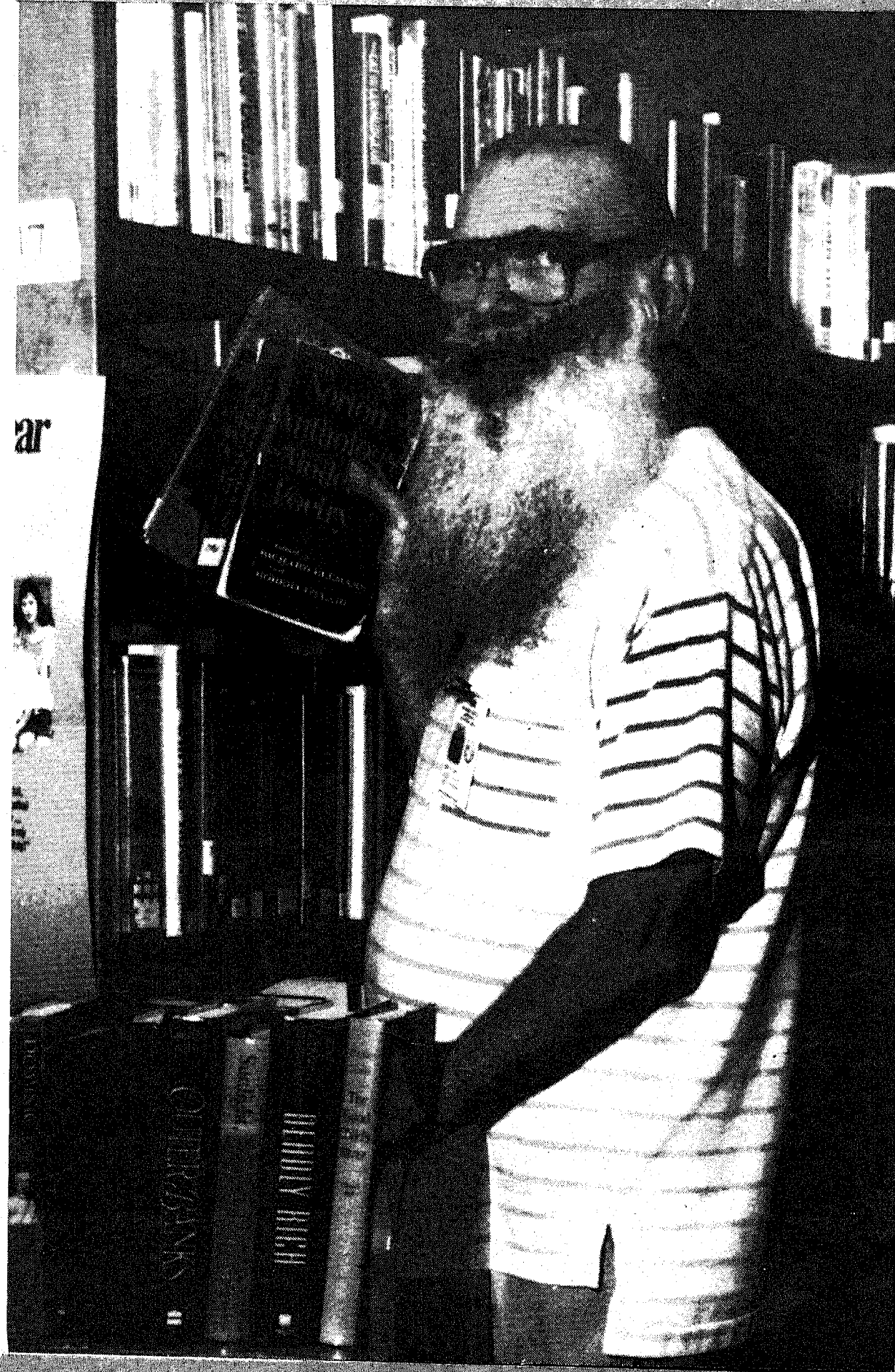


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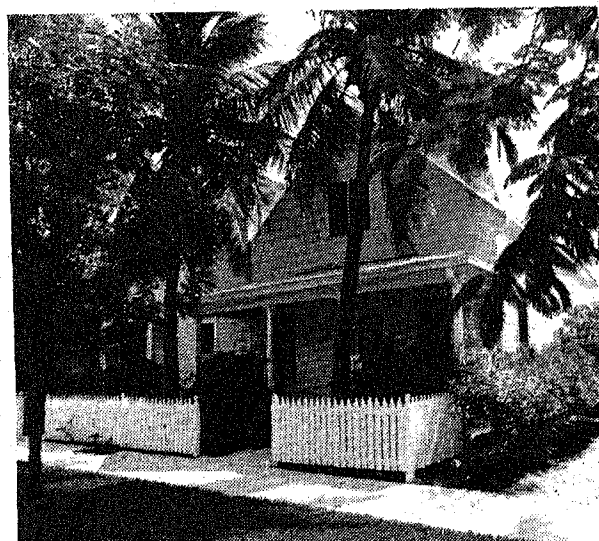


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Except in the sense that they are in the same geographical neighborhood, Key West and Cuba are not easily seen as competitive. Key West represents free enterprise in its broadest sense—an anarchic, turbulent and full of serendipity. Cuba is a rigidly controlled society—orderly, filled with social purpose and under considerable pressure.

The Key West destination is unlike any other in the Caribbean basin. Visitors don't come to Key West for its tranquility or its beautiful beaches. They come here for the sun and the freedom—to feel the influence of that wonderful combination on their bodies and psyches. In Key West freedom is not just a political status or a self-defined economic tautology; it's a state of mind carefully nurtured in a protective setting for over a century. It's a tradition of self-expression, tolerance and creativity.

I can't see how Cuba, whether pre-Fidel Cuba, Fidel's Cuba or post-Fidel Cuba, will be angling for the same tourism market as does Key West. Sure, Cuba can build dozens of luxury beachfront hotels and fill them with European visitors, and sure, it's conceivable that some of those visitors might have come to Key West instead.

But I don't think that many would have. As the travel sections of major metropolitan newspapers attest, the world of destinations is almost unlimited in size. A new competitor might make an initial splash, but then it'll have to find its niche. And Cuba's niche won't be Key West's niche.

It's hard to think of the geographic connection as anything but an asset. Bound together by culture and history, Key West and Cuba are still no further away from each other than they were prior to Fidel's revolution.

Key West is certain to benefit if normal commerce is once again established with Cuba. With the Cold War ended, the present political situation seems more than ever artificial, the result of an obsolete policy established decades ago. From a Key West perspective, our closest international neighbor has been off limits too long.

"One thing the revolution did was educate the people," says Alejandro, the articulate subject of J.D. Dooley's Interview With A Cuban Dissident in this issue. "But what they didn't realize was that you cannot easily oppress educated people."

Young Cubans by the tens of thousands would like nothing better than to visit Key West. Why? "Who are they being influenced by?" asks Alejandro, and then he answers his own question. "Not Marx, not Marti. They are influenced by the United States."

Does Key West, with its long and colorful history of successive waves of immigration, have something to offer the current generation of Cubans? You can bet it does.

How does that old Janis Joplin song go? "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose."

Geddy Sveikauskas

The cover photograph of Charles Nundy, library assistant, was shot by J. D. Dooley.

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"I don't think it was your fault. Castro never trusted the Americans. From day one he told the Cuban people to 'Prepare for the Yanqui invasion.' Up until a few years ago people believed him. Now, we are just tired of being lied to."

Alejandro, or Alex as he prefers, loves to speak English and would rather be referred to in the Americanized version of his name. His English is more than fluent, it is natural. Speaking to him for the first time, one would believe that he was born and raised in Phoenix or Chicago—anywhere but Santa Fe de Cuba, a small town close enough to western Havana to be considered a suburb.

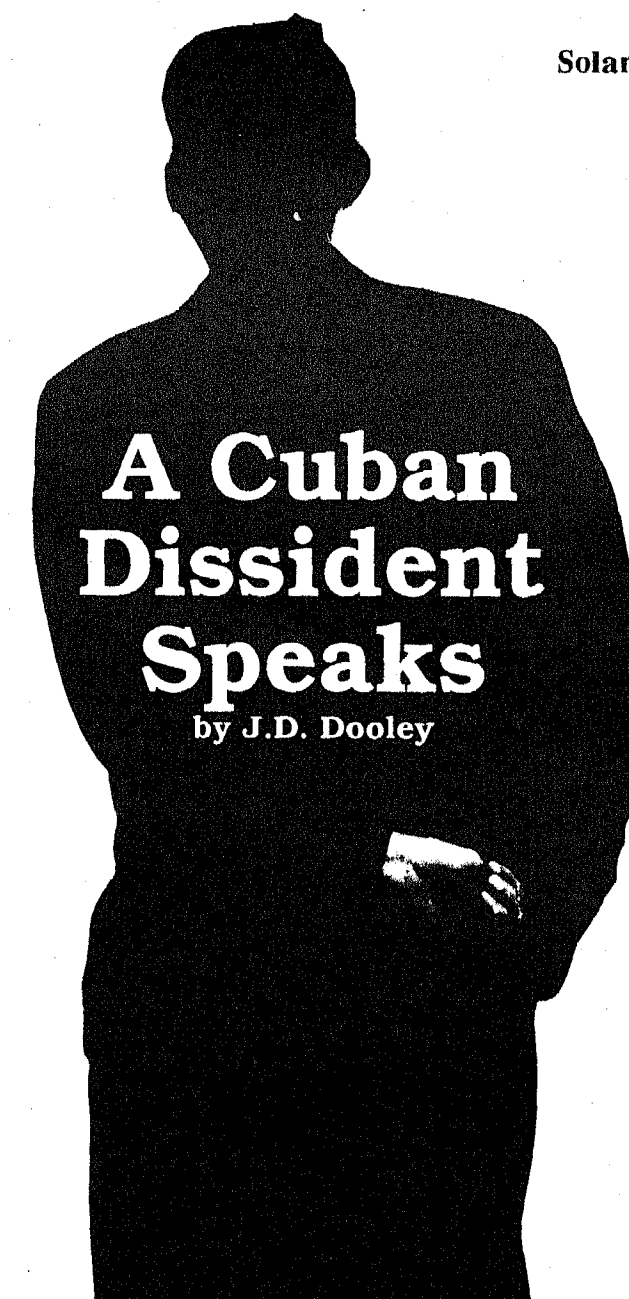
Alejandro is a child of the Revolution. He was educated in socialist schools and fed communist doctrine from birth. He was a member of the Youth Brigade and a university graduate, but foremost he is a member of the Pro Human Rights Party, which brands him forever, under the Castro regime, a dissident.

The Pro Human Rights Party (PHR) and its many offshoot factions range from passively resistant to militant, but most are simply vocal. Hoping to bring about change through education and peaceful means, they are pro-democratic and would like to see Cuba free, independent and governed by an accountable elected body. Mostly, they would like to see an end to the oppression and the beginning of the free exchange of ideas.

The following is a verbatim account of a meeting, which took place in December, with seven people who claim to be PHR members.

A Cuban Dissident Speaks

by J.D. Dooley



The meeting took place 15 miles outside of Havana in what was termed a "safe house." The group agreed to meet only after a series of multiple taxi rides, which included exiting one taxi and walking several blocks before hailing another, so as to prevent being followed. The last taxi was driven by a PHR member who, before the ride, warned against speaking inside the state-owned car for fear that it was bugged.

"It's the fan syndrome," said one Cuban, rotating his head from side to side in imitation of an oscillating fan. "We live in constant fear of being imprisoned as counter-revolutionaries. We jump when there is a knock on the door and follow strict rules, which include never speaking against the revolution in public."

Still, the group manages to meet and discuss politics. The conversations they believe could cause them to be imprisoned are generally less heated than an average American legislative debate; but in Cuba there is only one political view approved by the state. Deviation from that view can be considered treasonous.

Although all members of the group contributed to the interview, it was agreed, however, for simplicity's sake, that only Alejandro would speak for the record.

(Editor's note: This interview was conducted prior to the execution of Eduardo Diaz Betancourt and subsequent imprisonment of two other Miami men accused of planning terrorist bombings in Cuba. Castro

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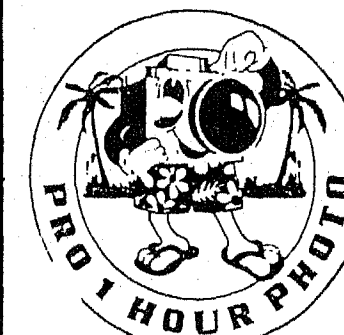
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has since stated that the regime will "declare war" on dissident activities.)

SH: You mentioned that you were tired of being lied to, what lies are you speaking of?
ALEJANDRO: Well, for instance Castro has said since this crisis began that the American blockade was behind all of the [economic] troubles in Cuba. Certainly, the embargo has made it difficult for Cuba to participate in the world market, but we know that it was the disintegration of socialist societies that brought about the current problem."

SH: Do you favor or opposed to the blockade?

ALEJANDRO: We understand the United States' position on the matter but are opposed, in general, largely because many of us would like to do business with the U.S. and are unable to. When the U.S.S.R was supporting Cuba, the United States had reason to be adversarial, now it's simply a human rights issue.

SH: Do you think that trade with the U.S. will help sustain Castro's power?

ALEJANDRO: Here we say that if the United States really wants to defeat Castro then they should bomb Havana with food and blue jeans. We believe that trade relations with the U.S. would bring about the downfall of communism much quicker than the slow death we are now experiencing. And it would be more humane. The quickest way to force change would be for the U.S. to stop accepting refugees. That would cause an immediate yet bloody change. But Castro would probably win and there would be much bloodshed: there is no easy answer for these questions.

SH: What about tourism, is it the answer to the Cuban economic crises?

ALEJANDRO: No. It is the same old lie. When the Soviets were here there were still

Risk Amounts To Insurance

Alejandro's group, the Pro Human Rights Party, is but one of many working toward change in Cuba. The arrest of the three Miami men late last year has turned Castro's attention to internal opponents, which has made resistance by non-violent dissidents much more difficult.

According to Alejandro, one of the reasons his group consented to be interviewed was, in his own words, that it was an insurance policy. They wanted to be certain that, after they were imprisoned, there would be someone in America to remember them when Castro falls and see to their release.

Meanwhile, in New York City rallies were recently held to end the 30-year embargo for humanitarian reasons. The exiled community, which is strongly opposed, sent demonstrators from South Florida. The exile community believes that ending the embargo will only serve to bolster the faltering Cuban economy, while those in favor of ending it feel, as Alejandro does, that it will help the Cuban citizens and prove that democracy is the better system.

As Alejandro said, there are no easy answers to these questions.

—J.D.D.

never enough supplies to go around, all the money was spent on military expeditions in Angola and South America. Fidel is not trying to save the country with tourism; he is trying to save his own ass. Now the situation here is much worse, and the tourist money is going to go into building more hotels and, of course, to the precious military, which never could win a war against the United States.

SH: Do you see change in the very near future?

ALEJANDRO: Yes, definitely. The situation here is like a balloon. For years it has been inflated, and now one prick and it's gone. You are now seeing Castro crack down on dissident action and becoming more restrictive as the crisis worsens. Educated people are out of work and have more time on their hands to build resentment.

SH: Will the PHR bring that about?

ALEJANDRO: It is very complicated. If we were 10 million united we would be heard, but independent voices fall on deaf ears. Soon something will have to happen. The systematic destruction of this country can not be allowed to happen, but the small splinter groups will not be able to bring about change on their own.

SH: Why now, after 32 years of socialism in Cuba?

ALEJANDRO: For two reasons. First, as I have mentioned, the collapse of socialism worldwide and, with that, the subsequent collapse of a socialist market. But I believe the biggest reason that the time for change has arrived is this generation's coming of age.

In 1958 the population of Cuba was six million. Now, under the revolution, the population has doubled, and, for the first time, the Cuban society is fully educated. Look around this room: these are educated people. They are able to see the truth, whereas previous generations were kept blind. Other Cuban governments looked out only for themselves and became wealthy while the peasants starved. One thing the revolution did was educate the people, but what they didn't realize was that you can not easily oppress educated people. We see the oppression for what it is, cruel and inhumane.

Go to the Coppelía [a public park and ice-cream shop in downtown Havana] and what do you see? Hundreds of teenagers with long hair wearing American rock and roll T-shirts and dancing and listening to American music. Who are they being influenced by? Not Marx, not Martí. They are influenced by the United States. The current government will not be able to oppress them forever.

SH: Will they eventually revolt?

ALEJANDRO: Probably not the way that you think. I don't foresee an armed uprising or coup d'état. Maybe through general strikes in agriculture or tourism, student demonstrations, possibly. But I don't think that citizens will take up arms against Castro: that would be suicide. Cubans are emotional but not suicidal.

SH: What about the benefits of socialism? Medical care and education provided by the state at no cost to the citizens?

ALEJANDRO: As you Yanquis say, "There is no free lunch." Those services you mentioned are not free. After you graduate from the university you are paid much less than in a capitalist society. It is true that medical care is provided for but only when supplies are available. And again the workers are paid so little that the standard of living is greatly reduced from that of a capitalist society. The housing situation here is critical. For a young couple today to obtain housing is almost unheard of. Many couples wait five years for a place of their own, meanwhile they must

live with parents until space is available. They live with whomever has the most room for them.

SH: How many people, do you believe, feel as you do?

ALEJANDRO: Oh, many. But, as I said, we are not united. My grandmother is a socialist sympathizer. She grew up under capitalistic dictators and has a bad taste in her mouth with capitalists. I have tried to explain that Batista is not a good example of how a democratic capitalist society should work, but she won't hear it. Many who experienced the United States influence in the late 1950s still support Castro, but they are largely uneducated and dropping by the day. You have to understand one thing, no one likes what is happening here now. Not enough food, fuel or medical supplies. And those are just the basics. There is also an entertainment and information shortage. Cubans thrive on entertainment and information. Without them being supplied, the people create their own. Their disgruntled talk and the spreading of rumors becomes the primary source for both.

I think that the anti-capitalists do not understand that just because you do business with another country you do not have to kneel before them.

The Soviets were another bad example. We were told to hold them in esteem, and they were, in some ways, more powerful than the Cuban government—just as Meyer Lansky was more powerful than Batista.

The United States doesn't kneel before anyone, yet it can do business. That is what I would like to see for Cuba.

SH: For all the change that seems to be in the air, Havana is very quiet. It doesn't seem to vibrate with anticipation as would other countries on the brink of transformation.

ALEJANDRO: It is very quiet now because there is no retaliation. The people are like sheep being led to a cliff, but I don't think that even Castro will be able to persuade them to leap. The people are still being disinfected. The other day I saw a newsreel, we call them Tales from the Wonderland. The news said that for the first time the country over-produced potatoes, but there is not a potato in the city. They all rotted waiting for transport because there is no fuel. Things will still have to get worse before something happens. And it's getting worse by the day.

SH: Would you support the overthrow of Castro?

ALEJANDRO: It is not that simple. It could be bloody and unstable. Who would run the country? The exile community? A military junta? The people of Cuba have come to expect a stable government. It is a poor government but stable nonetheless. A transition would have to occur. Perhaps it would not be gentle, but it doesn't have to be bloody. We have had enough of those, and we don't need another late night of expatriation. In many previous coups the leaders simply fled in the middle of the night, leaving the country to the first party strong enough to hold onto power.

SH: If Castro died tonight, who would gain control?

ALEJANDRO: Ultimately, without international interference, probably Roberto Robaina, the communist youth league president.

SH: Why?

ALEJANDRO: He is very popular with the people and the government. He is not only close to Castro, but close to the young people. He has built pizza parlors and discos for the young adults and seems to relate to them better than some of the older party members. Castro refers to him often and seems to put faith in him.

SH: Could reforms occur under Robaina?

ALEJANDRO: Possibly—but we are talking about if Castro were to die. If the situation progressively worsened to the point of citizen retaliation then it would probably be too late for reforms. If Robaina was in power

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today possibly some changes would occur. I believe that he has displayed that he would be less oppressive, less restrictive; but, he is still a communist and the United States would not do business with him. He would be a good candidate for a transitional leader until an election could take place.

SH: Will this be the year of change for Cuba?

ALEJANDRO: I believe so—the government cannot control human minds. They can control the economy and policies, but not culture and beliefs. As we are becoming more educated, we are becoming more free-thinking. What are those thousands of free-thinking minds going to do when they are told to tighten their belts that one last time? We shall see.

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You Can't Judge A Library By Its Cover

Key West's May Hill Russell Library To Get Better Roof And Other Major Improvements



RIBBON CUTTING
(From right) Carl Thompson, a former sheriff who donated the land for the library; May Hill Russell; and Gerald Saunders, mayor of Monroe County. The man standing in back is a state representative.

by Bud Jacobson

Question: What department in the Monroe County government is *most used* by the citizens on a year-round basis but takes *less* than two percent of the total county budget to operate?

You've got it—the county's public library system.

The system, which includes the oldest public library in South Florida (the one in Key West), celebrates its hundredth birthday this year. Its main building, the May Hill Russell Library at 700 Fleming Street, will be 33 years old, and is still growing.

This spring the local building will get its first major overhaul since it was built in 1959. According to a study done about 18 months ago, the structure is desperately in need of shoring up. The heavy load of the weighty concrete tiles on the roof, and the abundance of rain, especially in the last year,

have weakened the crossbeams and joists. In some places the roof actually swoops.

The cost of the renovation, which will be under the direction of architect Tom Pope, will run about \$850,000, with the county contributing \$600,000.

Friends of the Library Raise Funds

Another \$250,000 will be raised by Friends of the Library, an organization which began in 1972 to create public interest in the functions, resources, services and needs of the library. With 32 charter members and a general membership of nearly 400, the group has recently begun its fund-raising efforts.

