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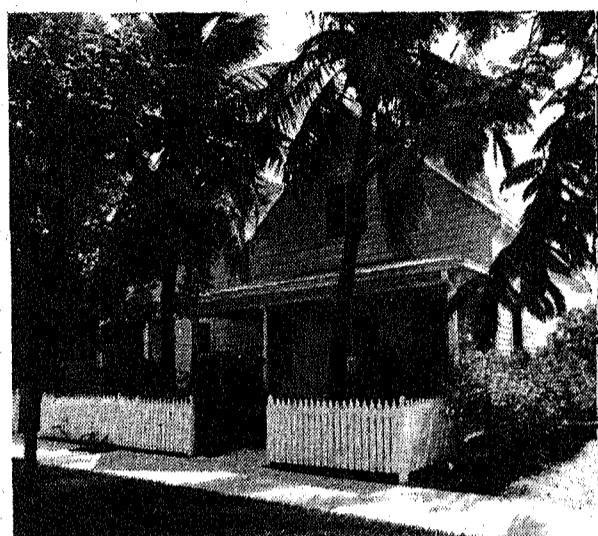
Vol. 17, No. 7 • April 2 - 15, 1992

HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS GUIDE

ROW OVER HOUSEBOATS • THE HURRICANE SHUFFLE
PEARY COURT DECISION • DREAMY DICK MOODY

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Wholly Inadequate

The news that federal Judge James Lawrence King had handed down a decision this week in favor of Last Stand's position on the Navy's Peary Court housing project spread around the island like wildfire. The people who have supported the effort to "Keep Peary Court Green" over the past three years were ecstatic.

Solares Hill applauds Judge King's decision, which describes the Navy's attempts at producing an Environmental Assessment (E.A.) in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act as "wholly inadequate." The ruling requires the Navy to produce a new—and thorough—E.A. within 45 days.

While this decision by no means ensures Peary Court will remain an open greenspace, it helps restore our faith in the system's ability to operate with integrity. The Navy, indeed, is obligated to play by the rules the rest of us must play by, and Judge King's decision has brought the *hubris* of the military bureaucracy back into a manageable context.

We look forward to studying the new (and improved) E.A. We congratulate Last Stand, former city commissioner Harry Powell and others for pursuing this case. Citizens who, believing that a law has been violated, spend their own resources to seek redress from the courts deserve our

thanks.

In another matter, we are concerned about the city's newest ordinance, which restricts the working areas of off property canvassers (OPCs) in Old Town. The ordinance says that OPCs may not operate on Duval Street, and may work on bisecting streets only at a distance of at least 25 feet from Duval.

The city's past efforts to regulate OPCs under the existing ordinance failed not because of inadequate regulation but because of lack of enforcement by the city's code enforcement officers.

The OPCs contend that code enforcement has never found an OPC in violation of any existing law, and the city has not provided evidence to the contrary.

We believe that the state laws provide an adequate framework to control the conduct of any person (including OPCs) who walks down Duval. The OPCs are advertising legitimate businesses, and they have a right to distribute their literature to the public.

OPCs do not have the right to harass people on the street, whether on Duval or any other street. Moving them is not a solution. Enforcing state law is.

Ann Boese

The orchid on the cover was grown by Ernie Hudson. The photograph is by J. D. Daoley.

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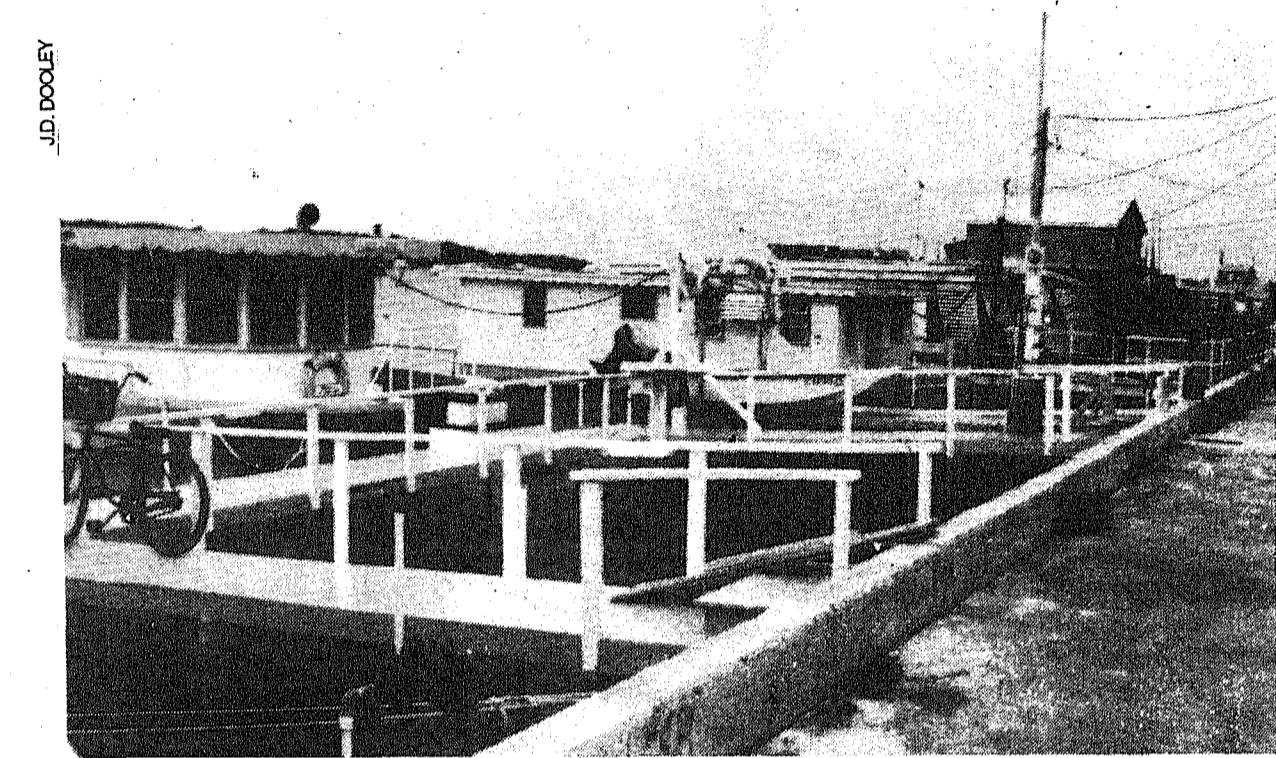
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The Struggle On Houseboat Row

by J.D. Dooley

"The twelve-year-old political battle in the South Roosevelt Blvd. area known as Houseboat Row is over."

J.D. DOOLEY



That assessment in *Solares Hill*'s August 1985 issue, written by Houseboat Row resident George Murphy, appears in retrospect unduly optimistic. The 26 Houseboat Row leaseholders are once again braced to knock heads with city officials over the 1500 feet of seawall that they call home.

For the first time, however, the houseboaters have assumed an offensive posture. Led by Murphy, they are accusing Mayor Dennis Wardlow of pursuing a long-time personal vendetta with the Row. They are refusing to comply with recent Port and Transit Authority (PATA) requests, which they contend violate the rights extended to them in their leases with the city. They are also filing an official complaint with the Department of Natural Resources against the city, which is responsible to the DNR for managing the area.

Upon taking office last November, Wardlow sent a memo to city attorney Ginny Stones stating, "The feeling of many citizens of Key West is these residents live in Key West without conforming to the regulations and ordinances that everyone else must conform to."

Wardlow asked Stones to contact the De-

partment of Natural Resources, U.S. Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Regulations, Department of Community Affairs, City Electric Systems, Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, Florida Highway Patrol, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Key West Police Department, Key West Code Enforcement Board,

Key West Port and Transit Authority, Last Stand, Reef Relief and any other department or agency that could contribute information.

No Show, No Go
In 1985 the first leases between the houseboat residents and the city were signed.

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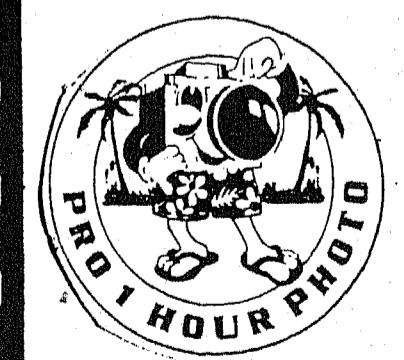
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The lease obligated the houseboaters to relocate to Garrison Bight when the city offered space at that facility. The offering of space, however, cannot occur until the city builds an addition to the Garrison Bight Marina. That addition is being built now.

PATA director Chuck Hamlin sent each Houseboat Row leaseholder a registered letter advising them to be prepared to relocate to the "new docks" at Garrison Bight.

Quoting a portion of the Houseboat Row lease, the letter gave the residents 30 days to agree to move their homes to Garrison Bight or be removed from the waiting list.

Hamlin said that the deadline (since extended by the city manager) was necessary in order to custom-build the new facility to fit the varying sizes of the houseboats.

"This letter in itself is a violation of our existing lease," Murphy told a gathering of Houseboat Row residents who have begun to meet regularly. "We would have to surrender our rights [the rights of their leases] in order to comply with this letter."

Though marina construction, with plans for 119 additional slips, has begun, the houseboat residents felt that it was not in their interest to submit intentions to relocate their homes without first seeing the site plans, slip positions and other data.

The Row residents worry that the new marina will still be a year from completion should they agree to move now. Since the existing leases at Garrison Bight prohibit some houseboats with a clause that states that vessels docked at the marina must be able to maneuver under their own power, the Houseboat Row residents worry they'll be up the creek without a paddle.

Recently, the city advised Hamlin to send further correspondence with the houseboat owners to the city manager's office. The city also claims that a new lease more conducive to floating homes is being written.

Worried Row residents want to know who will be responsible for the cost and safety of relocating the homes, and what services will be provided upon relocation.

City Gripe

The city has claimed that the houseboaters

pollute the channel. Yet the boats are inspected for sewage. The residents claim they would be more than willing to tie into the city's sewer system, which serves a housing development across the street.

Each of the floating homes on Houseboat Row has an approved sewage management system. According to Ann Lazar of the DNR and Gus Rios of the Department of Environmental Regulation, there have been no water-quality tests conducted at Houseboat Row since the management agreement went into effect.

The houseboats are not within the city limits. The houseboaters are not eligible for city residential trash removal. Nor can they vote in city elections.

Residents of Houseboat Row say that they are willing to comply with all laws pertaining to their homes, but, as they are not located within the city, city regulations simply do not apply.

Wardlow incorrectly claims that the city has leased the bay bottom beneath Houseboat Row. The city has entered into an agreement to manage the area, but has no vested rights.

In a memo dated December 3, 1991, Wardlow mentions what he considers to be a "more than reasonable" amount of trash bags, 12 to 15, deposited on the sidewalk at Houseboat Row.

The trash he refers to was most likely left by persons living offshore who utilize the city-built and city-maintained dinghy docks. The residents of Houseboat Row are required to contract commercial trash collection at \$57 per month each. The trash Wardlow refers to is removed at no charge by the collectors contracted by the city.

In another memo, also dated December 3, 1991, Wardlow advises city manager Felix Cooper of numerous telephone complaints on parking violations at Houseboat Row.

Upon Cooper's receipt of that memo, the police immediately began to ticket cars at Houseboat Row for parking in a no-parking zone. Murphy, who received a ticket, claims the no-parking signs were not constructed by the DOT, the only agency permitted to classify the area as a no-parking zone.

Derelict Vessels, Dinghy Docks

According to Murphy, the city violated the conditions of its management agreement with the DNR on two fronts.

First, under the agreement, the city is responsible for the removal of derelict vessels. The houseboat owners claim that numerous such vessels have littered the area for years, and that the city has taken no action to rectify the situation.

Second, the agreement requires that the city's management activities shall not conflict with the conservation, protection and enhancement of the management area. According to the houseboat residents, the city violated the terms by constructing dinghy docks at Houseboat Row.

The dinghy docks, they say, have encouraged illegal liveaboards from the Cow Key Channel to row to the seawall, where city officials and citizens have mistaken them for Row residents.

A floating community, the Cow Key Channel anchorage is directly adjacent to Houseboat Row, visible from South Roosevelt Boulevard. Vessels in the anchorage exist completely devoid of regulation with the exception of Coast Guard safety inspections.

Residents of the anchorage do not pay for trash pick-up. Yet some dump their refuse in city-owned containers on South Roosevelt. They are not inspected for sewage disposal. If their vessels are registered as boats, they do not pay property taxes. The vessels are often abandoned.

The city cannot regulate the anchorage. It is not within the city's purview. If the homes from Houseboat Row were removed, the anchorage would almost certainly remain. The two communities are mutually exclusive.

Officially, residents of Houseboat Row don't pay rent to the city, which manages the bay bottom, or to the DNR, which ultimately controls it for the State of Florida. However, there is a monthly charge of \$46 for public services such as police and fire protection.

Though a relatively inexpensive lifestyle, life on the Row has the drawbacks any uncertain tenancy entails. Though its denizens cannot vote because they do not live in the city, they have faced eviction at the hands of the city for most of the last two decades.

A Taxing Experience

by Geddy Sveikauskas

When his office opens the last of the envelopes postmarked March 31 or before, tax collector Harry Knight expects to have collected around \$90 million since November 1 from the harried property taxpayers of Monroe County. Even in these tough eco-

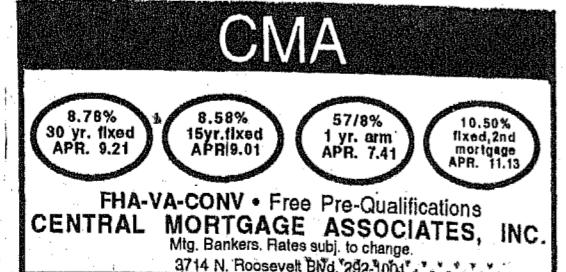
nomic times, he'll probably collect \$5 million to \$7 million more before the legal notices for uncollected taxes run their course in the *Citizen* about June 1.

The record for the longest wait on payment, says Knight, goes to a New Jersey-based taxpayer whose letter was received, properly post-marked, in Knight's office 16

years after it was sent. All that time, it appears, the check was in the mail.

Monroe County propertyowners who pay their property taxes between December and March pay 1 percent per month in interest. (The first two months are actually a discount, Knight emphasizes.) Propertyowners pay 1.5 percent per month if they pay their taxes in April and May, plus the cost of the legal notice (about \$1.05 per line). After that the penalties are higher.

Knight says more people paid their property taxes this past November and December than in the same period the previous year. Some 60- to 65 percent of all owners of real property in Monroe County pay their taxes before the end of the year. Knight speculates



that many people pay early not only to pay a little less but also to get the tax deduction in the year just ending.

What's more, low interest rates from many other investments may have encouraged people to pay their taxes more promptly — 12 percent a year interest isn't a bad return these days.

Monroe County property is assessed at about \$6.5 billion in taxable value. Knight collects property taxes for the county, school district, the City of Key West, water district and various special districts. If you're a Key West propertyowner you should expect to pay about \$13 or \$14 in property taxes for every thousand dollars your property would sell for in the open market.

The recession and changing attitudes in regard to taxes are taking their toll. Knight says that 1991 was the first year that he went into the tax sale "without collecting the nut,"

the 95 percent collection rate that state law counts on. By July, however, he was up to 97 percent.

The veteran tax collector doesn't know if the same thing will happen this year. It might. At 72 percent, the tax take at the end of February was slightly behind last year's 74 percent at the same time.

Though the modern attitude may be to regard the prompt payment of property taxes an exercise in economic calculation, some people maintain a refreshingly old-fashioned perspective. People still come running in, Knight reports, clutching the money and saying, "Take my name out of the paper."

Whoever devised the modern system of tax notices in Monroe County was a shrewd judge of human psychology. The first publication in the legal notices of the list of properties for whom taxes are delinquent is in

alphabetical order. The later ones are by account number.

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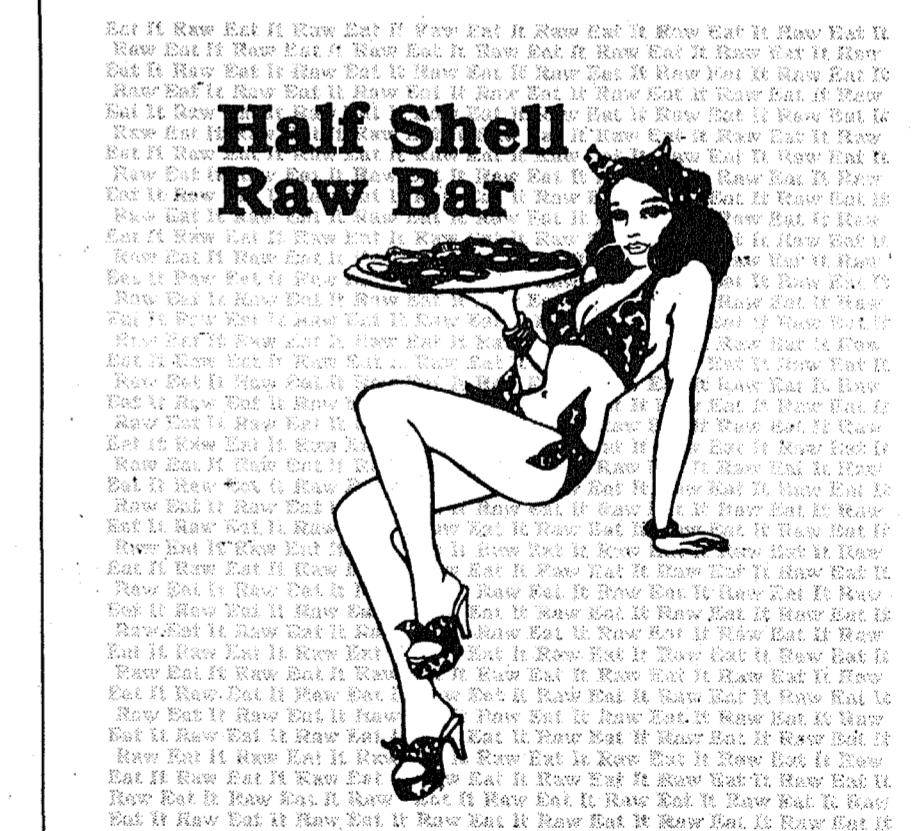


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The Peary Court Decision

by J. D. Dooey

The court finds that this project, known as Peary Court, is a major federal action that will significantly affect the environment," Federal Judge James Lawrence King ruled March 30 in a 29-page decision on the lawsuit brought against the U.S. Navy by the local environmental group Last Stand.

In 1988 the Navy wrote an eight-page Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with its planned 169-unit housing project at Peary Court. Based on that EA, the Navy issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI).

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Court after the site was already chosen, the Navy negated the intent of the NEPA process. The result, King wrote, was not what Congress intended. "The Navy has failed to demonstrate evidence of NEPA compliance before committing to the Peary Court project," he wrote.

Outraged, local environmentalists claimed the Navy had simply gone through the motions, and had not taken the required "good-faith hard look" as required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Three years later a federal judge agreed with them.

Several citizen groups, led by then-city commissioner Harry Powell, opposed the Navy's finding. Ultimately, it was Last Stand that filed a suit based on NEPA law.

Ruling in favor of Last Stand, King admonished the Navy for its flimsy environmental assessment and subsequent attempts to "cure" the document with after-the-fact studies and reports.

"Carefully comparing the procedure followed by the Navy in preparing the EA on Peary Court with what is required by law leads to the inescapable conclusion that the September 1988 EA was wholly inadequate," King wrote.

NEPA guidelines were established in 1969 to insure that federal government projects included environmental considerations in the decision-making process, including the decision of whether to proceed with the project.

"Far from the requisite hard look," King wrote, "the Navy barely took any look at the environmental consequences of the project."

