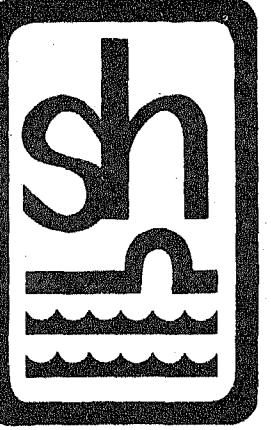


THE HIGHEST POINT IN KEY WEST

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Vol. 17, No. 15 • September 1992



Monkey Tom, now a resident of Geiger Key, pictured Hurricane Andrew this way.

Close Call

Hurricane Andrew unites Key West for at least a day

by Jack Lawson

Sunday night was hot and humid, typical of the dog days of August. Occasionally, the light northern breeze had a curiously frigid bite. Oldtimers said that was a harbinger of a hurricane's approach.

It was Andrew's eve, and residents of Key West reclaimed the streets. Like in past generations, people sat on porches sharing conversation and a neighborly beer. Small crowds gathered on streetcorners swapping folklore and telling hurricane stories—some real, some embellished.

For a few hours, television and air conditioning didn't seem so important.

There was little traffic, and the ubiquitous whine of tourist scooters was missing. Police cruised down Fleming Street, silent. It was too late for flashing lights and bullhorns. Evacuation was over, and the cops waved at a posse of rollerbladers.

On Whitehead Street, a team of black teenagers shot out of Bahama Village, hot-dogging a basketball the way Magie and Michael had taught them. An aging fan hobbled along with the help of a walker, smiled and said, "I remember when only Bob Cousy could do that."

Even on Duval Street, young families rode piloted battered bicycles past boarded-up T-shirt and souvenir

"Where's it at?" became a common greeting;
"Twenty-five point four," the cryptic reply.

shops. Their owners had painted slogans: "Andrew, where's your family values?" "This Isn't Kansas Any More," or "Andrew Yes, Bush No!"

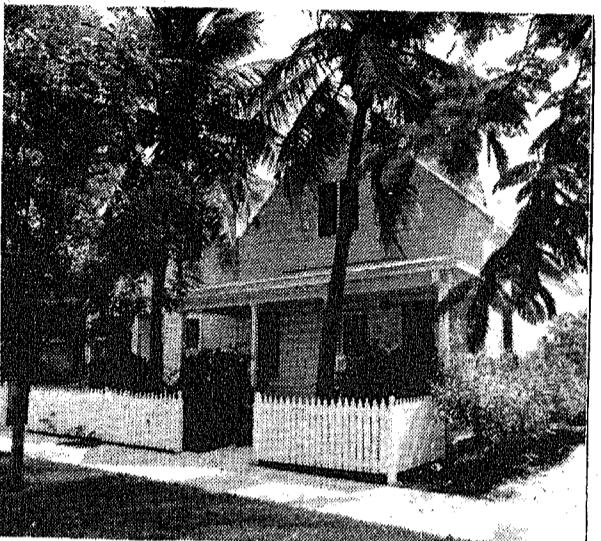
In Peary Court, there was a last meeting of the dog-running society, and lovers walked hand-in-hand, sharing the city's last normal night. Everybody wondered if we would see Key West ... or each other, in the morning.

Preparations

Earlier in the day, county emergency management officials had ordered tourists evacuated. Then residents of the Upper and Middle Keys. The order for Key West
Continued on Page 16

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EDITORIAL

Hurricane Andrew's close call certainly made Key West's experiences with one of nature's greatest disturbances other than theoretical. We have now a better idea of the choices we must make and the time frame in which we must make them. That's good.

Those who believe in the capriciousness of natural events got a boost from Andrew. Fascinated, we tracked him across our maps, knowing that the islands could be devastated as never before and that we could kiss a good part of our lifestyles and much of our economy goodbye if Andrew chose to descend below 25 degrees in latitude. Definitely not a good feeling.

We waited. Should we stay or go? A power outage Sunday morning let us know how important communications were. Then, as the National Weather Service bulletins became more reassuring about the blessed steadiness of this particular storm, we became less tempted by the police reports telling us there was still plenty of time to get out. Though I can't prove it, I believe that the collective breath of relief that passed through the lower Keys at that time was a contributing factor in Andrew staying up where he was.

Andrew should not be returned. We're not opposed to this feisty candidate's populist politics. Our problem is with Jones' destructive style. He's been a grandstander, a demagogue and an inattentive impediment to improvement in county government. In our view, Shirley Freeman is a preferable candidate.

Geddy Sveikauskas

July's front cover of a young Ernest Hemingway was not attributed to its owner, the Estate of Leicester Hemingway. We regret the omission.

time these words hit the press, this was the first Category 5 storm ever to make landfall in a major metropolitan area. The devastation will be something we'll hear about for years. Our hearts go out to all those who suffered as we would have if Andrew had only turned a few miles south.

At Solares Hill we celebrate the memory of Bob Beckwith, a fine human being, a co-founder of Solares Hill Design and always a friend to our publication. He died this past week.

We also hope for the survival of Vaughn Gibson, a trenchant critic and dedicated writer whose work in *Solares Hill* had a strong following; at this writing, he is missing in Mexico, and friends suspect foul play.

Politics seems petty by comparison. But there's a primary election in a few days. We feel two county commission races are particularly important.

Despite a waspish personality, John Stormont has been an intelligent, dedicated and attentive county commissioner. He deserves reelection.

Doug Jones should not be returned. We're not opposed to this feisty candidate's populist politics. Our problem is with Jones' destructive style. He's been a grandstander, a demagogue and an inattentive impediment to improvement in county government. In our view, Shirley Freeman is a preferable candidate.

Geddy Sveikauskas

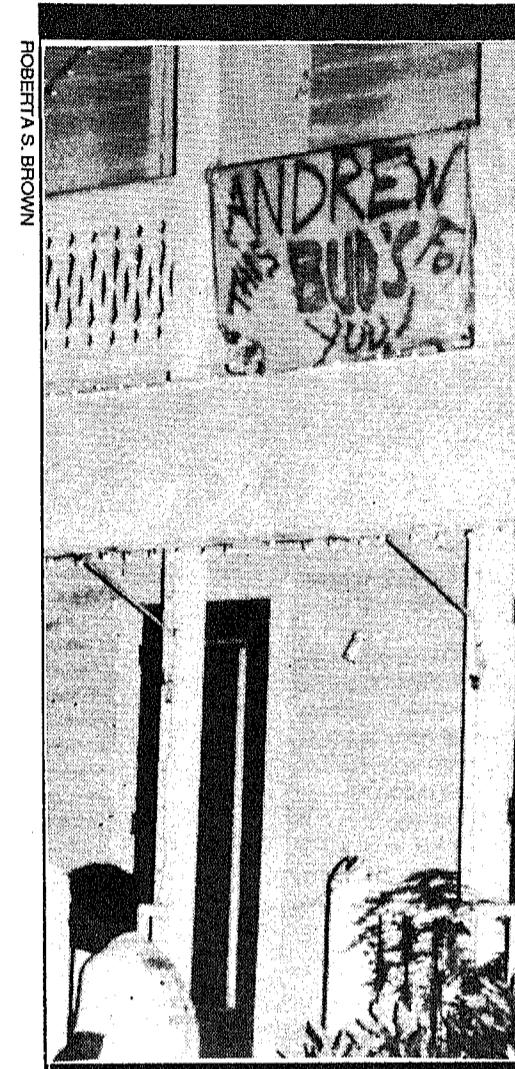


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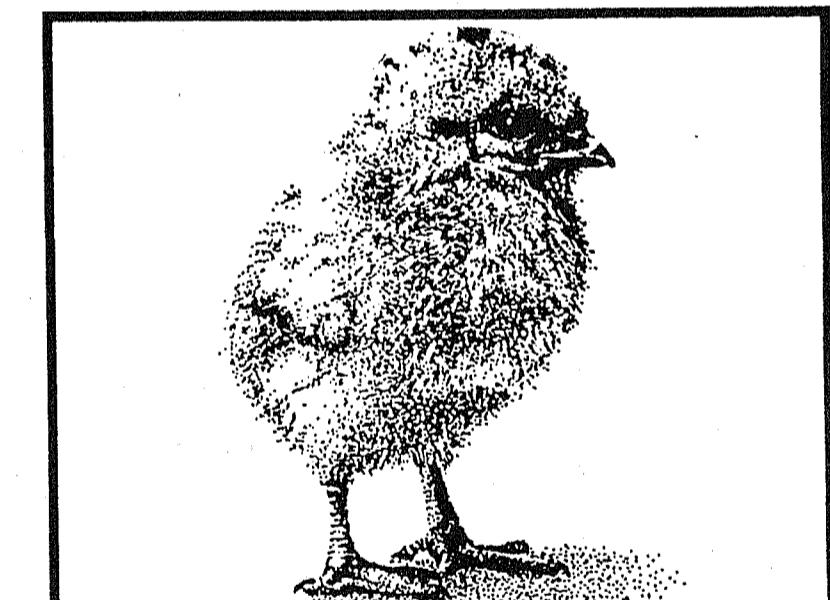
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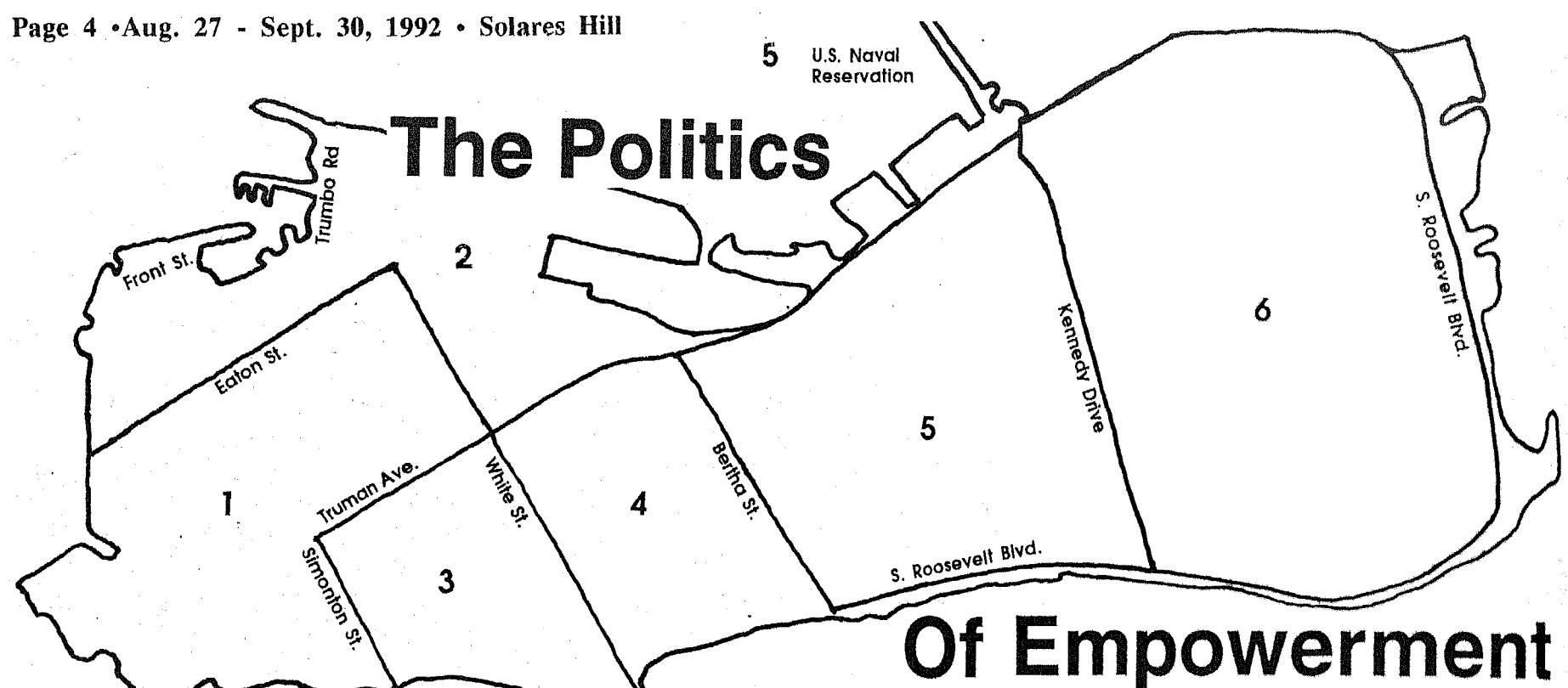
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by Lee Irby

Only one black person has served on the Key West city commission in this century. "Do we have to wait another 100 years before we get another one?" Neighborhood Improvement Association vice-president Fred Shaw asked the city commission. "We're losing valued members of our community. Blacks are at the bottom. I strongly recommend single-member districts."

In Key West as elsewhere, minorities are seeking to alter the landscape of local politics through single-member districts. Civil-rights laws require a political system that doesn't lock them out, they claim. With some justice.

A November referendum will propose a dismantling of the commission system of four commissioners and a mayor elected at large (that is, by the entire voting populace). In its place it will propose six

Redistricting in Mobile

The question may not be whether single-member city legislative districting will become a reality in Key West, but whether it will do the black community any good if it does. A black leader in Mobile, Alabama is convinced that it will.

In 1985, the city commission in Mobile, Alabama changed from three at-large commissioners to a seven-member council. The three-member board was historically all-white; the current seven-member board has four representatives from predominantly white districts, and three representatives from predominantly black districts.

Irnatean Watson, a representative from one of the black districts, says the change has done a great deal to make the city government more representative. "The city has really progressed as a result of single-member districting," he says. "It really makes a difference when all of the people's interests are represented and voiced in some way."

districts, each of which will elect one commissioner. Commissioners will have to live in the district they represent. The mayor will continue to be elected at large.

Blacks would comprise 44% of the district which includes Bahama Village (District 1). Blacks make up 10% of Key West's total population.

"Key West isn't ready for a black commissioner," said Charles Major of the NIA. "But they're going to have to join the rest of the world.... What this does is bring accountability to city government. If you've got a problem, you'll know who on the commission to turn to. They can't sidestep the issue. Plus, you won't need \$30,000 to run for office."

The NIA's attorney, Michael Halpern, gave the commission various legal scenarios. "There are two ways to do this," he explained. "Either the commission can get behind the black community, or the federal courts will tell you to do so. Let's bring civil

Previously, Watson says, community grant funds were allocated to the poorer sections of town, but politicos "always managed to divert the money to things like the historical districts." More grant funds have gone to Mobile's poor neighborhoods in the past seven years than in the previous 30 years.

Watson believes single-member districting will help blacks in Key West gain representation. "Even if there is not a voting black member, there is a difference when people will be able to articulate the needs of a certain community and be heard," Watson says.

Joe Kemp, political action committee chair for the Miami NAACP, says single-member districting in Florida was spurred by the results of the 1990 census and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As of yet, it's too early to see examples of changed voting patterns, however.

rights to Key West."

Mayor Dennis Wardlow voiced his full support and decried the bureaucratic lag time that might've kept the referendum off the November 3 ballot. "Let's get this done," he said. "Come back with some districts."

On August 18, the NIA did exactly that, and the commission passed 4-0 the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the changes to the city charter to pave the way for single-member districts.

Meeting with city attorney Ginny Stones, elections chief Harry Sawyer, Pais and Halpern, the NIA carved the city into six voting districts of about 4000 people each.

"I only asked that they try to make demarcations along major arteries and try to stay with our current precincts," Sawyer said. "It would be hard to have one precinct in three different districts."

Only 59% of local blacks eligible to vote are registered, compared to 67% of whites. "Even if we don't win," explained Charles Major, president of the NIA, "we still will have a lot of say about what goes on."

In the 1991 election Bahama Village supported two black candidates, Noah Coakley-Allen and Roy Grant. Both lost citywide.

The proposed District 1 is also home to two current commissioners, Sally Lewis and Jimmy Weekley, both of whom are up for reelection in 1993.

"I've got three choices," Weekley said. "I can run again, I can step down, or I can run for another office. But if I do try to seek reelection, I'll campaign aggressively."

Many local pundits believe Weekley will run for mayor in 1993, but he didn't confirm this rumor.

"I'm not moving," Lewis said. "It [single-member districts] won't be that different. The problems are going to be the same: garbage, sewage and taxes."

Some fear the "Balkanization" of Key West, with one neighborhood fighting against another for such items as street

repairs. Beholden to neighborhood interests, commissioners would approve projects the city as a whole didn't need or want, the critics say. But that argument can be made for any form of representative government.

"This is a town that doesn't pass referendums," said a political insider. "It's resistant to change," said another.

"Will it pass?" commissioner Joe Pais wondered. "Not if we don't work for it."

Some observers cited the lack of viable black candidates as the main obstacle to minority representation, and held up Dr. Otha Cox, who sits on the utilities board, as an example of a black who could win at-large elections.

Major bristled at such a notion. "We have leaders," he said. "To win our district, the commissioner's going to have to come to Bahama Village."

Assistant city manager Ron Herron, at Weekley's request, calculated the cost of two extra commissioners at around \$77,000 — assuming the present level of pay.

The measure will be among ten referenda the voters will consider this November. The NIA says it knows what it'll do if the referendum is defeated. "We'll be in

federal court the next day," Major promised. "If we have to. By any means necessary."

A referendum defeat would thrust the commission into a precarious position, poised between a majority of constituents who do not want single-member districts and an outraged black minority willing to contest a civil-rights lawsuit.

A federal judge has ordered single-member districts for Dade County, jeopardizing the September primaries there. Dade had decided not to appeal that decision.

Halpern provided numerous instances of cities which fought single-member districts only to lose in federal court, where "judges don't care about drawing up ten or eleven districts to ensure that votes have meaning." He gave Austin, Texas, and Springfield, Illinois as two examples where the courts have expanded the size of city commissions to create a black majority in one district.

A Supreme Court decision in *Thornburg v. Gungles* upheld single-member districts when at-large elections dilute minority voting, even where there was no intent to discriminate.

Solares Hill • Aug. 27 - Sept. 30, 1992 • Page 5

This is known as the "results" test. If the results of elections deny minorities equal access to the political process, intent to discriminate need not be proved.

Survival is the real issue behind the NIA's attempt to empower Bahama Village. What role can this neighborhood play in a tourist-based economy?

Major didn't have immediate answers. The NIA is trying to get young people trained for jobs in tourism, he said, but he was doubtful on the larger question of survival.