Slated for funding are a fire-resistant archive vault, auditorium improvements, and a computer system that will link all four county libraries. The vault, which will house the historical records of Key West's and Monroe County's long and colorful history, will be climatically controlled and fire proof. These documents are presently stored in the Florida History Room.

The pet project, however, appears to be the new children's center.

"We would be happy to name the children's center after anybody who will donate \$50,000," said David Tackett, president of the Friends. Although he and other members of the non-profit group will be approaching individuals for large contributions, all gifts, which are tax-deductible, are welcome.

Tackett says the Friends must raise \$100,000 in the next 70 days because a library study suggested it would be financially prudent. "Due to the nature of con-

struction, we'll save \$300,000 if we begin the project now," he said.

He said the combined efforts of the county and the Friends group will "meet the [library's] challenges for the next decade or two."

In years past, library additions such as the reading room and the Florida History Room, have been developed through private donations, with most of the money coming from the late Sam and Margo Golan, who also opened the town's first Holiday Inn, on the east end of the island, surrounded then by mangroves and saltwater ponds.

"We're doing the major work . . . and not a penny of it comes from property taxes," smiles Mary Quinn, the librarian and CEO of the system. "The funds are impact fees from

the county's taxing districts over the last five years.

"There will be some inconvenience for our customers and our staff for maybe six months," she says, "but we'll try to hold it to a minimum and ask everyone for patience—when it's over, everything will be improved."

Quinn, who took over as librarian in 1987, and her business manager, Wanda Legge, run a \$1.4-million-per-year county business. That's their budget and they hew to the line. There are grants and private gifts, which keep the system afloat on top of the county money.

"In March of this year," Quinn noted, "we were successful in a grant application for \$55,000, and with that we bought a new

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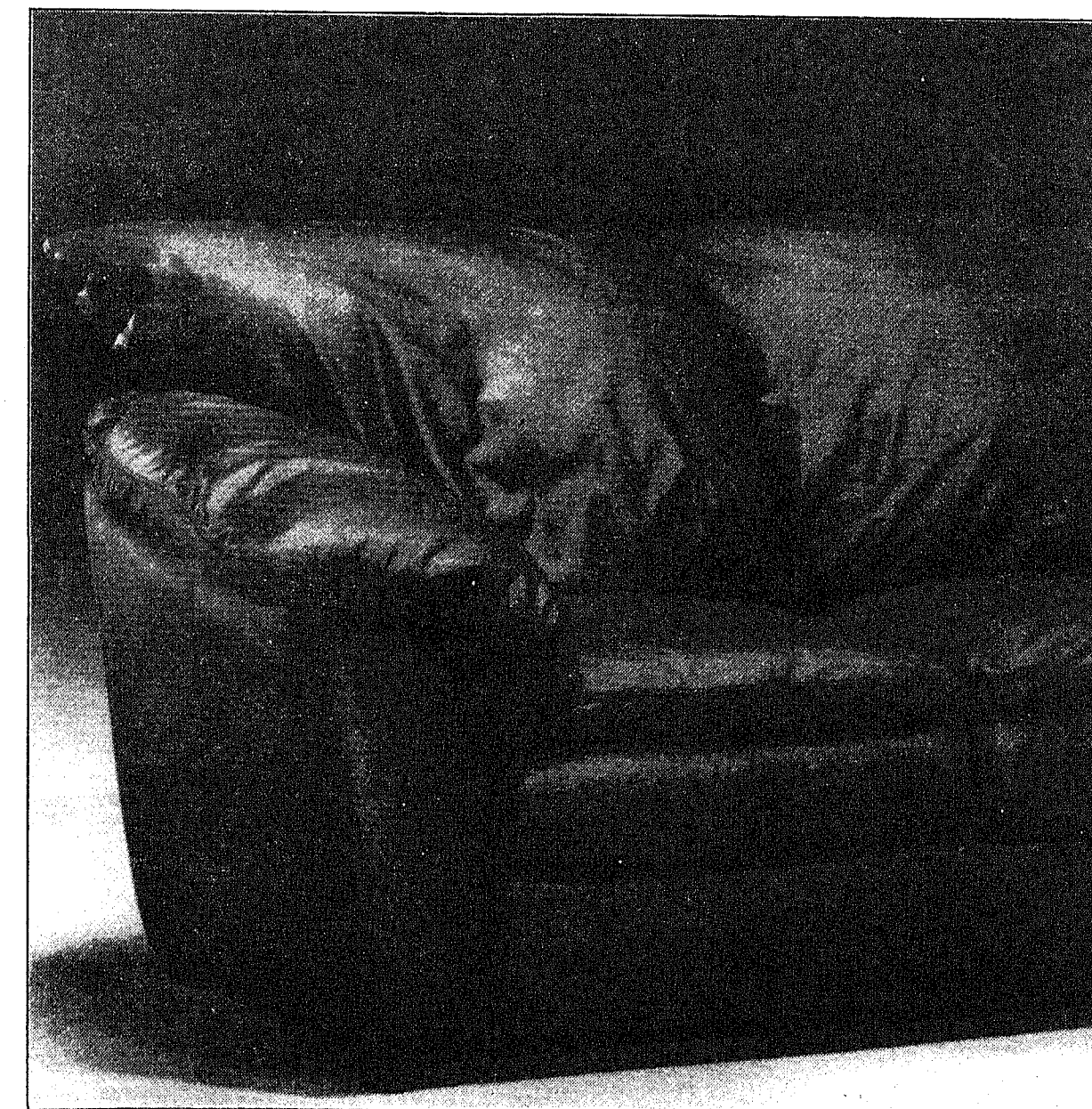
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Rep. Ron Saunders, Quinn said, "helped a great deal with the grant as he helps very much with our allocation of state funds. Last year they got \$104,000 in state money and this year, she said, "we hope to get \$110,000."

Closed Chapters

Until the Fleming Street library opened, library books were shelved in two rooms on the first floor of the Woman's Club. Old wicker chairs were scattered about, and the system for keeping track of books was lacking. Donated by Key West families, the books were tattered in their bindings, pages were yellowing and many were missing.

May Hill Russell, one of the dynamos in community affairs, took hold of the library and made it the crown jewel project of the

Woman's Club in the late 1950s.

In a few months the women had raised both private and public funds for a building on a large parcel of land at the corner of Elizabeth and Fleming. The property was a gift from a former sheriff and one of the town's wealthiest men, Karl Thompson.

Support and backing of the library soon became one of the favorite topics at county commission meetings. Politicians never got any flack when they voted for something for the library.


Billy Freeman, late commissioner and sheriff, saw the need for the library and was a good friend of May Hill's. As a team they couldn't be beaten. The system, with the blessing of the county commission, expanded into branches in Marathon, Islamorada and Key Largo. When the commission held its early meetings in the Keys, politicians always stopped in at the local branch to say hello.

Thirty-two Employees

Today, the system staffs 32 employees, who handle the up-front side of the library business: manning the desks, the reference department, the children's department, history and research, administration, book processing and the bookmobile (with its eight stops on the Lower Keys, four days a week).

Quinn and her staff maintain computer-assisted records that reveal interesting statistics about library use. In her year-end report to the commission, Quinn concluded:

- The circulation of material (books, magazines, tapes, etc.) was over 299,000 units, a seven-percent increase over 1990.
- The reference department answered 28,875 queries.
- Library meeting rooms were used by groups 1559 times with a total of more than 32,000 people attending.



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The Mighty Quinn

She is the tall, auburn-haired lady you see moving quietly through the May Hill Russell library. That's when she *isn't* holed up in a county commission meeting, fighting for nickels and dimes in her budget, selling the county bosses on the value of almost every move the library system makes. As head librarian and CEO of the county's four-library system, Mary Quinn barely has time to crack a book, but she loves her job all the same.

Quinn came to Key West in the late 1970s with a master's degree in library science from Queen's College in her hometown of New York. After doing her undergraduate work at Seton Hall in Pennsylvania, she went to work in the research department at Time, Inc., one of the most demanding jobs in New York publishing. She was there six years and then moved up to the directorship of the medical library in the Somerville Hospital, outside Boston.

"Twice I tried for a job in the Key West library," she said, "any job that was offered, but was passed over both times. The third attempt was a hit."

In the meantime, Quinn worked for Margo Golan at the Holiday Inn. In 1987 she landed a job inside the library under then-librarian Marianne Lancaster.

When Lancaster retired in 1989, Quinn was tapped for the post.

Quinn still carries a touch of the Boston Irish lilt in her voice, and she laughs a lot in the privacy of her small, jammed office in a corner of the May Russell Library where, usually, she has a sandwich lunch at her desk.

- For every hour the buildings were open in the year, they served an average of 21 persons. The highest hourly use was in Key West followed by Key Largo, then Marathon and Islamorada.
- A total of 8636 new books were brought into the county system, an increase of 28 percent over the previous year. The

processing of these books, plus videos, was done by a staff consisting of 3.75 full-time employee equivalents.

Buying & Selling Books

Who decides on what books to buy, how many and when?

The system spends between 18 to 23 percent of the overall budget for new books. Fifty-two percent is spent on adults' books; 10 percent on children's and five percent on young adults'.

On a weekly basis, each branch manager—after reading library lists and reviews—chooses new books.

To make room on the shelves to accommodate new books, the libraries and Friends of the Library, stage book sales. Hundreds of hardbacks and paperbacks are sold at bargain prices.

The sales, according to Quinn, "are one of our best ways to meet the public and attract new customers."

Shelf space also becomes available through the "books-withdrawn" method. Sadly, about 25 percent of all books checked out never make it back to the library.

Several years ago a very large lady, now deceased, ran a kind of junk shop on Simon-ton Street called the Cookhouse. She wore voluminous cloaks when she visited the library and became a prime suspect when many fine art books were found missing. They were later to be found displayed in her shop.

In most cases, however, the library and the citizens of Monroe County share mutual respect. Library officials from Key West to

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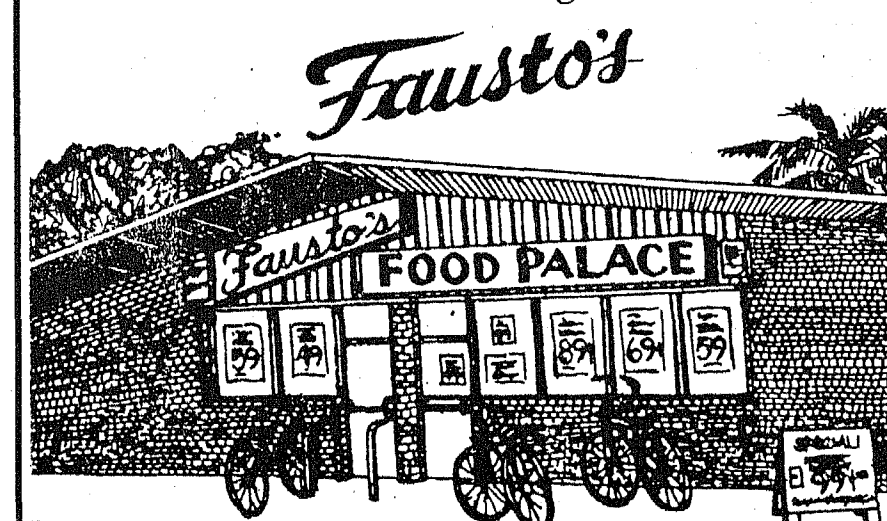
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Closing The Loopholes

Local Law Enforcement Jurisdiction Expands To Navy Property

by Lee Irby

In 1988, something terrible happened in Sigsbee Park, the sprawling Navy housing complex created during the Eisenhower years. A child was severely abused. While this sort of abomination unfolds every hour nationwide, the legal consequences of this case were far from routine. If the incident had occurred only a mile south in New Town, the abuser would have faced stiff criminal charges and a lengthy jail term. But he didn't.

Because Sigsbee Park is federally-owned, the case fell under the jurisdiction of federal law, which doesn't have the same airtight legal wording of the state's child-abuse statutes. Also, the attorneys in charge of prosecuting the case—U.S. attorneys who regularly litigate huge, complex drug cases—were located in Miami.

The loopholes existed, and they were exploited. Those in Health and Rehabilitative Services could only stand and watch in horror as a child abuser went unpunished.

But four years later, these loopholes are

closed.

Almost three months have passed since the U.S. Navy and Monroe County agreed to share jurisdiction of all federally-owned land in the county. This change, in effect, increases by 25 percent—a daunting figure—the population which could appear before county courts of law.

The early results are in, and it appears that this shift in jurisdiction has yet to create the logistical nightmare that some feared. At the same time, the move has allayed the lingering traces of impotence that befell child-care workers and law enforcement agents bound by the old arrangement.

"We're working as a team now," said Key West police chief Ray Peterson. "We can deal with problems [on Naval property] before they become bigger problems somewhere else."

Navy security officer John Conroy also hailed the realignment.

"We've got a lot more options now," he said. "We've got an excellent rapport with the civilian support groups and the state attorney's office."

The idea was simple: to make actions on federal land accountable under Florida law. Thus, if a murder took place in Peary Court—not an inconceivable idea—the trial would be handled locally by Monroe County prosecutors in county courts, not in Miami under federal law. Still, the application took years in the offing as much bureaucratic bad-minton ensued between the two parties in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

Finally, on November 12, 1991, came the formal announcement: the Navy had the right to enforce state law on federal land, and the state had the right to enforce federal law on state land used by the Navy.

Today if a civilian on Navy property soaks his or her gills at a watering hole, tries to drive off base and gets caught, Navy security can call Key West police for the arrest. Previously, Navy security was limited only to what legal remedies it could seek against civilians and juveniles, aka "dependents."

More importantly, the Navy now has a greater ability to deal with domestic dysfunction, spousal battery and child abuse/neglect.

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While the Navy had a working relationship with HRS, there was no threat of criminal proceedings when one of these problems occurred.

In the Navy, explained naval investigator John Zotto, the battering husband is often a civilian, and thus immune from prosecution, unless the U.S. Attorney in Miami wanted to stop the Noriega trial to do it.

Until now, that is.

"The state attorney is more willing to prosecute those cases," he said. "If there's a case of spousal battery now, we can get the Key West police to make an arrest if there's a sign of violence."

Juvenile prosecution was also in a legal fog before the switch in jurisdiction. The most Navy security could do in a case involving a law-breaking youth was to go to the parents and threaten expulsion from Navy housing. Now, the youth can be referred to the Delinquency Unit of HRS, or be brought up on charges in county court.

At first, mutual cooperation between the Navy and the county appeared to be an expensive undertaking. Would Monroe County now spend money to prosecute and rehabilitate additional individuals while its regular workload continued to increase?

No, said John Ellsworth, a lawyer with the state attorney's office. "It'll mean an increase of maybe two cases per week," he said. "That's not very much. The Navy's going to conduct all the investigations and do all of the paper work."

Chief Peterson also dismissed the charge of added work for police. "We're just going to drive out there and make an arrest," he

claimed. "It shouldn't take more than an hour."

At HRS, Martha DeRousse, who heads up the Delinquency Unit, couldn't name a single new case the change in jurisdiction has brought to her staff.

"The only difference is now we might have to be witnesses in court," she said. "But it's better to have the prosecution handled locally."

All parties also ruled out the possibility of reluctance to using the new resources.

The arrangement is new and as yet untested. Labor-intensive litigation has yet to strain concurrent jurisdiction. The state attorney's office couldn't be reached to respond to the question of who will pay in the event that such a case materializes.

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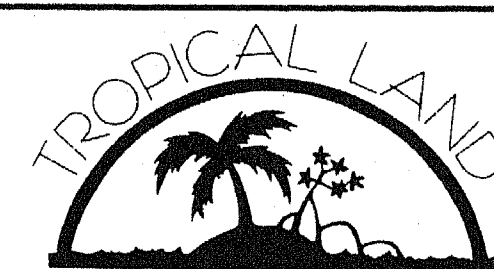
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Harry S. Truman Import Center: Where The Llamas Hum

by Joe Silva

There isn't a resort manager on the island who can't elaborate on the difficulties involved in managing large numbers of party-mad vacationers or conventioners. But any wild tales they might tell probably don't come close to the antics that take place at the Harry S. Truman Import Center.

Across the narrow bridge that arches off the Trumbo Point Annex of the Naval Air Station, the center sits at the far end of Fleming Key, which was originally constructed as a World War II munitions dump. The facility is one of four Florida stations (the others are in Gainesville, Tampa, and Miami) falling under the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the quarantine of imported livestock.

"This facility was built in 1979, and we've [had] 18 shipments since our first year of operation," says the center's principal veterinarian, Dr. Dale Bruch (pronounced "brew"), a graduate of the University of Kansas Veterinary School, who has run the Truman center for one year. "In 11 years we've had six shipments of cattle, six shipments of birds, four of llamas, one of swine, and one shipment of water buffalo."

The photos of mammoth cattle and

woolly docile-looking llamas which hang in the entryway are the some of the few clues that this otherwise typical clinic-type atmosphere has a distinctive clientele. Walking through the animal area, however, Bruch points out the 24 intake fans that change the air in the area an estimated seven times per minute.

"Of course it gets pretty noisy in here with all the fans and things going," he says. "But that's only a problem with the llamas, because they hum to their young."

During an importation of llamas from a cool Bolivian climate, there was concern at the center that the animals would not acclimate to the Key West heat. Facility manager Dennis Smallwood was able to devise a shower system for the llamas.

"At first we had to drive them through, but after a while they'd do it themselves. They liked it!" says Bruch.

His normally soft-spoken words are briefly abandoned here and his genuinely genial manner now projects the conventional Hollywood image of a country vet, eager and ready to assist in the delivery of a local man's calf—only the Spanish *guayabera* he's wearing doesn't fit the image.

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the

facility is that it is entirely self-sufficient. Quarantine efforts could be maintained even if Fleming Key were cut off from the mainland by storm. The center houses its own water-treatment operation, lab facilities, laundry services, and a desalinization plant that can produce up to 13,000 gallons of water daily.

Animals sent to Fleming Key are usually brought to the U.S. by commercial importers seeking to improve gene pools and bloodlines in the States. The 90-day quarantine (formerly set at 150 days) is required for livestock from countries where highly virulent diseases such as hoof-and-mouth disease and rinderpest remain prevalent.

Each year a lottery is held at the headquarters for the USDA Vet Services in Hyattsville, Maryland to determine which prospective importers will be given the opportunity to ship foreign livestock to the States. Because the preparation work done by the USDA officials in the country of origin is so extensive, the lottery is necessary to keep up with the many requests received for importations. Once selected, the importer has a fixed amount of time to acknowledge the selection and to post a \$50,000 letter of credit to secure his spot.

"That \$50,000 is just a starter," notes Bruch, who spent ten years at the Miami installation as the assistant veterinarian in charge for import/export operations. "The total cost is far above that and depends on the type of species brought in. The importer has to pay for everything from the feed to the overseas testing that the USDA people have to go over and conduct."

The government meter stays running until the animals depart the Fleming Key facility.

The involved process of screening and caring for the animals begins from the moment the animals are flown into Naval Air Station Boca Chica (through special arrangement with the Navy). Essentially they must have no contact with their foreign surroundings until they have cleared quarantine.

The animals make the trip from the airstrip, down U.S. 1 and to Fleming Key on three specially designed, leak-proof goose-neck trailers. Then they are moved directly from the trailers into the station's animal area, which consumes 490 feet in length and 160 feet in width of the installation's total space of 530 feet by 210 feet.

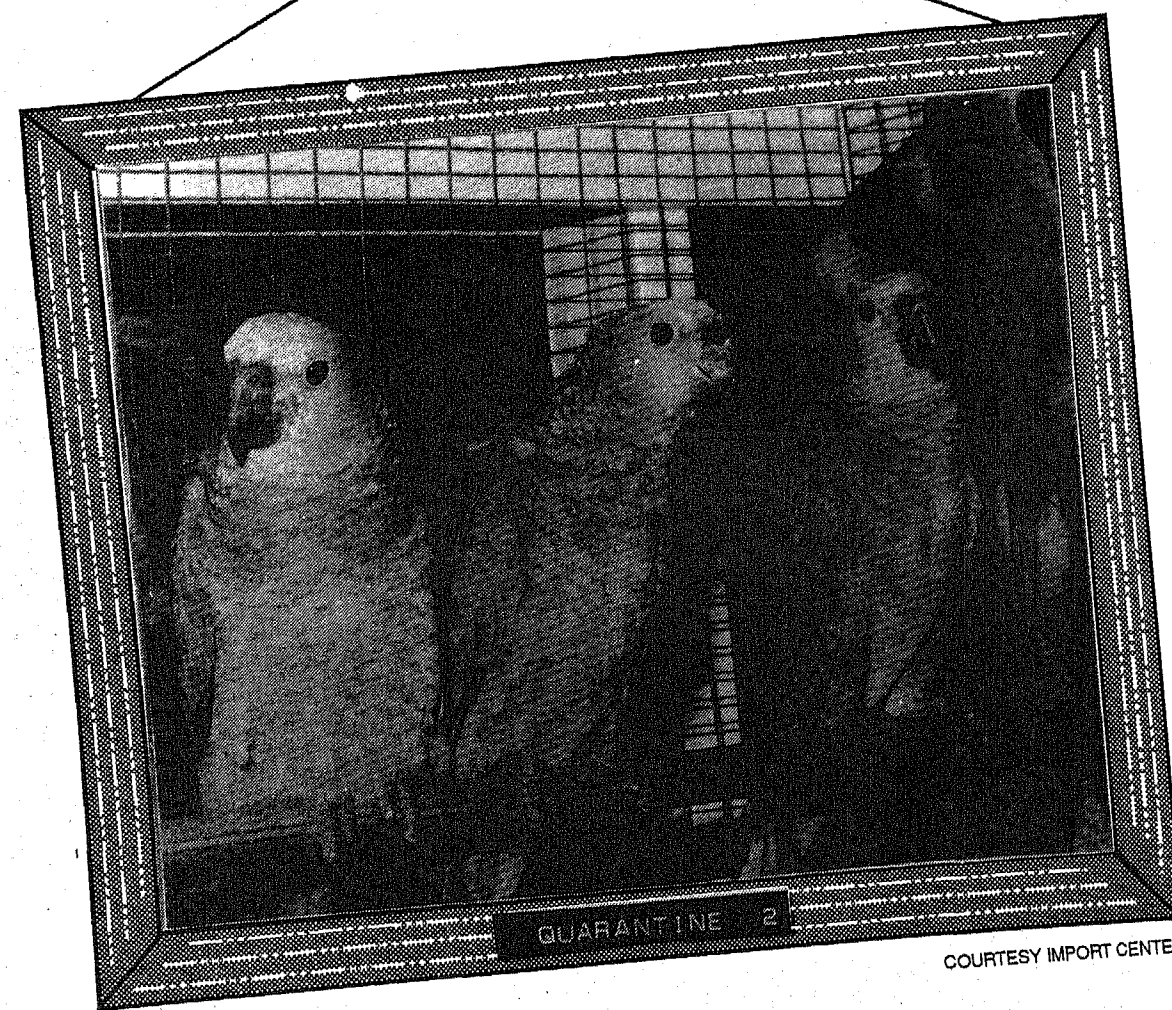
While in residence, the animals are examined both internally and externally for infestations. At the far end of the facility, animals swim through a long trough filled with solutions to kill ticks and other parasites.