By performing the studies required to substantiate the decision to build on Peary

"While obviously not pleased with having to delay the contractors any longer," Perkins read, "we will certainly comply with what Judge King feels is necessary."

Perkins said the Navy does not plan to appeal the ruling.

Members of Last Stand were guardedly optimistic at a late-night press conference on Monday.

"This is what we asked for," Jim Farrell, the newly elected president of the organization, said. "But we will be watching the process carefully."

To date the suit has cost Last Stand over \$10,000 in legal fees. Members were not prepared to comment on the subject of seeking costs from the court.

"But I don't think a group of citizens should have to pay for requiring the Navy to perform a study that they were supposed to perform in the first place," said board member Elliot Baron.

The Navy must produce a new Environmental Assessment within 45 days.

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THE FLORIDA KEYS
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ISLAND TOY

City Comprehensive Plan: Doing The Hurricane Shuffle

by Geddy Sveikauskas

"We're not close philosophically," said the city's planning consultant Les Solin at the end of a two-hour session on March 26 on the progress of Key West's comprehensive plan, "but we are close." Holding to that pragmatic outlook, Solin recommended a stipulated settlement between his client and the state Department of Community Affairs.

Mayor Dennis Wardlow was not yet ready to take Solin's advice, in no small part because it could cost the city up to \$84,500 in consultants' fees to negotiate a settlement—and even then the settlement might not be guaranteed.

At the heart of the comprehensive plan are hurricane-evacuation figures which the state is using to determine growth.

Wardlow contended that constraining growth because of a traffic bottleneck out of the Keys on Route 1 during hurricane evacuation didn't make sense if Key Westers weren't going anywhere. He disputed the findings of a state study which indicated that only 15 percent of all Keys' residents didn't intend to evacuate during a hurricane warning.

The mayor asked why Key West had to pay for a consultant to negotiate on the premise that the DCA position on evacuation was valid when it was not. If the DCA insisted on that premise, he added bitterly, why didn't the state pay for the study, complete it and then accept its conclusions?

"We could write ten plans," he said to the DCA representatives, "and you wouldn't be satisfied. Why don't you write the plan?"

Wardlow argued that those who would evacuate from Key West would be in greater peril than those who did not. "I can tell you for one that I will not be on that highway in case of an evacuation," he said. Commissioner Harry Bethel and planning board members Terry Horton, Manny Boa and Joel Beck echoed his view.

The evacuation question, the mayor said, was "Hump 1A," the foundation of everything else in the plan. "The comprehensive plan changes," Wardlow concluded, "shouldn't be related to evacuation."

Ken ("I'm going to be outta here when the big one comes") Metcalf of the DCA said the city was free to do its own hurricane survey. If people weren't going to evacuate, he said, perhaps the city could get more building units.

"If we get 5000 affidavits from people saying they wouldn't leave," asked city manager Felix Cooper, "does that mean we get 5000 more building units?"

No, replied Metcalf. There had to be a scientifically credible survey.

Nobody wanted to spoil the moment by suggesting that in a survey those in favor of development might say they didn't intend to leave whether they intended to do so or not, and that, conversely, those against development might say they did intend to leave whether they expected to or not.

Since 1988, Key West has paid \$230,000 in fees to external consultants for the preparation of the city comprehensive plan, and Wardlow was in no hurry to see that figure rise above \$300,000. The DCA has offered a measly \$10,000 in new aid, and the city has shot off a letter to Tallahassee asking for more.

Coming to a settlement with the DCA may, however, be cheaper than not settling. Maria Abadal of DCA said that going before a state administrative officer would be "very costly" for both sides, and she implied that the city would probably lose.

Behind all the political skirmishing was the deadly serious question of how much building would be permitted in the next decade in the Keys. The state has taken the position that growth should be coordinated so that the hurricane evacuation situation doesn't get worse.

For the next decade, the magic number of development units to be allocated in Monroe County is 5786. In its plan, county government decided to lop some 2000 units in the unincorporated areas of the county which were either vested or will be prior to the plan's adoption off the top of the 5786 number. Then the county distributed the remaining number of future housing units throughout the Keys based on population.

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Ken Metcalf thinks that's unfair to Key West, which, according to his calculation, has 1978 units in its development pipeline. He suggested that Key West's vested units be recognized in the same way the county ones were. That allocation would give Key West, which, except in the past decade, has had a very slow rate of growth in housing units, perhaps about 2500 units in the next decade.

Metcalf also argued that not all the large Key West developments in the pipeline (Solana Village, Truman Annex, Ocean Walk, Paradise Cove, Key West Fairways, etc.) would in fact be built. The city had other options. A first-come, first-served policy that favored the filling of empty lots with small developments, Metcalf argued, would work well for the city.

The DCA is asking the city to talk with the county and come up with some joint figures. That way, the two comprehensive plans would be integrated to some degree—which at present they are not.

The commissioners might have been swayed to some extent by Metcalf's argument, but they weren't yet convinced. "That leaves us zip for the next ten years," Sally Lewis said.

"It's a growth management agenda," added Terry Horton with disdain.

It could have been worse. Nobody likened the city's situation to that of the local murderer who's being compelled to pay the prosecutor's legal costs.

Toward the end of the session, commissioner Joe Pais tried to get the discussion back on track. "It seems we're getting an optimistic view of how close we are to agreement," he said.

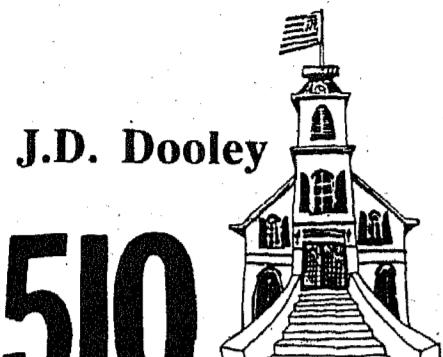
Said Solin in support, "We're talking the same numbers as DCA."

City planner Ted Strader was asked after the meeting if he shared Solin's optimism that a settlement with DCA would not be unduly difficult.

"Yes," said the normally cautious planner.

The workshop session broke up without a clear direction being articulated. Discussions with the DCA at the staff level will continue. The commitment of money to finish the city's comprehensive planning effort remains in abeyance. The city will seek greater financial support from the state while the posturing continues.

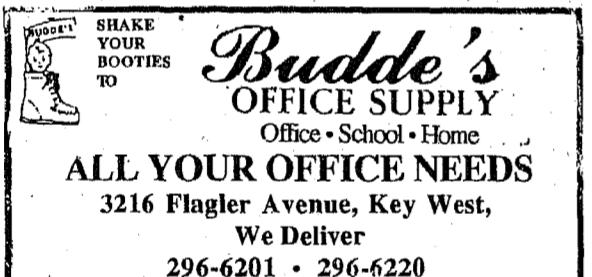
And the city commissioners will have to calculate the political consequences of war or peace with DCA.



Biting the Barkers

From people wearing sandwich boards displaying messages such as "Eat at Joe's" to seedy characters standing in brothel doorways, off property canvassers (OPCs) have been an American tradition. But a new city ordinance, which was sponsored by Commissioner Sally Lewis, will all but eradicate OPCs on Duval Street.

Passed unanimously at the March 17 meeting, the ordinance sets strict operating guidelines for the OPCs, or barkers, as they are commonly called, who say they are necessary to attract people from Duval Street to off-the-beaten-track businesses. The OPCs hand out literature or otherwise attempt to entice tourists to patronize the establishments.



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which traditionally have been restaurants.

Under the new ordinance, OPCs will be prohibited from working on Duval Street, the Mallory Square area or within 25 feet of Duval Street on any cross street which bisects Duval. They will be permitted to operate on Whitehead Street and Simonton Street, but only at intersections.

They will be photographed and licensed individually. The license with photo identification, which may be revoked by the Code Enforcement Board, must be worn while working.

Off-Duval Businesses Fear Failure

"I don't know if I'll stay in business," said Curley Hurt, who owns Curley's Place. "We [Curley's Place, Dos Lobos and Clancy's Gourmet Pizza] took one of the worst areas of town and made it nice. Now you will put three restaurants and 50 people out of business." Those restaurants are located a block off Duval in the Charles Street-Telegraph Lane area.

"There are plenty off-Duval restaurants that do not fail," countered Commissioner Jimmy Weekley, referring to Compass Rose and Mangia-Mangia as examples of successful off-Duval restaurants. "I don't believe that if you are a few steps off Duval that you have to disrupt the flow of traffic to attract customers," he said.

Those restaurants are located near the Harris School, about five blocks from Duval.

"Pedestrians have a right to walk unobstructed down the street," added Lewis, "without having to step into the gutter to avoid an OPC. I've had OPCs jump out and tell me I have to take their literature. Well, I don't have to do anything."

Lewis went on to say that the OPCs interfere with other legitimate businesses.

The crowd in commission chambers seemed equally split on its support. The merchants representing off-Duval establishments supported the OPCs, while Duval Street merchants supported the ordinance.

"Don't let this be a town where passing out [Ku Klux] Klan literature is legal and passing out menus is illegal," said Wade Miller, the attorney representing the off-Duval merchants.

Duval Street gallery owner Michael Miller, however, applauded the city for "ridding the street of the carnival-type atmosphere."

An Old Issue

Key West OPCs first gained notoriety in the time-share industry, where they offered free meals or excursions in exchange for touring the resorts. The city licensed these individuals, and most were located in booths off the sidewalk and out of the public right-of-way.

As more off Duval establishments began competing for customers in the late 1980s, more OPCs appeared on the street. Representatives from dive boats, restaurants, time share resorts, T-shirt shops and strip bars began to crowd the Duval Street sidewalks.

Commissioners Lewis and Weekley have spoken on the topic several times over the years, and measures have been taken to regulate the OPCs. According to the commissioners, however, complaints of OPC interference has poured in from Duval merchants.

Merchants on Duval pay higher rent and they enjoy a large amount of foot traffic; merchants off Duval claim that the OPCs are necessary to attract traffic that normally does not venture off the main drag.

Why Not Regulate?

Ed Lange of Coral Princess glass-bottom boats, an off-Duval business that advertises via OPCs, brought up the related issue of offensive T-shirt shops.

"When problems arose with the T-shirt shops," he said, "you didn't move them all to Duck Avenue—you regulated them. All we are asking is for you to govern and not carry someone on a city payroll who has not done his job for nine years."

That "someone" Lange mentioned refers

to the city code enforcement officers, who are responsible for regulating OPC conduct.

The off-Duval merchants claim that no OPC license has ever been revoked, and that the OPCs are a benefit to the community by providing free guide and referral services to the tourists.

"I doubt that there is anyone in this room who has not provided that service," Lewis said.

T-Shirt Ordinance

Also during the March 17 meeting, the commission put the finishing touches on the T-shirt shop regulatory ordinance. The new custom wearing-apparel ordinance passed on the first reading; it is expected to do the same on a final reading during an upcoming commission meeting.

Research into the ordinance began last year after a record number of complaints from T-shirt shop customers were filed with the police department.

According to police reports, some shop employees unethically tabulated the cost of custom T-shirts. Customers, who were primarily foreign, complained that they would order a custom shirt at one price, but that, upon completion of the work, were presented with a much higher bill. (In one case, a Japanese customer paid about \$400 for several shirts.) The customers were then told to pay or the police would be called.

Though such practices are illegal by their own merit, the new ordinance mandates that shops display standard signage that details all prices and that they use standard forms to

write up their orders. Both the sign and the form must appear in English, Spanish, French, Japanese, German and Italian.

While a few merchants which have never been associated with the complaints claimed the ordinance was unfair to them, most agreed with the conditions proposed by the city.

"The innocent will suffer with the guilty," Mayor Dennis Wardlow said, "but we have a serious problem here."

"This is the sad part of any legislation," Jimmy Weekley said, "but the reputation of the community is on the line."



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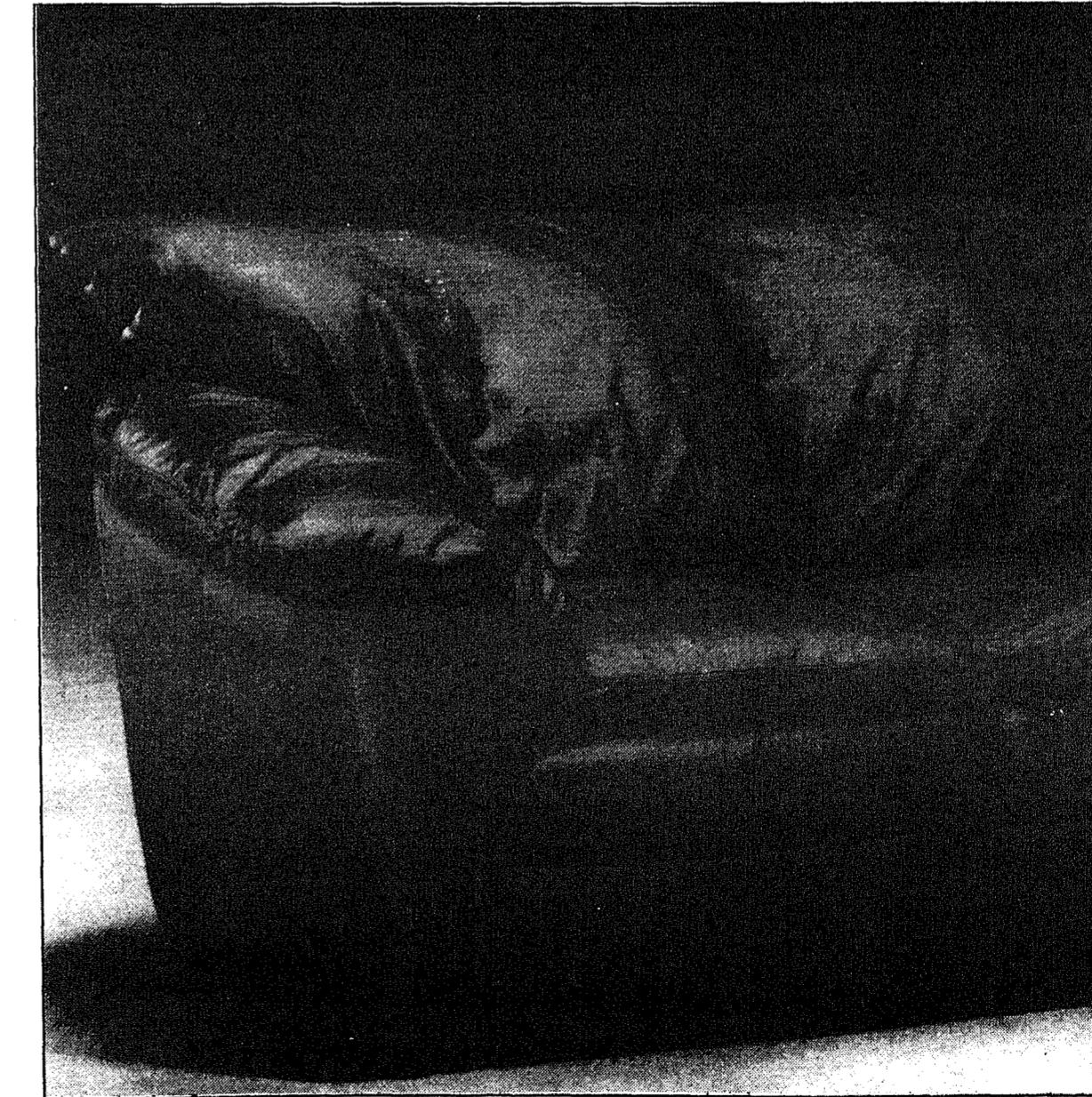
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Customs House: A \$6.5 Million Project

by Mark Hadden

The interior of Key West's century-old Customs House is not so much a blank slate as a mess. Once the centerpiece of the federal government's presence in Florida, the Customs House is now a beautiful but sadly deteriorated building.

It's going to cost a lot of money to bring the once-proud structure, which the state intends to purchase and after renovation lease to the Art & Historical Society for museum space, back to a respectable condition. But the potential contribution of this unique building to Key West's downtown core makes the investment worthwhile, even at a time of financial austerity.

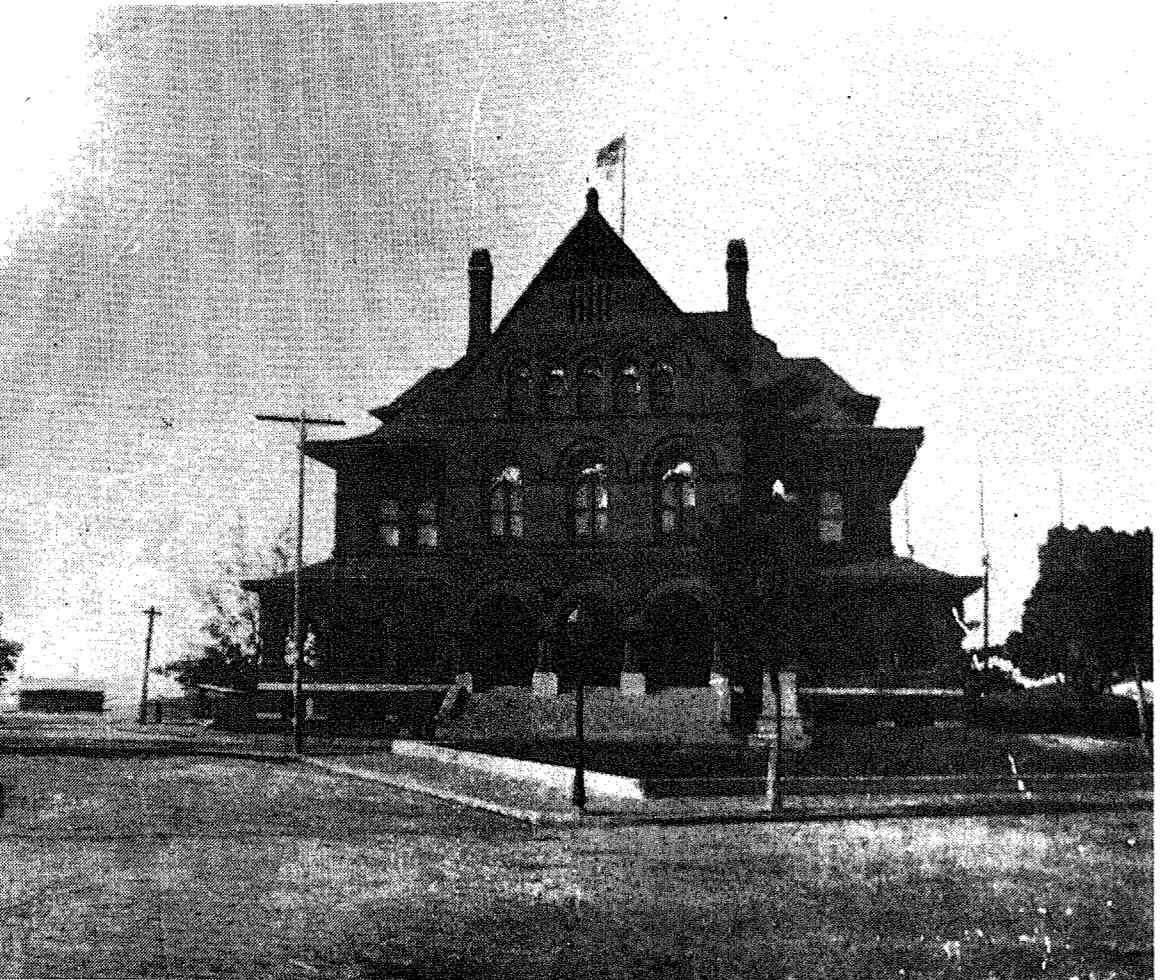
In contrast to the imposing three-story brick exterior, the interior feels shrunken and close. Though the ceilings are high, the rooms are broken up by massive pillars and flimsy partitions added when the building was converted into office space for the Navy in the 1930s. Whatever light there is comes through glass that hasn't been washed in the 20 years since everyone lost interest in the building's usefulness.