"Look at Miami," he said, "at their problems, the rioting. It killed their tourism. They're just coming back.... The same thing could happen here. We don't want it to, but it could. And then no one's come here."

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The Path Not Taken

With a small investment and a degree of commitment, Key West could have a sport path



CYCLIST AND
MAYOR:
Dennis Wardlow.

by Judi Bradford

For the rollerblader, asphalt snorkeling is the downside. When you're up, the experience is paradise squared, cubed, to the nth. For that exponential thrill, however, a rollerblader needs pavement—smooth, unlitigated pavement. And such champagne asphalt is in short supply here in the Last Resort.

I just got back from a visit with relatives in Pompano Beach, a backwater kind of extended suburb with a railroad and two highways slashing through it just like every other Gold Coast town. Pompano, like many of those towns, has installed a safe and enjoyable bike path. Bike path is really too specific a term; on any given day the path is used by walkers, rollerbladers, runners—even wheelchair athletes.

Martin Guttenplan in the state bicycle planning office defines the purpose of bicycle coordinators as "encouragement, education, engineering and enforcement." His office has bicycling education programs in the schools in Dade and nine other counties.

planning office defines the purpose of bicycle coordinators as "encouragement, education, engineering and enforcement." His office has bicycling education programs in the schools in Dade and nine other counties.

Funds are available for bicycle paths and lanes. "The money is there to be used," Guttenplan says. "It takes local activism and attention. If people don't watch, it will get spent somewhere else on water projects, billboards." His advice: Get involved.

Why are there bike paths in the Upper Keys? "Citizen request," says Desiree Peacock, design engineer for Monroe County. "For citizens who want bike paths, we're trying to do what they want. We're trying to

Ice tea

That's how it's pronounced in engineering jargon. Spelled ISTEA, it's an acronym for Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. This 1991 federal program attempts to integrate highway and road evolution into the communities surrounding them. Within the code are two special provisions setting aside funds for safety and "enhancements," or "provisions of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, control and removal of outdoor advertising."

The concept is broad. "The difference between good and great is at the heart of the transportation enhancements concept," says the project bulletin.

—J.B.

"Widening a road's shoulder to meet minimum safety standards for bicycle use is a worthy expenditure of surface transportation funds; better still is the dedication and landscaping of a path for exclusive use by bicyclists."

Other money sources are provided. Funds from the National Highway, Surface Transportation, Congestion Mitigation and Bridge programs may be used on bike and pedestrian projects. Taxes levied on recreational non-highway fuels now go into a special "Recreational Trails Trust Fund" to be used for non-motorized use trails, including "urban trails" near homes and workplaces.

—J.B.

The Broward bicycle coordinator oversees the route.

The Four E's
Bicycle coordinator? Where did he

JUDI BRADFORD



RUNNER AND POLICE CHIEF: Ray Peterson.

address citizen concerns."

The time is ripe for an activism that might provide bicycle accommodation in our island city. Years ago, getting portly city officials out of their air-conditioned offices or cars to ponder a pothole in bike path was unthinkable. Now, however, many officials are out there dodging them on their own bikes. Our chief of police runs and bicycles ("cruiser-style"). Our city manager walks and bicycles. We even have police-on-bicycle patrols.

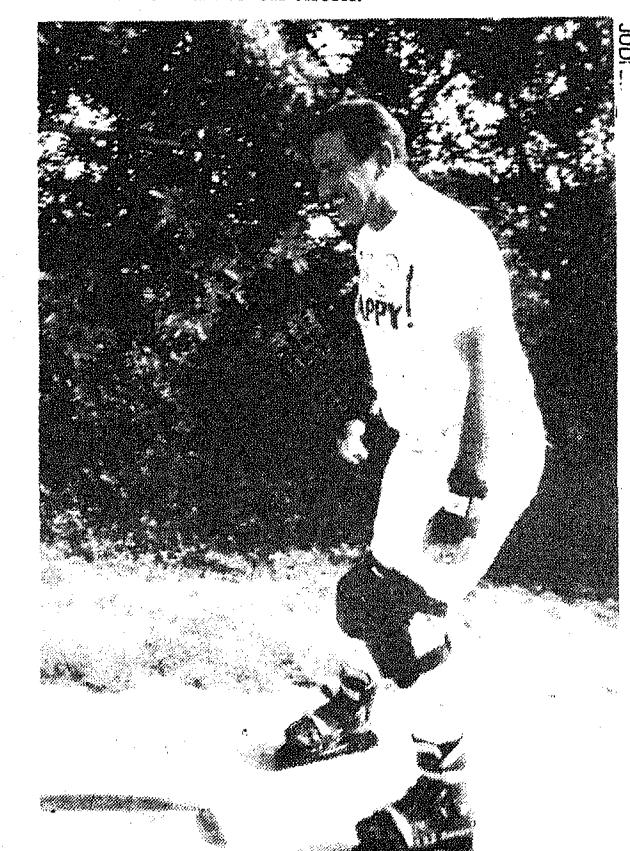
"Sounds good to me," said police chief Ray Peterson when the concept of a sport path was presented to him. "I would sure be interested in something like that. This town is tailor-made for this sort of thing." Expense might be the biggest problem, he says. The city has many other priorities.

The police department has already recognized the unmotorized element. Officer Tim Rolewicz is putting together a bicycle safety pamphlet of local laws and safety tips. He hopes to have them in bike shops and rental businesses this month. A bicycle licensing drive is also in the works.

Bladers

After conversations with the rollerblading contingent, represented by Ric and Marci Bisgyer, Rolewicz is compiling information for a second pamphlet. The Bisgyers sell rollerblades from their shop, Latitude 24. (Marci provided the phrase "asphalt snorkeling" at the beginning of this article). Their rollerblade fair last spring featured races, freestyle, hockey and free rentals. They are avid bladers, as is their five-year old son Eric. They know all the good spots in town for blading. "It makes you a pavement connoisseur," says Ric.

Another blader, Delia Appleby, went with Ric to talk to city officials last spring. "It's safe transportation," she notes. "And packable. Tourists bring their gear with them. Locals commute on them."



ROLLERBLADER AND POLICE OFFICER: Tim Rolewicz.

It's time to take these unmotorized alternatives seriously. There are health and environmental benefits. But careful planning is needed. The indiscriminate mixing of cars, bikes, rollerblades and skateboards is a formula for danger. Special lanes and special

Rollin' around Seattle

Seattle was judged the best city for bicycling in North America by the Bicycle Institute of America and the League of American Wheelmen. Nestled on seven hills and reflected by four lakes, Seattle is best known for its rain—actually, more of a glorified drizzle. It was founded by your classic frontier types and named after the chief of the Duwanish and Suquamish "Indians."

This heritage has produced a major city that was one of the first to dedicate 1% of its income to the arts. King County, its surrounding body, is the prototype for "user-friendly" insurance programs.

Residents typically love the outdoors. Lots of bicycles are sold there. This writer once bought one there at a sports store about this size of Stock Island.

In 1990, Seattle had 25 miles of bike lanes from the 'burbs to the downtown district that never brought the pedalist in contact with cars. City buses have exterior bike racks. Five to ten percent of all new parking must, by law, be for bicycles. There's also a color bike map delineating the best and the most dangerous routes. You can even write to the city and get a twelve-minute video about its bicycle program.

—J.B.

paths are part of the answer.

There is a crumbling relic of an ancient bike path adjacent to North and South Roosevelt drives. It was a designated lane in the old seaside walkway built by the WPA. It was a good idea. But it has been years since it was properly maintained. All that is left is one faded sign, a foggy local memory, and a trail of craters.

"The devil made a deal with the city forty years ago," rages Deanne Naylor of Fudgecycle Bike Shop. "I'll make you rich, but you have to build a death trap for me." The current bike path lacks crosswalks. She can recite a list of accidents involving bicyclists trying to ford the stream of traffic

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The existing route, if maintained, would be a delightful pedal. As it is now, however, a wheelman navigator would be reckless to take his or her eyes off the pavement for a single moment. A pleasing view of horizon, sea and summer clouds could be the last glimpse of outdoors one gets before the emergency room.

What Bike Path?

No one wants to claim responsibility for the as-is bike path. The city and county deny ownership, citing its location on a state highway right-of-way. The Department of Transportation acknowledges the right-of-way argument. It offers to cooperate with local maintenance crews, but that's about it.



Key West city manager Felix Cooper repeats city concerns that whoever maintains the path will be liable for injuries there. "I'm not completely sold on that," he goes on. "In the future we probably will address it."

He is a relative newcomer to the island. His first reaction to an inquiry about the bike path was: "What bike path?"

"What makes you think this is a bike path instead of a promenade?" he asks.

Cooper is impressed with the tolerance of Key West traffic for bicyclists, rollerbladers, pedicabs, Conch trains and pedestrians. Until the highway was improved in recent decades, cars were in the minority. Horses, carts, bicycles, trolleys—that was efficient transportation.

George Halloran recently returned from a trip bicycling through the Cuban countryside. "Bikes have a lot of importance down there," he points out. "There are whole lanes for them, even on super highways. I'd like to see that attitude here. Bikes should be treated with more respect than cars."

Halloran has spoken in the past about an unbroken walking path around the island. A multi-use path would be even grander. A perfect paradise would offer a continuous trail the length of the Keys, with rest stops that had water fountains, benches and shade. In the more urban areas, the path would erupt into small parks with skateboard jumps, ramps and bowls, air pumps, picnic sites, scenic fountains, wading pools and inspirational landscaping.

Here's a review. The key words are: Get involved.

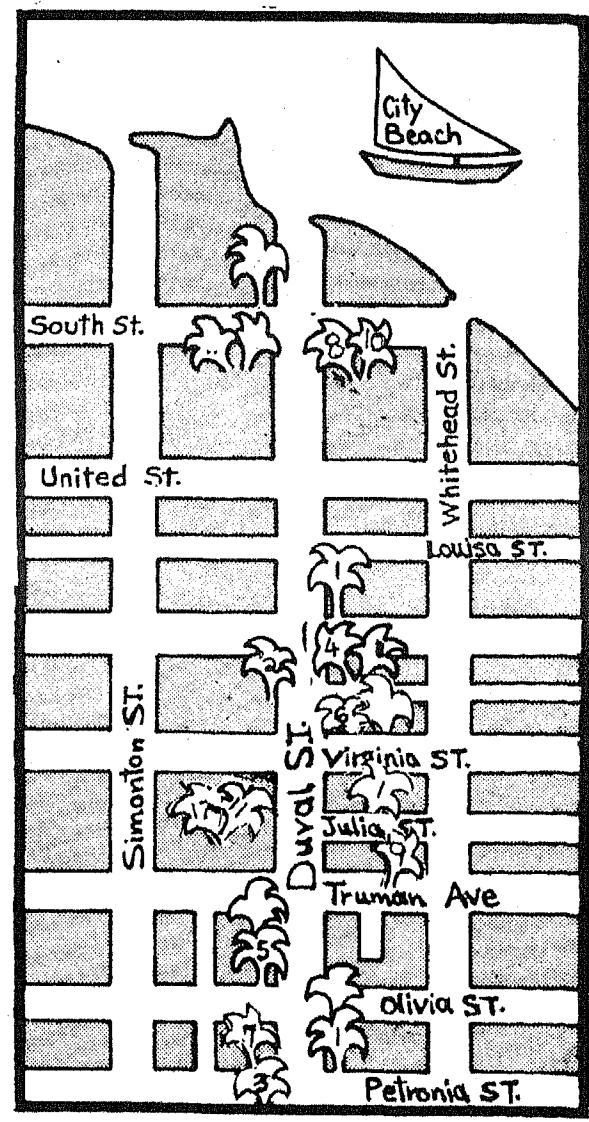
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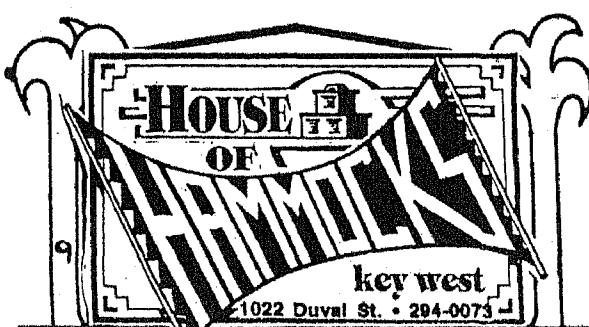
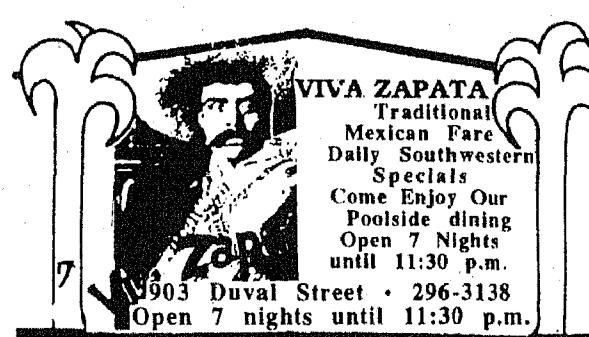
UPPER DUVAL STREET

The Upscale End of Town

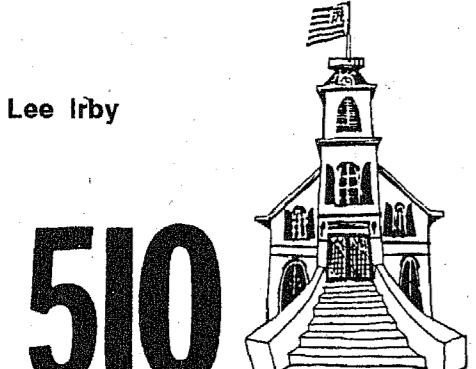


Uptown Duval Street captures the aura of Key West's Old Town in a small, tasteful slice. Here high fashion elegance snuggles with down-home funk and neighborhood service stores. Unpretentious local mainstays fit comfortably beside polished new storefronts. While Uptown Duval continues to evolve and develop, merchants take particular pride in preserving the laid-back atmosphere they say characterizes their area. Sip a genuine Cuban café con leche at a sidewalk café, then stroll along the street for exclusive shopping adventures. In your travels, glance South and catch the sparkle of the ocean. Uptown makes you remember why you came to Key West—a tropical island paradise.

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



by Lee Irby



510 GREENE STREET

Bight: The Big One

Legend has it that the Key West Bight was home to an assortment of unruly, even murderous shrimpers who drank at places like the Mascot Bar and the Bucket of Blood on Caroline Street back when Key West was a place, and not a destination.

The fight now taking place for the soul of the bight isn't between drunken smugglers. It's among financial analysts. The fate of the last remaining chunk of "old" Key West will be decided when voters will consider a November referendum calling for city purchase of the bight for up to \$18.5 million. An ordinance authorizing the referendum was passed unanimously August 18 by the city commission.

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No matter what the outcome, the texture of the island city will be irretrievably altered. Longstanding tenants like Turtle Kraals and Schooner Wharf are confronting uncertainty, hoping that they won't be put out of business.

"We need to maintain public access to the waterfront," urged city commissioner Jimmy Weekley, long the point man in the current plans. "No one wants to see highrises and timeshares go up there."

The city is proposing a public marina, harbor walk, conservation area and facilities like shops and restaurants. The rents, fuel sales and dockage fees will help pay off the debt service on the bonds issued to buy the property. The deal has been structured so that development beyond that won't be required.

But some question the pricetag, reasoning that no developer would pay \$18.5 million in today's economic climate. They think the city may have to turn to development if the marina doesn't meet financial expectations.

Commissioner Joe Pais, while supporting the drive to purchase the former Singleton Trust holdings, worries that "unless the city enlists the hand of a good developer, we'll have problems with the density. We can't do this alone."

Under the proposed lease-purchase agreement, the city would finance the project through revenue bonds and own the bight outright in 25 years. "There are risks involved," Pais said. "The voters will have to weigh the options."

Weekley insisted on including in the referendum language a prohibition on the use

of ad-valorem tax dollars. "We won't raise property taxes to pay for this," he explained. But other public money may be needed, and the city's credit may have to be enlisted as well.

A proposed \$3.5 million in improvements to the bight may be financed through the infrastructure sales tax, if the commission okays that route. Otherwise, according to assistant city manager Ron Herron, that money too will have to be borrowed.

"I think the sales tax would be a good way to go," he said.

This city has many other infrastructure needs—the Douglass School, the Jan McArt Theater and a sewer connection to Stock Island are just a few. What makes the bight different is that even without major development it is expected to produce enough revenue to pay for itself.

A pro-forma projection performed by the city concluded that, over a 25-year period, the city stands to make \$18 million from the bight if the city contributes the infrastructure money. If it doesn't, the city expects a surplus of \$6 million, Herron said. The surplus will only be generated in the 23rd, 24th and 25th years.

The businesses already at the bight, like the Half Shell Raw Bar and Waterfront Market, will have the chance to renegotiate their leases with the city. "We're not going to kick the tenants out, or build over them," Herron explained.

"We anticipate a reasonable deal with the city," concurred Bob Carr of Turtle Kraals. "Redeveloping the bight is better than the alternative. We can't let someone else determine our future. It's in our hands."

So the voters will decide. Might the tide of suspicion against government this year sink the bight? Or will people see this as a one-time opportunity that's independent of the normal currents of politics?

"Who's going to manage it?" asked a restaurant manager on Caroline Street. "I'm sure the city'll figure out a way to lose money."

Budget Cut Woes

In all wars, there are innocent victims. So too in budget wars. Patricia Taylor, the executive director of Key West's Civil Service Board, was one recent casualty.

On August 18 the city commission voted unanimously to abolish her position and handle her duties through a city employee

or contract worker. The vote followed an impassioned debate between the commissioners and several Civil Service board members.

The main issue, not surprisingly, was money, or the lack of it. "We're not firing her, but we're eliminating her position," said Mayor Dennis Wardlow. "We didn't feel that this position justified a salary and a contract."

Taylor's salary was \$27,378. Her duties included the administration of promotion tests, serving as liaison between city employees and management, and intervening in problems before grievances are filed.

"We cut \$330,000 out of the budget," Wardlow went on. "We're going to lower the millage without affecting service."

Many speakers attempted to refute this claim. "The city workers feel threatened," said Mel Levitt. "They're scared to death. The secretary's got to have confidentiality."

"Employees told me they were afraid to come talk to this commission," said Mimi Grantham. "They think they'll get in trouble. They saw what happened to Patricia Taylor."

