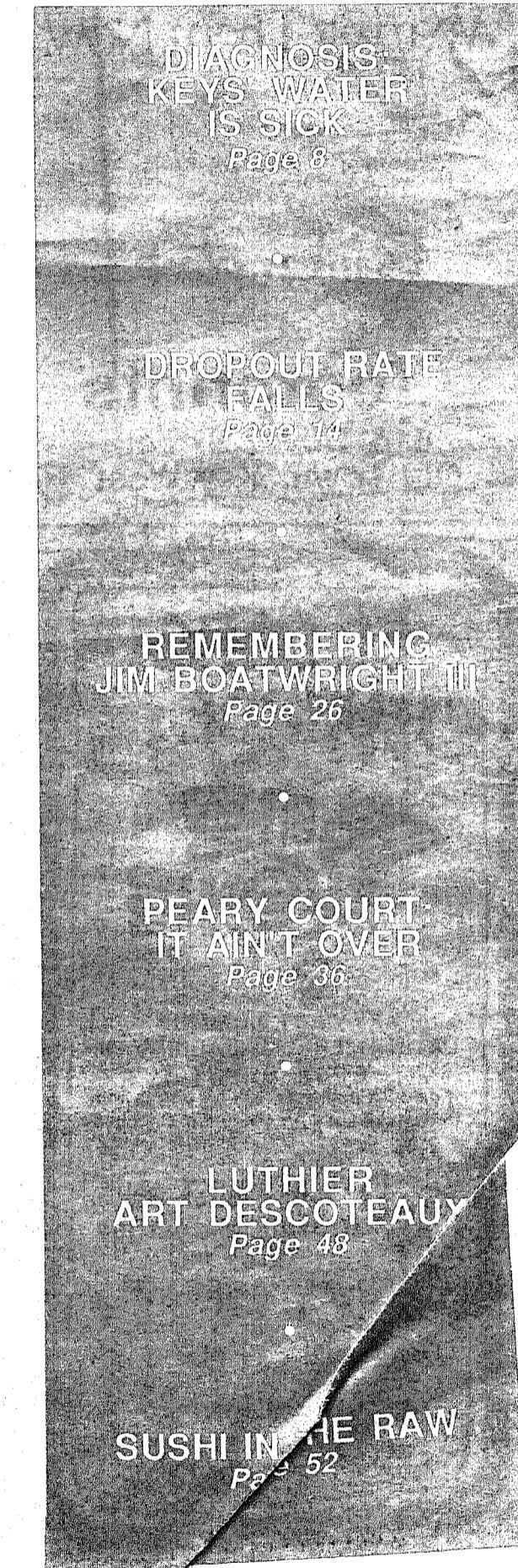


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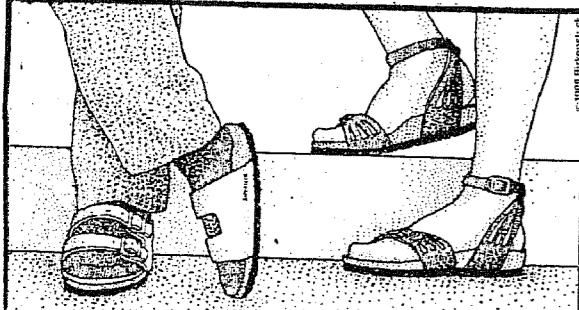
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ON THE
CUTTING
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EDITORIAL

In his letter to the editor on Page 32, Louis Harris, CEO of the Harris Poll, states: "And always, without exception, the opposition to saving the plundered environment sings the same specious song: It is that economic benefits and sustenance of the human race must have a higher priority than the protection of the environment."

Certainly this has been true. But locally what we may find is that the protection of the environment equals -- or even exceeds -- the economic benefits and sustenance of the human race. In fact, we will get our first dose of this reality this summer, when *National Geographic Magazine*, which is read by millions throughout the world, publishes an issue in which the lead article is about our coral reef. Sounds great, doesn't it? Lots of educated, upper middle class people reading about fan corals and brightly colored fish. That should bring them down in droves, right? Wrong.

The article is entitled "Florida's Reefs Are Dying," and the cover will be a photograph of the statue of Christ at John Pennekamp State Park, surrounded by a congested mass of scuba divers. This image suggests that the divers, in some way, are responsible for the poor water quality that is suffocating life on the reef. But we all know that's not the case.

With a few exceptions, we can all shoulder some of the blame for this article and the circumstances that led to its creation. How many of us buy our laundry soap based on its phosphate content? How many of us

have pressured local grocery stores to shelf only acceptable detergents? How many of us have gone through our cupboards and safely discarded cleansers and chemicals that are harmful to the aquatic environment? How many of us know which products these are? How many of us have educated ourselves about the issues surrounding water quality?

Barbara Bowers' article "Doctor's Diagnosis: Keys Water Is Sick," on Page 8, reports on marine biologist Dr. Brian Lapointe's recently released study of local water quality. As indicated by the title, our waters are in sad shape. Hopefully, the study and its follow-ups will encourage us all to become more involved in saving our local marine environment.

We're lucky here in the Keys: our immediate environment is understandable, manageable. The reef and our Keys are physically tangible -- their sizes are such that we can see what we're dealing with. Restoration of their health is something we can comprehend; progress in that direction will be obvious and gaugable.

For those of us who aren't motivated to become active by reasons relating to environmental quality, the economic factor is staring us in the face: No reef, no tourists, no money. It's as simple as that.

Ann Boese

On the cover: The photograph of the delta kite flying high over Key West was provided by Greg Lavelle of Key West Kite Company, Inc.

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Airport Activity Takes Off

by Geddy Sveikauskas

The announcement in late March that Continental-Eastern Express, Key West's second-ranked carrier in terms of number of passengers carried, was being put up for sale may be the prelude to yet another in the long series of changes at Key West International Airport in recent years. Scheduled air activity at the airport has been on a roller-coaster ride, with the major airlines frequently changing types and number of airplanes, their relationship to feeder lines, and fare structures.

Airport manager Art Skelly likes to tell visitors of the ups and downs of airline traffic at his airport. But in the long term there's little question of the basic direction for the facility. It will be upwards.

Last year 149,805 passengers deplaned from regularly scheduled airlines at Key West. Though this was not a record year -- 10,000 more passengers deplaned in 1988 -- the statistics show steady progress from the time of Eastern Airlines' departure from Key West last March.

Most local and national projections show substantial growth in air passenger traffic in the 1990s. The FAA recently released a major 12-year forecast that predicted passenger boardings on U.S. airlines would grow from 484.5 million last year to 814.7 million in the year 2001. That's a 68-percent

surge.

Nationally, the growth rate for the smaller regional and commuter airlines is expected to outstrip even this pace, according to the federal report. The FAA predicts that passenger boardings on these airlines will more than double by the year 2001.

In Key West, of course, it's the hotel-motel industry that's the engine which is likely to spur continued growth in air traffic. An average of 12,500 deplanements a month is not a large number for a town that has 4,000 hotel rooms, including several major hotels at the upper end of the economic scale. That number could easily double.

Given Key West International's physical constraints -- no one has seriously proposed a runway expansion (although a 600-to-700-foot "extended overrun" has been discussed), and a future county noise ordinance will probably keep the larger planes out -- Key West will most likely remain a minor spoke for the huge Miami hub. Nonetheless, the 175-acre facility is a significant one-runway destination for small and medium-sized airplanes.

The Monroe County-owned airport is preparing for limited growth. For the planes, two additional acres of the facility have been recently resurfaced. For the cars,

there'll be 406 parking spaces, initially free, when the parking-area renovation project's complete, probably later this year. For the people, the terminal facilities will be spruced up.

Drawings are not yet available for the

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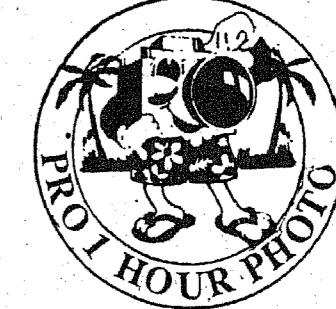
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plan to expand the terminal building. The present customs area is slated to become part of the counter facility, and a new customs facility will be built. Peter Horton says construction may be possible this winter.

If competition is what will keep fares down and make Key West an even more

attractive destination for travelers, then the facilities need to be spruced up. But not all Key West residents see that kind of progress as desirable. "There are, what, 45 flights a day now?" says Horton. "We will have the physical capacity to double that. But do we want that kind of increased traffic?"

Eastern-Continental Express serves Key West and 13 other destinations out of Miami Airport. With the diminished presence of Eastern Airlines, Texas Air, owner of both Eastern and Continental, no longer saw the need for a large connecting airline out of Miami, explained a spokesman for Eastern-Continental. He also cited a

secondary factor: increased competition from American Eagle, and Pan American's impending plans for commuter service. Negotiations with a potential buyer for Eastern-Continental Express are under way. The prospective buyer wasn't identified.

The announcement, which could spur consolidation of the former southern operations of Bar Harbor Airways with another carrier that already serves Key West, may bring embattled Texas Air some minor financial relief. Though the Eastern-Continental Express operation in Key West did lose some initial local market share when Eastern went on strike in early March 1989, the airline has hung on tenaciously since. Data from Key West International Airport show Continental Express at about the same level in number of passengers this January and February as during the same period last year.

The slide in total air passenger traffic at



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Key West noted after Eastern's departure appears to have been reversed. The new airline competitors have absorbed Eastern's share of the market. Each of the seven months of 1989 were characterized by a decrease in overall traffic compared to the same month of the previous year. Each month since then has seen increased traffic.

This February, for instance, Key West recorded 17,009 emplanements, as compared to 15,984 in the same month in 1989. Of the 1990 total, U.S. Air recorded 6,428 emplanements, Continental 5,287, Delta 3,175 and American 2,019. There were no figures yet for Airways International, but that 12-plane carrier is unlikely to be a major player for a while; its total emplanement capacity at Key West at the present time is 45 passengers a day.

ComAir, the Delta affiliate which began operation in Key West in February 1988, has increased its numbers steadily, and now delivers more than 20 percent of the passengers arriving in Key West on regularly scheduled airlines. The market

share of American Airlines, which began Key West service last October, last month climbed above 10 percent for the first time. Tiny upstart Airways International began service in February, and as of March 8 eked

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out some Key West counter space in the main terminal between the U.S. Air and Continental operations. And Pan Am has announced it's coming in May.



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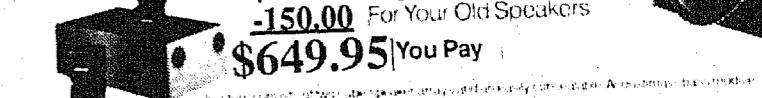
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The World on a String: Kites in Key West

by Mary E. Ames

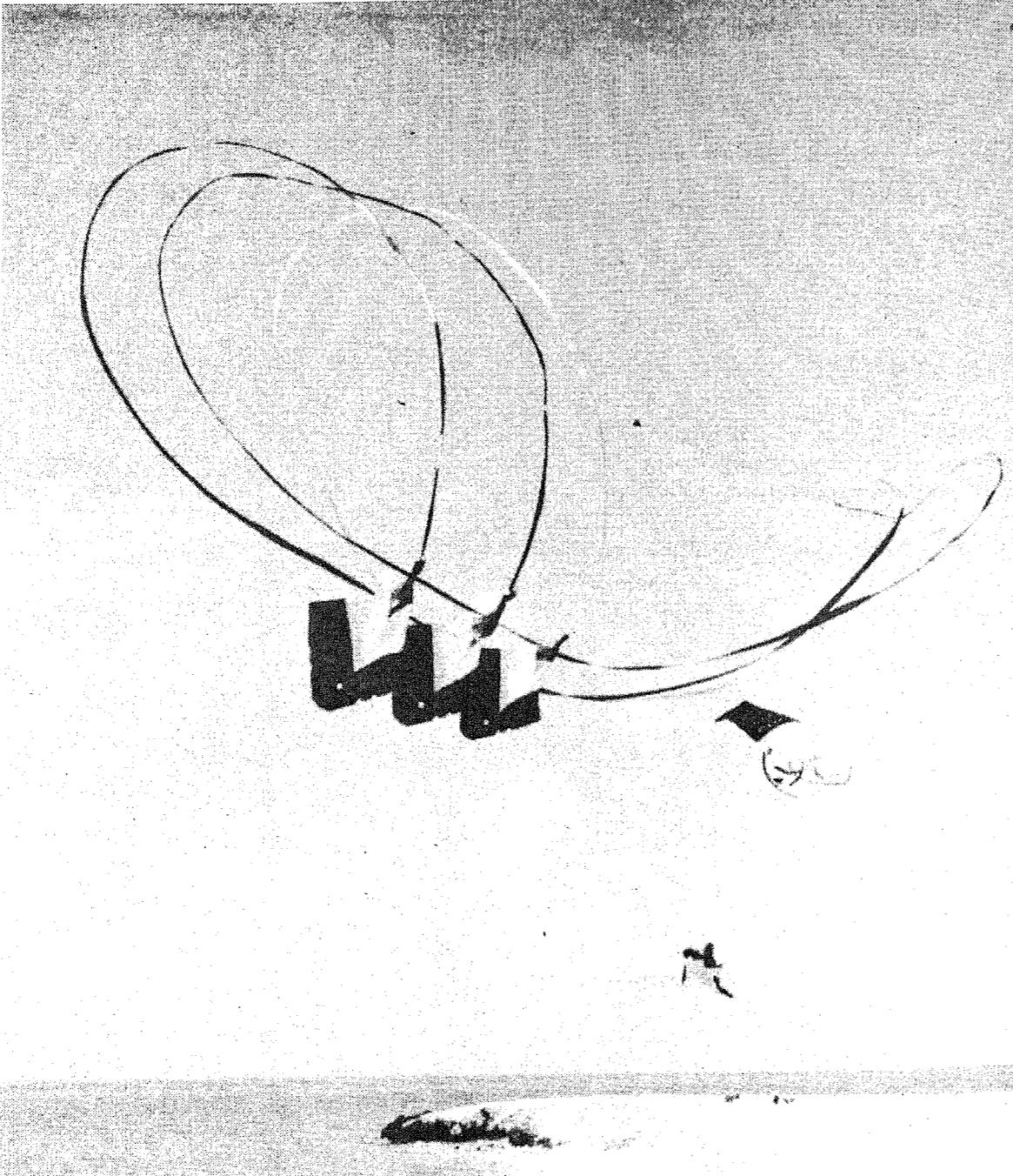
Fourteen-year-old Key West resident James McErlain pursues the kinds of interests you might expect of a teenaged boy. He plays alto saxophone in the school band; he is about to become an Eagle Scout. But James and a group of close friends also have a passion for kite-flying -- a sport that has grown, in Key West and elsewhere, far beyond the confines of childhood.

Melody McErlain says her son has been flying kites "since he was so little he had to bury himself in the sand to stay put." Now, McErlain says, the young enthusiast specializes in flying dual-control, aerobatic kites, which can be maneuvered in precise formations at speeds exceeding 50 miles per hour. These are kites with exotic names: Fire Dart, Hawaiian and Sky Raker. On a windy day, these kites can carry James' six-foot frame further than his childhood kites could pull his tiny body.

James' friends, Yosvany Gonzalez and Richard Farine, however, prefer the art of building Cuban kites -- eight-sided beauties fashioned in the traditional manner from tissue paper and thin sticks, and flown in a single line.

These young men and the growing numbers of Key West kite enthusiasts will show off their kites and flying prowess at the Key West Kite Festival, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fort Zachary Taylor State Park. The event is sponsored by the Key West Kite Company of 409 Greene Street. In this, its 14th year, the local fest is one of the longest running kite events in the country.

According to the shop's owner and festival organizer Greg Lavelle, the purpose of the event is "to introduce kiteing to the whole community" and, because this year the festival coincides with Earth Day, to promote



MARY E. AMES

Three sheets to the wind: A Peter Powell special attracts followers.

environmental awareness through kite-flying. A prize will be awarded for the home-made kite that best depicts an Earth Day theme, Lavelle said. In addition, there will be prizes for the most beautiful handmade kite, the best flying kite, the youngest flyer and the person who travels farthest to participate. Free Conch Republic kites will be given to the first 100 children attending and normal park admission fees will be waived for the festival.

Since its origin in the Orient and South America more than 3,000 years ago, kite-flying, for recreational and more serious pursuits, seems to have spread around the globe like the seeds of a Woman's Tongue tree on a strong wind. Historians speculate that the first kites were inspired by fronds blowing in the wind. They believe people tethered the early flyers and sent them heavenward in the hope of pleasing some ancient god.

Today, especially in the South Pacific, a tradition persists of using the leaves of the

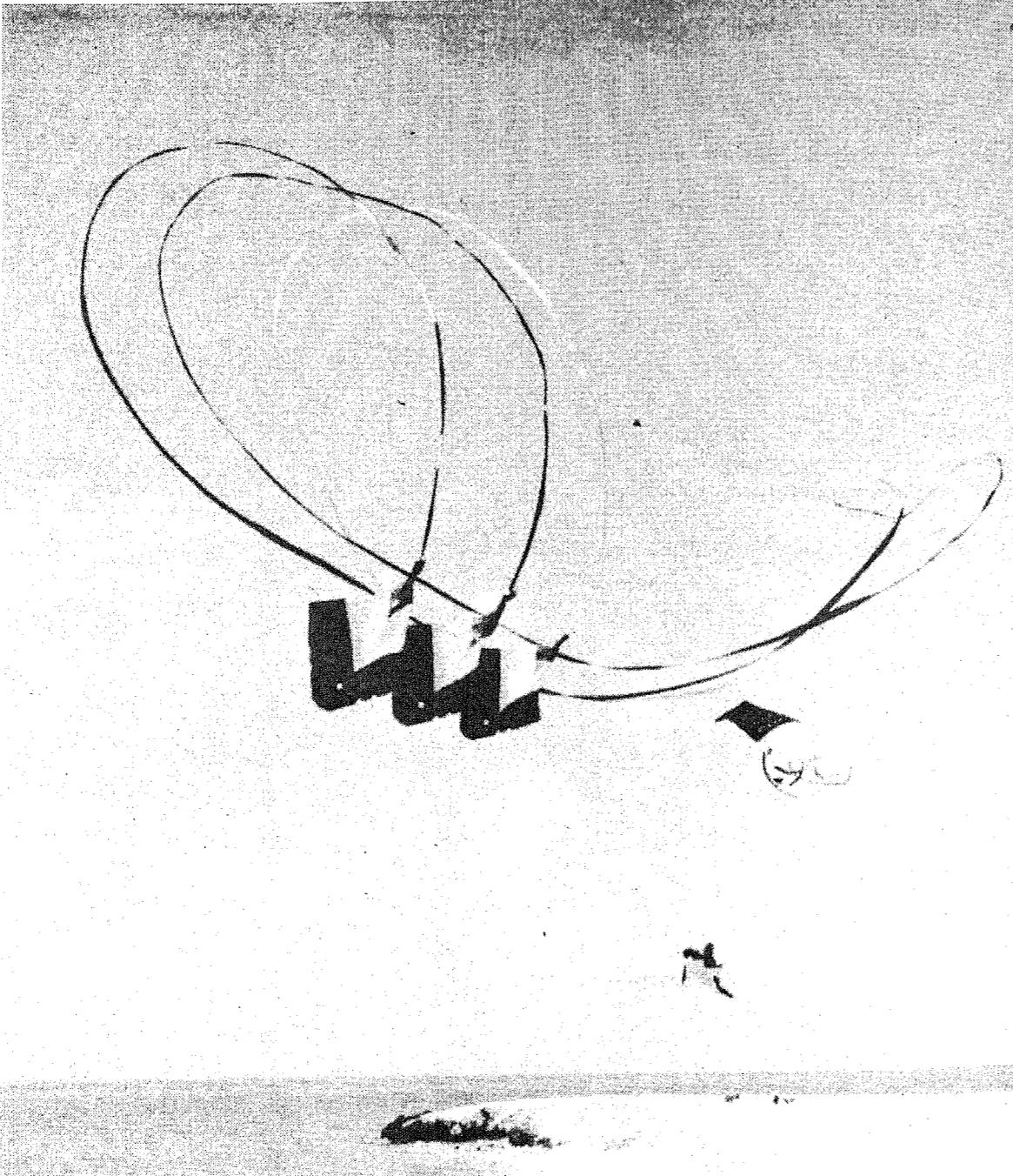
breadfruit tree as kites to bear fishing lures well beyond the distance of a man's cast. And the Japanese, who once flew fish windsocks to honor the birth of male children, now fly them to celebrate the birthdays of girls, too.

Kites, rigged with bamboo rushes, were used in China some 2,000 years ago to frighten off invading armies. And man-lifting box kites were used by the French in World War I for photographic reconnaissance. George Pocock, an Englishman, invented a system, or "train," of these same kites in 1825 which succeeded in pulling a steerable carriage along country roads at a speed of 25 miles per hour. Varying in shape from Alexander Graham Bell's stacked pyramids to Orville and Wilbur Wright's curved gliders to the modern, high-performance delta configurations, kites have been used to test the performance characteristics of prototype airplane wings.

Kites have played a part in stringing cable for a suspension bridge below Niagara Falls, in securing aerial photographs of the



Orca: Ben Nye flies a whale windsock.



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Kites have played a part in stringing cable for a suspension bridge below Niagara Falls, in securing aerial photographs of the

destruction of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, in receiving the first trans-Atlantic radio message and in studying high-altitude winds and weather.

Paul Garber, historian emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution Air and Space Museum, has traced the origin of two-line, controllable kites of the type James McErlain is so fond, back as far as Benjamin Franklin. Apparently Garber found an engraving that shows the American inventor and statesman steering himself across a pond with a dual-control kite while floating lazily on his back.

Soon after this country entered World War II, the Spaulding sporting goods company, under secret contract with the U.S. military, produced large, diamond-shaped, maneuverable kites with Japanese aircraft painted on the fronts to be used for anti-aircraft target practice. Plans for one of these surfaced in Great Britain where a Scotsman named Peter Powell realized its potential for recreation and has since marketed a modified version worldwide.