A dead pigeon that got in before the broken windows were boarded up still lies in the back of the empty courtroom where the government held the inquiry into the sinking of the *Battleship Maine*. Across the hall in the old judges' chambers ferns grow out of holes in a spot in the plaster regularly hit by the midday sun.

In all, the purchase of the Customs House, its renovation and the installation of the collection of the Art & Historical Society in it will cost an estimated \$6 to \$6.5 million.

The most optimistic scenario is that a contractor will be brought in to begin work on the restoration after hurricane season is

PHOTO CIRCA 1940 FROM THE DON PINDER COLLECTION



over in October. If finances are available, the project should take about 15 months to complete.

According to the proposed budget for the renovation, \$1.5 million will come from federal, state and county grants, \$2 million from private donations, and \$1 million from corporate foundations.

The Monroe County Tourist Development Council has already provided \$200,000

for architectural fees.

Lou Petrocelli, a semi-retired builder and developer who heads the private fundraising effort by the Art & Historical Society's Customs House Committee, said \$550,000 has already been raised by selling individual rooms in the building which will be dedicated to the purchaser.

Petrocelli said that he has given \$150,000 in his own name and that of his life companion, and that he convinced his brother to donate another \$100,000.

"You can't ask people for money unless you yourself are willing to part with it," he said.

Originally, the historic building, completed in 1891, was constructed to hold the offices of the Customs Service, and those of other federal agencies such as the post office,

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federal district court and lighthouse service.

"At that time," explained Susan Olsen, executive director of the Key West Art & Historical Society, "the stature of a customs house and post office required a building like that. Just the size and stature of the structure represents a time when Key West was the largest city with the most significant port in Florida."

Aliens Dropped It Here

Touring the building, Bert Bender of Bender and Dulaune, the local architectural firm that won the Customs House contract for architectural services, says that everything in the building will need to be repaired. The project is currently in its first phase, an assessment of the condition of the historic structure.

"We determine what modifications have taken place, what damage exists through the building, what areas need special attention," said Bender. "Essentially we go through the whole building and determine the condition of all the elements."

"It's like space aliens dropped it here," said Olsen. "It's got a roof that will hold six feet of snow—it does not belong here."

Olsen has been at the center of the effort to acquire the Customs House, restore it, and house the Art & Historical Society's museum collection there. The collection is currently at East Martello, a restored Civil War-era fort a half-mile north of Smathers Beach.

"What happened was we did a master plan for East Martello, and what the plan reflected was that we had poor visitation out here, about 25,000 people a year," explained

Olsen. "We do not generate enough revenue off these visitations to maintain the property and the collections."

East Martello is not a good location for a museum collection. To inhibit the deterioration of artifacts and exhibit items, the building would need to be climate-controlled, which would require installation of air conditioning on its roof and a liner inside the building, covering up the eight-foot-thick brick walls and ruining East Martello's architectural integrity. In Olsen's opinion, such a transformation would destroy the experience of those who do trek out to the fort.

"Also," added Olsen, "East Martello is at sea level. Major museums hesitate to rent or loan artifacts or exhibits to a museum which would probably be under water if a major

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storm were to come.

"The Kennedy Library has got a fabulous Hemingway collection," she said, "but right now we can't borrow it. We can't display any major Audubon right now, but we could at the Customs House. Between 1887 and 1903 Winslow Homer painted 16 watercolors in the Florida Keys; my big hope is to get them back and show them."

Olsen said she didn't believe that the Art & Historical Society would ever "get King Tut or anything." But in the mid-level range of exhibitions, she said, "there are some fabulous shows on the circuit that we could get."

Filing Foreclosure

At around the same time the Art & Historical Society started to look around at aban-

The Key West Reporter

VOLUME XLVII / ISSUE XV

APRIL FOOL'S DAY, 1992

Conch Republic Secedes from Planet Earth!

UPI - On the Tenth Anniversary of the creation of the Conch Republic, Key Westers have decided, by referendum, that they have had enough of the world's problems and violence, and voted to secede from the planet entirely.

The original secession, back on April 24, 1982, came as a rebellion against the Reagan administration which had drastically cut local tourism by blockading the Overseas Highway in an effort to stop the flow of illegal aliens from the Mariel Boatlift. The unwanted final result of the blockade was that aliens continued to travel through the Keys -- but the tourists stopped. Mayor Dennis Wardlow fired a symbolic rifle shot at the United States, and then quickly surrendered.

"Ten years later, the blockade is gone, but overall the situation is hardly better," commented City Commissioner Bubba McPhee, adding "the neglect Key West felt back in 1982 is now shared by the entire United States. The Education President forgot that promise, and the Environmental President didn't even mention the environment in the State of the Union Address. Human issues like the Homeless, the Hungry, and AIDS funding are all being ignored -- just like Key West was ignored back in 1982."

In a speech to a cheering crowd of over 3,000 onlookers, Island City Commissioner Duke



Artist's rendering of the new "Space Port" concept for the Conch Republic.

Righton fired a conch fritter out of a slingshot at the United States and screamed "Now Read Our Lips ... No More B — S — !"

"We'll just leave the planet and float as an island, off in space, and probably be better off without all the pollution, military boondoggles, street crime, taxes and endless governmental methane down here," added Righton.

Key West has been viewed by Washington insiders for years as a spaced-out place, and it will

henceforth become a space port in the truest sense of the word.

"There are a lot of generous, friendly and caring people living in Key West, and I'm sure we'll be able to take good care of ourselves out there," added Commissioner Righton.

"The Space Shuttle takes off at Kennedy Space Center anyway, we'll just have them make a quick stopoff here on each mission to drop off needed supplies."

"Satellite TV" adds Righton, "will also be better than the

Solares Hill Design Group named Official Artists for New Space City

AP - In their twelfth year of doing Key West's finest advertising design work, Solares Hill Design Group was named Tuesday as the Official Artists for the newly-created Space City of Key West. "We are thrilled to have been chosen," commented Design Group co-owner J.T. Thompson, "Quality has always

doned buildings on the island, a foreclosure sign went up in front of the Customs House, then owned by Pritam Singh's Truman Annex Land Company. The building, overlooking Front Street and practically adjacent to Mallory Square, was an ideal location.

"The first thing we did," said Olsen, "was call the Truman Annex Land Company up and say, 'Hey, the Customs House is for sale. What's it worth?'"

There was a \$1.75-million mortgage on the Customs House and two adjacent lots owned by the General Bank of Coral Gables, recently taken over by the federal Resolution Trust Company. Singh had originally planned to convert the Customs House into an exclusive yacht club, but severe zoning restraints and financial hard times had forced abandonment of those plans. The mortgage payments had not been made for several months.

The Art & Historical Society contacted the Tallahassee office of the Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit land conservation and preservation organization. Olsen described as "good-guy real estate people, saving things from the evil, wicked developer and that kind of stuff."

Danger: Another T-Shirt Shop?

"I believe we were informed that the Customs House had been placed on the market for sale," said Greg Chelius, TPL project manager handling the Customs House project, "and that it was in imminent danger of being converted into a t-shirt shop or a restaurant, something that would not preserve the historical integrity of the property."

The Art & Historical Society asked TPL

to buy the Customs House until they could get the state to purchase it and lease it back to them. Chelius and the TPL staff checked out the Art & Historical Society, assessed the likelihood of state purchase of the property, and then decided to help.

TPL's primary goal, according to Chelius, is "protecting the land where people live and work, for people."

The Customs House was within the parameters of TPL's mission. "We fulfill that intermediary role," said Chelius. "Government is so slow. They may have a property targeted and say they want to buy it, and have a seller who says they want to sell it—but the time frame in which the state takes to buy anything is very long."

Dealing With The RTC

Since the Resolution Trust Company held the mortgage on the Customs House, Chelius had to tread lightly. "The RTC was not aware that they owned the Customs House when I first started dealing with them," he said. "And I couldn't tell them, because I didn't want them to foreclose on it. So basically I painted the picture of: If you acquired a building, what I would like to do is work with you to acquire it. How would we do that?"

Chelius established a rapport with the asset specialists of the RTC responsible for the General Bank of Coral Gables portfolio. He asked them to visit TPL's offices while they were in Tallahassee on other business. In time, he said, the RTC people understood that TPL was not only in the business of acquiring properties at below-market value, but had more philanthropic purposes.

When everyone involved—the Truman Annex Land Company, TPL and the RTC—felt comfortable with the situation, Chelius put his cards out on the table.

"I said, 'Here's the asset, here's the bank that it was in.' It took them a couple of days to locate the file, they pulled it out, and essentially we just started negotiating from there. But having that rapport, they didn't want to go forward with foreclosure, and it worked out pretty well."

An S&L Payback

On August 19, 1991, the TPL wrote the RTC a \$1.1-million check and took over the property.

"Pritam Singh [who had owned the property] was willing to give a deed in lieu of foreclosure. His debts were essentially wiped

out, and the RTC got paid by us," said Chelius.

"They understood that in the long range the people in America are paying for the savings-and-loan debacle, and this was an opportunity to work with us and give back to the people," he said.

TPL and the Art & Historical Society then began pursuing state funds under the Conservation and Recreational Land (CARL) program. Chelius and Olsen had submitted an 160-page CARL application in January 1991.

Then came three public hearings and reviews, two preliminary votes by the Land Acquisition Advisory Council, and a crucial final vote that ranked the project twelfth out of 89 submissions statewide.

One of the reasons the CARL committee, which is made up of the heads of state departments, was so favorable to the project was due to the political leverage of local State Representative Ron Saunders, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said Olsen.

"The Customs House project has had a lot of support from the community," explained Saunders. "When we're looking at different projects, community support is very important. It was very helpful in trying to convince people up here in Tallahassee that this was a worthwhile project."

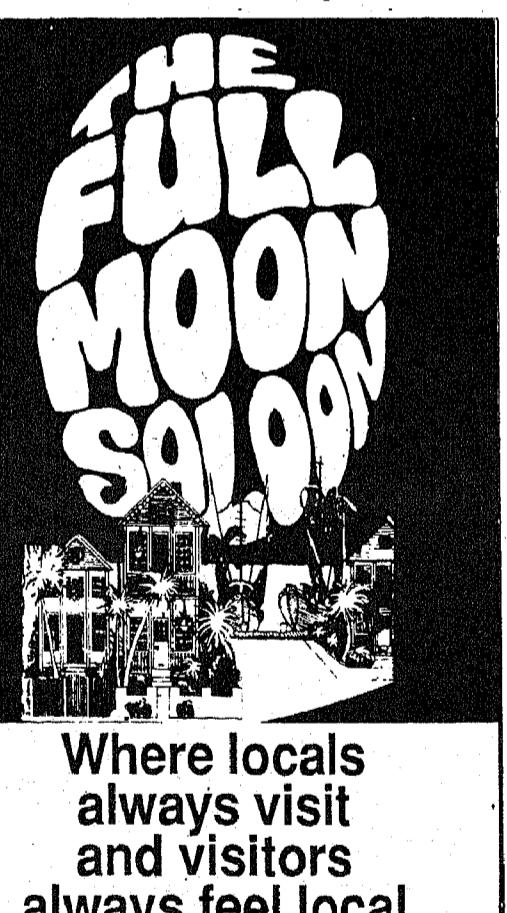
Were there other reasons the Customs House got so much support in Tallahassee? "Well," said Saunders, "it helps when you're in charge of the budget. We'd better enjoy it while I'm here."

A Rough Ride For Funding

The recession and state budgetary problems have given rough rides to CARL and to P-2000, a larger version of CARL that seems more vulnerable to current budget-cutting measures.

"If P-2000 fails, we have been assured that the building will still be bought, because CARL will survive," said Olsen. "We're high enough up on the list that, although we may not get purchased in this fiscal year, we'll probably be purchased after July 1."

The state is likely to pay TPL in the range of \$1.5 million. There's usually enough of a difference between what TPL pays for a property and what it sells it for to cover overhead, administrative and other costs. "And any money that's left over will be thrown back into the fund to do the exact same thing again," said Chelius.



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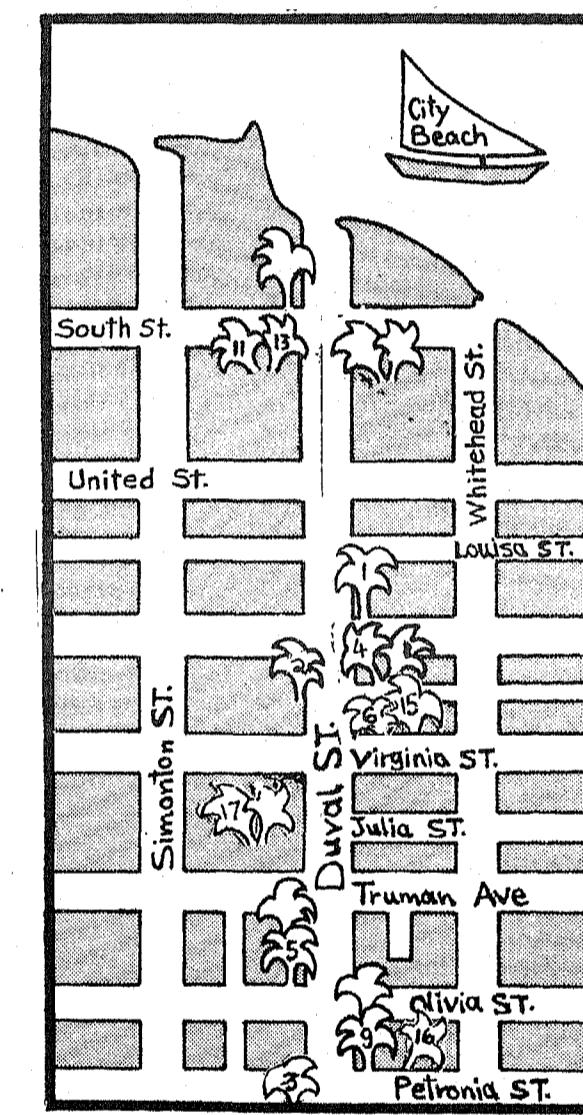
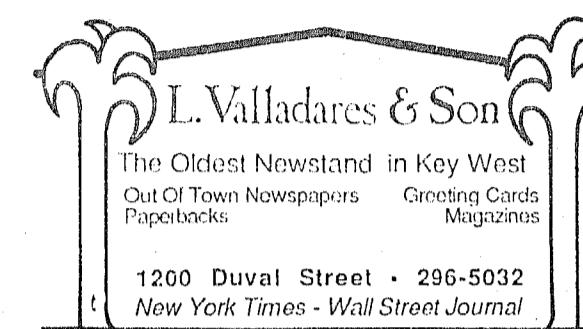


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(Each business is keyed into the map. Check the bottom left corner of each box for the number.)



On
The
Town
with Jane Phillips

When jazz singer Wendy Pederson and her fellow musicians came down to Key West to give a concert at East Martello, she told her audience, "I knew it was Spring Break when a football came right through our window at the Hibiscus Motel."

Spring Breakers have been spotted everywhere—including the line at the local soup kitchen! People I spoke with had this to say:

• Hospital employee Gordon Ross: "I'm too old to deal with Spring Break, people drinking until they're blind—even though I used to do it."

• Artist Michelle Kennedy: "Spring Break? It's the pits!"

• Gallery owner Robert Kennedy: "We see them heading for sunset like giant herds of sheep. They come back between 2 and 5 a.m. making all kinds of noise. March used to be my best month for big-ticket items—no more."

• Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center director Ken Bryant: "I don't like the traffic but I like the money they spend in town. They don't come out here."

• Restaurant owner Michael Stewart: "Spring Break should happen in the summer."

• Bartender D.C.: "I think it sucks."

• Duval shopowner Kent Henry: "I've been run off the road, squirt-gunned. And sleep is impossible. We're losing our best tourists and they won't come back."

• Wrecker's Museum director Nancy Jameson: "I don't like all that beeping, but generally speaking they're polite. I've enjoyed them."

• Resident Shirley Steinman: "I think they're adorable, and I wish I was one of them."

• Dick Cassidy felt differently: "I think the colleges shouldn't let them loose."

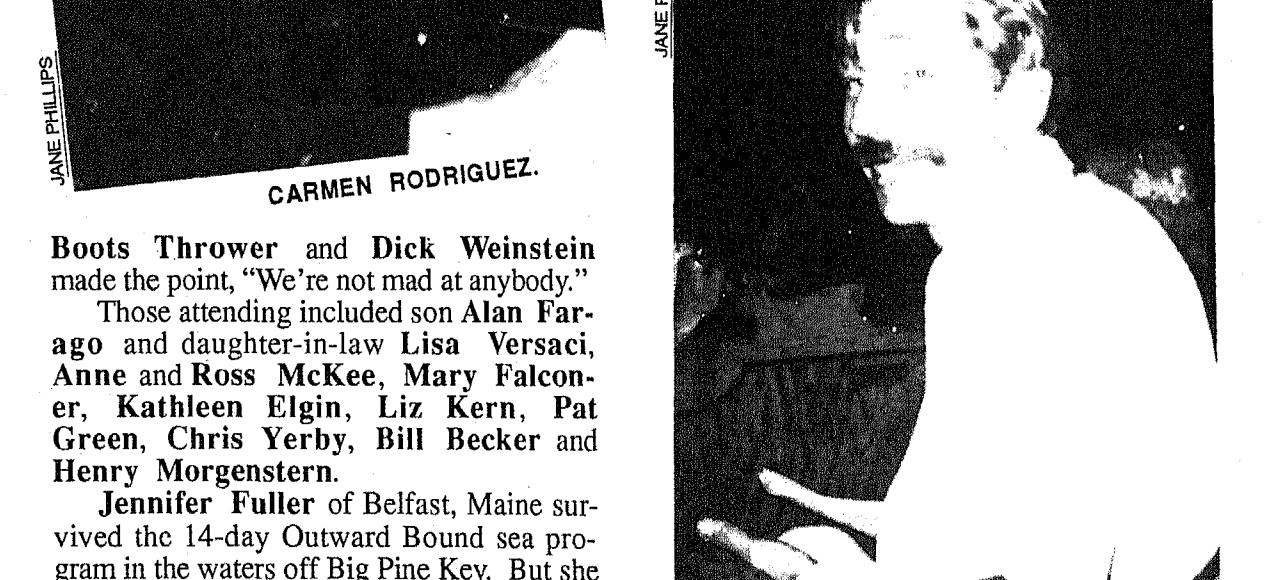
• Shirley Freeman and John Zahav wished they had one (separately).

• Realtor Lynn Kaufelt didn't mince words: "I showed a quarter-million-dollar condo today. The building was filled with spring breakers. We couldn't get an elevator, and there was vomit all over. It was a Realtor's nightmare!"

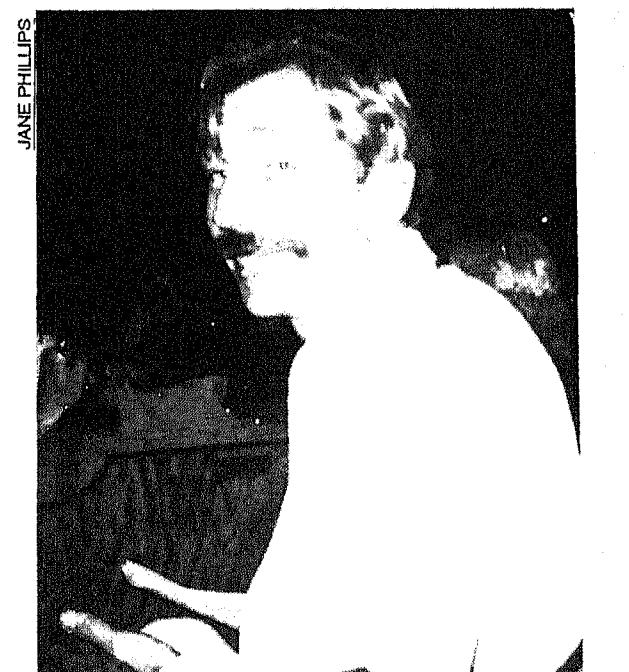
Daphne and Peter Farago recently invited guests to their waterfront home for a reception in honor of the Nature Conservancy. Board members Dick Hecket,



(FROM LEFT) SANDRA TAYLOR, GERRY TIN-LIN AND SHEILA SANDS.



