of the need to substitute something for the centuries-old roasting pit dug in the sand or dirt. (The Rock" won't yield to even a Christmas pig.) Usually a family project costing about \$100 in raw materials, the coffin is made of plywood, stands on four legs, and is covered tightly with an aluminum lid, or one of wood, covered with a sheet of aluminum. In the bottom of the box a hole is drilled and a container placed underneath to collect the cooking juices, which will be used later to baste the pig.

Working on the principle of a slow-cooking Dutch oven, the box is then lined with banana or palm leaves, corn husks, or even bricks to prevent the pig from making contact with the wood, the lid is replaced, and coals are laid over the top. When they are hot enough to be covered with white ash, the lid is lifted quickly to prevent loss of heat and the pig, opened butterfly-fashion, is placed on top of the leaves. Another layer of leaves may be placed on top and then the lid is replaced.

Since the temperature in the box never reaches more than 130 degrees or so, it may take as long as 12 to 15 hours to cook a 40-pounder; it is done when the juices run clear after the flesh has been pricked with a fork. Direct heat will turn the pig brown, so it should be turned and basted occasionally with the collected juices. Again, do this quickly to prevent heat from escaping.

The pig itself -- which if you live in the Lower Keys you will probably purchase from West Provision Company on White Street in Key West (see note for specifics) -- will arrive "dressed" with, if requested, its backbone cracked so that it may be lain flat on the leaves for even cooking and the flesh covering its ribs shallowly slashed to allow for penetration of flavors. It will weigh from about 25 to 80 pounds. A 25-pound pig will feed from 12 to 15; an 80-pounder about 50. All day on the 23rd, it should be marinated in *mojo* sauce -- a Spanish marinade combining large amounts of chopped raw garlic with oregano, oil, the juice of lime and local sour oranges, salt and pepper (see note). Late that evening or very early the next morning, the pig should be placed in the prepared box to cook for many, many hours.

Continued on page 52

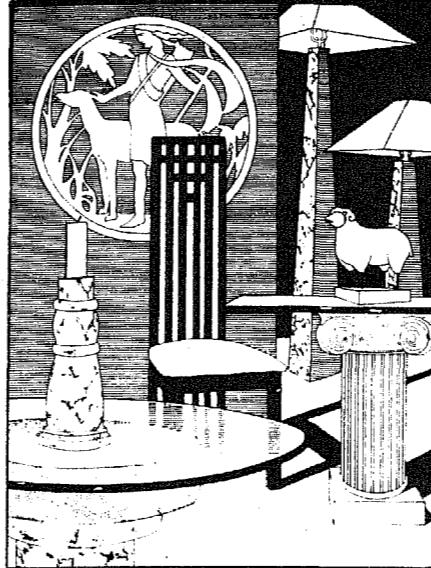
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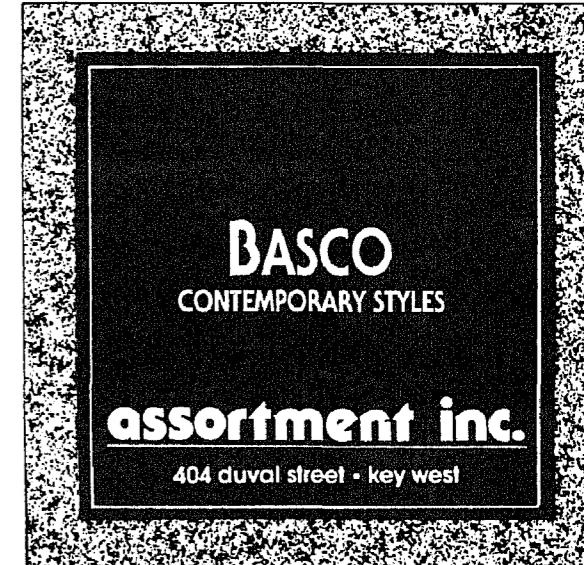
*Papy, the political King of the Keys, was Numero Uno for 28 years. In the center stand, U.S. Senator Claude Pepper and his wife, Pepper, at that time, was embroiled in a re-election fight with George Smathers. The next couple, newly-elected Sheriff John M. Spottswood and his wife, Mary. Claude Pepper and Mary Spottswood are still with us to tell the story of how it was.*



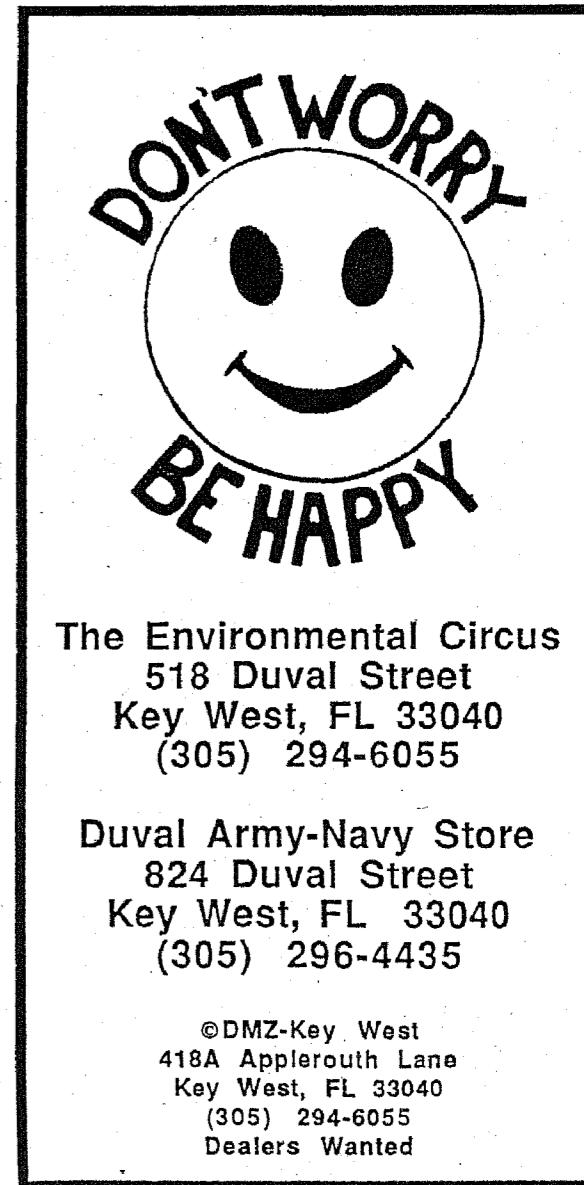
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# THE SNOW

by Michael G. Avery

Jennifer, her daughter, is married, happy, living in another city. They talk by phone.

John, her husband for twenty-five years, is a partner in the firm. She and John get along well now.

Her life is in order.

Today, the first morning of winter, she stands upstairs at the window of her room in light softened by a low, grey sky. Her eyes look out but she does not see the bare trees, skeletons of summer. She rests the fingertips of one hand against the cold glass to feel the winter.

She turns, but does not see her sewing table, a bright mosaic of fabrics. She does not see the pile of clothes to be ironed. She is looking inward, does not see these things, badges of her position.

She touches her fingertips, cold from the glass, against her cheek. A smile lightly brushes her pale lips; so many years and yet it could have been yesterday, could be happening now.

The airing of sleeping bags, boxes collected from behind the store and filled with supplies, oak firewood tied on top of the car, newspaper and milk stopped, cats and

dog farmed out to the same neighbor who collects the mail.

Jennifer is eight. They have been taking this trip the same time every year since she was two. If they are lucky, this year they will have snow. John and Jennifer love the snow.

The evening before they leave, John must work late. She finishes the packing by herself. Though exhausted, she tries to share Jennifer's excitement.

**She wakes the next morning to find John stomping the snow off his boots.**

They leave early. On the drive up, they pass through winter-closed towns that have changed little over the years. She knows the drive by heart. She pictures taking a trip to an ocean; somewhere warm, slow and mysterious. She starts to tell John, but he and Jennifer are playing the license plate game. She does not interrupt their fun.

The cabin smells musty and they open all the windows. She helps John remove the screens and sweep them. She and John unload the car while Jennifer says hello to her friends the tree squirrels. The squirrels have their winter coats and are as big as cats. Are they the same friends as last year? How long do squirrels live?

John gives her a quick peck on the cheek. She reaches for him but he pulls

They always have canned pork and beans the first night. While she starts their dinner, John takes Jennifer to see the lake. The windows are still open, so she keeps her coat on while she stirs the pan.

She hears their laughter before they burst through the door, noses red from the cold. The beans on the bottom have burned, so she adds another can.

The last thing John tells her before sleep is tomorrow he and Jennifer are going to rent a boat and go fishing before the lake freezes.

**S**he wakes the next morning to find John stomping the snow off his boots. It had secretly fallen during the night, blanketing the woods in silence. John is ecstatic. After her solemn promise to be back in half an hour, he has let Jennifer walk alone in the ephemeral magic of the woods.

From the warmth of the bed, she watches John; his rosy cheeks, little boy's grin. There is something romantic about the old clothes he wears at the cabin; clothes she will pack away when they leave. He seems a different man. It would be like having a stranger in her bed. The idea is exciting to her.

John gives her a quick peck on the cheek. She reaches for him but he pulls

away, "I better go find Jennifer. The woods look different after the snow."

The sweet aroma of frying bacon fills the cabin. It has started to snow again and as she stands at the kitchen window watching the feather light flakes rock back and forth in the still air, she is suddenly afraid. She hurries and opens the front door and a dervish of swirling flakes rushes into the cabin making wet spots on the rough pine floor. It is snowing harder. She can see only a short distance into the yard. There are no footprints in the virgin white.

She shuts the door, shaking her head and smiling at her own foolishness. As she turns the bacon she assuages her fear, telling herself she is being silly. The lake is on one side, the highway on the other. John has been tramping these woods ever since he was a boy. He couldn't get lost if he tried.

**S**he takes the bacon out of the pan and lays it on paper towels to drain. Her movements have become quick, jerky. She forces herself to sit, fold her hands in her lap, wait calmly. Don't make a fool of yourself.

She waits half an hour, becomes angry that they have stayed out so long without telling her.

She is suddenly sure there is something

wrong. Making this decision calms her and she dresses in boots and warm jacket, ready to do what must be done.

The sound of the cabin door closing is muffled by the snow. It has stopped falling. She stands on the porch caught by the silent beauty. But the stillness, her own stillness, makes her afraid again. She must do something.

**She is lying awkwardly, body bent, one leg trapped beneath her. She tries to straighten but there is no room.**

Before she leaves the yard and enters the woods, she looks back at the cabin. A thin curl of smoke is unwinding from the chimney. It reminds her of the label on the syrup bottle. As she enters the woods she thinks things would be different if John had come back to bed with her.

An hour passes, maybe longer. Time is different now. It seems she should have come to the highway. Her throat hurts from calling. There is something eerie about her own voice, the way it drops, lost in the snow. She is quiet, except for her labored breath. It is hard to walk. There is just enough snow to hide stones and broken limbs.

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Her pants are torn, knees scratched. She realizes the futility of her search. Maybe they are back at the cabin, laughing, waiting for her return. The thought makes her angry. She starts back but has trouble deciding which set of tracks to retrace. She has made so many in so many directions. It's this way, of course. But after a few minutes she slips and falls again. She sits in the snow crying in frustration. It is she who is lost.

**S**he stops crying, wipes her nose on her wet sleeve. What a ridiculous picture she would make, a grown woman sitting out here bawling. She gets up slowly. Stiff and sore. She has forgotten to bring mittens and her hands ache from the cold. Up through the trees, the sky is a uniform slate. There is no sun to guide her. She starts out again. If I walk straight, I have to come to something. The woods aren't that big. It is hard to keep a course because of the thick bushes and vines, now shapeless mounds of white.

It starts to snow again and she panics. What if I freeze to death? She tries to run, slips and is falling.

She wakes to her name being called. She is not sure if it is John. The voice is far away and soon fades out altogether. Why don't I answer?

She is lying awkwardly, body bent, one leg trapped beneath her. She tries to straighten but there is no room. She cannot move. Where am I? she screams, but no sound comes out. If a woman screams in the woods and there is no one there to hear, does she make a sound? Don't panic, look around. She cannot even move her head. She starts to cry. No sound, but tears run down her cheeks onto the cold, mossy stones. She turns her eyes. The stones are against her cheek. Where is the snow? It must be late because it is getting dark. No, she is in a hole. At the bottom of a hole, broken and trapped: Dying.