On a recent windy morning at the northeast end of Smathers Beach, Ben Nye, who works for Key West Kite Company, tethered a few large kites to chunks of coral and proceeded to launch a train of three Peter Powell stunt kites. By noon, he had attracted dozens of vacationing college students; a few small children dragging their parents; kite-flyers on holiday from Rochester, New York and Lexington, Kentucky; a former kite-shop owner from North Carolina; and a retired fighter pilot from Belgium. "It's almost like flying an airplane," remarked the former pilot, beaming at the spectacle and, perhaps, his own revisited memories.

Kiting is universal and contagious. But the seeds of this contagion are obviously borne in the hearts of flyers and spectators. Nye, himself a sort of Johnny Appleseed of the sport, travels between Mackinac Island, in Michigan, and Key West, making his living flying and selling kites for retailers. "It's a great life," he says. "I can't think of anything I'd rather do."

Lavelle, his employer here, arrived in Key West in the mid-1970s, intending to return to Ohio for graduate school. At the time, kite building was a hobby of Lavelle's. There were only four or five shops in the country that sold kites exclusively. Lavelle's friends encouraged him to turn the hobby into a business. In 1975, he did.

During the 1980s, the kite industry burgeoned. About 200 kite shops and a trade

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association sprang up in this country. Manufacturers developed wholly new designs, many the result of research done by National Aeronautic and Space Administration engineers in the 1960s. Stunt kite teams, organized by manufacturers and amateur clubs, began competing for large cash prizes at festivals across the country. Finally, a four-line kite that hovers and moves like a helicopter came on the market, astounding even veteran flyers.

World kite-flying records fell. Today, the *Guinness Book of World Records* lists the record number of kites flown on one line at 7,150; the fastest speed at 112 miles per hour; the longest flight at 180 hours, 17 minutes; and the highest flight at 31,955 feet. All these records, except the last -- which was set with a train of eight kites in East Germany in 1919 -- were achieved in the past eight years.

But in Key West, as with so many other activities, kite-flying is relatively laid back. Festivals are dedicated to fun and learning more than to competition. Melody McErlain, for example, says she is going to help some gifted students at Horace O'Bryant Middle School make a theme kite for the Earth Day festival. She regularly teaches learning disabled children and says she has found kites "useful for teaching science, poetry -- everything, really."

Certified public accountant Patti Anthony has flown kites from the roof of an apartment building she used to manage at 830 Duval. "One time," she said, "the wind died and I had to retrieve the thing from the courtyard at La Te Da." Steve Winemiller, who manages Tar Heel Trading, an Ameri-

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Solares Hill • April 1990 • Page 7
can handcrafts gallery at 802 Duval, says he flies kites "for the peace and serenity" it gives.

The signs are unmistakable that kiteing in Key West is on the rise. A few months ago, S. Patrick Maxon opened a surrey rental business on Angela Street and hung out a selection of kites and windsocks. According to Howard Maxon, his father, who was tending shop the second week in March, the kites all went in one week. "They were here for awhile and now, suddenly, they're gone. We didn't expect this big a demand," he said.

The same week, David Meelheim opened The Red Balloon of Georgetown at 512 Duval. His original, Washington D.C. store specializes in kaleidoscopes. But here, Meelheim said, he expects about 30 percent of his merchandise to be kites. "To be honest, I'm still learning about kites," he said. "I've already had some customers who know more about them than I."

Three blocks away, fellow shopkeeper Winemiller got wind of Meelheim's story. "I hope the guy gets a chance to test out his merchandise when business slows down," Winemiller said. "Once he flies some of those kites, he'll never be the same."

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Doctor's Diagnosis: Keys' Water Is Sick

by Barbara Bowers

Environmentalists have waved red flags. Conscientious locals have fought desperately to improve the condition of nearshore and offshore waters. But the doctor's diagnosis is in, and it doesn't look good: an unhealthy state of glut threatens the quality of our water.

Dr. Brian Lapointe's "Interim Report 1: Ambient Water Quality Assessment in the Middle and Lower Florida Keys During Summer, 1989" was prepared as part of the data base of Monroe County's revised comprehensive planning process. The study confirms what almost everyone already knows: we're feeding our fragile aquatic system -- the heart of the Florida Keys economy -- nutrients that are killing it.

First in a series of water quality assessments, this hot-off-the-press report by Lapointe, director of marine conservation for the Florida Keys Land and Sea Trust, says

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that high concentrations of phosphates produced a state of *hypoxia* in some of the 15 places where testing took place this past summer. Hypoxia is a condition of low oxygen caused by an excess of nutrients being flushed into surrounding waters.

Sensitive to this state of low oxygen, many aquatic organisms -- seahorses, fish, baby shrimp and lobster, to name a few -- die or leave the depleted area. Seagrass beds may proliferate from the condition for awhile, but eventually the grass becomes too populous, fails to photosynthesize properly, and causes oxygen reduction, hindering other plants and animals. The upshot: algae takes over. What was once clear, nutrient-free water which reflected the sky's blue becomes a clouded, algal green. The water that used to house the creatures at which snorkelers and divers marveled, now houses micro-filamentous lifeforms only a scientist could love.

"I've been visiting the Keys since the 1940s and have lived here since the '70s," says Joan Manges, a Marathon resident who recently worked on a water quality study sponsored by the League of Women Voters. "I used to let my grandchildren swim in the canal out back. Today, I would not only keep them from swimming in it, but I would just die if one of them fell into the water."

Cassiopeia jellyfish cover the bottom of her canal, Manges says. These jellyfish

thrive on nitrogen, a nutrient we flush into the water. Disturbed, the jellyfish expel a fluid that causes humans to itch.

To understand why cassiopeia jellyfish live in a formerly cassiopeia-free canal, we need to understand what nutrients are. We also need to examine the complex factors affecting water quality, everything from the geology of the Florida Keys to the condition of groundwater in upstate Florida.

Nutrients are substances that fertilize the water. In moderate proportions, they can actually improve conditions. This is why, in previous years when fewer people lived in and visited the Keys, the water remained unaffected by what we dumped into it. But too many nutrients, in forms such as phosphates, nitrates and ammonium -- the three leading nutrients affecting the water -- overfeed it and cause hypoxia.

So what are phosphates?

Phosphates are minerals used in detergents, and Florida happens to be the largest producer of mined phosphates. In the 1960s, phosphates made the headlines when they were recognized as a major factor behind the poor quality of water in the Chesapeake Bay. Thirty years later, the Chesapeake Bay waters are clearing up, and ten states and numerous counties throughout the country, including Broward, have banned the use of phosphates. Limited phosphate bans exist in other states and counties.

Reef Relief, a local environmental group, developed a model phosphate ban ordinance that was passed unanimously by the Monroe County Commission last October. The ordinance, which requires Department of Regu-

A model phosphate ban ordinance was passed unanimously.

ation approval prior to going into effect, is presently hung up at the state level.

"The concept of the ordinance is right," says former Monroe County attorney Lucien Proby, lobbyist for a number of South Florida soap companies. "But, as it is written now, it's wrong. Section II of the ordinance reads that a ban should be in place on: *any detergent containing .0 percent to .5 percent phosphorus*. This would outlaw the use of dishwashing machine detergents, which must use a higher percentage of phosphates than .5 percent to be effective. The state permits up to 8.7 percent phosphate use.

"We want the Section II altered to read: *any household laundry detergent containing .0 percent to .5 percent phosphorus*."

At least 37 hotels, motels and resorts in the Keys Hotel and Motel Association have voluntarily agreed to convert to no-phosphate laundry systems and detergents. The association and several environmental organizations urge businesses and individuals throughout the county to avoid purchasing cleaning products which contain phosphates. They also encourage local grocers to discontinue carrying products that have phosphates in them.

Lapointe says these actions would de-

crease the phosphorus level now being released into local waters by up to 20 percent.

Before addressing how all the sudsy water on land reaches near- and offshore waters, it's important to know what nitrates and ammonium are. They comprise the second- and third-highest concentrations of

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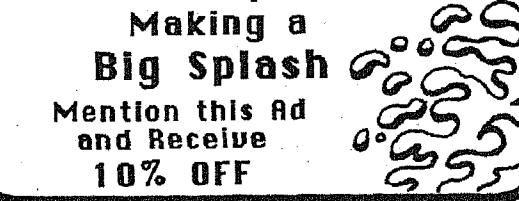
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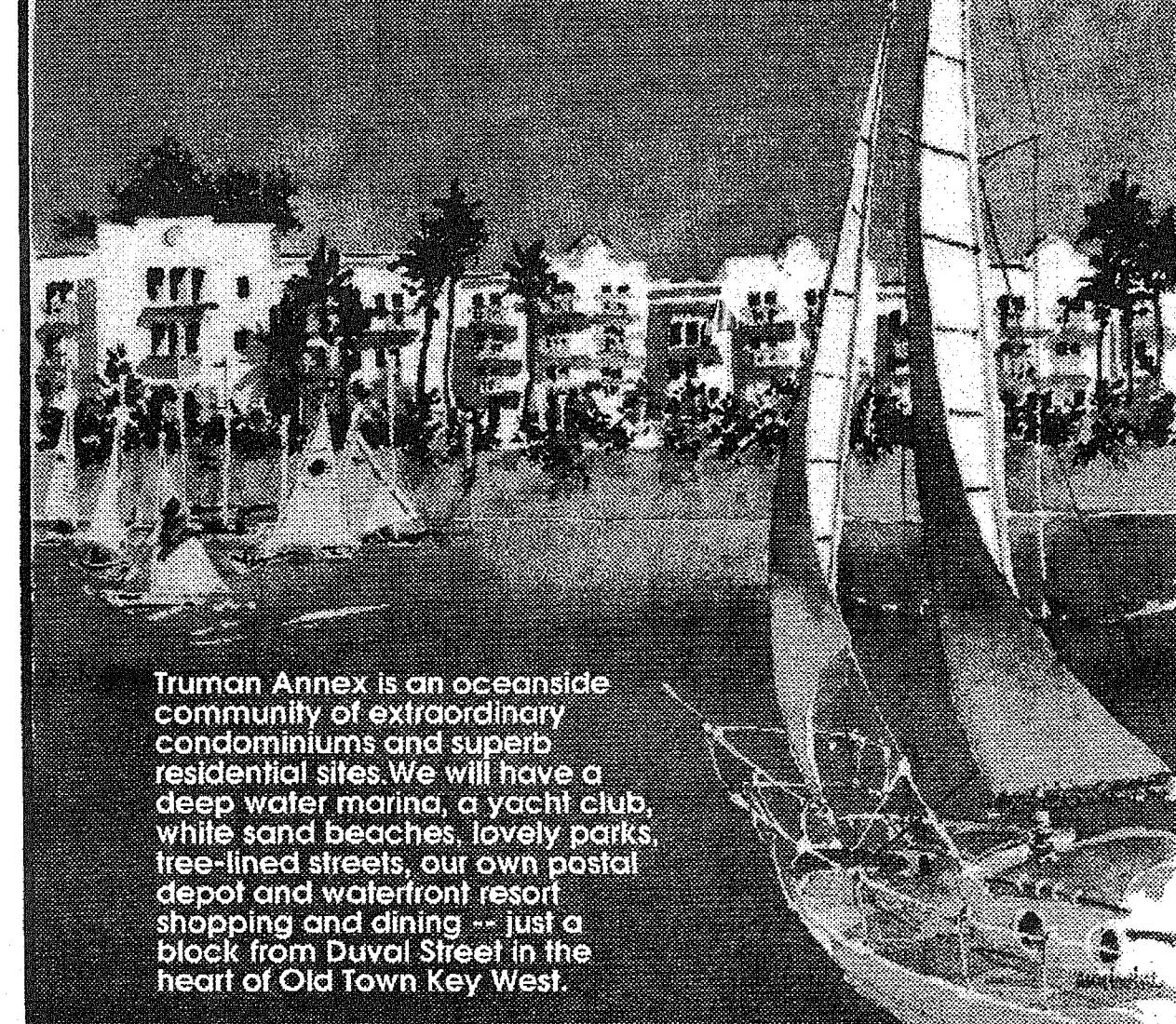
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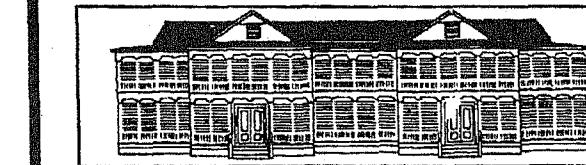
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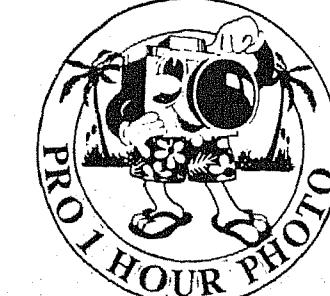
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Nitrate comes from feces; ammonium is a form of nitrogen that comes from cleaners and feces in septic tanks. This tells you how sudsy water gets into the canals, bays and offshore waters, too: just because you flush it doesn't mean it goes away.

"If it disappears, you still have to worry about it," says George Garrett, director of environmental resources for Monroe County. "What we put underground impacts the groundwaters, which are supposed to absorb the nutrients from our waste. The groundwaters flow into the ocean."

Because of the porous condition of our soil and the coral substrata of the landmass of the Florida Keys, our underground drainfield for sewage falls short of the ideal. We have practically no soil. With only four feet separating land surface and groundwater, it doesn't take long for effluents from cesspits and septic tanks to reach the islands' edges and flow freely into the Atlantic or the Gulf. These effluents mix with runoff from the islands and their storm-water draining systems in the canals and nearshore waters.

After secondary treatment and chlorination, our sewage treatment centers dump their wastes into the ocean, too.

Before conducting his water quality study, Lapointe hypothesized that certain canals and nearshore seagrass beds would have lower water quality assessments than others based upon the fresh flow of ocean waters to them and their locations in relation to where treated sewage flushed into the ocean. His predictions were confirmed by the research project. In fact, at times during



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Man and the sea: As water quality deteriorates, underwater creations become more common.

the morning and evening water samplings, four canal systems and two nearshore seagrass meadows failed to meet Florida state's regulations for acceptable oxygen levels in the water. This negative result exceeded even Lapointe's anticipations.

The common response from public officials about the water quality report -- funded by Monroe County for \$75,000 to provide baseline information for conservation and coastal zone elements for the county's comprehensive plan -- was that its conclusions were both broad-reaching and inconclusive. It was considered an interim report and not a final look.

Garrett sees it another way. "Because the marine systems still look good, we have enough of a controversy to need scientific data to convince people we have a problem," he says. "But, yes, we should be able to trust our gut reaction."

"I'm just a concerned citizen," says Earl Cheal, a resident of Marathon and president of the Upper Keys Citizens Coalition. Cheal reported on the Florida Keys sewage treatment systems at the March 7 meeting of the League of Women Voters. "My personal observation is that we're losing quality. The quality of life and the economy are linked to the quality of water."

Cheal has been working on the water quality study, which has been about one year in the making, with Manges. He jokes that his "sewer education" has taught him about cesspits and septic tanks, drainfields and mound systems. It even took him to Lapointe's algae laboratories on Marathon to learn about the STEP (septic tank effluent pumping) system.

"Key West has the most advanced sewage system in the Keys, which is still unsophisticated by mainland standards of central sewage systems," says Cheal. "Most of the houses on the other islands use septic tanks, and as many as 800 have cesspits where raw sewage is dispensed in a hole without any treatment whatsoever."

Chris Livolsi, project manager at Key West's waste-water treatment plant, says that the city has an extended air system,

which treats sewage to a secondary level. "That's all that's required by the EPA and the state," he says. He claims that the plant is achieving results that are 50 percent better than required. He attributes its success to good design and operation techniques.

Key West could have built an advanced wastewater treatment plant, which would have ensured an even higher degree of nutrient removal, but city officials decided the cost was prohibitive.

The city's engineering consultants, CH-2MHill, are in the midst of studying the impact of the plant's effluent on surrounding waters as required by the EPA. Asked about the logic of looking at those effects after the fact, Livolsi says, "That's what I wondered as well. I met with the EPA and they said [those requirements] came from another department."

According to Livolsi, the nutrients introduced by Keys waters by the Key West plant are "just a drop in the bucket." He says a combination of sources are causing the water quality problem, including package plants up the Keys, fertilizer runoff from South Florida and the orange-growing areas, and home septic tanks.

Cesspits are clearly health hazards in more places than near- and offshore waters. But conversion to even a septic tank system -- where untreated sewage is reduced from solids to liquids, then released into the underground drainfield that flows to the ocean -- costs money. In a mainland area, the septic tank system would remove disease-causing microorganisms and organic matter, but this system isn't effective in the Keys' soil and substrata.

Soil survey, digging, tank and plumbing costs amounted to \$2,500 when David Ethridge, editor of *Florida Keys Magazine*, had a cesspit converted to a septic tank system at his home ten years ago. Today, Cheal says, the cost is closer to \$3,500. But the sewage system is generally understood to be ineffective.

"We could collect from all the septic tanks and put the effluent into a central place where it's injected two to three thousand feet into the earth," says Ethridge. "But the

"Hell, even the flow of the Mississippi doesn't miss us ..."

huge outlay of money and the small number of people who would have to foot the bill -- maybe 45,000 homeowners in Monroe County -- makes this nearly impossible.

In fact, all alternatives are costly. Converting the year-old Key West treatment plant to a tertiary treatment center, the treatment level where nutrients are removed from the waste, is a multimillion-dollar proposition. The STEP system, which uses algae, of all things, to remove phosphates from effluents, would require retro-fitting every septic tank in the Keys. Cape Coral, Florida, just took this route and plans to sell

its gluttonous algae to help pay for the cost of conversion.

"There is much greater concern for what goes into the ground from areas where the drinking water comes from the groundwater," says Garrett. The upcoming land use plan will have to address the bulging sewage treatment problem.

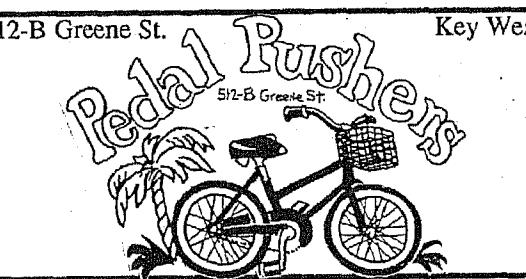
But Garrett says an equally overwhelming concern is how to handle the water quality issue when there's a unidirectional flow of water from the mainland to the Keys. Because our drinking water is piped from the mainland, we should be just as

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interested in South Florida's sewage treatment systems as we are in our own.

"Hell, even the flow of the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico doesn't miss us," says Ethridge. "Not to mention the agricultural and industrial waste that runs

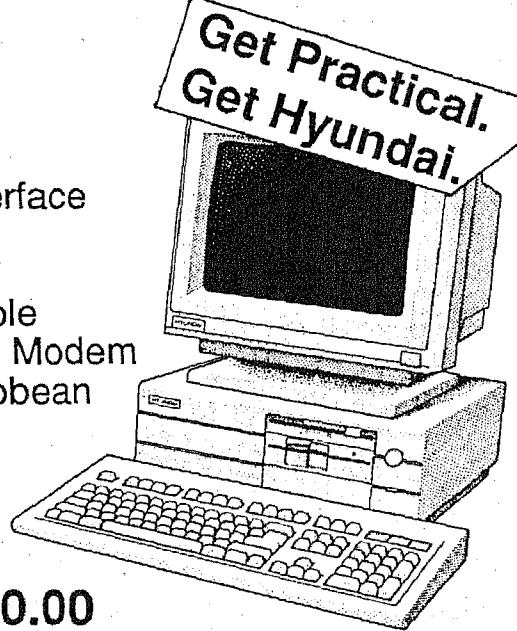


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which keeps us from having any control over our future anyway." [5]

**Preventive Care Tips
From Reef Relief and Others**

- Reduce rainwater runoff with conscientious landscaping and porous pavement:
 1. Preserve trees in the neighborhood;
 2. Use native trees and shrubs which need less water;
 3. Use paving surfaces that allow rainwater to soak slowly into the ground, like wooden decks, bricks, etc.;
 4. Landscape without the need for commercial fertilizers and insecticides;
 5. Create composts to reduce landfill use;
 6. Use natural pesticides like tobacco water -- handful of tobacco and four quarts of water; or a hot pepper mixture -- three very hot peppers, a half an onion and a clove of boiled garlic, steeped for two days and strained.
- Check and maintain septic system yearly:
 1. Use a percolation test to access wastewater capacity;
 2. Make sure your system is large enough for your family;
 3. Keep heavy vehicles away from septic tank area;
 4. Keep tree and shrub roots away from drain tiles.
- Don't pour chemicals in toilets or drains.
- Dump cleaning water in your yard, not in your toilet.
- Pooper-scoop behind your pets.
- Avoid garbage disposals which contribute food solids and grease to sewer systems.
- Participate in recycling programs.
- Don't use toilets as trash cans.
- Water conservation means less wastewater flushing into the ocean:
 1. Put weighted plastic jugs in your toilet tank to reduce water use;
 2. Limit shower time;
 3. Don't overfill the bathtub;
 4. Turn water off in the sink while brushing teeth or shaving;

5. Run dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads;

6. Repair leaky fixtures.

• Oven cleaners, floor wax, furniture polish, drain cleaner and spot removers are toxic. Don't put them down the drain. Replace these items with the following substitutes:

1. Apply table salt to oven spills, then scrub with baking soda and water;

2. Combine lemon oil and linseed oil to polish furniture;

3. Use a quarter-cup baking soda per half-cup vinegar to clear clogged drains. Close drain until fizzing stops, then flush with boiling water;

4. Skip bleach and try salt or hot water on fruit and wine stains, then soak in mild soap before washing;

5. Remove grease with boiling water followed by dry baking soda, or ammonia and water.

6. Remove ink with hydrogen peroxide. Treat blood stains with cold water soak, then hydrogen peroxide.

7. Remove coffee with egg yolk and tepid water; chewing gum with ice; lipstick with cold cream, then a baking soda soak.

8. Remove rust by soaking in lemon juice, then rubbing with salt before drying in the sun. Then wash.

9. Polish copper with lemon juice and salt; chrome with rubbing alcohol; brass with salt, flour and a little vinegar.

• Buy low- or no-phosphorus detergents.

• Don't pour motor oil and antifreeze in storm drains. Take them to Chevron stations and other centers that participate in oil recycling programs.

• Do not dump garbage or waste at sea. Bring it to shore.

• Do not release bilgewater near the reef or in marinas.

• Don't scrub your boat bottom in shallow waters or near the reef.