Dr. Steve Atwood, chairman of the Civil Service Board, urged the commission to compromise. "Cut her hours to 30 per

week," he said. "The city's invested a lot of money in her. She's put in nine years herself. She's valuable."

His offer wasn't debated.

"I feel bad," said Sally Lewis. "It's not a personal thing. But the board's not as busy as it was six years ago."

Wardlow's claims that the new budget will not lower levels of service are dubious. The truth is that tough choices entail the sacrifice of something or somebody—be it services, personnel or equipment. You can rarely have it both ways.



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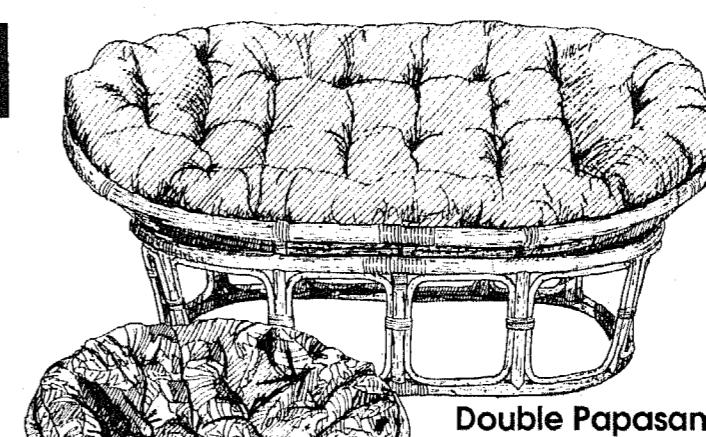
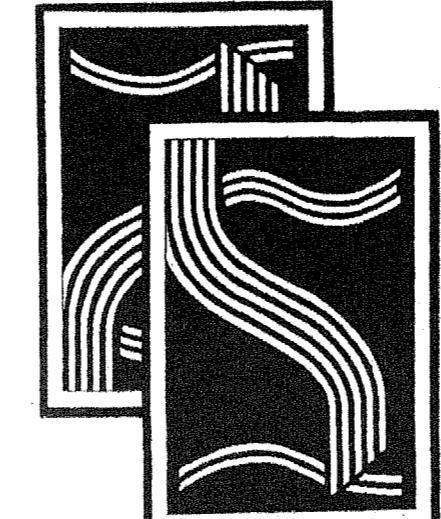
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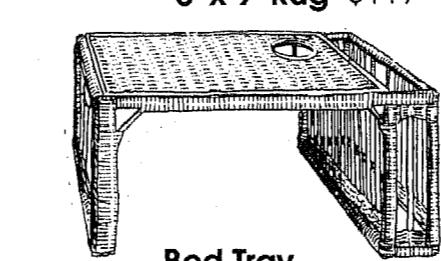
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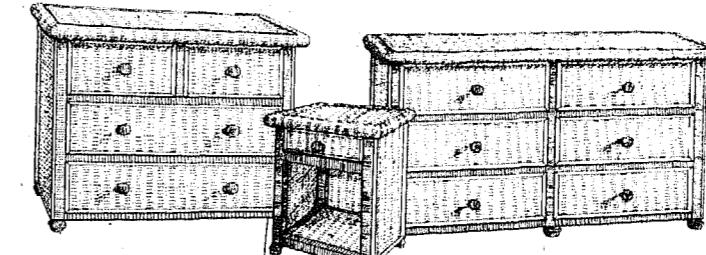
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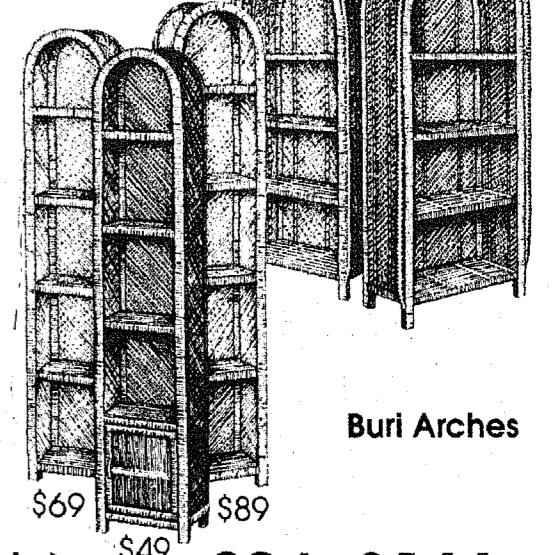
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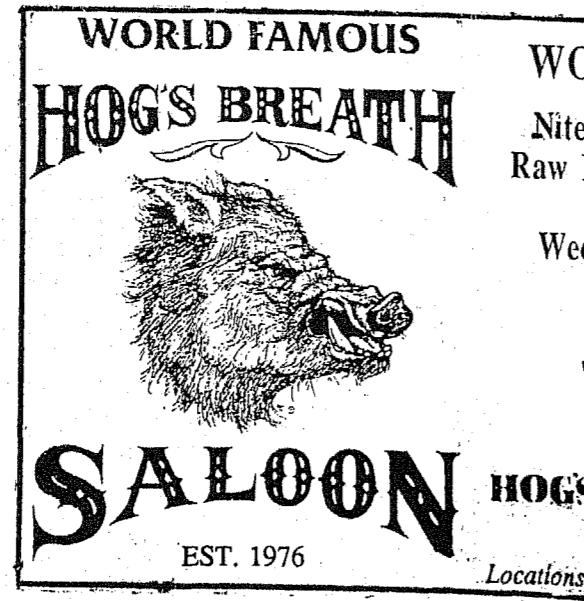


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BLOCK BY BLOCK

MARK HEDDEN

The completion of the Frederick Douglass Community Center is on the horizon. Finally.

Work on the project slowed steadily through the winter and spring, and stopped early this summer. In the last few weeks, the work crews have been back, hammering, wiring, hooking up air conditioners, and generally working their way down the items on the final punch list, one by one.

The contractor says the job should be done in two weeks. Ron Herron, the assistant city manager, says that if the contractor says two weeks it'll probably mean four. Members of the Neighborhood Improvement Association and many residents of Bahama Village say it'll be finished when they see it finished.

"Since they've started work on this project," says Charles Major, Jr., president of the NIA, "the City of Key West has decided we needed new baseball fields, shut down Kennedy Drive, plowed everything, sodded everything, built a few buildings, and got some new baseball fields—and this project over here still isn't complete."

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407 Front Street

Miami-based Creative Choice Management took the project over after the original contractor bailed out, citing funding problems. With only 30 days to get things settled and break ground or lose \$2.5 million in federal HUD funding, the city pushed the contract through quickly.

Creative Choice gained a 99-year lease on the land needed to build the neighboring 50-unit Douglass Square Apartments complex, access to the HUD funds, and city support in the project. As a part of the deal, Creative Choice would turn the old Douglass School gym into the Frederick Douglass Community Center. The contract didn't say when.

Methods of leverage like withholding payment until construction is complete won't work in this case, since the community center is part of the payment for the land.

"In my opinion, there's usually some target date," says assistant city manager Ron Herron. "You have to remember that in this situation we had somebody essentially coming in as a salvation for the city, saving the project. So this was not seen so much as hiring someone to do a job for us as going into a cooperative venture to build some affordable housing, renovate some existing structures and revitalize the neighborhood."

"The community center should have been completed before the city gave a certificate of occupancy to the Douglass Square apartment complex," Major says. The apartment complex celebrated its first anniversary last month.

Dilop Barot, president of Creative Choice Management, says his organization

has already done more than was contractually obligated, having spent close to a million dollars to date—twice the figure anticipated.

Barot blames the city for the delay. He says the city took time deciding what it wanted—whether it wanted the gym connected to the office wing, how big the office wing would be, what kind of floor should go in the gym, among other things.

It will probably take a few more months for the city to decide on who the tenants will be, and for the city commission to approve that decision.

Herron says the city ran an official legal advertisement last spring seeking proposals from groups interested in managing the community center. The ad encouraged original ideas for combining commercial, private and office space.

"There was a very limited response, and nothing that was really appropriate, if you will," he says.

You'd think the NIA might be prime prospects for tenancy. Not so, says Herron. The NIA had been given no assurances for space whatsoever.

"We had a promise of a response [to the official ad] from the NIA. They sent a letter that said a proposal will follow, but the proposal has yet to come," says Herron.

Major admits this is true, but says the NIA has submitted several plans for use of the space before. It's just this latest hoop it hasn't jumped through, he says. He points to the number of black-run organizations which hold leases with the city: zero.

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Key West High School

Vocational, Adult and Community Education

Adult Education Course Offering Term 2 Registration

August 31st - September 1, 2 and 3, 1992
Classes Begin September 8th. and 9th. 1992

KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL - 293-1540

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

CODE	TITLE	DATE	TIME	LOCA.	INSTRUCTOR	CR	FEES
9900009	Adult Basic/ESL	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	J-27	Hanshaw	0	n/c
9900008	Adult Basic/ESL	M-Th	6:30-9:30pm	HOB	Suarez/Farina	0	n/c

ADULT GENERAL EDUCATION

990001	General Ed Promotion	T/Th	6:30-9:30pm	TBA	TBA	1	n/c
9900020	GED Preparation	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	J-31	Lindsay	0	n/c
9900020	GED Preparation	T/Th	6:30-9:30pm	J-31	Gonzalez	0	n/c
9900020	GED Preparation	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	MLK	TBA	0	n/c
1501340	Beginning Weight Tr.	T/Th	6:30-9:30pm	Wgt. Rm	Wise	1	\$27
2100310	American Hist/Govt	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	J-13	Puig	1	\$27
0104320	Art Basic Draw/Paint	T/Th	6:30-9:30pm	E-6	Hawthurst	1	\$27
0708300	Conver. Spanish I	Thurs	7:00-10:00pm	J-23	Kelly	1/2	\$13.50
1900300	Drivers Training	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	J-35	McKell	1	\$27
1001310	English I,II,III,IV	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	J-23	Allen	1	\$27
1205340	Beginning Math	T/Th	7:00-10:00pm	J-25	Rodger	1	\$27
2002300	Beginning Science	T/Th	6:30-9:30pm	J-34	TBA	1	\$27
9900020	GED Review	T/Th	6:30-9:30pm	Big Pine	Brett	0	n/c

LIFELONG LEARNING

9900510	Woodworking	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	E-7	TBA	0	\$27
9900660	Community Band	Wed	6:30-9:30pm	Band Rm	Frischman	0	\$13.50
8200350	Prac. Computer Skills	Wed	6:30-9:30pm	Harris	Evans	1	\$30
AC00001	Bookkeeping/Acc.	T/Th	6:30-9:30pm	J-27	Evans	1	\$30
ARR0900	Auto Body Repair	M/W	7:00-10:00pm	V-103	Smallbone	1	\$30
AER0990	Auto Mechanics	M/W	7:00-10:00pm	V-102	Higgs	1	\$30
AER0990	Auto Main. for Women	T/Th	7:00-10:00pm	V-103	TBA	1	\$30
HCP0100	Nursing Assistant	T/Th	7:00-4:00pm	KWCC	Sheddan	1	\$30
HCP0100	Nursing Assistant	T/Th	6:00-8:00pm	KWCC	Sheddan	1	\$30
OFT0105	Typing	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	J-12	Santana	1	\$30
PMT0801	Welding	T	7:00-10:00pm	Welding	Smith	1	\$30
872171	Buildingaintance	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	Welding	TBA	1	\$30

ADAIRATION HIGH SCHOOL - 289-2480

CODE	TITLE	DATE	TIME	LOCA.	INSTRUCTOR	CR	FEES
9900020	GED Preparation	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	B-2	Sympson	0	n/c
HCP0100	Nursing Assistant	T/Th	8:00-12:00pm	MM	Fay	1	\$30
1001310	English I,II,III,IV	M/W	4:00-7:00pm	B-4	Saenz, A	1	\$13
9900630	ESL	M/W	7:00-10:00pm	B-4	Saenz, V	1	\$13

The above schedule is tentative. For more information call Marathon High School at 289-2480

CORAL SHORES HIGH SCHOOL - 852-9264

CODE	TITLE	DATE	TIME	LOCA.	INSTRUCTOR	CR	FEES
9900006	ESOL	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	TBA	Allen, S	0	n/c
9900020	GED Preparation	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	TBA	Flaherty	0	n/c
ARR0800	Major App. & Ref. Repair	M/W	7:00-10:00pm	TBA	TBA	1	\$30
8757000	Cosmetology	TWTh	6:30-9:30pm	2-D	Clark	0	TBA
HCP0100	Nursing Assistant	TWThS	6:30-9:30pm	TBA	Neely	1	\$30
9900580	Drama	M/W	6:30-9:30pm	VT-2	Allen, R	1	\$13

The above schedule is tentative. For more information call Coral Shores High School at 852-9264.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER - HARRIS SCHOOL - 293-1632

CODE	TITLE	DATE	TIME	LOCA.	INSTRUCTOR	CR	FEES
9900000	Adult Basic/ESL	M-Th	9am-3pm	Harris	Hanshaw	0	n/c
9900020	GED Preparation	M-F	9am-3pm	Harris	Gonzalez	0	n/c

GED Pre-tests are offered at the Community Learning Center on Fridays. Please call 293-1632 for an appointment.

CHIL

The Bottom Line On The Key West Bight

It won't be a cash cow, but the city can control what happens there

by Geddy Sveikauskas

If all goes well, in 26 years the City of Key West will be the owner of its own income-generating harbor, the landlord to a number of prosperous businesses around it, and the beneficiary of ancillary activities that will attract many thousands of tourists daily.

If all does not go well, the Key West Bight is sure to become a political hot potato, and the city will be the butt of a new round of jokes about governmental incompetence.

The future of the bight will be the subject of a referendum November 3, when voters will decide whether to approve bonding of up to \$18.5 million for the project. It will be one of the conditions of approval that ad-valorem city taxes will not be used to fund purchase of the bight.

A blue-ribbon advisory committee headed by John Parks has presented its findings to the city commission, which in turn asked city staff to recommend a preferred funding alternative for the scheme. The Parks committee had well-known businessmen such as Ed Swift, Dan Lee, Harry Woolley and Tony Falcone on it. It also included Susan Olsen, attorney Bob Feldman, Sam Chapin, Debbie Horan, Rand Wentworth of the Trust for Public Land, assistant city manager Ron Heron and city commissioner Jimmy Weekly.

According to Parks, the advisory committee met for about six months. At first, discussions of what land to sell off had a prominent place. But then, as the committee studied the numbers, an intriguing possibility emerged. If the city were able to make improvements to increase the value of its holdings, it appeared as though the income from the upland leases and the marina might be sufficient several years down the road to meet the estimated \$2.3 million annual payment of the purchase

to the owner, the Singleton Trust.

The numbers the Parks committee came up with are just one scenario, dependent on a whole bunch of variables that might need revision. But they're a guide to how the complex deal might work:

Interest payments in the first five years are assumed to be \$1.75 million per year (no principal). Moreover, interest from unused funds would cut the early payments further. Then the revenues from the new harborwalk, building repairs and especially the marina would kick in. By the sixth year, net operating income from the marina and the uplands properties would amount to almost a million dollars each. After that, income is assumed to increase only at the rate of inflation.

Although the \$4.3 million in harbor and uplands improvements the city proposes to make would increase the value of the Singleton holdings, they would also burden the project with additional cash needs that would need to be met before the income started flowing. So the city has been looking at financing these improvements instead with infrastructure tax money.

Given the fact that a substantial investment beyond purchase is necessary to make it a generator of cash, the bight isn't expected to be a "moneymaker" in the conventional sense for many years. If operating income rather than outside money is used to finance the improvements, the project won't be generating overall cash flow until its 23rd year—two years before the city will own the bight outright.

On the conservative side, the financial analysis does not require a payback from the sale of land. With the current market for real estate, that's a rational assumption. "The general feeling was that in this kind of economy we don't want to get into developing the uplands," said Sam Chapin. "That's the

reason they focussed on the marina."

If, however, the market turns around, some of the land is eminently saleable. It's expected to be worth more if the harborfront is a commercial success.

To keep interest costs down, proponents of the project would like to use the city's credit. The financing might be 2% or 3% cheaper than that way. "The amount and duration of this collateral should be negotiated to minimize risk to the city," the advisors say.

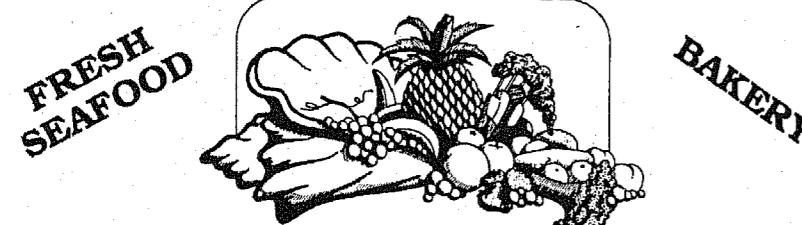
Parks says that his advisory committee is reasonably sure that its cost estimates are not too low or its income estimates too high. Separate firms of consultants developed the numbers for the marina and the uplands respectively. But this calculation is of a different character than what cities normally do, the advisors admit. They favor professional management of the assets so that the city will be more likely to get its money back.

One of three things must happen for the project to avoid the edge of financial risk: its cash-flow projections or expenses must turn out to have been conservative, it must have access to infrastructure tax money, or it must sell off some parcels. Avoiding that decision now, the advisory committee has strengthened the focus on a simpler, more visceral matter: the future of the bight. "The bottom line," says Debbie Horan, "Is that no one wants to see that developed into condominiums or the like."

The blue-ribbon committee's advice is, from a political perspective, intriguing. Its members propose not a development project but a preservation project. In banking the land assets and trying to secure a sufficient cash flow from an evolution of the present uses at the bight, they hope to win support from people who are normally political foes.

Staff will report their recommendations to the city commission in late September. ☐

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Chronology of Bight Project

January 1990: City designates area surrounding Key West Bight as Community Redevelopment Area.

July 1990: City learns about possible sale of Singleton property. Concern about intensive development of property prompts City to contact Trust for Public Land (TPL).

August 1990: City commission passes resolution asking TPL to assist with the preservation of the bight.

August 1990-December 1990: TPL contacts the Singleton Trust, owners of the property, and learns of existing lease-option interests of ConAgra. TPL begins negotiations with ConAgra to acquire lease interests or purchase options.

December 1990-February 1991: ConAgra fails to exercise its rights under lease-option, and relinquishes control of the property back to Singleton Trust.