Tissue samples from the esophagus are taken from each animal by a method known as "probing." A long metal probe with a scraping device at the end is inserted down the animal's gullet, where it collects a sample. The extracted tissue is introduced into the body of a domestic "sentinel" specimen to determine whether the imported animal is a disease carrier.

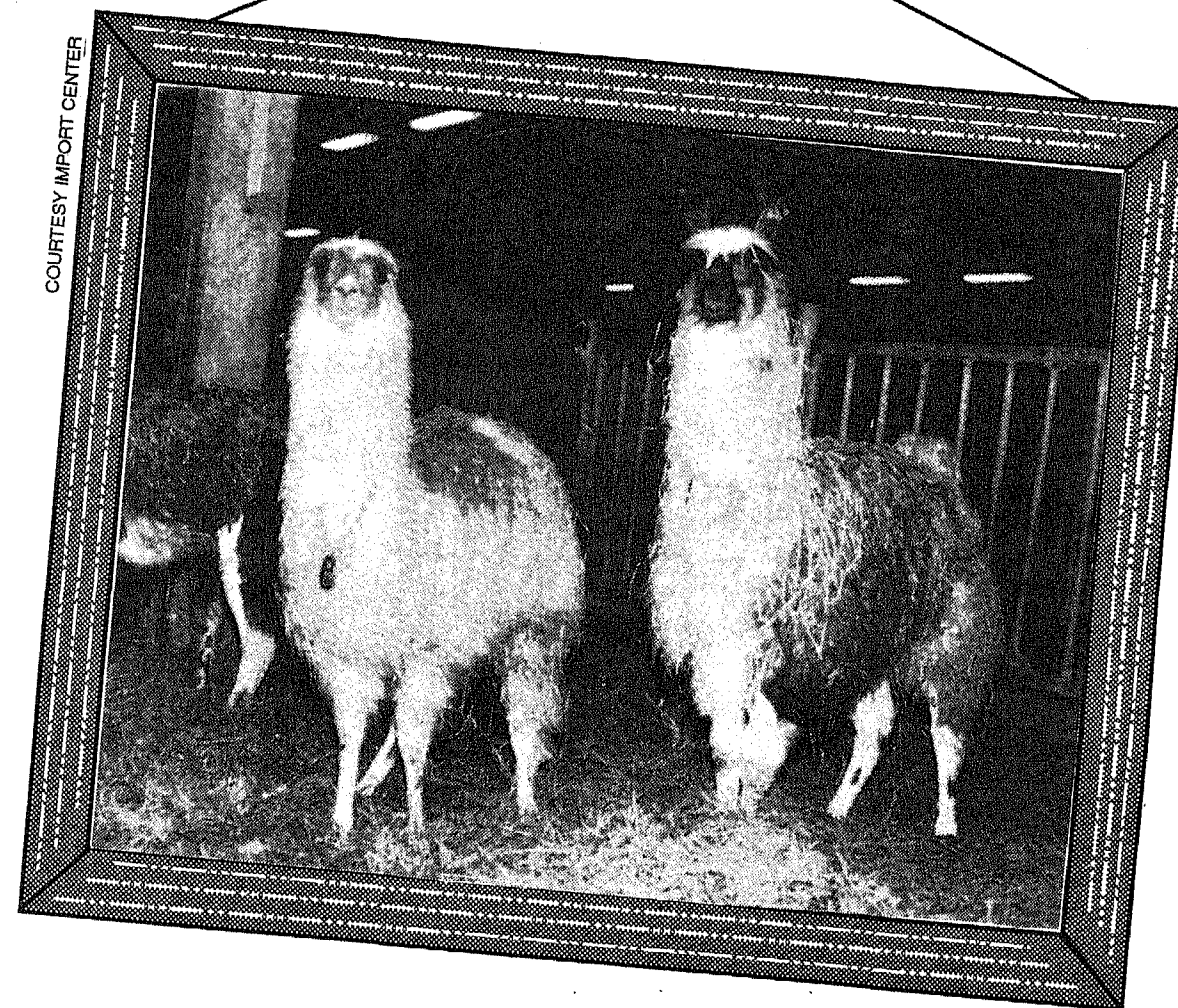
So far the center has yet to encounter one case of an exotic disease.

Hoof-and-mouth disease, which still exists in certain European and South American countries, is a particularly harmful illness

Photographs like this grace the entryway of the quarantine center on Fleming Key



LLAMA TRAUMA: Large animals must sometimes be man-handled into submission before they assume a quiet existence in a bedded stall.



to all hoofstock. The disease can cause lameness, loss of appetite and reproductive problems. But it hasn't been noted in the U.S. for 62 years.

During a quarantine, the import center's small permanent staff must be augmented. Probing 50 head of livestock a day requires that Bruch work with four additional veterinarians.

The facility also employs several temporary animal handlers—burly, strong-armed men to assist with the physical management

of the animals. The two permanent handlers, the Allen brothers, are a pair of smiling identical twins who appear bulky enough to convince even the largest of nature's creatures to succumb to human management.

Before they can don their work clothes and enter the quarantined spaced, each employee must strip to the skin (including jewelry). The procedure is reversed at the end of the day, with workers showering and leaving all work clothes and towels to be laundered and sterilized before they can be re-used.



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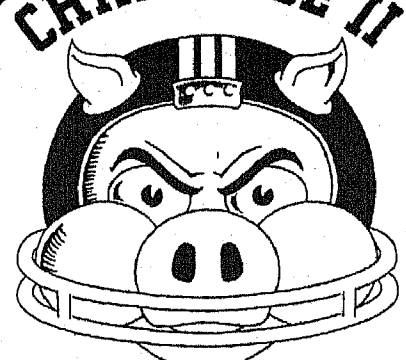
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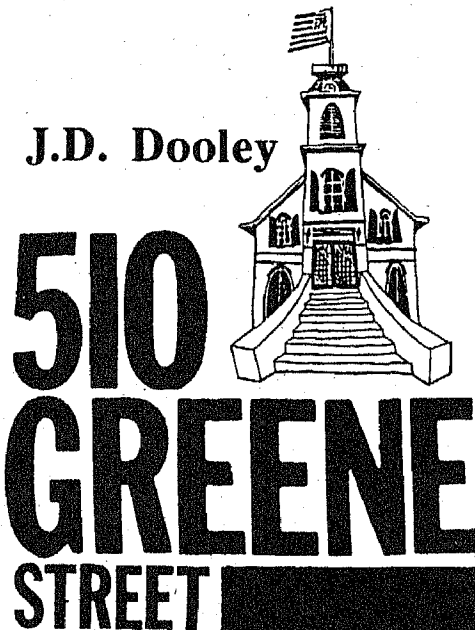
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**Sewer Viewer**

Should the city's sewer system get a channel of its own? City manager Felix Cooper's proposal for a city purchase of a \$302,751 sewer video-camera and cleaning system was tabled at the city commissioners' January 21 meeting. City staff will investigate alternatives.

The plan also called for waiving the bid process, because only one company manufactures the system.

Ken Williams of CH2M Hill, the city's sewer consultant, said that the state-of-the-art sewer viewer's 360-degree camera capabilities would allow it to assess sewer-line conditions.

Since no qualified system operators live in Key West, the city would sign a contract for the work with OMI, the firm hired by the city to manage and maintain the sewer system.

"Let me get this straight," commissioner Harry Bethel said. "The city is going to pay over a quarter-of-a-million dollars for this equipment, then hire someone to operate it?"

"Only when needed," Cooper explained. The new equipment would locate leaks and other problems through block-by-block pipeline surveillance.

Over the next five years the federal EPA may force the city into millions of dollars of waste-water management improvements. EPA mandates could require the city to form a special taxing district to pay for the upgrades. The taxing district would affect all the citizens and businesses of Key West.

Paul Hitchcock of OMI believes that the

video system would save the city money in the not-so-distant future by pinpointing the exact spot of leaks or cave-ins before pavement is dug up.

"Also, we could better find the small leaks, which discharge raw sewage into the environment," argued Hitchcock. "When the project is complete, the city can recoup some of the expenses by selling the equipment."

A memo from city technical services director Paul Cates indicated that the system would cost the city about \$146,458 annually in operating costs.

In other sewer-related business, the commission voted unanimously to hire a customer-service representative to answer sewer questions and complaints. For an annual salary of between \$15,000 and \$17,000, the employee would administer the delinquent-accounts payment program and answer billing questions.

Shallow-Injection Problems

The city made a landmark sewage management decision by voting 3-2 (Mayor Dennis Wardlow, commissioners Joe Pais and Harry Bethel) on second reading to approve installation of shallow-injection wells for those portions of the city without access to city sewer lines. The wells will be allowed virtually without restriction.

Shallow-injection wells forcibly pump sewage into the ground. What happens after that has been the basis for heated discussion.

Some experts believe that sewage pumped into the ground may move laterally in any direction, and that the effluent is certain to contaminate the fresh-water lens below the city.

Those who favor the wells argue that a shallow-injection system is no worse than the city's current practice of dumping sewage into the ocean after secondary treatment. And, they say, it is cheaper than running sewer line out to north Stock Island.

The state Department of Community Affairs may contest the city's decision as contrary to its comprehensive plan.

Prior to the present supply system, citizens of Key West drew their fresh water from wells. Many still do, or at least have the capability of doing so in an emergency (such as a hurricane) which could destroy the above-ground aqueduct connecting Key West to the mainland.

An Old Argument

The subject of shallow-injection wells has

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come up repeatedly before the commission. Environmentalists claim the wells threaten the fragile ecosystem.

This commission's recent decision to approve the wells was based on the need to provide north Stock Island with some form of sewer management. Currently, the city must provide sewer service to the new jail, the hospital, the convalescence center and possibly a proposed 500-unit housing and golf-course development.

Earlier this year the new Wardlow administration decided that it was fiscally ruinous to run the city's sewer line to north Stock Island, and discussion of shallow-injection wells began anew.

Mayor Wardlow said that the measure was temporary, and that the facilities must tie in if the city sewer line ever reaches north Stock Island. However, the mayor opposed an amendment to the ordinance proposed by Jimmy Weekley calling for strict guidelines on monitoring procedures and types of effluent. Weekley proposed strict nutrient stripping and a mandate that applicants report quarterly to the city commission on the quality of their effluent.

A heated discussion broke out among the commissioners over the level of nutrient stripping. When commissioner Sally Lewis said that the city's sewage would be reaching the reef, Wardlow responded, "That's not a fact." Turning to Bethel, he said, "Make a motion."

Weekley's amendment was denied by a 3-2 vote, with Wardlow, Pais and Bethel in the majority. Weekley's motion to bring the ordinance back for a third reading was defeated by the same vote.

Loan Idea Does Not Compute

In other city commission action, the city denied a proposal supported by city finance director David Fernandez to allow city employees to purchase personal computers under a group-blanket order with city funds and then repay the city.

Fernandez had argued that the city could be assured of reimbursement by connecting the financing of the computers with the accrued leave time. Fernandez hoped the plan would encourage self-improvement by enabling employees to become better computer operators at no cost to the city.

"Anyone conscientious enough to spend money on a personal computer would learn how to better use it, become an asset to their department and save the city money on training," Fernandez said.

Fernandez was not present at the meeting. The commissioners did not seem excited about spending public funds on loans to employees.

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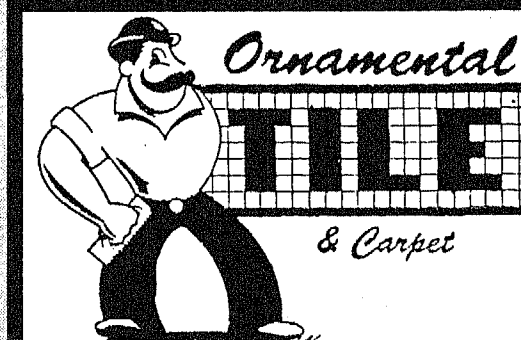
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"I Could Have Danced All Night" has got to be Shirley Freeman's favorite song. This delightful hostess was the belle of her own ball when she entertained guests for cocktails, dancing and a late-night buffet. Enjoying the evening were Susan and Michael Whalton, Eleanor Walsh, Lisa and Alan Farago, Paula Cross, Carol

JANE PHILLIPS



THE BALL ON EATON STREET: Mimi and Gary McDonald flank hostess Shirley Freeman.

and Karl Lindquist, George Hemple, Mimi and Gary McDonald, Richard Magesis, Sherri Smallwood, Carolyn and Jerry Cash, Ty and Sue Buford, Sally Lewis, Kathleen and Dick Moody and Sally and Hal O'Boyle who are thrilled about being parents to baby Morgan. There were lots more people there —when you have a ballroom, you might as well fill it up.

Artist Roberta Marks, who divides her time between Key West and Europe, showed slides of her trip to India at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. The slides were fascinating and so were her remarks. She

described her relationship with her 29-year-old Swiss traveling companion as a "psychodrama" and the journey itself as "romantic." She thought it would be the other way around. The highlight of her trip was a visit with Mother Theresa.

One of the side effects of Kurt Vonnegut's absence at the Key West Literary Seminar was that participants boycotted his books. The Key West Island Bookstore now has a large supply. The seminar best-seller was William Goldman's book *Adventures in the Skin Trade*. His talk was also the liveliest. Of Hollywood screenwriting he said, "They want us to make s---";

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and "It's not a life I would wish on anyone, but it's better than dentistry." Writers Ann Beattie and Joy Williams got a chance to chat. Ann says Joy is "one of our most remarkable storytellers." She's also one of the top-sellers at the bookstore, according to Liz Lear, as well as with Richard Wilbur, Alison Laurie and John Leslie. The "literati-glitterati" party was given by Lynn and David Kaufelt at their home.

V.I.P. dancers at the February 1 HELPLINE fundraiser at the Pier House Havana Docks include Frank Romano, Joe Lishka, Merilee McCoy, Lucio Petrocelli, Don DeFeo, Debbie Flynn and Ann Dickinson. The \$200 prize goes to the winners' favorite charity. Fill your dance card.

Charles Munroe hosted the last Founders Party at TWFA. He asked Sheila Sands and Sandra Taylor to hostess the event. They did a great job—selected delectable finger foods which could be juggled easily and looked delectable in their little black dresses.

Sweet Mischief's Brona Levin knows how to throw a theme party. She had a fun gathering to support the "Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society." The theme could have been "handsome men" as the crew members were guests of honor. Scottsman Lain Kerr says the society's sailing yacht will be registered in Key West. Aboard for the party was Brona's special beau Guy Anderson and pals Frankie Satisky and Bonnie Levin.

Musicians Chris Hughes and Chris Mathers, on tour with *Kiss Me Kate*, love being in Paradise. Bass player Mathers says,

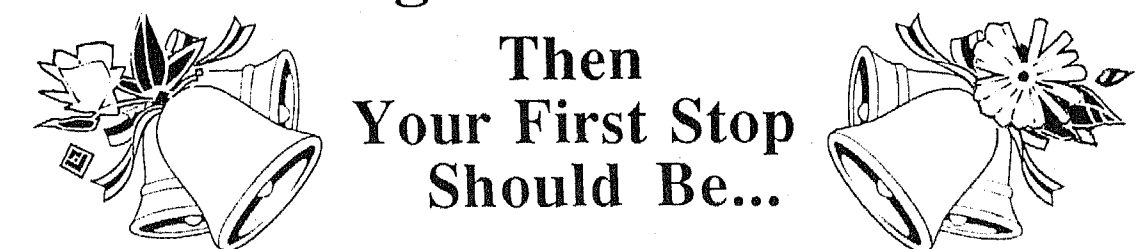
"The trip down here, along that chain of islands, is my favorite destination in the world... especially when you catch the sun setting in Key West." He's not even in the Chamber of Commerce!

Niro Markoff Asistent, who has appeared on the TV talk show circuit (Oprah, Sally Jesse Raphael, Donahue) and has made the cover of *Parade* magazine twice, will make an appearance at Unity of the Keys along with Key West resident Paul Duffy, co-author of Niro's book *Why I Survive AIDS*.

Our kindest thoughts go out to Peggy McClain and her family, whose daughter recently passed away. No one has done more for this community than Peggy.

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Key West Days & Nights

by Bill Manville

Mab and I were in the living room of Betty Bennett's house on Southard Street, where Mab camps since losing his job at the bank. We were discussing his campaign to run for President when Betty herself swept in for the weekend from the house in Palm Beach (where she really lives). The chauffeur carried six pieces of white glacé kid luggage in behind Betty; three little King Charles spaniels—Patti, Maxine, and The Sex Criminal—ran at her heels. ("That dog is entirely too dependent on the kindness of strangers," says Betty. "If you came in to attack me, the Criminal would fix you a ham sandwich and wait for you to get through.")

"An unexpected pleasure," said Mab, adjusting his lucky rhinestone tiara, which reads Happy New Year 1937.

"Surely we can't have a Presidential campaign," said Betty, "without a party to launch the candidate?"

"First things first," said Mab. "I don't have a thing to wear. What's in the suitcases?"

"A nice little Chanel pink-and-white I bought at Martha's in Boca Raton?"

"Betty, I'm running as candidate for the Gay Party, not Grey."

They went upstairs to try on Betty's clothes. When they came back down, they were both dressed in old-fashioned Halston basic black.

"You sure I look like the candidate?" said Mab. "Halston is so understated, I feel more like the candidate's wife. Which is not

entirely bad I suppose—I'd vote for Barbara over George." They split a half bottle of Mumm's (apple juice for me), and Mab outlined his plans.

"First of all," he said, "we're going to outlaw military war. Look at any army in the world. Generals love to dress up! We'll take that to its logical conclusion. The U.N. will pass a law. Privates in conventional camouflage or khaki, but corporals must wear skirts and sweaters, a little eye liner and blusher. We put lieutenants in silks and cocktail dresses, maybe pearls and a circle pin when they make captain. Generals must wear full Marlene Dietrich white furs and satin; slit to the thigh, three-inch high heels."

"Who would volunteer for armies like that? Only people like me, and I assure you, that would end war!"

Mab went on. "Next," he said, "as president, I'd declare full economic war on our trade competitors. Fire the three Detroit amateurs who got us into this mess. Any guy who is guaranteed five million a year no matter how fast his company goes down the chute—well, I don't believe he'd stay up all night trying to figure out how to turn it around."

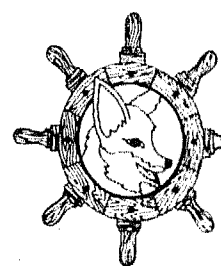
"No country can match American military technology," he continued. "Only scientists who can't cut the mustard on Star Wars work in Detroit. Fire them and bring on the first team, a concerted national effort run by our Nobel Prize winners—of which we have more than any other nation on earth. If economics is the continuation of war by other means, I do not intend to be the first President of the United States to lose war to Germany or Japan."

The door opened. Daisy, the 17-year-old daughter Mab and Betty begot as teenagers way back in Amarillo (the one and only time they seriously got together), came in from boarding school in Tarrytown, New York.

"If you two are Patti and Maxine," Daisy said to her Halstoned parents, "can I be The Sex Criminal? I think I'm knocked up."

(To be continued.)