• Replace topside cleaners with products mentioned above.

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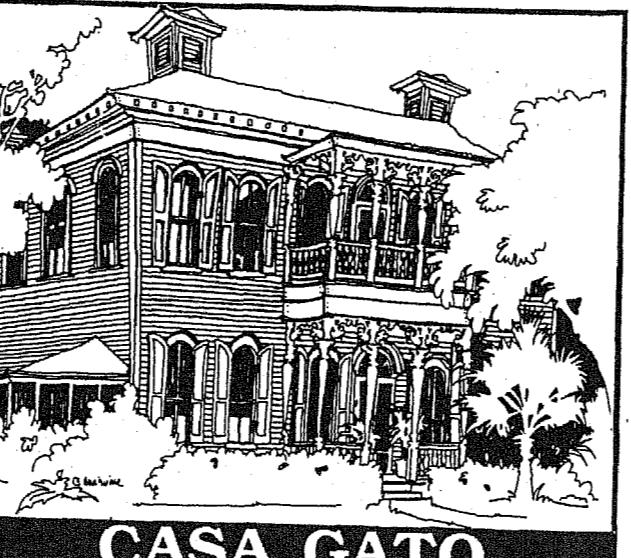
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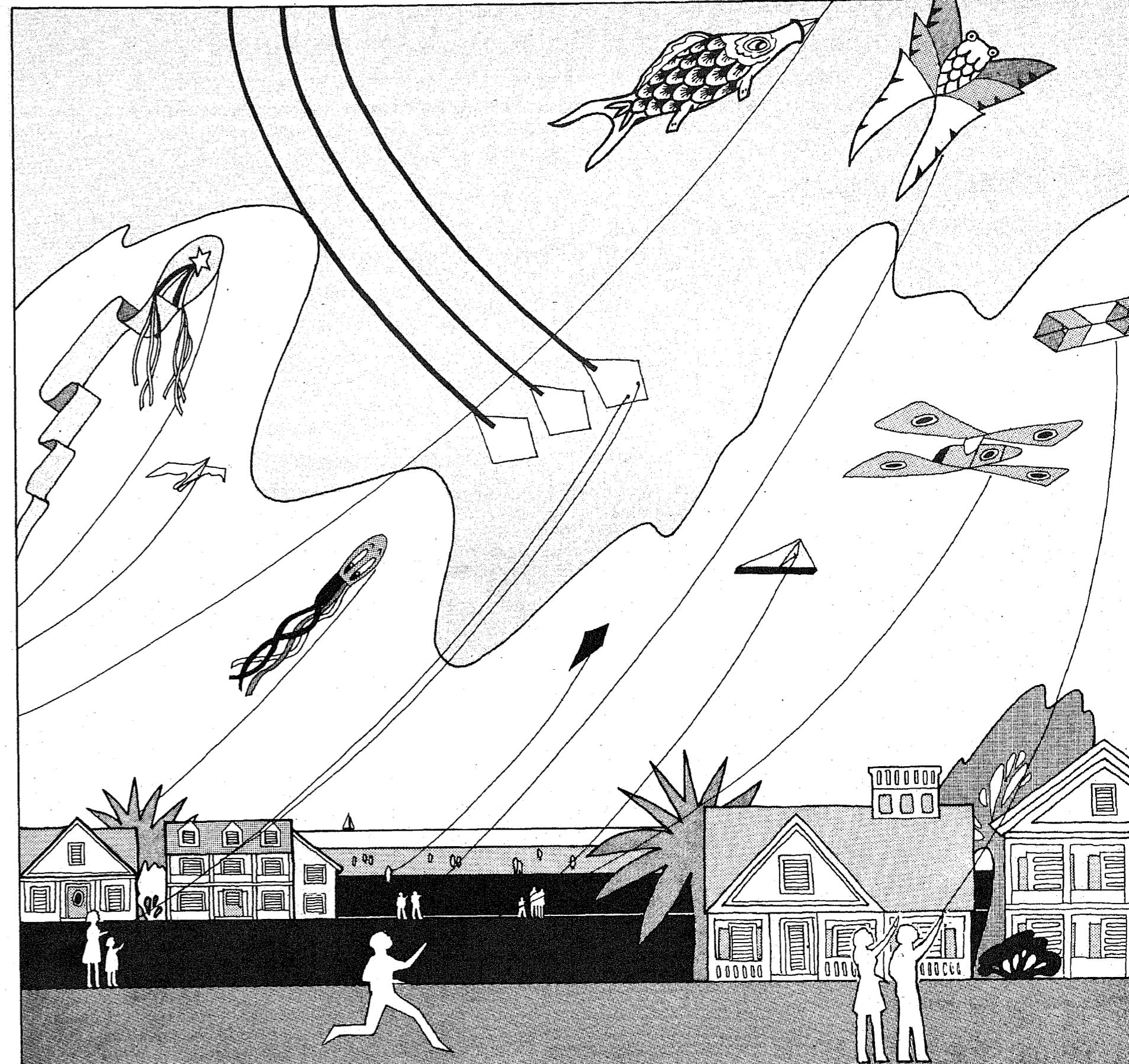


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School Report: Key West High Dropout Rate Reduced

by Elizabeth M. Smith

At the end of the 1987-88 school year, Monroe County registered an overall nine-to-12 grade dropout rate of 9.01 percent -- considerably higher than the state average of 6.8 percent. In 1988-89, though, the county rate dropped to 5.7 percent.

Staff at Key West High School, where about 1,050 students from Key West to lower Big Pine Key attend, have developed an effective dropout prevention program. The program, initiated by principal Bob Menendez two years ago, attempts to address the needs of each individual student.

"Some of those kids lack motivation and interest," says Menendez. "They don't want to be in school. We know that; the state knows that. That's why we put a lot of emphasis on keeping them in school."

The program implements various strategies to assist students identified as being at risk and to retrieve those who have already dropped out of school.

Two years ago, Menendez instituted Operation Second Chance -- an aspect of the dropout program that encourages former students to return to school and get a diploma. "Lots of times the kids out there realize they don't like what's going on," he explained. "They can't find a job or the jobs they have are not producing what they expected. It's not what they thought it would be."

"As frustrating as it might be to attempt to land a job without basic skills and a diploma, so too must be taking a second shot at that 'ticket to the future,' as Menendez describes high school credentials.

"We try to limit that frustration. They can come to school for five periods and go to work for two," he says. "We are as flexible as we can be with kids in that predicament."

In 1988-89, the program took in 21 retrievals -- eight students remained in the program, three graduated. During the current school year, 14 students have returned. Right now only students no older than 17

Spare the Rod

Recent changes in state legislation have enabled local school boards to prohibit corporal punishment. Former Florida statute denied this authority to local boards. This was amended in the last legislative session. In Monroe County, school principals have stipulated in writing to the school board that there is no corporal punishment in Monroe County schools and that discipline is handled by such alternative methods as detention, suspension and conference.

"It's a positive step," says Glynn Archer, assistant school supervisor. "After almost two years of not utilizing corporal punishment in schools, not one administrator feels the need to return to this form of correction."

School Days: Two Views

"H.R.", an only child, lives with her parents on Big Pine Key. She is 15 years old and in the 10th grade. This is her story:

"What I like about going to school is learning and seeing my friends. I really don't dislike anything about school."

"My grade point average is between 3.3 and 3.4. I mostly earn As and Bs and occasionally a C or two. My best subjects are science, history and English. My worst ones are algebra and writing II."

"I am involved with the concert choir, performing band, Interact [a community service club] and am sometimes a student tutor. I have many friends in school and they are basically involved in the same activities."

"I hardly ever miss school because I enjoy going. I have never had to repeat a grade. I basically like my teachers; however, I can definitely do without some of them. Most of them do a good job, but some really can't teach."

"When I'm not in school I like to hang out with my friends, sunbathe, play tennis, swim, scuba dive, watch TV, eat and sleep."

"I plan on finishing high school in 1992 and going on to college. I will probably go to Florida Keys Community College for a year and then transfer to a state college or university. I have an interest in medicine and teaching, but I am not yet taking any special courses."

"I think the majority of my friends will go through college. Some may not, but most will."

"What I choose to do will have an effect on how much I complete. I will definitely go to college and may go as far as a master's -- maybe even a PhD."

"B.D." is 14 years old, a ninth-grader. She lives in Key West with her mother and three sisters. She is presently enrolled in the Lighthouse Program, a drug rehabilitation center for teenagers. In her own words:

"I skipped a lot of school because it was boring. I hated my classes. I liked some classes. Some I didn't like because of the students; some of the teachers weren't good teachers."

"My grades are mostly Fs and one D. At junior high, I had mostly As and Bs. I was a good student before I got to high school. Now I'm not getting any attention at all."

"Most of my friends skip classes, some make pretty good grades, some make Fs

are permitted into the program. But Menendez envisions changes in the future.

The principal is of the opinion that skill development is the most important reason for keeping a student in school. "A student cannot be competitive in the world of work without those skills," he says. "I'm talking about basic reading and math."

"When you go out and apply for a job, the first thing they are going to ask you is

like me. Most of my friends are in their 20s. I'd skip classes with friends. We go downtown, get wasted on everything, smoke a joint, drink, whatever."

"I started cutting classes in about the seventh grade, when I started getting wasted all the time. I got into drugs because I was miserable. I get along better with people doing drugs -- people who are straight are two-faced, stupid people who never grew up. I find adults who have been through drugs are smarter than ones who haven't. They seem more mature, easier to get along with. Straight people are more immature."

"I got a letter in the mail that I can't get a drivers license until I'm 18 because I skipped school. I'll get it when I'm 15 or 16 because I'll go back to school. I'm going to go back and finish. Well, actually, I might end up quitting school when I'm 16 and get my driver's license. The career I have in mind doesn't necessarily take [a diploma]; I want to be a model. I'm trying to work on a tan now; I'll grow my hair long. I wanted to be a psychologist for drug addicts, but I don't know. It takes too much college."

"I don't think a high school diploma is something you need to have. All they do is teach you the same things you already know. My teachers say I'm a bright young lady but I don't come to school enough. Maybe I'll stay in school until I get a break in modeling. All I want to do in life is have a job so that I can make money and live my life, but still have my free time."

"I like to enjoy; I like exploring things. I like finding things out that I don't know. I'll watch a bug for two hours. Sometimes I feel like I'd like to be a scientist. I just don't know what I want to do. I like everything. I'm good at math, spelling, science. I'm not a competitive type of person. I don't like sports at all. I like to go out and party. What I like to do is just to be with everyone and have fun and get wasted. I don't care about my health in the future. I don't want to live to be 60 years old and have wrinkles all over myself."

"I guess if I carry on this way, I'll end up in jail, or homeless, or living with my Mom forever."

"I've been in full-time education since I was three. It used to be fun; it's gotten boring. No way I want to go on until I'm 22 and get a B.A."

whether you have a diploma. They don't want to hire someone if [he or she] can't read, can't add, can't communicate. The whole purpose is to make them skill-ready to go out into the world of work."

Consistent with this assertion, a work-study program is offered in which participating students earn school credits while working in local businesses such as restaurants, department stores and hotels.

Other strategies include:

• **Flexible Scheduling.** Schedule adjustment is provided for students who experience placement problems.

• **Flexible Credit Earning Policy.** Students who have fallen behind in credits or who need more to graduate may attend both day and night school to catch up.

• **Vocational Courses.** A variety are taught. Among them are auto mechanics, auto body, electronics, building maintenance, business education and food processing.

• **Alternative Education Program.** High-risk students are channeled into this curriculum, which Menendez describes as being "success oriented, to make sure these kids see success. The minute they don't see it they're going to pack up and leave." Credits earned in this program count toward graduation.

• **Teen Moms.** Now in its third year of operation, this program was designed to provide a pregnant student with information and assistance with pre- and postnatal care. The student mother is able to work with her child in a lab setting. The principal views this as being a pragmatic approach to the problem of teenage pregnancy.

Says Menendez, "I'm sure that a lot of kids dropped out before due to pregnancy. They had no way to keep their kids and go to school. Then they don't have a high school diploma, they can't get a job, and they become a burden to society -- welfare and the whole bit."

"We have one or two kids in the program who will be graduating this year and some other kids in the lower grades who I doubt would be here with us now had that program not been there."

Early identification of potential dropouts is an important step in lowering the high school dropout rate.

A recent study indicates that standardized test scores, class grades and attendance records were accurate predictors of which students would not complete high school. Early indicators include poor attendance, failing grades and low grade point average, negative teacher comments and special education referrals.

According to Key West High School Principal Bob Menendez, "Absenteeism is a biggie. Their success rate in the building is very important. This is dictated by the number of Fs these kids make in their

Early Indicators

classes. The biggest problems with dropouts center around 9th and 10th grades. Once they get to be juniors and seniors, they start getting some focus as to where they want to go. If we can get them past the 10th grade, then we can make some difference in their lives."

"These factors, some teenage pregnancies, a small percentage of students who leave school to work with their families, and the few who have difficulty with an authoritarian environment account for most of the dropout statistics," says Dr. Otha Cox, director of research, assessment and evaluation for the Monroe County School Board.

lar one in West Virginia. The latter state, however, enforces the law through the motor vehicle department. Here, it is administered through the schools. "The program's been thrown on the schools," Menendez says. "In Dade County it's a nightmare with so many kids. Fortunately, I'm not to the point where I want to throw my hands up, but I'm constantly inundated with requests for verification forms -- everything has to be notarized. It's a paperwork monster."

Menendez envisions some changes in the way the program is administered after this initial period. Hopefully, a share of the \$7.1 million budgeted by Tallahassee will ease the burden of clerical processing by

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As of January, about 16 licenses were suspended. To get them back, students must re-enroll in school, accumulate 45 days attendance, retake the driver's test, present proof of compliance and pay a \$25 fee.

What of those 16 students? Says Menendez, "At this point, a lot of those kids who have had a license suspended may not have a license and they don't care. But the kids to whom I have said, 'If you don't come to school, you're going to lose your license,' do care. A lot of them are cruising -- they've got cars mopeds or whatever."

"At this point, I think that the driver's license law does make a difference for some kids. It gives us another strategy to try and keep them in school. But I've still lost kids out of this building, regardless."

The Dropout Prevention Program advocates continual education on prevention strategies by counselors, staff and the College Advisory Program office. Scholarships are available for students who meet the requirements. According to college advisor Karen Russ, about 35 percent of graduates continue their education. Last school year, \$220,400 was awarded in college scholarships to Key West High School students from state, federal and local organizations. "We are lucky to get so much enthusiastic help from our community," says Russ.



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Florida Schools Rank 50th

The news that Florida was rated 50th in the U.S. in terms of graduating statistics was greeted with dismay by the state's Department of Education.

In a conference held earlier this winter, Education Commissioner Betty Castor compared statistics provided by Washington with those from Tallahassee: The 1989 *Washington Wall Chart* placed the percentage of graduating students in Florida at 58.6 percent; the Department of Education, 71.6 percent. The Federal Department of Education's *Washington Wall Chart* lists graduation statistics and total units required for high school graduation state by state.

According to Commissioner Castor, two factors that account for this discrepancy in figures are a growth factor and an inflated ninth-grade enrollment applied by Washington. The Washington figure uses census projections of students which includes those who may not have actually entered Florida schools. Tallahassee's figure represents actual students. Tallahassee's figure also counts only first-time ninth-graders as opposed to double counting those who may have been retained as does Washington's.

Further, Castor noted that Florida has the most stringent graduation requirements: 24 credits -- 26 in Monroe County, California, for example, requires 13 credits. These credits are standardized.

Within the last six years Florida's graduation requirements have been gradually increased -- from 20 to 24 credits. Requirements are specific to ensure that students take at least four years of English, and

three years of social studies, mathematics and science. Tallahassee sets the state minimum standard; local school boards may require additional credits.

To standardize future statistics, the Florida Department of Education defines a drop-out as: *a student who leaves school for any reason except death before graduation or completion of a program of studies and without transferring to another public or nonpublic school or other educational institution.*

There are still problems with gaining a true perspective on the dropout picture though, since students under 18 years of age who attend night school would not fit this definition. Neither would students from migrant families who leave one school with no record or transfer to another. Commissioner Castor would prefer that the graduation, rather than the dropout rate, be considered the stronger figure.

According to Tallahassee's definitions and statistics, the state dropout rate for the 1987-88 school year was 6.8 percent. A five-year goal has been initiated to bring the graduation rate closer to 100 percent. Ten million dollars in grants is to be allocated to schools and districts for reducing the dropout rate and meeting other specifications. This money comes from the Florida Legislature via the Department of Education. The money is apportioned according to the number of live births per district: Monroe County will receive \$10,000 of this money, which is a support fund for programs already in place.

Community College, on the second floor of the administration building. No more than three framed pieces and/or two sculptures by each artist may be shown. Paintings should be brought in during the first week of April. Sculpture should be brought in Tuesday, April 3, between 7 and 9 p.m., or Saturday, April 7, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and will be judged on the spot.

All wall-mounted works submitted for display must be dry, properly framed and provided with screw-eyes and picture wire for hanging. Each accepted artist will be required to sign a contract and give an inventory of work on display in the Library Gallery for insurance purposes. Whether sold or not, the artwork will be displayed in the gallery for the duration of the show.

All work must be picked up at the Library Gallery on Friday, May 11, by 4:30 p.m.

April 7 Deadline for FKCC Juried Art Show

Florida Keys Community College will hold a juried art show, April 13 through May 10 in the Library Gallery.

All work in the show must be in the fine arts category and original. Works that are not for sale will not be accepted in the show.

The judging committee will select the pieces to be shown. All work should be brought to the Library of Florida Keys

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Police Chief Webster Informs Crime Task Force:

You Get What You Pay For

To oversimplify, there are two factions. One believes that the crime problem in Key West is best addressed by providing the police with more resources and letting them do their job. This faction believes its opponents politicize a resource question.

The other faction believes that the overall problem of crime has to be addressed first. This faction doesn't want to become a fund-raising organization for a particular type of solution. It accuses its opponents of doing just that.

A report from the Crime Task Force, with representatives from both factions, is due before the Key West City Commission on April 5.

"The police department's record is exemplary with the resources it has, with the conditions under which it works," Key West Police Chief Tom Webster told a recent meeting of the Crime Task Force.

"It's one of the busiest cities I've ever seen, been associated with, consulted with, or anything else. We're in dire need of several things to operate efficiently, and it costs money. And that's what it's gonna come down to, resources equal service. And it's very simple. You pay or let's cut the services. Or use alternate methods, in the private sector. That is also a very viable option."

As community activist A.C. Weinstein put it later, "We have to go where the money is -- proper funding -- and bypass the political rhetoric you're about to hear ..." With that flourish, Weinstein reluctantly turned the floor over to Don DeFeo, manager of the Pier House.

DeFeo questioned Webster.
"Are there alternatives that will not cost as much as you've been spending, like citizens' crime watches?" asked DeFeo. "Has

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general, "not to fundraise for any particular agency." He didn't want to "just focus on one thing and go off on a tangent..."

About midway through the two-hour meeting, Gerry Tinlin of the Ocean Key House attempted to sum up.

"Chief Webster, if I can categorize your remarks, you've said, We get what we pay for. Is that right?"

"Yeah," grinned Webster, mopping sweat from his face with a white handkerchief, "that's pretty much a good business characterization." 

your budget increased over the last two years? Are you increasing your budget over and above the increase of taxes? Your greatly publicized offer of \$400,000 worth of assistance from the Sheriff's Department in the form of a specific type of donation. Would that not have been a help to us whether it be in the form we wished or not, and could that not have been accepted and used?"

DeFeo said the Hotel and Motel Association had asked for a look at crime in

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Political Whispers from the Birdcage

Saunders Restates Allegiance to County

by Bud Jacobson

In the time he's been serving the people of Monroe County in Tallahassee, State Representative Ron Saunders has moved up to 14th in the pecking order of powerful political positions within that body. Saunders is a Man of the House. His political operating style, as described by himself, is "working with everybody to get the best possible answer to a problem."

He usually works as smoothly with Republicans as with members of his own party. Some local Democrats have grumbled that he's more Republican than Democrat in his tendencies. Saunders disputes that flatly. "I'll never be a Republican," he says. "You can count on that."

As far as Governor Bob Martinez pulling him up to Tallahassee for an appointment, Saunders says bluntly, "No way."

What about the rumor of a Saunders appointment to head up the Department of Community Affairs in the event that Tom Pelham should resign?

"I am not interested," responded Saunders. "My interest in Monroe County, not in Tallahassee, and I am working for and hope to be re-elected to my third term."

Some speculate that he might be aiming for the ultimate position for a Man of the House, the speakership. Saunders said this rumor might have started because he presently serves as assistant chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and the chairman -- the man over him -- is slated to become the House Speaker in the next term. Sounds like another chance for Saunders to do some more moving up. Saunders indicated that, depending on the will of the voters, of course, that he wants to remain in state politics for a long time.

The local representative explained the mention of his name in a *Miami Herald* report last December concerning contributions made by a lobbyist for Gulf Power Com-

ficiently clarified in the media.

In regard to the struggle last year over whether the Tourist Development Council could fund police duty during Fantasy Fest, Saunders expressed the opinion that what the TDC can and cannot fund can be construed by the county commission.

"I've told them that they can do this within their own authority," he said, "but if they want me to change the law and spell it out for them, then they have to tell me and I'll do it. But they're going to have to request me to change the law."

The Key West City Commission is expected to give its approval of the wording of a referendum to decide the fate of a \$20-million bond issue to, among other things, clean up the city dump on Stock Island, and set up funds for other projects. The special election on this issue will be held May 8.

This will be in addition to the \$30-million bond issue that gave the City of Key West -- you and me -- the Montenay incinerator that doesn't work like it should. So we got short-changed. Try again.

Also, this is in addition to the sanitary sewer bond issue of some years ago. There was also a bond issue floated by the City of Key West for the electric company which gave us the City Electric System tie-line, connecting us to Florida Power and Light, in case we have emergency power outages like we had in December.

The newest bond issue is predicted to generate a little heat. Speculation in the coffee shops is that Peter Ilchuk will be moving around fast as the chief lobbyist in favor of the issue. Ilchuk had also been a force behind the Montenay bond issue.