February-May 1991: The Trust for Public Land pursues intense negotiations with Singleton trustees. Appraisal for Singleton estate estimates \$17.8-million value. During this period TPL hires professional appraiser, Ray Wingo to perform independent value analysis. Fair market value estimated at \$15.7 million.

May 1991: TPL completes negotiations subject to Probate court approval. The fourteen beneficiaries are informed about the agreement.

July 1991: Probate court approves agreement. Singleton trustees sign two-year option with TPL. Agreement requires confidentiality to protect rights of existing leasees.

July 15, 1991: Public announcement of option agreement. City commission approves resolution authorizing reimbursement to TPL for market study on property.

August-December 1991: TPL begins detailed environmental audit of six tracts of land totalling 8.8 acres and 21 structures. Retains services of environmental engineers and attorneys to conduct assessment; soil examinations; test well monitoring; and laboratory analysis.

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Solares Hill • Aug. 27 - Sept. 30, 1992 • Page 15

June 25, 1992: Town meeting at Old City Hall.

July 1992: Public town meeting and presentations to civic organizations and interested private groups.

July 15, 1992: First anniversary of signing of option agreement between Singleton trustees and TPL.

August 11, 1992: City commission to receive results of advisory council recommendations based on Goodkin market research. ☐

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Close call

Continued from Front Page

residents to flee came late. As the afternoon wore on, residents of the island learned more than they ever cared to know about latitude and longitude.

"Where's it at?" became a common greeting; "Twenty-five point four," the cryptic reply.

Early on, it looked like Andrew would miss us. Key West thought it could ride out the back side of the storm. With plywood and nails and duck tape, we began to make ready.

During the afternoon, the rat-a-tat tempo of nails fixing plywood sheets over businesses' and residents' windows echoed through the quiet streets. People met their neighbors—many for the first time—when nails ran short, or someone across the street needed a saw and hammer.

It was too hot for such strenuous activity, and an iced beer or cola became a social lubricant.

Outdoor furniture, plates and other potential missiles were secured. Families purchased extra food, batteries and bottled water, and filled up with gas before the pumps ran dry. Automatic teller machines ran out of cash early. Preparations for the big storm were finished by sundown, as complete as they "were gonna get."

"It was the same at the marina," said Steve Palmer, a boat owner and construction superintendent at the Garrison Bight expansion.

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sion. "Everybody helped everybody else button up their vessels. Why, we even secured crafts whose owners weren't there. It was a real sense of community."

Sundown

At five o'clock, an exhausted Bob Sheets broadcast live from the National Hurricane Center on Miami television, warning that the hurricane was still traveling due west. The latitude was still twenty-five point four. Andrew looked like a pistol, cocked and aimed Key West's heart.

An elderly man left the AARP center in the old armory on White Street and hurried down Southard Street. "He's down to twenty-five point four. I think we're gonna get it."

People, too tired to do anything but worry, shrugged. A shower and a last hot meal was a lot more important than thinking what could be done to combat an approaching force of nature.

At twilight the last plane out of Miami crossed White Street and landed at Key West Airport, and people desperate for community took to the streets. It was only a few hours of magic after dark. It ended when it rained a little. It was damp and late, and newly discovered neighbors returned home.

At midnight, homeless men slipped from shadow to shadow near the Salvation Army on Flagler Street, looking for a place to sleep. The only people still out and about were young men and women with backpacks, aimlessly milling about in front of the shelter in the Glynn Archer Elementary School.

Inside almost every house, televisions generated flickering colors of weather maps. Reflected off walls and ceilings, the kaleidoscope spilled out windows onto damp streets. Red-eyed residents stayed up late, hoping that the monster storm wouldn't come south—knowing that a continued westward course would bring ruin to some other town. Near four o'clock, the picture on WTVJ—Miami's Channel Four—broke up, flickered and died.

Key West was quiet, and the city went to bed not knowing.

Monday Morning

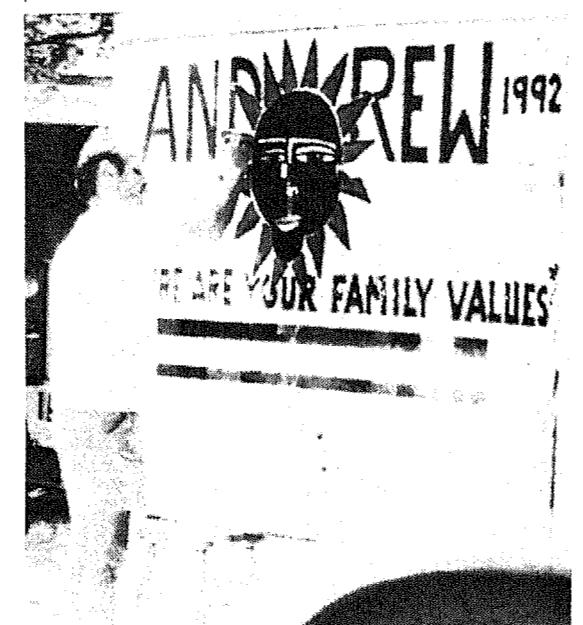
The sound of a hurricane is terrible. It's like the roar of a tornado, combined with the whine of wind probing cracks in building's defenses. It pokes and probes relentlessly, looking for entry.

On Monday, at first light, Key West was silent.

Groggy residents stumbled into the streets. Where was the hurricane? Where was Andrew?

"He's south of Naples," a man on a bicycle yelled. "He missed us!"

Radio confirmed the story. And solemn announcers told us Homestead and Florida



City were demolished. In Key West, the wind was brisk. Less than an inch of rain fell.

In the bleak light of day, the hurricane spirit was replaced by melancholy. Key West was still deserted, but people were pre-occupied ... cold-eyed. Power was out. The search for a cup of coffee was as futile as finding a newspaper. It was almost time to begin ripping down the plywood nailed up only yesterday.

It was true, Andrew missed Key West.

Neighbors in Pain

Key West is lucky. After squashing our neighbors, the hurricane's course slipped north. His fury went somewhere else—destroying other towns, killing and maiming other people.

Key West heaved a collective sigh of relief.

Soon, the pain will hit. We'll learn that south Florida will never be the same again.

Television will return someday, and we'll see graphic images of what happened to other places, and other families—to what very

nearly happened to Key West. When local

television is restored, we'll see a morbid

litany of places and people which no longer

exist.

At press time, we are just learning about what happened to Coconut Grove or South Beach; to Key Biscayne, Coral Gables, downtown Miami or even Key Largo.

More importantly ... most importantly, we don't know the fate of our friends. How many of our neighbors in Dade and Broward might have been killed. Thousands more are injured. Tens of thousands are homeless. All have been injured in ways we hope we'll never understand.

Perhaps in the future we might forget about county lines—regardless of our politicians' insistent opinions—and remember our neighbors to the north. They aren't Miamians or Yankees or non-Conchs. They are—or were—just people.

Soon-to-be-retiring veteran Congressman **Dante Fascell** was recently presented the first copy of a new educational brochure created by the **Key Deer Protection Alliance** of Big Pine Key. Alliance president **Joyce Newman** and vice-president **Cathy Baier** made the presentation. Principal funding for the brochure was provided by a World Wildlife Fund innovation grant. Additional funding was provided by The Nature Conservancy, The Florida Keys Land & Sea Trust and KDPA members.

Last month **Sugarloaf Lodge** hosted a pool party and barbecue to raise funds for **The Red Barn Theatre**. More than 150 people showed their support for the theatre by attending. Prizes were donated by local businesses such as T.S.'s **Sugarshack Marina**, Jen's Stop & Shop Deli, Maximillion's Diner, Sarah Benson's Cooking School, Jim Williams Sporting Gear, The **Sugarloaf Lodge**, Louie's Backyard and Island Pantry, **Shades of Key West** and the Captain's Corner. Main prize of the event was a subscription to the Red Barn 1992-93 season. Fitting enough.

Linda Kay MacMinn has joined the **Monroe County Tourist Development Council**, as market research analyst. She was previously a research consultant at Prudential Life Insurance Company. MacMinn brings an extensive research background to the TDC's marketing program. Currently she is conducting the Keyside guest survey program and the exit survey program.

Key West Boat Rental located at the **Galleon Resort and Marina** in Key West is implementing a new marketing strategy. It has a new office at 617 Front Street with a small retail sales area. Services include boat rentals, wave-runner rentals and tours. It is a booking agent for other watersports activities at the Galleon. Language capabilities include Spanish, Japanese, French, Italian and Portuguese. For information call 294-2628 or 294-2388.



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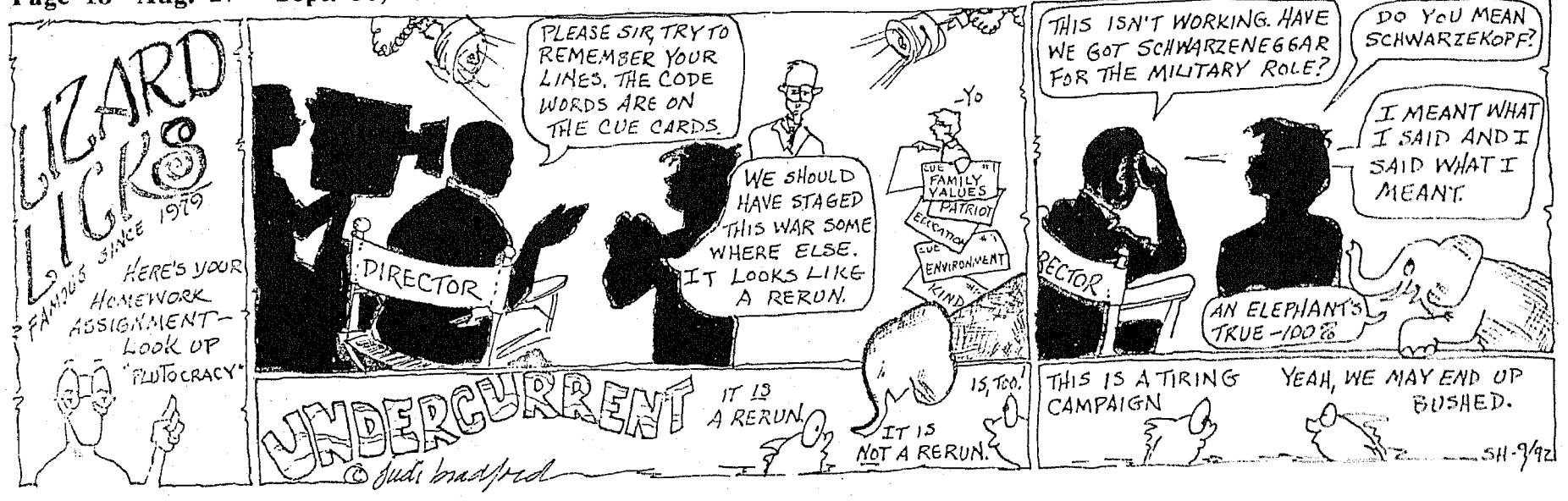
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READERS WRITE

Seven tons of garbage

Dear Editor:

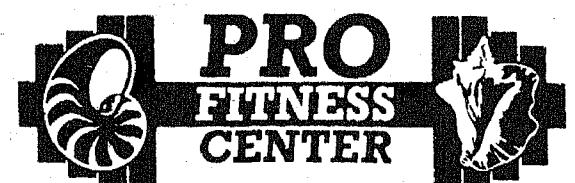
At 8 a.m. on a recent Saturday morning a large group of Key West citizens gathered at the Neighborhood Improvement Association at the Frederick Douglass Square. The early-morning gathering was sponsored by the NIA and Lt. George Washington of the newly created community police section.

The approximately forty participants were there to join in a massive cleaning, clearing and garbage removal project in Bahama Village. Also on hand were Public Works Department employees and vehicles, as well as vehicles, equipment and manpower of IWS, the city's solid-waste contractor.

Within four hours the group had collected over 14,000 pounds of assorted garbage. While collecting this trash, the group was able to clean vacant lots and properties that were heavily overgrown with various types of bushes and trees. Tons of garbage was removed from the earth where it has piled up to the depth of several feet on several pieces

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of property. The hiding places of would-be drug dealers and muggers were done away with by crews wielding clippers and trimmers.

Working hard, and with determination, was Mayor Dennis Wardlow, who lent not only his name to the event but also considerable energy and time. I was impressed with his "let's get started and let's accomplish something meaningful here" attitude. He really never stopped working once he started.

Also on hand were police chief Ray Peterson, congressional candidate Peter Duetsch, State Senate candidate Daryl Jones, Roy Grant, Charlie Major, Jr. (and his son), Lt. George Washington, Rick Tribble, Fred Shaw and members of the Frederick Douglass Square management team. There were at least five women on my work-team, and women made up a very large percentage of the clean-up effort.

There were neighborhood people, black and white, a large contingent of sheriff's deputies with their teenage children. The city police department was well represented. And, as always, some hard-working Navy folks, who always seem to be around to lend a hand in this town.

Yes, there could have been more representation from the black community. They certainly would have been welcome, especially the teenaged population. But, then again, there certainly could have been more city employees there, maybe more city detectives, at least one county commissioner, an HRS

Who's Jack London talking about?

Dear Editor:

It was astounding to read the false and misleading claims made by Jack London. It looked like an old-fashioned con game. He accused an unnamed organization of being "radical" because the group opposes new development in the Keys.

The truth is that a public opinion survey, conducted by Monroe County government, shows that 75% of the people favor a moratorium on most new development, rather than pay higher taxes for additional services

and facilities. Commissioner Eart Cheal, who has a doctorate of business administration with expertise in engineering management (and is better qualified than any of the high-cost county consultants), did an economic analysis which shows that London and the other commissioners have refused to consider major costs caused by the added development allowed by the new plan. Buying the land for preservation would prevent higher taxes, protect the Keys marine environment while saving thousands of lives from a hurricane.

The survey, in favor of a moratorium, was done before the public knew that London's new land-use plan would allow so much new development that it will take 30 hours for evacuation. London's 30-hour policy means that 36,000 people would not be able to evacuate to save their lives from a hurricane.

He claimed that the 30-hour evacuation policy is a short-term goal. The truth is that it won't be until the year 2010 that the 30 hours will be reduced to 24 hours, if and after the roads are approved. After the year 2010, London's plan would allow continued development, indefinitely, to the extent that 24,000 people will not be able to evacuate no matter how much the roads are improved. Is there any doubt who is "radical"?

Another bizarre statement by London is his claim that the group which is opposed to more development wants to dismantle houses and force many people to leave the county to achieve a 12-hour evacuation time. I do not believe there is such a group. The unfortunate reality is that the higher and higher taxes, caused by overdevelopment, is driving people out of the Keys.

The Florida Keys Coalition, Inc. (FKCC) is a private non-profit conservation organization. We have initiated legal action against the additional overdevelopment allowed by London's plan. The FKCC action is public-interest litigation and will prevent any more lives or environment from being lost while preventing tax increases caused by more overdevelopment.

We have received support from Key Largo to Key West but have not yet reached our goal. We need your support with any financial or volunteer service you can give. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to The Florida Keys Citizens Coalition, Inc., P.O. Box 523, Key Colony Beach, FL 33051.

George Kundtz, Chairman
Florida Keys Citizens Coalition, Inc.
Key Colony Beach

Looking at the schools

Dear Editor:

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West High," which appeared in the August issue of *Solares Hill*. This article is so long overdue.

I have had two children graduate from Key West High School and one drop out. With the two oldest I didn't have any real occasion to look inside K.W.H.S., the staff, the student body or the accuracy of the girls' individual complaints of the school. When your children reach high school and are fairly "normal functioning students," parents have little to no occasion to walk through those front doors except for an occasional concert or sport activity.

But when you have, as I did, a more rebellious child of high intellect who could see the inadequacies and the insults to the students, you have an opportunity to take a clearer look at this system.

I have for a long time wanted to write a letter to the editor of the *Key West Citizen* directed at parents to go take a look at the high school where their children put in a five-day week from 7:25 a.m. to 3 p.m. Not just to dismiss their children's statements as just blowing off steam or covering for their antics, but to see whether what they report to you is valid; the deadwood staff and guidance counselors and an atmosphere not always

conducive to learning. And I'm sure that the problems I identified have worsened since the time of my girls' graduation and the growth in student-teacher ratio.

Well, I have never carried through on a letter to the editor, as I'm an employee of the school board. I feel doing so could jeopardize my job (the *Key West Citizen* as always given a sense of being partial to the school board).

Presently I'm raising yet another child in Key West. She is now six years old and has not yet put her foot in a public school here. She has just completed her fourth year at Montessori School and is enrolled for first grade at Mary Immaculate. This child shall never see the inside of KWHS as a student, perhaps not even the junior high.

We are educationally limited in Key West.