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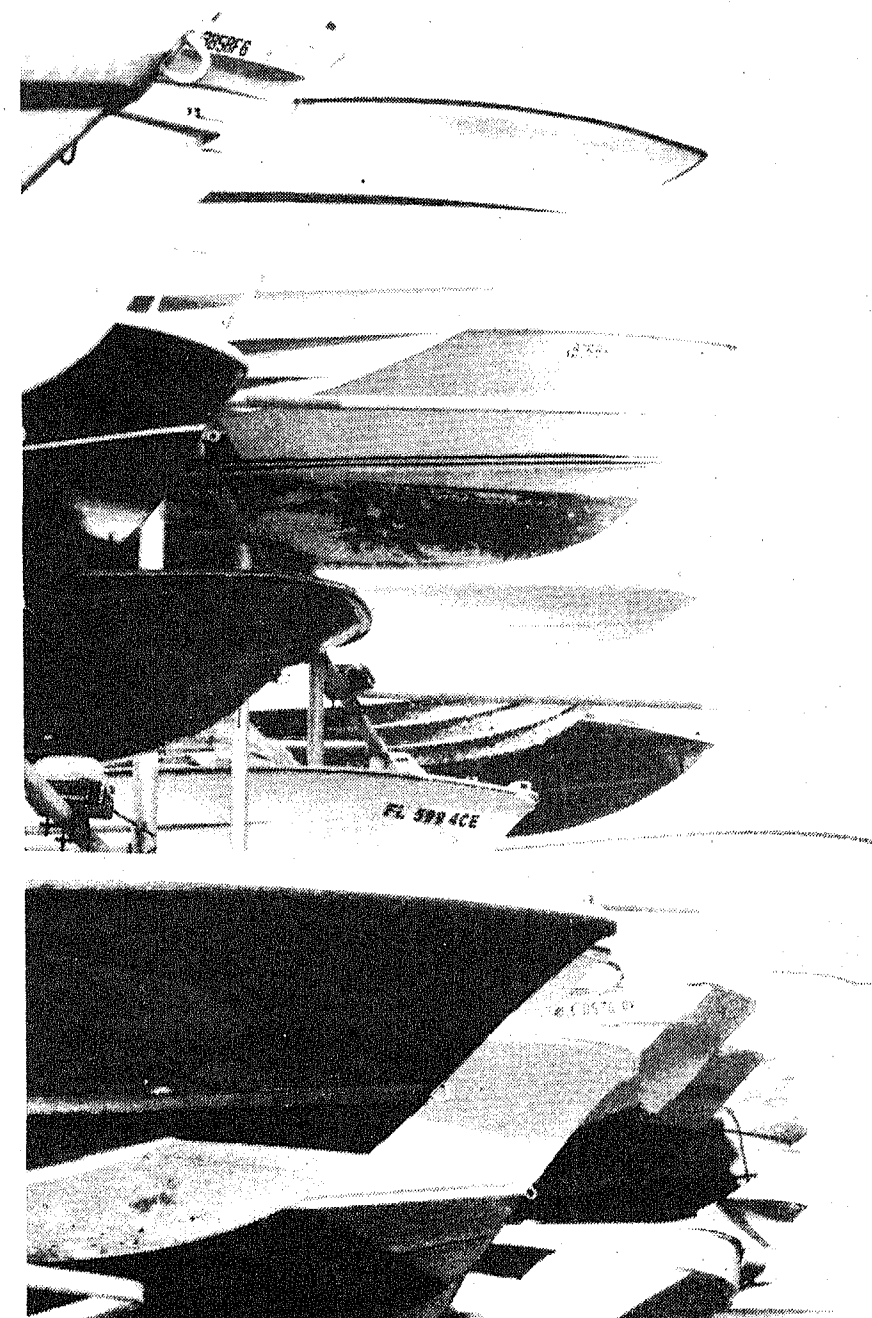
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AUTO & BOAT GUIDE

TEXT & PHOTOS BY MIKE SMITH

All Aboard

The Finer Points Of Boat Buying



TAKE A BOW: Dry-docked boats at Garrison Bight Marina.

In the Lower Keys, where being on the water is a way of life, many people dream of owning a boat. A snappy little runabout, an amply-appointed express cruiser or the last word in offshore fishing machines: deciding on which boat to buy may be tricky. Other than price, questions of primary use, storage and maintenance should be considered.

Like the average family car, every boat represents a compromise.

Consider the activities you and your family plan for the boat. Will it be a "weekender" or an extended cruising vessel? Or do you want a sleek little fishing machine that will get you offshore in record time? And what about diving, water skiing or exploring the back country? Not everyone likes to fish from dawn to dusk. Conversely, water skiing is real tough behind a rowing shell.

Because boating is supposed to be family recreation, the wise boat-buyer should consult the whole crew before plunking down the dollars.

"We always ask the customer what he is planning on doing with the boat," explained Ashley Griffith, sales manager at Garrison Bight Marina. "All too often people make the mistake of buying a boat because it looks pretty or it's flashy, especially if they're new to South Florida or the Keys."

"People come down here," he said, "and find out what the Keys are all about—the reefs, the back country, the diving and so forth—and if they've made the mistake of buying a boat like that, they'll come in and

Continued on Page 28

Surviving The Big Auto Purchase

In the short span of a single century, virtually a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of evolution, the human's love affair with the "horseless carriage" has far surpassed even Henry Ford's dreams. It has become a way of life.

Some, however, would argue that it's a man-made nightmare. Ever been in Miami during rush hour? It's a horror show!

Fortunately, the Keys and Key West haven't quite reached that point, but we still have our little setbacks during peak season. Slipping into the flow of traffic on the Overseas Highway can be a little tricky. And North Roosevelt is bumper-to-bumper during the morning and evening commutes at the half-a-bridge bottleneck.

It's a pretty safe bet that

fully half the workforce in the Conch Republic needs a car to conduct business.

Choosing the Right Car

But which is just right for you? One look at the row after row of shiny new (or nearly new) cars neatly lined up on the dealer's lot, and you're sure to have more questions than answers. Making the right decision can be tough.

Should the family chariot be a sedan or sport coupe? Compact or full-sized? New or used? Two or four-wheel drive? Automatic or standard? The list goes on and on.

"What I try to determine right up front," said John Morris, owner of Morrison Auto Sales on North Roosevelt, "is how the customer plans to use the car. Is it primarily for family

Continued on Page 26



TAILORED SALES: John Morris of Morrison Sales checks out one of his vehicles.

MECHANICS



INDEPENDENT: Henry Kerr owns a neighborhood garage.

Can't Live With 'em, Can't Live Without 'em

Almost everyone owns a car. In Key West this may be a 1993 "Magical, Mystical, Miracle Machine," a 1932 "Classical Caravan," or a teeny-weeny 1979 "Mini-Mobile," but it is *still* a car. Wheels. Transportation. The way to get from Point A to Point B. Usually.

Somewhere along the line your vehicle will require repairs, minor or major. Finding the right mechanic to put an ailing assortment of automotive parts back together raises some serious questions. Does he work for the car dealership, the corner service station or the neighborhood garage?

"Unfortunately for me," shrugged Henry Kerr, owner of Stock Island's Henry's Auto Clinic, "the best place to take your car for service should be the dealership. A Chevrolet store for your Caprice, and a Ford store for your Turbo Coupe.

"The dealership should have the best line of parts, the best technical assistance for their people and deal exclusively with their own products. Unfortunately, that isn't always the case."

John Staley, national service manager for BMW of North America, said that service "is one of the biggest headaches we have as a car maker. The dealer wants to sell cars. He doesn't give a hoot about service after the sale, when it could be one of the biggest profit centers of his dealership!"

Staley said that in the recessionary economy, dealers who haven't, in effect, "stored their seeds and nuts for winter" are finding the going pretty tough when it comes to making it over the hungry spots and keeping the cash flowing.

"We've been trying to drum into our dealers, heads, the importance of alternate

sources of income since the early '80s," Staley said, "and now they're discovering what we meant. Dealers who had an on-line, in-line service department are balancing their books. Others are in trouble, but it's really their own fault."

Mr. Regular Wrench

Where does that leave the independent garage? Reasonably well off. Unrestricted by the terms and conditions of franchise agreements, independent garages are benefiting most from the belt-tightening tendencies of John Q. Public.

"Right off the top," explained John Lumley, owner/manager of Keys Tire, the local Firestone franchise, "our labor is much lower than a new-car dealership. We have the same flat-rate manuals they do, but our hourly rate is cheaper."

Lumley said he also charged the actual rate, not the "quoted rate" listed in the flat-rate manuals. (Flat-rate manuals list an average time for a specified repair; dealers normally assign that task to a mechanic who can finish the job more quickly.)

"If the [flat-rate] manual calls for two and a half hours and we find we can do it in two hours," he said, "the customer is billed for the two hours. He isn't billed according to the book. Our goal is to save the customer money and still perform the necessary service on his car."

Another major factor is parts availability. Most car makers have standard "stock-order parts" procedures, "special-order parts" procedures and a raft of other parts supply policies that dealers must follow. Independents aren't subjected to the same rules and regulations so they can "shop" for price and availability without paying a penalty to the manufacturer.

"If we find an expensive part is needed for repair," Lumley said, "we start shopping. I won't make just one call and take that as the price. The other day I called one place and they wanted \$509 for a steering rack. After two more phone calls, I found an identical rack for \$373."

Availability Versus Cost

Foreign Car South's Bob Davia said that availability was as key to keeping a customer happy as were the dollars and cents.

"If we have an out-of-town customer who has to get going the next day," he said, "the majority of the time we'll be able to locate the part somewhere. If he doesn't mind paying for UPS Red Label, we'll get it overnight and he'll be on his way."

Davia said a "worst-case scenario" was the Key West visitor who needed a \$10 part for his car and ended up spending hundreds on meals and lodging, while waiting for the part to arrive by the normal delivery channels.

"Let's say, for example, you have a problem with your Toyota," he said, "and you need a part. You may have to wait a week to get that part through a dealership."

"But we're not bound by the rules manufacturers dictate. We can get parts from anyone we want, so we don't have to deal with the one and only Toyota warehouse. We can go to a variety of sources, and depending on the part, we may locate it in three or four or

even five different places."

The parts availability question also brings up another "availability" question: the old "What do I do if I'm on the road?"

Dealing with the "independents" may sound superior to dealing with the dealer, but that favored mechanic on Front Street simply "ain't there when you need him" if you're tolling along I-95 in eastern Maryland.

For that reason, people like Tim Lake, the proud owner of a classic 280ZX, who does most of his own routine maintenance, swears by the chain stores for major problems. Here in Key West, Sears, K-Mart and John Lumley's Firestone franchise stand behind their work nationwide.

"If it isn't a specialized repair like fuel injection," the former military technician said, "I take my car to Sears. Any Sears store, anywhere, will make right anything another Sears store has screwed up. I've traveled a lot, so that's always been a major consideration."

"Any work we do here is covered by the entire Sears network," emphasized Steve Sprinkles, manager of the Roosevelt Boulevard Auto Department, "So if you have a problem down the line, you can take your car to any Sears auto shop in the United States, Canada or Puerto Rico, and they'll make it right. Our new slogan even says that: 'Who'll back you better than Sears?'"

A Friend of a Friend of a ...

On the flip side, the automotive chains don't normally handle major repairs like engine or transmission overhauls, so how do you go about finding just the right service station?

"We get some business from the Yellow Pages," Davia said, "and some from our ads, but the biggest thing is by word of mouth."

"I heard they've got a new mechanic over at Firestone who's good with Jaguars," photographer Lisa Griggs said. "I need a tune-up in a couple of weeks, so I'm going to give him a try."

Griggs said she formerly had to drive to Miami for service because she didn't know anyone on the island who specialized in "Jags." Fortunately for her, that no longer is

the case.

"A friend of mine," she added, "used to do the same thing until his car broke down in Key West and he had to have it 'flat-bedded' up to Miami to the dealership. That's when he sold it!"

"The most important thing," Lumley stressed, "is to pick a mechanic you feel comfortable with and stick with him. That way, he has all the history, he knows what he has, and hasn't done, and in the long run, it's going to save you a lot of money."

Auto Clinic's Kerr agrees. "Every garage in town has people who love them and people who hate them," Kerr said, "but that's the way it is when you're dealing with the public. You have to work with your mechanic if you expect him to work with you."

"There'll be times when he walks out, finds just what's wrong with your car and says, 'Thank you. Good-bye. No charge.' Other days he's gonna have a hard time with it. And you're going to be frustrated because you've got to go and you depend on your car, and he's got five other people ahead of you who also depend on theirs, and sometimes heads clash. The best thing to do is try to be as reasonable as you can."

Kerr continues: "I've had people screaming and yelling and wanting to fight me one day, and a week later they're back with something else for me to fix. And you fix

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Other than the obvious fact that booze and boating don't mix, one of the biggest causes of accidents afloat is the boater who "simply didn't know." It's your responsibility to learn the navigational signs and symbols, obey the rules of the road and familiarize yourself with the waters in and around the Keys.

Unlike streets and highways which are clearly marked with dividing lanes, stop signs and traffic signals, there are no concrete delineations at sea. You're more or less on your own, assuming, of course, you know the difference between a daybeacon and a mooring buoy. If not, take a basic boating course before "Mayday" becomes your middle name.

The Key West Power Squadron, U.S. Coast Guard Auxilliary and Florida Marine Patrol all offer free basic boating courses (a small fee is assessed for course materials). For information about start-up dates and times, call the Boating Safety "Courseline" toll-free at 1-800-336-BOAT.

Make sure your vessel is properly fueled, loaded and operating with the correct emergency equipment, such as personal flotation devices (life preservers), fire extinguishers and flares.

And keep a sharp weather eye. Squalls

Boat Maintenance, Marinas And Maydays

can pop up in the Keys faster than the average boater can say "thunderstorm." Check the weather before you leave the dock or launching ramp and frequently tune into the VHF weather channel (Key West is Channel 2).

Respect Rights of Others

Always respect the rights of others. For example, avoid disrupting shoreline anglers, swimmers or nesting birds; don't hog the ramp if you're trailering; and remember noise travels a lot further on the water.

Control your wake, which is caused by excessive speed and can damage moored vessels and erode our fragile shoreline. You are responsible for damage or injuries caused by your wake.

Above all, stay sober. Boating under the influence can be particularly deadly because sun, boat movement and reflections from the water compound the effects of intoxication. The Coast Guard estimates that 50 percent of all boating fatalities are alcohol-related; but many members of the Florida Marine Patrol feel that number is low. If you must drink afloat, assign a "designated driver."

Keeping It Shipshape

If properly used and maintained, your boat should give you years of solid performance. Keeping it in tip-top condition is easy, it just takes a little time and energy.

"Maintenance on a boat isn't all that difficult," said Sparky Carbonell, head of the Florida Keys Community College Marine Propulsion School. "Whether you're trailering the boat or it's in rack storage, the first step is keeping it clean, especially below the waterline where scum algae and marine growth can inhibit hull performance and jack up your fuel costs.

"Once the boat is out of the water," he said, "hose down the bottom and sides with fresh water to minimize buildup. Grease, oil or stubborn growth can be removed by scrubbing with a brush and mild detergent. But avoid harsh abrasives—they'll scratch the finish."

He said a boater should flush out the lower unit (that portion of the outboard or inboard/outdrive that's actually in the water), hose down the rest of the boat, remove the transom plug so rain water will drain out, and put it away.

"Two-cycle outboards are tremendously susceptible to overheating," he emphasized,



SPARKY CARBONELL: The boat expert at Florida Keys Community College.

"so it's critical to keep those cooling passages clear. That's what flushing the engine with fresh water does, get all the salt out that can eventually clog everything up and leave you with a blown engine."

Periodic spark plug changes, regular changes of the lower oil unit as well as engine oil, and periodic waxing (preferably two or three times a year to protect the finish) will help keep the baby purring nicely along.

Ignorance Is Not Bliss

It's primarily when owners ignore one or another of the steps that problems occur, and they can, indeed, be costly. A competent marine mechanic on the island can get up to \$50 an hour, with an average rate of \$40 per hour.

Terry Loring of Port Marine Service said boat owners should pay as much attention to maintenance as they did to having fun on the water.

"Keep it clean and have the engine regularly serviced," he said, "and you'll be fine. And keep it covered if it's on a rack you're trailering. It'll help keep the gelcoat from fading."

Loring said that most of his work was on larger yachts, but the same tools and technology went into 20-footers, as well.

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Storage: Wet or Dry?

Which leads to the final question: should you store your boat in a marina or trailer to the water. Indoor rack storage around town runs between \$4 and \$5 per foot, per month. For an average boat, that works out to 1200 smackeros a year: this is about the same cost as the initial trailer investment, but, as with trailering, since the boat is not subjected to "in-water" storage, painting the bottom is unnecessary. It then becomes a matter of convenience.

Finding space at a public launching ramp can be a hassle, especially during events like "Sportsmen's Weekend," and horsing even a 20-foot boat back up onto a trailer can be a chore. And, of course, you're not right beside your friendly marine mechanic (a random check found that every marina polled offered full service when it came to repairs).

On the other hand, waiting for a launch from rack storage can try your patience as well.

"A lot of people—not just with big boats—but a lot of people, with 25 and even 20-foot boats, like to keep them in the water," explained First Key West Marina's Cindy Simeon. "It's convenient. They can just get in and go."

"With dry storage, they're at the mercy of the forklift," she said. "Although we give them an 'in' and an 'out' a day—that's included in their fee—if the forklift has broken down, they can't go out. Or if there's a line ahead of them waiting to go out, they have to wait. People don't like to be at the mercy of a machine."

In Key West wet storage runs about the same as covered rack storage, between \$4 and \$5 a foot with a minimum of 20 feet.

"A lot of people do prefer to keep their boats inside," Simeon said, "but most of the marinas have waiting lists to get in. It all

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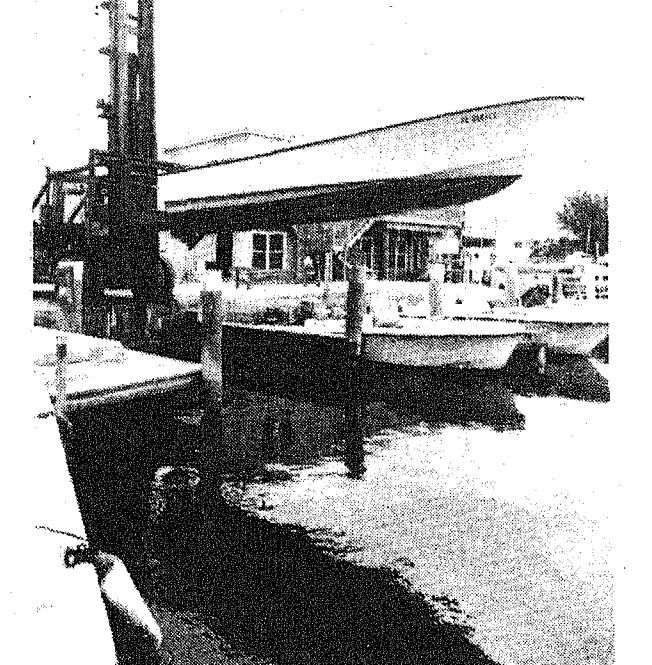
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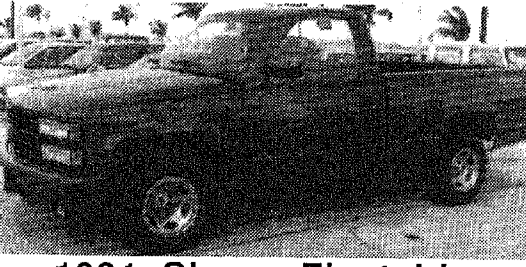
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Car Care In The Keys

Whether it's a brand new Mercedes or a weather-worn Conch Cruiser, car care in the Keys means periodic maintenance. And, yes, brakes do wear out, tires must be balanced and rotated for even wear, and front-ends need alignment. It's all part of owning a car.

In a saltwater environment such as ours car care may be somewhat different from what you concerned yourself with up North. While engine maintenance remains much the same, body care is a bit more involved.

The sun, salt and heat play havoc with car finishes, windshields, dashboards and upholstery. Keys residents are familiar with cracked dashes, faded seat covers, ruined interiors and worse.

What's a body to do?

"You need to have your car washed frequently," pointed out Foreign Car South's Bob Davia, "and waxed at least every three to four months. That helps keep the body in shape."

"Those folding cardboard dash protectors

are also handy to have," said John Lumley, owner/manager of Keys Tire, the Firestone franchise on White Street. "They save your dash from cracking, protect the seatcovers and reduce the heat inside."

Window tinting, however, is probably the most effective way to protect a car's interior from the effects of the sun.

David Hawthorne, who co-owns So Cool Window Tinting with partner Danny Parra, says the tinted film cuts out about 99 percent of the ultraviolet rays. He estimates that about 50 percent of the cars in Key West have been treated with window tint.

He says the polyester plastic tint, which is installed on the inside of the car's glass conserves fuel by cutting down on the cost of air-conditioning. A car parked in the sun will be hot, he says, but tolerable. The tinting, which costs about \$70, comes with a lifetime guarantee.

"For safety reasons," Hawthorne added, "the film itself will keep glass intact if you're in an accident." Also, the tint cuts glare.

Relatively new to the market is a titanium-and-metal sputtered film which is lighter in color than polyester but more heat reductive. "This might be better for older people who have problems seeing," Hawthorne said.

The sun is bad. But parking a car outside at night is the worst: dew and mist generates most of the rust. If you can park your car under a roof of any sort - it doesn't have to be an enclosed garage, even an open canopy is good - it'll help save your car.

Also stay off the Duval and Front Street areas during the full moon. The water in the gutter isn't "fresh." It's the overflow from the exceptionally high tides prevalent during that time of month, and it will harm your car if it isn't removed.

"We've had to fix many a car from the tides on Duval Street," Davia said. "Sometimes it's the starter, even though you may be going through slowly; and sometimes it's the fuel injection system, especially on BMWs. And if water gets sucked into the intake manifold, you're going to have major engine problems."

Take care of minor repairs before they turn into major ones. One individual, who

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GARAGE GRINS: Bob Haas (left) and Bob Davia are foreign car specialists.

preferred that his name not be used, received a tiny ding from a rock which hit his windshield. Over the past four months, he has watched that ding develop into a foot-long crack that will soon require the replacement of the entire windshield.