It has been heard among sources close to the mayor's office that Tony T. is not overjoyed with the prospect of the new bond issue. But if the city commission acts like it usually does when it comes to really important subjects, it'll slide over this one without much discussion.



pany. Saunders was one of 14 legislators whose names appeared on a list prepared by the lobbyist, Earl Henderson.

In 1987, Saunders said, his name appeared on the "contributions" list for a total of \$90, involving four wildlife prints donated to his office in Tallahassee. There was nothing more to it than that, he said.

Politicians are subject to scrutiny, so after the story appeared, Saunders said he called and tracked down the contributions list and found that he was one of three or four in the group of 14 who had forgotten a minor contribution. Nothing more has been said about it.

He explained, too, the reason behind the proposed Constitutional amendment which would make the first \$10,000 taxable of a \$25,000 homestead exemption. "[It] is because there are many hundreds of homesteads in North Florida which are assessed at under \$25,000, and they escape without paying any property taxes at all. The heavy burden is therefore on the taxpayers in counties like ours and Dade, Broward, etc. We are paying for the services the others get for nothing from the state."

Saunders said, however, that he does not expect the referendum on that subject to be approved by the voters, mostly because they do not understand it and it hasn't been suf-

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Baggs Is the Man With the Plan

by Geddy Sveikauskas

Robert Baggs says he's sure that Monroe County can complete the revision of its Comprehensive Plan before August 31 and avoid the state sanctions that go into force automatically at the beginning of September. It's good that Baggs is optimistic. He's in charge of making it happen.

Baggs was put on the county payroll in late February a couple of weeks after county commissioners and their outside consultant, BRW, parted ways and the county decided to complete the planning job in-house. The new planner, who is a contractual county employee getting paid at the rate of \$58,000 a year, doesn't criticize his predecessors. From what he's seen of their various reports, he says, they did an adequate job.

One reason Baggs was hired is that he did similar work in Hillsborough County. He says he's familiar with "the DCA players" whom Monroe County must satisfy. "I let them [the Department of Community Affairs] know I was playing the game seriously," the tall, lanky, sandy-haired planner says. "I took their advice. I read their rules. They know I'm not antagonistic."

He has gathered a full staff and divided the work among four team leaders, three of whom were working on the plan prior to Baggs' arrival. He meets with them informally every day and on a formal basis once or twice a week.

Baggs has not been shy about letting local people know what the state requires.

At his first public workshop in late March he distributed the state's checklists, which give specific requirements for all elements of the plan. If the state rules and procedures have to be followed, Baggs wants everyone to know what they are. He will schedule weekly public meetings at three locations along the Keys at each phase of the process. "We need as much public input as we can get," he says.

April 17 is his first important deadline. That's when the first draft of the plan -- complete with technical information, back-

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ground and goals, objectives and policies -- must be ready. The second draft must be ready by mid-May.

How can Baggs reasonably claim he can meet the state deadline when there's so much work to be done? The policies don't necessarily have to be backed up by data, he says. In case they're not, the first policy will say: Go get the data. The Comprehensive Plan doesn't have all the answers to the county's problems. But the plan will define work that needs to be done; the when, who and how will come later.

The new planner says he's anxious to avoid being perceived as the new hired gun. He likes what he's seen of Monroe County so far. He could see staying.

"If I'm lucky, I can stay," he says. "No, that's not true at all. If I'm good, I can stay. Luck has nothing to do with it."

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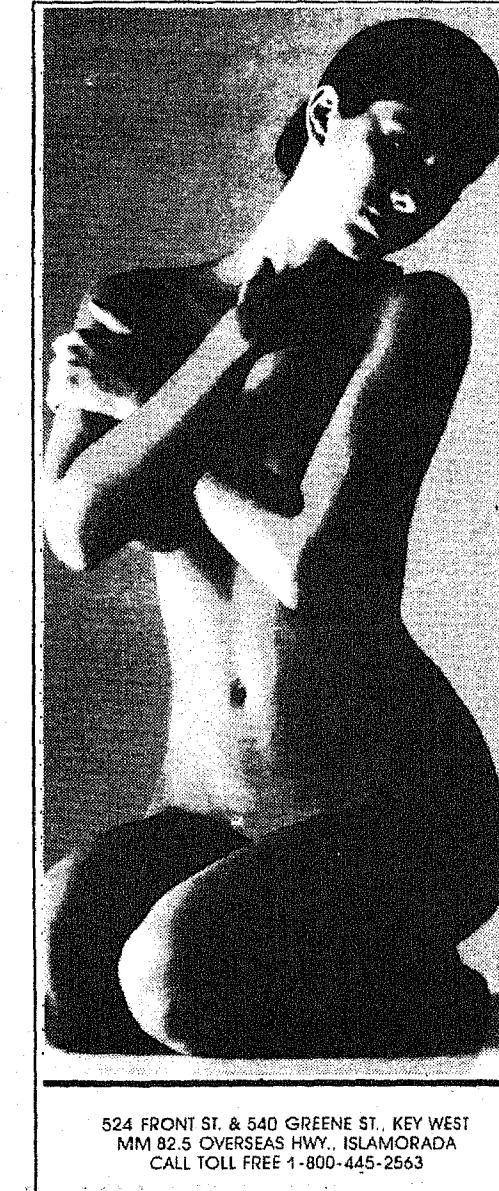
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**Big Spenders**

The Key West City Commission has voted to present a referendum election on May 8 on two big bonds, to be paid back with future city revenues from solid waste and with the proceeds of the newly added one-cent sales tax.

A \$27 million bond will finance the closing of the existing landfill and construction of a new one.

A second bond, called an infrastructure sales surtax bond -- which means it is repayable from the recently passed one-cent sales tax -- is for \$13.5 million. This bond will finance the cost of constructing, reconstructing or improving streets, sidewalks, storm-sewer facilities, police and fire communication facilities, water wells, training facilities for fire operations, parks and recreation facilities, police, fire and adminis-

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The plan includes \$5.4 million for the construction of a new government center on Jose Marti Drive, \$500,000 for a four-position police and fire communications console, and \$250,000 for the Community Pool. The existing City Hall on Angela Street will be turned over to the police and fire departments for administration offices.

Expected revenues from the one-cent sales tax over the next seven years, according to David Fernandez, the city's finance director, is nearly \$21.7 million.

Thanks A Lot, Harry

Gene Nelson, who has worked as deputy supervisor of elections for four different supervisors of election during his first eight-and-a-half-year career in the Monroe County Supervisor of Elections Office, won't be counting referendum votes on May 8. Nelson was "eased out" of his job in March, only 18 months before he would have been eligible for a pension from the county.

"Gene goes to the mat for his job," said Peter Ilchuk, former supervisor of elections. "He's the only person I could always count on in the office. When it came down to the crunch, you could always count on Gene. A staff person like that is of phenomenal benefit to a manager."

The current supervisor of elections, Harry Sawyer, doesn't agree.

No Problem?

Compared to other cities, Key West does not have an airport noise problem, say consultants from Avplan, the firm hired to do an airport noise study for Monroe County.

"Their recommendations weren't workable. We sent them back to the drawing board," said assistant county administrator Peter Horton. "We don't think it's a viable concept to close up and soundproof houses

Cop Out

If they're not happy in paradise, will they be happy anywhere? Officer candidates for the Key West Police Department must have their pasts thoroughly scoured for stains, sit through hours of psychological tests and interviews, and then submit body fluids for examination for traces of drug use. Given this, it is difficult to imagine an officer joining the KWPD and then leaving after only a few months -- in some cases, weeks -- of coming aboard.

This is especially surprising when one considers it's hard to get the job in the first place. Most applicants don't make it to the final interview.

"It's a national problem," says Key West

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in the flight path. The study was to address the economic impact of implementing noise reduction measures. Avplan hardly addressed the economic impact of specific solutions. If we limited the type of noise, what impact would that have economically?"

The Avplan study is paid for almost totally by state and federal funds. The county pays only five percent.

"They raised more questions than they answered," Horton said.

It's A Tough Job, But...

The list of city manager applicants has been whittled down from 190 to 14. Candidates for the job of top banana all have city managerial experience. This makes acting city manager Ron Herron happy.

"I hope they find someone with strong city management background," says Herron. "There are aspects involved in this job that are unique to municipal management. We need someone with experience."

The Pennsylvania consulting firm of Bartel and Bartel, Ltd. will test the 14 finalists to ascertain whether they qualify psychologically for the stressing job of Key West City Manager. The contenders look real good on paper, but will they be able to take the heat?

"Now we need to find the right match," says Mike Dively, a member of the selection committee.

Cop Out

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Police Lieutenant Bill O'Neill. "Nobody wants to be a cop anymore."

Hiring cops is a top priority at City Hall. The police department keeps several full-time employees working on recruitment alone. Of the 23 officers hired since August 1989, however, 12 have been terminated for one reason or another. Several went over to the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. Some, imported from other states, found they didn't like Key West. One was arrested for smuggling child pornography shortly after he was hired. Now, how did psychological screening miss that?

As of March 13, 1990, the police department was short nine officers, three communications officers, two parking enforcement specialists, one administrative assistant, two secretaries and one public information officer. Interested parties should apply at City Hall.

Behind Every Good Mayor

Dennis Connor, winner of the 1987 America's Cup sailboat race, requested that Mayor Tony Tarracino proclaim March 11

as Dennis Connor Day in the Conch Republic in honor of kick-off activities for his new local boating business. Connor also asked the mayor to name his 53-foot catamaran, *The Stars and Stripes*, Flagship of the Republic.

"But the *Wolf* is already the Flagship,"

Toni Michelle Park, city commission administrative assistant, explained to Vicki Jackson, Connor's local public relations representative, when she went around to pick up the proclamations from the mayor's office.

"But the mayor promised he'd do it," insisted Jackson.

Finally, since it was Friday afternoon and Mayor Tony was not around to straighten the matter out, Park went ahead and made up the two proclamations.

Hearing the discussion, Commissioner Harry Powell came out of his office and said, "You see, this is why the mayor needs his own assistant."

If the mayor wants a sharp assistant, why doesn't he let Park officially manage his office? She does it now anyway -- only she doesn't get the pay or the recognition

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for her office savvy. Tony, hire Toni -- that makes sense. Or does her lack of Hollywood contacts work against her?

Later, Powell clarified the mixup, suggesting that Tony had proclaimed the *Stars and Stripes* the official catamaran of the Conch Republic.

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Key West
Days & Nights
 by Bill Manville

I don't know if you've been doped-out enough to have been watching the Weather Channel, but it's been a little cold in Palm Beach this winter. And it brought Betty Bennett into town recently for a week or two of Key West sun. My old friend, Mab, and I had breakfast with her last Thursday at the little place she keeps in Old Town for just such occasional forays into our midst.

Betty is very Conchy about these things, and brought the coffee pot out onto the front porch. We rocked and sat and watched to see who left for work early and who had not come home at all.

Mab himself had been up all night. Tear-streaked mascara and blurred eyeliner painting his beautiful Grace Kelly face into that of a failed clown, he told us about the end of his current love affair.

"People always balk about using 'love' to describe their emotions. Why shouldn't I use it? Haven't I been seriously in love at least 20 times in my life? Yuppies have relationships. People like me have love affairs."

He took off his white Ethel Merman tur-

ban, unrolling it like the tail of a kite, and flung it into the air. It streamed across Elizabeth Street, landing on Polly Siwek's innocent blue Chevy parked in front of the William Fleming house.

"Oh, I'm so glad not to be in love anymore," Mab said. "Forever wrong choices, forever blowing bubbles, forever thrilled by any hint of imminent rejection. The thin sound of heartbreak in the air -- a note so high not even dogs can hear it -- that's my music, Mary, that's what I dance to. But I grow old, I grow old, I shall wear my trousers rolled. I shall walk, not dance, through that which remains of my youth. You are looking at a changed and wiser man."

Lifting the tango ruffles of his slit, tight-at-the-hips, flared-at-the-knee skirt -- like so many of the chimerae and rainbows which illuminate Mab's life, the break-up had begun with a dress-up party at the Copa -- and hoisting the gathered folds elegantly aside so he could more easily walk in three-inch-heeled Charles Jourdans, he got into his car, driving home to change for the bank.

"Do you know that Mab and I were once lovers?" Betty said to me. "He was my first. He made me pregnant."

I asked how old she had been. She said 17, and poured us both another cup.

"At that age," she said, "Mab hadn't yet found himself. And me? I thought he was something like Leslie Howard in *Gone With the Wind* -- kind and gentle. I felt safe with him. We held hands and went to the movies. We liked to read Salinger's story aloud to each other -- 'To Esme, With Love and Squalor.' We talked endlessly about the meaning of life. At 17, to be up alone and

late at night in a stolen car with a boy as good-looking as Mab -- he was still called 'Wesley' in those days -- well, that was as erotic a passage as I could handle."

"Stolen?" I said.

"Mab and I did not do sex," Betty said. "We did cars. He was a thrill-seeker even then, not yet knowing what he was really looking for. We grew up together, both our families were members of the Amarillo Golf and Hunt. We would get all dressed up. Can you picture Mab with a suntan and wearing a white Palm Beach dinner jacket? We'd go by Greyhound to really high-end restaurants and clubs up to 50 miles around.

"You can't imagine how hot it was, the two of us, leisurely ordering dinner, the world smiling at us as if we were honeymooners, this good-looking and sweet young couple, and only us knowing what we were going to do later.

"Mab would come out and nod to the valet parker. 'The white Cadillac convertible over there in the corner, please,' he'd say, bored and rich, not even looking at the guy, talking to me as if lost in my eyes, idly holding out a \$10 tip in advance. Of course, the valet guy would bring over the car. And not ask for the claim ticket. My God, it was thrilling. And then one night, when we'd got over with a Rolls, we were stopped by a cop on the highway. For speeding. We were too young, too dumb, too high on crime, to keep it down to 55.

"We talked our way out of that, but it left us so shaken, the adrenalin racing. I don't know what quarter the moon was in, or were there comets, but Mab and I were somehow in the back seat, clinging to each other, and the one time in his life he was ever with a woman, bingo! I got pregnant."

"Was there an abortion?" I said.

Betty looked at me in the manner in which, in my life at least, I find only the rich and beautiful can manage. "I don't think I know you well enough to tell you," she said. "Do you know the quotation, 'The path of excess leads to the palace of wisdom'?"

"I don't see how a line from William Blake answers my question," I said.

She gave me her green eyes again. "Think about it," she said. [h]

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Palms & Pelicans
 By FRANCES ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI



It all started the night Joyce swallowed the ruby ring Prince gave her. Prince, the artist, sat right there at her table when she did it. The ring was his gift from a great-aunt, 90 and a Christian Scientist and the only one who can stand him around all the time. It was after Joyce served fried grapes at din-din, a menu idea she received from the chef at La Trattoria Venezia, and following Prince's comment that she makes promising looks at the bartender at Hog's Breath Saloon. Then, Joyce turned upon him her large, blue eyes, warm as a ceramic doll's. Down went the ruby ring with a mouthful of Perrier.

Now Prince is gone. A strict communication blackout prevails. There is a disengagement of relations. Joyce doesn't admit it, but she misses his voice, never perhaps to hear that exact, throat-clearing cadence again. There is nothing around to distract me from my thoughts, says Joyce, unraveling for the third time her needlepoint of a black cat on a church roof.

After work, she finds herself washing out Budweiser beer bottles and lining them up on the windowsills for something to do. It doesn't help to admit that a mixture of aggravations and caring always has scored their relationship. Giving gifts is a largely possessive thing, anyway.

Oh, that ruby ring. She smiles sadly, recalling that he's so near-sighted he ate a frond of the centerpiece -- maidenhead fern -- which he dipped in the clam sauce. There rises the image of him sitting here beside the cut-glass pitcher holding its own on the end table underneath the reproduction of Andrew Wyeth's painting of the crippled girl, Christina, crawling over the wheat field.

Joyce slams down the needlepoint, runs out the cat and sweeps all the Budweiser bottles into the trash. There's no accounting for desire, she says to herself, moving her lips. Why are you infatuated, huh? Because you like to look at the back of his neck? (It's boyish, tender and vulnerable.) Or is it his slight, elegant limp? Or the tiniest stutter -- a pause or a slur of a word -- when he's emotional and twisting his hair?

Joyce resolutely puts on her purple canvas poncho and heads for Prince's digs. Of course, being whole-heartedly self-dedicated to his role as an artist, giver of the ruby ring, he has hidden himself away in the most arcane arrangements. To reach his tree-house apartment, she must pass through a havocked bar, go up through a trap door, pass over a roof and make a six-foot drop on a rope.

She, a big, ungainly beauty, passes through the bar terrain. Misty, unknowable faces ring the counter. The barman calls out, "There goes a BBW." Big Beautiful Woman. This barkeep's mind is slenderly furnished; he has a face like a baseball glove. "Careful not to boom. It will shake the lad-

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 told, I'm something of a stranger to myself, too, she thinks.

Joyce rouses him. Her scratchy, grating, small voice tears at the lining of his heart. He lifts his red spade beard. She has managed to get the door open. She gives him a sunny smile. Meant to infuriate, he imagines. Her look is false as a mousetrap, he says, feeling strong as a lion.

They subside at his table. Pop, crackle go his nerve endings.

Joyce places a little screw of pink tissue paper before him. "I retrieved it," she says.

Prince presses the ruby ring, clean as a whistle, back onto her finger.

Prince puts on his Birkenstocks. They are going to eat Florida crabcakes at Turtle Kraals. They are the best there, so says Joyce's neighbor. There you view all the boat life and, lighting on the peaked tin roofs, the young male pelicans whose head tufts now have turned yellow for their rutting season.

Prince lets her go shinning out first on the rope. [h]

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Nature Notebook

Grunts: The Fish That Fed Key West

by Capt. Gaff McKethum

Grunts, members of the family Pomadasyidae, vividly colored tropical marine fish found along North American Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean, are of the genus *Haemulon*. There are about a dozen different grunts found in our local waters, ranging in size from the nine-inch small-mouth to the marge, which can reach a length of over two feet. Perhaps the most abundant, and certainly the most frequently caught, is the white grunt, *Haemulon plumieri*. Dunk a baited hook almost anywhere from White Street Pier out to the reefline, or off Mallory Square out to Smith Shoal on the Gulf side, and you'll probably catch a grunt or two. They are everywhere -- we are surrounded.

It is its proximity to Key West that accounts for the grunt's role in our local history. Early Key West fishermen worked from small, sail-powered boats known as *smackees*. Ranging in size from 14 to 27 feet in length and carrying one or two fishermen, the smackees fished nearby waters for market fish: snapper, small grouper, yellowtail, triggerfish and, of course, grunts. Most smackee fishermen went out in the morning, fished all day and returned to the dock in the afternoon, though the larger boats occasionally stayed out two or three days. Lacking ice, the boats' in-wells, though which seawater circulated, kept the catch alive. Back at the dock, the catch either was sold directly from these live wells or transferred to a floating pen known as a live car and sold from there.

A 1928 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries report on the fisheries of Key West states that the *fishermen's equipment and their methods of fishing and disposing of their catches are practically the same today as they were 40 or 50 years ago ... the retail fish trade is taken care of at the wharves, where the fishermen keep their catches alive in boat wells or in live cars, selling directly to the customers. There are no local retail stores that sell fish, but small quantities are peddled in pushcarts throughout the city. A person desiring to buy fish goes to the wharves, looks over the stock in the various live cars, and selects the fish he*



wants. The fishermen then remove the fish selected from the live car with a dip net and clean and string them without removing their heads.

Remember the Mario Sanchez woodcarving of a peddler's cart on Duval Street with strings of fish for sale? Or his carving of a basket of grunts?

Just how important the grunt is to the Key West table can be seen from the statistics on fish landings. In 1895, the total catch of grunts was a stupendous 600,000 pounds, virtually all of which was consumed locally. The figures for 1918 show 150,000 pounds of grunts landed. That's a lot of grunts for one island's appetite. Grunt Bone Alley, now Peacon Lane, earned its name honestly. By 1961, landings were still a respectable 81,000 pounds. But they declined by half in the later part of the decade and remained at that level until 1975, when they dropped below 10,000 pounds. Key West's culinary tastes and options had changed and local fishermen with larger and faster boats targeted higher-value species.

The early 1980s showed a rebound in the commercial catch of grunts, and by 1987 total landings were reported as 100,000 pounds. Due to changes in reporting requirements, this figure may be a bit suspect.

But virtually none of these grunts was con-

sidered locally. They were shipped north to satisfy the demand of South Florida's burgeoning Caribbean population.

For over 100 years, the noble grunt fed the people of Key West. Grits and grunts were regular items on breakfast tables all over Conchtown. As late as 1960, the daily prize for the largest fish caught aboard Capt. Tony Tarracino's *Greyhound II* party boat was a one-pound box of grits -- you had to catch your own grunts, but that was easy. When a true Conch eats his grits and grunts, the grunts are simply boiled and the grits are adorned only with salt, pepper and butter. While that's good eating, it's probably an acquired taste that you have to grow up with to appreciate fully.

When I decide it's time for grits and grunts I head out to the nearby Northwest Channel with fishing rod, hand line and squid for bait. Unless you catch your own grunts, you will never know how appropriately named they are. Grunts, when removed from the water, produce a grunting noise by grinding their throat teeth. Their air bladder acts as a resonator to amplify the volume. This "grunt talk" can be persuasive -- every trip several convince me to release them back to their watery abode. But as for the ones I keep, here's what awaits them:

Capt. Gaff's Grits 'n' Grunts: Prepare grits with cheddar cheese according to package directions, adding any extra seasonings you like. If you're handy with a filet knife and the grunts are large, filet and skin them. If you're not, scale, gut and remove heads. Make a light batter of egg, beer, salt, pepper, dash of hot sauce and a little garlic powder (optional). Soak fish in batter in refrigerator for one-half hour. Remove fish from batter, place several filets at a time in a paper bag with flour, shake and place on rack while remaining filets are floured. Heat peanut oil in a heavy frying pan until hot -- not too hot. Fry fish quickly, turning once. This will not take long at all if oil is the right temperature. Squeeze Key lime juice over grunts, think about the Key West of 100 years ago and enjoy the taste of history!