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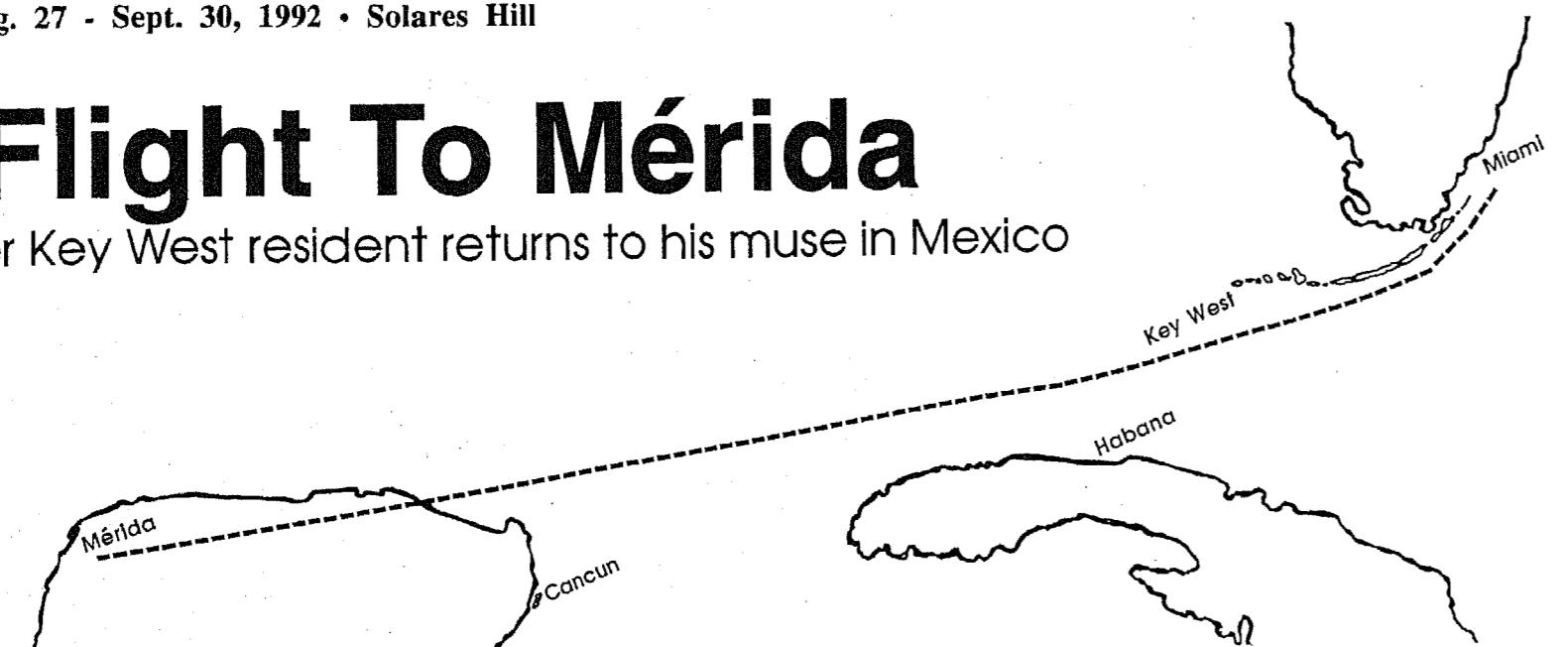
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Flight To Mérida

A former Key West resident returns to his muse in Mexico



by Grant Spradling

In 1986 I told the Monroe County Fine Arts Council they needed an executive director tougher than me to fight for the interests of the artists and arts institutions in the county. I wanted to start that novel I had promised I would write someday. As soon as I emptied my desk, I headed for Mérida to escape the plethora of demands I had allowed to consume my life.

Now, six years later, I have joined the ranks of authors in search of a publisher. After six months away from Mérida—the longest since I moved there—I was returning to start my next novel. Key West was my last stop before going back.

The night before I left, Clifford Ames and I had dinner at one of Key West's fine restaurants. The next morning, as Cliff and I sat in our garden drinking coffee con leche with Bob Burton, I thought of the fumes of rush-hour traffic in Mérida that would soon be clogging my sinuses.

I was ambivalent about leaving Key West. I had enjoyed my stay. But writers are advised to write about what they know. My latest work has a Mérida setting. The victim drowns in a Cenote (a pool formation unique to the Yucatán), and suspects chase through Maya ruins and haciendas.

Aeromexico Flight 421 banked over the Everglades and then followed the overseas highway out to sea. The plane flew directly over Key West. Soon the Marquesas appeared under the right wing, then the Dry

Tortugas. Lunch was served as we flew west along the coast of Cuba. We passed over a branch of the Gulf Stream that squeezes between the western tip of Cuba and the Yucatán peninsula. The cobalt water bathes the Caribbean side of the Yucatán where Cancún's flashy hotels violate some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

Looking down on the scarified arid landscape, I wondered what the attraction was

An hour and forty minutes out of Miami our place descended into Mérida, eighteen miles inland from the Gulf. Looking down on the scarified arid landscape, I wondered what the attraction was. Dozens of people have asked me why so many Key Westers are buying homes in Mérida. I count eight homes owned by Key Westers. Why not one of Mexico's mile-high cities instead, or Costa Rica's lush forests?

Max McQuillen is renovating the house on Calle 68 next to the house Clifford, Richard Lischer and I bought several years ago. Max and his mother just returned and Max said they are eager to go back. Hugh

O'Callaghan and Nicolas Miller have just closed on their house around the corner on Calle 55. Roger Lynn, perhaps the first Key Wester to buy here, shares a beautiful guest house down the street with his Maya partner Jorge. Jud Dolle, who pioneered the most recent wave of Key West emigration, spends more time in Mérida than Key West, and Jud's successor as president of the OIRF Lucy Adams and her husband are regulars at the Trinidad Hotel. Then there is Donny and Trat and the former owners of Aunt Lolly's, Frank Carpenter and Mark Donahue.

My misgivings increased when I stepped out of the plane and the heat hit like a fist, but my boxes with all my writing gear were approaching me on the conveyor belt by the time I entered customs—a good omen. I held my breath and pressed the button on a device that randomly selects baggage to be searched. The green light flashed. Another good omen.

A porter grabbed my heavy boxes and got me to a taxi in minutes. I tipped the porter about a dollar, told the taxi dispatcher Santiago, the name of our neighborhood, paid about six dollars for a voucher, and, without hassle, was on my way in the rear seat of a dilapidated car. No air conditioning. No handles on the rear windows. I had chosen safety over comfort.

A concrete arch over the highway celebrates the 450th anniversary of the founding of Mérida. The arches symbolize those that once graced the entrances to the city.

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Several ancient arches remain, a feeble reminder of the great pyramids that rose here long before the Spanish built Mérida. The scenery as we approached the city, a jumble of low concrete buildings, their rainbow of colors washed out by the afternoon glare, did little to relieve my misgivings.

Trees overhanging the avenue in front of a cluster of government buildings were a welcome relief, but beyond the zoo we careened onto Calle 59, leaving the trees behind. From here on, in the central part of the city, except for the parks, greenery is hidden behind stone facades. Spanish architects designed their colonial cities like fortresses, the fronts of houses forming a high wall along the street. The interior of the blocks is reserved for gardens, some of them vast.

A block beyond Santiago Church we turned onto Calle 68, passing Roger and Jorge's Mexilio guesthouse, the Hotel Paris, and halted in front of Max's and our houses. Max's house is freshly painted a marine blue brighter than the Gulf Stream. The paint on ours is peeling.

The driver helped me out with my baggage and, without waiting for a tip, sped away. The taxi driver's reserve contrasted with the ingratiating manner of people serving arriving tourists in other parts of the world.

When I stepped from the street—only eighteen inches between the curb and house—through the ten-foot-high doors, my misgivings began to ease. The eighteen-inch

thick walls and eighteen-foot-high ceilings keep the air at least ten degrees cooler than outside. The wide hall opens into a large room that traditionally served as the dining room. We use it for our living room. We use as a bedroom a smaller room with fancier floor tiles that once served as the parlor.

I suspect that the Yucatan has the best masons in the world

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a year before they were allowed to start on a hacienda. I suspect that the Yucatán has the best masons in the world. After all, they have been building in stone for two thousand years.

The Sosa family moved out of this house eight years before we bought it and the need for repair was extensive. A neighbor, Enrique Marques, who as a child played with the Sosa children, has filled us in on some of the history of the house, including its mandatory ghost.

As I swung open tall doors facing the courtyard, my misgivings retreated further. The bougainvillea, planted last year, nearly covers the wall and the caimito tree. I feared Clifford had killed it by overpruning, but it was threatening the gutters again. Baseball-size purple caimito fruit with white-custard

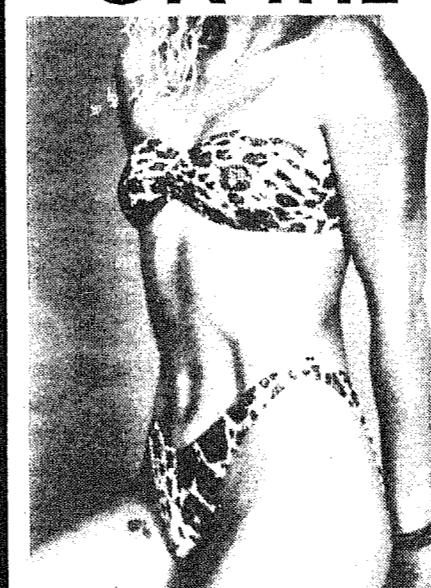
With only seven rooms, the house is not especially large. But the proportions give a feeling of spaciousness. Though the house is only a little over a hundred years old, its design and building techniques are unchanged from colonial days, except that the ceiling beams are steel rather than timber. I am told that architecture students were required to study Maya building techniques for

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In the garden beyond the patio wall was once a windmill, a servants' cottage, and, no doubt, chickens and a pig or two. The buttresses of a 70-foot banyan tree embrace the back wall of the garden. Our garden abuts another and that garden another, each with several huge trees. A doctor from Oklahoma City has restored the property that adjoins our property on the north.

There are dozens more citizens of the United States and several Canadians who own homes in this neighborhood, which has led to the label Gringo Gulch. We come for our individual reasons, mine initially because I need to escape in order to write, someone else because he can survive better on his Social Security. But Mexico's economy is improving, and the time when the price of a house was astoundingly cheap is fast drawing to a close. A friend who has lived all over Mexico says he has settled here because of the people.

I unpacked and set up my laptop word processor. But I was too restless to start writing. I pumped up the tires on the bike and

went to the cambio to exchange some money. Then I roamed by Hidalgo Park and to see if anyone I know was at the sidewalk cafés in front of the Caribe and Gran Hotels.

It was still siesta time. Only a few exhausted tourists occupied the tables, and a hammock seller dozed on a park bench. I peddled on to the Main Square and found a bench not occupied by a somnambulant. The cathedral, Montejo Palace and Governor's Palace embracing the main square display the Spanish capacity for grandeur.

A woman carrying a basket on her head walked past. I examined features identical to the glyphs I had been studying in preparation for my novel about purloined Maya hieroglyphics. Her long hair was pulled back in a manner that emphasized the slope of her forehead and strong nose. Was she aware of how closely she resembled the faces carved into the stone over a thousand years ago at Chichen Itza?

All the village women wear *huipiles*, layered embroidered dresses, and fasten their heavy hair into a thick pony tail. I fantasized that a face like hers graced a stela erected on the spot where she stood here in the center of the ancient Maya city of T'ho.

It is said that no cleaner people live, than the Maya of Yucatán. Every Maya bathes at least once a day. The Maya and Mestizo (people whose ancestry is a mixture of native and European and in some cases African) are neat. Their smooth bronze skin fits tightly on their small stout bodies. By comparison, people of European ancestry appear uncouth.

Loose-jointed, their skin and clothes sag on their body and their light-colored, thin hair looks unkempt. In the afternoon heat, damp and flushed, they flop on the park benches with long legs obscenely sprawled apart. It seems to me a Yucatán (calling a native of Yucatán a Mexican is like calling a southerner a Yankee) can stand in the Main Square and experience a sense of belonging denied most North Americans.

In the Governor's Palace murals by Francisco Castro Pacheco depict the

Merida attracts people with the capacity to appreciate

flowering of the Maya culture. Here Native-American civilization reached its pinnacle.

Cortez gave the Yucatán to the Montejo for the conquering, but unlike Mexico's Anglo-dominated northern neighbors, the Spanish culture fused with the Native-American culture. And built from stones carved for the worship of the Maya serpent god Kukulcan, the cathedral preserves a reminder of Maya spirits.

Tonight I may go to the folkloric dance concerts in the university, or the next night to hear the troubadours in Santa Lucia Park. They have succeeded here in doing what I hoped the arts council might do for the artists of Key West. Mérida has become a showcase for its artists, and in the balance attracts people with the capacity to appreciate.

Cancun, an elegant cesspool, drains away the tourists seeking night life and modern convenience, thus protecting Mérida. Those want North American comfort south and year-round spring go to San Miguel de Allende or Cuernavaca, leaving Mérida to those of us who will put up with the dusty, slightly decrepit old city, who will endure the heat to catch a glimpse of the greatest civilization to develop of the American continent or seek out a fairytale hacienda. Mérida is for those who will simply stroll the streets and enjoy the faces. Do I romanticize? Of course I do!

In his introduction to *The Last Lords of Palenque*, Robert D. Bruce writes: "Most of us require contrast in order to appreciate and understand the vital truths that we have right before us all the time." Put it this way: I cannot fly, yet something inside me soars when I watch birds glide through the air. I am not a fish, yet I am refreshed when I sit beside a pool. I am not and can never be Mexican, Yucatecan, or Mayan, yet something in me is nourished by proximity with these people so deeply rooted. My misgivings are gone.

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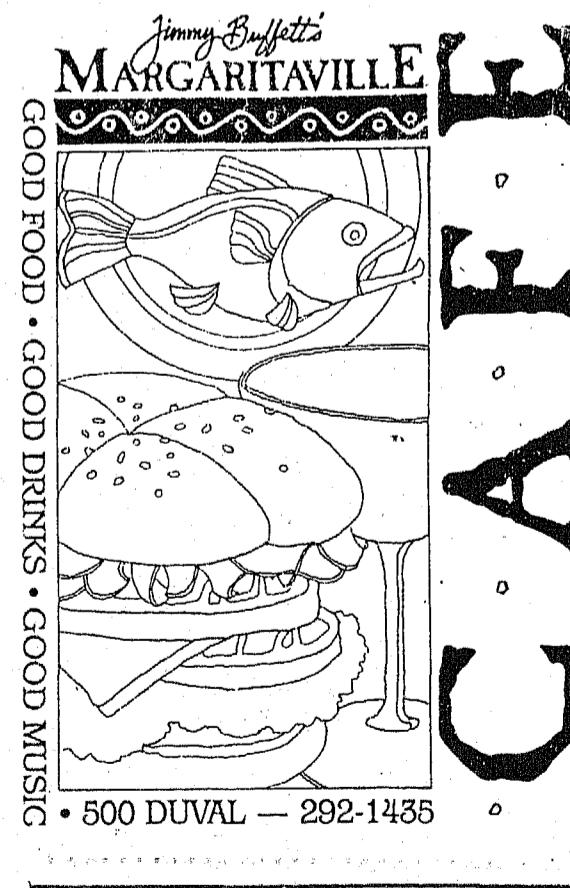
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Solares Almanac

by John Cole

September 3 - October 1

On the 22nd of this portentous month, the earth will tip just enough to slide its sun south of the equator; on the 23rd, the nights will begin to become longer than our days. Darkness will gain strength until the slow beginnings of the restoration of light just before Christmas.

Days in Key West, by the time September ends, will have lost a bit more than a half-hour of sunlight. With what was lost in August, days here are now more than an hour shorter than they were just a few weeks ago. As a consequence, temperatures begin to decline, but quite without drama. Most of us won't be able to tell the difference between this month and last as far as sweat versus cool is concerned. Sweat shall continue to prevail—with one notable exception.

No one sweats much during a hurricane—at least from the heat. Although the 1992 hurricane season was officially proclaimed in June, this is the month when history tells us the season begins in earnest. If there is a "good" time for a cyclonic storm between now and October, it's September's early weeks. For as the new moon on the 26th approaches, tides begin to rumble; from the 23rd right through the 30th, water people can expect near record ebbs and floods, with rambunctious currents keeping with both.

Should a hurricane brush the Keys during the new moon's arrival, those winds (75 mph or more) will get a lunar boost that could push flooding seas beyond even a hurricane's abnormal levels. For instead of the mild breezes from the east-southeast that are September's norm, tropical cyclonic storms can bring roaring winds from every quarter, depending on which side of the storm's eye you are. If the eye is directly overhead—and I have looked aloft and seen just such a marvel—you will be buffeted from all points on the compass.

Buffeted is a mild word for hurricane winds, especially those more than Force 3. There are several such storms in Key West

history, and the words written in their wake remind us that these are grave calamities, among the most destructive natural acts ever conceived and recorded.

C.W. (Billy) Pinder, assigned in 1984 to compile a record of Key West hurricanes, wrote of his parents' description of the 1910 big blow: "On South Street, the house next door blew down and was driven through their living room. Those neighbors climbed through our window. My mother was pregnant with her first child. When our house began to collapse, she was tied to a chair. My dad and two uncles flipped over a dinghy that had sunk in the yard. The chair my mother was tied in was then tied to the center seat of the dinghy. In water up to their necks, my dad and uncles at the bow and stern took my mother to safety at a neighbor's house."

Although I've never met Billy Pinder, we share a memory. In the great Labor Day hurricane of 1935, my ailing mother was rescued from her second-story bedroom by Coast Guardsmen in a dory rowed to her window. I went through that hurricane, and several more, including one aboard a 40-foot boat two of us fought to keep safely afloat.

This year, according to folk wisdom, there is a good chance we'll have a hurricane visitor here in the Keys. Scientists tell us the African climate is just right for spawning the storms that grow up to be hurricanes. And readers of local portents point to such natural omens as a bumper crop of mangoes and a notable increase in unannounced household visitors from the natural world: scorpions, spiders, ants and even *bufo marinus*, the giant, poisonous toad which first invaded the Keys in 1967. (I awakened on a recent dawn and almost stepped on one on my way to the bathroom, but that's another story.)

Tom Hambright, the affable, knowledgeable and eminently helpful reference chief at the Monroe County Public Library, has told me not to worry about September. "October is the month for hurricanes here," he said, and produces the records to prove it. "But we haven't had to worry at all since 1922," he

explains. "That's when Sister Louis Gabriel built the stone grotto at the Catholic Church. A nun for 25 years, she decided Key West needed a shrine to the Virgin Mary where prayers could be said that would turn hurricanes away from this island. We haven't had one since then."

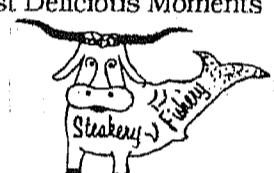
If you haven't said your prayers yet, September seems like a good time to start.

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 the 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 at the Key West Airport; the National Marine Fisheries Service; Thomas J. Wilmer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist; and others who generously provide insights and information. Any errors, however, are the author's and his alone.

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Foot of Margaret St., Key West

ART CIRCLE • BY JUDI BRADFORD

Jungle Moderne

by Judi Bradford

Carambola, the tasteful tropical gallery on Fleming Street, occupies the space where Key West locals used to find HelioGraphics, a popular painted clothing studio (now at a different location). The high-ceilinged, bay-windowed room makes for a perfect island studio.

Gay Cunningham works in the back portion of the shop painting anything that stops in front of her. In the walk-in area is a display of her work and a selection of pieces by other artists.

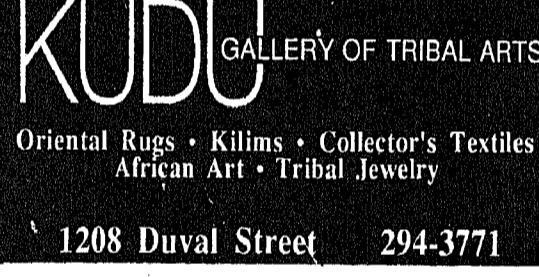
During the two decades she has been in town, Cunningham's Caribbean-theme oils have been shown in a handful of galleries. Several of her paintings are hung at Carambola. Her strongest work, however, may be



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CARAMBOLA GALLERY: Owner/artist Gay Cunningham with some of her paintings.

entry details.