"There is nothing in our woods that is going to harm you, little girl," Pa, John's father, always called her little girl, "except if

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you fall into one of them old Indian wells." It is Pa's voice, in her mind, fourteen years ago telling her not to be afraid. "The Indians dug shallow wells by hand, oh, maybe eight feet deep and six feet across. They lined the sides with flat stones. The stones are what kept the wells from falling in over the years." She could see him, his beautiful old weathered face, eyes wistful, looking out the window of the cabin. The cabin they would own after his death. "Rangers filled most of the wells in because they felt they were dangerous. Kind of a shame because we don't have much left of the Indians anymore."

That must be where she was. She had fallen through its camouflage of snow into an old Indian well. She could climb out. But she couldn't even move. Something must be broken. Her back, her neck? If John had come back to bed with her things would be so different.

The panic was gone now, replaced by a feeling of resentment. They were the ones who loved these woods, the snow. She was city bred and had never been comfortable in the woods. The trips here were for John. John and Jennifer. Yet, here she was down in the bottom of a hole, dying. She had given all of herself for them and now she was being asked to give her life. It was unfair. It didn't matter if she said it now because it was over. It was unfair.

When they married, she had been sure that hers was a one-in-a-million life. She

was young, pretty. He was handsome, educated. They would build a future together, equal partners through the good and the bad. But they were never equal. The good came from his efforts, hard work. The bad he bore on his broad shoulders, often not even telling her.

Then, after he received his law degree, passed the bar and went to work in his father's office, then they started a family. Little Jennifer was born. Her baby, a part of herself, torn from her womb in 18 hours of searing pain and fear, but a beautiful baby. Hers.

But, that too, had been different. John had been such a proud, loving father; so completely in love that Jennifer became his little girl. John and Jennifer's love for one another eclipsed her. She was there but could not be seen.

#### The dream was a nightmare because it was true.

She could not have another child. Did not want to have another child. She went back to school. John thought it was great, would give her something to do. Jennifer grew, healthy and strong. John was a good lawyer. They were prosperous. She never finished the classes.

The nightmares started, the most frightening nightmares. There was nothing really scary about the dream itself. She was always in a group of people. Sometimes a different group, but always people who loved her, were her friends. She would move among these people, smiling, making small talk; but they would not, could not, see her. She never became frantic, never

yelled or struck someone to make them notice her. She just kept moving, graceful and silent, invisible and alone.

What was frightening was how real it was. Even after she awoke, she still was invisible. The dream was a nightmare because it was true.

She tried to talk to John about the nightmare but he couldn't understand, told her to see a doctor. She knew a doctor could not help. She needed John and Jennifer, but they did not need her.

She started taking pills to sleep, pills to wake up. She stayed home a lot and drank alone. John was busy taking care of them and Jennifer knew Mommy loved her, so no one cared what she did.



by Frances-Elizabeth Signorelli

Why do I have to be alone in Similar Sound with Auntie Maud when the power hums off and that hurricane is swishing its dirty skirts around the corners of the house. I am sitting there in full fig to meet the occasion wearing my T-shirt that reads, "I love my pit bull dog." I feel I am able to meet the event with panache, flicking on a flashlight now and then to take a peep at "Still Life with Lemons and Blue Gloves" by Van Gogh, a small picture in a big art book.

There are fast, wet noises coming out of the bathroom and four or five bumps indicating that Auntie has knocked a shelf full of toilet paper rolls onto her head. She is the only woman of my acquaintance who would launch into taking a shower in darkness. Bobbie, the erstwhile neighborhood handiman, has energetically nailed slats over the windows. He is on a high, anticipating monumental tidal waves that will sweep us back into the days of Atlantis. It is as dark in here as the Carlsbad Cavern.

Auntie Maud is this 86-year-old relative of mine who, with frightful energy and hectoring, has out-survived my poor, darling father and seven other siblings and

her wonderful Dutch husband -- all just memories, dusty names on tombstones. Auntie's late husband, Art Schmidt noodle, a gourmet baker, produced doughnuts that were like poems. When a stock he invested in failed, he wept briny, fat tears into his wheat muffin mix. This lent it a most delicious taste so that he franchised, and it made him a million.

Auntie thrusts her head into the room. She has located and holds aloft a candle in the Goddess of Liberty stance. In the



flickering light, her face resembles a big, unusual kind of white vegetable. The eerie light makes a mole on her upper lip loom like a dark star. Lech Welesa, a young cat who lives here, streaks under the bed and stays there the whole time Auntie visits.

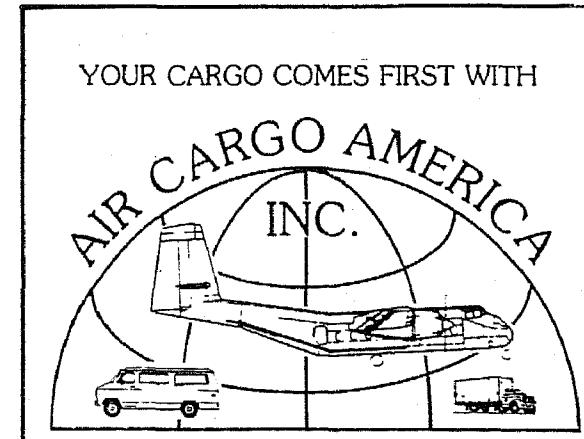
Auntie says, "I dreamed last night about a bull with only one horn. This is an uneasy opening to a conversation particularly as it is enhanced by a screeching Caribbean breeze rooting around the yard, rolling coconuts about like billiard balls. In addition to this atmospheric moment, there is Auntie's voice. Her voice always has sounded like her vocal cords have been snipped at with dull cuticle scissors; also like her vocal cords have been soaked for a

day or two in household bleach. Perhaps Auntie cannot hear or does not listen to her own strident tones, emitted in a high volume of sound. Auntie's grating speech has caused one family member to cross himself, though he formerly claimed he was a heathen, another to take up needlepoint for the nerves and still another to enter the Peace Corps. Auntie has more topics she is going to impart. I can see before her candle goes out. She somehow wiggles her mouth before speaking as though she is feeling for a blackberry seed with her tongue.

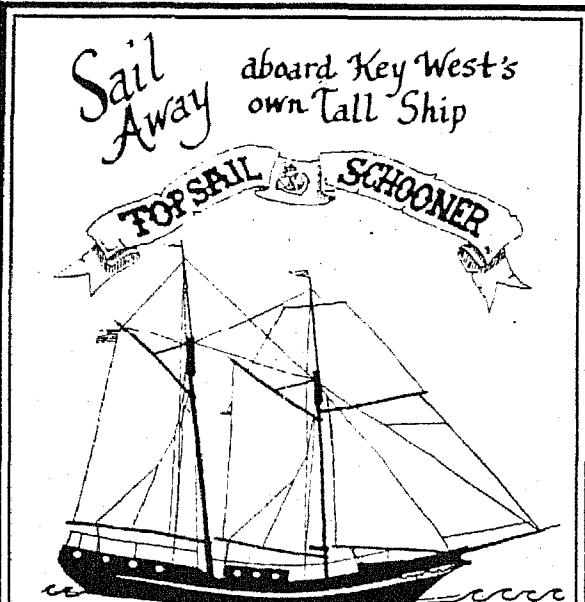
I knew it. She is flailing her arms around. It now is pitch dark again. She is going to find me and give me the ritual kiss. I do have a fondness for this beguilingly dotty relative, but I know the peril of her kisses. Sure enough, the kiss comes. The fierce hairs on her chin are like whips. While Auntie is gingering-up the room like it is the commonest thing to do housework in the middle of a storm, plumping up pillows, killing a bee with a broom, I turn on my flashlight. I peer into a small purse mirror, closely studying my cheekbones and then my mouth for machete-like cuts.

As the storm wears on and the time passes, Auntie Maud has disappeared into the kitchen and has found a small one-burner gas stove meant for inevitable power failures. I recognize the whiffs I am getting as coming from Auntie's calf-brain casserole, for which she is infamous in the family. She will serve this before bedtime with a piece of cold, cooked carrot and a

Continued on page 56



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## Book Review: Authors Cruise America's Coasts To Write First Boardsailing Guide

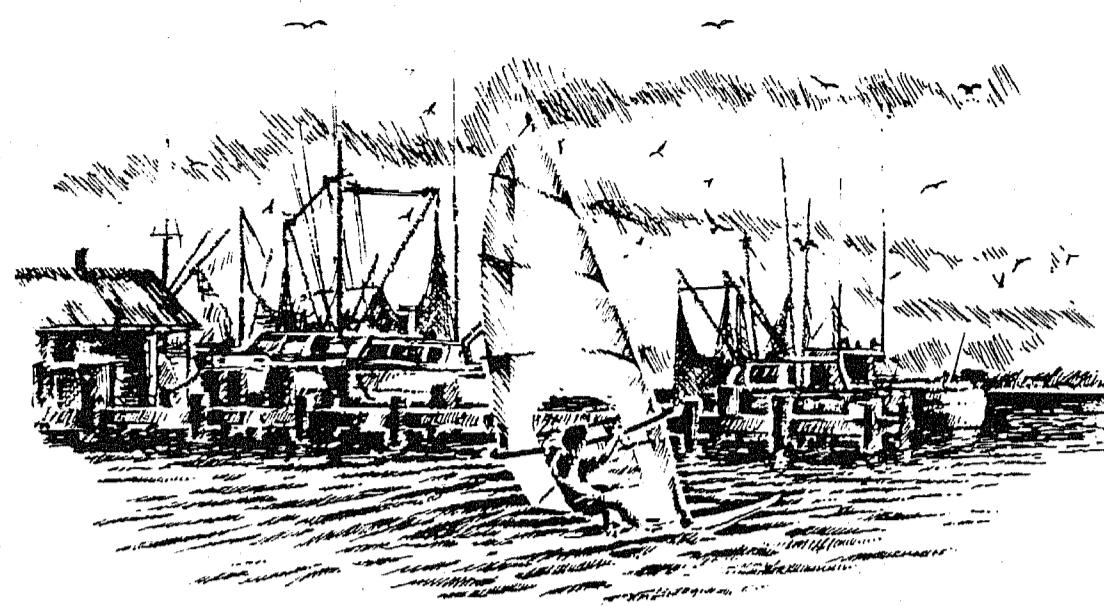
1988-89 Boardsailing Guide to the Coastal United States, by Niki Patton and Charles Close, Illustrated by Lowell Patton, 548 pages, Hog Cove Promotions, New York, \$12.95.

by Bud Jacobson

This guidebook has to be one of the most unusual to come down the pike in years. It is devoted to the art and sport of boardsailing, and is compiled and written by a couple of professional devotees. The book may become the definitive Rand-McNally Atlas for hundreds of thousands of boardsailors out there, staring at the waves and murmuring their two-word mantra: Wind, wind.

Charlie Close, one-half of the writing team, is the son of the late Helen Thielen of Key West. Helen was a charming lady who lived here and in Nantucket; she was an active and popular person who was involved in community affairs for years. After her death a few years back, Charlie lived in her home on Von Phister Street and kept track of his successful New York media-promotional business which he ran with Niki Patton.

"One day we were standing there in the office, looking out on Madison Avenue," Patton recalled. "Both of us talked about the wind, and what it was like out there



when we decided, almost together, that we'd do what we'd been talking about for years -- sell up everything and make the trip of our lives, with our boards strapped to our backs, if we had to."

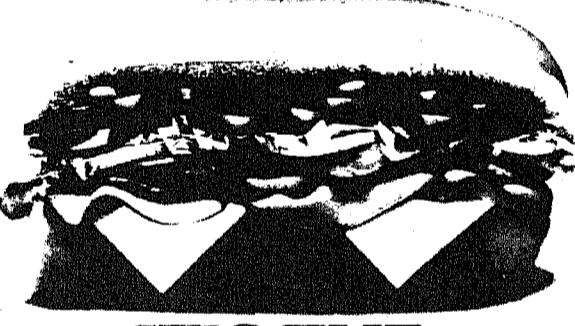
*Boardsailing Guide* is an enormously detailed and accurate description of their 27,000-mile, one-year odyssey from Lewis, Delaware to Maui, Hawaii, and into the Columbia River Gorge. The market for the book, they admit, may be narrow right now. But it's the first one out on the track and that counts big in the book business.