CARMEN RODRIGUEZ.



HARRY POWELL.

Woman's Club in polka dots in honor of Jack's paintings!

The weather usually cooperates for island party planners. The big bash at the Wrecker's Museum for the Old Island Restoration Foundation was no exception. Music was provided by Skipper Kriptz, Carmen Rodriguez, Richard Tazwell and Dick Moody. Enjoying the evening were Lynn and David Kaufelt, Martha and Brad Woodruff, Diane Zolotov, Eleanor Walsh, Bill Halpin, Jane Worley, Nancy Bender, Susan Olsen and others.

OIRF top dog David Ethridge describes Old-Town architecture this way, "It is a patchwork of Elizabethan, Victorian, Bahamian and Creole with New England shipwrights, West Indian pirates and Southern gentry all making their contribution."

What about ex-Manhattanites: Shall we credit them for the proliferation of Euro-style kitchens?

Have you ever seen city commissioner Sally Lewis in the same outfit twice? Well, maybe once in a while . . . Stylish Sally showed up at Jack Baron's show at the Miller Gallery.



• COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES •



KEY WEST BARBERSHOP CHORUS: (Back row, from left) Jim Williams (director), Paul Monsalvate, Don Looper, John Weeks, Wayne Williams, Jim Bowen, Nelson Read; (front row) Bob Green, Don Hickman, Art Drinkwater, John Viele, Bob Rowe, Charles Kamper.

Old Island Harmony

An evening of harmony and barbershop fun will be presented at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center April 4 at 8 p.m. The show will feature The Singing Miamians chorus and top-flight barbershop quartets, performing "Harmony Tonight." The performance is sponsored by the Key West barbershop chorus, Old Island Harmony, which will lead the evening with a musical rendition of "Paradise Lost—and Found." Proceeds from the performance will go to support the work of the barbershop society's service project, the Institute of Logopedics, a residential treatment center for the speech handicapped. Tickets are \$8 and on sale at the theater box office, Bargain Books and Summerland Hardware.

Conch Shell Blowing Contest

Old Town Key West will ring out with the sounds of conch-shell music at the 30th

Annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest Saturday, April 4 at 2 p.m. on the docks of the Hyatt Key West, 601 Front Street. Free to the public and entrants, the contest attracts standing-room-only audiences as dozens of contestants—some good and others not so musically inclined—compete in a variety of age categories. For information, call 294-9501.

White & Black

The Great Southern Gallery, 910 Duval Street, will present its theme show "White and Black" again this year. The show, which has already attracted 25 local participants, opened April 1, and will remain on exhibit through April 25. Many types of media will be included and all work is for sale. For more information, contact the Great Southern Gallery at 294-6660.

Boat Donated to Reef Relief

Larry and Karen McDougal of Key Largo



ISLAND CALL: The Old Island Days Conch Shell Blowing Contest, April 4 at 2 p.m. on the docks of the Hyatt Key West, attracts musicians of all ages. Lisa Jones was a participant last year.

have donated a 30-foot Chris Craft motor yacht to the local nonprofit organization Reef Relief. The boat will be used to complete the group's various reef conservation activities, particularly the reef mooring-buoy maintenance program, which is composed of 119 reef mooring buoys at seven Key West-area reefs. "We are thrilled—the new boat offers a large work area on the deck, and it doesn't use any more fuel than our smaller boat," noted executive director Craig Quirolo. Karen McDougal says the donation is in memory of her father, Colonel Stanley D. Davenport, who was a strong believer in protecting our natural resources.

Art & Historical Society Election

The members of the Key West Art & Historical Society will be electing five individuals to serve on its board of directors. The nominating committee has proposed the following people: Susan Cardenas, Janet Hayes, Albert McCarthy, G. Joan Miller and Bill Sellers. The slate will be presented to the membership at their next annual meeting at 7 p.m. April 7 at the East Martello Museum. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The new members will replace board members leaving office after serving three-year terms: Bill Conkle, Bob Feldman, Bill Halpin, Dan Lee and Michael Stewart. A reception for the exhibition "A Photographer's View of Spring Break" will be held after the election. For information, call 296-3913.

More Crime Stoppers

Keys Taxi Dispatch Company has joined the fight against crime and is now displaying Crime Stoppers bumper stickers with the tip hotline on all 32 of its taxi vehicles. Crime Stoppers, a partnership involving the community, law enforcement and the media, offers rewards of up to \$1000 for anonymous tips leading to felony arrests. All city police and sheriff's department vehicles display the bumper stickers. For more information about Crime Stoppers, call Cynthia Edwards at the Key West Police Department at 292-8180.



Solares Almanac

April 2 - 15

Now it begins. In Key West, there is no fooling about April. It is, weatherwise, the best month of the year. On the whole, over the years, the clearest, April is the driest, the most balmy, the most well-behaved, most promising of the twelve months. If he had lived in Key West instead of London, Thomas Stearns Eliot would never have written those thoughts about "the cruellest month."

Temperatures average 77 degrees, which is the Chamber of Commerce average for the year, duly noted on all documents designed for circulation north of Winston-Salem. Winds are gentle—for the most part—from the east-southeast. There are those Conchs, however, who will recall the April day in 1980 when a gale blew sustained winds of 58 mph from the south, proving, I suppose, the exception to every weather rule.

Or thereabouts.

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I continue to hear from seafarers, who are concerned with precision when it comes to sunsets. Dayton C. Closser of Big Pine is the most recent correspondent on navigational matters. "Here on Big Pine," he writes, "it is nearly impossible for me to get clear shots of the sunset . . . Would it be possible for you, or someone you can trust, to make a series of timing observations of the sunset? What it would take is accurate timings—to about one second—at one selected sun position, say disappearance of the upper limb from a measured height above water level.

"With several such sequences of perhaps a week of ten days each," continues my concerned friend, "it would be possible to correlate the timings with weather conditions and height of tide. This would give an accurate check on refraction at low altitude. Refraction is a variable which disturbs navigators and limits observations to heights well above the horizon. Such information could be very helpful."

Most certainly. But I am not the observer Dayton seeks. I didn't even know the sun had an "upper limb." But I'm sure there are highly qualified sunset timers who can do the job. They should please forward their findings to Mr. Closser, RFD 3, Box 224A, Big Pine Key. And thanks from us both.

The Almanac is written for Solares Hill by John Cole, with much help from Capt. Bill Somers of the charter sloop *Relevance*, author and publisher of Key West tide tables; flats fishing guides Capt. Gil Drake and Capt. Jeffrey Cardenas, the Florida Keys Audubon Society, the meteorologists at the Key West National Weather Service offices at the Key West Airport; the National Marine Fisheries Service; Thomas J. Wilmers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist; and others who generously provide insight and information. Any errors, however, are the author's and his alone.

Solares Hill's Health, Beauty & Fitness Guide

Fitness

by Kathy Floam

There should be statistics on the money people waste joining gyms without ever using them. It would probably be an astounding figure. I, for example, am 23-years-old and on my fourth gym membership. It's taken me three failures to realize that only self-motivation, not the gym membership fee, will motor me day-by-day, week-by-week through my program. I'd like to share some of the realizations I have had in getting to this point.

Throughout four years of college, I battled my weight, swayed into succumbing to late-night munchies with my friends. I was always physically active but not enough to counterbalance the calories I consumed on a daily basis. I avoided accepting a simple fact: To lose weight you must either decrease caloric intake or increase physical exercise. To lose weight and keep it off, you should do both—and not necessarily in extremes.

No fireworks go off when you finally commit to losing weight; it's very gradual. In my case, I started running about 20 minutes a day, eventually adding more time. Plus I read books about nutrition, dieting and exercise.

What I discovered is amazingly simple: Eat when you're hungry, and stop when you're full. Ask yourself, "Am I really hungry, or do I just want to eat?" If you just want to eat, ask yourself why. By doing this you can discover what voids you are trying to fill with food. In fact, you are forced to take a hard look at yourself. Change isn't easy, but it's worth every iota of the hard work.

Once the pounds began to come off, I knew I would eventually join a gym to tone specific areas of my body. After Christmas I was ready. It's important to note that I didn't join a gym for motivation. Many people make that mistake. They think doling out a chunk of money will somehow ensure that they will follow through with the exercise. Human nature, however, allows us to make extraordinary excuses and rationalizations for our shortcomings—especially when it comes to exercise-related expenses.

I researched nearly all the local gyms and decided to join Pro Fitness. It is located behind DePoo hospital, just a few blocks from my apartment. Of all the gyms, Pro Fitness is the most no-frills, with tough, sturdy equipment and a real pump-iron type of atmosphere. Basically, it's a big room with circuit equipment, free weights, benches, a few

IRON MAN: Les Abend receives coaching from professional Bill Colley.

stationary bikes and other aerobic machines like a stairclimber. There are also locker rooms and a whirlpool and sauna. It's the kind of place where you don't have to primp to work out. Plus, personal training is free, and I planned on taking full advantage of it.

My first day at Pro Fitness I had an appointment to begin my program with Bill Colley, the gym manager. I had composed a mental list of the body areas I wanted to work on, and I ran through the list with Bill. He asked me if I were willing to commit myself to working out six days a week for two months; then we would re-evaluate my program. I admit I was a bit taken aback, thinking I'd have to quit my job to exercise full-time—but I said yes.

I was nervous and intimidated by all the hardbodies—an attitude that has interfered with my motivation before. But, I figured, everyone has to start somewhere. Nobody is born naturally toned and muscular.

For the next three days, Bill developed and taught me a program that would target the areas I had specified using circuit-weight equipment and free weights. Day 1 of my program works my legs and buttocks. Day 2 works my back and chest. Day 3 works my arms and shoulders. Then I take a day off and start with Day 1 again. For aerobic activity I alternate running, biking and riding the stationary bike at the gym.

In addition, Bill instructed me in a stretching program, which I do religiously before I work out as it helps prevent injury. He also is available to answer my questions and to assist me in making sure I am working out properly and safely. Each workout takes about an hour, and I usually go early in the mornings to start my day off energized.

I keep a daily log, noting the exercise, weight and number of repetitions. Keeping track of progress is very motivating. And the visible results, well, they're worth every bit of the hard work.

I realize my program may appear quite rigorous to some, but there is something for everyone when it comes to physical fitness. Instead of grumbling at your reflection in the mirror or making great efforts to avoid it, take inventory of what it is you'd like to improve. Then take baby steps to reach your goal. Don't overwhelm yourself and be realistic. There's no magic. In the words of Nike—just do it.

Solares Hill's Health, Beauty and Fitness Guide

Local Gym Round Up:

From Posh To Pump Iron

by Kathy Floam

Our tiny island offers a surprisingly wide selection of gyms. Everyone should be able to find one to suit their preferences and meet their needs. The obvious factors to consider when choosing a gym are location, facilities, services and, of course, cost. But overall atmosphere, clientele and personnel are also important. If you don't like going to the gym because the people are stuffy, you'll eventually pile up a stack of reasons for not going.

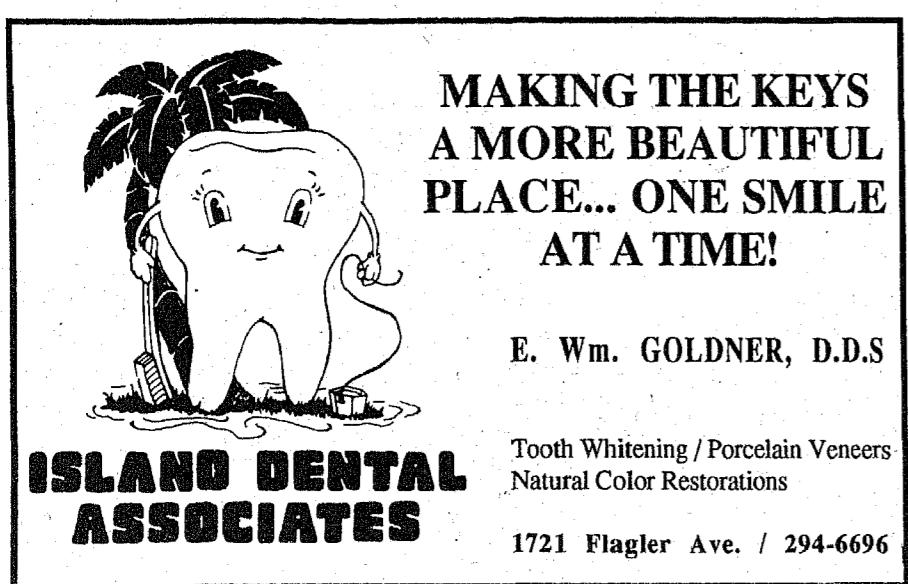
The impressive list of gyms in Key West ranges in services, facilities and levels of

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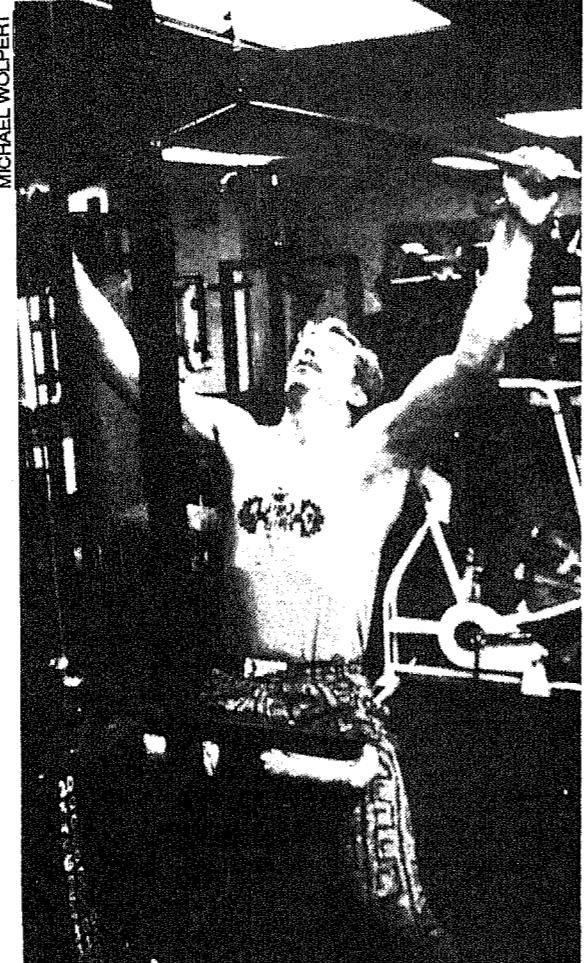
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poshness (at a cost, of course). The following is a roundup of local gyms and exercise programs. Many gyms offer a day or week free of charge so potential members may check out the facilities. Don't hesitate to ask!

• **The Body Shop** at The Reach Resort covers just about every avenue of physical fitness. The gym includes circuit equipment, free weights and free instruction in developing a program. In addition, it offers a hefty list of classes, ranging from step to low-impact and water aerobics, which meets in their beachside swimming pool. Membership rates are divided into costs for the gym, or classes, or both, with pool and beach privileges.

• **Caribbean Spa** at the Pier House is the crème de la crème of local gyms, offering top-of-the-line circuit equipment that uses pressurized air instead of weights, plus a selection of treadmills, lifecycles, stairmasters and rowing machines. The class selection, however, is slim but includes water exercises, aerobic classes and toning classes. Extras include a steam room, jacuzzi, saunas, plus massage therapy and other pampering services. Memberships are quite pricey, and include a hefty initiation fee of \$395.

• A true melting pot of exercise classes are held at the **Coffeemill Cultural Center**, which features a wood dance floor. These include modern dance, high- and low-impact, funk and step aerobics, body sculpting, circuit training, Shin's Tae Kwon Do, African percussion, Tai Chi, Mike Mulligan's



LATERAL PULLDOWNS: Bill Colley works out

workout, martial arts, yoga and aikido. Free childcare is offered. Memberships are available for unlimited classes. Ask about family discounts and other price packages.

• The **Conch Gym and Health Food Center** is one of the serious weightlifting gyms in Key West. It offers free weights, plate-loading machines, a heavy bag and speed bag plus personal training and weight loss/gain consulting at low rates. The pro shop features a juice bar and one of the most impressive selections of vitamins and supplements on the island.

• **Duval Square Health and Fitness Center** boasts extensive free weights and circuit equipment in addition to stairmasters, stationary bikes and rowing machines. It is affiliated with Studio A, which teaches 30 aerobic and step-aerobic classes per week in a location right next to the gym. Other extras include massage therapy and a pro shop. Memberships range from daily to yearly, and

financing is available.

• **Pro Fitness Center**, as mentioned in "Fitness Is More Than Just Joining a Gym," is another one of the hardcore gyms. However, don't be fooled; the personnel is extremely receptive to people new to the workout scene, and goes to great lengths to ensure proper training with the weights, circuit equipment and aerobic exercise machines, plus stretching techniques to avoid injury. Aerobic classes are held on occasion, but abdominal and hip classes are regular features. Extras include a sauna and whirlpool and free personnel training at all times. Memberships vary ranging from daily, weekly, yearly or whatever you require.

• **The Russell House**, a holistic health resort, offers its services and facilities to the public as well as its private guests. These include aerobics, yoga and stretching, aqua fitness, toning classes plus daily lectures on subjects such as goal setting and stress management. It also offers several weight-loss programs, meals prepared and served at the facility and extras such as massage therapy. Each class or lecture costs \$10.

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• In addition to being affiliated with Duval Square Health & Fitness Club, **Studio A** exists as its own exercise/dance studio. In the only air-conditioned studio on the island, classes range from aerobic dance to yoga, power strengthening with weights, body conditioning and the ever-popular step. The raised-wood floor in the facility is excellent for shock-resistant exercise and helps prevent injury. Memberships range from single classes to a monthly unlimited class rate of \$60, or yearly rates. Studio A isn't listed in the book yet; call 745-4151 for a complete class schedule. ☐

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Solares Hill's Health, Beauty and Fitness Guide

How To Eat Out And Stay Fit

by Kathy Floam

I know all about eating out as an excuse for a dietary splurge or, rather, plunge. Somehow as you enter the restaurant all resolutions are cast aside, and you operate in a "this-is-my-last-meal mode," devouring foods that you later vow you will never, ever eat again.

I used to do this all the time. My family was (and still is) big on food. Weekly restaurant dinners with my grandparents were models of overindulgence. They began with lots of bread and butter, moved on to dressing-soaked salads and heavy sauce-laden entrees, and ended up with a sugary sampling of goodies from the elaborate dessert tray.

My sister and I, both former chunksters, would stumble away from the table moaning and go home only to recuperate from our "last meal" so we could indulge in yet another.

Today, we have both joined the ranks of

"professional dieters" and have mastered the art of dining out without going overboard. Let me clue you in on our little secret: *You do not have to order exactly what is on the menu.* That's right, with a little knowledge about basic nutrition and a dose of creativity it is possible to enjoy a healthy and satisfying meal at a restaurant.