On one small wall, pit-fired clay masks by Doris Christie challenge the viewer. Each mask has its own power, each expresses something archetypical. All four basic elements are there: Surfaces carry the mark of flames. Their substance is earth and water. And the images complete the elemental cycle by providing air in the sense of mood or soul.

In glass cases are crocheted jewelry by Anne McWey—quite unlike Aunt Dora's antimacassars in the parlor. Metallic threads create a sculptural media. Elaborating on the tropical theme, McWey's equatorial flowers are fashioned with an age-old handwork technique. Though McWey's anthuriums are her most flamboyant pieces, the variety of the



CERAMIC MASK: A clay mask by Doris Christie at Carambola.

work is admirable.

Like the island, the gallery is small; and like the island, the gallery is charming. It's off the beaten path. You have to *want* to go there to get there. And you might be better off on your bike than in your car. If you are interested in the arts, though, you'll be interested in Carambola.

Correction: The underwater photo of Ann Labriola diving on her ocean reef sculpture "Stargazer" in last month's Art Circle was incorrectly credited. The photo was taken by Bill Keogh.

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ART & CULTURE NOTES

Upbeat

Dick Moody's always on the move. This month it's a jazz cruise. Dick and Kathleen (and Dick's saxophone) will be making waves on the waves.

Dick's *trompe l'oeil* "dreambook" paintings were a great success last spring. One was reproduced as the cover of an ichthyologist's book on cichlids. Still in the illusion mode, his summer paintings are fool-the-eye tiles. "You just want to get out your soft scrub," says Dick. "You've never had anybody do anything like this before."

Easter Seals have selected one of Dick's designs to produce as a Christmas ornament this year, so watch for it this winter.

Bob Beckwith

We note with sadness the death of Bob Beckwith, one of the talents behind Solares Hill Design Group. His energy and enthusiasm helped build a valuable design resource in Key West and fused a large circle of friends and admirers. We will miss him.

Sold Out

The tour of Denmark and Sweden left potters Jay and Robin Gogin sold out and with orders for six more monumental pots.

The show had a favorable review in a Danish paper. "We're still working on the translation," quips Jay. This is the fourth trip they have made. "Everything arrived unbroken!"

Tony Gregory accompanied the Gogins this tour, showing his new paintings.

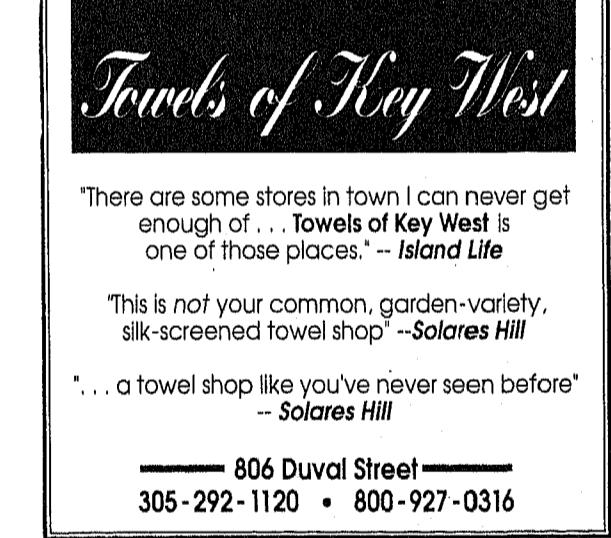
a lively group of acrylics. The painting "Mallory Square" featured a square sun setting.

Visionary Artist

Don Makiki has been slowly turning his tiny Conch house into a mirrored palace, a shrine for his mother and brother, who died 16 years ago. Inspiration came and he has been working with glue and glass-cutters ever since. Now he has several pieces in Lucky Street Gallery, where John Martini maintains an exhibit of folk art that represents some of the best-known native artists in the country. "Don Makiki is a genuine Key West

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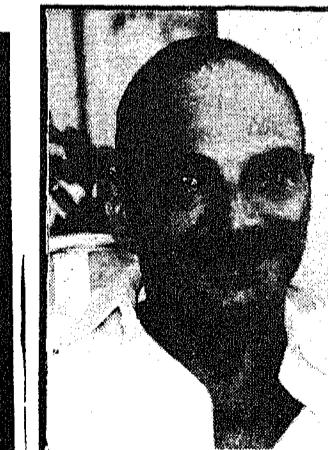
There are some stores in town I can never get enough of... Towels of Key West is one of those places. - Island Life

This is not your common, garden-variety, silk-screened towel shop. - Solares Hill

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visionary artist," says John. His subjects include famous people, often political figures, and religious themes.

Stargazer Lights

Stargazer, the world's largest ocean-floor reef sculpture, will be dramatically lit as part of the Key West Theater Festival on the 28th or 29th of this month. Omnilogic Corporations has donated 1700 green phosphorescent lights for the event.

Ann Labriola's 200-foot-long monument to marine navigation rests in 22 feet of clear turquoise water between Sand Key and Rock Key, seven miles off Key West's south shore. It is in the form of a contemporary primitive navigational device pointing southwest to Sand Key. It is visible to snorkelers, divers and air traffic.

The sculpture consists of ten

individual structures, each weighing one to four tons. The surfaces are pierced with the patterns of local constellations used in celestial navigation. The piece is a diver's playground and an artificial reef. The first pieces, installed a year ago, are already covered with marine growth. Here's your chance to find a boat or a plane and see a unique work of environmental art.

Galleries Cooperate

The new Tibbins Pip Gallery at the Red Doors on Caroline Street will be hosting an exhibit of works by the artists of Guild Hall Gallery September 2 to 9. Tibbins Pip owners Jo Cooper and Ranny Fitzgerald opened the gallery this summer to show their own and others' work.

ART CALENDAR

Art Safari Gallery & Key Largo Antiques • Museum-quality collections, including beaded masks and spears from four continents. MM 98.6, Gulfside, Key Largo. 852-5933.

Audubon House • "Porcelain Birds of Dorothy Doughty." Admission \$5, children under six free. AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St. 294-2116.

Bonsai of Key West • Wood and metal accessories. Wood puzzle jewelry boxes, lamps, ceramic fish, stone and wood fountains, origami mobiles—all by local artisans. Tortugas photos and bonsai sculptures. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays; closed Sundays (normally). 310 Duval Street. 294-2921.

Carambola Gallery Roger Cornelly watercolors; masks by Doris Christie; acrylics by Harry Greene; pottery by Tom Woodruff; hand-crocheted jewelry by Aenne McWay; oils and painted furniture by Gay Cunningham; oils on canvas by Mark Hagan. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 814 Fleming St. 296-2545.

Lee Dodez Showroom • Sculpture by Lee Dodez and hand-built clay pieces by Jay Gogin. New classes with Jay Gogin at FKCC. Open Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

Donkey Milk 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 Martello Museum & Gallery • "Cuba—Just a hop away," a history of tourism between the islands from 1900 to 1960 starting Sept. 4. 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 • 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 • Closed after Labor Day until mid-October. Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesday, Wednesday. 1207 Duval St. 296-8900.

Grand Collection • Paintings, Asian antiques, ancient artifacts, tribal arts, jewelry. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 810 Duval St. 292-1331.

Great Southern Gallery • Tropical fun paintings by Joe Derr. New Dick Moody trompe l'oeil tile paintings. Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesday, Wednesday. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery • New! Jewelry by Harry Pearlman. Plus 17 more keys artists in a cooperative featuring the island's widest variety of arts and fine crafts. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and often later. 614 Duval St. 296-6076.

Haitian Art Company • Exciting new shipment just in. Spirit flags, papier mache, paintings, wood sculpture, metal cut-outs by Haitian artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St. 296-8932.

Harrison Gallery • Ceramics by Byron Temple. Also Andre Henocque, Alan Tidball, Helen Harrison, Marc Caren and Wendy Gill. Daily, noon to 5:30 p.m. except Sunday and Monday or ring the bell. 825 White St. 294-0609.

High Tide • Oil paintings and prints with local flavor and also local artists. Affordable prices from \$5 to \$300. Packing and shipping available. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 826 Duval St. 293-0331.

Island Wellness • "Conch Fritters" by visiting New Mexico artist Joyce Mechelina Centofant. Paintings by Jeff Wheeler. Daily, 11 a.m. to 3

p.m. and by chance, 530 Simonton St. 296-7353.

Kennedy Gallery • Zbyszek, internationally recognized mixed media artist. Thom Mil-sap, dynamic oils. Vibrant oil paintings by Michele Kennedy.

Watercolor Streetscapes by Robert Kennedy. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., maybe later. 1130 Duval St. 294-5997.

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 • Larry Selepak ink drawings to Sept. 11; Gretchen Williams watercolors Sept. 12-26; Vivian Lang paintings Sept. 26-Oct. 10. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St. 294-1241.

Key West Handprint Fabrics • Original artwork of local artisans hand screened and printed on fabric and made into wearable fashions. Constant new designs and monthly themes. Free factory tours of fabric being printed on premises. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 201 Simonton St. 294-9535.

Key West Lighthouse Museum • History of Keys lighthouses and technology of lighthouses. Also, life of a lighthouse 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.

Kudu Gallery of Tribal Arts • Tribal rugs and kilims. African art, collector's textiles, jewelry. Also ethnic musical instruments, tapestries and toys. Open by chance or by appointment during September. 1208 Duval St. 294-3771.

Lane Gallery • Impressionistic paintings by Eddie Mitchell. Neo-expressionist paintings by Edward Stevenson. Miniatures by Fiona Owen. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

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Summer Watercolors

The Key West Art Center is presenting a one-artist show of Gretchen Williams' new watercolors from a summer of painting. When the show opens, Williams will just be back from a watercolor workshop with Mario Cooper in Vermont. The show at the center runs from September 12 to the 29.

Women's Week Gallery Tour

September 14 through 20 is "Women in Paradise" week sponsored by the Key West Business Guild. For the sixth year in a row, the event will feature women's activities and accomplishments. On September 17, there will be a guided gallery tour of island exhibits of women artists. The tour will be from 2 to 6 p.m. and will begin and end at Lucky Street Gallery on Duval Street with a reception. For information call 294-3973.

PALMS & PELICANS • BY FRANCES-ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

Hiacinth Kirkpatrick and Hat Rivas, as they roll into Key West, pull out a bag and pop three sugar lumps into their mouths, storing up energy for the terrible growing adventures that lie ahead.

Hyacinth and Hat are covivants who mean to settle into a funny little place which is what a home should be, they agree. As Hat's successful covariant, Hyacinth believes that she shall not claim the right of control, yet exercise it when necessary. There will be a combination of assertion and concealment.

From three elderly men who look like shepherds in the nativity scene, they take over two large rooms near Downtown. There passes a week of sleeping in the bathtub awaiting the gift of a bed promised by a lady living across from the library. This handy rented nook reposes on Southard Street. The Old Timers named Southard Street "la calle de quartieres" (street going to the barracks), as that area for untold years has been United States government property, the Army being first located there.

Hat is a wispy fellow. There is something Chaplinesque about him. He is one of the new, young, hot New York writers. He says, "My second book that I am writing is becoming a three-legged giraffe."

From stress, the first night, Hat wakes up and fires his rifle at their suitcase ranged along the wall. He dreamt he placed a bet on some drugged greyhounds. Hat is forever saying things like, "When you write, you know that writing takes enormous amounts of time when it looks as if you're doing nothing."

His stories are filled with ladders, alarm clocks, telescopes, painkillers, bugkillers and a moped that he keeps beside him when he sleeps.

Hyacinth is an artist. Before the bed arrives, she has created a standout metamorphosis in their apartment, now called a studio. She fills drawers with tiny mouse skeletons brought from her house near a waterfall in Virginia. There she trapped mice and hung their little bodies by the tails on the clothesline. When the flesh fell from the wee bones, she made furniture for her renowned doll houses.

Mice bones are beguilingly like fairy skeletons. One chair that comes to mind: a straightback with wings.

Hyacinth has amber beads and flying hair, gives off waves of a regaling scent, eyes blue as acetylene torches.

May as well stop Hyacinth. She defies any attempt to define her.

What may we suppose has prevailed

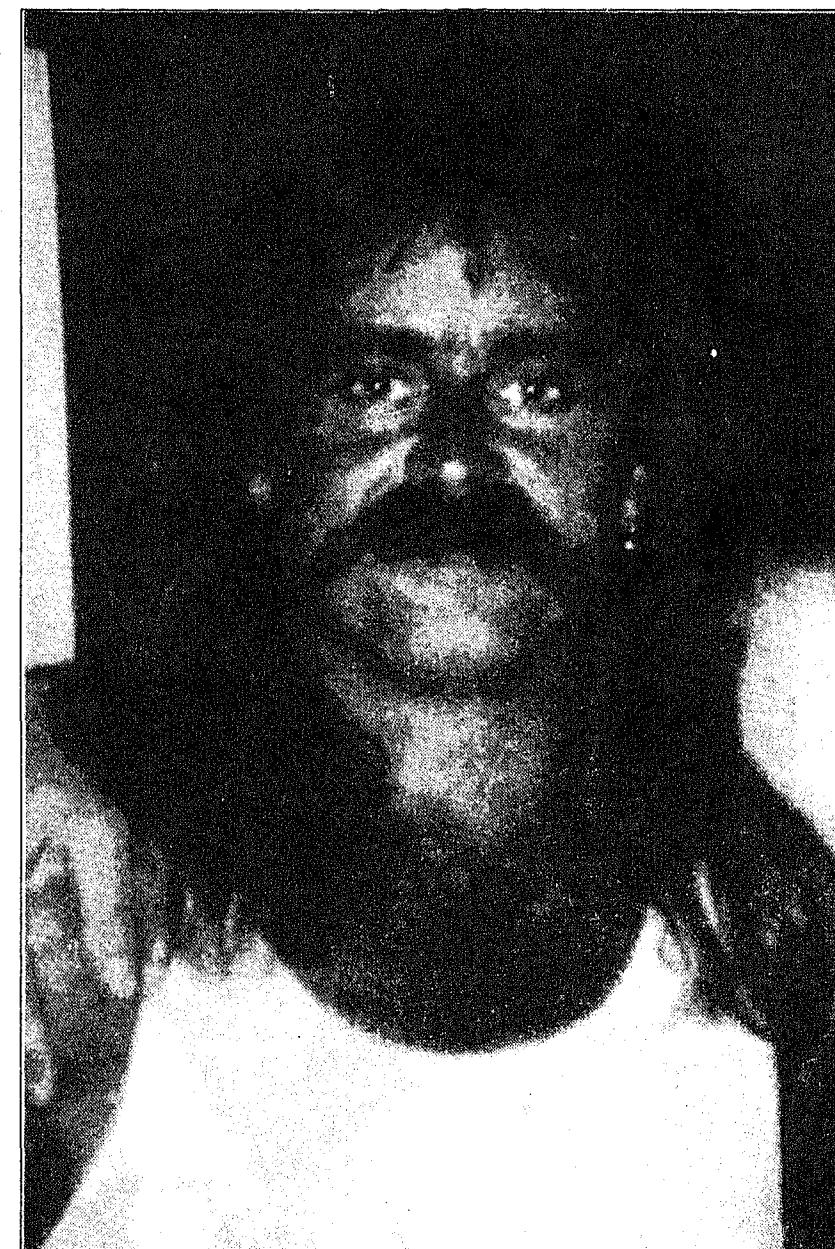
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for

the young writer and artist, now six months later? Of course we appreciate that the creative ones on earth—the writers, the painters, the musicians—are dreamers and revolutionaries. Also, so many who discover Key West drag the corpses of memories with them.

but it seems her thoughts are occupied.

Hat still has the red lights in the pupils of his eyes, and his hair bristles on the back of his neck, down from the hat that is his signature. But he increasingly has an Old-World courtesy and charm and an unselfish concern for the person he is with at the time. And that late-night light in the Southard Street nest? It's Hat and his word processor, hard at it. Hat has learned to use the language very well. And he might be the only islander who reads the chess column in *The New York Times*. Sorry if you're disappointed.



We all miss you, Bob.

Gijs
by Christine Naughton

Woody And Skipper Spin A Web

by Christine Naughton

Key West music-lovers are enjoying a bumper crop of great guitarists this year. The Holiday Inn-La Concha on Duval Street currently features two on its extensive entertainment roster.

From the extraordinary solo performance of Michael Gillis in the Rainbow Room during the sunset hours to the nighttime inspiration of Woody Allen upstairs at The Top with Skipper Kripitz on drums, there is beautiful guitar music to be heard under this roof. Space restrictions preclude reviewing Gillis and Allen in one shot, so this time we'll take a listen to Woody Allen.

On the sixth floor, the elevator doors open onto the hushed elegance of The Top. Linen tablecloths, plush carpeting and candles twinkling through cut crystal adorn the inside of a fishbowl of windows overlooking the island. There are numerous exits to a wraparound outside viewing deck. It's an intimate, comfortable performance space.

Allen and Kripitz, set up in a front corner of the room, present a repertoire of several styles. A recent evening's set, for example, included works of Gershwin, Jobim, Michael Franks, Bob Marley and Steely Dan. Allen sings as well, with Kripitz occasionally lending harmony.

This guitarist's approach is to choose those chord voicings and passing tones which closest connect the changes, so the listening ear is gently led through each



STRUMMING AWAY: Woody Allen plays a few tunes in his backyard.

chorus. Allen's left hand often resembles a spider making its way, leg by leg, interval by interval, up and down the neck of the guitar, weaving an irresistible musical web. The right hand is equally agile in an array of fingerpicking and percussive strumming styles.

When he's not singing, Allen shuts his eyes and rocks back and forth, and this is when his guitar work seems to flow from a hidden wellspring of ideas.

"Home At Last," a gem from Steely Dan's *Aja*, was intricately worked, and Allen's voice and guitar lost none of the tune's original, funky magic. In the guitar solo, Allen remained true to Walter Becker and Donald Fagen's trademark, syncopated feel and chord progressions, heavy on the sevenths and ninths. Considering the lack of a bass player, this was no small musical feat.