It's written in the lingo of the boardsailors which, like the jargon of skiers and racing car buffs, has a certain strangeness to the ordinary citizen. Words and phrases like *jibing*, *cavitation*, *hotspots*, and wind effects like *venturi* and *wrap around* -- all of this is carefully explained by the writers and smartly illustrated by Niki's brother, Lowell Patton.

It was October, 1986, when Niki and Charles loaded up their Chevy van with living gear and a portable typewriter inside

*Continued on page 58*

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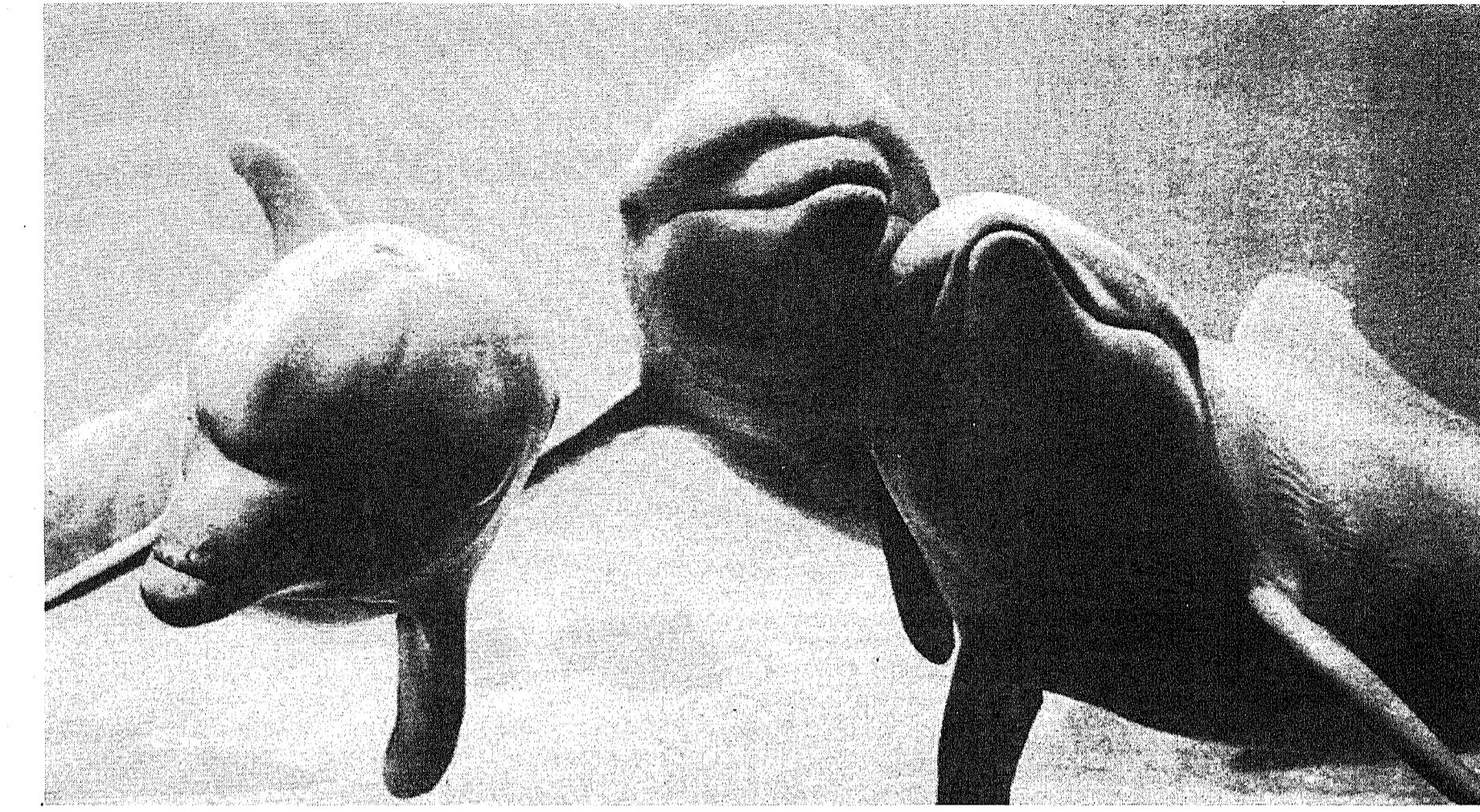
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## He Sets Dolphins Free Former "Flipper" Trainer to Speak and Sign Books



"Smiling Dolphins," an underwater photo of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins by Chris Adair.

by Valerie duPree

Most people think of Key West as being home to one type of dolphin--the Atlantic bottlenose. But Richard O'Barry, president and director of The Dolphin Project, Inc. in Coconut Grove, will tell you different. From his perspective, there are two kinds living here-- those in captivity and those that are free, in the wild. O'Barry will be talking about this and his project during a booksigning of his new hardback *Behind the Dolphin Smile* on Sunday, December 11 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Greenpeace Store on Duval Street. Everyone is invited to come.

The 252-page book documents O'Barry's years as trainer of the television star "Flipper" (there were five of them), and explains how that portion of his life lead him to later believe that dolphins should be left free in their ocean environment.

Today O'Barry is working on implementing Dolphin Project--a program he designed to return captive and stranded dolphins to the sea if it is in their best interests.

According to O'Barry, wild stranded dolphins often are "saved" on the beach and brought to facilities for recovery. But in the process, they become tame--even trained--and finally, in some cases, drafted into show business for life.

He believes what the dolphins need is a non-commercial halfway house. Particularly those animals that have been used as "show performers" are in need of a place away

from human contact and away from contact with trained dolphins, a place where trained dolphins can be untrained and returned to their natural world.

But O'Barry isn't on a crusade to free all the captive dolphins in the world. In the preface to his book he writes, "Over the years, I have realized that such an extreme position won't work. If all dolphins were free, we would never get to know them. Rather than be bogged down by logic, I've decided--like most other dolphin specialists--that keeping a few captive dolphins is all right if (1) they are treated as well as possible on their own terms and (2) they serve to acquaint us their nature in the wild."

However O'Barry believes that not all

dolphins can make it in captivity. He says that some do all right for awhile, then they need to get out. That's what the halfway house is for. It allows dolphin specialists to move a candidate for readaptation there and study him to determine if he will make it in the wild again. If not, O'Barry says the dolphin should be returned and cared for in the company of others of his kind.

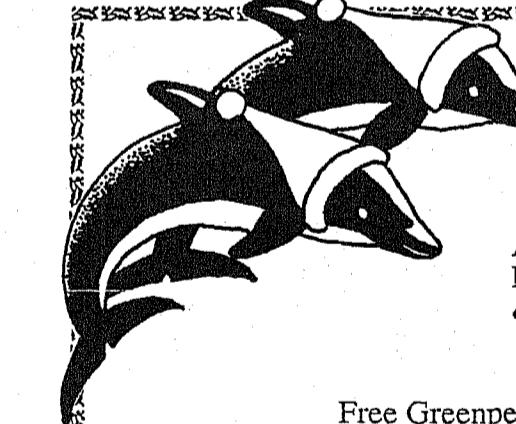
But if a dolphin *can* be readapted, O'Barry says we should take steps to untrain him for life in the seas again.

"You can't just dump him back into the sea," he writes. "It's not that simple."

O'Barry welcomes all questions and opinions on the subject of dolphins. Take the opportunity to meet him on December 11 at the Greenpeace Store booksigning party.

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# Sweet Sounds from the Chamber

by Dr. Elwood Bear

Elisabeth Kropfitsch was explaining to Florence Fox-Loeb and this writer how she and her brothers Johannes and Stefan came to study music as a very early age; how they formed the Jess Trio; the excitement of their first U.S. tour recently ending in Key West. They were going directly to Italy with not a moment to pause in Vienna, their home. The Italian tour will include a concert with the inimitable pianist Claudio Arrau in Milan.

The concert at Casa Gato had just ended to a standing ovation, and the petite Elisabeth was sipping orange juice rather than the preferred champagne punch. The 26-year-old artist steadfastly clutched her violin case; her brother Stefan, 24, would not put down his cello case for a moment. They both had played on instruments crafted by the sainted Stradivarius and these priceless objects could not -- would not -- be entrusted to rest in some obscure corner.

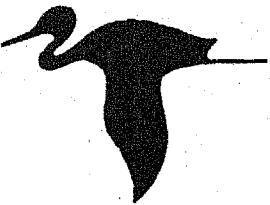
The Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven had been superb. The capacity audience had been galvanized. The readings were brilliant. Casa Gato patrons and the artists were happy. Their encore had caught the audience off guard and proved to be the *coup de grace* of the evening -- the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 9 (the final or



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presto movement) by Franz Liszt. If few of our readers have heard of the Hungarian Ninth -- little wonder. Johannes, the Trio's older brother (28!), discovered this forgotten manuscript in a Vienna archives only two years ago. It had not been performed in more than 100 years. The Presto movement, at least, contains the fire and fury typical of the Liszt dance-rhapsodies.

If you were not in the audience that evening, but wish you had been, consider this. The Key West Council on the Arts, under whose direction these concerts occur, has begun to record professionally these chamber productions for broadcast later by local radio stations in the weeks and months ahead. The project was conceived and is being managed by Vaughn Gibson, a KWCA board member, who may also do the on-the-air introductions. Thus, the Jess concert, including the Hungarian Ninth is preserved on tape. The public will be informed of broadcast times.

At the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, the Warsaw Wind Quartet will appear on December 30, at 8 p.m. with a program of Sextet by Francis Poulenc; Trois Pièces Breves by Jacques Ibert; Quintet by Wojciech Kilar; and Sextet in B flat, Opus 6 by Ludwig Thuille. The pianist Michiko Otaki will appear also with this group, promising an outstanding evening. The Warsaw Quintet has been highly acclaimed for their precision, colorations, and close knit teamwork. TWFAC information: 294-6232.

A weekly radio program, *Live at the Tennessee*, can be heard Saturday afternoons at 4:00 or immediately following the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts on WKRY-FM (93.5), which is rapidly becoming Key West's own fine arts station. Program host Gregory Isaacs interviews actors, producers, directors, and others concerned with upcoming performances. We will also be hearing more of Greg Isaacs himself; he is an accomplished composer, musician, and conductor. Look for some of his original music in a stage production at TWFAC next spring.

The Festival of the Continents has launched its year-long arts celebration under the direction of Parvan Bakardjiev and Richard Heyman with the Concentus Hungaricus -- the string orchestra of the Hungarian Radio -- at St. Paul's Church in Key West on November 30. On December 2, this orchestra will perform in Marathon. The Festival will feature several other events in December, including the Ballet Florida on December 31. Also the Yugoslav folk dancers, Frula, will perform at The Strand on December 10. For Festival information call 296-5882.

December would not be the same in Key West without the production of Handel's *Messiah* at the Old Stone Church at Eaton and Simonton Streets. This year's dates are December 4 and 11. For information call 296-2392 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

## Keys Pianist to Perform Chopin, Debussy

by Art Kara

Pianist Jacqueline Rosenblatt will perform works by Chopin and Debussy on Wednesday, December 21 at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. She is a former member of the piano faculty at the University of Michigan. She has studied theory and composition with Paul Hindemith at Zurich and piano with Jacqueline Blanchard in Geneva. She has appeared as a soloist and in chamber music



Pianist Jacqueline Rosenblatt.  
Photo by Jim Iverson.

programs throughout the United States and in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Mrs. Rosenblatt considers Chopin and Debussy "giants concerned with detail and immediate expression ... Their work is most popular in short forms." Her program will include three preludes by Debussy: *Meadow, Fog, and Fireworks*, plus his works *Movement* and *Joyous Island*. She will present three etudes by Chopin, the concert performance pieces known as *Aeolian Harp, Caprice, and Revolutionary Etude*, plus the Nocturne in C minor, Waltz in C sharp minor and Polonaise in A flat major. (This Polonaise was popularized by Arthur Rubinstein as the theme of the film *Till the End of Time*.)

Mrs. Rosenblatt's playing makes fresh sense of the score, the written essence of the composer's aural vision. It brings to life the composer among the audience. Her Debussys are *painted*, the impressions distinct and immediate, each note a touch of the brush. Her impassioned Chopin romances us, and in his *Revolutionary Etude* she calls us to arms as the Russians enter Warsaw.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$12, \$8; telephone the box office at 294-6232.

called and Henriquez nudged Freeman with an 800-vote majority.