Rust and saltwater aside, the Keys don't seem to present unusual pitfalls to your vehicle's mechanical well-being.

"There really aren't any special needs for cars in the Keys," said Lumley, careful to make the geographic distinction, "but there

are special needs for cars. Basically, you've got to follow your manufacturers' recommendations for periodic service."

"If you do, you'll save yourself a lot of money in the long run," he said. "The car lasts longer, it retains its value, it doesn't put you on the side of the road, and it saves you a lot of tow bills."

Lumley, as well as most other Key West auto experts, stresses the importance of regular tune-ups (points, plugs, and so on), oil changes and lube jobs (if required; some of the newer cars have sealed bearings that don't require periodic lubrication).

He explained that he had just taken in a 1985 Ford Escort for service that hadn't been touched in six years. The customer couldn't believe the price tag for getting it "back on track."

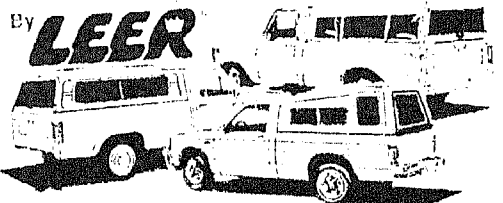
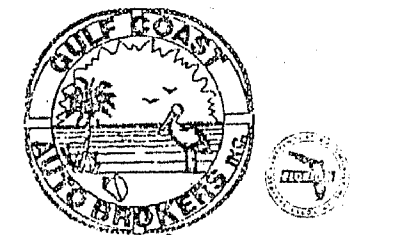
"Nothing's been done to that car for 69,000 miles," he shrugged, "and now it's barely running. I quoted a number on the shy side of \$200 for points, plugs, a [distributor] cap and rotor, belts and a bunch of other stuff, and it seemed expensive to her."

If she'd had routine maintenance done on the car right along, he said, the price would have been less than half that amount.

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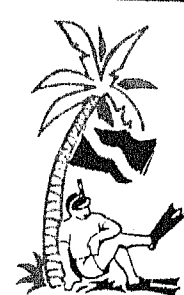
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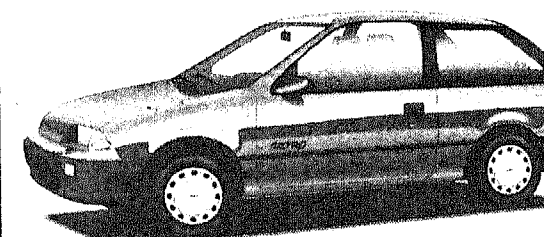
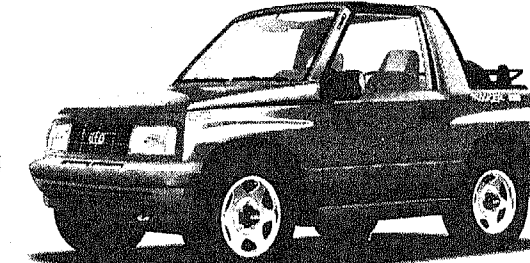
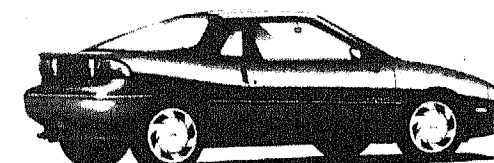
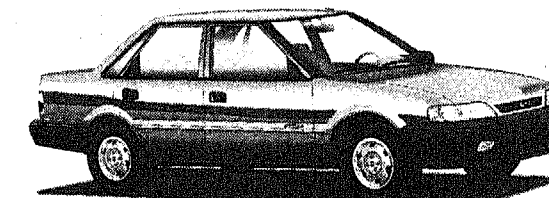
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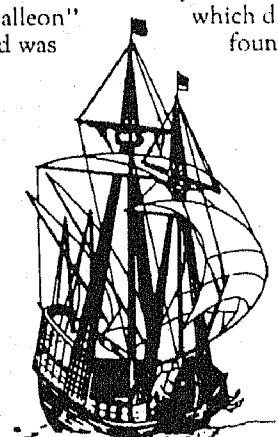
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Surviving the Big Auto Purchase

Continued from Page 19

transportation or will it be used in business? And, of course, how much does he or she want to spend? Then we can tailor the car to meet their needs."

Duncan Ford's new car manager Ron Bluemlein said the current trend was toward two or four-door sedans with automatic transmissions and air-conditioning—"a necessity for Key West."

The economic climate has affected the business. "Right now we find people looking for economically-priced dependable transportation that gives them good value for their dollar spent," he said. "They want a car that's inexpensive to own and operate, with good gas mileage, low maintenance costs and a good resale price."

Is new better than used?

"It depends on the individual customer," Bluemlein responded. "What are they looking for, how much do they have to spend and how long do they plan to keep the car. The question is so broad, you really can't isolate it and say, 'It's either good to buy a new car or it's good to buy a used car.'"

Morris says he tries to establish how much the customer can comfortably afford, then decides on new or used.

"Let's say the customer can afford \$300 a month," he said, "but that \$300 a month only buys him a four-passenger car, and he has a family of six. He may be a new-car buyer, but I can't put him in a new car that will accommodate six people for \$300 a month. So

we'd look at used cars that fit his pocketbook and still meet his needs."

Financing & Warranties

But what about financing, warranties, resale value and insurance?

"Financing is very available," Bluemlein pointed out, "with more favorable interest rates than we've seen in a long, long time. For a while we were seeing 13, 14, even 15 percent. Now we're looking at ten or less."

"Most lenders these days," Morris added, "use a tiered credit rating system. Depending on your history, you'll fall into an A, B, C, or D category, and interest rates will vary accordingly."

"If you're gold-plated and receive an A rating, we can arrange loans at 10, even 9 and 3/4, and we have dealer incentive programs for certain cars at 6.9 percent and even 2.9 percent."

And what constitutes gold-plated?

"The normal criteria lenders look at to qualify someone as a 'preferred' borrower," explained Bob Marsh of Keys Jeep Eagle, "is a homeowner for at least five years, five years continuously on the job, or in a job-related field, and no derogatory credit. That's why most car dealers work with several different lending institutions. Barnett Bank Corp may say 'no,' while Chrysler Credit says, 'yes,' or vice versa."

For the record, used car loans are generally a point to a point-and-a-half higher than new cars. But, as Bluemlein pointed out, a one-percent interest variation may equate to as little as two dollars a month in your payment schedule.

Buyer Protection Plans

Buyer Protection plans are as little a problem as the two bucks. Everyone's heard of Ford's 5/50 or Chrysler's 7/70 plans on engines and drive trains, and 3/36 full coverage warranties are fairly standard on new cars. But did you know you can assume the remaining warranty on a used car, frequently at no cost?

"By and large," Morris said, "if you're the second owner of the vehicle, you're eligible for the continuation, or the remainder of the factory warranty, free of charge. Some manufacturers do have a transfer fee, but it's usually nominal, fifty or a hundred dollars."

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SELLING: Gary Lewis of Duncan Ford talks with a prospect.

With GM cars, we can pass the unused portion of the warranty onto the second owner free of charge. I think there's a transfer fee if there's been more than one previous owner."

Did you also know that lending institutions offer warranty programs along with their car loans?

"You can get a used car warranty on just about any car that has under 100,000 miles on it," Marsh pointed out. "Chrysler Credit has its own warranty company, Toyota has a warranty company, most of them do. Depending on age and mileage, it may be expensive, but it's certainly worth it."

New or Used?

Depreciation used to be the horror of every new-car buyer. "Drive it around the block," was the old saying, "and it's worth half what you paid for it."

This is no longer true.

Bluemlein said depreciation is based on a number of factors, with "specialty" cars falling in value more rapidly than so-called "plain" automobiles.

"Four-door and two-door sedans with automatics and air tend to hold their value slightly better than, say, a sports car," he said, "because obviously the market's broader. When it comes time to resell it, there's a larger market and that translates into better value."

"When you bring your car into me," Morris added, "I look at it from an actual cash-value standpoint. I evaluate it based on mileage, condition, the amount of equipment it has, the care it's had and if it's been repainted or in an accident. Those are the variables we consider, and that determines its price."

(Another point made for those extended warranties!)

Bob Justice of Gulf Coast Auto Brokers, Inc. sells only used cars, basically those marked under \$5000. His company sells models made between 1980 and 1988. His goal, he says, is "not to compete, but to supply."

"The best reason to buy a used car is the resale value," said Justice, who has been in the car business for 26 years, 15 of those in Key West. "It's already depreciated after the first three years." After that, he says, the car's value stay about the same.

Justice purchases his cars in St. Petersburg, where, he says, the drivers are generally older and take good care of their cars. His clients, however, are from 25 to 55 years old.

He offers a warranty but suggests that car owners use the \$600 it costs to deal with any specific problems they may encounter. He encourages potential buyers to take cars in which they are interested to a trusted mechanic before they make the decision to buy.

Justice's company also carries and installs Leer brand camper tops, which can be

attached to almost any truck without drilling any holes. He says people buy the tops, which run between \$495 and \$1300 (installation included), to protect the payload, to improve the look of the truck, and to provide a covered space for camping and storage. The tops, interestingly, make trucks more aerodynamic, which can increase gas mileage by about two miles per gallon.

Will Justice look for a specific make and model of used car? "We try to," he says, but sometimes it's difficult. Our cars are new-car trade-ins."

Insurance: A Fact of Life

Last is the question of insurance, which really isn't a question at all. Insurance rates vary depending on the driver and the type of car he's insuring. It's that simple.

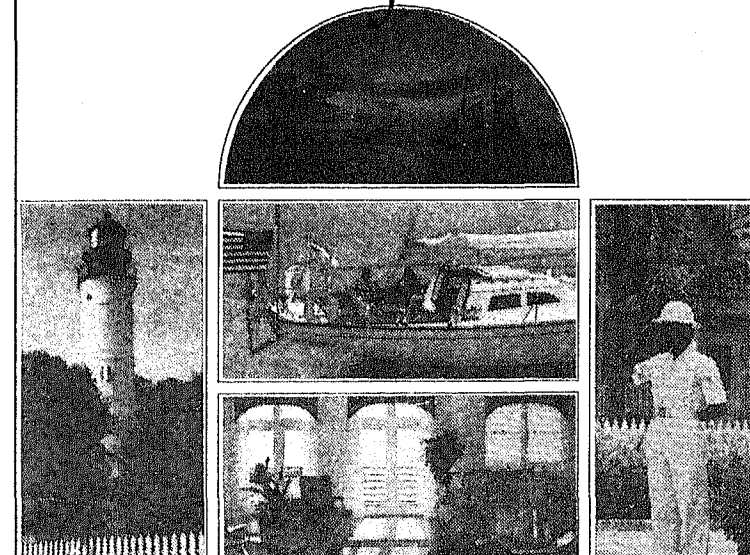
"If you have a bad driving record," sales manager Marsh said, "your insurance rate's going to be a lot higher, if they even take you at all. And if you own a turbo-charged sports coupe, it's going to cost you more than a regular sedan. End of story."

That's it for the car business. New or used isn't as important as what you're planning to do with the car and what fits your budget. Financing is available at better rates than we've seen in over a decade. Warranties are out there for the taking, resale values are good and insurance is, well, insurance.

Ron Bluemlein sums it up: "The car business is like any other business on earth. When things are slow, people benefit. Prices come down and dealers are willing to negotiate."

"Yes," he said, "I would definitely say it's a buyer's market out there right now!"

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All Aboard

Continued from Page 18

want to trade it for something that's better suited to our conditions. And that can get expensive."

Griffith said the ideal Keys boat is either a center console or cuddy cabin model, a solid fiberglass boat with an inner-liner that is easy to keep clean. This "dream" boat can be used for diving or fishing and yet still take a substantial chop when the winds start blowing.

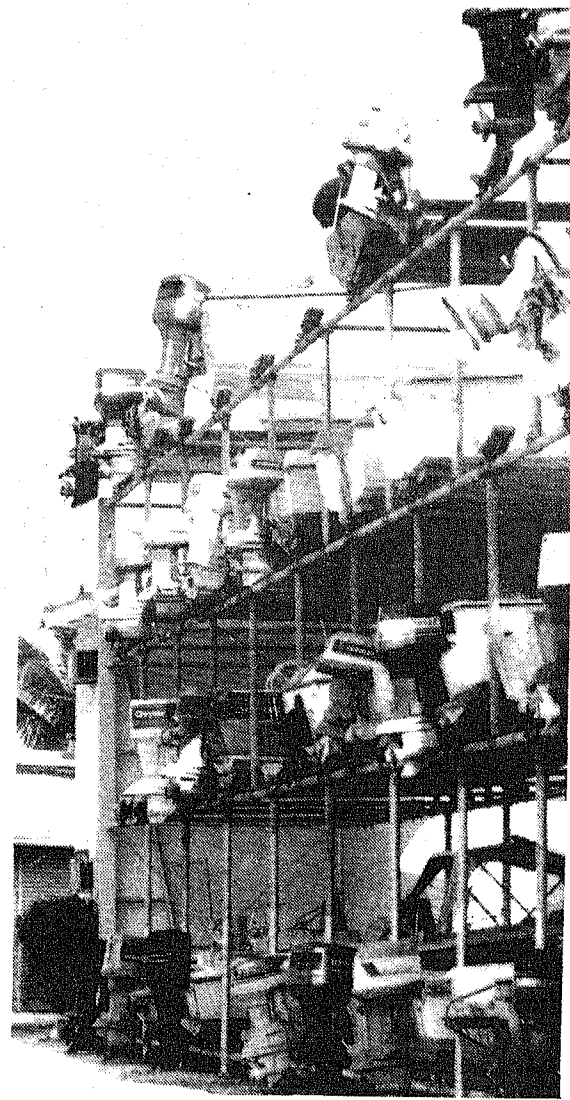
"The walk-around cuddy really flooded the market about three years ago," he said, "but a lot of people wind up using the cabin as a place to store stuff. For that reason, I prefer a center console boat with a bimini top. It's probably the most widely-accepted, best all-around boat for the Keys, in my opinion."

Shelling Out the Bucks

Okay. You have an idea of the style you're looking for. Now, how big should it be and how much should it cost?

Interestingly, bigger is not necessarily better in Key West. Statistics from the National Marine Manufacturers Association describe the average first boat as a 17- to 19-foot outboard-powered runabout which retails (new) for anywhere from \$9500 to slightly over \$16,000, depending on basic equipment and accessories. Add another \$1000 for a trailer and you can tow your rig anywhere.

Surprised? You're not alone. Typically, first-time buyers perceive the price to be at least 30 percent higher than it actually is,



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lower in price than many a family car.

Another shock to the system is that most boat purchases over \$5000 can be financed, and yes, Virginia, funds are available right here in the Conch Republic.

"First State will finance 80 percent of the purchase price of a new boat at an interest rate of 11.5 percent over a five-year period," said loan officer Esther Tupino. "The rate drops to 11 percent if the term of the loan is for three years."

A check of other lending institutions on the island confirmed competitive rates, plus the fact that fiberglass boats under 30 feet do not require a marine surveyor's report (which is a professional checklist of a boat's strong points and problems). Also, that 80-percent figure applies to values on used vessels.

Bear in mind that boats, for all their similarity to cars when it comes to buying

and financing, simply don't depreciate as much. In fact, according to the Manufacturers Association, boats normally retain 75 percent of their value during the life of the loan, if they're properly maintained.

This high resale value prompts many boat owners to trade up to a larger model more readily than they'd ever consider changing cars. After all, once you've driven a car around the block, you've just cut the price tag in half!

It's a Buyer's Market

Another point for the buyer to bear in mind is that the boating industry is down, way down, from levels as recent as three years ago. Boat sales between 1988 and 1991 dropped a whopping 73 percent, making the 1992 spring selling season a true buyer's market. Many dealers are practically begging for business, although the Keys don't seem to be as dramatically affected as other areas of the country.

Still, First Key West Marina no longer carries new boats. General manager Cindy Simeon said Barnett Bank, which holds title to the property, "didn't feel it was wise to go into another boat line at the present time." And Garrison Bight's owner, Richard Bervaldi, has new Mako's "all over the place."

Used Boats: A Good Idea?

Used boat sales, on the other hand, seem to be holding their own.

"Right now," Simeon said, "new boats just aren't moving. But we have people coming in every day looking for used boats, so we type up a list every month with all the available boats, and if they're interested in anything, we'll go out and show them."

Simeon added that a lot of builders wanted their dealers to take a "whole truckload" of boats, with a pricetag approaching \$50,000, just to handle their line. To have four or five new boats sitting out in the yard, Simeon said, was crazy.

Paradise Marina's Steve Campos agrees, even though he's just included a Black Watch franchise as part of his renovation plan for the former Munro Marina on Stock Island.

"Black Watch is the Mercedes of boats," Campos pointed out, "and one of the main reasons I'm bringing them down here is that they're not a manufacturer who floods the market with dozens of different styles. They're a custom boat builder, so if you want a Black Watch 26 that's built to your

specifications, you can have it. And to me that's a big plus."

Given the local market and the needs of the light-, medium- and heavy-tackle angler, Campos told the factory that he wanted a Key West version of its sport fisherman.

"They'll be center-console models," said Campos, "and we're planning on introducing the first two at the Miami International Boat Show in February."

Maintenance: Keep on Floating

But what about maintenance? Let's go back to some interesting statistics. When you take a closer look, it really isn't that costly to own/operate your floating pride and joy.

The National Marine Manufacturers Association reports that operating costs for that 17- to 19-footer preferred by most first-time owners should be under \$1000 a year, not including payments. Insurance is around \$350 a year, maintenance and upkeep shouldn't be more than \$100 if you're trailering (more if you're in a marina), most major repairs (for a new boat) are covered under warranty, and fuel costs should run under four bills a year.

Divided by the number of days you can use it down here, owning a boat becomes a truly affordable alternative to most other forms of recreation.

Owning a boat needn't be expensive, but it can be, which is why some buyers consider a joint venture with friends to be the best of both worlds. In a word or two, Bad Idea!

Suppose you and your friends planned a day of snorkeling the patch reefs in the back country and your "partner" on the boat has his/her heart set on dolphin for dinner. Major

clash of minds. Coming to blows over a boat certainly is not unheard of.

Besides, it really is cheaper than you think. There's a boat buy for every pocket-book and a finance plan for every budget. So what are you waiting for? As the Association says, "C'mon Aboard in 1992."



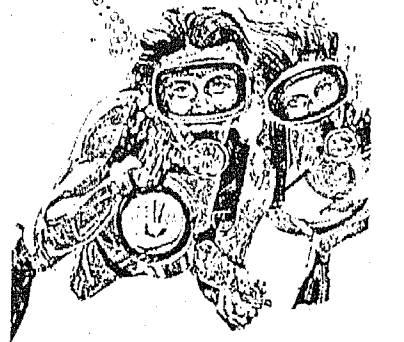
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Business Tides

Pritam Singh, Truman Annex Developer, and **John Behmke**, president and broker of the Truman Annex Real Estate Company, Inc., announce that 23 condominium units totaling over \$3.2 million have been sold in the President's Lane, Shipyard Condominium and Truman Annex projects since Christmas Day 1991. Singh also announced that the Phase III of the Shipyard Condominium will be completed and ready for occupancy by mid-February 1992, and that the first phase of President's Lane was well under way and would be completed by late April 1992. "It's great to be building again. Seeing the dream come true is very satisfying," said Singh.

Terry Horton, general manager of the Holiday Inn La Concha, has been ap-

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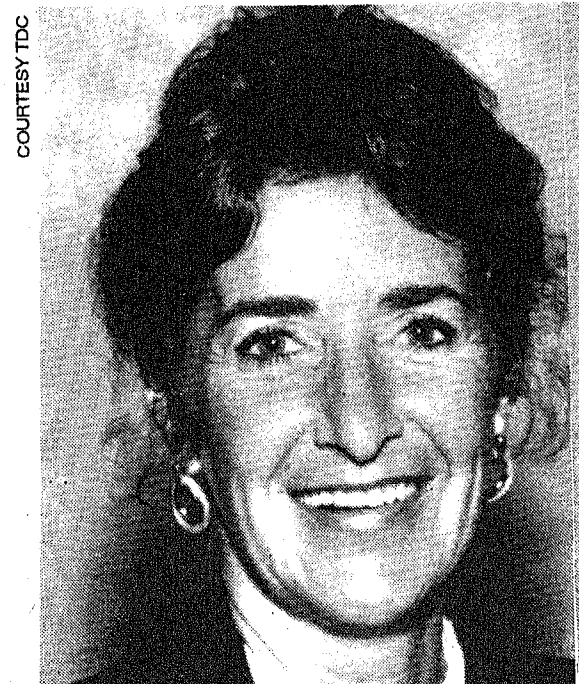


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TDC APPOINTEE: Terry Horton of Holiday Inn La Concha.

pointed to the Monroe County Tourist Development Council (TDC) by county commissioner Doug Jones. She assumes the position vacated by **John O'Brien**, whose term expired in December. Horton brings to the TDC a wide range of tourism experience and insight. She is past president of the Key West Hotel/Motel Association, a previous member of the TDC's District 1 Advisory Committee, a six-year member of the board of directors of the Key West Chamber of Commerce and a founding member of the advisory board for the Hospitality Management Program at Florida Keys Community College.

Ursula Boll, director of marketing for the Pier House, announces that **Anne Carlisle** has been named the new public relations/special events coordinator for the resort. An eight-year resident of the island, Carlisle was formerly publicity director for the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Also a freelance writer, her articles frequently appear in *Solares Hill*. Her appointment fills the shoes of **Gordon Ross**, who now holds a new executive position with **Lower Keys Health System**.