A Michael Franks tune, "B'wana," was a good showcase for Allen's singing, which is, in fact, similar in tone and phrasing to Franks'. An extended rhythmic jam permitted

Kripitz to play his "talking drum," an African instrument on which it is possible to vary the pitches of the mallet strikes.

Allen's vocal style was similarly suited to another tune of the set, "She's a Carioca." This is one of Antonio Carlos Jobim's more obscure compositions, which is ironic since it is also one of his loveliest. Allen's sweet, boyish tenor imparted all the enthusiasm and vulnerability of youthful infatuation in Jobim's lyrics: "She smiles and all of a sudden/ the world is smiling for me/ and you know what else?/ she's a Carioca, *ela Carioca*."

The classic reggae of Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds" was lightened by a delicate fingerpicking style more Cajun than Jamaican. This gave a fresh sound to a musical genre we hear a lot of in these parts.

Allen and Kripitz appear at The Top through Tuesday evenings, 8 to 12. Allen also appears in The All Right Brothers, with brother Din on bass, at The Reach. 

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Theater Key West Set To Debut

by Kathy Floam

This fall will see the debut of a new Key West theater festival, Theater Key West, that its organizers hope will become nationally recognized and the kind of attraction that will bring in the upscale tourists many local business people crave.

"When Cuba opens up, this island needs to stand for something," said Nancy Holtkamp, president of the Waterfront Playhouse and a festival leader. "And that something should be culture and history."

The Tourist Development Council has earmarked \$45,000 for next year's festival, so this year's performance is a test run for what's ahead. Also, the festival will be included in the TDC's \$500,000 advertising campaign in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and other national dailies.

Theater Key West will combine all local stages to present a wide array of genres. "There'll be something for everyone," Holtkamp assured.

The Waterfront will house a selection of one-act plays, two of which are world premier performances of works by local playwrights T.D. Press and Lee Irby, *Solares Hill*'s city reporter, who will also direct.

Actress Kelly McGillis of "Witness", "The Accused" and other films, will direct



CASTING CALL: Kim Alexander is one of many locals at casting call at the Waterfront Playhouse.

"The Problem," a comedy by A.R. Gurney. Carl Schmahl, a Broadway veteran, will direct his own "The Bad Boy Club."

The Red Barn is offering an eclectic choice of improvisation, a tribute to Lenny Bruce, and an Argentinean work entitled "With Folded Wings," which can be done in Spanish or English.

"The World of Lenny Bruce" features Frank Speiser, who wrote, directs and stars in this one-man show that was nominated for an Obie in 1974. Speiser, a graduate of the Yale Drama School, has worked in film and television.

For opera lovers, the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center will present "Pagliacci" on October 2 and 3. This famous opera, set in the late 1800s, centers on the love triangle of performers in a travelling circus. Rumanian soprano Henriette Kristea and Bulgarian tenor Parvan Bakardjeu lead the cast.

"We have the chance to make the festival a major event," said Holtkamp. "We need to give local theater a shot in the arm. We have talented local performers who are barely making it financially, and if they can't perform without losing money we all lose. This town has a legacy to uphold."

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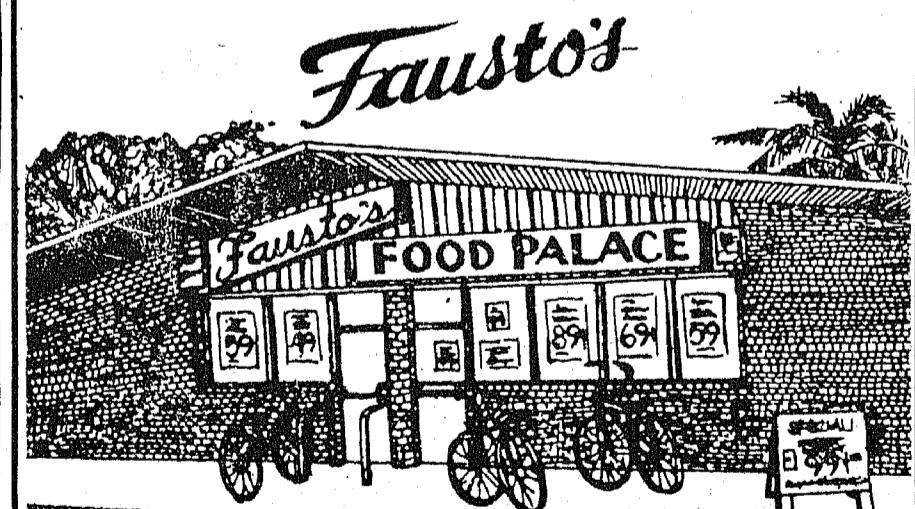
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Poetry At The Parrot

by Michael Hogan

I'd figured on a quiet night in with a bottle of vodka and a James Jones novel, but someone told me they were having a poetry night at the Green Parrot. The cultured were expected to attend.

There were about six people there when I arrived. John, the manager, was standing at the door, beaming like a maître d'. We shook hands. It was frightfully sophisticated.

A girl sitting down at the far end of the bar was shuffling a deck of cards. An intricate tattoo covered most of her back. I knew she must be a poet.

I sat down beside her, offered a cigarette, and waited for her to say something poetic. She leaned towards me, as though to impart a great, beautiful secret. "Do you have any idea," she asked breathily, "where I can buy a tube of toothpaste?"

Tony Klein came in then, and Jamie. Pat, the bartender, fixed up a storm of drinks, and friends, many of whom I hadn't seen since the previous night, burst in like a shower of summer rain. At precisely eight o'clock Tony stood up at the microphone and introduced the first poet.

Nobody could hear what the poet was saying. It was very hip. Dry Well Rick was the only disappointed person. "Turn up the volume, man," he yelled. "How can I heckle if I don't hear you?"

I expected definite types: You know—the Beat, the Rasta, the Charles Bukowski, even a Walt Whitman or two. But it didn't really pan out that way. Maybe it would've if you could hear what they were saying.

It was still pretty cool, though. I mean, the whole idea of poetry in the Green Parrot is pretty cool. Sitting next to me in a red sweatshirt and steel-rimmed spectacles was a burly woman with a superiority complex who, while Tony was introducing the next poet (whose name we didn't catch), turned her attention to me.

"Don't you think it's so terrible rude," she said, "the way people keep talking while the poets are trying to read?"

Before I had a chance to reply she whipped her head around to face an unfortunate couple trying to order drinks. "Shhh," she said. "Shhhh!" The couple moved warily around the corner of the bar. Only later did I figure out what she sounded like: a python throwing up after a night on the town.

Jack, the amateur psychologist, had a ready explanation, as always. "It's perfectly simple," he said. "She was the only child of unhappily married parents. Her father spent all day in an office and all night in a bar. Her mother read romantic slush to compensate for the lack of romance in her own life. When the kid was old enough, the mother read the romantic slush to her. You follow? She wants to be her own absent father, so she builds muscles. She wants the literary taste her mother never had, so she comes to poetry readings. Case history, one, two, three."

"You really ought to do this for a living," I said.

"And spend my entire professional life dealing with a bunch of nutcases?" He shook his head. "No chance. It's one thing drinking with crazy people every night. It's quite another having to try and cure them every day."

Mike gave me another beer, and I took a leisurely stroll around the bar, greeting people I knew and being introduced to people I didn't. Nancy from the *Miami Herald* was there, and Cayo Conch from the *Key West Citizen*. When I worked my way around to Pat, he showed me a piece of paper with a few words written in big red letters on each side. "It's a poem," he said. "An ode to Buco. Heh, heh, heh. What a guy. D'you think I should go up and read it?"

"Absolutely," I replied. And here is the poem he read:

Here he stands
A 12-pound sledge in his hand
Watch him turn cement
Into sand

After that we all had another drink.

The evening went on, a blur, a lovely glass-green blur of whiskey and gin and beer and nameless shots that left a trail of sticky drips across the bar. The attractive dark-haired girl I was hitting on got up and left with another guy and I didn't even care. So long as the air was full of poetry and the bottles were full of liquor it didn't seem as though there could be bad times ever again.

Just then there was a round of applause from the seriously cultured who were sitting in a big semi-circle around the microphone. Tony had read a selection of his own poems. He was standing up on the platform, smiling, his pink shirt phosphorescing in the harsh electric light. Everybody was drunk, everybody was happy, and we still had four more hours until they threw us out onto the silent, scornful street.

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A Lust For Lobster

What is it about this big crawfish that sets the tastebuds aquiver?

by Jeanne McClow

Lobster season sort of limped into the Keys this year, what with the once-rowdy pre-season split into two midweek sessions and then the lobstermen going on strike. But it is here, I know because I've indulged.

Somehow I found my way to the Atlantic Ocean years ago and received an introduction to the exotic creature in a dish so innocent-looking I couldn't refuse it. Had that first experience required my confronting one of those horrific-looking crustaceans in its entirety—they aren't called bugs for no reason—I might have gone my whole life without so much as a taste.

This lobster, however, had already been cooked pink and pretty, rendered into bite-size pieces, blended with a thick mayonnaise, and then piled into a grilled New England-style hotdog roll, the whole of which, I had to admit, looked rather good.

It was, and I went on to put away a considerable amount of succulent lobster flesh that summer. Eventually, I even overcame my squeamishness enough to tackle the big reds right out of the pot. I also discovered



there would be enough lobsters left for me.

Not to worry. The diver I had seen was but one of a legion whose job it was to keep the sea calves at the foot of the cliff replenished.

These particular aquatic monsters were of the spiny Mediterranean variety, a clawless type that many aficionados contend has the sweetest, finest-textured flesh of all. As for myself, I am happy with any sort of lobster, with or without claws. I'd rather eat it than talk about it, and I now live in a place where some six million pounds a year are harvested from August to March.

What is it about this big crawfish that sets the tastebuds of gourmets and ordinary meat-and-potatoes folk so aquiver? That delicate—and addicting—sweetness about the meat simply has to be tasted to be appreciated. The texture is so fine and tender that it too defies description.

Rubberly lobster is usually the fault of the cook, not the lobster. Because the meat is mostly protein, it toughens quickly when subjected to heat. It contains virtually no fat; thus, overcooking it by even seconds can mean its ruination.

From a cook's point of view, the chief asset of lobster, given its flavor and texture, is that it is not rich, meaning that it can be combined with nearly anything. Nor is it particularly filling, which makes it ideal in combination with pasta, rice and the like.

It is in the sauces that lobster revels. Whether liquor-laced and creamy, sweet and fruity, taut and tangy, or hot and spicy, the sauce of even one's wildest culinary fantasy is likely to be an asset. Cream sauces with sherry or Madeira are already classic companions, while Island-style versions with coconut milk, lime, flavored liqueurs and spirits, tropical fruits, nuts and spices—especially curry—are catching on in the States as fast as the spiny lobster itself.

Years went by. I was on the beach in a little seaside town outside Lisbon watching the gigolos. I looked up to see a young man atop a seacliff fronting an immense restaurant. He dove into the water far below and came up with a spine-covered beast so magnificent it nearly brought tears to my eyes.

I dined at that restaurant that evening. When I noticed nearly all the patrons eating from red shells, I began to wonder whether

THE RIGHT WAY: Ernie Rezendes of the Waterfront Market demonstrates how to split a spiny lobster.

the joy of partaking in all those messy, beachside lobster-eating rituals that include getting naked first.

But, alas, I lost the lust when I returned to the city, and even dining in the buff couldn't bring it back. Without the sound of lapping waves, eating lobster just didn't seem worth the effort.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events

8/31 • American Red Cross Blood Drive 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lower Florida Keys Health System classroom in hospital annex, 5900 College Road.
 9/2 • Special Delivery /Childbirth Preparation Class Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Big Pine Methodist Church. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.
 9/2 • Music for Preschool Instructors on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. at FKCC. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.
 9/4 • CPR Instructor Training Course Monday, Wednesday and Fridays through October 1. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.
 9/8 • Mixed Community Chorus 7 to 10 p.m. at FKCC. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.
 9/9 • Voice Classes 7 to 10 p.m. at FKCC. Focusing on vocal techniques and vocal literature. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.
 9/12-13 • SLAM (Southernmost Light-tackle Anglers Masters) Fishing Tournament benefiting cystic fibrosis. For information, call Gary Ellis at (305) 664-2002.
 9/21 • CPR Course for professionals in basic life support for infants, children and adults from 6 to 10 p.m. at FKCC. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.
 9/21 • HRS Daycare Worker course, providing education and the rules and regulations for daycare workers. Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays through October 5. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.
 9/21 • Ecological Methods Volunteer Training at Looe Key Reef Resort from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.
 9/29 • Franchising, a course exploring how to purchase a franchise as a small business venture. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

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 Thursday through Sunday. 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.
 Flaglers 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 to 2 a.m. No cover charge. Call 296-4222.
 Islander Restaurant • 528 Front Street. Call 292-7659.
 Mango's • 700 Duval Street. VooDoo at Mango's for the month of April: *Insomnia* with deejay Curtis Lee Friday nights; *Vision On* sound by London Loudboy Tony V Saturday nights; *Meister Lee & phone phind Utopia* Monday nights; *T.V. Rush into Liz's spaceship playground* Tuesday nights. Call 292-4606.
 Mangrove Mama's • MM 20 Sugarloaf

Key. Tim McAlpine and Ron Sonner jazz 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.
 Margaritaville Café • 500 Duval Street. Live entertainment. Call 292-1435.
 Martha's • S. Roosevelt Blvd (A1A). *Barbara Redfern*, Wednesday-Sunday 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Call 294-3466.
 Memory Lane • The Econolodge 2820 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5511.
 Nick's Bar and Grill • Hyatt Key West 601 Front Street. Call 296-9900.
 Nighthill • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. Closed until October 1, 1992. Call 296-5000.
 Ocean Club Lounge • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. *Phil Sampson* on piano from 8 p.m. to midnight Tues., Wed., and Sunday brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Bill Loraine* on piano from 8 p.m. to midnight Thurs., Fri., and Sat. nights. Canapes and drink specials. Call 296-5000.
 Pirate's Den • 300 Front Street. Adult entertainment nightly, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.
 Peek A Boo Lounge • 300 Southard Street. Live adult entertainment nightly, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Call 294-0959.
 Polinciana Lounge • 3432 Duck Avenue. Call 294-6800.
 The Quay • 12 Duval Street. Call 294-4446.
 Ramada Inn Top O'Spray • 3420 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5541.
 Red's Place • Corner of Duval and Caroline, behind The Bull. *The Carl Davis Group* plays blues-plus nightly from 9:30 to ?
 Rooftop Café • 310 Front Street. Vocalists *Cathy Grier* or *Leanna Collins* alter-

nating nightly either 3 to 9 p.m. or 9 p.m. to midnight. Call 294-2042.
 Sand Bar • Beachside Bar and Grill at the Reach Resort, 1435 Simonton. Food fresh off the grill plus tajitas and margaritas at dinner time. Oceanside entertainment on Thurs., Fri., and Sat. nights, 6 to 8:30 p.m. with *The Survivors*. Great sunset spot with cool breeze. Locals discount. Call 296-5000.
 Schooner Wharf • 202 William Street. Every Thursday jam session with 10 to 15 musicians. Every Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. songwriters group where local songwriters sing their latest. Call 292-9520.
 Sea Fox Lounge • 2514 North Roosevelt Blvd. Happy hour with great food 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays and fifties music from 7 to 11 p.m. Dance contest Friday and Saturday nights. Call 292-9700.
 Sloppy Joe's • Corner of Duval and Greene Streets. Entertainment beginning daily at 2 p.m. Call 294-5717.
 Square One Restaurant • Duval Square. *Joe Lowe* on piano Thursday-Saturday evenings. Call 296-4300.
 Stephen's Bayside Café • 1970 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Call 294-5066.
 Sun Sun Pavilion at The Casa Marina • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.
 The Top at La Concha • 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.
 Turtle Kraals at Lands End Marina • 1 Lands End Village. Call 294-2640.
 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.

Women in Paradise

Monday, September 14

Noon to 5 p.m. • Women on the Water sail and snorkel. Call 294-0662 for reservations.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. • Women on the Water sunset sail.

6 p.m. to Midnight • Meet & Greet: Welcome to Key West at 416 Café.

Tuesday, September 15

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. • Flag Football Preliminaries at Wickers Field.

Noon to 5 p.m. • Women on the Water sail and snorkel. Call 294-0662 for reservations.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. • Women on the Water sunset sail.

8 p.m. • Evening of Women's Theatre at the Red Barn Theatre.

10 p.m. • Oldies Rock & Roll at 416 Café.

11 p.m. Talent Show at Mae's.

Thursday, September 17

9:30 a.m. to Noon • Women and Personal Finance, a seminar at the Pier House Resort.

1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. • Scuba Adventure on the reef.

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Dinner Delight at 416 Café.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. • Women on the Water sunset sail.

8 p.m. • Opening Night an evening at the Red Barn Theatre.

10 p.m. to Midnight • Post Play Party at Mae's.

Wednesday, September 16

9:30 a.m. to Noon • Women in Business, a seminar at the Pier House Resort.

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. • Flag Football

Preliminaries at Wickers Field.

Noon to 5 p.m. • Women on the Water sail and snorkel. Call 294-0662 for reservations.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. • Women on the Water sunset sail.

8 p.m. • Evening of Women's Theatre at the Red Barn Theatre.

10 p.m. • Oldies Rock & Roll at 416 Café.

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9:30 a.m. to Noon • Women and Personal Finance, a seminar at the Pier House Resort.

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6 p.m. to 8 p.m. • Women on the Water sunset sail.

8 p.m. • Evening of Women's Theatre at the Red Barn Theatre.

10 p.m. • Oldies Rock & Roll at 416 Café.

11 p.m. Talent Show at Mae's.

Friday, September 18

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. • "Famous and Infamous Key West Women" a guided tour departing from 416 Café.

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. • Flag Football at Wickers Field.

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. • "Women in Travel", a seminar. Location t.b.a.

1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. • Snorkel Adventure at the reef.

8 p.m. • Evening of Women's Theatre at the Red Barn Theatre.

9:30 p.m. • An Evening of Comedy with Kate Clinton at the Holiday Inn Beachside.

Midnight • Sink or Swim at Mae's.

Midnight • Late Night Dancing at the Copia.

5 p.m. to 8 p.m. • Jazz at Mae's.

7 p.m. • Evening of Women's Theatre at the Red Barn Theatre.

9 p.m. • The Prom You Always Wanted at the Holiday Inn Beachside. Costumes encouraged.

Midnight • Late Night Dancing at the Copia.