Overall, some could count on Key West, some couldn't -- depends on who you were. It looked like the Democrats had one foot in a deep hole.

Republicans on the local ballot scored six out of nine victories. Not shabby when it wasn't long ago they had to use long distance phone calls to talk to each other.

But the whole county came together over the FKAA's referendum on a number of tricky rule changes -- 82 percent of the voters said "no" in capital letters.

The fire, however, sputtered and dimmed out when the Key West vote was

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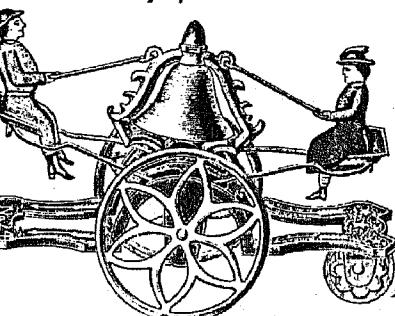
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## Gallery Hopping

by Gordon Lacy

My first art exhibit was to become fixed forever with one of those rare sunny, crisp Philadelphia days, the light and shadows dancing and laughing in gusty winds; and my first love, a slim dark beauty, somewhat taller than me at 13, a never-to-be resolved two-inch difference. I would have followed her anywhere, so a Kandinsky exhibition seemed more of a lark than a trial-by-fire. I had never been conscious of abstract art, but once wrenched out of my rut of demanding that things resemble what they represented, I have never looked back. When offered a chance to soar rather than stomp around in the mud, who could refuse?

Diana placed me in the center of the room. I had nothing to do but look. "Do you like them?" she asked as though they were her own. I would have eaten them to please her. Of course I liked them. The colors were splendid and the shapes and lines intriguing. "Does that one make you think of anything?" she asked, pointing.

I take my time. I know that any error will handicap me with this "lived-happily-ever-after princess" and my time is short. The damn painting makes me feel one thing so strongly that I can't even think of an intelligent lie, so I risk the truth: "circus." We approach to see the title and it is "Le Cirque." Diana clapped her hands and jumped twice. I have loved art passionately since that magical afternoon so long ago and the princess is more beautiful than ever, and my dearest friend, though we married others. In between, Wassily Kandinsky has died and his work can be afforded only by museums. Philadelphia is still there and we both give it wide berth. But the moment lives on, and I passed my first big test; out of desperation, I told the truth and won the fair maiden, Art.

Joyless as my last column on the SoMo art scene may have been, we are starting off with some good news. Beth Nabilo is back, seemingly for good, and this is certainly cause for rejoicing. Not just a fine painter,

a favorite person. Welcome, welcome home, Beth.

Wayne Pelke showed his lithe and airy sculpture during the month of November. A fine show and I have the feeling that more and more artists will be taking advantage of the Library Gallery at the Community College in light of the loss of galleries in town. Larry Burt is the head of the college library and in charge of the gallery, a fine adjunct for gallery goers and artists alike. Lawson Little will be showing 80 photographs of his trip to Spain and Portugal beginning December 5. Henri La



Chapelle reports that he will be showing and lecturing on his Mayan studies there later in the season. Henri has been selected to appear in the next edition of the prestigious *American Artists*, "An Illustrated Story of Leading Contemporaries" with a review by Les Krantz who discovered the painter's Mayan crypt at East Martello last spring. Henri is feeling covered with honor, and justly so.

Charles Pearson dropped by to chat about his and partner Tim's Whitehead Street Pottery which is going the same route as many other SoMo artists and artisans, namely finding markets in the North. They are showing and selling their Raku ware in Atlanta and Naples among other venues. Their current work shows a steady evolution toward more heft and fanciful colors. Before Christmas, go see some of the charming and primitive fish.

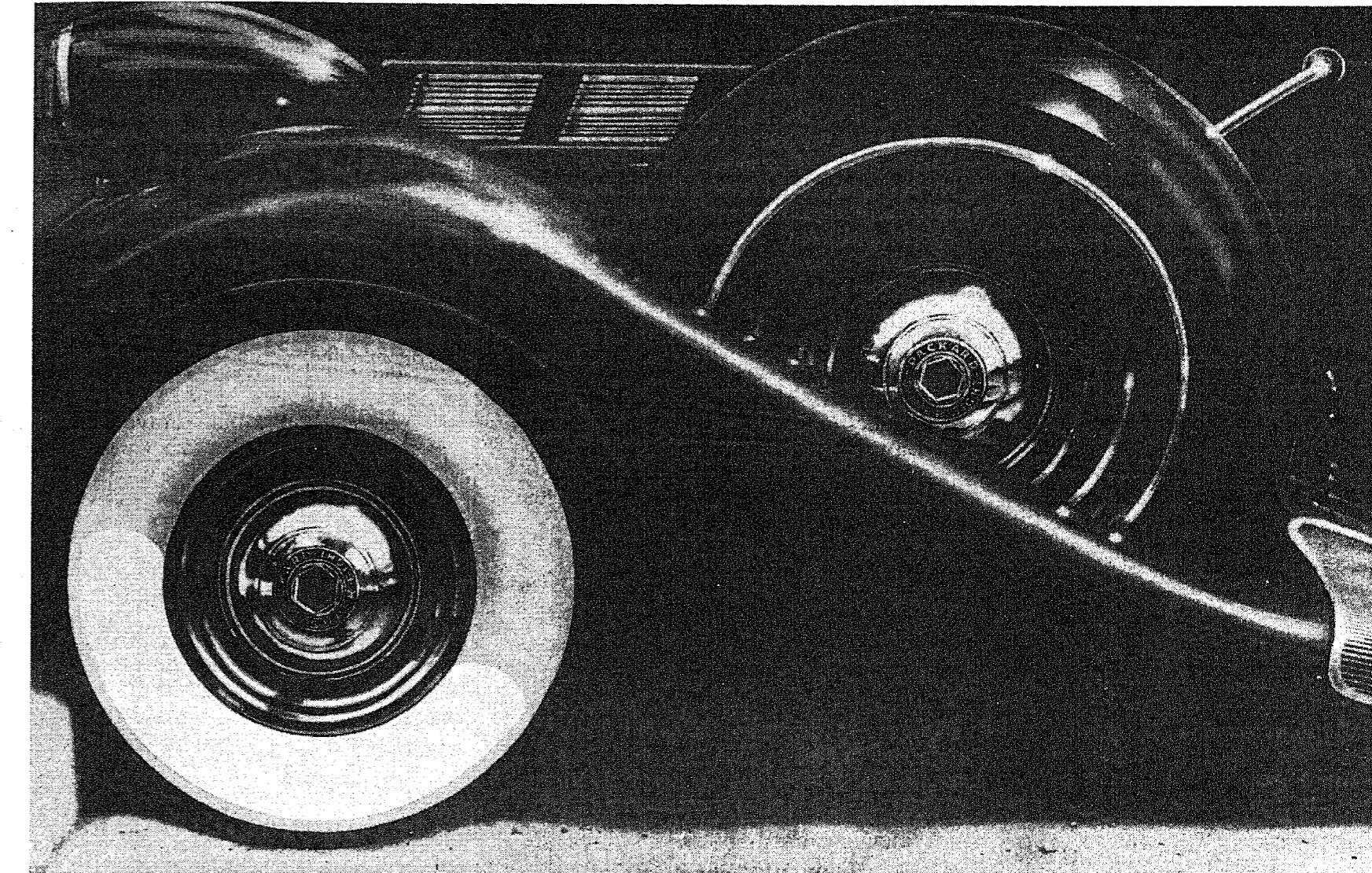
Across Whitehead Street you will find the tiny Carole Gallery with owner-artist John Morrell in the act of painting. Last year John began his SoMo experience by recording the buildings of Bahama Village around him in a series in which gradually people, his friends and neighbors, showed up in cameo roles. He has now zoomed in and is doing street portraits of these people

in close-up. Morrell is a fine stylist and you are advised to poke around here before the holidays, too.

Carole Gallery is also showing the tropical black-and-white photographs, artfully composed and quite beautiful, of newcomer Bob Smith from Rochester. Smith is a painter and a graphicist with a long pedigree of schools and shows. From 1969 through 1975 he designed the concert posters and album covers for Chuck Mangione and other jazz greats from Gerry Niewood through Ester Satterfield to Marian McPartland. His range in graphics includes commercial interiors, architectural presentations, murals, signage and graphic advertising design. Smith and partner Christine van Ryne moved to SoMo blind to freelance. Need sophisticated signage? Call Smith at 296-0807. This month's art-of-the-month is Smith's photograph of his mixed media painting entitled, "Super Eight," 1985, 4 feet by 6 feet, and handsome all the way.

The framing part of Artist Warehouse has moved from Duval to the Club 21 Art Center on the corner of Petronia and Thomas Streets with ample parking in back, while the gallery end of the affair stays on Duval, refurbished and enlarged. Karen will be showing her own work plus the sculptures of Rudi Prazen, Florence Miller's watercolors and Costa Rican Lem Pira's working-people scenes. Also showing are a triptych, a diptych and a single by the late Van Eno.

I raced through Farrington's at full lunch-hour tilt and found a changed interior, new carpeting, a dazzling sofa for spectator viewing of working artists and a huge quantity of prints and lithos, wood carvings, in sum a plethora of art on walls, stacked on the floor, in racks. The sofa faced a loom where Sola, obviously on her lunch hour, had been weaving her magic, and Greg Biolchini, whose nudes are in the front window. As of November 22, Greg will be working (pastels) and instructing intermittently with new co-owner of Farrington's, Sylva Smyth. It looks as though they are off to a great start. With all the new, the old is still there -- Pete is



"Super Eight," a realistic painting in mixed media by Robert E. Smith, 1985. Photo by the artist.

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Ruth Kravitz reports that The Haitian Art Company is alive and well, and while there is no special painter featured this month the standards are always being upped. The gallery has changed steadily over the last two years and if you haven't been in recently it is time for a visit. Carlo Jean-Baptiste, Haiti's latest and youngest star, has been selling so well that little remains to be seen here. Ruth is offering Christmas gift certificates.

Guild Hall Gallery gives their annual holiday bash on the 9th from 7 to 9 p.m. with drawings for door prizes. Featuring ceramicists Gloria Shaw and Jerry Cash. The accent here is on the *new*. New watercolors by Gretchen Williams, new drawings by Lynne Fisher, new ceramic works by Lois Locklear, new work by George Carey (who unfortunately is leaving us for Ohio), new stained glass by Fritz and Viane Stang, a Norma Renner wood-carving of the Oldest House, Anne Irvine celebrating a new style as are Poochie and Cappy Seiler. Sonia Robinson is launching a new line of bags and Judi Bradford has new creatures, pigs, lizards and nautilus while Norbert Szilagyi (infamous since discovered painting bus benches) is into T-shirt designs. This is always a gala not to be missed. Y'all come.

Harrison's has some nice new Cricket Barnes oils and two or three new Ann Lorraine pieces, oils and pastels. The fish etchings by the same artist under the name of Hudson Meek are selling well. Nancy Bender and sister Sherry Reed are represented by geometric canvas throw rugs. And very nice, too ... Helen has a new wood piece, a fish fillet, and she will be receiving more of those great little Mexican animals. Helen has a new artist in the gallery, Lynne Vantriglia, who makes what she calls cloth works consisting of cut and stitched canvas painted with local scenes plus some which are abstract. I haven't seen these pieces yet but Helen assures me they are bright and fun.

Lucky Street Gallery kicks off its season on December 5 with a reception and a group show featuring new Greg Jaris' painted furniture, Thomas Colbert's gouaches, John Martini's steel sculptures, new Ron Van Balen wood sculptures, new works by Roberta Marks, Tom Szuter and

Howard Finster and Raku pottery by Jerry Zigulis, ceramic sculpture by David Aguirre and ceramic vessels by Glen Dair that have scenes inside. If that sounds vague it's because I have not seen them as yet. I am assured that they are very special. The gallery is going on an open-every-day schedule and will be open evenings on weekends through Christmas.