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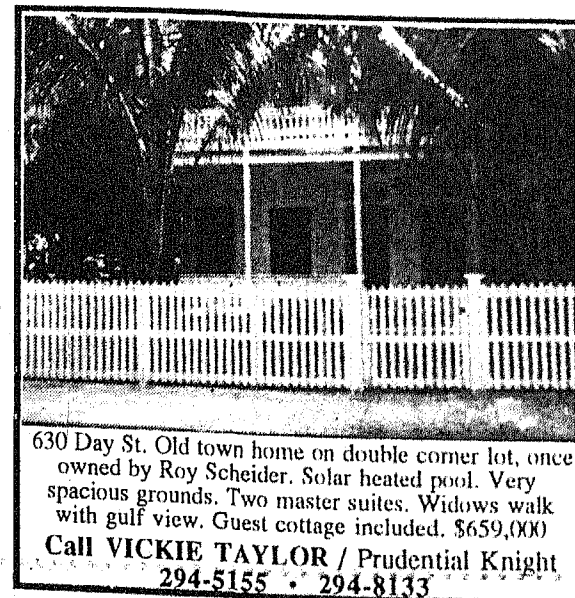
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applying February 19 for a grant to bring public radio to Key West. Letters of support from citizens in the Keys carry much weight in the grant process. Those interested in receiving public radio programming are urged to write a postcard in support of public radio to: Station Manager, WLRN, 172 NE 15th Street, Miami, FL 33132.

The **San Carlos Institute** is officially open to the public. The institute is a Cuban heritage center founded in 1871 by Cuban exiles who came to Key West to campaign for Cuba's independence from Spain. The restored facility will serve as a school, museum, library, theater and conference center. Visitors can learn about the San Carlos' historic importance and its baroque architecture. Located at 516 Duval Street, the center is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Michelle a.k.a. The Blind Lady of Tropical Window Treatments announces that the complete line of **HunterDouglas** window treatments, including blinds, verticals, pleated shades, silhouettes and reflective and wooden blinds is now on display at **Builder's Choice**, 2506 North Roosevelt Boulevard. In addition, Tropical Window Treatments is now offering a one-of-a-kind service, featuring local artist **Janis Childs**, who will handpaint verticals, blinds, bed linens, pillows, rugs and all kinds of accessories for a complete, coordinated look. Instead of window treatments being just window treatments, now they can be works of art! For more information, call 296-9999 or 745-1100.

Ed Lowe, owner of **Ed's Bay Point Marina & Island Rent-A-Boat**, recently opened at Mile Marker 15 off U.S. 1 at Bay Point. Lowe and his manager **George Gibson** say they offer boat rentals by the hour, half day, day, week and month. Boat delivery service is also available on multi-day rentals. The company also offers a parts department, wet storage, bait and tackle, boat motor and trailer sales, service and rebuilding mobile service. 745-3461.



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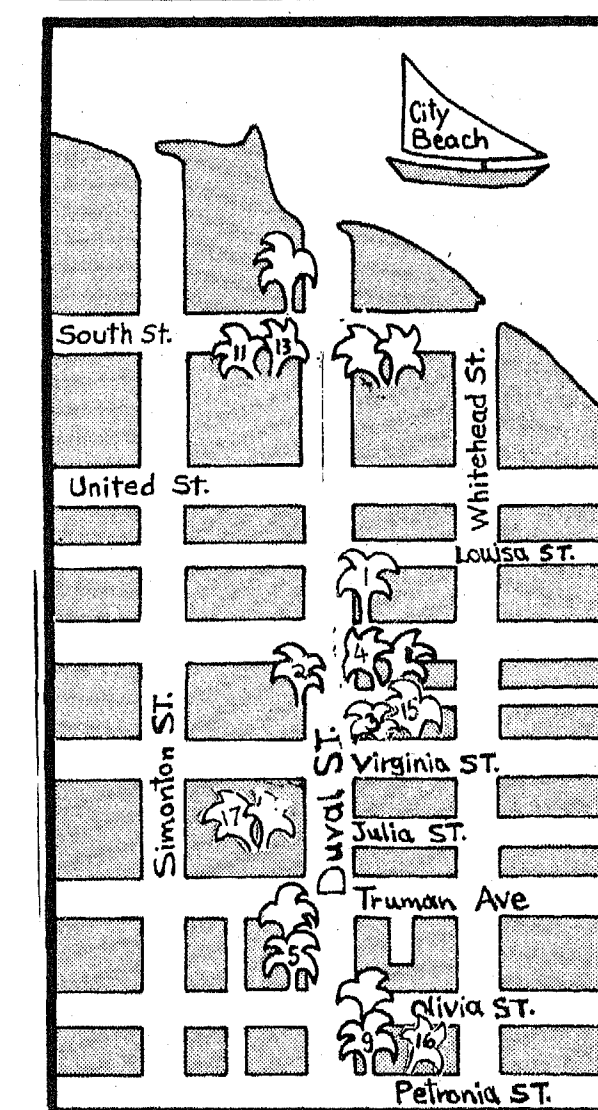
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(Each business is keyed into the map. Check the bottom left corner of each box for the number.)

• COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES •

Noted Sculptor Teaches Workshop

Mud Pi, the Florida Keys Community College's Ceramic Club, will host a workshop by sculptor Nathaniel Kaz February 1 and 2, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. This is the organization's third speaker in a series of master artists' presentations. Kaz, a teacher of sculpture at the Arts Students League of New York and whose work is displayed in several distinguished collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Whitney Museum, will share his talents and experience with both advanced and beginner students. Day one will deal with applying a bronze patina to fired clay; day two will concentrate on setting up an armature and modeling a standing draped figure. Cost for the workshop is \$20. For registration, call Jerry Cash at 296-9081, ext. 223.

Miss Old Island Days Pageant

The search has begun for contestants for the annual Miss Old Island Days Pageant, set for February 22 at the Holiday Inn Beachside Convention Center. The pageant, one of Monroe County's most glamorous and prestigious events, is open to women 17- to 26-years-old in the Miss Division, and 14- to 16-years-old in the Teen Division. In addition to prizes and a vacation trip, the winner will reign over many activities and represent Monroe County in the Florida State Model Pageant in Tampa on Labor Day.

Beginning Guitar Ensemble

A four-week course entitled "Beginning Guitar Ensemble" will meet Thursdays, starting February 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Florida Keys Community College. Classical guitarist Matthew Jampol will teach the class and invites anyone who owns a guitar and is interested in making music with other guitarists to attend. The ensemble will develop into three sections: chord playing for beginners; finger-picking and arpeggio accompaniment for



CAMPUS MEN AND WOMEN IN KEY WEST: Young entrepreneur Sean Ashbrook and classmates will return once again this spring to shoot 1993 calendars.

intermediate players; melody reading for advanced players. Jampol emphasizes that all levels of players are welcome to join. The cost for the course is \$35. For more information, call Penny at 296-9081, ext. 282.

Lighthouse Program

The Lighthouse Program is now offering day treatment and outpatient services for adolescents (ages 13 to 17) with drug and alcohol problems. Activities include individual-

ized and group counseling, drug education and prevention in the forms of lectures, discussion groups and film discussion groups. Part of the day treatment also offers regular classroom instruction to help mainstream adolescents back into the public school system. Assessments are free and individual programs are designed according to the adolescent's needs. These are the only services of this type available to the youth of Monroe County. For more information, call 294-6524.

Bonsai Symposium

Bonsai of Key West will be holding a Bonsai Symposium February 16 at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club, 319 Duval Street. Mary Miller, a renown bonsai expert, will speak on the art of bonsai. A bonsai workshop will follow which will include materials for each individual to create a tiny tree. Admission is free to the symposium; the workshop costs \$39. Space is limited to only 12 participants, so early reservations are encouraged. For more information, call 294-2921.

Festival of the Sea

The Monroe County Fair, "Festival of the Sea," will be held January 30 to February 8 in the area on Northside Drive behind the Little League baseball fields. This year's fair features a wide variety of midway rides, business and military exhibits, arts and crafts, plus an educational exhibit on the coral reef and ocean treasures. A new feature of the fair will be a Pet Contest for the kids on Sunday, February 2 at 4 p.m. at McCurdy Field, across from the Circle K on Kennedy



THE EASTER SEALS COMMITTEE will be holding their annual Lily Ball in the Holiday Inn Beachside ballroom on February 8 to the big band sounds of The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra.

• COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES •

Drive. Prizes will be awarded for the cutest, ugliest, most owner/pet look-alike and best costumed entries. Registration for the contest (ages 5 to 13 only) will be held on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. and again one hour before the contest. The fair is open weekdays from 5 to 11 p.m., and weekends from 2 p.m. to midnight. For more information, call 296-2435.

Dance the Night Away

Helpline, Monroe County's crisis intervention, counseling or referral service, will be holding its Ninth Annual Dance-a-thon from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Old Havana Docks at the Pier House Resort. The event is free to the public, although donations of \$5 at the door are welcome and include a raffle ticket toward a host of prizes.

1992 Lily Ball:

Features Tommy Dorsey Orchestra

The excitement and glamour of the 1940s is coming to Key West on February 8 in the form of the 1992 Easter Seal's Lily Ball. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Beachside ballroom and will swing to the big band sounds of the 17-piece Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. The band's repertoire includes a broad spectrum of popular music from Dixieland, rhythm and blues to intricate ballads to progressive jazz or current rock tunes. The Lily Ball is the local Easter Seal's biggest fundraiser; all proceeds benefit disabled children and adults in the Keys. For information, call 294-1089.

Civil War Days at Fort Zach

The Florida Park Service and the Friends of Fort Taylor will present the Sixth Annual Civil War Days at Fort Zachary Taylor State Historic Site on February 1 and 2. The weekend will give visitors the opportunity to step back into the early years of history with reenactments, troop roll call, flag raising, and living history demonstrations, such as military skills, blacksmithing, candlemaking and cooking. The events begin at 8 a.m. on both days.

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BBQ Pork.....	4.50
BBQ Beef.....	4.25
BBQ Rib.....	4.75
Albacore Fancy White Tuna.....	4.00
Veggie Sandwich.....	3.75
Homemade Soup with Bread.....	2.50
Fresh fruit Salad.....	3.00
Key lime Pie.....	1.75
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Readers Write

Busting the Homeless

Dear Editor:

The state attorney wants to put the man who wants to be your *next* mayor into jail for an entire year for a misdemeanor infraction, which would get the average, non-political citizen a \$32 fine. Since my unorthodox campaign for city commissioner last year, I've been threatened with "cruel and unusual" punishment.

By asserting my constitutional rights, I have managed to evade a trial on charges of

possession of two-tenths of one gram (0.2 gm) of marijuana since May 1991. Ditto, for my second sleeping in van charge. (I was found "not guilty" in my first sleeping in van case).

These misdemeanors have had me in court over ten times to date, at no expense to me whatsoever. The taxpayers of Monroe County have had to foot the bill for the whole fiasco.

While remaining indigent and homeless, I have purposely broken "stupid laws," plead "not guilty" and tied up the courts with motions and continuances to demonstrate how it can be done.

Other homeless citizens who have been cited have taken my lead, and, from reports I've received, are seeing positive results (not pros/acquittals, etc.) from their efforts.

The article "The (Homeless) People's Court" in *Solares Hill* January 16 by Lee Irby, discussed this important segment of the

plight of the homeless, eloquently and sensitively.

In that article, the prosecuting attorney for the state, Todd Hornick, had the audacity to state, "We'd been treating most people as individuals, but now they're forcing us to look at them as numbers, and that hurts them. We can't be as flexible. The system is responsive to individuals who are willing to work with it."

As if the homeless aren't persecuted enough, they are now being prosecuted by a man who sounds like he's quoting Hitler.

Of course, I've never expected approval for my political movement from the state attorney and the public defender, who, for their bread and butter, need to prosecute and pretend to defend people. Also, simple misdemeanor busts support the police without them having to expend any sweat.

This "plead not guilty" campaign, and planned future projects, will show that the present treatment of the homeless by authorities is totally self-defeating and doomed to failure.

The city commission should repeal ordinances which are unconstitutional, the police should refrain from enforcing laws selectively, the judges should dismiss, and the state attorney should not prosecute "innocent" people. Then, and only then, can Key West be a humane community, where Americans can pursue life, liberty and happiness in peace.

Ron "Noodleman" Carter
Key West

Wrong Way Ramsey?

Dear Editor:

This is in response to demands by Thea Ramsey, Linda Jensen and others of the Monroe County United organization.

During the entire history of mankind, there were some rare occasions when there was an aggressive effort which produced the very opposite of its stated goal.

In the 1930s, a football player Roy Reigle of the University of California, caught a fumbled ball and then ran with all of his might in the wrong direction, toward the wrong goal line. His teammates called him

Wrong Way Reigle.

In July 1938, a brash young pilot named Douglas Corrigan captured the interest of the entire world when his solo non-stop flight, which was intended to be from New York to Los Angeles, ended up in Ireland. Writers questioned whether this was an honest mistake or a gigantic hoax. He was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Liars' Club of America. Douglas Corrigan became known, to this day, as Wrong Way Corrigan.

The Florida Keys are now witnessing a colossal wrong-way extravaganza. Thea Ramsey and her fellow travelers, Monroe County United, Linda Jensen and others loudly proclaim that more development will lower taxes. Even though there is overwhelming evidence to show that, without exception, throughout Florida and the United States, we see that more development has caused higher taxes and more pollution.

Monroe County United was founded by Thea Ramsey, who appears to represent the interests of those land developers, speculators, realtors and others who want to profit from even more overdevelopment in the Florida Keys, which will cause higher taxes.

Whereas, in my opinion, Thea Ramsey, duly and symbolically represents the views of all those who demand more overdevelopment, despite the cost to our taxes, environment and the number of lives that could be lost in a hurricane.

I hereby take this occasion to solemnly nominate Thea Ramsey, to be known hereafter as Wrong Way Ramsey.

Milton Chaffee
Marathon

Development Increases Taxes

Dear Editor:

Monroe County United, founded by Thea Ramsey, claims that five percent of the land in Monroe County bears the entire tax burden in the Florida Keys. This is very misleading and not valid, if they really care about taxes.

Their campaign appears to be a desperate effort to make more land available for development. Most of the so-called 95 percent, which is not on the tax rolls, is government land, the Everglades or other unbuildable wetland with minimal tax value. This land would require hundreds of millions of our tax dollars (about three times the value of the land) to provide the facilities necessary for development.

The real world shows us that anywhere we look, development raises taxes. We would be in deep trouble if government and others were not buying land for preservation.

In February 1986, the Florida Keys Citizen Coalition (FKCC) reported the result of its study, which found it would cost \$1.5 billion to create the facilities required by the 1986 Land Use Plan. It also found that the

assessed value of all the undeveloped lands was \$576 million and recommended that the land be purchased for preservation, to prevent even higher tax increases.

Attorney Charles Seimen, the Monroe County planning consultant, agreed with FKCC on the record at a public hearing. County Commissioner Earl Cheal has proposed that first-time, out-of-county buyers of real estate, pay a documentary stamp fee which would be used to buy more land for preservation and create funds to replace taxes.

Neither Monroe County United nor Thea Ramsey have offered any solutions to the problems of the Florida Keys.

George Kundtz
Key Colony Beach

A SHORT STORY

by lido

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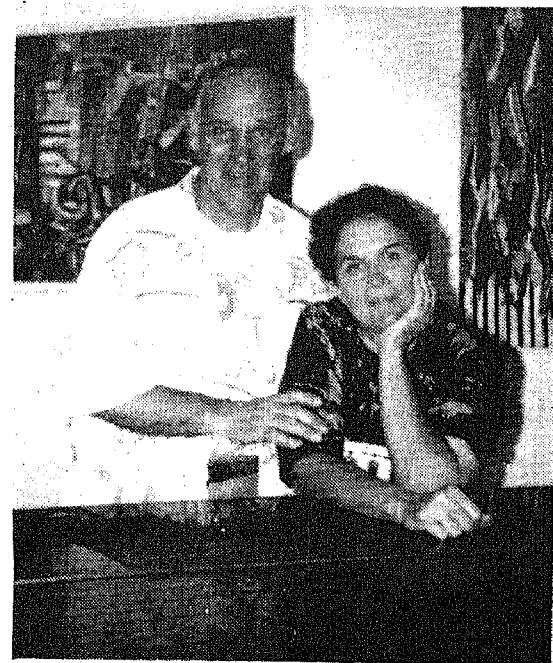
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Classical Concert 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Gary Branson's Key Lime Breakfast Show..... Trivia, News, Light Adult Music					Saturday Showtunes With Bruce Peterson 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Night Club Jazz With Simon Hendrix 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Bruce Peterson In The Afternoon.....					The Texaco Metropolitan Opera Live From New York City 1:30 p.m.
The Key Lite Jazz Show 9 p.m. - On	The KEY 93 Supertime Symphony 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.....					The Night Club Jazz Show With Simon Hendrix 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
The Key Lite Jazz Show 8 p.m. - On.....						The Key Lite Jazz Show 9 p.m. - On

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ART ~ CIRCLE

By
Judi
Bradford

OWNERS: Leda and Bruce Seigal (below), and their gallery (at right).



Leda Bruce Gallery: An Orchestration Of Dreams

Diversity is what you notice first. But if there is a common thread in the works at LedaBruce Gallery on Big Pine, it is intensity. Each piece takes your breath away.

The gallery is a collaborative effort by Leda and Bruce Seigal, whose personalities are opposite but equal. Their reality involves shining, twining threads and intriguing tangles. A roomful of lovely tapestries by Sola to the right reflects a day snorkeling on

the sunny reef—myriad textures in Caribbean colors. To the left, a clutter of rich antiques, ornate lamps, exotic fabrics, kitschy glass set among rolled carpets.

There is an obvious taste for rococo here, but this maze of textures just softens you up. Beyond this threshold comes a blast, a full orchestration of their drama. A gleaming wood-and-brass marlin by Ken VanSant of Tavernier soars to the ceiling in the center of

the large room. There is the expectation of a performer at the grand piano in the far corner; but no, the keyboard melody projects from the avant garde speakers on the back wall.

Of the 17 artists the Seigals currently show, several are Key Westers, who have been wielding brushes since the '70s. Some of Zuzek's (Suzy DePoo) porcelain tile paintings are on the front wall. Karen Guardenier's work hangs there, too. There are ethereal silk paintings sandwiched between glass and resin by Leda's sister Maxine Rosenberg. Scattered about are elements of Leda's collection of crystal balls—the largest is a 40-pounder.

Leda and Bruce have garnered some incredible art from the Middle Keys: from artists who winter there, retirees with talent and people like themselves who like the rural keys.

Vietnamese Pigs and Rosemary

Leda had an antique store in the Cypress House on the corner of Simonton and Caroline in the '70s; later she and Bruce owned Bandanas Boutique in the 100 block of Duval for seven years.

Shopping at Bandanas was like walking backstage and having a costumer create a character for you. Bruce and Leda bought their merchandise based on their classy-but-eclectic tastes: lots of styles with miles of sashes and belts and scarves and mounds of costume jewelry. A mild-mannered secretary could come in and be transformed into anyone from the *Wizard of Oz*'s Dorothy to a modern-day Mata Hari.

Now the Seigals live up the Keys. Duval Street got a little too—well, too Duval Street-ish for them. Soon their neon deco sign went up near the Big Pine traffic light.

Bruce is impressed with the way Big Piners accepted them into the community. Preparation of their gallery space revealed a generous and responsive neighborhood; the opening party in November drew 450.

Almost every phase of the renovation has a story attached of someone volunteering time or materials to help. A woman who raises Vietnamese pigs down the road planted rosemary in two big urns the Seigals had placed outside the front door. "So the entrance would smell good," she said.

One wonders, however, what the prospects are for a sophisticated gallery on an essentially rural island. The day I visited (it was a Thursday in mid-January, for all you season watchers), there was more traffic at

LedaBruce than I've seen in many Duval Street galleries on rainy weekends when tourists have nothing to do but shop.

Body, Mind and Welding Work

The gallery has spurred other levels of enterprise. Upstairs is a vast warehouse floor where a half-dozen thick oriental carpets cover one end and serve as mats for a weekly yoga class with Carol Christine. The other end of the 3000-square-foot room is the studio where Bruce and Leda build their own welded and painted sculptures.

Metal shelves hold found-object metal pieces, sorted by general configuration. A sandblaster for cleaning pieces, an enormous custom venting system, welding equipment and various heavy tools for cutting and shaping metal give the room an industrial tone.

Eight pieces of work are in various stages of completion.

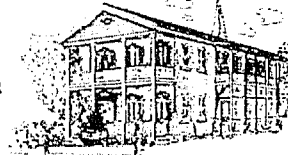
The couple works together, having both taken welding classes and learned the process. The labor, however, is divided. Bruce assembles the metal elements and primes them with nine coats of primer and base color. Leda does the surface painting, sometimes spending the entire day with tiny brushes in a sort of artist's trance.

One piece in progress is dedicated to Dr. Seuss, one of Leda's heroes. She was working on it last year when Dr. Seuss died. Its loopy line embellishments resemble the quirky characters in his books.

If you feel a need for a little magic, it's worth the trip to spend the afternoon at Leda-Bruce Gallery. From Key West, go to the traffic light on Big Pine and look to the right—it's in front of the Carnival Fruit Company.

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Huxian Art at the Miller Gallery

by Patrick Youngblood

So you think of Chinese art as firmly locked in centuries-old tradition? A visit to the Miller Gallery on Duval Street during February will open your eyes to the truth.

Most Westerners tend to forget that the political and social upheavals of 20th-century China changed every aspect of Chinese life, including the arts. Nowhere are these changes more evident than in the paintings produced during the early years of the People's Republic.