Eat grunts -- you'll put a little Key West back in your soul. ☐

The Tall and Mighty Slash Pine

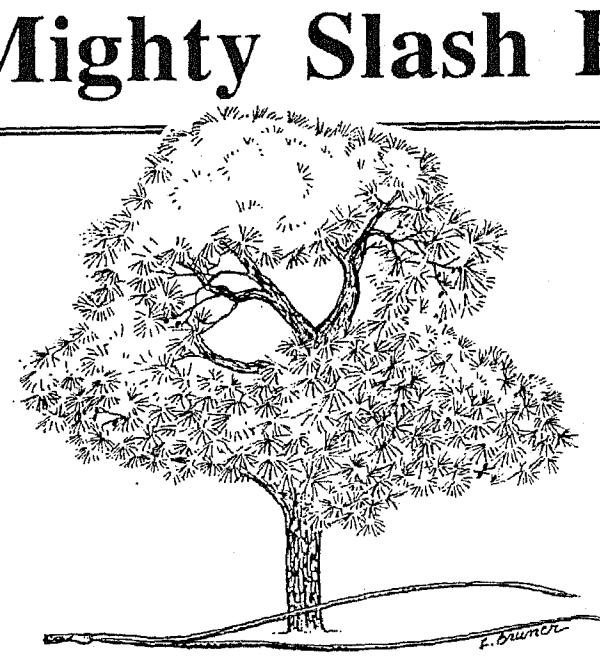
by Carl Weekley, Jr.

When most people think of pinelands, they picture Christmas card illustrations of snow-draped conifers -- scenes from northern latitudes. When they think of coconut palms, they think of South Florida.

But the coconut palm is not indigenous to South Florida, the Caribbean basin, or even, perhaps, this hemisphere. On the other hand, there is a pine which is native to what botanists and travel agents, in flagrant disregard of the atlas, call *tropical* Florida. (Botanists call South Florida *tropical* because the native flora is largely tropical in origin; travel agents have other reasons.)

The South Florida slash pine, a.k.a. Dade County pine, -- *Pinus elliottii* var. *densa* -- is endemic to South Florida, which means that it does not occur naturally anywhere else on earth. There is also a North Florida slash pine -- *Pinus elliottii* var. *elliotti* -- which is found in the northern part of the state. The South Florida slash pine is the Keys' only native pine; it is also the only true pine found here.

The common Australian pine -- *Casuarina equisetifolia* -- an undesirable exotic, is not a pine at all. It is an angiosperm, a true flowering plant which produces seeds enclosed in a fruit. The Norfolk Island pine -- *Araucaria excelsa* -- is also introduced and was once the pride of New Town. Also not



a pine, this species is a gymnosperm, a category of non-flowering plants which includes pines.

I know of only a handful of true pines -- all South Florida slash pines -- in Key West. Three are in McCoy Indigenous Park. Extensive pinelands once flourished on Big Pine, Little Pine, No Name and adjacent Keys; there may have been a small pineland on Key West. But today, only an embattled remnant remains. Pinelands are associated with outcrops of oolitic limestone and are characterized by an open canopy and a fairly dense ground covering of herbaceous plants.

Keys pinelands are fire-maintained communities. Without fires every three to five

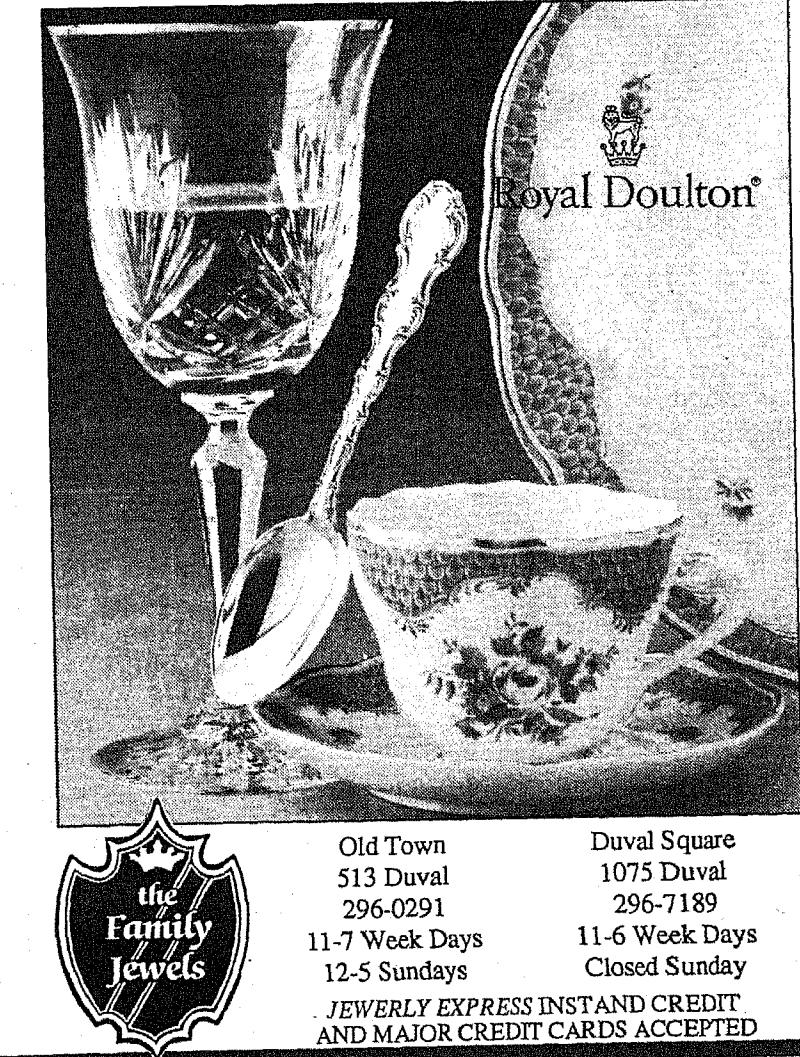
years, pines are pushed out by broad-leaved angiosperms and replaced by hardwood hammocks. The thick, scaly, spongy bark of the mature tree protects it from fire; pine-seed germination is promoted by fire.

Other members of the pineland ecosystem have adapted to their environment. Some have developed physical features to protect living tissue from fire; some regenerate readily from root-stock; some reproduce quickly and often. Many of the loveliest native wildflowers are pineland species.

Nineteenth-century Key West houses -- Conch cottages and tour-train mansions alike -- are often said to be built of Dade County pine. As its scientific varietal name, *densa*, implies, the wood of the slash pine is dense and hard. But, contrary to what a tour conductor will tell you, you can drive a nail into it and it is not impervious to termites.

The South Florida slash pine is most fully appreciated in the company of its kind and in its ecological context. The best places to see Key pinelands are the Jack Watson Nature Trail and the area adjacent to the Blue Hole, where a controlled burn was conducted about six months ago. Both sites are in the Key Deer Refuge on Big Pine Key. Turn onto Key Deer Boulevard at the only traffic signal on Big Pine and follow the signs. ☐

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AN INTIMATE DEATH

BY MARIE-CLAIRE BLAIS

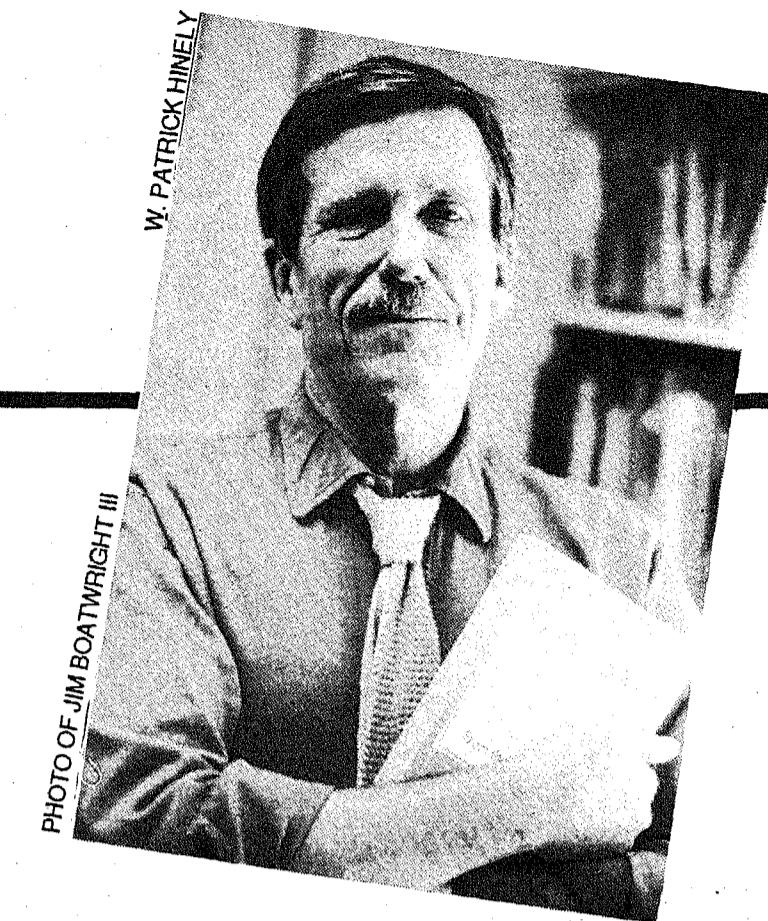
His books are still there, untouched, just as he arranged them on the shelves of his study, the books he read, the books he wrote, his papers, his notes are still spread over his worktable, because surely he still has lots of time to finish a novel, an essay, the pictures, the drawings he loved, are also untouched on the orange wall he'd just painted, one of those pictures that remind you of Gauguin, with brown bodies in the sun, is an allegory of the sensual, paradisaical life a person can lead on an island where it's always sunny and hot, he'd hung the picture on the orange wall above the table at which he reads and writes all day, but when evening comes and his work is done you can hear him laughing with his friends, although it's a sober laugh even when he smokes the euphoriant cigarettes he offers to everyone in that hot, nocturnal, intoxicating air, because there's barely enough wind at night, a breath of cool on the back of the neck, there's nothing but intoxication on this terrace, in this garden and at night we can hear him wandering lazily through the streets of the town, yes him, the intellectual who used to be so reserved, so discreet he seemed almost haughty, letting himself go in the blissful listlessness of the island, gradually he succumbs to his voluptuous temptations because surely he still has lots of time ahead of him, later, when he doesn't have to teach at that hidebound university back there, he'll come and live here among his books and his friends, and suddenly, how did it happen, one April morning, they made up a hospital bed in his room, under the towering trees that cover the roof of the tropical house with their branches, their tangled leaves, and he's thinking under this nest of lianas and stifling vegetation, lying on his hospital bed of intense pain while air comes to him in a mask and nourishment percolates drop by drop through tubes attached to his weakened flesh, he is thinking, those trees should have been cut long ago, they're so bushy, huge, they block the light, and their laughter can be heard from the garden, or the terrace, Vic and Frank and now they're here in this room leaning over him, washing him, changing him, turning him in his bed, for a few weeks already they've been here at his bedside, at first they offered him a hash cigarette, slipping it between his lips, then he refused, didn't he once tell them discreetly during a meal that he'd lost his taste for spicy food,

those flavours that used to burn his throat, from now on, in the evening air, it's time for that indispensable morphine, and isn't it true they had to get rid of the young male nurse who was stealing the drugs prescribed for terminal patients at the hospital, and what would become of that kid from the black ghetto? His papers are spread over the table, the writing on them having become illegible, with hunched, tortured letters, and now he sees the misty silhouettes of Vic and Frank who are folding him in their arms because they have to change him, wash him like a baby, yesterday, indescribable consolation, they put some toys in his bed, then they took them away from him again because any object could hurt him, even a plush teddy bear, weren't his arms and legs covered with bruises, things have changed since the time they could still give him refreshing baths, now they have to turn him in his bed, he hardly weighs anything, and always those hunched, tortured letters among the notes on the worktable, under the picture that was hung on the wall painted orange last year, he's strong enough to say in a tone of deprived, repressed rage, he wants them to listen this time when he says, yes, his voice rattling, in a kind of incoherent sigh, when will it all be over, anyway, when will it all be over? Because there's other proof that his time has come, he thinks, and that is the hibiscus Peter brought yesterday, the one with the yellow flowers just blooming, which stopped suddenly, the buds glossy in the light wouldn't open, there's the sign, he thinks vaguely, the sign of departure, the trees are too high, too bushy, no ray of sun can get through anymore, it's a yellow, tepid light at this hour of the morning, what did he say, Frank and Vic could barely hear him, a little water, yes, for the past few hours the water couldn't get past his burning lips anymore, they'd sat him up with great tenderness, helped him support his head against the pillow, but it was no use, the cool water no longer soothed him, all he could do was repeat, when will it all be over, my friends, when will it all be over? He loved parties so much, too bad he's not here this evening with his friends, his colleagues, a few distant relatives as well, celebrating in this sumptuous historical house where Frank and Vic have organized a banquet in his honour, the man who loved parties so much is somewhere else, there in the Gulf of

Mexico where his ashes are cooling, they rented a boat, says David, and the green waves rocked them, never saw so many ashes, says David, and the boat skimmed over the green water, carrying all of them along with the man who wouldn't return from the voyage, yes, but that night during the banquet the hibiscus began to bloom once more even though the air was glacial for this warm season, the hibiscus was blooming again spreading its wide, yellow corollas, and it was Peter, wasn't it, standing near the plant in shy silence, who noticed it first, the hibiscus is blooming and the man who couldn't drink or eat anymore, never mind do what they asked and roll onto his side to relieve the pain a little, he too had seen that vigorous plant, the hibiscus Peter had brought him and at that moment he'd felt the breathing grow slow in his chest, Peter and the plant were the incarnation of that living beauty he would never attain again, even by stretching out his hand, that emaciated hand opening in the void, lots of time ahead of him, later on he'd come to rest and write in his island house, he'll write still more books, be an editor and poet by turns, he'll discover authors and make them known in foreign lands, and suddenly, one morning in March a male nurse pushes his wheelchair through the Miami airport and indeed it's him, the sportsman, the athlete who only yesterday was diving in the ocean waves, it is indeed him, so feeble today he can't walk anymore, it is indeed him they're pushing in the wheelchair from one airport to another, under the pitying and fearful eyes of a crowd full of latent hostility, because this man passing has a contagious disease, and the contagion is formidable, it's a contagion of fear that nourishes prejudice, racism, hate he thinks while the crowd parts to let him through and he shivers with cold in this oppressive heat, touching his face and feeling the premature wrinkles under his trembling fingers, the sky is blue and hot, Vic and Frank are waiting for him there, feebly listless he'd let himself be dressed that morning in his blue sweater and grey corduroy slacks, fully aware that the young black male nurse was gradually stripping him of the morphine he'd need later on, who knows, maybe in a few days, but feebly listless, he'd let himself be dressed for the journey, but what did those people in the crowd see, under his sweater, his slacks, the sores, the black

stigmata, because no part of his body had been spared, he was suffering as much inside as out, his breath was short and constricted, his pink colouring had faded in a few weeks, and when would it all be over, anyway, when would it all be over, that secret fire that wind of putrefaction blowing over him? And in this historical house on the island they were celebrating glass in hand, celebrating the man who used to be strong and beautiful, vigorous and tender, the lover of life when life was no longer there, they were celebrating the man who would never come back from the Gulf of Mexico and in the plane that was taking him back to the island the male nurse had raised him in his seat so he could see the ocean and there was a glint of joy in his blue eyes and the glint quickly disappeared as his gaze with its stricken intelligence became fixed on the green water, he saw the island lost amid thick vegetation, his island, and that morning in March a male nurse pushes his wheelchair through the Miami airport and indeed it's him, the sportsman, the athlete who only yesterday was diving in the ocean waves, it is indeed him, so feeble today he can't walk anymore, it is indeed him they're pushing in the wheelchair from one airport to another, under the pitying and fearful eyes of a crowd full of latent hostility, because this man passing has a contagious disease, and the contagion is formidable, it's a contagion of fear that nourishes prejudice, racism, hate he thinks while the crowd parts to let him through and he shivers with cold in this oppressive heat, touching his face and feeling the premature wrinkles under his trembling fingers, the sky is blue and hot, Vic and Frank are waiting for him there, feebly listless he'd let himself be dressed that morning in his blue sweater and grey corduroy slacks, fully aware that the young black male nurse was gradually stripping him of the morphine he'd need later on, who knows, maybe in a few days, but feebly listless, he'd let himself be dressed for the journey, but what did those people in the crowd see, under his sweater, his slacks, the sores, the black

anyway, and his blue, intelligent gaze wandered all around him, around his abandoned and damaged body, the glint in his eyes suddenly paralyzed in the dawn light, and they each had a copy of that recent photo of him where the dazzling glint of his blue eyes had blazed for the last time in the faded pallor of his face, on that day too he was wearing the grey corduroy slacks, the blue wool sweater and looked as if he were resting nonchalantly in a red canvas chair, holding his head in his left hand, he must have felt good that day, they said to themselves while contemplating the shy grace of his smile, and the sick man's head, so very frail, bending towards the left hand which supported the frail head as if it were about to fall, yes, that's right, said David, and they all stared at this farewell snapshot, discovering in it the premature wrinkles on his forehead, the melancholy of his smile, wasn't there a kind of laziness in his pose that day, David was saying, a sweet nonchalance like in the good old days when he used to smoke his intoxicating cigarettes beside his friends, remember that night back when he used to go bar hopping after dark and he met Lee, Lee, the Japanese boy in the striped pullover roller-skating past the sidewalk bars that night with a luminous green band around his close-cropped head glowing like a dragonfly in the night, others said, there's a kind of abandon in his smile and in that movement of the hand, and such grace too, such extreme nonchalance, he used to work a lot, but taking it easy, he also really liked doing nothing, just dreaming through the sensual sluggishness of those apparently endless summer days ... Behind him in the photograph there's the landscape of water and sand that belonged to him so many times, behind the man nonchalantly seated, relaxed, ready to laugh his sober laugh in the red canvas chair, he used to welcome his friends while resting in that chair in the garden, writers who'd come from every corner of the world and then they set up the hospital bed in the bedroom and he'd noticed how the trees were so high and bushy against the sky, no, the air



W. PATRICK HINCKLEY

PHOTO OF JIM BOATWRIGHT III

couldn't get in anymore and the sunlight, and the hibiscus Peter had placed near his bed, the hibiscus with its yellow flowers had suddenly stopped blooming as if it had been draped in a shroud of frost or deprived of the sun's glare, overwhelmed by the same contemptible, servile suffering he'd felt, even that night when he'd told his friends he didn't like spicy food anymore, the lightness of his smile had faded, the cool water would no longer pass his burning lips, because a putrid fire consumed his heart, his bowels, and that devastated body was barely visible under the trembling damp sheets, even if Vic changed the sheets constantly weren't they always humid, oh! when will it all be over, anyway, when will it all be over? And then at last that glint of fierce anxiety became fixed at dawn in his eyes, the hibiscus stopped blooming finally, and it was all over, and the boats went on gliding over the green water and when the wind became too strong, the young people on their sailboats were cast out by the waves, a cold wind passed furtively over the green water and the hibiscus stopped blooming for two days when the cold wind came and you could feel it cut through you like a knife, and that was the hour a young man died, still overflowing with vitality, his books and his writings still untouched in his study on the worktable where bills in sealed envelopes were also piling up, and they were celebrating him that night, but he wasn't there anymore among his relatives, his friends, to feel the breath of wind on the back of his neck and Lee no longer appeared at night on roller skates with a luminous green band around his close-cropped head, they raised their glasses but the man they celebrated wasn't there anymore, the man who'd loved parties so much.



This short story is dedicated to the memory of James Boatwright III, formerly editor of Shenandoah, a literary review published by Washington and Lee University. He spent his winters in Key West and died here of AIDS in 1988.

Marie-Claire Blais, a distinguished Canadian writer, was a friend and admirer of Boatwright. "An Intimate Death" was translated from the French by Ray Ellerwood.

Community Notes

Tax help. IRS-trained, volunteer tax aides offer free counsel and tax preparation Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through April 13 at Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street; Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sugarloaf Fire House, MM17; and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Big Pine Senior Center, Key Deer Boulevard. Bring 1988 tax return and relevant 1989 records. This service is sponsored by AARP and is available to all taxpayers regardless of age.

TDC PR. The services of two Keys-based representatives have been retained by Stuart Newman Associates, the Monroe County



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against oil drilling in the Keys.

Traveling bite. Members of the Atlantic/Caribbean chapter of the Society of American Travel Writers recently visited the Keys. The Reach hosted a special breakfast for the writers. The trip should generate Keys-related articles.

Marine sanctuary. Senator Bob Graham introduced a bill on March 7 to create a Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The bill would ban commercial cargo vessel traffic and oil drilling offshore from Key Largo to the Dry Tortugas, and seaward to a depth of 600 feet. Recreational use of the water would not be affected. The sanctuary would encompass all existing marine sanctuaries in its range. Graham's bill will be referred to the state commerce committee.

Dial-a-law. Monroe County residents can obtain free legal advice by calling 294-1600 every Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m. It's part of the format on "The Law and You with Attorney Frank Butner, Live from Key West" on AM1600 Talk Radio WKWF. Legal experts are featured on the show, and individuals are encouraged to call with legal questions or problems.

Task force says "thanks." The Florida Task Force announced that it raised over \$3,000 through fundraisers last fall, and thanked the people of Key West for their generous support. The task force lobbies in Tallahassee and Washington for AIDS funding and issues, human rights, gay rights and women's issues; it also lobbies

Help AIDS Help. Year-round residents of the Keys can volunteer a variety of services to AIDS Help, Inc. Needs include transportation, pet care, cooking and delivery of meals and office assistance. AIDS Help is also looking for those who can make the special commitment of being a buddy. Call Ann L. Weekley, director of volunteers, at 296-6196.

BAD news. Kirk Zuelch, state attorney for Monroe County, has announced his office's adoption of a substance abuse policy. The policy includes a mandatory pre-employment drug test and employee submission to drug testing if there is reasonable suspicion of drug use. Refusal to be tested will result in immediate termination; a positive test will result in mandatory drug treatment. Zuelch modeled his policy after that of Business Against Drugs (BAD), a Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce program; he urges all employers in Monroe County to implement similar policies.

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The politics of abortion. The Monroe County Coalition for a Woman's Right to Choose held a public symposium March 9 on "The Politics of Abortion." Among subjects discussed were the need for a Planned Parenthood clinic in Key West, efforts to step up sex and birth-control education and an update on the efforts of anti-abortionists. Singer/songwriter Marian Joy Ring performed American and Latin American women's music, as well as her own compositions. For information call Iva Ethridge, 745-1111 or Judith Kazantzis, 294-7095.