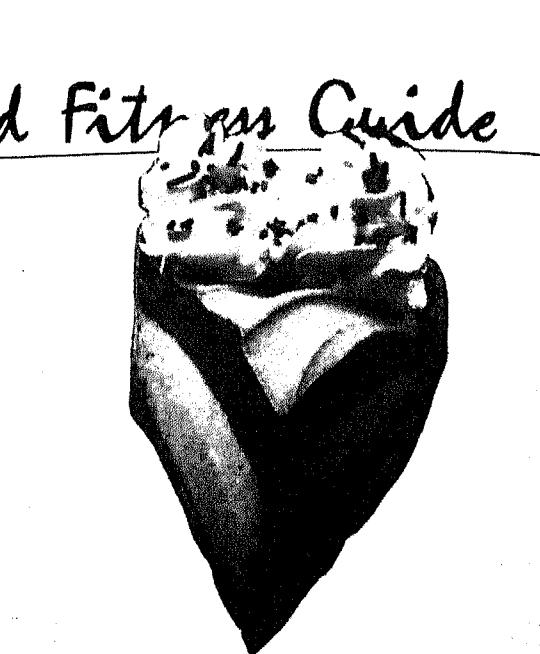
What's Fattening and What's Not

A big slab of anything—including fish, chicken, pork, red meat—is fattening and



most certainly unhealthy. Research indicates that Americans consume entirely too much animal protein and are putting themselves at great risk of heart disease by doing so. Instead, fill up on breads (with a small amount of butter or none at all), and make carbohydrates like pasta, rice and grains the bulk of your meal with small portions of protein combined. By all means, eat your veggies, as much as you like, but don't drown them in butter or salad dressing.

Fat is fattening. Those who have somehow missed the message that butter, cheeses, oils and creams are fats, are vulnerable to the booby trapping of even the most innocent of foods. Chances are it's fattening if it's described as: buttery, in butter or butter sauce, sautéed, fried, pan-fried, crispy, creamed or in creamy sauce, in its own gravy, au gratin, in cheese sauce or escalloped, au lait, à la mode, au fromage, marinated, stewed,



basted, casserole, prime, hash or hollandaise. On the other hand, feel free to indulge in dishes described as: pickled, in tomato sauce steamed in broth or its own juice, poached or garden fresh, roasted or stir-fried.

A Dose of Creativity

There are many simple ways you can cut calories and fat without getting too complicated, but you have to put shyness aside and ask for what you want. Order your fish broiled without butter. Ask for salad dressing on the side so you can add a reasonable amount yourself; or order oil and vinegar. Ask for skim milk and margarine in place of milk, cream and butter. Order meats and potatoes without gravy or sauce.

If you're really serious, you can do what I do and BYOSD (bring your own salad dressing.) Who cares if people stare; their

Solares Hill's Health, Beauty and Fitness Guide

usually come around.) But Key West's small town atmosphere tolerates individual quirks, as you might have already noticed.

Japanese food, especially sushi, is a dieter's delight. Yo Sake and Kyushu, the two local Japanese restaurants serving sushi, create these delectable tidbits from fresh fish caught in local waters. As long as you don't go crazy ordering sushi rolls with avocado (which is very fattening), you can ingest unlimited amounts of sushi and not feel glutinous—poor, maybe, but not glutinous. And if you're a bit squeamish about eating raw fish, both restaurants offer some sushi with cooked fish as well as stir frys and other healthful dishes.

Bagels are also a delicious yet nutritious food, and Bleeker Street Bagelry in the Overseas Market has given new meaning to fresh bagels since their opening this past fall.

Contrary to popular belief, bagels are not deep fried, rather they are boiled in water making them fat- and oil-free. Each bagel contains about 200 calories. But beware of the cream cheese, which can kill the whole concept of the dieter's bagel. Spread it thinly and lightly, or try one of the new light brands, which taste just as good.

The list of restaurants goes on and on and, with the right amount of creativity, could

include just about every one. The most obvious are Italian restaurants like The Light-house Café, Aunt Rose's and Mangia Mangia, which serve excellent pasta dishes. With your new knowledge of nutrition, you will know that spaghetti in marinara sauce is a safer bet than fettuccine carbonara. Eat lots of bread with little or no butter, order salad dressing on the side and drizzle on as needed and opt for fresh fruit for dessert.

Or you might skip dessert at the restaura-

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have pita sandwiches on the menu, and I tell them I just want the bread heated up, plain, which is excellent for dipping into the tomato sauce.

The first time I requested this concoction, the waitress looked at me with a quizzical expression. Now she automatically gets it right everytime. Usually the first time is the hardest, but after that it gets easier. You get better at explaining, plus you usually make a few friends in the kitchen.

Key West: A Dieter's Paradise
Believe it or not, Key West can actually be a dieter's paradise. When I go up North, waiters and waitresses tend to become annoyed when I unload one of my "special orders." (I kill them with kindness, and they



arteries are hardening, not yours.

Many times a menu won't describe their choices in enough detail for me to make minor adjustments. In these cases, I invent my own entree. For example, right here at our local Wag's I have created a wonderful culinary delight. I order chicken cattore (chicken in tomato sauce on top of pasta) without the chicken (I'm a vegetarian), substituting an order of steamed vegetables in the sauce. I also order a grilled pita bread (they

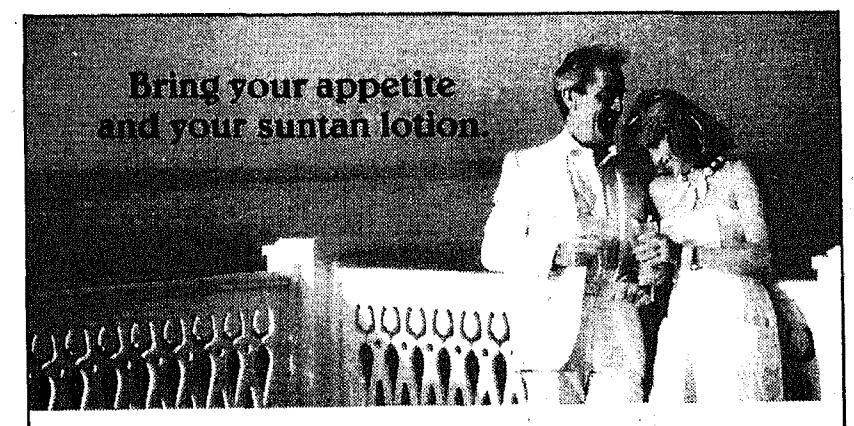
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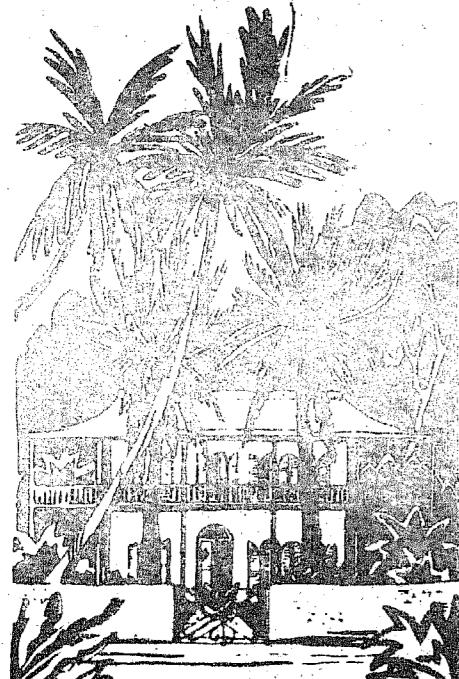
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rant and go for a frozen yogurt, instead.

Frozen Yogurt for Dessert

Flamingo Crossing on the upper end of Duval Street has great tasting nonfat and lowfat frozen yogurt (at about 16 calories per ounce) in a lovely spectrum of flavors. They also offer a sinful selection of homemade ice creams and gelatos (definitely worth splurging on once in a while). Plus the outdoor tables are a prime location for people watching during evening hours.

TCBY in the Overseas Market has a vast selection of frozen yogurt ranging from lowfat, nonfat and sugarfree; they run from 18 to 30 calories per ounce. This shop has a serious selection of toppings, which includes a 99-percent fat-free hot fudge. Go lightly on the toppings, however, or you may as well stayed at the restaurant for an after-dinner cannoli.

Down a block from Flamingo Crossing, Larry's Ice Cream and Yogurt offers about 26 flavors of yogurt, five are lowfat and the rest are no-fat. The yogurts are custom blended, starting with a 100-calorie, four-ounce vanilla or chocolate base. Added to it is the customer's choice of flavor, which is combined in the shop's Create-A-Taste machine. Choices include, banana, piña colada, mango, Key Lime and others. An island favorite is Key West medley, which is a combination of banana, strawberry, pineapple and Key Lime juice.

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FREEZER FEAST: TCBY's Kay Melilli offers a low-fat banana split. Total calories: 320; fat grams: 3.

No excuses, it is possible to find or create something delicious to eat at any restaurant. If you're like this reporter, however, you often go to the gym, eat well and exercise, and order when you eat out.

In this year's action movie *Die Hard*, John McClane (Bruce Willis) goes to the gym, eats healthy, and then goes to the airport to catch a flight to New York. He's not sure if he'll make it to the plane, but he wants it the way it was, no, he wants it the way it was.

And why not? Especially if it means feeling good and looking great.

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Solares Hill's Health, Beauty and Fitness Guide

Tips For Sticking With Your program

by Kathy Floam

Make time for working out so you don't have to rush through it. It is much easier to work out thinking positively about the exercise instead of how you can't wait to finish.

- Keep a workout journal to monitor your progress.

- Be flexible with your program and with yourself. Don't spend time dwelling on an "off" session, forgive and forget—tomorrow is a new day.

- Be patient. I was actually so busy learning my program that I forgot to look for changes—and other people noticed before I did. Enjoy and concentrate on what you're doing, and the rewards will come!

- Re-evaluate your program from time to time, making changes to avoid becoming bored. Try something new, perhaps rollerblading!

- Don't try to accomplish all of your goals simultaneously. At one point I was riding the stationary bike, lifting weights, running and situps—all in one day. I began feeling as if I had been hit by Mack truck! So, since I liked it, I did the only what you have the energy to do.

- It's right. The more you exercise, the more you can eat without gaining weight, but eating healthfully is the best way to go. Pastas, breads and grains are great; go lightly on meats and fats. The value of fruits and

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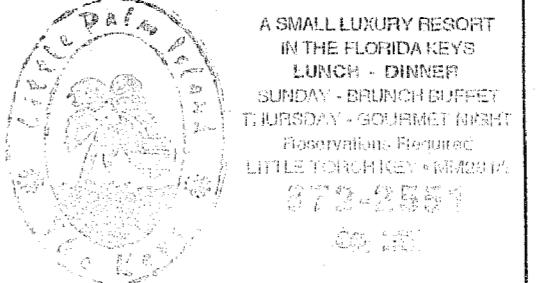
- Don't exercise if you're injured. Give yourself time to heal or you'll be out of commission even longer.

- If you're tired or sick, give yourself the day off. But if you're down in the dumps, try to drag yourself to the gym. It's guaranteed to make you feel better.

- Reward yourself as you progress—new workout clothes, running shoes, whatever.

- Appreciate your body. Look at yourself naked in the mirror every day and tell your-

self how wonderful and amazing your body is. It will thank you.

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Keep Your Optical Future Bright Wear Shades

by Kathy Floam

You're sure to have seen them by now. Tourists, and even some locals, wearing

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those freaky-looking Darth Vader sunglasses. What is the deal? Has the depletion of the ozone layer gotten so out of hand that we are all destined to walk around looking like creatures from *Star Wars*?

The deal is, according to Brian Yoest of the specialty sunglass shop Shades of Key West, that although the wrap-around Darth Vader-look offers excellent protection for the eyes they are no better than many other more subdued styles. So those people you see sporting them, are not in on some big ozone conspiracy; they're purposely making a fashion statement.

In Key West, sunglasses are an absolute must during sunny days and even hazy, overcast ones. Hidden in the sun's rays are ultraviolet (UV) rays, which can be broken down into various types. These invisible rays can be irritating, even harmful. UVB rays can irritate the cornea and have been asso-

ciated with the development of cataracts within the eye. UVA rays, although their potential damage is questionable, produce the radiation transmitted to the crystalline lens of the human eye.

Enough with the techno-talk. Plain and simple—you need sunglasses. But just any sunglasses? Sunglasses come in a wide range of styles, protection and price—anywhere from \$5 to \$350 or more. Which ones are the best?

How About Those Cheap Sunglasses?

With sunglasses you get what you pay for, especially when they are the \$15 or under model (which I call disposable glasses). Although these actually do offer some sort of protection against hazardous rays, they are almost all made of molded and stamped sheet plastic, meaning poor optics and clarity and distortions.

But it is better to wear cheap sunglasses than no sunglasses at all, except if they are too dark. The "darker-the-better" theory is an absolute fallacy with sunglasses.

"A major misconception people make is thinking that lenses need to be real dark to protect your eyes," says Yoest. "This is totally not true. Dark glasses actually make your eyes strain."

The ultraviolet protection in sunglasses is made of chemical coatings and mirrors which absorb the ultraviolet rays. These do not wear off, so they have nothing to do with the lifespan of a pair of glasses.

According to Yoest, the average life of a pair of sunglasses is only about six months, since they usually get stolen, broken or lost. But after five or six pairs of the \$15 to \$20 variety, perhaps it would be worth investing in something a little more, shall we say, upscale in the sunglass department, and then hanging onto them.

Not-So-Cheap Sunglasses

Look at it this way, a nice pair of sunglasses are like a piece of jewelry. You don't leave your bracelets on car seats, in the Winn Dixie cart or in a McDonald's bag, do you? Most likely, if you spend a bit more on sunglasses, you'll take them more seriously.

Good sunglasses do not necessarily have to be in the mind-boggling price range. They

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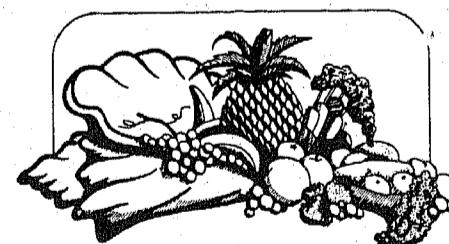
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Solares Hill's Health, Beauty and Fitness Guide

MICHAEL WOLPERT



DARK EYES: Jennifer Bass of Shades of Key West models Oakley Razor Blades.

can range anywhere from \$25 (mid-range manufacturers) to \$125. (the more "prestigious" names like Oakley, Rayban, etc.) The lenses in these pricier glasses are made from ground glass or polycarbonate optical plastic, and they offer the best protection, clarity, optics and overall quality. Designed for their excellent optics, durability and extensive UV protection, they can wear hefty pricetags.

For the Sporting Life

Oakley and Rayban certainly wouldn't appreciate me poking fun at what they call their new Razor Blades and Killer Loops, which range from \$40 to \$160. Both com-

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Between Shades and Key West Aloe.

panies have come out with wraparound, shield glasses that hint of ski goggles.

Actually this design is excellent for practically all sports. Its light-weight frame prevents sweating on the face. Glare is shielded from all sides, and the lenses are unbreakable. (They could even survive a rollerblade wipeout.)

If you can't afford to have the best sunglasses for every occasion, the Darth Vader design (and others as well) come in a less expensive line starting at about \$28. Shades of Key West has the Razor Blades, Killer Loops plus a less expensive line called Black Diamond by Suncloud.

In fact, there are knockoffs of just about every decent, stylish pair of sunglasses on the market, but the quality is often the first feature to go.

So remember: good UV protection, ground glass or polycarbonate optical plastic, not too dark and good, comfortable fit. And, chances are, if you spend a little more on your glasses, you'll always know where they are!

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Solares Hill's Health, Beauty and Fitness Guide

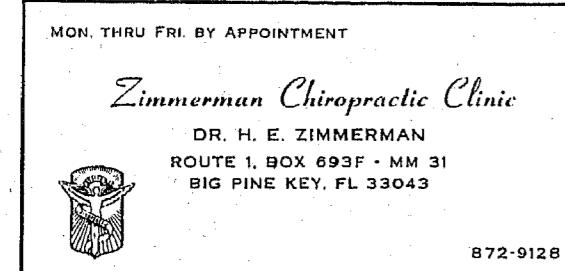
Chiropractic: Getting You Back On Track

by Dr. Jim Gerbracht

For many years chiropractic patients have sworn that, despite general belief to the contrary, chiropractic care works. Recent scientific research supports the patients' (and the chiropractors') claims.

In 1991 the Gallup Organization conducted a national random telephone survey in which 90 percent of chiropractic patients felt that their treatment was effective, and 80 percent felt the cost was reasonable.

In a related study, a report in the *Western Journal of Medicine* (March 1989) found that patients of chiropractors were three times more satisfied with their care than patients of family practice physicians.



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BACK BENDER: A Spring Breaker flips on a trampoline, showing the wonderful stretch of a young supple spine.

In 1988, a study in Florida showed that chiropractic care is more cost-effective than standard medical care in the treatment of work-related back injuries. A 1991 study in Utah found that, in worker's compensation claims, chiropractic patients lost an average of two days of work, whereas patients receiving medical care lost an average of 20 days of work.

Chiropractic is the fastest growing healing profession in the United States. It uses a natural method of healing, advocating a non-surgical, non-invasive and drugless treatment of patients. The doctor of chiropractic focuses on spinal health as the key to overall health and wellness.

Spinal x-rays and a thorough spinal examination are usually required to locate vertebrae that are *subluxated*, which means they are misaligned and causing nerve pressure—the key to many physical and physiological ailments. It has long been known that every organ, tissue and cell is controlled by nerve impulses, which travel from the brain to every part of the body. The nerves branch off the spinal cord through openings between the vertebrae.

Chiropractors use various techniques to adjust vertebrae and eliminate nerve pressure. Once the nerves are able to function normally, the muscle or organ controlled by the nerve regains normal function and the body heals itself.

The following are a few examples of conditions that have been eliminated by adjustments of the corresponding vertebrae: headaches, sinus trouble, neuralgia, hay fever, laryngitis, stiff neck, bursitis, asthma, functional heart conditions, bronchitis, gall bladder conditions, liver conditions, stomach troubles, ulcers, lowered resistance, allergies, kidney trouble, skin conditions, rheumatism, constipation, varicose veins in upper leg, painful or irregular menstrual periods, sciatica, poor circulation in the legs, sacroiliac conditions and scoliosis-sacrum, hemorrhoids-coccyx.

Dr. Jim Gerbracht graduated from Key West High School in 1967 and from Florida Atlantic University in 1971. He graduated *cum laude* from Life Chiropractic College in 1980, and opened his practice, Keys Chiropractic Health Center, in Key West in 1981.

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Readers Write

Claims In Letter Were False

Dear Editor:

Your February 13-26, 1992 edition contained a letter to the editor from Don Meng, president of the Big Pine Key Civic Association. In his letter, Mr. Meng states that Monroe County United (MCU) has called for a boycott of the *Keynoter* in favor of the *Island Navigator*. His statement is completely untrue. Further, his entire letter as published shows a complete disregard for seeking out the truth and a complete misunderstanding of constitutional guarantees to a person's rights for legitimate boycotts.

MCU has never called for a boycott of any business. MCU does, however, believe in the rights of individuals to protest by any legal means, including boycotts, any business that operates and publicizes ideas and philosophy contrary to the beliefs of an individual.

Mr. Meng's distortions and false statements are indicative of the environmental big business movement washing across Monroe County, depriving individuals their rights in regard to their property and the ability to build on their property. I must wonder if the small group that has taken on the title of the Big Pine Key Civic Association is in line and agreement with Mr. Meng's misguided attempt through lies and distortion of the truth

to discredit an organization that is striving to return constitutional responsibility to our local government.

Of all the publications to which Mr. Meng sent this letter, the fact that only one other publication in the Keys besides *Solares Hill* chose to print it shows clearly that his attempt was without merit. The other publication that did print this letter did make the attempt to seek out the truth by including an accompanying article which discredited Mr. Meng's allegations. *Solares Hill* displayed, by not attempting to seek out the truth, a lack of

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journalistic integrity.

Monroe County United is an organization that is strictly concerned with constitutional issues and is not, as has been portrayed, pro-development nor is it anti-environment. Thank you for the opportunity to correct this unwarranted and extremely inaccurate attack on Monroe County United.