In the 1950s, as the new order took hold, renowned painters and professors from the traditional Central Academy of Fine Arts were sent to teach the rudiments of painting to workers and peasants in factories and villages across China.

This campaign generated especially successful results in the small peasant village of Huxian, situated northeast of Xi'an, the capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.).

In the paintings produced by the peasants of Huxian, traditional forms and approaches are suddenly transformed. The timeless, elegant tranquility of earlier art gives way to a raw and colorful exuberance that celebrates the joy of simple labor.

The works are painted in poster paint or gouache on paper and depict such homely scenes as gardening, weaving, and harvesting. Before our eyes, elitism is replaced by the simple touch in Chinese art.

Not that traditionalism is completely absent in these works. In even the most radi-

cal of them, the inherently Chinese preoccupation with design is evident. In many examples, it is as though new and essentially naive colors and themes have been grafted on the grid of deeply traditional painting.

Like much celebratory art (such as the cathedrals of medieval Europe), the authorship of these commune-produced paintings is less important than their beauty and message. Although distinctive hands are evident, the paintings remain unsigned. Group, rather than individual achievement becomes the focus.

In many examples scale is thrown out the window, as in "Cherry Pickers," where small figures pick cherries of truly Herculean proportions. In addition, in almost all of the paintings, perspective is adapted to narrative intent. "Intercropping," an aerial view of the countryside, tilts the land up on its end so that we are allowed to see virtually every blade of grass. The result is as startling as it is charming.

The paintings on view from February 5 to 22 at the Miller Gallery represent a cross-section of works from the 1950s to the '80s. Located at 517 Duval Street (2nd Floor), the gallery is open from noon to 8 p.m. daily, except Monday.

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Lee Dodez Showroom • New classes at FKCC by Jay Gogin in January. Hand-built clay pieces. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 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 Mottaheden. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 613 Eden Street. 296-1866.

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

East Martello Museum & Gallery • "Key West in the Movies" exhibition, featuring film history of the island. 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 • Faculty Show, including work by Upper Keys members. 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 • February 1, Ken Hawk; February 15, Ron Clemmons; February 29, George Carey. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1207 Duval St. 296-8900.

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

Great Southern Gallery • Patricia Hurt through January 30. Outdoor steel sculpture by Cuban national Rafael. February 2, Harry Greene, oil sticks on paper—12 new pieces; opening 7 to 9 p.m. Classes: watercolor by Errol Etienne and acrylic by Harry Greene and Jim Salem. Also our regular artists. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

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

Haitian Art Company •

Spirit flags, papier mache, paintings, wood sculpture, metal cut-outs by Haitian artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St. 296-8932.

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Island Arts • February 8, 7 to 9 p.m., a preview of new found-object sculptures by Orvello Wood. An ever-expanding artist cooperative and consignment shop with a unique selection of local arts, crafts and painted objects. Weekdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 1128 Duval St. 292-9909.

Island Wellness • "Conch Fitters," contemporary humorous work with Key West subjects by visiting New Mexico artist Joyce Mechelina Centofanti working in watercolor and oil on paper. Paintings by local and Caribbean artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. 530 Simonton St. 296-7353.

Kennedy Gallery • New wood sculptures by Boston artist John Vliet. Animal sculpture by Peter Otfinoski. Etched glass pieces by Susan Pellish. Vibrant oil paintings by Michele Kennedy. Watercolor street-scapes 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.

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

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Lucky Street Gallery • Roberta Marks: new paintings on paper and canvas. John Martini: new sculpture. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 10 p.m. 919 Duval St. 294-3973.

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Pelican Poop Shoppe • Haitian art, paintings, metal sculpture, papier mache, wood carvings. Ceramics by Mary Ann Worth. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 314 Simonton St. 292-9955.

Plantation Potters • Come see our new arrivals. Functional and decorative ware from some of America's finest potters. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 717 Duval St. 294-3143.

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

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

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

Studio 227 • Handbuilt claywork, watercolor originals, Bahama Village scenes by local artists. Neighborhood children's art classes. Hours: Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Locklear multi-media; acrylics. 227 Petronia St. 294-7141.

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Steve Jarvis: The King Of Clubland

by Elizabeth Mannion

The Strand Theater on Duval Street has been home to boxing under the stars, first run films and quite a few things in between, since it first opened its doors in 1921. One of the few operations it hasn't housed, however, is a successful long-term venture.

Steve Jarvis, president of Chicago-based Thunderdome Enterprises, plans a grand departure from that course of events at the Strand with the opening this month of ClubLand. Jarvis is the mastermind of an entertainment concept that has proven successful in some of the country's most highly competitive markets, including Chicago, Houston and Detroit. Will Key West be next?

It seems likely. Named one of the country's 40 top entrepreneurs under age 40 by *Entrepreneur Magazine*, Jarvis' previous work has helped to revitalize neglected neighborhoods in Chicago, Detroit and Worcester. He says he's intrigued by the potential of the Strand Theatre—and of Key West—and has full faith in ClubLand's success here.

Jarvis says he manages his clubs on the premise that they will function as a "multi-use" facilities, thereby offering something for everybody. He says possibilities for the space at the Strand are limitless.

"National performers from jazz, country, pop, rock, cabaret entertainment, stage productions—everything is wide open," he explains. Additionally, the space has been set up to accommodate group meetings.

Following the huge success of the original ClubLand in Chicago, which opened in 1986, Jarvis incorporated the same formula in other locations.

Major mass media coverage has followed Jarvis' projects, with feature stories in *USA Today*, the *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune* and others. *Nightclub and Bar Magazine* described one ClubLand project as "the most entertaining nightclub in the nation."

"This is what a nightclub might look like if David Letterman went into the business," wrote an entertainment reporter for the *Houston Chronicle*.

"The attitude I have for the Strand is the same one I've had with the other theaters I've opened clubs in," says Jarvis. "These old theaters belong to the communities they're

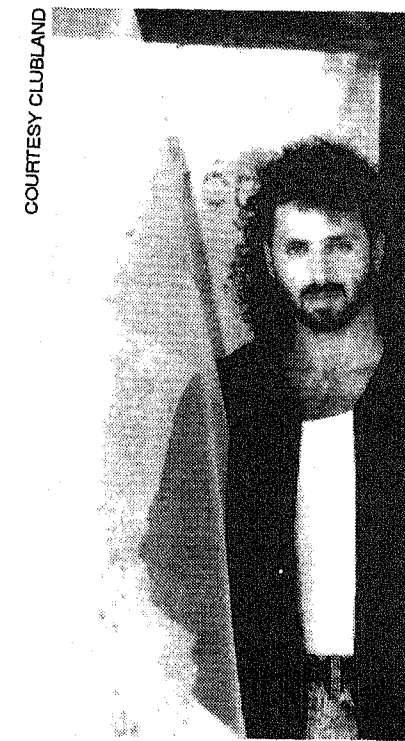


CHART-BUSTER: Richard Elliot, formerly of Tower of Power, will appear at ClubLand February 18.

located in and should be enjoyed by the people in these cities."

Indeed, over a thousand people turned out to investigate the new facility during three days of Strand previewing, which took place late last month. Among the improvements they saw were the addition of new wood floors, total interior renovation and a large-screen video system that enhances the music.

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Entertainment director Vicki Roush recently announced that one the Club's first events will be a February 18 concert, featuring "former Tower of Power lead tenor and jazz chart-buster Richard Elliot." A Gordon Ross & Friends Annual Benefit for AIDS Help will follow on February 24.

Weekly specials will include Thursday Ladies' Night, Sunday Bar Wars Night (during which hospitality industry employees receive two-for-one drink specials), and dancing from Wednesday through Sunday beginning at 9 p.m. Admission is \$2 during the week and \$3 on the weekend. Call 293-0116 for concert reservations and information.

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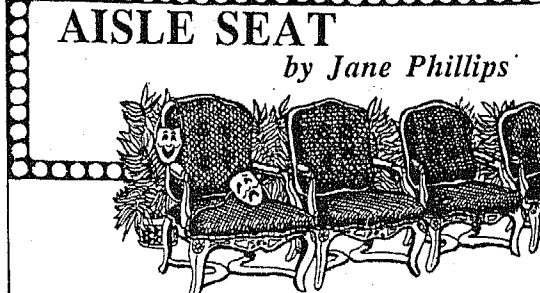
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AISLE SEAT
by Jane Phillips



Cole Porter Magic at TWFA
The words "music and lyrics by Cole Porter" are magic to most theatergoers. In the latest production at the Tennessee Williams-Fine Arts Center, *Kiss Me Kate*, Porter definitely gets top billing. Performed by a professional touring company, this musical play-within-a-play blends Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* (first published in 1594) with Sam and Bella Spewack's book, *Kiss Me Kate*. Their version opened on Broadway in 1948, starring Patrice Munsel and Alfred Drake.

The first scene is backstage in a Baltimore theater, where the cast of a touring company is just finishing a rehearsal of *Taming of the Shrew*. Everyone has opening-night jitters, and the situation isn't helped any by an ongoing feud between the two leading players "Fred Graham" (Jeffrey Ambrosini) and "Lilli Vanessi" (Laura Lofaso), who are marking the first anniversary of their divorce.

The second leads "Lois Lane" (Robin O'Leary) and "Bill Calhoun" (Scott Bolt) also harbor a few conflicts of their own.

Then the plot thickens: an outstanding



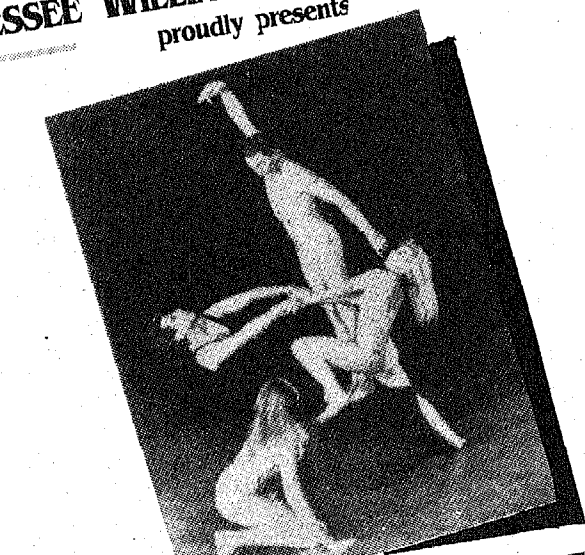
KISS ME KATE: (From left) Laura Lofaso, Jeffrey Ambrosini and Scott Davidson.

I.O.U., a case of mistaken identity, a flirtation gone awry, a suitor for Miss Vanessi, and, of course, true love wins out in the end.

Two gangsters, played by Louis Dall'Ava and David Rebhun, burst in on the scene and walked away with the show. Their scenes were lively, refreshing and thoroughly delightful—what live theater is all about. Their one musical number, "Brush Up On You Shakespeare," was the hit of the show, with a number of encores.

For Ambrosini and Lofaso it seemed more like a run-through. If the leads lose interest, the audience is sure to follow. O'Leary and Bolt were woefully miscast as a

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couple.

But the music was glorious.

If you went night-clubbing in the '50s and '60s, you'll remember the opening production number "Another Op'nin', Another Show." It's pure show biz and was used by countless performers to open their acts.

The love songs are classy—"Wonderbar," "So In Love Am I," "Were Thine That Special Face." Add to these the "Shakespeare" number "We Open In Venice" and "Bianca," with their clipped, clever lyrics, and you've got the genius of Cole Porter undimmed by time.

The musical numbers were enhanced by the ensemble led by Jerome Shannon. The period costumes designed by Patrick Wiley were stunning. The stylized finale scenes were reminiscent of the "Ascot" scene in "My Fair Lady."

The sets were attractive and worked well with the swift set changes. Other cast members included Scott Davidson, Robert Vernon, Michael Knese, Michael Morisi, Tom Vaughn and Deborah Rascoe. Richard Sabellico was the director/choreographer and Donald Westwood served as producer/artistic director.

Red Barn's Homespun Hit

"Made in Key West '92," now at the Red Barn Annex, 524 Eaton Street, is a postcard from Paradise—an opportunity for some of our favorite performers to have fun. The audience will, too.

This local revue is based on material written and composed by Shel Silverstein, Jerry Taylor, Jimmy Buffett, John Wells, Jamie Alcroft, D.D. West and David Spangler. The first version of the annual fundraiser took place in 1988. Red Barn member Gary McDonald's idea of showcasing the unique talents of local artists caught on and played to sell-out houses.

The latest version, directed by David Spangler, offers something old and something new. Two legends appear: Frankenstein and the King of Rock n' Roll, Elvis Presley in "Stage-fright" and "The Prompter."

"Down in the Keys" is a wonderful take-off on the tourist scene and "Mirror-Mirror"

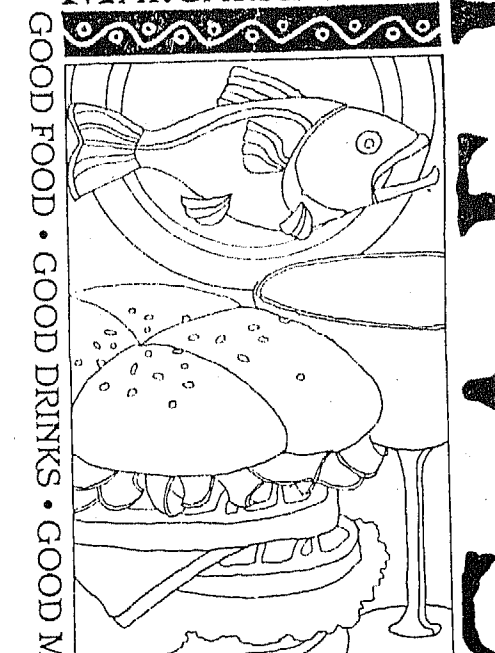
asks the question, "Who is the fairest of us all?"

For country-western fans, there are two musical numbers—"Another Chance" and "If I Had My Way"—both with a nice sound. "Chicken Suit Optional," which was first performed by Dale Kittle and Frank McDonald, has been included (happily) in the current production. "Blind Willy" is another favorite and the hilarious "Key Westside Story" has been recycled.

In addition, there are a number of original songs by David Spangler, and a really nice touch is the addition of Alan Maltz's photography as a backdrop. "Margaritaville" probably the song most associated with Key West, is given a really zany touch.

I loved it all—especially Mimi McDonald and John Wells in "Westside," Joe DeLuca doing his animal act and Marjorie Paul/Shook looking like a doll in teddy and kimono and singing country-western.

**Jimmy Buffett's
MARGARITAVILLE**




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The rest of the company is made up of Jeffrey Cismoski, Gary McDonald, Cindy Tellone, Mike Kirk and Richard Farina with musicians Joe Wilt and Alby Tellone. McDonald doubles on drums as do Kirk and Wells on guitar and saxophone. Rae West does an amazing job with costumes—you'll love Frankenstein's shoes, the tourists' cruisewear and the dog-and-chicken suit.

The show runs Wednesday through Saturday. Call the box office for reservations at 296-9911. 

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The Carl Davis Band At Red's Place

by Christine Naughton

When the Jones hits for a dose of the blues, nothing else will do. The folks who run Red's Place seem to understand this musical fact of life: theirs is the only club on the island devoted entirely to the genre.

This snug island hideaway, with its whimsical decor and intimate atmosphere, is tucked behind the Bull on Caroline Street. It's worth the trip just to dig the ceiling, where, vying for space, is a collection of eclectic items—swirling fans, revolving reflecting dance-hall ball, wagon-wheel and crystal chandeliers, inverted kayaks, track lights, a short, stuffed skier. The *pièce de resistance* is the inverted miniature grand piano, complete with ashtray, martini glass and surrounding stools.

A brand new blues group, the Carl Davis Band, is currently appearing at Red's. Larry Bosworth on drums and John Hoots on bass join Davis, on guitar and vocals, to form the trio. There's no doubt this band, with surprisingly few rough edges, is well on its way to a tight, solid sound. Hoots and Bosworth work well together to maintain a consistent rhythmic foundation, as Davis pours on colorful guitar work and excellent vocals.

One recent chilly evening, the Carl Davis Band heated things up with a long and satisfying set. "Wine" was the first choice, a boogie-woogie blues as traditional as they come. Next came the Doors' "Love Me Two Times," in which Davis played one of his best guitar solos of the evening, layering a rich interpretation over the familiar, slinky changes.

During Muddy Waters' classic "Hootchie Cootchie Man," Hoots and Bosworth found a lazy, behind-the-beat pocket and settled into it, sending the steadily vibrating beat up through our shoes as Davis' voice gave life to



BENDING STRINGS: Carl Davis on guitar.

the gritty lyrics. The sunken floor space next to the stage took on a nice, coffeehouse feel as folks came to sit on the steps and at the tables, listening to Davis' extended guitar solo.

Highlights of the set were Robert Johnson's "Crossroads," Cream's "Spoonful," and two of Davis' own tunes. The band took a firm hold of "Crossroads," with its strange, signature guitar lick that seems to be turning the time around but doesn't. And Davis took a lovely ride on guitar, his long, articulate phrases creating a feeling of excitement and underlying desperation. Nice work there.

On "Spoonful," the band did a thorough treatment of Willie Dixon's classic exploration of the minor-third interval. This tune is a powerful rocker, and Bosworth kept the percussion appropriately explosive.

On "Best of Both Worlds," more straight-ahead rock and roll than blues, Davis showed impressive songwriting skills. This and his other original of the set, "Can't Take It Out

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On Me," were two great vehicles for his singing, with touches of sweet, clear falsetto option in his voice.

There was some interesting bass/drum interaction in "Hey Joe," a trip back to the days on Jimi Hendrix. Hoots broke into some responsive scales to Davis' screaming guitar licks, playing solo lines that inspired a round of air bass to be played by several members of the audience.

The evening's one flaw was the repeated requests over the microphone by Davis and Larry (the bartender) for tips for the band. There's nothing wrong with soliciting tips; they are usually part of the musician's income, and certainly well deserved. But a tip

jar was in plain sight in front of the bandstand, and in addition to Davis' and Larry's reminders, a lady walked around the room with the jar during the set.

At the risk of sounding like Miss Manners here, I must say that one gentle reminder per set is enough—any more is tacky. More importantly, however, a club should be able to pay a band enough so dunning the crowd is not necessary.

The Carl Davis Band appears at Red's Place Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays beginning at 10 p.m.

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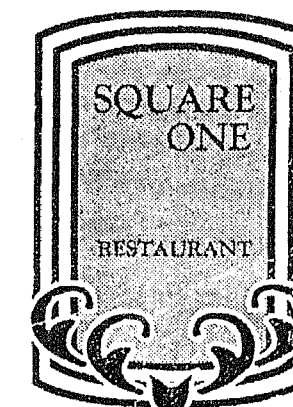
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CALENDAR • JAN. 30 - FEB. 13

Cultural

1/30-2/9 • **Prelude to a Kiss** directed by Joy Hawkins at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911 for ticket information.

1/31 • **On Stage Alaska Multi-Media Show**, 2 p.m. at Key Colony Beach City Hall. Featuring a live performance of actors and singers combined with big-screen, big-sound multi-image effects. Free admission but reservations are requested. Call 743-4110 or 1-800-654-2003.

1/31-2/1 • **Mino Nicholas Dance Gallery**, formerly the American Dance Repertory, on-stage at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. For ticket information, call 296-9081, ext. 326.

2/1 • **On Stage Alaska Multi-Media Show**, 2 p.m. in the Key West High School auditorium. Featuring a live performance of actors and singers combined with big-screen, big-sound multi-image effects. Free admission but reservations are requested. Call 743-4110 or 1-800-654-2003.

2/1-2/2 • **Sculpture Workshop** with Nathaniel Kaz at Florida Keys Community College from 1 to 5 p.m., both days. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 223.

2/2 • **New Riders of the Purple Sage** 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. at Club Havana (Old Havana Docks) at the Pier House. For information, call 296-4600.

2/7 • **Beausoleil Cajun Band**, a special event at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. For ticket information, call 296-9081, ext. 326.

2/12 • **Martha Graham Ensemble** 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

2/12-3/1 • **Lend Me A Tenor**, a zany comedy at the Waterfront Playhouse with curtains at 8 p.m. Call 294-5015 for ticket information.

Miscellaneous

1/30-2/8 • **Monroe County's Fair "Festival of the Sea"** weekdays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends from 2 p.m. until midnight on Northside Drive behind the Little League baseball fields. For more information, call 296-2435.

1/31-2/2 • **Seventh Annual Sailfish Tournament** at the Holiday Isle Resort in Islamorada. For a complete schedule of events, call (305) 664-2321.