Reef center opens. The Reef Relief Environmental Education Center recently opened at 201 William Street. The facility offers information to locals and tourists about the living coral reef. Reef Relief invites everybody to drop by and learn more about the fragile aquatic ecosystem that lays just miles off our coral-crusted shores.

A breaker in disguise. Spring Break 1990 at Higgs County Beach features tropically garbed Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Passarelli on special beach patrol. Deputy Passarelli's duties include patrolling beach and parking areas to thwart car break-ins, purse snatching, larcenies, and violations of alcoholic beverage laws. That doesn't leave him much time for volleyball. Full-time beach patrols continue through April 15.

Earth Day 1990. The Florida Park Service will join in the national celebration of the 20th Annual Earth Day on April 22 by waiving entrance fees to all state parks. Fort

Zachary Taylor in Key West will sponsor activities designed to boost environmental education and protection. To help plan this event, call George or Sheri Cabanas at 292-6713.

Recycling market booms. Markets are looking good in Florida these days for recyclable materials, especially aluminum, newsprint and glass. Plastics remain resistant to recycling because of unsteady demand by manufacturers and the increased preparation and handling required in plastic recycling. Plastics markets are opening up in Florida, however, and all recycling markets are expected to strengthen as industry gears up to meet demand.

Recycling trivia. Did you know that recycling 24 aluminum cans saves seven kilowatt-hours of electricity? Recycling of aluminum cans in 1987 saved 9.9 billion kilowatt hours -- enough electricity to power over 1.1 million homes for one year. Newsprint for one press run of the Sunday *New York Times* uses up 75,000 trees. Using recycled paper, manufacturers save about 20 percent of the energy required to make paper from lumber. Recycling glass can save up to 30 percent of the energy required to produce glass from sand, soda ash or limestone. For information on saving energy, call the Monroe County Extension Service at 294-4641, ext. 160.

Puppy power. Moonlit won the 1990 Puppy Stakes at Berenson's Key West Greyhound Track on March 3. Trained by Richard Fowler and owned by Kay J. Norris, the pacesetting pup's time of 31.67

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Foley Square

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was recorded on a sloppy track. Moonlit beat the race's early leader, Rio Gol Den, at the wire and Quick Goldie checked in third.

Oil recycling is imperative. Do-it-yourselfers, changing oil in cars, boats, tractors, lawnmowers, etc., generate more than 10 million gallons of used oil in one year. One pint of used motor oil can create an oil slick about the size of two football fields. In 1988, an estimated seven million gallons of used oil were dumped into the environment. Dumped used oil pollutes freshwater supplies for people and wildlife, not to mention the threat of toxic pollution to marine fisheries. In Key West, 12 oil recycling sites are provided by local service stations in cooperation with the city. Each is conspicuously marked with a yellow-and-black sign. Use them.

Keeping it in-house. The utility board decided to keep investment management in-house instead of hiring expensive investment firms. Fay Nance, finance manager for City Electric System, told the board that investment decisions can be made within the company with little extra work and at a substantial savings.

Coral Reef Coalition. Local, national and international environmentalists, as well as representatives of the diving and fishing industries, have banded together to form the Coral Reef Coalition to support preservation of Florida's coral reef. The coalition plans to work with members of the community and local, state and federal government to find solutions to the myriad threats to the vitality of Florida's coral reef.

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case, it is blatantly obvious that Mr. Jacobson is a very prejudiced, biased and opinionated individual who is using the media to serve his own very private agenda.
Thomas W. Brown
Monroe County Administrator

War on Drugs

Dear Editor:

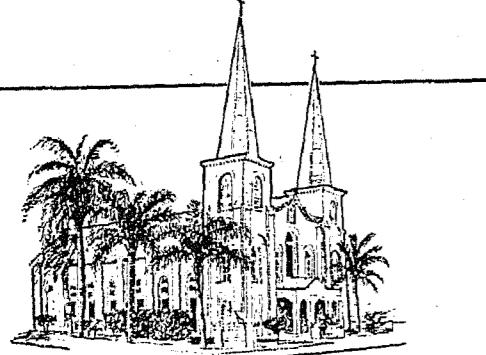
Webster's Dictionary defines war as: 1. open armed conflict; 2. active hostility; 3. military operations as a science... The key words are *armed, hostile* and *military*.

Now, think in terms of the world war on drugs. In America, this war has been declared not only against other countries, but against American citizens, as well.

When Bush said, "Let's wage a war on drugs," he didn't just mean in Panama or Colombia, but right here at home, too.

Are we so addicted to violence in America that we command a president for declaring war against its own citizens?

The effort of lawmakers to make life more difficult and expensive for the poor and homeless, along with the military and police using selective enforcement to attack



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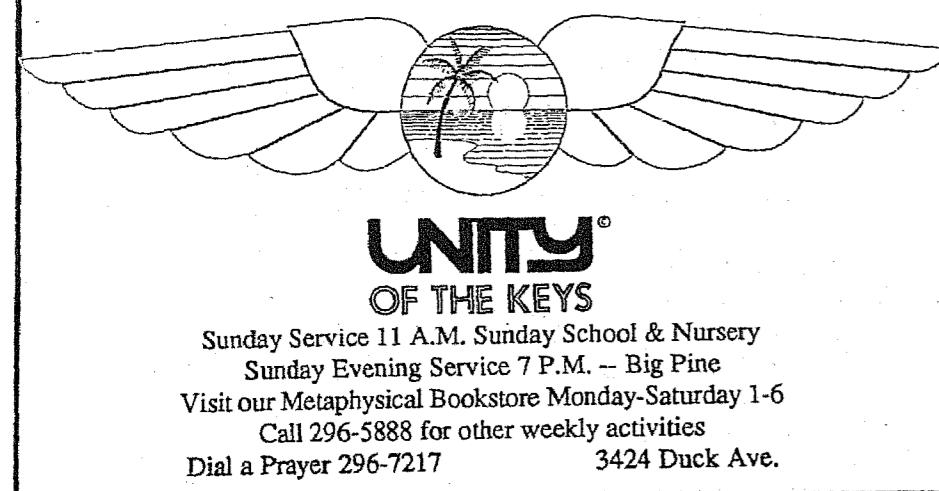
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people they choose, has created a feeling of mistrust which is beginning to reach the middle class.

Ron Carter
Key West

To Your Health

Dear Editor:

Key West is lovely but fragile. This is nowhere more evident than in the pivotal decision now being made about the last living coral reef in North America. Besides being a unique thing of beauty, the reef is literally the only real protection the Keys have from the oncoming sea.

Over the years, exploiters have chipped away at the reef to take coral for souvenirs and sale. Wear and tear from large ships navigating in and around the Keys, in addition to the despoiling of the reef through unmonitored waste disposal and other damaging activities, has seriously eroded the natural reef.

At the 11th hour, the Coast Guard seems poised to severely restrict "vessels carrying oil and other hazardous material" and "vessels weighing 500 gross tons or more" from traveling the waters around this vital reef.

The hue and cry from Key West business interests is furious and loud. Their argument is simple: the supply of oil into the Keys would be so jeopardized that the energy supply might disappear during spells of rough weather - preventing any oil from coming in for "months at a time." And certainly the cost of electricity in Key West would soar to "unprecedented heights." They claim the local economy would be severely damaged and future growth virtually eliminated, with the bottom line being economic disaster.

I have been researching public opinion for 30 years on the subject of the environment. And *always*, without exception, the opposition to saving the plundered environment sings the same specious song: It is that economic benefits and sustenance of the human race must have a higher priority than the protection of the environment.

In the hearings on the Coast Guard order to ban big tankers from the vicinity of the reef, the opposition made much of the fact that protection of the interests of people must take priority over the interests of the fish, wildlife, plant life and coral. In the Valdez oil spill in Alaska, defenders of Exxon made a big point of saying that, no matter what happened to the rest of the

We, the People

Dear Editor:

The problem with Dante Fascell's most recent marine sanctuary bill is that it

environment, not a *human* life was lost.

In the past four decades, over 50 percent of the wetlands of the country has been destroyed, mainly by developers along the coasts who put in landfill and create whole new resorts and communities with pitifully little objection from local and state governments. The net result: the country now is subject to over double the number of floods, at double severity and destruction. The land is washing away, and the swamps and wetlands are being destroyed along with the wildlife which breeds there. All of this, I would stoutly argue, affects the health of individual human beings, certainly over the long run and, more likely, right now.

The Harris Poll consistently asked this question over the years: "If you had to make a choice between having building and industrial development which might endanger the health of some people but would make for jobs and a better standard of living, or living conditions where the air was good, the water good and the health of people much better, which would you choose?" Eighty-four percent of people polled consistently opted for a lesser standard of living with fewer health risks. The people equate a healthy environment with healthy living. Make no mistake about that.

Those with vested interests claim that they speak for the people in objecting to the Coast Guard order to ban oil tankers and other large ships from the reef, on the grounds that economic interests must take priority over environmental protection. In truth, they speak for those who would preside over the very destruction of the Keys for the sake of a buck, as they claim to be representing progress and quality of life.

Other ports have banned large tankers and ships and have made it mandatory for smaller craft to cart the materials necessary to sustain electrical systems and support services. The cost has not been staggering. If you don't believe that, wait until the Coast Guard order becomes the law. You will see businesses pick up the new franchises, at costs not materially different from the old costs and the dangers to the economy will not materialize.

Louis Harris
Key West



contains the word "sanctuary." Understandably, this word scares the daylights out of anyone who earns his income by harvesting or salvaging in the waters to be encompassed by the so-called "sanctuary."

Speaking on behalf of Reef Relief, which is responsible for the installation and maintenance of 80 mooring buoys, I can say that salvaging operations have only concerned us when newly grounded vessels are pulled from areas where we maintain buoys.

We feel the same way about tropical fish harvesting activities. It is very hard to explain to a tourist -- who has just been instructed not to go near the coral, touch it, stand on it or anchor on it -- why a fish collector is anchored up in the coral, why his dive buddies are swimming among the coral squirting chemicals to paralyze fish, and, finally, why these collectors are removing the very fish that brought this visitor to the Keys in the first place. If fish collectors did not collect on heavily impacted core zones where millions of Americans and foreigners come to see the only living coral reef in the continental United States, then I don't think Reef Relief would ever concern itself with the harvesting of tropical fish. Presently, we often receive complaints and concerns over their practices.

Another questionable consumptive practice is live rock collection. By removing live rock -- rock that has coral and other living creatures attached to it, and which supports a small community of fish -- collectors tear down the building blocks of the reef ecosystem. A possible alternative to this practice could be to limit harvesting of live rock to areas where groundings have occurred and where loose rubble poses a threat to the remaining live coral, as is the case after storms and hurricanes. Also, there are now techniques for growing live rock in traps.

All user groups working the waters of the Keys agree that water quality is the Number One threat to our reefs. Nutrient loading of the nearshore surface waters must stop very soon or our living coral reef will soon become a living algal reef.

The time is right for all of us to unite in an attempt to reduce the amount of nutrients Monroe County dumps into our wonderful waters. We say, "We don't want federal involvement; we want to manage ourselves." The county that screams for independence to manage itself is the same county that has lost the drive to see that the new phosphate ban be implemented. As a matter of fact, the phosphate ban appears to be going nowhere. So much for self-determination and self-rule! It boils down to us: We, the People. If we do not demand assistance in installing county-wide sewage treatment plants and start reducing our own personal contributions of nutrient loading, no one else will. We will be just as guilty as anyone else for destroying not only a beautiful and unique resource -- our coral reef -- but also our livelihood here in the Keys.

The people of the county should unite on common ground to curb nutrient loading while the issue is on the fire. If We, the People lead the direction of concern to the real culprit, quite possibly our elected officials will follow our example and provide us with the necessary legislation to eliminate nutrient loading state-wide.

Reef Relief continues to maintain support for the concept of a county-wide management plan for our reefs, call it by any name you choose -- a "sanctuary," or whatever else you like. It's not what we call it that really matters; it's what we do with this opportunity to make a positive change for our future here in the Keys.

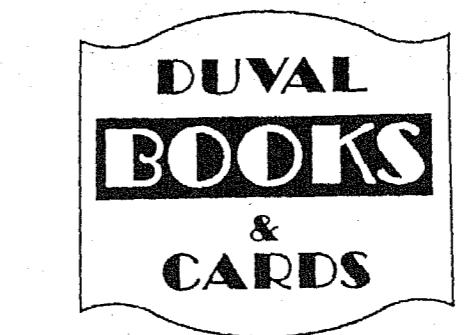
When our country spends \$6-million to encourage tourism and over two-million visitors swim on our reefs, the bottom line is that some sort of management system is absolutely necessary for the preservation and protection of this vital economic and environmental resource. Since the only experts in the field of coral reef management we know of are the federal marine sanctuaries people, it only makes sense that they do the job of maintaining our coral reef.

Craig Quirolo
Key West

Supports Variance

Dear Editor:

Rules and regulations contained in the Land Use Plan were admittedly written to discourage, prohibit or otherwise obstruct building and use of land in Monroe County.



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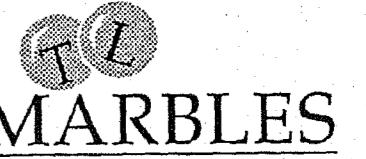
Rigid as they are, they have generally accomplished the purpose for which they were enacted, but when contested in court they have almost always been found defective and illegal.

In the administration of these rules and regulations, the county commission sits as a final judge and members of this body are morally and honor bound to make decisions which benefit the majority of the citizenry. The vehicle by which this is done is called a *variance*. While there have been benefits from these building restraints, citizens of the Keys have also been deprived of many projects which enhance the quality of life in the society in which we live.

Because of a diminishing tax base and an increasing demand for more tax dollars, many people of the Keys are being taxed out of their homes. Unlike government in other

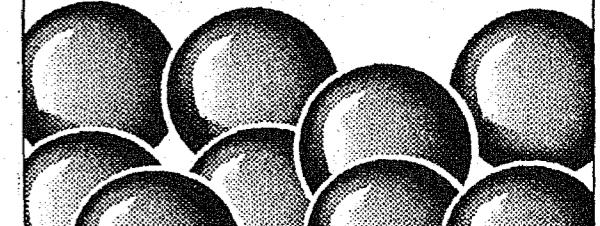
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Sitting in review of the decision of the planning commission, a majority of the county commission members voted in favor of the project. In so doing they exercised their obligation to deviate from the established rules in favor of a facility which will fill the needs of the vast majority of people living in the Middle Keys.

Variances must be decided on the set of circumstances surrounding each particular case which comes before the planning com-

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mission or the county commission. No one case should be permitted to dictate in any way any other case. Judges have been known to give the electric chair in one murder case and probation in another. Merits of each case determine the final decision.

Consider how little the average citizen gets from his tax dollar. Consider how much good the new facility, when built, will mean to all the people of this county. The county commission should be commended for the courage which it displayed in deciding this controversial issue.

Joe Allen
Key West

Reconsider Jail Site

Dear Editor:

Please let me preface this letter by stating that I am a firm believer that we need substantially more jail cells immediately. However, I am absolutely aghast at the prospect of Administrator Tom Brown suggesting that our elected officials pursue the purchase of an exorbitantly priced parcel of land on Stock Island. In my book, \$4.86-million is a lot of money for a 14-acre jail site.

The property in question is blessed by zoning that permits the development of a recreational vehicle park. This zoning adds great intrinsic value to the property which will, more than likely, be reflected in the appraisals which, I hope, will be required.

The property in question also enjoys the ambience of Mount Trashmore along with the delightful smells, smoke and vultures that permeate the area. (If the jail is developed on this site I wonder how long it will take an inmate to bring legal action against the county for cruel and inhumane treatment.) Is it possible the owners of the property realize the development of their proposed RV park might be economically hampered by the less than desirable surroundings and have instead opted to sell the property to the government at a price based on the potential highest and best use of the property? Please believe that I find nothing distasteful in private enterprise and in making a profit; but I really question the need to purchase private property for the construction of a jail at a figure approaching \$8 per square foot.

Given the President's declared war on drugs, I find it hard to believe that, if one of our elected or appointed officials were to contact the Attorney General of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior, our federal government could not find 14 acres of surplus property that would serve our county's need. We have abandoned missile sites from the Bay of Pigs era, and we have land surrounding the abandoned submarine pits just a few miles outside the city.

Unfortunately, since we have such a genuine and overpowering need for additional jail space immediately, I fear the prospect of untangling the red tape involved in dealing with Washington will not occur within a timely period. However, if we start working with the federal government now, we might accidentally find a solution to our anticipated future local governmental real estate needs.

It is quite evident that we are in a "buyer's market" and I would be most surprised if any experienced real estate broker in the Keys could not locate suitable scarified or disturbed land in Rockland Hammock, Summerland Key or Cudjoe Key for substantially less than one-third of a million dollars per acre. I suggest that Administrator Brown solicit proposals for purchase of suitable property. We all just might be pleasantly surprised.

Phillip C. White
Key West

Solares Hill welcomes letters to the editor.
All letters must be signed and include the
writer's address and telephone number.

Earth Day 1990

Activities Planned at Fort Zach

April 22 marks the 20th anniversary of the first Earth Day Celebration. As a direct result of national demonstrations by 20 million people on that first Earth Day, the Clean Air Bill and the Environmental Protection Agency became realities.

State parks throughout Florida will waive entrance fees and host activities designed to promote environmental education and protection as they join in the national celebration.

At Fort Zachary Taylor, there will be an Environmental Education Fair, with information booths representing Reef Relief, Last Stand, Greenpeace, the Audubon Society, the Key West Garden Club and others. Activities including a kite-flying demonstration, boat races, live music and food will take place throughout the day.

There will be a sunrise service at West Martello Towers and meditations throughout the day at Fort Zachary Taylor. Various area churches plan Earth Day activities, as well.

In addition, Fort Zachary Taylor will be the site of the launching of the Creative Responsible Environmental Action Through Education, or C.R.E.A.T.E. Raft Project. After 2-1/2 years of concerted effort on the part of many local residents, especially Sonny McCoy and the students and faculty of Poinciana Elementary School, organizers Chris Weiland and his brother Claus will embark on an epic journey.

Their 45-by-14-foot raft, constructed en-

tirely of trash from recycling efforts and environmental clean-up campaigns, will be towed from Fort Zachary Taylor up the Intercoastal Waterway to St. Augustine. The crew plans to conduct spontaneous "eco-festivals" along the way to promote environmental awareness.

In July, the raft will set out on the open ocean from St. Augustine in a transAtlantic sail. The raft's crew expects to come ashore in England or Ireland. [■]

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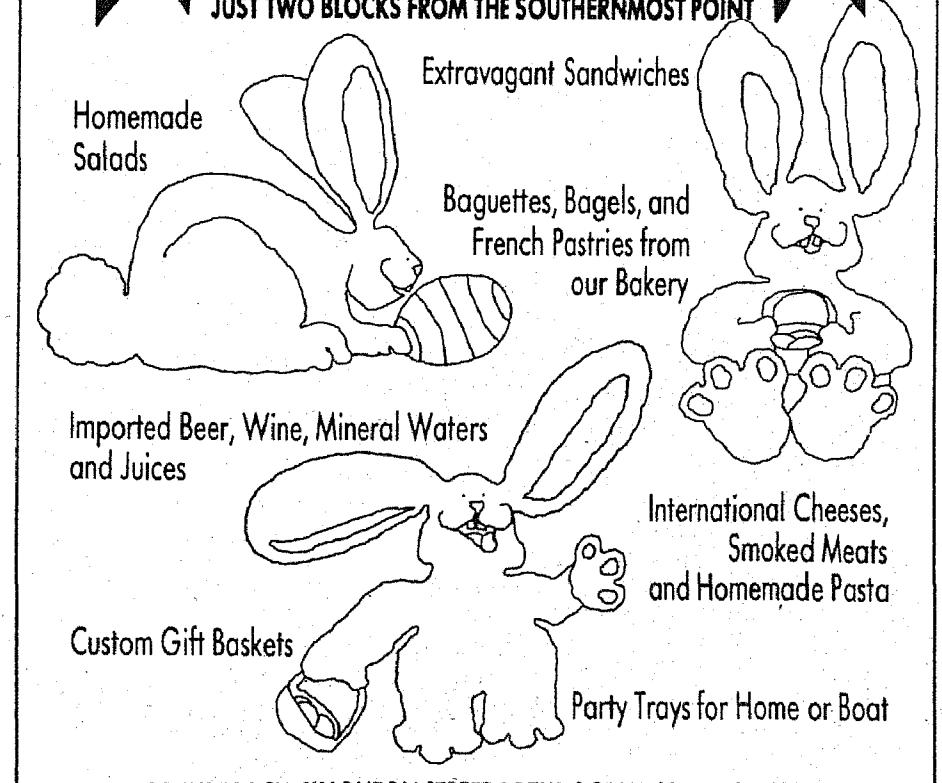


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Opinion

Peary Court: It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over

by Elizabeth M. Smith

Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense,
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down.

from "Mending Wall"
-- Robert Frost

The Navy plans to break ground and begin housing construction at Peary Court on June 1. That gives those who oppose the Navy's plan two months to act. Key West City Commissioner Harry Powell, who has led the fight to keep Peary Court green, says he believes it is entirely possible to preserve the park. What the people of Key West need to do, he says, is band together in full and unyielding force.

As far as the nearly 6,000 opponents to the Navy project are concerned, there is only one answer to the question of who stands to lose in this controversy: We do! And that reality strengthens our belief that it ain't over till it's over.