A.D. Griffin, president
Board of Directors
Monroe County United

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Business Tides

Mitch Platt has joined **Marriott's Casa Marina Resort** as a director of group sales for the 312-room property. With over seven years of sales experience, Platt has worked in sales for the San Francisco Airport Marriott, the Des Moines Marriott in Iowa and the O'Hare Marriott in Chicago. He is fluent in French and Spanish, having lived and studied in France, Colombia, South Africa and Mexico.

Marty Faulkenberry, district manager of **Suburban Propane**, announces a second place finish for his office in the 1991 Fall Season of Champions sales campaign in which 14 district offices competed. In addition to gas service, the company offers local in-store specials, extended warranties, appliance repair plans and an inexpensive gas

check. Suburban Propane sells and services gas-fueled appliances, including Harwick and Magic Chef ovens, Bradford-White water heaters and Ducane grills. Financing is available. Located at 726 Catherine Street, Suburban Propane representatives may be reached at 296-2411.

The Nature Conservancy and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** (NOAA) have hired **Mary Enstrom** as volunteer coordinator as part of their cooperative agreement to promote joint education and research programs for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). Enstrom has a wealth of experience in volunteer management, including creating the volunteer program at the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in Charleston, Oregon. She will develop a program to recruit, train and place volunteers for the FKNMS as well as participating in the selection and training of marine stewards and researchers. For information about the volunteer program, call (305) 743-2437.

The **John Santiago Salon** will be one of more than 2000 Aveda salons to host the **Aveda Beaut-A-Thon '92 Makeover for Planet Earth** on Sunday, April 26. Located at 1201 Duval Street, the salon will observe Earth Day by offering haircuts and other beauty services at a reduced price; it will donate the day's proceeds to the Give to the Earth Foundation. The foundation will be

supporting Clean Water Action, Habitat for Humanity, National Toxics Campaign and others. For more information or an appointment, contact Mark Phipps at 294-8413.

Brooks Burton, whose banking career with **Barnett Bank of the Keys** spans more than 20 years, plans to retire to the northern part of the state and concentrate on catching fish rather than making loans. Burton has made the island his home since 1952, and in 1971 he became one of the three original officers of Key West's Boulevard Bank, which merged with Barnett in 1983. In 1991 he was named senior vice president of the organization. **Harry Woolley**, CEO of Barnett, designated the week of March 23 as Brooks Burton Week to bid him farewell.

Walt Marlowe and Del Brixey will be honored April 25 at the annual **Key West Business Guild**'s "Citizens of the Year" awards dinner. "No two individuals have done more for—and with—the guild in promoting this community," says **AI Ro-**



PARTNERS: Del Brixey (left) and Walt Marlowe. berge, awards dinner chairman. Marlowe and Brixey, partners in **Impressions Unlimited**, a local advertising and marketing agency, and owners of **Escape Cruises** charter-boat service, previously owned and operated Alexander's Guesthouse. They also have been active in historic preservation, having restored four Old Town homes. Reservations for the dinner may be made by calling 294-5135.

President and CEO of **First National Bank**, **Jerry Williams** announces the promotion of **Carrie Wohlers** to vice president. Wohlers joined the bank in 1990 as head of operations. She is responsible for day-to-day operation of the data processing,

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PROMOTED: Carrie Wohlers of First National. bookkeeping and proof departments. "Our board of directors is very proud to recognize Mrs. Wohlers for her management and leadership talents," says Williams. "She's tops in her field."

Lower Keys Friends of Animals recently raised over \$5000 at a benefit dinner which was held at **Louie's Backyard Café**. The volunteer organization arranges and subsidizes the spaying and neutering of animals, helps prevent animal abuse and promotes community awareness and concern for the wellbeing of all creatures. FKFA is grateful to **Pat Tenney**, Louie's Backyard and all others involved for their generosity. Contributions may be sent to Lower Keys Friends of Animals, P.O. Box 1043, Key West, FL 33041.

Truman Annex developer **Pritam Singh** and **John Behmke**, president and broker of **Truman Annex Real Estate Company**, announced the sales total for the Truman Annex development since Christmas Day 1991 as in excess of \$6.5 million. Over 40 units have been sold since the beginning of the 1992 winter season, and total sales for the season are expected to be over \$10.5. Singh also announced the completion of Phase III of the Shipyard Condominiums and the beginning of construction of Phase IV.

City Electric System employee **Roger Rewolinski** was recently promoted to transmission and distribution superintendent. He will be responsible for supervising the line and electrical sections. Rewolinski has worked for CES for 14 years. He began his career as a lineman, eventually becoming foreman of his section. In 1987 he became supervisor of the Power System Control Center when the tie-line began operating.

The Key West Attractions Association recently donated \$1000 to the D.A.R.E. program, or Drug and Alcohol Abuse Resistance Education, which is taught by specially-trained Monroe County Sheriff's

deputies to sixth graders in the county school system. The donations will be used to buy educational materials for the students. The association is composed of 36 members who own, operate or support the attractions industry in our island city and represent sightseeing, recreational, lodging and tourism-related businesses.

Southernmost Credit Consultants celebrated its grand opening March 3 at its new location on 529 Whitehead Street. The growing mortgage division has changed its name to **Castle Mortgage**. The company looks forward to continuing its high quality of service to Key West and lower keys communities. For information concerning real estate purchases and refinancing needs, call 292-0064.

After a four-year absence from Key West galleries, **Thomas Szuter** will display his work at **Lucky Street Gallery**, located at 919 Duval Street, from April 2 through 22. His multimedia show, "The New World," features collages and recent photographs shot in Guatemala, Costa Rica and Mexico. Szuter's paintings, photographs and collages are in the collections of the Cleveland Museum of Art, many local and national private collections and galleries.

The contract renewal committee of the **Monroe County Tourist Development Council** (TDC) recently voted to renew an advertising, promotion and public relations contract with the **Offshore Professional Tour** (OPT) powerboat racing association. The \$300,000 contract includes a provision for adjustments related to changes in the Consumer Price Index. The contract, which calls for payment to OPT based on a minimum of a four-to-one promotional investment return,

specifies that the OPT must schedule a national circuit race and a two-event championship in the Florida Keys, in 1992.

After raising nearly \$300 selling home-baked goodies at a bake sale held at the **Overseas Market** St. Patrick's Day Celebration, the 12 **Girl Scouts** in troop 494 can afford to visit the birthplace of Girl Scout founder Juliette Low in Savannah, Georgia. The troop also plans to see Stone Mountain in Atlanta, pan for gold in an old mining town, and pay a visit to Babyland General Hospital where Cabbage Patch Kids are born. In addition to holding the bake sale, the scouts have spent many weekends washing cars and hosting garage sales to help pay for their trip.

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Montessori: 20 Years Of Great Kids

by Judi Bradford

Within the rooms of a friendly Bahamian-style house, with a large shaded yard and dark-green shutters on the windows, youngsters pour colored water from glass pitcher through a funnel into glass cups. Elsewhere, small hands guide colored pencils around special templates. Pairs work on illustrated stories or map-making. These children are learning basic life skills.

Observing a classroom with 34 three-, four- and five-year-olds all absorbed in various activities is impressive. But perhaps the most noticeable element here is the seriousness—there is little horseplay, little noise. Surprisingly, the students in these classrooms have a great deal of control over their activities. They do not have assigned desks and are not required to maintain silence. They work at their own paces, selecting materials from the low shelves and carrying them to a child-sized table or floor mat to work.

Sound too good to be true? The students (and their parents) at the Montessori School, located at 1221 Varela Street, don't think so. They are part of a learning tradition with roots extending back to the beginning of the century, when Dr. Maria Montessori developed the Montessori Method, in which instruction of young children emphasizes the development of initiative.

Members of the community will be able to meet some of the Montessori Children's School alumni on April 4, when the school celebrates its anniversary with its 20th Annual Alumni Reunion Party. Volunteer parents of Montessori students are now collecting photographs of alumni for a "Now and Then" display. The fundraiser is open to the public.

"We're celebrating 20 years of great kids," says one parent who is working on the display.

One alumni mingling with the other party guests may be Jennifer Belland, who is currently studying design at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. In the early 1970s, when Jennifer was five, she created the school's logo, which is still in use today. Also, Robin Hamlin, whose parents helped to found the school, graduated last year *magna cum laude* in Education from Florida State University. Her photograph will be part of the display.

Simple Beginnings

In 1972, Puddy and Chuck Hamlin (now Port and Transit Authority director) returned from the Keys from Africa, where they had been serving in the Peace Corps. Their daughter Robin Akossiwa Hamlin was in daycare here—and she hated it. During a dinner with writer Tom McGuane and his wife Becky, the conversation turned to childcare. The McGuanes had a pre-school-age child too.

Next thing you know the Children's School of Key West was started in a paint-store building on Varela Street. It was truly a grassroots beginning, with the parents instal-

Meet The Teachers

Delia Appleby has been with the Montessori Children's School for ten years, having moved here after earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Nova University. She started as a teacher's assistant, but the director who had been newly hired from up North "took one look at a cockroach and a lizard and packed her bags," Appleby remembers. She was promoted *ad hoc* to director.

"Teaching here has opened up my whole life—socially, intellectually, every way," she says. "As I teach, I learn. It's always something new." She has continued her education with further training in the Montessori Method and in early childhood education.

From the start, she was enthusiastic.

"I was so impressed with the Montessori Method, I told the board in the early '80s, 'It can't be for just 30 children!' and they began thinking about expanding." Soon after there were two classes in the schedule.

That's when Elizabeth Shewen applied. Elizabeth came to Key West with 14 years experience as a Montessori director, college experience in Ontario and Switzerland as well as at the Royal Conservatory of Music at the University of Toronto. She is also now administrator of the school. She leads the children in their weekly music classes, shaping their willing voices into performances for the parents twice every year—events that call for cameras and large quantities of tissues for the parents.

Rita Bell was hired at the same time with a solid background in early childhood and elementary studies at the University of Florida, Montessori training at Goudard College in Vermont, and a decade of teaching.

"It is a job requiring great deal of patience," says Bell, "with an ability to allow each child his freedom of movement and choice. I must consider each child's moods daily to know which response or direction to follow."

Appleby and Bell co-direct one primary class with Lorena Baker as an aide. Baker and her husband retired from the Navy to the Keys in 1973. She has served the school for seven years as daycare director, elementary class aide and primary class aide. As class aide, she assists the directors and supplies generous helpings of hugs and smiles for the kids.

In Shewen's primary class, Janet Greene is a teaching assistant. She is completing her Montessori training this summer.

Everyone, including the pre-schoolers, pitched in: the McGuane's son named the institution The Children's School (which was later renamed the Montessori Children's School).

Bev O'Connor was also one of the founding parents. She remembers that the first year's tuition was \$37 a month. School records document the teacher's salary at \$375



DIRECTRESS: Elizabeth Shewen.



THEN: Robin Hamlin with Sallie, the cat. a month.

Like Children, The School Grows

Well, the school has come a long way, baby. In its second year, it expanded to include the building next door on Varela Street. Thirteen years later, it bought the property across the street—its present location behind the picket fence on the corner of Varela and United streets, and added another primary class. A year later, they added a three-year elementary program.

The present facility has two playgrounds, three buildings housing three classrooms, an office and a daycare program. From the original 20-some students, there are now 87 in the student body.

"The three-year program," says school director Elizabeth Shewen, "allows the child to feel secure and comfortable and gives the director (as Montessori teachers are called) the benefit of really knowing each child and his family."

The older children help the younger, setting an example for the younger and reinforcing the lessons for the older child.

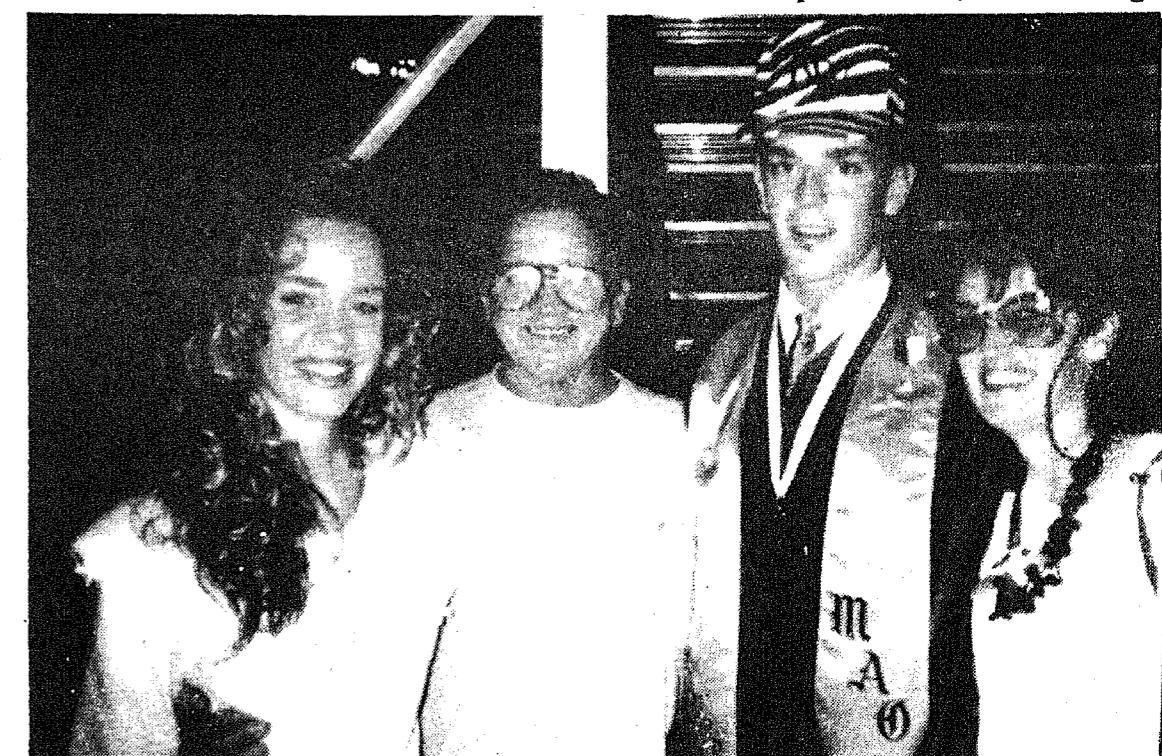
A Parent Cooperative

As a parent cooperative, the school requires each family to work a minimum of 25 hours a year. Most, however, work far more than that. The all-parent board of directors manages the school: it hires, fires, budgets, sets goals and develops means to achieve them. Various committees are responsible for the remaining school business, from public relations to raking leaves, from minding the fishtanks to fixing the plumbing.

The Montessori facility is the only secular private school on the island, and a few of the families are there for that reason alone. The bulk of the students, however, are from hard-working middle-class families. These are people who have thought a great deal about it and are willing to preempt a few things on the priority list in order to provide a sensitive, individualized education for their children.

Leaving and Integrating

At some point, the students must integrate into some other school system, since the Montessori School teaches only through



NOW: Robin Hamlin with father Chuck, brother Sherman and mother Puddy.

grade level three. Most often it is the public schools that receive them.

Poinciana School principal Jerry Braden worked with the original group of parents when their offspring began at Poinciana.

"In order to preserve the continuity," says Bev O'Connor, "we worked with the public school teacher. At the Children's School we had all worked in the classroom, and the teacher had trained us to use the materials. We worked with the first grade teacher, Dottie Hoel, and volunteered in her class. In second grade, the teacher was Marilyn Camperino, and she worked with us too."

Jerry Braden agrees. "The Montessori parents really got involved," he says. "It helped us out a lot. We had a number of teachers familiar with the Montessori Method, and they built it into their classrooms."

It became the basis of the volunteer program in the school system. For years, Bev O'Connor worked at Poinciana as volunteer coordinator; today she is the parent educator at Gerald Adams.

Braden is positive about the Montessori Children's School students. "Montessori is doing something right," he says, "the kids come to us well-prepared, motivated and ready to experience success in the public school. I don't think there's an exception to that."

The gifted program in the public schools attests to that as well. Almost half of the city's gifted students are Montessori alumni; the same is true of the Sugarloaf school gifted class, whose teacher is a Montessori mom.

The Montessori Bond

Twenty years later, Robin Hamlin doesn't recall her pre-school Montessori experiences. After that, she was home-schooled until fifth grade, while her parents served in the Peace Corps in Central America.

"I assume it laid the foundation," she says. "A lot of it was the involvement that our parents took in us. The Children's School was very family oriented—we're all still very good friends even though we've traveled and some have moved. It created a bond between us."

In celebrating the school's 20th anniversary, this year's board looks back with pride

COURTESY HAMLIN FAMILY

on the parents that prepared the way for them. In turn, the parents are looking forward to the next 20 years. They are currently researching an expansion program, which they hope to have in place for the 1992-to-1993 school year. It will involve expanding the existing physical facility and adding another primary class.

"We have more than enough children on our waiting list to fill a third primary class [age 2-1/2 to 5] and three years down the road that will help to fill out our elementary class [age 6 to 9] which presently has 17 students," says Libby Curtis, current president of the board and mother of three boys, one in each of the classes.





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ART ~ CIRCL

By
Judi
Bradford

Time Thieves Need not Apply

You wouldn't say he was in the fast lane; however, an automotive reference seems appropriate. While the rest of us are chugging like Geos and Toyotas along our uphill career paths, Dick Moody roars down the passing lane like a car with a Chrysler 445 (the engine the Blues Brothers sang about) under its hood. He's an efficient machine, finding time for business, painting, playing saxophone with pickup bands around town, civic and

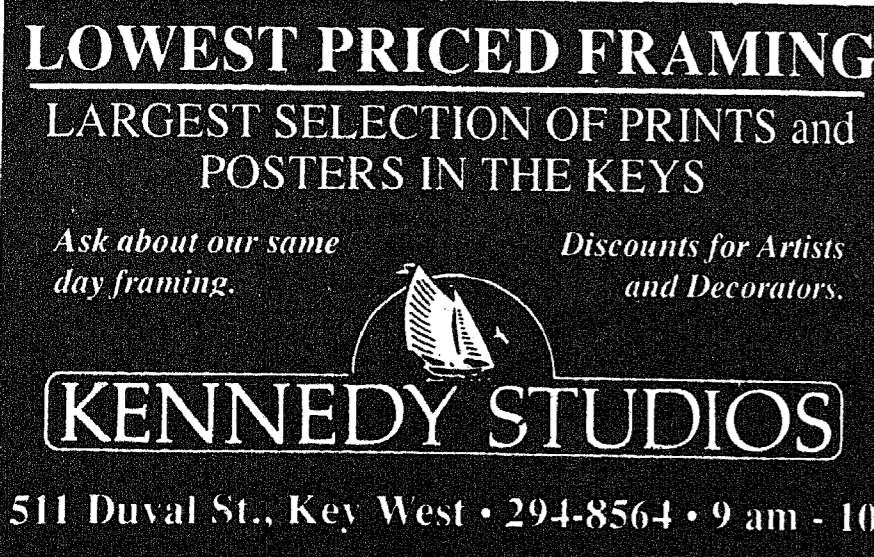


PHOTO-REALISTIC: Dick Moody's exacting style instantly engages the viewer's eye.

charity work, home improvement projects and even taking classes. Did I mention his hobby—building cars?

The day of this interview, Moody, who owns the Great Southern Gallery and Art Store, had just returned from a round of Saturday morning yard sales. He wore his official walking shoes and had a message

written on the back of his hand. He was carrying two orchids he had picked up from the Garden Center sale along the way.

Moody set the orchids down beside a chirping conure named Shortcake, and dashed off to brew a pot of French blend coffee. Definitely a caffeine personality, Moody's first subject was "time thieves," which he defines as "all the things and people that clutter your life with irrelevance." This doesn't mean he's all work and no play; it's more that he takes life seriously. He wants to be as efficient in his leisure mode as he is professionally.