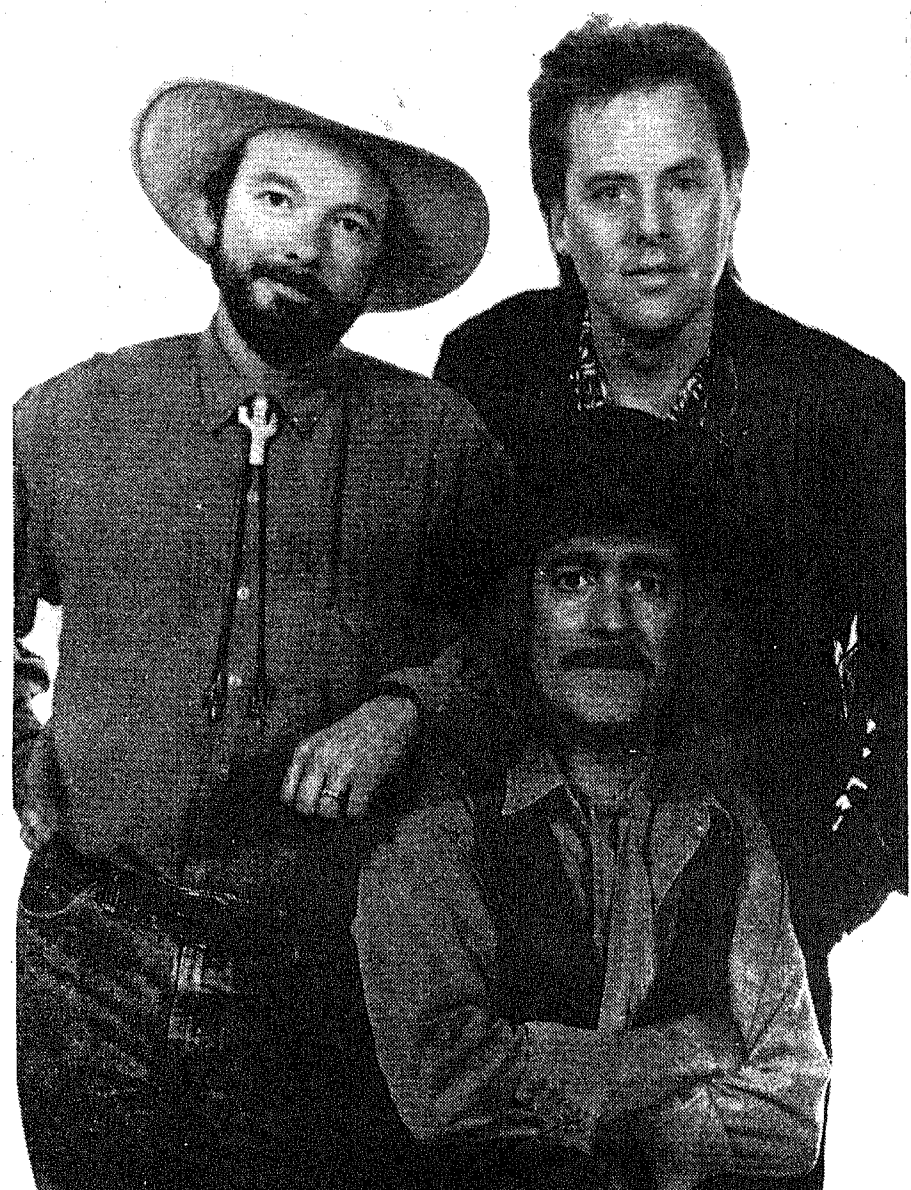
2/1 • **Ninth Annual Dance-a-thon** 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Old Havana Docks at the Pier House. All proceeds benefit Helpline, Inc.

2/1-2/2 • **Sixth Annual Civil War Days** at Fort Zachary Taylor, featuring reenactments, demonstrations of military skills, blacksmithing, candle making, etc. For a complete schedule of events, call 292-6713.

2/2 • **Easter Seals-Shades of Key West Volleyball Marathon** at the East Martello Field. For more information, call 294-1089.

2/6 • **Beginning Guitar Ensemble** meets 6 to 8 p.m. at FKCC under the instruction of classical guitarist Matthew Jampol. Anyone with a guitar is welcome. Cost: \$35. For registration information, call Penny at 296-9081, ext. 282.

2/6-2/7 • **1992 Florida Xeriscape**



NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE: These honchos will appear at Club Havana (Old Havana Docks) February 2.

Conference at the Clarion Hotel in Orlando. For more information, call (407) 354-1703.

2/8 • **1992 Easter Seals Lily Ball** at the Holiday Inn Beachside Ballroom, featuring the celebrated Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. For reservation information, call 294-1089.

2/8-2/9 • **Sweetheart Arts and Crafts Festival** at the Holiday Isle Resort in Islamorada. For information, call (305) 664-2321.

2/9 • **The Chart Room Chili Cook-off** 2 p.m. in the Chart Room of the Pier House. Featuring over 40 entrants with each bowl being served for one dollar. All proceeds go to Multiple Sclerosis under the Ugly Bartenders competition.

Entertainment

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

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

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

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

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

Conchabamba • 618 Duval Street-rear.

Bruce Kirtle on piano and **Bonnie Donn** singing tunes from the 40's. Call for schedule 294-7787.

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

ClubLand • The Strand Theater, 527 Duval. Multi-media dance party Wednesday through Sunday. Thursday is Ladies' Night. Bar Wars Sunday feature two-for-ones until midnight. Call for events and concerts. 293-0016

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

Emma's Late Night • The Reach at Simonton and the beach. Call 294-3474.

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

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

Green Parrot • 601 Whitehead. Call 296-6133.

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

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

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

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

Islander Restaurant • 528 Front Street. Call 292-7859.

Mangrove Mama's • MM 20 Sugarloaf Key. Tim McAlpine and Ron Sommerjazz din-

ner 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). Call 294-3466.

Memory Lane • The Econolodge 2820 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5511.

Nick's Coastal Café • Hyatt Key West 601 Front Street. Rick Steffen acoustic guitar and island music. Tues. to Sat. 7 to 11 p.m.

Nightfall • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. 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.

Poinciana 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.

Rooftop Café • 310 Front Street. Call 294-2042.

Schooner Wharf • 202 William Street. Call 292-9520.

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 Terrace • 1125 Duval Street. Pianist and vocalist **Larry Smith** Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sunday brunches with **Larry Smith** and **Lisa Edwards**, noon to 3 p.m. Call 294-7300.

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.

Well-Being

2/4 • **Stress Strategies Workshop**, a four-session program on Tuesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Care Center for Mental Health. Call 292-6843.

2/7 • **"Why I Survive Aids"** featuring a book signing and lecture with Niro Markoff Assistant and Paul Duffy 7 p.m. at Unity of the Keys, 3424 Duck Avenue. For more information, call 294-7244.

2/8 • **The Journey Continues** with Niro Markoff Assistant and Paul Duffy in an advanced workshop 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Hyatt's Bottling Court. Registration is required, call 294-7244.

2/11-3/17 • **A Series of Six Childbirth Classes** in Key West. \$5 registration fee. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

Meetings

2/4 • **City Commission Meeting** 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

2/5 • **Board of Adjustment Meeting** 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

2/6 • **Key West Garden Club Meeting** 1:30 p.m. at the West Martello Tower. Featuring a speaker from the Key Deer Protection Alliance. Members may bring guests.

2/6 • **Tree Committee Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

2/6 • **Planning Commission Meeting** 10 a.m. at the Marathon Jaycees Building. Call 292-4422.

2/10 • **HARC Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

2/12 • **South Florida Water Management District Meeting** 9 a.m. at the District headquarters in West Palm Beach. For more information, call 1-800-432-2045.

2/12 • **Development Review Committee** 1 p.m. at the Marathon Public Library. Call 292-4422.

2/13 • **South Florida Water Management District Meeting** 8:30 a.m. at the District headquarters in West Palm Beach. For more information, call 1-800-432-2045.

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 294-8912.

"A Course in Miracles" study group meets at the Crystal Loft, mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine, every Monday at 7 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 296-6196.

Anchor's Aweigh Club, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings daily at 404 Virginia Street. Call 296-7888.

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

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 (305) 662-8118.

Blue Moon Trader Art & Craft Market every Saturday at mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine. Artists from throughout the Keys display and sell their wares. Call 872-8864.

Breast Cancer Support Group holds meetings at South Miami Hospital the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call (305) 662-9611.

Breezeswept Beach Estates Civic Association holds meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the

Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Children Problem Solving Group for ages 8 to 12 years meets Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

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

Children Problem Solving Group for ages 8 to 12 years meets Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 5 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 3:30 p.m. Free to eligible applicants. Call 292-6762.

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 (305) 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



SCULPTURE WORKSHOP: Nathaniel Kaz will teach at Florida Keys Community College February 1 and 2 from 1 to 5 p.m.

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

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 (305) 662-8196.

Cancer Support Group for Cancer Patients meets Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8196.

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

Children Problem Solving Group for ages 8 to 12 years meets Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 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.

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 3:30 p.m. Free to eligible applicants. Call 292-6762.

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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 292-6843.

Eating Disorder Group meets every Friday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

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

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

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

Helpline the 24-hour Monroe County Crisis Intervention telephone service needs volunteers to man the phones. Training will be provided. Call 292-8445.

Island Wellness at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled courses and activities. Monday: Daily R & R at noon; Tuesday: Tai Chi Ch'uan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Wednesday: Daily R & R; Thursday: Tai Chi Ch'uan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Friday: Daily R & R at noon; Sundays: alternating schedule.

New: Kripalu Yoga classes with Tony Lutenberger, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 to 11 a.m. and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 5:45 to 7 p.m. Call 296-7353 for details.

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

Key West Garden Club Ramble Work Sessions held every Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. until noon at the Garden Center (West Martello Tower). The public is invited. Call 294-3210.

Key West Maritime Historical Society Traditional Rowing Program meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the northside of Garrison Bight Marina on the 32' long boat *Wilhelmina*. Memberships cost \$10 per year for individuals and \$25 per

year for families. Call Capt. John Duke at 292-7903 or 872-3536.

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

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

Kripalu Yoga Classes with Tony Lutenberger at AIDS, Help, Inc. Free to HIV-positive individuals. For more information, call Jared at 294-6968.

La Leche League of Big Pine Key meets the second Monday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Big Pine Baptist Church. Call Joanne at 872-2861 for meeting information.

Last Resort Codependents Anonymous meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the rear of Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street. Call 294-8912.

The Law and You with Attorney Fred Butner, "Live from Key West." Wednesdays from 8 to 9 a.m. Radio debates. Guests include judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers and lawmakers. 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 (age 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 misfortune. For membership information call 296-8682 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.

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Call 296-6523.

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

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 (305) 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 and 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.

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.

Preschool Story Hour for 4 and 5 year olds, 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at The Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 292-3595.

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.

PWA's Living Room, a support group for PWA's, HIV +, friends and family, is held every Monday night at 5:30 p.m. at 816 Fleming Street, Suite 2. Call 294-5332.

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 294-4837.

Recycling Drop Off Center, located on Stock Island, is open daily. Accepting clean, separated glass, newspaper, aluminum and plastic. Call 292-4433.

Schizophrenia Support Group meets alternate Tuesdays 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

SCORE-Key West (Service Corps of Retires 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

place.

Not only is the sun higher and warmer (as opposed to hot) but there is less of a chance for heavy rains than at any other place on the calendar. And there's more. As this Leap Year month progresses, prevailing winds will shift from their January corner in the north-northeast to a kinder and gentler southeast quadrant. That's the norm, mind you. There have been exceptions. Just three years ago, northerly gales shocked this island city with chilly February gusts that topped 38 miles per hour.

But not to worry. Whatever anomalies occur will be short lived, for the sun is back on its way toward the heaven's center. While it will continue to rise on the downside of seven in the morning, it will set at 6:20 p.m. on the 12th, making the day eight minutes longer than it was on the day February began.

A new moon on the 3rd will nudge the tides a bit, but not so far that they can be described as anything but well behaved right through the moon's first quarter on the 11th. High tide will come in the morning from the 1st through the 7th, when it will move politely into the early afternoon.

In response to the increased solar energy, longer days and shorter nights, creatures like the grouper will continue to move inshore, and the first of the migratory tarpon will glide like liquid silver from their unknown, under-sea homes offshore and congregate in the channels: Northwest, Boca Grande, Cow Key and others. If you watch and wait just at dawn at the edge of Mallory Pier, you might, if the winds are southerly, see a tarpon's gleaming back rise from the sea, its glory revealed for an immortal instant.

Ashore, the frangipani begins to leaf and gather its energies for the first of the new year's blossoms. This island, it would appear, is at its most paradisaical during February's first days. Ah, but wouldn't you know, there are troubles in paradise. Golfers who will enjoy these fine playing conditions at the Key West municipal course on Stock

Island will perform for an audience of Muscovy ducks. The growing flock—now numbering more than 100, according to some observers—makes its home on the golf course pond, one of the few freshwater bodies in the Key West region.

The Muscovys—large and clumsy ducks complete with facial knobs—got their start, according to local lore, when a pair of Easter ducklings grew to such ungainliness that they no longer amused the children who had been left them by the Easter Bunny. Taken to the pond and released, the Muscovy's went right to work reproducing. Lo, some two years later, their multiplication tops three figures.

There are those who love Muscovys, facial knobs or no. Many of the duck's fans make a point of regular visits to the golf course, bags of stale bread and corn kernels in hand. The ducks, according to one golfer, are among the best fed poultry in all of Florida. Which makes them, he says, some of the finest table fare available. *Canard a l'orange* (range-fed Muscovy) can be yours if you wish. You need only set a basic snare and, *voila*, your bird is in the bag. And, argue the anti-Muscovites, you will help restore the fine natural balance which once allowed genuinely wild waterfowl to find shelter and sustenance just off the fairways.

Then there's the story (true) about the great white heron that stood on a swimming pelican's back, but I'll save it for next time. ☐

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



Solares Almanac

January 30-February 13

by John Cole

Key West residents and visitors whose roots are north of Jacksonville may be surprised to learn that here under southernmost skies, February advances toward warmth with much more vigor than it does in Yankee country. Average Key West temperatures for this second month of the year are almost a full five degrees up from January normals. When your comfort zone ranges in the low-to-mid 70s, the shift makes February an exemplary time to enjoy this exceptional

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Antonia's Restaurant, 15 Duval Street. Excellent Northern Italian cuisine in friendly, elegant atmosphere. Dinner served from 6 to 11 p.m., nightly. Visa, Mastercard. 294-6565.

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

The 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.

Café Marquesa, 600 Fleming Street on the corner of Simonton and Fleming Streets. Serving New World cuisine, and specializing in fresh seafood, grilled meats and homemade pastas and desserts. Reservations are recommended. 292-1244.

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

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

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

Dim Sim, 613 1/2 Duval Street in Key Lime Square. A gourmet Asian restaurant serving exotic Chinese stir-fries, Indian curries and Thai, Indone-

sian and Burmese specialties. Wine and sake bar. Open 6 to 11 p.m., Wednesday through Monday. 294-6230.

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

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

Fiorini, 523 Eaton Street. One of Key West's oldest and most romantic restaurants. Fiorini's menu is unmistakably Italian with a hint of the tropics: yellowfin tuna *putanesca*, shrimp Diane, yellowtail in cucumber caviar cream sauce, fettuccine with basil, walnuts, and garlic. And for dessert try a genuine cannoli made fresh by Mama Fiorini. Open for dinner 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. 294-4720.

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

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Café, 500 Duval Street. Opens 11 a.m. for lunch, dinner, and late night rock and roll, starting at 10:30 p.m. Serving fresh seafood, meats, salads & Key West favorites: Conch chowder/fritters, squid rings and the famous Cheeseburger in Paradise. 292-1435.

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

Mangrove Mama's, mile marker 20 on Sugarloaf Key. Featuring natural and local seafood served in an old tyme Keys atmosphere. Dining inside in an old 1919 "Flagler building" or

outside under the banana trees. Enjoy the wine bar with a large selection of wines by the glass. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. For dining reservations and entertainment schedule, call 745-3030.

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

Palm Grill, on the corner of Frances and Southard Streets. American Island cooking using fresh herbs, native seafood and the finest produce. Grilled meats, fish and vegetarian selections. Creative and affordable. Dinner 6 to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday Brunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday dinner 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Visa/Mastercard. Reservations suggested. 296-1744.

Paradise Café, corner of Eaton and Grinnell Streets. Home of the famous island Monster Mix. Featuring the biggest sandwiches and the lowest beer prices in Key West. Open for breakfast and lunch. Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free delivery. 296-5001.

Rittenhouse Deli, Duval Square at Simonton Street. Serving breakfast, lunch, light entrees and desserts on our lovely deck. Open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Free parking and delivery. Call 292-8350 or fax your order to 292-8346.

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

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

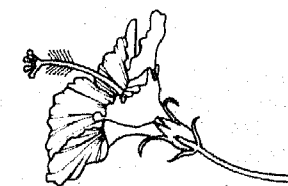
South Beach Seafood & Raw Bar, on the beach at the ocean end of Duval Street. Fresh Key West Seafood, baby-back ribs, chicken, steak, oysters, clams, nightly specials. Serving beer and wine. Dine inside or outside on our beach deck. Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 294-2727.

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.

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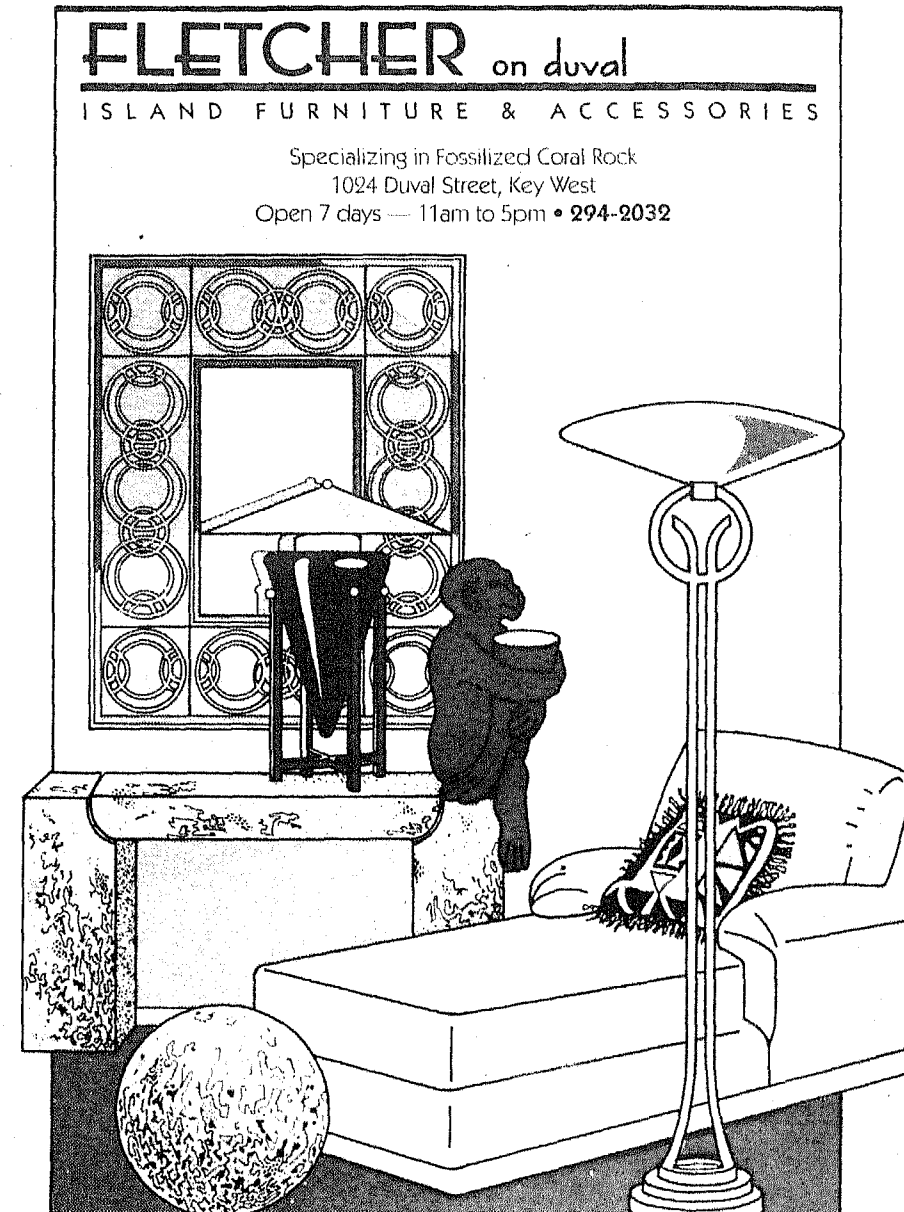
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South Beach

on the beach at the ocean end of Duval Street
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Seafood & Raw Bar

Dinner Menu • 4 p.m.-10 p.m.

<p>Raw Bar</p> <p>Half Dozen Oysters.....3.95 Half Dozen Clams.....3.95 1/4 Lb. Iced Steamed Shrimp.....3.95 Stone Crab Claws.....Market</p> <p>Appetizers</p> <p>Conch Chowder.....2.50 Seafood Chowder.....2.50 Conch Fritters.....3.50 Fried Fish Fingers.....3.25 Shrimp Cocktail.....7.50 Marinated Conch Salad.....4.25 Crab & Avocado Salad.....6.50 Large Garden Salad.....3.95</p> <p>Sandwiches</p> <p>Fried Dolphin Sandwich.....5.75 Hamburger.....4.25 Cheeseburger.....4.95</p>	<p>Platters</p> <p>Served with Potato or Rice, Cole Slaw & Garlic Bread</p> <p>New York Strip Steak.....10.95 Baby Back Ribs.....9.95 1/2 Chicken.....8.50 Fresh Catch of The Day.....11.75 Grilled Catch of The Day.....11.75 Dolphin, Broiled or Fried.....6.75 Stuffed Dolphin, Broiled or Fried.....9.75 Fried Jumbo Shrimp.....11.95 Stuffed Jumbo Shrimp.....12.95 Shrimp Scampi.....12.50 Steamed Shrimp, 1/2 Lb.9.95 Deep Sea Scallops, Broiled or Fried.....7.50 Fried Clam Strips.....7.75 Fried Oysters.....7.95 Maryland Style Crab Cakes.....9.95 Broiled Lobster.....Market Stuffed Lobster.....Market Broiled Seafood Combination.....12.25 Fried Seafood Combination.....13.75 Broiled Seafood Kabobs.....13.50 Surf & Turf.....15.75 Children's Platter - 10 yrs. & Under.....2.99</p>
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