Lane Gallery is moving and by the time you read this will be open at 1000 Duval. On December 11, owners Joe Pais and Bob Chaplain will present their artists in a group show featuring Vaughan Gibson, Alice Terry's last works, Graig Biondi's oils, David Pole from England, John and Fiona Owens' watercolors and oils, John Burgess' paintings on Caribbean themes, Bob Smith of New York sculptures and constructions, David Newton's boxes and abstract paintings, Judi Wagner, David Harrison Wright's marine watercolors, Scott Jones, the French couple Olivier Cattei and Pascale Mergerez and the first-ever show of Burl Weinstein who in 34 years has produced not only a prodigious quantity of work, oils, pastels and watercolors, but a quality that puts the "fine" back into fine arts. Joe and Bob have done a heroic conversion job on the old Medical Arts building and we all wish them the world.

The Gingerbread is moving across Duval into 901 and will open, after considerable renovating, December 1 with the show "Four Views/1988." The show is presented by the South Florida Cultural Consortium (a coalition of the Arts Councils of Palm Beach, Broward, Dade and Monroe Counties) and features the work of Stuart Vaughan of Monroe County, Arturo Rodriguez of Dade County, Sam Perry of Palm Beach County and Joan Elizabeth Meyer of Broward County. This show will run through December 31. Who and what will replace Gingerbread at 910 Duval, which I have heard will also open around the 1st, is the cliffhanger for this month. Tune in next month.

The Henry Faulkner Retrospective show at the East Martello will be curated by Susan Olesen and composed of locally owned paintings by this enigmatic and flamboyant artist. More than just a display of paintings, the exhibit will feature many photographs of the artist and much memorabilia. It promises to be a rich show and the museum is to be commended for the erudition that

has lately gone into its shows. The present staff is as interested in history and conservation as it is in mere presentation, the true duties of a museum. We are very lucky that this institution is growing and serving the public so understandingly. Hats off!

**T**heodora Bergery, after a splendid and successful summer on Mikonos, is back in her studio. Another favorite of ours, Theodora, who paints like an angel, works and shows out of her studio and by appointment. The number is 294-7470. She has had a poster made of one of her paintings which has been esteemed in Europe and she will be having a show in Zurich later on in the year. Here, throw hats in air!

Sandford at Sign of Sandford has been working all summer on the interiors of Penrod's Beach Club which recently bought three miles of beach at the southern tip of Miami Beach and has erected a vast clubhouse with restaurants, bars, ballrooms, discos, the whole schtick involving miles of Sandford's great painted fabrics. It opens December 2.

Due to a printing glitch up north a year ago which held up the delivery of *Solares Hill*, Jim Moseley's annual party at Rose Lane Antiquities came out as fait accompli in this column for which we were truly sorry. The date to watch this year is December 10 from 7-9 p.m. Jim says it will probably snow. The party is to fete the arrival of some very beautiful 14th Century Peruvian textiles. Please try to make it. Not many in SoMo are as precise and knowledgeable about their work as is Jim.

The Key West Art Center will have a reception on December 20 celebrating a juried show by the members on Christmas themes. Everything will have a Noel tie-in. Bring checkbooks.

The Jess Trio -- piano, cello and violin -- were acclaimed by a most enthusiastic audience in the opening concert at Richard Lischer's Casa Gato. This series of recitals and concerts will be professionally recorded by The Private Ear, an excellent idea of Vaughan Gibson's, and aired on Sundays at noon on WKRY at 103, more or less, on your FM dial. Welcome home Richard and bravo for your marvelous concert series and thanks to The Key West Council of Arts for its backing. ■

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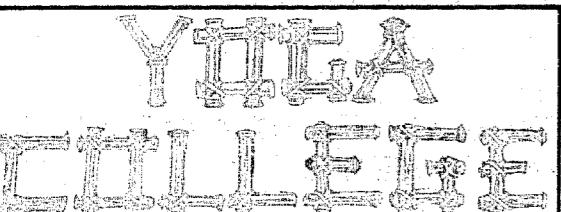
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# BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

### Editorial

I love the month of December. The holidays, filled with festivities and childlike expectations of fun and surprises, keep us ready for invitations to meet friends and aglow with memories of family traditions and holiday treats. For some it can also be a time of loneliness and sadness because the emphasis is on family, togetherness and celebrations. Some people have no biological family with whom to share. Welcome them into yours.

Let us be aware that each kind word we share with others can be the most beautiful gift given. Extend yourself to others with more compassion. Invite a friend for dinner. Keep the gift of compassion alive by living it with yourself and others.

In recalling my Christmas heritage of culinary delights, the aroma of my mother's fresh baked stollen (German Christmas bread) still lingers in my olfactory memory of goodies. This holiday we share with you a feast from soup to dessert that will tempt your tastebuds to prepare these delicious vegetarian dishes. Thanks to Susan Papp and Kathryn DePoo for creating food without feed with the animal kingdom.

My mother, Hermine, shared a story with me when I was very young that captures the heart of the holidays. My family, as Christians, celebrated the birth of Christ and in preparation for His arrival my mother gave me an empty manger and a bowl of straw. She said, "Each time you do something from your heart for any living thing -- something that brings joy to another



Renate Perelom, editor

-- place a piece of the straw in the manger. It is up to you to make this bed comfortable for Jesus. Your loving thoughts and acts will be His welcome of warm love to this world.

I remember how thrilled I was to create a bed of my love, to create a home for the Christ child. Know that each of us also creates an energy with our thoughts and deeds by preparing for this holiday season no matter what our religion or belief. Remember our energy does follow our

thoughts. Keep yourself open and many gifts will come to you because you give a sign of welcome from your energy. If you are lonely call a friend or spiritual source that will feed you the spiritual love you seek. Rekindle the spirit of brotherly love and good will to all life. It is a time for Jew and Gentile to hug; a time for all to unite in the oneness of our spirits.

Good news: Island Wellness (formerly the Sanctuary) is now open at 530 Simonton, 296-7353. With the renovations the place is shining with success and openness for you to join in the many fabulous classes and courses scheduled for December and the New Year. Get ready to treat yourself. Look what's coming your way. We'll take a weekly peek at their special talented people and activities. Gary Young, owner and director, has done a fabulous job recreating Island Wellness.

With that reminder, let us now open the way to the Holiday Season with thoughts of Christmas. "Body, Mind and Spirit" asked the ministers, priests and pastors of varied religions and faiths to share a Christmas message with the people of Key West. We send you their greetings of good will. Feel the warmth from their words.

Renate

"prophet without honor in his own land?" Key West needs to wake up to the talented people that live right here and are invaluable to the community. Yes, let us support all activities. Yes, the traveling seminar "personalities" have something to offer. They are here for a short time and then they are gone. Wake up and smell the coffee: know that the best beans are right here in our own pot!

With that reminder, let us now open the way to the Holiday Season with thoughts of Christmas. "Body, Mind and Spirit" asked the ministers, priests and pastors of varied religions and faiths to share a Christmas message with the people of Key West. We send you their greetings of good will. Feel the warmth from their words.



### Spiritual Messages

"Be generous in prosperity and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an

Hats off to Val Menchetti for organizing the Holistic Health Celebration. His persistent work and coordination of events and people was admirable. The intent was noble but the response was mediocre. Is a

### Solares Hill--December 1988--Page 47

upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem in the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."

"Baha'u'llah"  
Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah  
The Baha'i Faith.

We extend Hanukkah greetings to the entire community. The Judaistic Principles of justice, purity, hope, thanksgiving, righteousness, freedom of will, human responsibility, repentance--all these prevail at this time of year and throughout. Good will to all.

Rabbi Louis Dimson  
and President Jack Einhorn  
The Congregation of  
B'Nai Zion Synagogue

In Genesis 2:7 we read, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath

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(spirit wind) of life and man became a living soul. The body, the soul (psyche) and the spirit are brought together in this passage by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Notice the plural tense, "Let us" is used in Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ..." and Genesis 3:22, "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become like as one of us, to know good and evil ..."

So God created man body, soul, and spirit and when Christ came to this earth to be born, to live and to offer Himself a sacrifice on the cross, it was to redeem mankind, spirit, soul, and ultimate body.

Thank God for a perfect sacrifice for the total man. Jesus Christ, Mary's Little Lamb, now King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus and thou shalt be saved."

Rev. Charles C. Elliott  
Glad Tidings Tabernacle  
Assemblies of God

Sometimes it seems to me that we have all forgotten Whose birthday it really is! I wonder what He would say to the toy makers, the card sellers, the advertising agencies, the TV evangelists, the department stores? What would He think about all the books, the magazines, the articles written about Him? Would you find Him visiting the stock exchanges, the United Nations or, perhaps, even the Vatican? Or, might you not find him talking with the IRA or the homeless in Palestine? Maybe that's why the manger is empty when our hearts should be full!

Dr. R. Donald Papon  
Key Spirit Community Church

A sure sign of the approaching Christmas Season is the appearance of festive wreaths that trim countless doors. These beautifully decorated reminders prepare us once more to commemorate the wondrous birth of Christ our Savior. Christmas, after all, should be a time of warmth and celebration. Brightly lighted trees with gifts spilling out in every direction, the sense of community and families drawing closer. But ironically, this joyous season becomes time of stress and dread for many. Endless traffic and irritating crowds. Financial tensions. Anxiety in the choice and cost of gifts for

others. Rolaids and ruined toys. Traffic deaths and body counts. Loneliness, alienation, depression, fatigue. Such is the bittersweet nature of Christmas. And yet these very feelings of lostness and despair are what Christmas is really about. Because Jesus Christ has come to identify with fallen humanity. He shared our pain ... He gives us hope. Christmas, then, is a celebration of life for God's people, a time of triumphant rejoicing and praise. We can wholeheartedly do so because our Savior has come.

Rev. Steve Torrence  
Metropolitan Community Church

Christmas is my favorite time of the year, and unless you are one of the few surviving Scrooges, it probably is yours too. I have often tried to analyze why it's such a time of wonder and joy. There is no other holiday or celebration to equal it, though they are all special to us: Thanksgiving, Fourth of July, New Years.

I have become convinced that it is so joyous because at this one time we are all concerned about others. We have caught the Christ Spirit. We are thinking what we can give to our family and friends to make them happy; how we can brighten the lives of those in nursing homes and children's institutions; how we can insure that the impoverished and homeless have food and their children have toys.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," (Acts 20:35). I say it is more blessed, more rewarding and more fun. Though the aphorisms of unselfishness often seem old fashioned and "Pollyanna-ish," the truth is that our greatest moments of fulfillment come through giving.

Rev. Evelyn Casper  
Unity of the Keys

In the gospel of Matthew, second chapter, eleventh and twelfth verses, we read an account of the wise men locating the Lord Jesus in the manger. After finding Him by the aid of a miraculous star, they bowed before Him, worshipped Him, and presented their gifts. Then the scripture says they departed another way, which, of course, means they returned by a different route. But not only did they return by a different route; they returned different men. Anyone who comes humbly seeking the Lord Jesus Christ shall return a different

way. For you cannot meet the Savior and be the same person afterwards. The Bible is filled with the names of those who have met Him and returned a different way. Perhaps the most famous is the Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, who met Him on the Damascus Road, and returned a different way. He went to Damascus a persecutor of Christians, and returned a preacher of the gospel. This Christmas why don't you meet Him? Not the babe in the manger; but the crucified, buried, and risen Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. You, too, will return a different way.

Dennis Clark, Pastor  
Greater Keys Baptist Church

The Bethlehem in the Holy Land has become sacred for Christians. Whether the specific place in Bethlehem is the actual place where Christ was born may be uncertain. What is certain these centuries since Christ's birth is the Spirit of the Bethlehem event within us. Our expressions of love to our family, our neighbors near and far away and the unlovable are what really count. The Bethlehem within us needs to love our self God has created. Jesus said, "... You shall love your neighbor as yourself," (Matthew, 19:19). To love ourselves as God has created us preceeds our ability to channel the Love of Christ to others. Thank God that we do give more freely in this Season of the year because God gave His Son.

May the 1988 Christmas Season immerse us in the real spirit present at the Bethlehem of so long ago. Then our life will reflect as fully as possible the love of God in Christ as never before.

Dr. Gideon K. Zimmerman, Interim Pastor  
First Congregational Church

"I hope we have snow for Christmas." Anyone who lived up north will well

Continued on page 51

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9:15	L.I.A.	L.I.A.		L.I.A.* L.I.A.*		
11:00	AQUA	AQUA		AQUA		L.I.A.
12:15	L.I.A.	L.I.A.		L.I.A.		
5:30 PM	L.I.A. & AQUA		L.I.A. & AQUA			
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### December Calendar

This month is brimming with activities that will enrich our lives. Get involved! Support the services of others and they, in turn, will share with you. Remember: What you receive is what you give away.