Prudence is a lesson from his childhood, which was rich in family activities but limited in resources. Moody's father, who was handy and active, bought his son's first saxophone from a bank president at \$4 a week. "I learned to make the most of what I had," says the artist, who still plays sax for pleasure and to entertain at local community functions.

Moody is gregarious, networking with varied segments of the community. Aside from running the gallery and art supplies store with his wife Kathleen, he builds shipping crates for other galleries and artists and maintains a substantial framing business.

Recently, Moody's gallery recently featured a one-man show of its owner's paintings. Reflecting his outgoing nature, the subjects were other Key West painters. (He says he marvels at the quantity and quality of artists here.) Reminiscent of 18th century still-lifes, the series of 13 images singled out local artists in *trompe l'oeil* book formats. Moody imitated the subject, style and palette of each artist's work, creating from memory. "I have a pretty good visual memory," he says.

The paintings offer clever insights into each artist's style as well as symbolic elements of their lives. The pieces are deftly interpreted and accomplished—a tribute to Moody's years of experience in illustration.

The show's title, "Dream Books," came from a conversation with Gingerbread Square artist John Kiraly. When Moody heard that Kiraly was compiling work for a coffee-table book to be produced by art brokers Chalk & Vermilion (reported earlier in *Solares Hill*), Moody said: "John, that's an artist's dream!"

After reflecting on the concept, Moody decided to put out a "book" on his favorite Key West artists. Examining a recurring question—What is it about Key West that attracts all these good artists?—he focused

his talents on his fellow artists.

Commercial art illustration is the foundation of Moody's artwork. Out of high school he worked for a graphic arts studio that supplied federal agencies in Washington, D.C. with drawings, charts and graphs. From that springboard, he hooked up with the Navy for a 15-year gig as a civilian illustrator. After an accidental fall that put him out of work with head and neck injuries, he moved to Orlando and got into the art supplies business.

Success got the better of him there, with the business growing to include 10 delivery trucks and 400 charge accounts. "It was too

much," he says simply. A trip to Key West for Fantasy Fest opened his eyes to paradise; he and his wife loved it.

"In Key West, people respond," he says. "They're generous." And off he goes, again, wondering what it is about this place. (A while back, he even wrote an article based on that question for *Florida Keys Magazine*.)

While Moody's life has been filled with art, music, too, has been important since he became involved in his fourth-grade school music program. Later, he played in extracurricular bands in high school and as an adult. His first band job was with a nine-piece rock-and-roll group, the Off Keys.

Moody says he sat in with some of the "big guys" at the Washington, D.C. country-and-western bar, Turner Arena, and recorded "two or three records with Roy Clark, a Jimmy Dean album and one song with Patsy Cline." In fact, his first ride on a Harley was on Roy Clark's "big blue hog."

In his spare time, Moody builds cars—a '26 Ford roadster "from the frame up," a 356 Porsche rebuilt from "a rustout," a '36 Ford, a CJ7 Jeep.

"I just considered them big, functional sculptures," he says. "It's all art to me."



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Dream Books

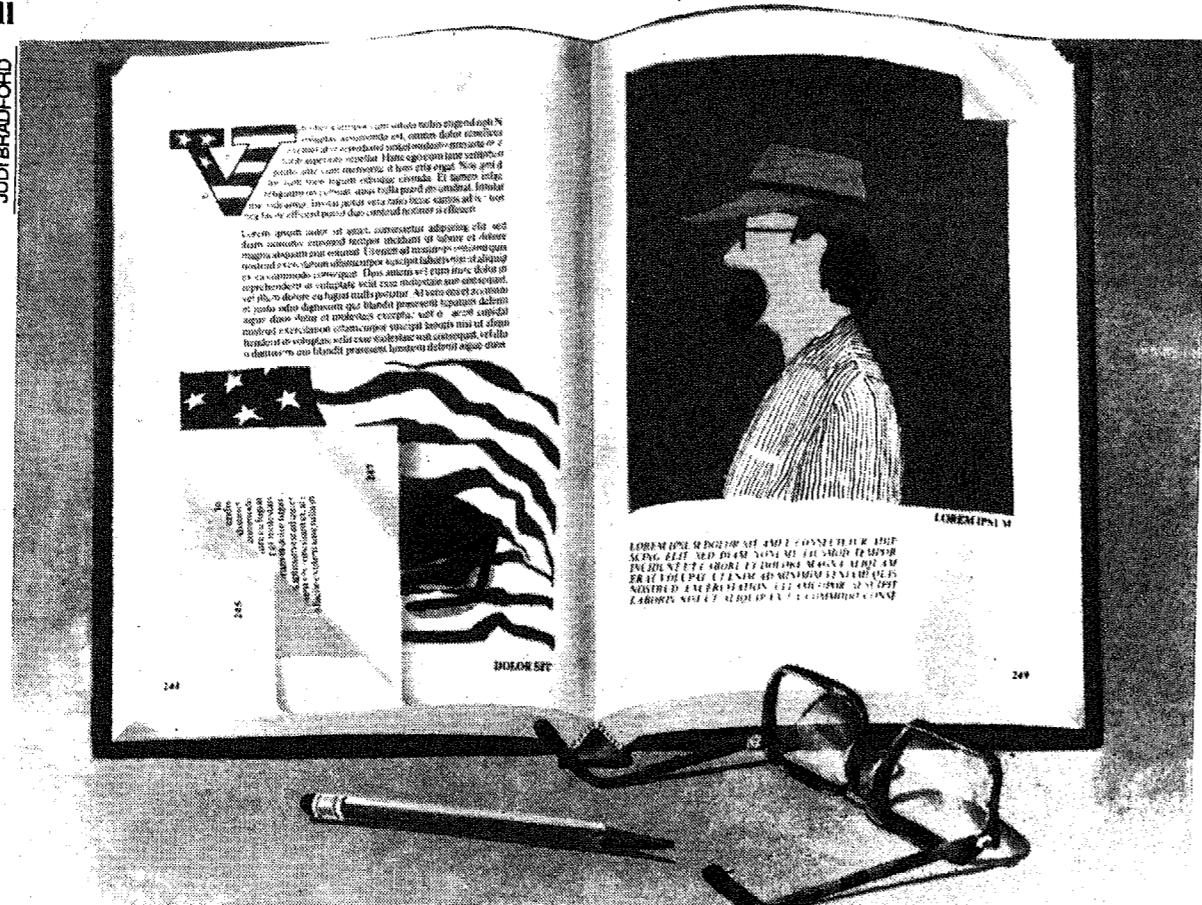
A Tribute To Artists In Paradise

Dick Moody produced a one-man show at his gallery, Great Southern, last month that contained 13 canvases focusing on other Key West artists. Done as a *troupe l'oeil* image of an open book, each painting provides a Moody rendering of an artist's work as it would appear in a coffee-table book. Tools of the trade—brushes, paints, scrapers et cetera—add depth to the compositions. An accomplished illustrator, Moody represents each artist's work in convincing form, using no reference materials other than his memory. Though the show is over, some of the paintings may still be viewed at the gallery.

An ornate capital letter corresponding to the artist's name starts each verso of mock type. Symbolic elements are present on the page to reflect something of the artist's life. The two featured artists who have died (Craig Biondi, Van Eno) are designated with black velvet ribbons. Van Eno's page is torn in half.

"I didn't know Van Eno," Moody explains. "I have admired his work ever since I've been here. The torn page really just said, in my opinion, that he wasn't finished. His work as an artist was not done."

Biondi's page is a foldout. Says Moody, "Craig was bigger than the book. He painted



A PAINTER'S PAGE: From "Dream Books," this piece examines the work and personality of local artist V. K. Gibson.

bigger, he thought bigger."

Moody says of Jim Salem, who teaches at the Great Southern Gallery, "He's an incredibly serious painter. Every stroke means something."

Moody is taking Salem's classes. "He's taught me a whole new set of colors," says the gallery owner. "He's not the sort of teacher who makes you discover things. He said, 'Look, you don't have time to discover things, you only have six classes—let's talk business here.'"

Moody continues, "I had never used red oxide, never used thalo purple or dioxin purple. Man, you mix those colors together and you come up with some great combinations of color!"

Moody picks up the tone and palette, the drawing style, the perspective and the small signature seascapes in his image of John Kiraly, but not the specific elements. "There's no element in there that's an element that John actually uses," he says.

Dots, of course, are part of the Jack Baron statement. At the reception for the exhibit, Baron studied the painting and then pulled Moody aside. "My dots are round, Dick," he said. Moody uses Haitian colors

and dark and light purple line to depict a black family.

The draped cloth of Tony Chimento's work was a challenge for Moody, even though he had a lesson in painting fabric from the artist last year. "Tony's the most difficult of all the painters."

Moody fuses the talents of potters Jay Gogin and Jerry Cash. "They're friends and they work together. Their pots are totally different," he says. "I thought it would be interesting to do them in one pot."

The potters were intrigued. Moody recalls Cash saying, "I've never done a pot like that, but I think I will." Gogin's response was, "Since this one is already sold, will you paint me one by myself now?"

"Dream Books" revealed a keen perception of the Key West art scene. Moody presented an incisive analysis of the various artists' style. His work is like an art appreciation course—only more fun.

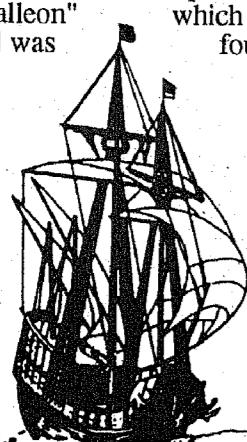
The artist books are not the only book-format paintings Moody has done. Hanging in the gallery are some he has completed on other subjects, notably fishing.

Judi Bradford

Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society Museum

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Audubon House

• Audubon's "Birds of Prey" through April 30. Admission \$5, children under six, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St. 294-2116.

Carambola Gallery

• Gay Cunningham oil on canvas and hand-painted furniture, Anne McWay hand-crocheted jewelry, Tom Woodruff pottery creations. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 814 Fleming St. 296-2545.

Lee Dodez Showroom

• New classes at FKCC by Jay Gogin. Sculpture by Lee Dodez and hand-built clay pieces by Jay Gogin. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

Donkey Mill House

• Recent watercolors of Old Town by Barbara Dorf, noted English artist. "Beguiling... above all the elegance." — Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy. Historic china by Mottahedeh. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 613 Eaton Street. 296-1866.

East Bank Gallery

• Paintings by local artists, highlighting Dick Matson originals. Also limited edition prints and custom framing. Daily, except Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 706 White St. 296-2679.

East Martello Museum & Gallery

• April 7 show, "Photographs' View of Spring Break '92," amateur and professionals invited. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for adults. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery

• Student all-media show featuring student work from Key West, Marathon and Coral Shores. Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

Gingerbread Square Gallery

• Carol Sadowski show of oils on canvas begins April 11,

featuring historic buildings in Key West and the South of France. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1207 Duval St. 296-8900.

Grand Collection

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

Great Southern Gallery

• Carrie Disrud, acrylic on canvas, painted furniture and paper-mache wall-hangings. Harry Greene, oil sticks on paper. Marble garden sculpture by Pat Stone. All our regular artists. Art classes continue with instructors Errol Etienne Harry Greene, Jim Salem and Sandford. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery

• Artists' cooperative featuring ink, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, prints, yotaku fish printing, soft sculpture, fabric piecework, printed and handpainted cards, ceramics, painted clothing, leather bags, photography, stained glass, ironwork, painted mirrors, collage, painted woodcarvings by Key West artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and sometimes later. 614 Duval St. 296-6076.

Haitian Art Company

• Spirit flags, paper mache, paintings, wood sculpture, metal cut-outs by Haitian artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Key West Art Center

•

Paintings by art center members. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St. 294-1241.

Key West Lighthouse Museum

•

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

Kennedy Studios

•

Graphics, limited edition prints. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 133 Duval St. 294-5850; 511 Duval St. 294-8564; and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 306 Front St. 293-0999.

Key West Art Center

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Paintings by art center members. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St. 294-1241.

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Kudu Gallery of Tribal Arts

•

New acquisitions of tribal rugs and kilims. African art, collector's textiles, jewelry. Also ethnic musical instru-

ments, tapestries and toys. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings until 9 p.m. 1208 Duval St. 294-0815.

Lane Gallery

• April 6, David Paul, English miniatures. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

LedaBruce Gallery

• World-class gallery of originals, local artists. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. OceanSide on U.S. 1, MM 30.2, Big Pine. 872-0212.

Loeber-Stanton Gallery

• Originals by international artist Joe Loeber. By appointment. 1619 Atlantic Blvd. 296-8996.

Lucky Street Gallery

• "The New World," collages and photography by Thomas Szuter. All new collection of primitive and folk art. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 919 Duval St. 294-3973.

Miller Gallery

• Originals and contemporary Chinese paintings from the 1950s to the '80s. Daily, except Monday, noon to 8 p.m. 517 Duval St. 2nd Floor. 294-7687.

Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters

• Old Key West engravings from Harper's Bazaar. Errol Etienne watercolor alligators and other critters. New paintings from South America. Back country paintings and prints by Michael Shannon. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1107 Duval St. 296-6124.

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Rara Avis Gallery • Oil portraits, reproductions of masters and original work by local artists. Daily, noon to 6 p.m. 507 B South St. 292-3611.

Robinson Galleries • Featuring the art of Wyland and six other international artists. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 292-1655.

Studio 227 • Handbuilt clay-work, watercolor originals, Bahama Village scenes by local artists. Locklear multimedia. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 227 Petronia St. 294-7141.

Sunset Arts and Crafts • Selected work by local artists and craftsmen—many Mallory Square vendors at the Sunset Celebration. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 296-7920.

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Ben Harrison's Musical Humor

*Out on the fairway, things seem to go their way:
Here I sleep alone every night.
Hit by a duffer, now I've got to suffer.
I'm just a ball lost on the golf course of life.*

"Par for the Course"
Ben Harrison
Par For the Course, 1990

The mating of music and humor produces some of the world's finest entertainment. Gilbert & Sullivan, Spike Jones, John Prine, Madeline Kahn, Victor Borge: inside this type of musician beats a candy heart and the endless need to hear people laugh. Their gifts are universal and priceless.

Musical humor is Ben Harrison's specialty. He has been a regular entertainer at the Bull on Caroline and Duval streets for eight years. He plays guitar, sings, composes, builds and sails boats, writes for and participates in musical theater, owns and operates a local art gallery/music store and works on his uproarious novel "Bars and Guitars" in his spare time.

A valued member of the artistic community, Harrison has recorded four tapes at Danny Simpson's Private Ear Studio. On



these he has surrounded himself with many of the island's favorite singers and players. He is currently at work on a fifth tape.

A recent Wednesday evening set gave a generous sampling of Harrison's sweet stock. Included were two classical pieces by Prine, "Fuller Brush Man," and "Dear Abby," as well as Steve Goodman's hilarious "The Vegomatic." A rollicking rendition of Charlie Daniels' "Long-haired Country Boy" was followed by the rack's one serious song, which shone like a jewel in a Tiffany setting—a lovely, light treatment of Hoagy Carmichael's "Georgia."

Harrison's own tunes comprised the bulk of the lively set, and were as funny as they come. They include "I Hope That I Got the Job," "Tell Johnny I Hate Him," "Search for Maiana" and "Fifi's Lament." The latter, the

ballad of an aging poodle, was dedicated to a patron who brought along the family dog—Harrison skipped no opportunity for levity. Each was a story in itself, a peek into the life of some poor hapless soul stuck in a comedy of errors.

The highlight of the set was Harrison's *Poultry Operetta*, wherein a character, modeled closely after diminutive former Monroe County Sheriff Allison DeFoor, rides tall in the saddle, busting a cockfighting ring up the Keys and rescuing 350 roosters. The ten-minute operetta started innocently enough as a standard-sounding western song. But soon the music deviated, and passed through several movements which could carry such subtitles as "Chicken Feather Blues," "A Cock in Every Pot" and "If I Were A Chicken." The piece was featured in this year's production of the Red Barn's *Made in Key West*, with John Wells and Alby Tellone joining Harrison in the comic misadventure.

With a laid-back, easy style on guitar and a pleasant voice, Harrison kept his mischievous smile constant and reeled off tune after tune. He pulled observations, quotes, jokes and anecdotes from a seemingly endless memory bank and offered them in an offhand, Garrison Keillor sort of way. There were glimpses of family life with his wife, artist Helen Harrison, and their two young sons. The subject was a rich source of comedy, with Harrison relaying the endearing tale of his three-year-old's willingness to take a high dive for the love of a beautiful older woman.

Not all of Harrison's material is so innocent, however; and one would be well advised to leave the progeny at home so as not to miss out on his penchant for more adult themes.

Harrison has recently completed work on a full-length musical, *Undying Love*, based on the warped love story of Maria Elena Hoyos and Count Karl Von Cossel. Plans are under way to mount the production later this year.

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Bill's Key West Fish Market and Restaurant, 2502 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. A local favorite serving the finest local seafood from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily. Our new breakfast menu features seafood omelets. 296-5891.

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

Camille's, 703 1/2 Duval Street. A local restaurant with the casual Key West touch, serving high-quality fare for breakfast and lunch. Daily specials. Entrees are reasonably priced, made of only the finest ingredients and cooked to order. The Sunday Brunch has become a tradition for many locals. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 296-4811.

Casablanca Café, 900-904 Duval Street. A tropical inn serving imaginative Caribbean-style cuisine, fresh local seafood, stone crab claws (in season), shrimp, and such mainstays as prime rib, steaks and pasta. Dine in a lush, tropical setting. Also located on the grounds is Bogart's Irish Pub, which boasts the largest selection of imported and domestic beers on draft. Open at 6 p.m., daily. 296-0815.

Conch Café, 1211 Duval Street. Charming sidewalk café serving home-cooked meals. Desserts, beer, wine, sundries, eat in or take out. Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Monday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. 294-7227.

Crab Shack, 908 Caroline Street across from Land's End Village. Fresh seafood served from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., daily. Peel-your-own spicy steamed shrimp every day. Widest variety of crab dishes on the island. We also cook your catch as you like it. For the landlubber, charbroiled steak and prime rib. Blue plate specials nightly. Dine indoors and out. 294-9658.

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

Dos Lobos, 6 Charles Street, just one-half block west of Duval. Real South-of-the-Border cooking. Tacos, chimichangas, enchiladas, burritos, fajitas, chili and much more. Good cooking, very reasonable prices, and patio dining. 293-0733.

El Loro Verde, 404 Southard Street. More than a Mexican restaurant,

p.m. For dining reservations and entertainment schedule, call 745-3030.

Mary's, 808 Duval Street. Offers delicious burgers—most notably the Mary Burger—in addition to other daily dinner, lunch and breakfast specials. Everything is fresh and made to order; beer and wine are available. Indoor and outdoor seating. Breakfast is served from 12 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open 24 hours. All major credit cards accepted. 296-7554.

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

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

Half Shell Raw Bar, Land's End Village, foot of Margaret Street. Serving lunch and dinner til? Freshest shrimp, fish and lobster direct from their own fish market at the shrimp docks. Cash only. 294-7496.

Paradise Café, corner of Eaton and Grinnell Streets. Home of the famous island Monster Mix. Featuring the biggest sandwiches and the lowest meat prices, presented in an innovative manner with a Caribbean flavor. Enjoy dining inside or outside in our relaxing oasis. Breakfast 8 to 11:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free delivery. 296-5001.

Rich's Café, at the Eden House, 1015 Fleming Street. A relaxed tropical garden setting with outdoor specials; serving special German beer and wine. Breakfast and lunch, daily, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 294-2640.