For those who are still undecided on their positions concerning Peary Court, here are some points to consider:

A Few Realities

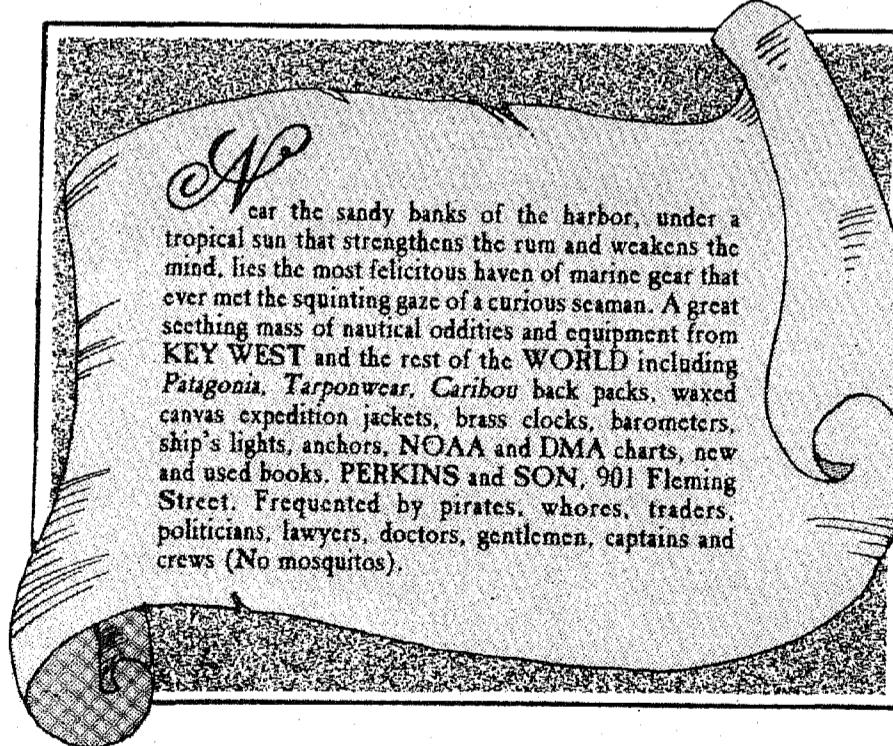
1. The economic health of Key West is linked to the United States Navy. Recall the economic decline after the Navy's withdrawal from Truman Annex in the early 1970s, followed by massive escalation in tourism as a means of financial support. 2. The military occupies about 20 percent of available land space on the island. Much of this is prime real estate -- waterfront, deep water access and natural beaches. 3. Close to 6,000 people signed a "Keep Peary Court Green" petition, asking that alternate sites be found for the proposed 167 housing units. 4. About 300 folks attended a recent rally to demonstrate their desire to keep the space



DON PINDER COLLECTION

A lovely residential scene: Peary Court was the site of boxy Navy housing in the early 1950s.

green. 5. A sign was placed by the door of a Truman Annex contractor warning that any employee asking for time off to attend the Peary Court rally would be "terminated." 6. Resolutions requesting that the proposed housing units be constructed elsewhere on military property have been passed by the city commission and many other organizations, including the Key West Chamber of Commerce, Key West Association of Realtors, the Hotel and Motel Association, Friends of Florida and the Key West Business



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City of Key West and utility companies' impact fees. Adherence to these guidelines must add to the cost of the project for which Congress has appropriated \$10.6 million. 9. To bring it to flood-plain level, most of Peary Court's 29 acres would have to be filled to an additional 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet. This would involve uprooting protected trees.

10. The Navy justifies the proposed construction by referring to its Master Plan of 1981. These plans are written every 10 years and are supposed to be updated every five years. According to Commissioner Harry Powell, not only was this Master Plan not updated, but no record exists that it was ever received by the city commission. Powell describes this document as "anachronistic; Key West has aged 30 years in the last 10." Undeniably, the status of Key West has drastically altered since this Master Plan, which states, "...there is only a very small percentage of Key West land used for tourist accommodation."

This plan also recommends that the White Street trailer park be accessed; it has since been upgraded. Nine years ago, the child care center on Trumbo Point was described as being in a "physically inadequate condition." A new facility was to be built. But today the child care center still occupies the same building on Trumbo. These plans are not chiseled in stone!

11. More than 30 years later, there still remains a great deal of community resentment over the annexing of the beach and surrounding property at the west end of United Street.

12. The need for military housing has proven to be a changeable factor here; whereas the need for recreational space within Key West is marked by diminishing supply and increasing need.

13. Over 400 men in the Men's Softball League and over 150 girls in the Girls' Softball League -- approximately 20 percent of whom are military -- play on the two ballfields at Peary Court. The junior high school girls' league has just added two new teams.

The city has already lost one ballpark at Truman Annex. If Peary Court is taken too, only Wicker's Field will remain to support organized sports.

14. The Navy plans a new sports complex, to include softball fields, at the Sigsbee base. Public access to these recreational facilities will not be allowed.

15. The Navy land at Martello battery, which has been proposed as an exchange with city-owned lands, is not suited for softball play. Despite other considerations, FAA regulations forbid people to "congregate" that close to an airport.

16. The naval document, "Environmental Assessment for Project FA-17, Navy Family Housing at Peary Court," described by the Citizen Advisory Task Force as a "shocking misrepresentation of facts," concluded that, "...the proposed project will have no significant adverse effects on the environment, and that there has not been, nor is there currently any known controversy concerning this project."

The chairman of the Task Force indicated that the report ignored the presence of the huge softball complex, and failed to mention

the importance of the Peary Court area to the recreational and open space needs of the general Key West community.

17. The Navy's Request for Proposals states: *The government may reject any and all bids if such bids are not in the public interest.*

18. The city of Everett, Washington, successfully brought an injunction against the United States Navy and halted a dredging project.

Lingering Questions

1. Were records of significant objections to this proposed project properly forwarded along the Navy's chain of command? Did they reach relevant persons of authority?

2. What is the "possibility of an unforeseen halt" mentioned at the pre-bid proposal conference recently held by the Navy?

3. Since the relationship enjoyed by the military and the citizens of Key West is symbiotic by nature, why would the Navy choose to polarize the community and further segregate themselves by creating a walled enclave out of our much loved and needed "central park"?

4. What will be the ramifications for our community if we are deprived of this recreation area?

5. What will become of the powerboat racers and the business they bring should Peary Court become unavailable?

6. Will Congressman Dante Fascell show more initiative concerning this issue now that the city commission is united behind it?

7. Would it be the best possible solution if the Navy were to write Peary Court into their new Master Plan as a recreational facility, lease it to the City of Key West on a long-term basis and work in conjunction to improve this acreage?

8. How will the anticipated political changes in the Caribbean basin affect the need for military housing in this vicinity?

9. Isn't it un-American to take a city's ballparks away?

10. Why can't we work together on this?

What Can You Do?

1. Commissioner Powell, who spearheaded the movement to "Keep Peary Court Green" plans a trip to Washington, with other city officials, during the first week in April. He proposes to present his case, contending that Key West has not been adequately heard or represented to Senators Bob Graham and Connie Mack and Congressman Dante Fascell.

2. There are those among us who are prepared to camp out 24 hours a day, seven days a week should the Navy decide to begin its proposed construction.

3. Meanwhile, those concerned are, again, encouraged to contact any and every political representative, urging them to support this cause.

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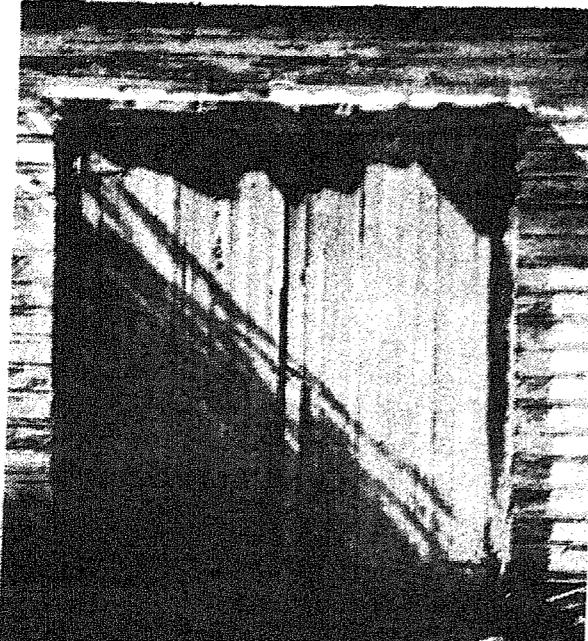
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Old House Handbook: Doors*Comments on the Components of a Key West Historic House*

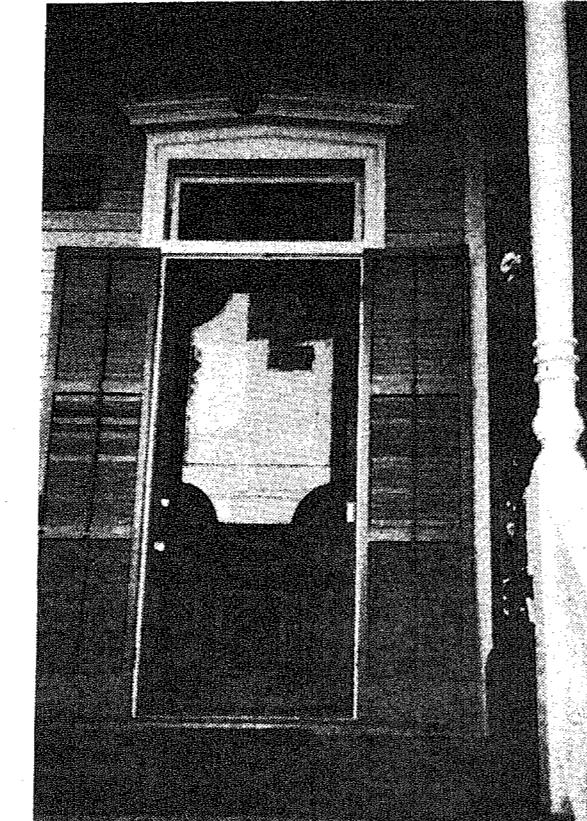
by Sharon Wells

The entryway of an old house is one of the main indicators of the character of a building. A walk around Key West provides one with views of a plethora of doors -- some intricately carved in relief during the 19th century, others typically with six or four wood panels. Single doors predominate, but one can still glimpse beautiful, historic French doors with glass sidelights. Still others are fronted by traditional wooden screen doors.

A 19th-century *Home Building Guide* contained careful directions for doors, which should be followed today. The *Guide* noted: "Great care should be observed in locating and hanging these objects of vital importance. A careful study of the plans as to the best and most convenient point in the walls at which the opening may be made, keeping in view the side at which the doors could best hang, should be made before the work is commenced. The front door may be enriched, furnished with ground, ornamented or figured glass as preferred. Em-



Typical doors on structures used commercially -- vertical boards, now beautifully weathered. bossed glass for vestibule doors, windows, transoms, of most beautiful designs, can be



PHOTOS BY SHARON WELLS

architectural features should be held to a minimum. Retain existing door openings, pediments and all hardware. Avoid introducing new door openings into the principal elevations, or enlarging or reducing door openings to fit new stock door sizes. Avoid discarding original doors and hardware when they can be repaired or reused in place."

Original sources for doors in Key West may be found in 19th- and 20th-century newspaper advertisements. For example, Hoosier Mills, W.S. Warner and Company, were manufacturers of yellow pine and cypress doors, sash and blinds in 1880. The *Key to the Gulf* in 1876 contains a notice for William Curry's lumber business: "Lumber, sash, blinds and doors: The Housekeeper's department is extensive, and comprises many useful articles, almost indispensable to a family."

General notes for those restoring

obtained."

With reference to doorways, the Secretary of the Interior's *Guidelines for Rehabilitation* currently states: "Rehabilitation work should not destroy the distinguishing qualities or character of the structure. Removal or alteration of historic material or

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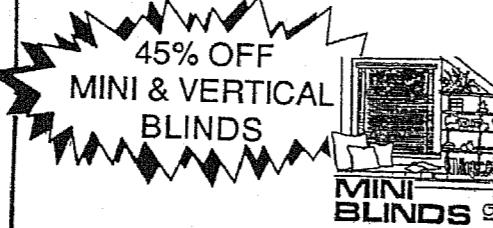
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buildings in Key West would include the following: maintain the symmetry and vertical proportions of doorways; maintain original window and door openings, particularly on the public facades. Too often, windows are cut into doorways, destroying the original proportions. Always keep original doors if at all possible; sand and varnish or paint; reference catalogs for traditional motifs for screened doors/

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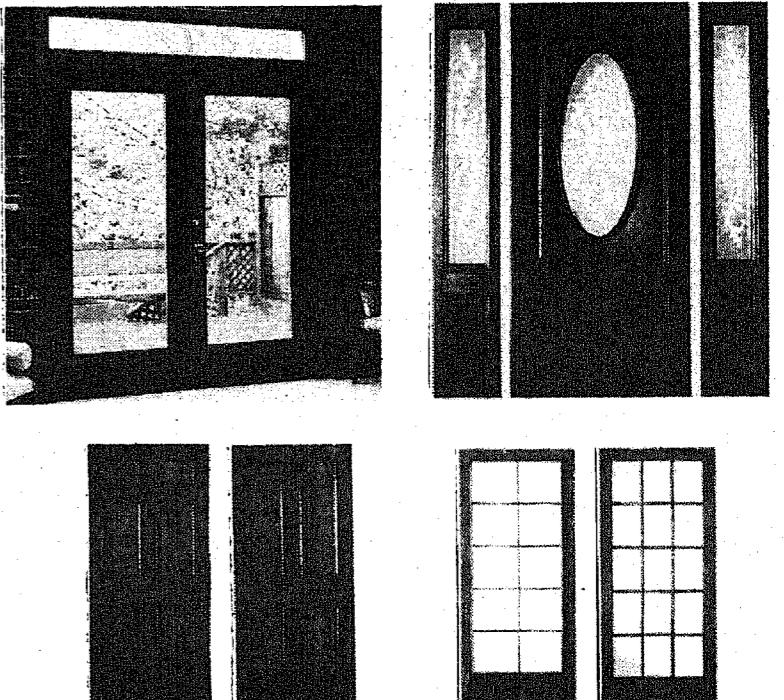
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Benji Fishstein: Artist on a Harley

by Judi Bradford

Ragged little guy. Sort of a leprechaun with a lust for machines, both simple and high-tech. He arrives on a Harley that makes the whole neighborhood vibrate. Almost everything he is wearing, from his headband to his boots, is black and bears the name of Harley-Davidson. He is accoutred in John Lennon granny sunglasses, the standard biker-issue hip-pocket wallet chained to his belt, a bulky, macho keychain loaded with gadgets and a WWII German helmet liner. "It came with the cycle." Benji Fishstein could be an advertisement for the

Harley-Davidson Company.

But you can't judge a book by its cover. Benji Fishstein is, among other things, an artist. He builds comically symbolic sculptures from found objects. At first sight, they appear *naïve* -- the folk art style best represented in Key West by the Stanley Papio exhibit at East Martello. *Naïve* in art lingo means untrained in aesthetics.

Actually, Benji brings a lifetime of design experience to his sculpting. He worked as an architect for 30 years and was involved in the HUD solar demonstration projects of the '70s. He also designed buildings for the radiation laboratories at the University of California at Berkeley.

Beyond design, Benji's formal art training has been sporadic. He took courses in Japanese Sumi painting at Berkeley. "You can't learn it unless you do it," he said. "It's breathing, balance -- total body movement."

Then a woman Benji met at a lecture given by Norma Fox, Picasso's teacher,



It's me! Fishstein with a self portrait.

taught him *intaglio* printing. Using this technique, which involves incising figures onto a hard surface, he printed images based on underground solar-housing ideas. The process became an adventure when he loaded his first press with padding, called blankets, and cranked the pressure down so hard, it flipped him off his feet, "up to the ceiling" as he tried to run the print through.

Benji's sculptures are inspired by Key West. "Obviously, an architect doesn't have trouble with sculpture," he commented. While taking classes at Florida Keys Community College, he wandered the shoreline at the campus during a break. Litter, flotsam and jetsam were everywhere. "The trash, it looked like it was looking at me." He gathered it up, brazed or epoxied it together, and a fantasy world of creatures emerged.

His pieces were included in last year's "Underwater Art" show at FKCC. Larry Berk coordinated the show. "It's tremendous," said Berk. "Benji brings this child-like approach -- remember, he's a World War II vet -- to putting forms together in humorous and visually arresting work. He takes liberties that other people don't."

During the opening, Berk observed the other artists focusing on Benji's pieces.

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Porter House Turns Commercial

The Porter House has been in the Porter family for 150 years. It was a residence until the mid-'80s, when property taxes started to rise in Key West. To help pay the taxman, the declining dirt yard was parcelled out to vendors. The sheds in the yard were just shacks, then.

The yard has evolved into a bustling shopping park. Rents are reasonable, so an entrepreneur can get a new project underway without raising enormous capital. The wares are a mix of souvenirs, simple arts, fashion and home accessories and original design clothing.

Tucked like tropical plants into landscaped niches, there are several artists who paint right on the spot. People who remember the transition period will be pleasantly surprised by new plantings. There is a peaceful little pond near the porch with an aluminum sculpture by Benji mounted in it.

Nearby, Holly Green sells masks. You can find South American crafts in the back corner. A small desk with a half-dozen sets

of earphones offers samples from new-age cassette tapes of thunderstorms and relaxing compositions that will send you drifting heavenward. In one of the more durable structures, Bonsai sells upscale decorator accessories, many featuring bonsai plants and miniature fountain waterfalls.

Adjacent is Kikkers, a new shop full of one-of-a-kind, personalized, hand-painted shoes from California. They also have colorful Huggers jackets for adults and kids, originally of African design. Other concessions offer blown glass, handbags, and such. The restaurant booth, Yakitori, cooks Asian tidbits.

In the house, besides the sales office for Coconut Beach Resort, is the Virgin Key West showroom of island fashions. They are designed by Robin Virgin of Key West, "with your tan in mind." It's an airy and professional suite of interesting clothing and accessories, including pillows that wear tank tops.

"That's quite a compliment," Berk noted. "There is no shortage of creativity in Benji's work. He's a Groucho Marx of sculpture."

Reen Stanhouse, a sculptural welder, attended the opening. "He's feisty and very political," she said. "Everything in his work has meaning and has a story behind it. It's more sexual than Papio."

Benji's studio is a Stock Island boatyard

where his sailboat and fishing hull are dry-docked. He discovered plenty of junk there to augment his sculptures: refrigerator and car parts, hawsers, chafing gear, segments of the seawall. He uses West System epoxy as an adhesive when welding won't do. His images are complicated, often with several layers of suggestion.

A self-portrait figure includes wild, chafing-gear hair, parodying his graying, shag-

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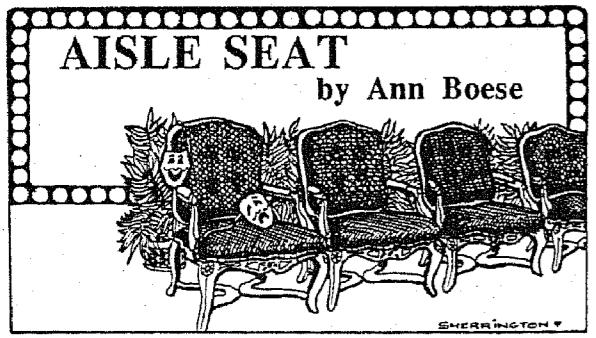
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RAE COATES: His brand of theater hinges on glamour and style.



GEORGE BRASHEARS: Caught between a rock and a hard place.

work he can handle.

The theater community will feel these losses. Coates' flashy, knock-'em-dead style has brought us *Penny Lane*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Dracula*, among others. And Brashears' smooth professionalism was behind *Oh Coward!* and the current success, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Both men have been crucial to advancing and molding the theatrical arts here.

What follows are some of their thoughts about their experiences in Key West -- a tiny island with four functioning theaters.

SH: Talk about the state of the theater arts in Key West and how it has changed during the time you've been here.

RC: When I first got to town it was the Red Barn, TWFAC and the Waterfront: community theater in the true sense of the word. Then the changing of the guard happened with *Godspell* and *Women Behind Bars* -- they really turned things around. The older community who supported theater was dying off, literally, of old age. Now, people like George Gugliotti and Tom Schmidt are changing theater, encouraging people to come to adult theater. The Red Barn still does *avante garde* theater; and the production values at TWFAC are spectacular.

I'm not including Jan McArt in this because she's gone the right way for her theater. She's done the right thing -- bringing semicelebrities in. People like Jim Bailey. It's a good idea: these people show up, their shows are already done. McArt throws up some publicity and there they have the cabaret type show. It's wonderful.

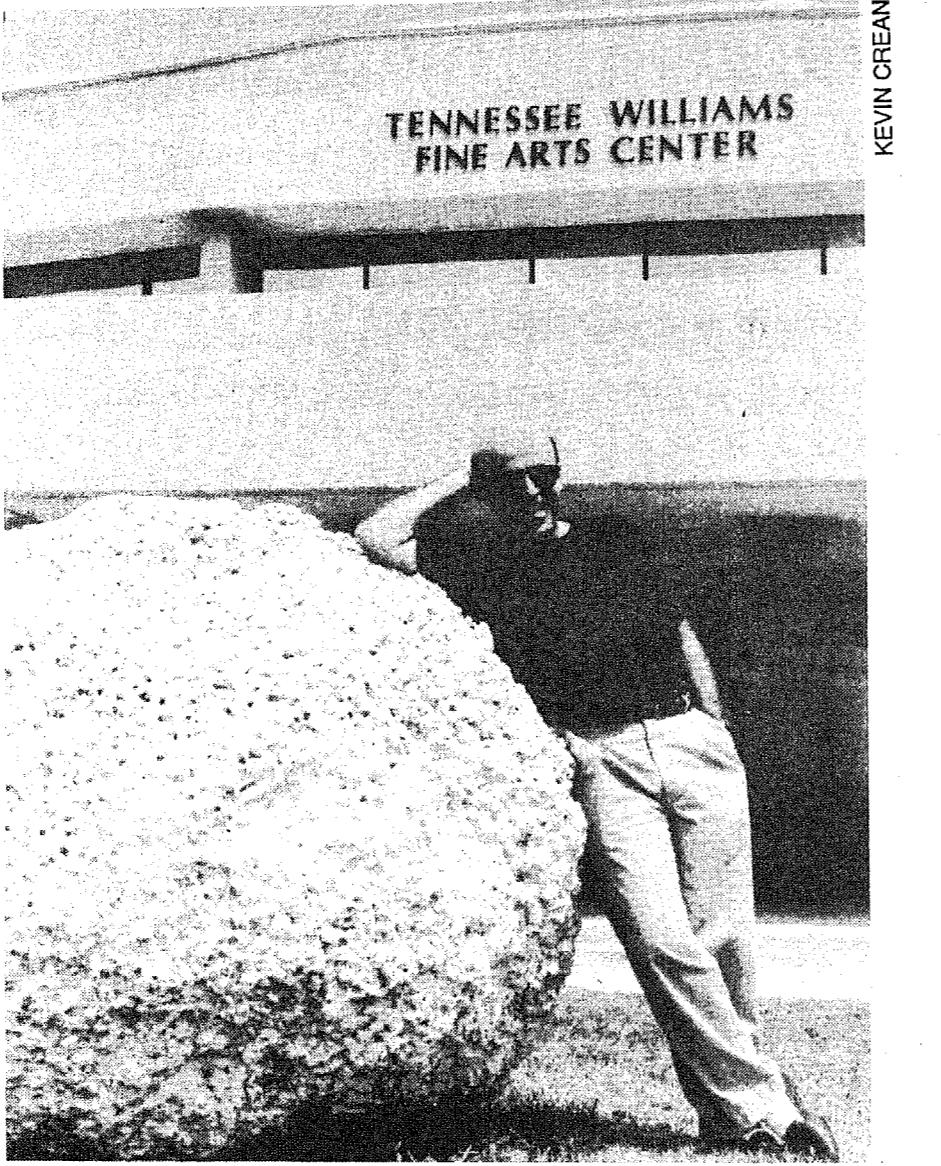
GB: With the exception of Jan McArt's Cabaret Theater, there is no professional resident theater in Key West. And I don't think that there will be for some time. The reason is economic because our town isn't big enough to support it. Our core audience comes from a pool of 30,000 people. And market research studies show that you can expect 1 to 1.5 percent of residents to support the theater. That means about 300 people in Key West. In actuality, though, it's much more. It never ceases to amaze me, the kind of support theater gets here. I'd say we're off the record in terms of per capita support.