Nov. 28. Dr. Bill Schlicht begins his Personal Growth Workshop at Island Wellness, 530 Simonton St.

Dec. 3. Greg Strickland begins his Meditations, at Island Wellness.

Dec. 3. Monica Geers begins her Experience Hypnosis at Island Wellness.

Dec. 7. Renate Perelom begins her Meditation and Gifts of Spirit, at Island Wellness.

Dec. 8. Dr. Don Papon begins his Lessons in Truth, at Island Wellness.

Dec. 9 & 10. Peter Calhoun, teacher, healer, author of *Mystical Journey*, is presenting workshops on shamanism and your spiritual life. Call Reva at 296-5112 or Bobbie at 296-3988 at Island Wellness.

Dec. 18. Prosperity Plus Workshop by Bert Carson and Edwene Gaines at Unity of the Keys, 3424 Duck Avenue, 296-5888.

Dec. 20. Johnny and Carlos Concert with their new musical group, location to be announced.

Dec. 25. Unity Christmas Service, special programs for everyone, 11 a.m.

Dec. 31. World Peace Meditation at West Martello Tower with Evening New Year Celebration.

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

New on the scene at Island Wellness are many of our talented Key West professionals offering you courses to increase your awareness and self-potential. Classes will start in December:

Roz LoPinto, visiting from New York where she teaches at Cornell, will offer yoga and centering classes based on her book, *Centering*.

Carol Christine, Key West's colon

Solares Hill--December 1988--Page 49  
therapist, will continue teaching her Iyengar yoga classes.

Gary Young, owner and director of Island Wellness will offer classes on stress reduction, reflexology, teen classes and others. Call Gary at 296-7353 for more information on classes and cost.

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

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

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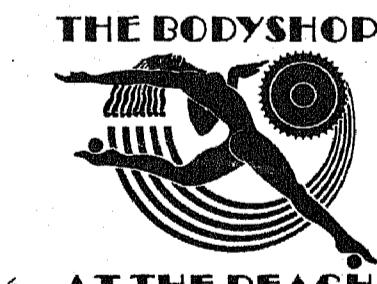
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AT THE REACH

# From Fountain to Flames

## Witnesses Recall the Cuban Club Fire

by Michael P. Keating

Five years ago this month the old Cuban Club on Duval and Amelia Streets burned to the ground. It was not meant for anybody to die that night, but people came close. And others were to come to Duval Street to cry. They had lost part of their lives. Here are some recollections of persons intimately involved with that near-tragedy.

It was Christmas week in Key West, the busiest time of the year for the Fountains Restaurant on the ground floor of the glorious old Cuban Club. Former restaurant owner Charles Oertel recalls:

"It was one of those nights when you want to sell. We were full of guests, we were running out of gas, and it was about to pour rain."

Charles called the gas company for an emergency delivery, then sat with a friend at the bar watching guests flood in. There were a hundred people in the restaurant, many of them outdoors in the garden on the Amelia Street side. A thunderstorm was about to hit.

Upstairs in the building a remarkable young artist named Dalva Duarte sat back in her studio/apartment, admiring a canvas she'd just completed. She lived in the former ballroom where hundreds of Cuban

ladies and their beaus once met, later to marry there also. The yellow-painted structure had been Key West's Cuban social center for 60 years. But that was history forgotten by many until only minutes later.

Charles remembers his hostess Evelyn opening the French doors from the garden to lead in the two dozen guests who now were being pelted by rain. A pair of new lovers who thought the eerie conditions were romantic pestered Evelyn for an umbrella so they could dine outside.

**"There was an explosion and a big huge ball of fire."**

Oertel was at the bar sipping a rum and orange juice when he heard the sound of a runaway truck engine on Amelia Street outside the garden. Charles didn't know it, but the sound came from a fuel truck that had just parked there, preparing to hook up to the propane tanks outside the lattice wall. He turned back toward the garden just as Evelyn was walloped from behind by a blast from the leaking truck.

He doesn't kid about heroics:

"There was an explosion and a big huge ball of fire. If you haven't had it happen to you, well..."

"The bartender was over the bar, and my friend and I headed for the porch to leap into the street. Nobody ran forward to save anybody else at that point because your first instinct is to get out. As I jumped over the railing it started to pour. We ran toward Truman for 15 or 20 seconds, then I said, 'Oh my God ... I don't remember anyone else leaving the building.'

"It took that long for reality to come back. When I was out on the street and my own mechanism said, 'You're safe,' then my saving instincts came back and I said, 'Oh my God, everyone's still in the building!'"

Among those still inside were the Brazilian artist Duarte and her companion on the second floor. She describes her fear-filled night:

"Everything turned orange and I saw things sliding off my table. The house was shaking all over and I was frightened to death." She was rigid with shock and couldn't bend her legs.

"Everybody else was already out, and I could hear this screaming and crying outside. I heard the cars burning. I saw death very close," she whispers.

After a second explosion, her friend scrambled from the floor to carry her down the rear stairwell. Outside she recovered



Dalva Duarte sits among the charred ruins of the Cuban Club. She lost many paintings in the fire.

and had to be restrained from returning to her studio, where 60 finished paintings and all her personal possessions were turning to ashes.

Oertel remembers the building, "becoming a jack-o'-lantern, turning orange within two minutes. There were tears in my eyes. I knew the building was gone."

It wasn't for lack of trying. Key West's police, fire and ambulance teams were there within minutes, joined by a Navy snorkel unit from the nearby base. A policeman on a bullhorn appealed, "Is anyone missing a waiter, a busboy? ... is a cook missing, is a husband missing a wife?"

Miraculously there was no one unaccounted for, but the old Cuban ladies who'd been married in that building came to cry, and many others in town came to help.

Oertel remembers Richard Heyman coming down. "He put his arms around me and I started to cry. It never stopped raining. A friend came from across the

### Body, Mind & Spirit

*Continued from page 48*

remember hearing that statement many times in December, especially if it had been a year with little or no snow. Three years ago when we first moved to the Keys, the thought of what Christmas would be like without snow depressed me. It was then I took stock and asked myself, "What is Christmas?" It must be more than snow.

So, what is Christmas? It is the time of year we again remind ourselves that God so loved us that He gave His only Son (John 3:16). It is a time of light for people who have sat in darkness. They now have been given light. God sent His Son in order that we might have light, and walk in the light. What is Christmas? It is a time of sharing. God shared His only Son with us; therefore, in the true spirit of Christmas, we share. Last year, my oldest daughter asked that instead of giving her a gift, I should buy some food and give it to the poor. This I happily did, but as parents we also got her something else. To me, her request truly

street with an open bottle of wine and a poncho. He said, "come over to my balcony ... there's nothing you can do about it."

"It was wild, a huge inferno. La-Te-Da emptied out, everyone was on the street. They couldn't sit inside, the heat was so bad."

The next morning Oertel was back at the scene. Firemen were monitoring the hot ashes. "There'd been a TV show on about that time, about the day after a nuclear explosion," Charles reflects. "That's what it looked like. What had been a two-story building was open to the sky."

He feels now the only good which came from the fire was that everyone survived. But Dalva Duarte learned some lessons from it:

"I realized you can die very quickly," she states quietly. "So now I am less attached to material things and have learned to value life, not property."

The disaster didn't make her want to

represented the spirit of Christmas -- the spirit to share. This then is what I see as the true spirit of Christmas. For me, it was probably best understood when I experienced my first Christmas without snow. However, I must admit I still dream of a white Christmas. We wish for you a very blessed Christmas. May you have the true spirit of Christmas.

*Pastor Donald Johnson*  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

The Catholic Parish Family of Key West, along with their pastor, Father Eugene Quinlan, take this opportunity to wish you a very Holy and Blessed Christmas and a New Year in which you will share very abundantly with the blessings of Almighty God.

Christmas is the season when we meditate on the many blessings which have been given to us because of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christ is the reason for the Christmas Season. It is a time, also, when we reach

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leave the city she'd read about in a Hemingway book as a young painter in Brazil. When she'd finally come here from Paris, it was to stay.

"After the fire I had nothing. People came to me with shoes and clothes and I felt accepted. I realized they looked for me to go back to work and replace those paintings and regain my life."

Today Dalva works very successfully in her studio at the old Harris School or Southard. And Charles Oertel can see the new Cuban Club near completion, just a block from his Tennessee Market on Duval. The new building opens in spring, housing offices and condos. It will be clean and fresh and bustling with people, energizing it with a second life. But old-time Cubans will never accept it as a namesake. And the club's reincarnation will never erase the memories of 125 people who came horrifyingly close to death just before New Year's in 1983. ■

out to others in the spirit of love and friendship. It is a time of thanksgiving for the love of our family and friends.

We wish you all a very Holy and Happy Christmas.

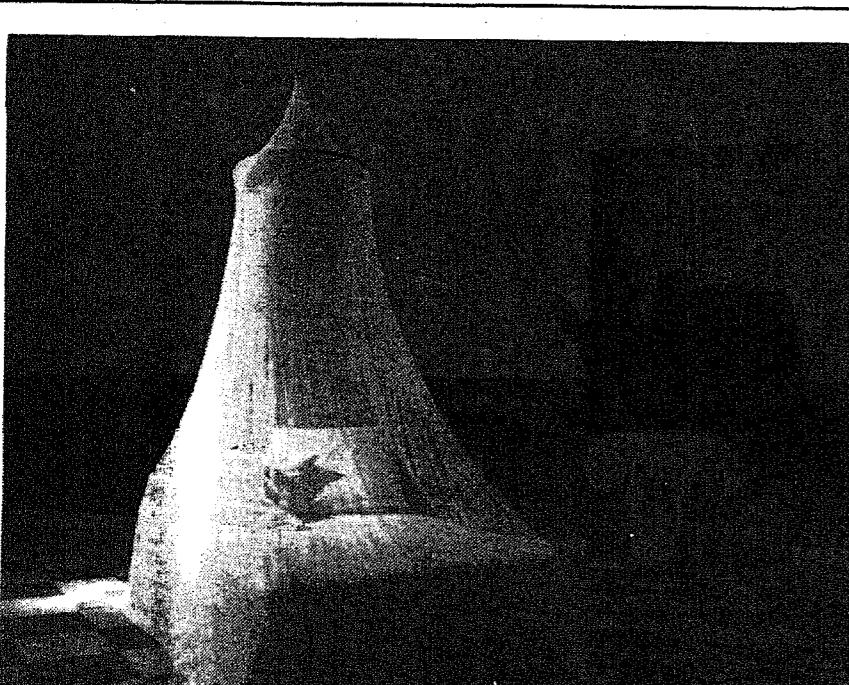
*Very Rev. Eugene M. Quinlan, V.F.*  
Pastor, Dean-Monroe County  
St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

*Continued on page 54*

### Pritam Singh

*Continued from page 29*  
there are other ironies here: Stephen Surowiecki once worked as a shoe-shine boy at the Annex. Surowiecki is a Conch. He grew up in a house where the Bagatelle Restaurant now stands and delivered the *Key West Citizen* as well as shining shoes at the Officers' Quarters, a step away from his office where he now earns a hundred grand a year selling real estate.

*Editor's Note:* Next month Solares Hill will examine the intricacies of financing this multi-million dollar project. ■



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Accompaniments to the roasted meat include the ubiquitous bowl of steamed, long-grained white rice and a separate dish of black beans cooked with sauteed garlic, onion, bell peppers, bay leaves, oil, and a little vinegar. A *sopa de pollo* (chicken soup) often is served as a first course. It consists of chicken pieces simmered with potato chunks, onion, sweet peppers, and garlic and finished with saffron or *bijol* -- a yellow coloring combined with cumin and oregano -- and noodles. Another traditional dish is *fricassee de pavo*, or turkey frasesee, which is actually a stew of the highly regarded turkey leg simmered in a red-wine tomato sauce with onion, sweet peppers, garlic, green olives, and potato.

Although the Cuban diet includes few fresh fruits and vegetables, *yuca con mojo* is an absolute necessity on a holiday menu. If you are making this from scratch, the yucca must first be cut into pieces, boiled or pressure-cooked until tender, and then marinated in *mojo* sauce. *Yuca* can, however, be purchased frozen, which is a real time-saver. Another holiday exception to the daily menu is a big salad of iceberg lettuce, cucumber, tomato, and most important, lots of fresh, snappy radishes.