Tamarinds, at Duval Square, 1021 Duval Street. Key West's newest café offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our menu features eggs, grilled seafood, fresh salads, sandwiches, burgers, soups and luscious desserts at affordable prices, presented in an innovative manner with a Caribbean flavor. Enjoy dining inside or outside in our relaxing oasis. Breakfast 8 to 11:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., dinner 4 to 11 p.m. Takeout available. 294-2809.

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

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

11 a.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily. Dinner until 11 p.m. Live entertainment weekends. 294-2042.

Savannah, 915 Duval Street. Fine Southern home cooking featuring dixie delectables like mouth-watering fried chicken, cornbread, collard greens, fresh fish, and unbeatable mashed potatoes. Dine in a grand old conch house or outside in a tropical garden setting. Open for dinner daily at 6:30 p.m. 296-6700.

South Beach Seafood & Raw Bar, on the beach at the ocean end of Duval Street. Fresh Key West seafood, baby-back ribs, chicken, steak, oysters, clams, nightly specials. Serving beer and wine. Dine inside or outside on our beach deck. Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 294-2727.

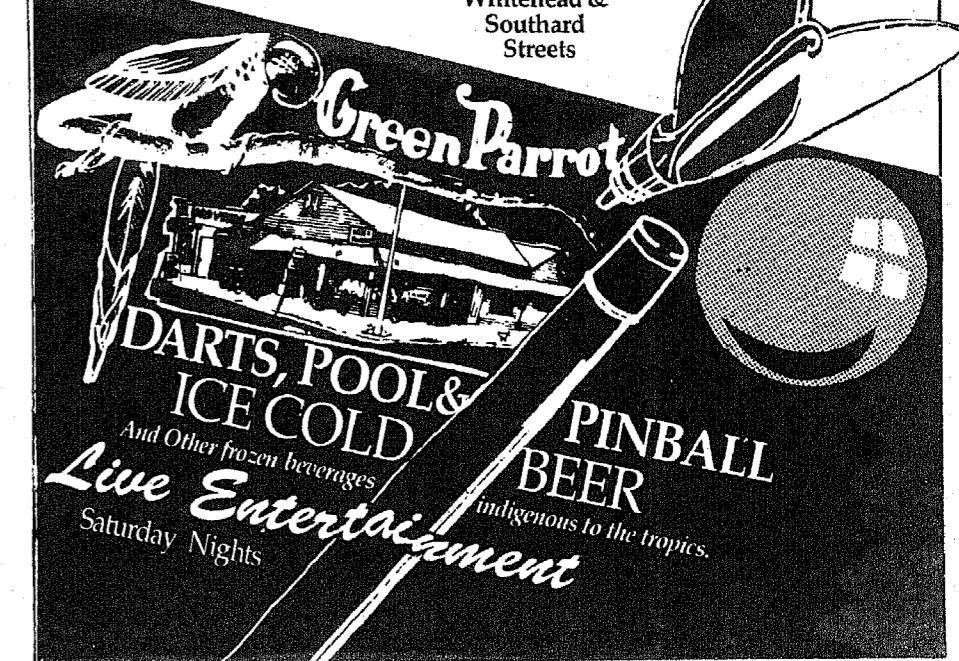
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Whitehead & Southard Streets





The Mighty Key Lime Pie

Even the least sentimental among us can be found to harbor a few personal associations of food and place. But, occasionally, so many will come to identify a certain dish with its origin that the food itself becomes a symbol of that place. Witness, for example, Boston and baked beans, New Orleans and jambalaya, Georgia and peach pie.

Or, for another, Key lime pie and South Florida, especially the Keys.

In fact, this humble dessert might well be the only association a first-timer has with the area, and it is fairly certain he won't leave it without having had a slice or two. If he stays long enough, he may even join in on one of South Florida's favorite pastimes—the never-ending search for "the best." Since very few (if any) of the region's restaurants dare not offer the attraction, the Key-lime-pie field is a big one.

But what is it about Key lime pie, besides the long-time intrigue with anything having to do with the Keys, that makes it so appealing, so famous? It may surpass even the orange as being the most widely recognized symbol of the state.

Much of the answer, I think, lies in the pie's simplicity, which makes it available to



anyone and everyone. Not only is it easy to make, but it is easy to understand, evaluate, and, thus, appreciate. What other dish of any substance can one think of that requires but two ingredients, in this case the juice of the Key lime and a can of condensed milk?

Of course, most Key lime pie has, since its earliest days, included three and four egg yolks, too, but these are not necessary. The reaction of the citrus with the milk provides all the thickening required.

Often, some ingredient such as beaten cream cheese, whipped cream (or thawed, frozen whipped topping, if one must), sour cream, or stiffly beaten egg white will also be incorporated for a creamier, lighter consistency, but, again, it's a preference. Some like a firmer texture and will add gelatin, but this

is easily overdone. The introduction of other flavors is rare so as not to disturb the pie's pristine quality, but some recipes do suggest lime peel, a dash of bitters or vanilla extract, or a spot of rum. Many cooks insist on sugar, but the trend is away from this. One of the most common complaints about Key lime pie is that it's too sweet. Another of the few variables is the type of crust. This could be of the crumbly graham-cracker variety or a flaky pastry, but it must never be soggy and it too often is. Baking one pie at a time and using fresh, quality ingredients can help prevent this.

As a topping, most of us envision delicately browned meringue peaks made from the leftover egg whites, but freshly whipped cream has become just as popular, partly because meringue doesn't hold up well. However, the latest trend is to garnish the pie with only a slice of twisted lime or a few small strawberries. Another is to serve it lightly frozen. One practice that seems to have ended, at last, is dying the filling green.

So, essentially, Key lime pie has remained remarkably true to its beginnings,

which date back to the 1850s and the advent of canned condensed milk. One can only imagine how much this new product might have meant to those in such isolated places as the Keys, where fresh milk was scarce.

Key limes, however, were not scarce, and the eventual combining of their pungent juice with the milk was inevitable. After all, the juice was already used in or on just about everything else edible. In fact, its presence is today, perhaps, the single most distinguishing feature of the South Florida cuisine.

If anyone should doubt that Key lime juice tastes much different from that of the familiar green Persian, he need only compare the two. The former has a certain, slightly acidic bite to it that is unique and ultimately satisfying in even the steamiest climates.

Sadly, though, the little round bearers of this almost-magical stuff can be difficult to come by these days, even in the Keys. (I had to special-order mine from the Waterfront Market.) I'm told that a blight some years ago devastated so many of the trees that marketing the fruits is a losing proposition. So it is that the many who may never lay eyes on a Key lime might eventually come to doubt its very existence were it not for the enduring popularity of the mighty Key lime pie.

One recipe for a Key lime pie follows, but, first, a few hints. Bottled Key lime juice is a fine substitute for the fresh; aficionados of the fruit, however, juice the limes when in season and keep it on hand frozen. Don't confuse evaporated milk with condensed sweetened. Finally, do cook any filling with raw egg to prevent the chance of salmonella contamination—use a double boiler or bake it

in the shell. A food processor was used here, but it is not necessary.

Key Lime Pie

1 9-inch pie shell, baked
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
3 egg yolks, fully beaten (reserve whites if meringue is desired)
1/2 c Key lime juice (about 6 limes)
Meringue or whipped cream for topping (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Stir milk into beaten yolks and then add lime juice, beating very well. Pour into prepared pie crust. If a meringue topping is desired, beat egg whites until stiff but not dry, gradually adding 2 tablespoons sugar, and swirl over top. Bake pie about 15 minutes, or until just lightly golden brown. Cover and chill or freeze and partially thaw before serving.

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Sandwich Menu

Prime Roast Beef.....	4.00
Sliced Turkey Breast.....	4.00
Ham & Cheese.....	4.00
Steak Sandwich.....	4.75
Cuban Mix.....	4.25
Fresh Cooked Pork.....	4.25
BBQ Pork.....	4.50
BBQ Beef.....	4.75
BBQ Rib.....	4.75
Albacore Fancy White Tuna.....	4.00
Veggie Sandwich.....	3.75
Homemade Soup with Bread.....	2.50
Fresh fruit Salad.....	3.00
Key lime Pie.....	1.75
Draft Beer.....	1.00

Free Beverage with Purchase of Steak or
BBQ Rib Sandwich! (After 3pm)

Breakfast Menu

Served until 10:30 am.	
Cuban Toast.....	1.00
Cheese Toast.....	1.25
Homemade Monster Muffins.....	1.25
Egg Sandwich.....	2.25
Egg & Cheese Sandwich.....	2.50
Egg, Ham & Cheese Sandwich.....	3.00
Coffee.....	Lg. .50
Café con Leche.....	Sm. .75 • Med. 1.00 • Lg. 1.25

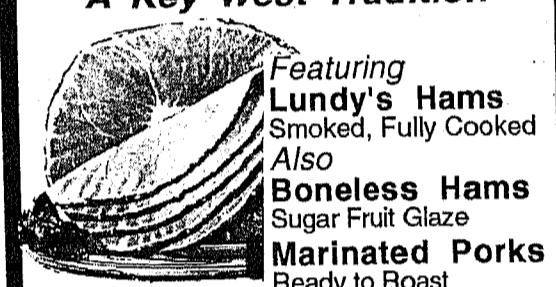
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Sat. 6:30am-4pm • Sun. 10am-3:30pm

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CALENDAR • APRIL 2nd - 15th

Cultural

4/2-4/5 • "White and Black," the Great Southern Gallery's annual theme show featuring the work of several local artists in a variety of media. For more information, call 294-6660.

4/2-4/5 • *Camille* directed by Cameron Murray at the Waterfront Playhouse. For ticket information, call 294-5015.

4/2-4/26 • *Six Women With Brain Death—Or Expiring Minds Want To Know* a musical revue at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911 for ticket information.

4/4 • *Old Island Harmony*, an evening of barbershop harmony and musical fun featuring the Singing Miamians and the Key West barbershop chorus. Presented at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center at 8 p.m. Tickets on sale at Bargain Books and Summerland Hardware or call 296-9081, ext. 326.

4/4 • *Billy Budd*, opera in two acts by Benjamin Britten 1:30 p.m. on KEY 93 radio.

4/7 • "A Photographer's View of Spring Break 1992" exhibit at the East Martello Museum. All works are invited.

For more information, call 294-3913.

4/10-4/11 • *Give 'Em Hell, Harry!*, Sam Gallu's one-man play about Harry Truman, featuring actor Kevin McCarthy 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. For ticket information, 296-9081, ext. 326.

4/10-4/12 • Vicki Roush 8 p.m. at the Waterfront Playhouse. For ticket information, call 294-5015.

Entertainment

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

The Bull & Whistle Bar • Corner of Duval and Caroline Streets. Happy Hour at The Whistle, 5 to 9 p.m. daily.

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

Captain Tony's Saloon • 428 Greene Street. Call 294-1838.

Club Havana • The Pier House at 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

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

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

Flagler's at The Casa Marina • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.

Full Moon Saloon • 1202 Simonton Street. Call 294-9090.

Green Parrot • 601 Whitehead. Call 296-6133.

Harbour Light's Barrelhead Bar • Garrison Bight Marina. Call 294-9343.

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

Islander Restaurant • 528 Front Street. Call 292-7659.

Mangrove Mama's • MM 20 Sugarloaf Key. Tim McAlpine and Ron Sommerjazz dinner every Friday night from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Sam Anderson on guitar every Saturday from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Island dancing with The Survivors on the last Sunday of every month. Call 745-3030.



Two Friends Patio Restaurant • 512 Front Street. Call 296-9212.
Viva Zapata • 903 Duval Street. Call 296-3138.
The Wine Galley • The Pier House at 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

Events

4/3 • **Doc Tommy Scott's Last Real Medicine Show** 7 p.m. at Coral Shores High School. An old-time comedy show with over 15 amusing and amazing acts. Presented as a fundraiser by the Florida Keys Children's Shelter. For information, call (305) 852-4246.

4/4 • **Montessori School 20th Annual Alumni Reunion Party** from 4 to 7 p.m. in Mary Spottwood's back yard, 220 Simonton St. The fundraiser, which includes \$7000 in donation drawing prizes, features entertainment and food. Call 294-5302 for tickets.

4/4 • **30th Annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest** 2 p.m. at the docks of the Hyatt Key Key, 601 Front Street. For more information, call 294-9501.

4/4 • **Friends of the Library Last Book Sale of the Season** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the rear of the Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street. For more information, call 294-8488.

4/4 • **Key West Sailing Club's 18th Annual Around the Island Race for Sunfish and Sailboards** beginning at noon from the Casa Marina Water Sports Beach. For information or to register, call Howard Crane at 296-4522.

4/11 • **Key West Preschool Co-op Spring Arts & Crafts Fair** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bayview Park (raindate is 4/12). Featuring games, food, 30 arts and crafts booths, a Moon Walk, and an Easter Egg Hunt beginning at 11 a.m. (kids bring your own basket). For more information, call 296-4749.

4/11 • **11th Annual Seven-Mile Bridge Run** beginning at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the bridge. For more information, call 743-8513.

Miscellaneous

4/3-4/5 • **Shipboard Operations—Dry Tortugas Trip**, a two-credit course offered by FKCC. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 228.

4/4-4/25 • **Special Delivery/Childbirth Preparation Class** Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. For information, call 296-9081, ext. 283.

4/4 • **Discovering the Spirit Within: An Eastern Meditation Workshop** conducted by Ma Prem Manohara 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Unity of the Keys, 3424 Duck Avenue. For more information, call 296-5888.

4/7 • **Beginning Quilting Class** begins from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Big Pine Shopping Center. Cost is \$25. Call 872-9022.

4/7, 4/9 • **Wildlife Rescue Techniques** 6 to 7:30 p.m. at FKCC. Course offers training in the care of wildlife, should there be a pollutant spill in Monroe County. For information, call 296-9081, ext. 283.

4/8-5/5 • **HRS 20-Hour Daycare**

Worker Training 6 to 10 p.m. at FKCC. Course provides the 20 hours required for daycare workers. For information, call 296-9081, ext. 283.

4/11 • **Loving Yourself to a Beautiful Body: A Spiritual Approach to Diet** led by Dr. Barbara Lotito 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Unity of the Keys, 3424 Duck Avenue. For more information, call 296-5888.

4/13, 4/15 • **Reef Fish Identification** 6 to 9 p.m. For information, call 296-9081, ext. 283.

Meetings

4/1 • **Monroe County People's Campaign for Jerry Brown Meeting** 7 p.m. at the newer Court House Annex, Whitehead Street, Court Room D, main floor.

4/2 • **Tree Committee Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/4 • **Rally for the School** citizens group meeting in support of the Big Pine Elementary School 3 p.m. at Watson Field on Key Deer Blvd. Featuring several public officials as guest speakers.

4/7 • **Key West Art and Historical Society Annual Meeting** 7 p.m. at the East Martello Museum. Featuring board elections. For more information, call 296-3913.

4/7 • **City Commission Meeting** 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/8 • **Board of Adjustment Meeting** 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/8-4/9 • **South Florida Water Management District Meeting** 9 a.m. at the District Headquarters, 3301 Gun Club Road in West Palm Beach. For more information, call 1-800-432-2045.

4/9 • **HARC Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/9 • **Civil Service Board Meeting** 7:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/13 • **HARC Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/15 • **Contractors Exam Board Meeting** 2 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/15 • **Citizens Advisory Task Force Meeting** 6:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

Ongoing

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

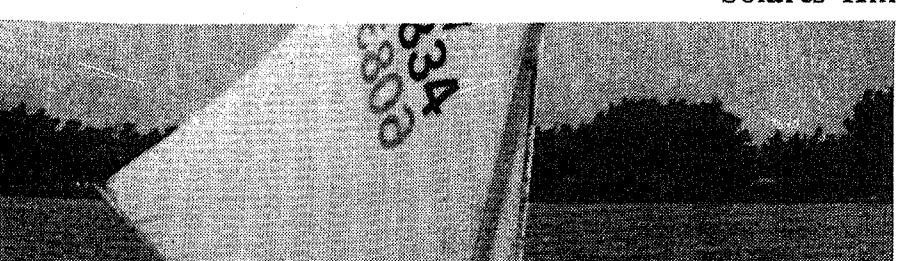
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4/8-5/5 • **HRS 20-Hour Daycare**



RACE AROUND THE ISLAND: Sunfish sailor R. A. Hillman, a Key West Sailing Club Member, will be one of many racers in the club's 18th Annual Around the Island Race April 4 beginning at noon from the Casa Marina Water Sports Beach.

For membership information, call 292-7984.

Key West Sports Car Club meets at 8 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of every month in the back room of Wag's restaurant on N. Roosevelt Blvd.

Kiss AA (gay preferred) meets every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30 p.m., plus every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the rear of Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street. Call 294-8912.

KWAMI (Key West Alliance for the Mentally Ill) holds monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Care Center for Mental Health, 4th Street and Patterson Avenue. Each meeting will feature a guest speaker or special program. Call Helen at 294-4875 or Mary at 294-9905.

KWAMI Come Back Club-Project Return, a self-help social club where people with emotional disturbances and mental illnesses gather with KWAMI members. Group meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Peace Covenant Church, 2610 Flagler Avenue. Call Helen Gerbracht at 294-4875.

SCORE-Key West (Service Corps of Retired Executives) offers free business counseling to the public and will assist anyone in furthering their business plans. Call Mike at the Chamber of Commerce for an appointment, 294-2587.

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

Problem Solving for Teenagers Group meets Tuesdays 4 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843

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

Tai Chi Chuan Exercise Class, instructed by Will Jones, is a "soft" form of physical conditioning. Classes are at 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursdays at Island Wellness.

Toddler Story Time for 2 and 3 year olds 9:30 every Friday at The Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 292-3595.

Transportation Program, available to those over 60 years old, weekdays 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In Key West call 294-8468; Middle Keys call 743-9099; Upper Keys call 852-3204.

Writers' Walk, about one mile, takes place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10. Meet at the Hemingway House, 907 Whitehead Street. For reservation/ticket information call 745-3640.

Women's Issues Group meets Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.



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Linda O'Brien
Bill Spottswood
Nathan Eden
Buddy Owen
Frank Toppino
Harry Woolley
Mark Rossi
Christopher Vidal
Dennis Wardlow
Dr. Frank Ferrin

Bail has been set at \$2,000

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Raw Bar	
Half Dozen Oysters.....	3.95
Half Dozen Clams.....	3.95
1/4 Lb. Iced Steamed Shrimp.....	3.95
Stone Crab Claws.....	Market

Appetizers	
Conch Chowder.....	2.50
Seafood Chowder.....	2.50
Conch Fritters.....	3.50
Fried Fish Fingers.....	3.25
Shrimp Cocktail.....	7.50
Marinated Conch Salad.....	5.25
Crab & Avocado Salad.....	6.50
Large Garden Salad.....	3.95

Sandwiches	
Fried Dolphin Sandwich.....	6.25
Hamburger.....	5.45
Cheeseburger.....	5.95

Platters	
Served with Potato or Rice, Cole Slaw & Garlic Bread	
New York Strip Steak.....	12.95
Baby Back Ribs.....	10.95
1/2 Chicken.....	8.50
Fresh Catch of The Day.....	12.95
Grilled Catch of The Day.....	12.95
Dolphin, Broiled or Fried.....	8.95
Stuffed Dolphin, Broiled or Fried.....	9.95
Fried Jumbo Shrimp.....	12.95
Stuffed Jumbo Shrimp.....	13.95
Shrimp Scampi.....	13.50
Steamed Shrimp, 1/2 Lb.	9.95
Deep Sea Scallops, Broiled or Fried.....	10.95
Fried Clam Strips.....	8.75
Seafood Pasta.....	11.95
Maryland Style Crab Cakes.....	9.95
Broiled Lobster.....	Market
Stuffed Lobster.....	Market
Broiled Seafood Combination.....	13.25
Fried Seafood Combination.....	13.75
Broiled Seafood Kabobs.....	13.50
Surf & Turf.....	15.75
Children's Platter - 10 yrs. & Under.....	2.99

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