Sunday, September 20

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Brunch at 416 Café.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Brunch at Mae's.

11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. • Women on the Water brunch, sail and swim.

2 p.m. to 6 p.m. • Flag Football Finals at Wickers Field.

4 p.m. • Play Matinee at the Red Barn Theatre.

10 p.m. • An Evening of Dancing at the Copia.

This schedule is subject to change without notice. A complete program will be available the week of the festival. For more information, call 292-0216.

Meetings

9/3 • Tree Committee Meeting, 5 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/8 • City Commission Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/9 • Board of Adjustment Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/10 • HARC Meeting, 5 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/11 • Utility Board of Key West Meeting/Bid Opening Session, 10 a.m. in Louis Carbonell Board Room, located in Arnold Service Building at 1001 James Street. Call 294-5272.
 9/14 • HARC Meeting, 5 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/15-9/16 • Board of County Commissioners Meeting 9 a.m. in the Key Largo Library. Call 292-4422.
 9/16 • Contractor's Board Meeting, 2 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/16 • Citizens Advisory Task Force Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/17 • Key West Planning Board Meeting, 5 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/22 • City Commission Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/23 • Civil Service Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.
 9/24 • Code Enforcement Meeting 5 p.m. at Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

Ongoing

Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 p.m. at Holy Innocents Church, 901 Flagler Avenue. Call 296-3286.

"A Course in Miracles" study group meets at the Crystal Loft, mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine, every Monday at 8 to 9 p.m. Call 872-9390.

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.

AIDS Help Support Group Meetings for PWAs, ARC, HIV+, families, friends and lovers are held each Thursday at 6 p.m. at 2700 Flagler Avenue. Call 292-2861.

Community Guitar Orchestra meets in Key West at the Share School of Music on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Big Pine Group meets at the United Methodist Church on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. All guitar players are invited. Call 294-5299.

Cancer Support Group for Family Members meets Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call 662-8196.

Anchor's Aweigh Club, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings daily at 404 Virginia Street. Call 296-6196.

Audubon Society of the Keys meets the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at Indigenous Park. Call 294-4927.

Bereavement Support Group, ten-week closed group for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close. Meets Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Free of cost. Call Charmaine Jordan at 294-8812 or Pam Soucy at 292-6843.

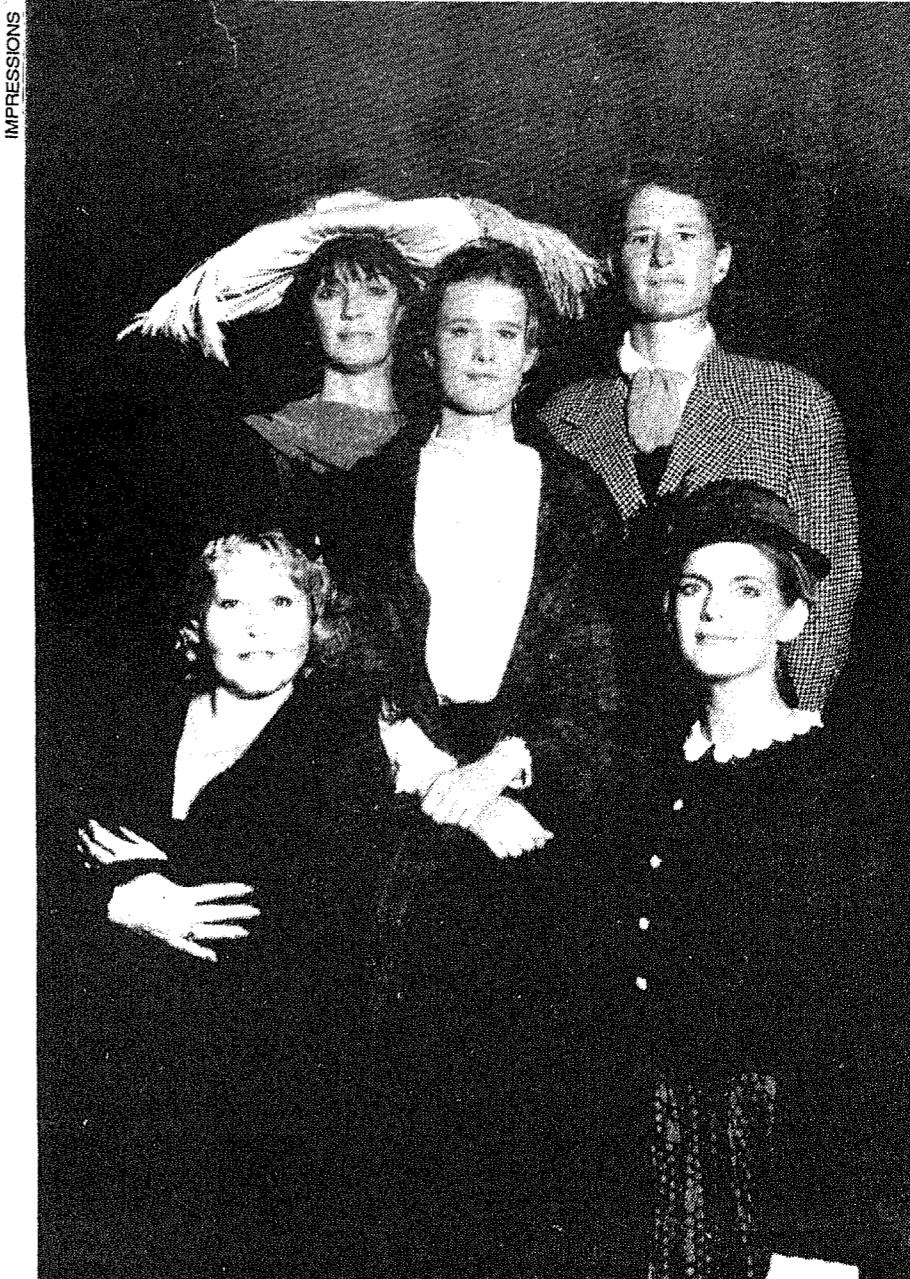
Childbirth Classes begin monthly at Key West and Big Pine locations. Sponsored by The March of Dimes and FKCC. The course is affordable for everyone. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

Blood Pressure Screenings (free) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the registration area of the emergency room of South Miami Hospital. Call 662-8118.

Codependency Group meets Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Community Learning Center at Harris School offers Adult Basic Education, Job Preparation and Placement, English as a Second Language, GED Preparation, Vocational Evaluation and Counseling, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to

IMPRESSIONS



WOMEN'S WEEK AT THE RED BARN: Features the play "Love Affairs of an Old Maid," a turn-of-the-century tale of sexual awakening.

fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 662-9611.

Community Education Series dealing with the disease of addiction meets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Tower Building of South Miami Hospital. Call 662-8118.

Community Guitar Orchestra meets in Key West at the Share School of Music on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Big Pine Group meets at the United Methodist Church on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. All guitar players are invited. Call 294-5299.

Depression and Manic-Depression Group meets 3 to 4:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 294-4875 or Mary at 294-9905.

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. No meeting scheduled for August. 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.

KWAMI Share and Care Support Group for families and friends of people with mental illness meets 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday

clude judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers and lawmakers. Broadcast on AM 1600 WKWF Talk Radio. Number to call in during broadcast: 294-1600.

Literacy Volunteers of America meets 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month and offers volunteer training programs as well as workshops. LVA also offers one-to-one tutoring for adults in basic reading and math, GED preparation, or English as a second language. Call 294-4352.

Literacy Volunteers of Monroe County is seeking volunteers to help in working with the media and in teaching others to read. Students are also needed. Call Lisa Snyder at 294-4352.

Lighthouse Program, 5825 Jr. College Road, Key West offers drug and alcohol rehabilitative services for adolescents (13 to 17), individual and group counseling, education, prevention, tutoring, vocational, day treatment and outpatient services. Call 294-5237.

Lower Keys Friends of Animals helps animals that are victims of mistreatment. Group meets 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings at the Ramada Inn. For membership information call 294-7467 or 296-3926.

Marine Archaeology Expedition. Third Sunday of the month. Each session focuses on wrecks and the coral reef environment. Membership fee goes toward seminar and monthly newsletter. Call 800-468-3255.

Meditation and Relaxation Support Group for Oncology Patients meets the second Tuesday of every month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 669-0400.

Monroe County Public Library,

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

Monroe County District School Board Meeting is held the second Monday of each month in the board room of the Administration Building, 242 White Street. Call 296-6523.

Mulch for Gardening is free to anyone who wants it. Provided by City Electric System, the mulch pile is on Atlantic Boulevard at the intersection with Stevens Ave.

Neighborhood Improvement Association Meeting last Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Martin Luther King Center on Catherine and Thomas. The public is invited to help discuss ways to guide Bahama Village to a brighter economic future.

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

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

Ovarian Cancer Support Group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the South Miami Hospital. Call 662-7146.

Overeaters Anonymous meets in the chapel at DePoo Hospital Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8 p.m. Use emergency room entrance. Call Sharon 296-8802 or Patti at 745-2033.

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

Pool & Dart Tournament at Stick & Stein in Key Plaza. Blind Draw Tournament every Saturday at 8 p.m. Eight ball every Thursday at 8 p.m. Nine ball every Sunday at 8 p.m.

Pool Party every Sunday at the Key Wester Resort, A1A on the Ocean. Live music with the Survivors, food, fun and exotic swimming. Call 296-5671.

Positive Sober is a 12-step Recovery Group for men and women who are HIV-positive and a member of another 12-step Recovery Group. This group meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street. Call 294-4912.

Prenatal and Postnatal Exercise Classes are held Monday through Saturday from 10:45 to 12:15 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. at the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-5335.

Problem Solving Group meets Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. No charge but referral required. Call 292-6843.

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

Quaker Worship Meetings every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the garden in the rear of 618 Grinnell Street. For more information, call Sheridan Crumlish at 294-1523.

Quality Time—Parenting News for the Keys, a half-hour television talk show focusing on family issues presented by MOMS inc. on TCI Channel 5 Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Christine Smith at 292-3400.

T'ai Chi Chu'an 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.

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

Recorder Class for the children of Bahama Village at the Martin Luther King Junior Community Center. Call Lee Thompson for more information, 292-8248.

Recycling Drop Off Center, located on Stock Island, is open daily. Accepting clean, separated glass, newspaper, aluminum

and plastic. Call 292-4433.

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.

St. Mary's Flea Market every Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the ballfield of Mary Immaculate School on Truman and Widnson Lane. Spaces available for \$10. Call 294-1031.

Stress and Anxiety Management Group meets every Tuesday 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Survivors of Incest Anonymous meets every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the rear of the Mental Health Center. For details call 296-4357.

Survivors of Sexual Assault Support Group meets Mondays at 8:30 p.m. at the holy Innocents Episcopalian Parish Hall, 901 Flagler Avenue. For more information, call Christine Smith at 292-3400.

Tai Chi Chu'an 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.

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

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

Antonia's Restaurant, 15 Duval Street. Excellent Northern Italian cuisine in friendly, elegant atmosphere. Dinner served from 7 to 11 p.m., nightly. Visa, Mastercard, 294-6565.

Asia Chinese Restaurant, 221 Duval Street. More than a Mexican restaurant, El Loro Verde presents innovative yet authentic variations of both Mexican and Caribbean dishes. Popular for its cafe' atmosphere, El Loro Verde now features a full liquor bar in its new dining room. 296-7298.

Flamingo Crossing, 1105 Duval Street. The locals' favorite dessert spot features freshly-made-daily ice creams, sorbets, honey yogurts, sundaes, shakes and all-fruity vitafri. 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. 294-8472.

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

Bill's Key West Fish Market and Restaurant, 2502 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. A local favorite serving the finest local seafood from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily. Tuesday through Thursday, all-you-can-eat fish or fried clams. Fish market open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 296-5891.

The Buttery, 1208 Simonton Street. Praised by *Gourmet*, *New York Times* and *Bon Appetit* as one of the great restaurants in South Florida. The Buttery is truly a must-stop for the gourmand in Key West. A complete bar and wine list complement the distinctive Buttery 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 favorite 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.

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 6:30 to 11 p.m., Wednesday through Monday. 294-6230.

808 Duval, Recommended by concierges and guest houses as the best "new" restaurant on Duval. Specializing in rack of lamb, Maine lobster, and stuffed swordfish served in an atmosphere of casual elegance where locals

and tourists dine. Open seven days from 5 p.m. Air conditioned dining room or tropical court yard. Major credit card accepted. 293-0006.

El Loro Verde, 404 Southard Street. More than a Mexican restaurant, El Loro Verde presents innovative yet authentic variations of both Mexican and Caribbean dishes. Popular for its cafe' atmosphere, El Loro Verde now features a full liquor bar in its new dining room. 296-7298.

Perry's of the Florida Keys, 3800 N. Roosevelt Blvd. and in Key Largo. Open seven days. Featuring local seafood, prime rib, salad bar, key lime pie. "Where friends meet to eat and drink." All major credit cards accepted. 294-3741.

Tamarinds, at Duval Square, 1021 Duval Street. Key West's newest cafe 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 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Takeout available. 294-2809.

TGIFridays, Overseas Market, North Roosevelt Drive. Fresh steaks, prime rib, burgers and seafood served from 11 a.m. to midnight, Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Full bar. All major credit cards accepted. 296-4050.

Top O' Spray at Ramada Inn Resort, 3420 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Fresh native seafood plus pasta, veal and more. Check out our special summer menus. All major credit cards accepted. 294-5541.

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.

Viva Zapata, 903 Duval Street. Traditional Mexican fare. Daily Southwestern specials. Enjoy our poolside dining. Open seven nights until 11:30 p.m. 296-3138.

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.

Camille's, 703 1/2 Duval Street. -VOTED BEST LUNCH - 1992 Best of Key West People's Choice Awards

Breakfast served all day Air Conditioned • Convenient, on Duval at Angela

New Hours: 8am - 3pm Daily

Don't miss Camille's Great Sunday Brunch, 8am -3pm TAKE-OUT ALSO AVAILABLE

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RESTAURANT DIRECTORY

entrees from T-bone steak to shrimp in a basket at the best prices in town. Open daily for lunch, dinner and late night snacks. Pool and darts from 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. Major credit cards accepted. 296-3352.

Sugarloaf Lodge Restaurant, milemarker 17 on U.S. Route 1. Waterfront dining serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Specializing in fresh local seafood, prime rib and filet mignon. Still serving the best drinks around. Dance with deejay Capt. Chuck on Friday and Saturday evenings. Dolphin shows daily at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m. A short drive back to the keys you'll remember. 745-3741.

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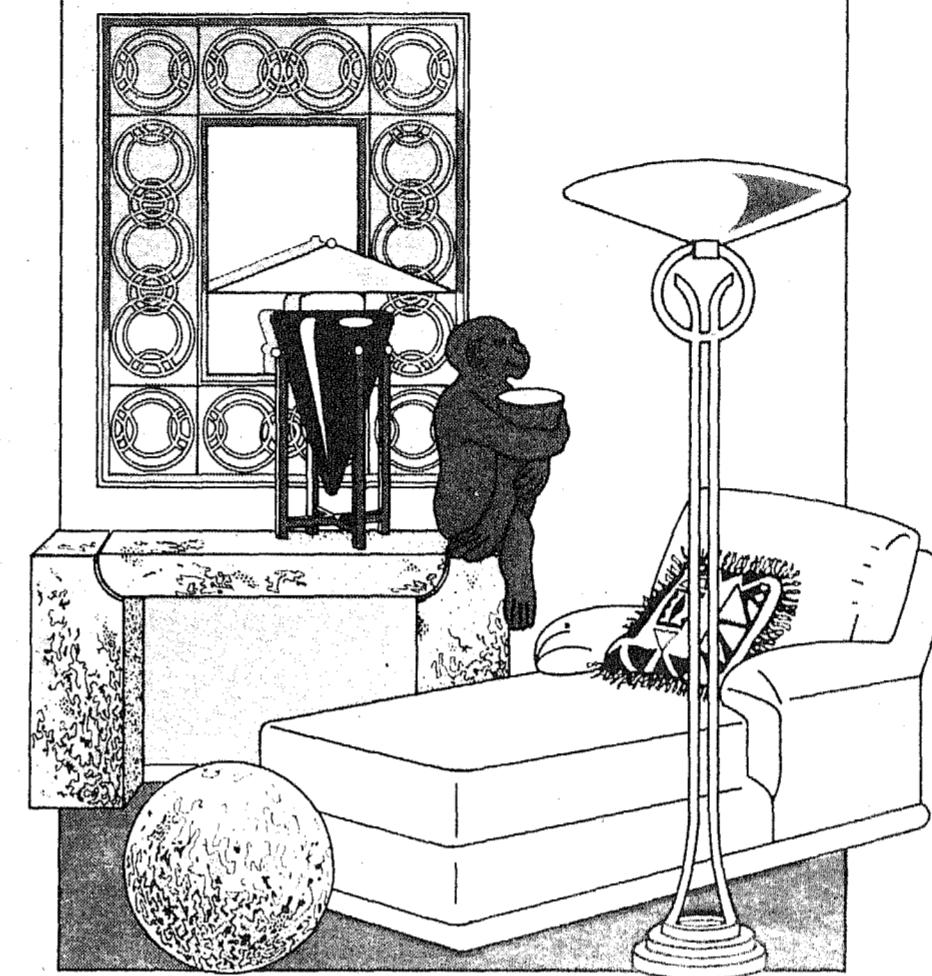
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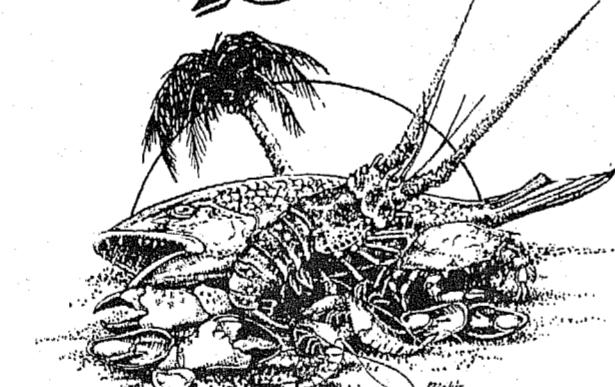
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**South
Beach**



**Seafood
& Raw Bar**

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Fresh Key West Seafood

Dinner Menu • 4 p.m.-10 p.m.

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

Dine inside or outside on our beach deck

Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. • Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner • 1405 Duval St. • 294-2727