Of course the feast includes plenty of crusty Cuban bread ever so slightly salty with pork fat, and American beer for the men, red wine or sangria for the women.



**Fine Dining**

**THE QUEEN'S TABLE**

**DINNER**  
6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

**LUNCH**  
Noon 'til 2:00 p.m.

**BREAKFAST**  
7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Cocktails in the popular  
**WEST INDIES LOUNGE**  
Noon 'til ?

AT THE SANTA MARIA MOTEL (305) 296-5678  
1401 SIMONSTON ST. KEY WEST, FLORIDA

"...the best motel restaurant in town. The Queen's Table,"  
— N.Y. Times (Jan. 31, 1982)

For dessert, the Cubans usually choose flan, which here they make with condensed milk. (Because fresh milk has always been in short supply on Key West for lack of grazing land, the Cubans came to rely on canned milk. Consequently, evaporated milk has become known as "cream" and condensed milk as "milk.") An almost equally favorite dessert is "Cuban" crackers -- a kind of salted soda cracker spread with cream cheese and canned guava paste. One Cuban woman mentioned that her family made *bunuelos*, which began as a mixture of boiled *yuca* and sweet potato and is mashed, combined with a flour mixture, and packed into figure-eight molds. Eventually, they are deep-fried and served drizzled with syrup. She did not know the significance of the number eight. But she said that the dessert was delicious. Other favorite treats are the variously flavored *turrones*, one of which is a very sweet bar of peanuts and caramel; *merienditas*, which are guava-filled coconut cookies; *dulce de coco*, which is a grated coconut macaroon; *boniatillos*, which are made of sweet potato, and *masa real*, which is a sweet bread spread with guava paste.

If dinnertime has worked according to schedule, the dessert course should have disappeared before midnight, the stroke of which signals the end of the feast, time to open the presents. Although it is no longer a practice in Key West, gifts were originally exchanged on January 5, in celebration of those brought to the Christ child by the Magi.

**Note:** A whole pig from West Provision, 296-9051 or 296-5465, must be ordered a week in advance and, this season, will cost somewhere between \$1.89 and \$2.19 a pound, depending on market price. Prepared *mojo* sauce is also available at \$5.69 a gallon. If you would prefer someone else to cook your pig, call La Dicha Bakery on White Street, 296-6188. West Provision will deliver the pig of your choice to them and they will, in turn, deliver it to you finished for \$35 to \$50, depending on size.

An economical and delicious alternative to roasting a whole pig is to serve a fresh pork ham that has been larded with fresh garlic and marinated in the *mojo* sauce. Before beginning the cooking process, wrap it tightly in aluminum foil; then, basting it often, roast it in a preheated 375-degree oven for about 1 1/2 hours. Then remove the foil, reduce the temperature to about 300 degrees, and cook until juices run clear when the roast is pricked with a fork. Most fresh (unsmoked) hams weigh 20 to 24 pounds and they will serve 20 or more persons. At \$1.89 a pound, a ham is a better deal than buying a whole pig, if not quite so much fun to prepare. ■



## RESTAURANT GUIDE Solares Hill Entertainment Key West



European Cafe • Jazz Garden and Progressive Dance Club  
700 Duval St. • Key West • 296-0991

### STEAKS & SEAFOOD

A & B Lobster House ..... 700 Front  
Angler's Seafood House ..... 3618 N. Roosevelt  
Bill's Key West Fish Market ..... 2502 N. Roosevelt Blvd.  
Black Angus ..... 3824 N. Roosevelt Blvd.  
The Beach  
Capt. Bob's Shrimp Dock ..... 2200 N. Roosevelt  
Crab Shack ..... 908 Caroline  
Danny's Fish Market ..... 627 Duval  
Emma's Seafare ..... 908 Caroline  
Half Shell Raw Bar ..... Foot of Margaret  
Harbor Lights ..... Garrison Bight Marina  
Islander Restaurant ..... Front & Simonton  
Logan's Lobster House ..... 1420 Simonton  
Lograve's ..... MM20, Sugarloaf Key  
Marlin's, Mama's ..... S. Roosevelt Blvd. (A1A)  
Marlin's at the Wharf ..... 2401 N. Roosevelt Blvd.  
Perry's Restaurant ..... 3800 N. Roosevelt  
Pete's Raw Bar (Pier House) ..... 208 Duval  
Portside Key West ..... 410 Front  
Rusty's ..... 5th Ave. Stock Island  
Turtle Kraals ..... Foot of Margaret  
Two Friends Palio Restaurant ..... 512 Front St.

### CONTINENTAL

Billie's ..... 407 Front  
The Buttery ..... 1208 Simonton  
Callaloo ..... The Reach  
Cafe at Louie's ..... 700 Waddell  
Dede's Fogarty House ..... 227 Duval  
Freckle's ..... 241 Duval  
Food Square ..... 218 Duval  
Islander Restaurant ..... Front & Simonton  
Portside Key West ..... 431 Front  
The Quay ..... 12 Duval  
Queen's Table (Santa Maria) ..... 1401 Simonton

### CUBAN

B's Restaurant ..... 1500 Bertha  
Cuban Coffee Queen Cafe ..... 512 Greene  
Dennis Pharmacy ..... 1225 Simonton  
El Cigarrero ..... 124 Duval  
El Miramar ..... 91 Kennedy  
El Siboney ..... 900 Catherine  
Jose's Canina ..... 800 White  
La Cubanita ..... 601 Duval  
La Lechonera ..... 3101 Flagler  
El Meson De Pepe ..... 1215 Duval

### FRENCH

Cafe des Artistes ..... 1007 Simonton  
La Creperie ..... 124 Duval  
Gloria's Garden Cafe ..... 618 Duval  
Henry's (Casa Marina) ..... Reynolds St.  
La Jordan's ..... 125 Duval  
La Tropicana Marti ..... 1029 Southard  
Las Palmas ..... 700 Waddell  
Louie's Backyard ..... 1 Duval  
Pier House Restaurant ..... 431 Front  
Portside Key West ..... 431 Front

### ITALIAN

Antonia's ..... 615 Duval  
Aunt Rose's ..... 1900 Flagler  
Balamontes ..... 1223 White  
Florini's ..... 523 Eaton  
La Trattoria ..... 524 Duval  
Lightning Cafe ..... 511 Duval  
Little Nicola's ..... 628 Duval  
Portside Key West ..... 431 Front  
Top O' Spray ..... 3420 N. Roosevelt  
Twigs ..... 722 Duval

For Dining  
Dinner 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.  
Breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Call for the popular  
WEST INDIES LOUNGE  
Noon 'til ?

### MEXICAN

Chico's Mexican Food ..... 1908 Flagler  
also U.S. 1, Stock Island

El Loro Verde ..... 404 Southard

Gringo's ..... 509 1/2 Duval

Taco Loco ..... 4 Charles St.

Pancho & Lefty's Southwestern Cafe ..... 632 Olivia

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Exotic Chinese Stir Fries, Indian

Curries, Thai, Indonesian and

Burmese Specialties

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6:00-11:30 - CLOSER TUESDAY

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11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.  
Breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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the best motel restaurant in town. The Queen's Table

N.Y. Times (Jan. 31, 1982)

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Call for the popular  
WEST INDIES LOUNGE  
Noon 'til ?

Continued from page 2

The Peary Court building plan, as well as the new mobile homes in business now on Navy property on White Street, have jarred some of the local sensitivities who keep on thinking of Key West as a second Palm Beach, or something. Huffing and puffing and pretending that Key West doesn't have its common people is not what it's all about.

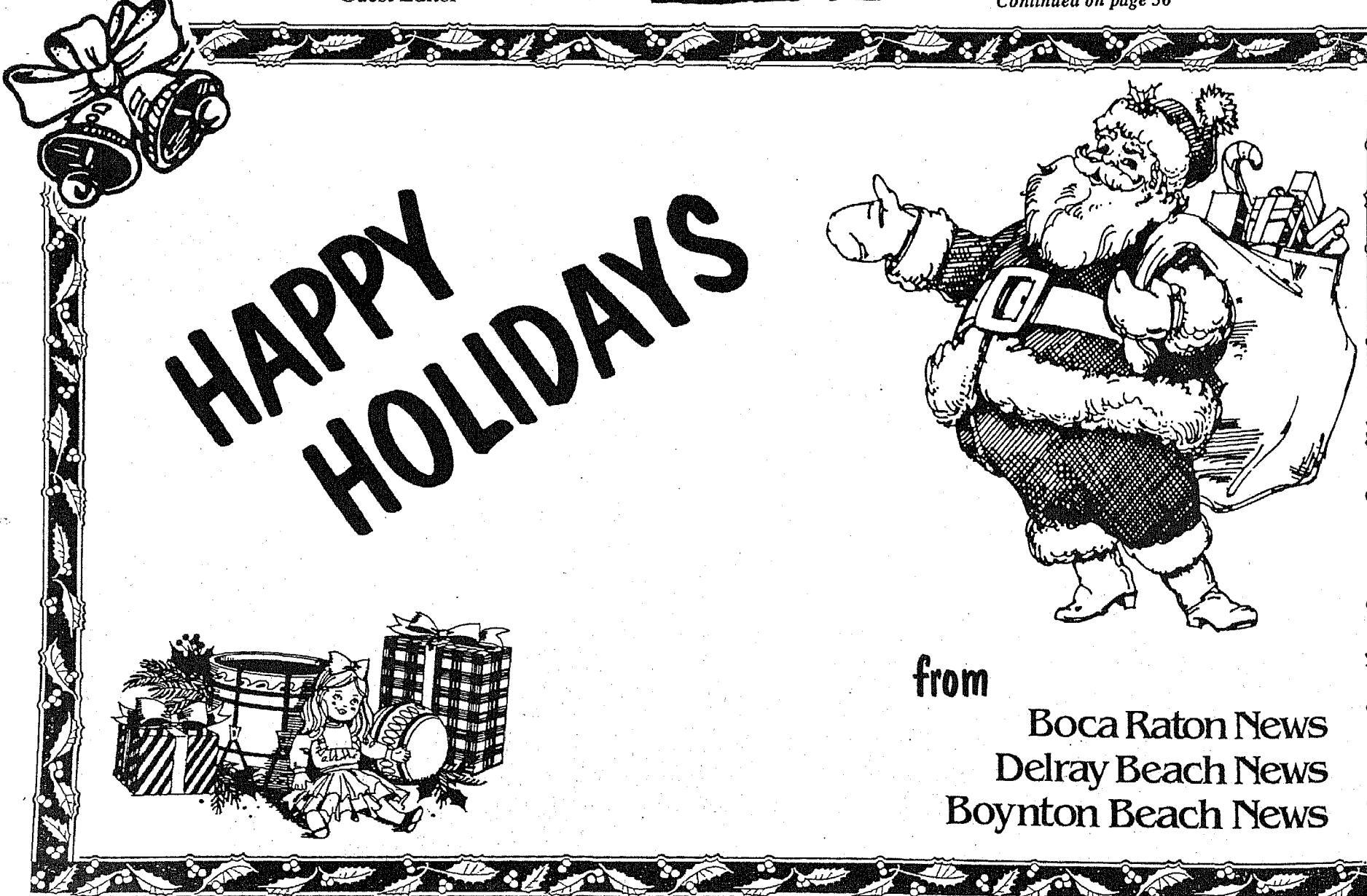
The Navy owns the property and leases it to the city for a dollar a year. There is still a strong and, we hope, lasting interest in this island by the military and its activities. If they want to build housing for their people, they'll build it. Period. But hopefully they'll investigate some of the other Navy-owned properties for development before committing to development of what many have come to view as public park.

It's with true good wishes that *Solares Hill* waves so-long to an old and treasured friend. Illustrator and cartoonist Wendy Waterline, often seen penning away through her window at Guild Hall, is leaving Key West for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We hope her the best, even though we know full-well that she'll be back soon for a visit, (if not something a little more permanent). And what about Conchflash? CF fans: keep those cards and letters coming.

We'll close with best wishes for a rock and roll Christmas and a safe and sane New Year. See you next month.

Bud Jacobson  
Guest Editor

Continued on page 56



*Body, Mind & Spirit*  
Continued from page 51

### Vegetarian Christmas Feast

In the holistic holiday spirit we invite you to join us for a heart friendly, earth friendly and turkey friendly Christmas dinner.

This menu has been prepared using the freshest ingredients, some of which may be purchased at your local health food stores, such as InsideOut, and the Waterfront Market. All recipes yield six to eight servings and the entire meal may be prepared the same day, if desired.

In Love and Light,  
Susan Papp

#### MENU

*Cream of Broccoli Soup  
Whole Wheat Buttermilk Biscuits  
Mashed Potatoes with Mushroom Gravy  
Green Beans Almondine  
Winter Squash with Wild Rice Stuffing  
Cranberry Walnut Relish  
Sweet Potatoes Nut Cake and  
Vanilla Ice Cream*

*In the interest of good health these recipes contain little saturated animal fat. If this is not a consideration, butter can replace the soy margarine and may be added to the potatoes. Due to space restrictions at deadline, we were not able to publish all the recipes. To receive a copy of the recipes of*

Continued on page 56

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

We hope our *Calendar of Events* will benefit planners of special events as well as those wishing to attend. We want to include all interesting events taking place in Key West and the Florida Keys, and we really do need your help. If you have an event you wish to include, please send information to: *Calendar, Solares Hill, #4 Key Lime Square, Key West, Florida, 33040*.

**12/18** Christmas Concert at St. Paul's, 7 p.m.  
**12/21** Series of American Short Stories on Film. *The Sky is Grey* by Ernest Gaines and *I'm a Fool* by Sherwood Anderson, 7 p.m. at the Public Library, 700 Fleming. Free.

**12/21** Jacqueline Rosenblatt, classical pianist at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, 8 p.m.

**12/25-1/8** *Denim & Diamonds* by Key West Players at Waterfront Playhouse, 8:30 p.m.

**12/26-31** Third Annual International Buskerfest festival of street performers. Over 30 performers from seven countries. Call Laurine Laxer or Will Soto at 294-3099.

**12/30** Warsaw Wind Quintet with Michiko Otaki, piano. Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Call 294-6232 for info.

**12/31** An Evening of Cabaret, Ballet & Casino. Ballet at the Strand followed by cabaret with Joe Donato and casino games, dinner & dancing at the Reach. 7 p.m.

### EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

**12/3** Christmas Bazaar at Big Pine Flea Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Lord of the Sea Lutheran Church at 872-3612.

**12/3** Florida Men's Chorus Concert '88 presented by the Key West Business Guild. Call 294-5136 or 294-4603.

**12/3, 10 & 17** Auction to benefit Multiple Sclerosis research. 8 p.m. Call Steve, 296-3352.

**12/3-8** *Fiddler on the Roof* starring singer/actor Norman Atkins recreating his acclaimed role of Tevye at the Strand Theatre. Presented by Festival of the Continents. Call 296-5882.

**12/4** & 11 *Handel's Messiah* at the Old Stone Church on Eaton & Simonton, 3-4 p.m. Admission is free, donations accepted. Call 296-2392.

**12/8-17** *Anything Goes* at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 294-6232.

**12/10** Key West Christmas Parade, 7 p.m. Contact Mark Beasley at 745-2204 or 294-2255.

**12/11** Meet Ric O'Barry, author of *Behind the Dolphin Smile* and trainer for the *Flipper* TV series at his book signing, 12-3 p.m. at the Greenpeace Store, 612 Duval. Call 296-4442.

**12/15, 16, 17** Christmas Lights Tour and Contest for Best Decorations sponsored by the Jaycees 2000, a nonprofit committee facing issues in the year 2000. Meet at Jaycees clubhouse, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m., \$3 adults, \$1 children. Call 294-1366 by Dec. 12 for info or to register your house on the tour. \$10 registration fee.

**12/15, 16, 17** *Working*, based on Studs Terkel's book, opens the Founders Season at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center at 8 p.m. Part of Arts Expo '88-89.

**12/16-1/29** Arts Expo '88-'89. Monroe County's 5th annual celebration of arts in every form. Outdoor arts and crafts, visual art presentation, literature, theater, music, film, festivals, fairs.

**12/16 & 17** Christmas House Tours sponsored by the Old Island Restoration Foundation. 5-8 p.m., \$6 in advance, \$8 night of tour. Call OIRF at 294-9501.

**12/16 & 17** *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Key Players at Coral Shores High School, MM 90.

**12/17** Boat Parade by Key Colony Beach Chamber of Commerce. Call 743-4386.

Personal and Professional one on one counseling available free of charge to qualified applicants by appointment. For information call AIDS HELP at 296-6196.

### COMMUNITY INTEREST

La Leche League of Big Pine. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Big Pine Methodist Church on Key Deer Boulevard. Discussion will include encouragement and information on how to establish a happy nursing relationship. Babies and toddlers are welcome! For information call Joanne Singleton at 872-1861.

**Land Trust Announced 1989 Calendar.** The Florida Keys Land Trust proudly announces the arrival of the Land Trust's 1989 Calendar with striking photos of the Florida Keys scenery. A limited supply of these calendars is available at a cost of \$6.50 each or 2 for \$12. All proceeds to further conservation projects of the Florida Keys Land Trust. Send check or money order to Florida Keys Land Trust, P.O. Box 1432, Key West, FL 33041.

**Guardianship of Monroe County**, a new program, is looking for guardians to help disabled adults and elderly residents incapable of making decisions on their own. Volunteers must be residents of Florida, enjoy helping people and can commit about 4 hours a week. Call Elizabeth Covino, HRS at 292-6728, Betty Campbell at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, 294-5531, or Liz Kern from Hospice, 294-8812.

**De Poo Hospital** needs volunteers for the Sunshine Auxiliary. Volunteers take flowers to patients' rooms, help in the cafeteria, run the gift shop and special projects for Christmas events. Call Selena Dack at 294-4692.





Page 58--December 1988--Solares Hill  
Book Review*Continued from page 38*

company? Well, not exactly. It came out of a misunderstanding among a group of "hard core" boardsailors up near Boston where "hard" sounds like "hahd" and "core" sounds like "cahre" ... that's a long way to an explanation.

Back to boardsailing. Niki and Charles make the distinction between boardsailors and surfers. Sailors don't simply float with the waves, they grab the wind, use it, and sail on boards. Another fine point has to do with "water starters," one of the trickier maneuvers in the sport. Here you're on a short board (about 6-feet long) and you let the wind pick you up instead of hauling on the sail itself.

Where's the best wind and water?

In the view of the writers the coastline from San Francisco north up through Oregon, "is spectacular visually and the winds are the best."

When they got to the Gorge, Niki said, winds were boomerang at 40 to 60 mph and "it was wild." She was out there in the water and another boardsailor yelled in her ear:

"Hey, this is like sticking your head out the window of a car going 80." He flew by and they both laughed.

What are the chances for success of the book?

"I think they're better than we thought," Charles said. "There are an estimated 750,000 boardsailors in the U.S. alone, now, and the numbers are growing. We are our own distributors and it's looking good."

After filling up 15 steno notepads and working over 14 hours a day to put it together into a book, Niki Patton, 37, and Charles Close, 52, accomplished something they'd only vaguely dreamed about.

They said much encouragement came from some old pals in Key West -- Alix Cleveland and Robin Morrison, John Thomson, a neighbor, and Harvey Rochman, screenwriter and film critic, who made the penetrating observation:

"You are in the throes of a mystical addiction."

Rochman had it right. Boardsailors go into an almost trancelike state when they're out there -- two hours on a board feels like 15 minutes, Niki said.

The book is available for \$12.95 plus \$2 handling through Hog Cove Promotions, P.O. Box 1880, New York City, NY, 10116. ■

## Pamela White and Cheryl Williams Return to Key West

by Valerie Ridenour

If you've never encountered a world class psychic, here's your chance. Pamela White and Cheryl Williams will bring their amazing talents to Key West on a tour that will take them to China in April. This is a highly specialized team with wide ranging knowledge to draw on when advising clients.

January fifth through the tenth will find Pam and Cheryl at Island Wellness, Gary Young's beautiful Key West home for metaphysical and spiritual classes and events. On this visit White and Williams will schedule private readings, generally for

## Lest We Forget

*Continued from page 8*

Powell countered that the mayor's action was nothing more than a "smokescreen" to divert attention from the true issue, which was the raw deal he claimed the city had made.

That day, the Pier House obtained its building permit for the Hand Print building including the 24 luxury suites.

In late June, the state's attorney charged Powell and Lewis with a noncriminal infraction of the Sunshine Law. A hearing was set for August 4, but it would be thousands of dollars in legal bills and months later before a verdict would be reached. (See "Sunshine Dispute Finally Resolved," this issue.)

The variance was readdressed only briefly. On two occasions the board failed to initiate any action after Commissioner Weekley told members that he was negotiating for more rent with the Pier House.

## DCA Enters the Fray

On August 4, the final day allowed by the process, the DCA filed its appeal of the variance. Later, they filed a second appeal of the building permit itself.

The DCA has stated a number of problems with the project. Central to their appeal is that the city had failed to require the Pier House to submit a Community Impact Assessment Statement. The CIAS is required by city ordinance for, among other things, all commercial projects over 10,000 square feet; the proposed Pier House project comprises over 24,000 square feet. The CIAS requirement can be waived only by a four-fifths vote of the city commission.

City Planner Art Mosley determined that the project did not require a CIAS because the "net impact" -- the total impact minus the impact that was associated with the previous use -- would be less than the amount needed to trigger the assessment.

DCA countered that the city code does not provide for such a waiver and records failed to show that the commission had specifically adopted such a policy.

Additionally, the DCA claimed that the city's Comprehensive Plan did not allow density variances for transient units, that a direct sewer connection shown in the plans violated the 1985 EPA mandated Sewer Moratorium, that in using the "net impact" argument the city had underassessed the project's impact fees, and that, as a result of not requiring the project to submit a CIAS, the development did not meet the criteria of the city's Growth Management Ordinance.

In order to guarantee a balance in new construction, the GMO requires that three new residential units must be approved for every new transient room. No such report had been made by staff documenting that the project would satisfy this requirement.

## DCA Appeal: The Current Status

A hearing before a state administrative officer has been scheduled for December 6, but a DCA attorney recently confided that both sides will ask for a continuance. Late January or early February will probably be the earliest date for rescheduling and the attorney's best guess is that the Cabinet won't render its final decision until early June.

When DCA Secretary Tom Pelham was in Key West recently, he told *Solares Hill* that one point on which the department will not negotiate is that the project requires a CIAS. Pelham stated, "I would not have authorized the appeal had I not believed that I received staff recommendations and the [failure to require a] CIAS was the primary objection. The impact fees were the other." Pelham continued, "I questioned the staff very, very closely. The CIAS is important."

The biggest problem that a CIAS poses to the future of the project is that it will require adherence to the guidelines imposed by the GMO, specifically that only one hotel room can be constructed for every three residential units approved.

The GMO established a six-month review cycle. Projects are submitted to the city for three months, then, for the next three months, they are reviewed.

As of November 18, the cut-off date for applications, approval was sought for more transient units than there were credits available. On the final day, the Holiday Inn Beachside presented its CIAS for a 50-unit addition. That, coupled with the Spottswood family's proposed 34-unit Coconut Beach development, created a total of 84 units requested. That figure does not include the 24 units planned for the Pier House.

According to the Planning Department, there are at present only 64 units allocated, given the formula. In a memo to the city commission dated November 21, Art Mosley suggested prorating both requests; granting 38 units to the Holiday Inn and 26 units to Coconut Beach, conditional on the board's approval of the CIAS and site plans of both projects.

That proposal would eliminate any pool of residential credits. Assistant City Planner Tom Wilson told *Solares Hill* that he had questioned Mosley about whether or not sufficient units should be withheld to support the 24 units approved the Hand Print building. Mosley's response was that he had given the matter consideration but felt it was unlikely the Pier House project would ever have to meet GMO guidelines.

Plain and simple, if the Cabinet upholds the DCA's appeal and requires the Pier House project to submit a CIAS, the developers will have to wait until 72 new residential units are approved for

construction. An additional GMO requirement mandates that 40 percent of those must be affordable.

Many questions remain to be resolved: whether the Pier House will ultimately construct 15 or 24 units, whether the development is assessed additional impact fees, whether the construction is further delayed waiting for housing credits to build up under the GMO? One thing is certain, the city is stuck with a lemon lease for the next 32 years.

Next month, in addition to tracing the history of the lease, from its controversial, closed-door inception, *Solares Hill* will report the current status of the negotiations aimed at increasing the city's income on the property. ■

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