SH: What about the money that is spent to bring in outside theater/entertainment. For example, both the Festival of the Continents and TWFAC import a lot of shows. Should that money be spent on theater projects happening on the island?

GB: TWFAC is both a producing and presenting facility. I don't see why the community should be deprived of the opportunity to see Lionel Hampton or the New York City Ballet. Obviously, we could never produce that on our own. Thousands of people saw the *Nutcracker* and loved it -- a real family event. We got more bang for our buck. We used their set, their lights. It was sold out. Kids were bused out; local kids danced with the company.

SH: What about money from the Tourist Development Council?

GB: The TDC has been very generous to the theater arts. If you add it all up -- Waterfront, Red Barn, Festival of the Continents and TWFAC -- you get a number in the six



KEVIN CREAM

figures. That's a big commitment. If that sum went to a regional theater it would be a substantial part of its operating budget. But I don't think Key West wants or needs that. It wants to be off-beat and spontaneous; and if theater is a reflection of a community, then theater here truly does reflect Key West.

RC: Some funding from the TDC is going into totally the wrong pockets. Through the Monroe County Fine Arts Council, TDC money is going to the Festival of the Continents which is a total fraud. They're getting \$150,000 to present three things -- one of which was the President's Ball. What does that mean? It's a fundraiser. That whole thing needs to be looked at. Who needs \$150,000 for advertising (which is the only way that money can be spent) for three shows that haven't even got places lined up in which they can be performed?

SH: The MCFAC has been a hot issue for a long time. Why? What are the needs of the local theaters? Why do they have those needs and how would they use the money? RC: The MCFAC's effect has been a lot of wasted time on the part of concerned individuals from the Red Barn, TWFAC and Waterfront Playhouse about advertising monies. They have gone to meetings where people have already made up their minds. People from the indigenous theaters who formed and nurtured the arts community here are not being given a say. And, but for the people who built the theater in this town, the existence of the Festival of the Continents or anything connected with it would not have been possible.

Any other arts council around the country is a service organization for the arts in a community. The situation has created so much bad energy and bad feeling towards the MCFAC from all the theaters in this town. What is the council and what is it doing? That's what we'd like to know.

GB: I'll be honest. The relationship between the MCFAC and TWFAC has been nonexistent. In my professional opinion, our arts council provides absolutely no services that one would attribute to a traditional arts council, in terms of mailing lists, of access to information, of schedule coordinating. An arts council should be set up to exchange information, assist groups in the sophistication of their effort, in terms of grant writing and grants workshops. And helping people -- not just theaters, but individuals. I haven't seen this. I don't see it in the visual arts, either. The East Martello Museum has been filling that void, and we have had grant-writing workshops at TWFAC. We get no funding, no help, no advice from MCFAC.

SH: Is this a place for young actors to come? Is it a place to leave?

GB: I think it's a double-edged sword. There are some extremely valuable experiences to be had here; ones that somebody might not get anywhere else. In some cases, it is very beneficial. The reason we don't have a theater program at the college -- and it's been tried with other directors -- is that students weren't interested.

As a training ground, I would not advise a young person to come to Key West to get a theatrical education. There is really no formalized training going on anywhere -- leading to a degree or a conservatory type

situation.

On the other hand, Marcella Trowbridge is getting a baptism by fire: first *Steel Magnolias* and now *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Big juicy roles with competent directors. But that has to continue -- there's dance, voice and how to present yourself and resumes and all that goes with the business of acting. There is no replacement for living in a metropolitan area, to be exposed. We don't have a core of people who are working on specific areas of theatrical arts. It's coterie theater.

SH: What are the opportunities for professional development for an actor like Billie Kaye? How far is she going to be able to go here? How far can she stretch her wings?

RC: Billie Kaye can probably stretch her wings very far here, even though she is always playing the bimbo part. I've never seen her play the same bimbo, and neither have you. You go back and analyze the tapes. She gets to practice more parts here -- a different range of parts. More so than if she were up in Miami where there are 500 Billie Kayes to choose from.

SH: What is theater here contributing in a social, political and entertainment sense?

GB: People have said, "Oh George, we loved *No! No! Nanette*." That was a 1929 musical -- bus and truck. Nice costumes. Pretty music. Nostalgia. And people loved that as an escapist evening at the theater. Remember: many of our audience and supporting members are over 50 years old.

Theater to me is an institution that is set up to examine human experience. It has a responsibility to confront an audience, to share with them in a setting, social, political and ethical concerns -- better than television, better than any other media. But as an artist, the theater is not just about sweet musicals. There is nothing like that live exchange between actor and audience.

SH: Because of tourism, will theater here go the direction of "show"?

RC: It's already there.

SH: How is that going to lead to a return to the classics?

RC: How are you going to do the classics? Because you do. You give the audience six Agatha Christies or things of that ilk so you can afford to do a Harold Pinter.

The type of people who are coming to Key West right now want to see "show." There are also a lot of plays around that people are going to want to see that are, indeed, food for thought: *Agnes of God*, *Equus*. What would be wrong with doing *Amadeus*? Nothing, absolutely nothing. *Amadeus* would be beautiful.

SH: What's been your greatest accomplishment here in Key West?

GB: Bringing people back to TWFAC. I'm really proud of that. We had very good season's subscriptions. I'm proud of the Key West Literary Seminar (New Directions in American Theater). We were able to attract almost 400 people. And I'm pleased with the 12-week writer's workshop we held here with playwright Tom Grimes.

SH: Bringing people back to TWFAC: that was a healing process. How did you accomplish that?

GB: I don't care if you've got \$12 million or are working on a shoestring budget: theater people are theater people and I love

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them. In a small town like this -- if they're here, heck, let's be friends. Let's get to know each other. Let's share. I think I've shared a good deal.

I'm trying to do the very best theater I can within our budget. If you have a uniform or can play the banjo, whatever, and you want to work out at the center, I'll try to make it as pleasant an experience as I can.

SH: Why are you leaving? What's made you stay here this long? Have you gained, sacrificed?

RC: I've gained, I haven't sacrificed. Just getting my resume together I found I'd done 23 shows here, which doesn't include any of the Fantasy Fest stuff, and I've been here for 10 years. Being a director in England, you get to do the same thing over and over. But here the scope of shows that I've done -- big musicals, small musicals down to my dyke dramas. Getting the chance to do *El Salvador* -- it's wonderful.

But I cannot get my own theater here. I am solely reliant on other people's decisions, which might not be the right ones. I've got other shows that I want to do. It's just persuading those people to do something new and different. They'd much rather spend a couple thousand dollars getting somebody from out-of-town than creating something new here.

I've got to go and play with the big boys. Right now I'm learning from other people's mistakes. When I go to a play I say, "Well, I wouldn't have done it this way." This is all very egotistical, but that's just how my mind works. I want to go work with the big boys, so I can be a little one. When I went up to New York and saw a mass of shows in a couple of days, I just learned, learned, learned: the subtlety of performance, how to bring things up. This is what I need to be doing, all the time.

SH: For you, what would be the ultimate theater reward?

RC: Oh, just one show on the West End of London. Doing good theater for the rest of my life -- unless I get Alzheimer's.

SH: George, what's next for you?

GB: I'm going to the hills of Pennsylvania to see my family whom I haven't seen for two years. On the trip up the Atlantic coast, I'll stop and see Lee Bell and other friends. I'll spend time in Cape May, which I love, and then spend the summer on Virginia Beach looking for work for the fall.

I am taking, I think, a well-deserved vacation.



DENNIS CONNER
presenter

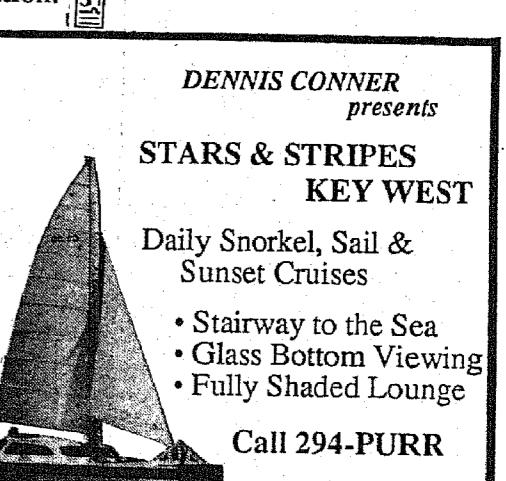
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Pete and Marty: Keeping Daizy Crazy

by Christine Naughton

And you can tell everybody this is your song.
It may be quite simple but, now that it's done,
I hope you don't mind.
I hope you don't mind that I put down into words
How wonderful life is while you're in the world.

Elton John
"Your Song"

A *nostalgia band* used to mean a band that played 1950s music. But lately it seems the guys in those bands have departed for that eternally harmonic rest home in the sky. Today's *nostalgia bands* celebrate a later period of popular music -- Elton John, Billy Joel, Dylan, The Stones and The Dead. The reason for this shift is that, sooner or later, every pirate looks at 40.

Pete Jarvis and Marty Gassner, currently making music on the well-placed new stage at the Holiday Inn La Concha's downstairs bar, *Crazy Daizy'z*, devote their considerable talents to this genre. This is not an easy-listening band -- the energy is high, the volume is up and the audience is encouraged to party.

But this act transcends categorization as an average cover band. In the midst of a boisterous set, the duo creates moments of tenderness that are all the lovelier for the contrast, as when Pete delivers his heartfelt

Thanks for the memory: Pete Jarvis and Marty Gassner include many hits from the '60s and '70s in their huge repertoire. The duo rocks their audiences with such favorites as the Rolling Stones' "Not Fade Away," Elton John's "Your Song" and Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl."

interpretation of Neil Young's "Needle and the Damage Done," or Marty pleads for mercy in Elton John's "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me."

These two welcome additions to our musical community were *en route* from up-state New York to Colorado when they missed a crucial right turn and ended up in Key West. In town since November, Marty and Pete have settled into apartments and are feeling at home. They played for a short time at the Portside Restaurant on Front

Street before they were lured by La Concha management to *Crazy Daizy'z*.

Unfortunately, this room remains plagued by inadequate service and acoustic demons that cause sound to bounce, sometimes painfully, off the mirrors and walls. But Marty and Pete's particular sound and energy go a long way toward compensating for these drawbacks.

Pete on acoustic six-string guitar and Marty on keyboard don't allow their 90-minute sets to drag. More often than not,



KEVIN CREAM

they segue from one tune to another with a keen sense of what people want to hear next. They're both excellent singers, players and songwriters: similar enough in style to complement each other; different enough to appeal to a diverse audience.

Marty's the attention getter. When he is not physically consumed with the task of playing and singing, he's bouncing on his heels to the beat, surveying the crowd, grinning at Pete. Wound tight like a spring, his mischievous energy is contagious. He's a bohemian in a business suit, or the suggestion of one, anyway -- loosened tie flapping over a white shirt, which is tucked into jeans. The appeal of Marty's performance is his solid musicality and confidence, balanced with sensitivity -- pretty, darn sexy.

And the man can sing. His wide natural and falsetto ranges and masterful dynamics effortlessly handle difficult material like Elton John's "Levon," "Rocket Man" and "Benny and the Jets," Billy Joel's "Piano Man," or "In Your Eyes" by Peter Gabriel. Marty delivers a serious message about immaturity and excess with Billy Joel's no-nonsense "Captain Jack." And at any moment he might break into a killer piano solo -- fingers flying, synthesizer stand shaking under the rain of notes.

Pete is more laid-back, calmer. His voice rides on a rougher edge, perfect for skillful renditions of such tunes as Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone," Harry Chapin's "Cat's in the Cradle" or The Band's "The Weight." Listen for that well-placed lick, the unexpected kick that lends these aging

favorites a new twist.

Of the two, Pete seems most experienced at handling an audience. He delivers a deliciously witty anecdote about sitting around listening to old albums with a friend as a lead-in to "Ape Man" by the Kinks. With hilarious, wry humor, he preaches a mini-gospel, daring the crowd to "reach into the depths of your nicotine- and resin-soaked lungs" to sing along with "Panama Red," by the New Riders of the Purple Sage. The crowd, as they say, goes wild.

Pete provides tight, percussive rhythm comping on guitar and an occasional fine solo, as in James Taylor's "Steam Roller," or Van Morrison's "Domino." He also plays a mean harmonica, most notably in "The Weight," and "In Your Eyes."

Pete and Marty plan to record an album in the near future, which will include some of their original tunes. They are booked for an extended run at *Crazy Daizy'z*, Tuesday through Sunday nights from 9 to 1.

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Art Descoteaux: Making the Wood Sing

by Christine Naughton

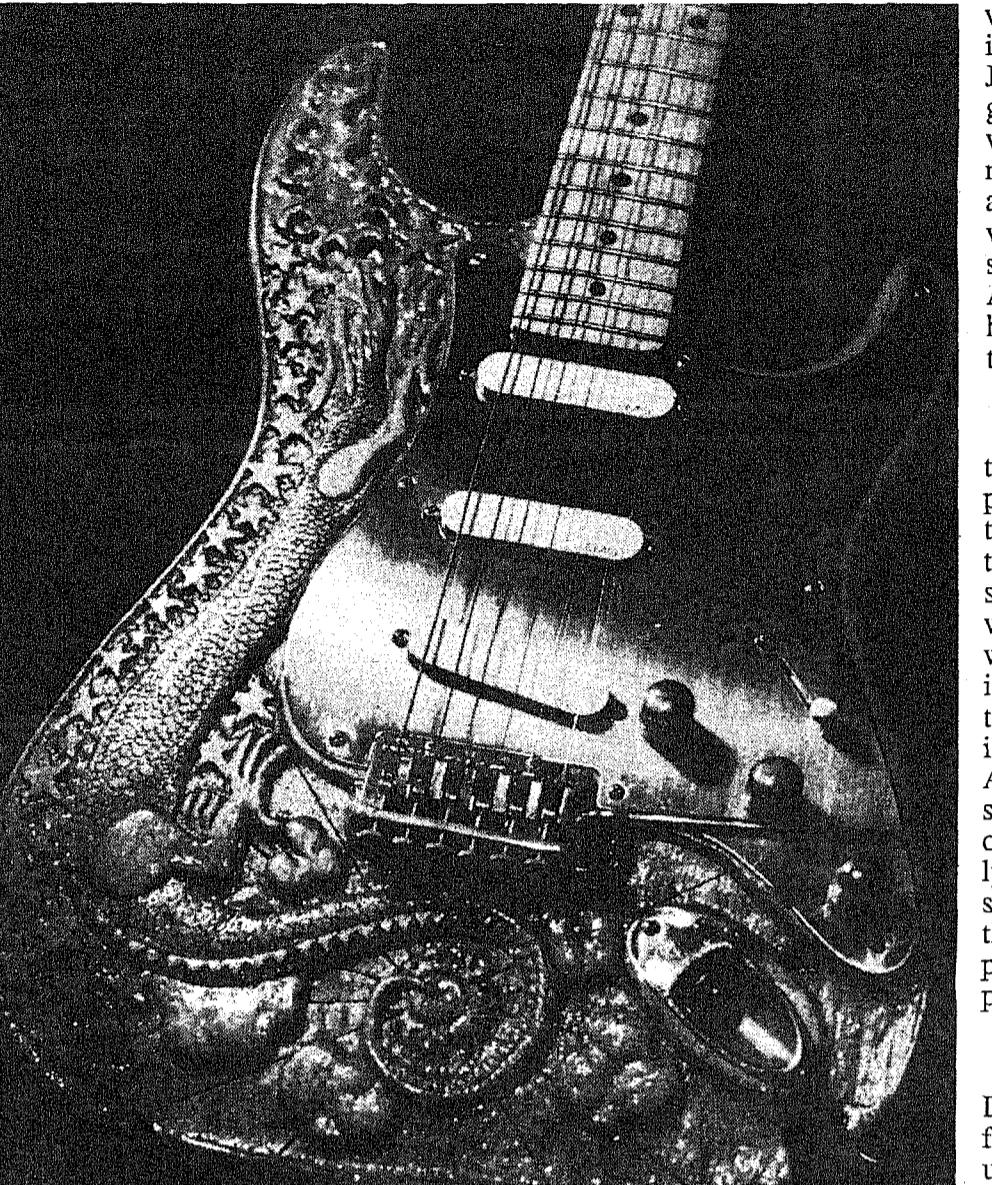
Climb the stairs to Art Descoteaux's airy apartment on Virginia Street and enter the world of a Renaissance man. A large, Mexican *guitaronne* hangs on a white wall. Art is modifying this instrument to standard six-string guitar tuning. In pink-cloud soapstone and tortoise-shell alabaster, Art's sculptures grace the tabletops. Over here hangs a set of orchestra bells; conga drums stand like sentinels, there. From the depths of the corner beckons a vibraphone. Art plays all these instruments; he plays violin, guitar and harmonica, as well.

While the musician takes five, the sculptor begins a new work in green alabaster. "It's the aqua color of the shallow water around the Keys," Art says. He explains his use of a mermaid -- half landlubbing, half seafaring -- to represent Mother Earth.

Another of Art's sculptures, a pink soapstone fish, was exhibited in East Martello's January art show, *Our Fragile Environment*. Manana Gallery, on Duval Street, will soon display a selection of Art's sculpture, glass-work and musical instruments.

But for all his diversity, Art's primary focus is upon luthiery -- or guitar building. Amid photography, glass blowing, writing and other arts, luthiery and guitar repair have taken precedence in this multi-talented man's career.

Art and his companion Gail Keeler, an expert in textiles, moved two years ago to Key West from Philadelphia, where they had lived for ten. They say they feel at home on the island, and Art is sending feelers into the local artistic environment in hopes of establishing a creative base. "It's beautiful



One of a kind. Art's first luthiery undertaking clearly displays his talent. He sold this guitar to Carlos Alomar, who for many years was David Bowie's lead guitarist.

how many talented people live in Key West," he says. "We're here to stay."

Guitars have always held a certain fascination for Art. As a high-school student in New Hampshire, he constantly doodled them in study hall and dreamed of one day building the ultimate guitar. "My parents

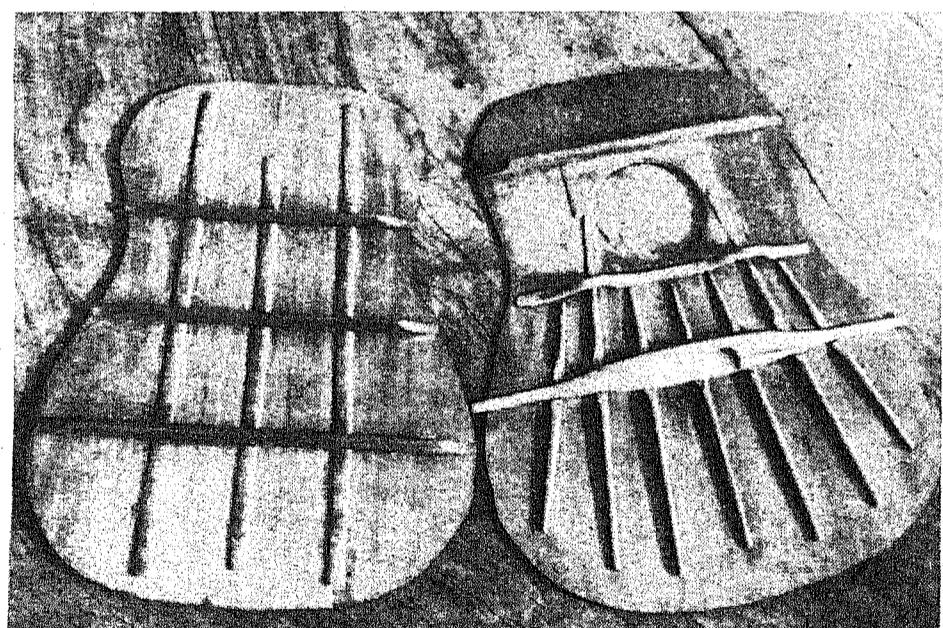
were supportive and encouraging," he says. "My father was a Jack-of-all-trades, and I learned a great deal of what I know from watching him work. And my mother is an excellent seamstress and talented in a variety of areas which require exactitude. I'm sure I learned patience from her." Art says his parents instilled in him a belief that there was nothing he couldn't learn.

In his early 20s, Art apprenticed in violin repair in Philadelphia. "Violin makers have a certain philosophy about restoration," he says. "They believe the sound of an instrument improves with age. Therefore, they will always try to repair or restore existing materials rather than replacing them. Replacing any part of an instrument alters its sound." Ascribing to this philosophy himself, Art won't replace anything on an instrument unless absolutely necessary. He is presently restoring a five-string banjo from the 1920s, repairing mother-of-pearl inlays on the neck and pinholes in the head.

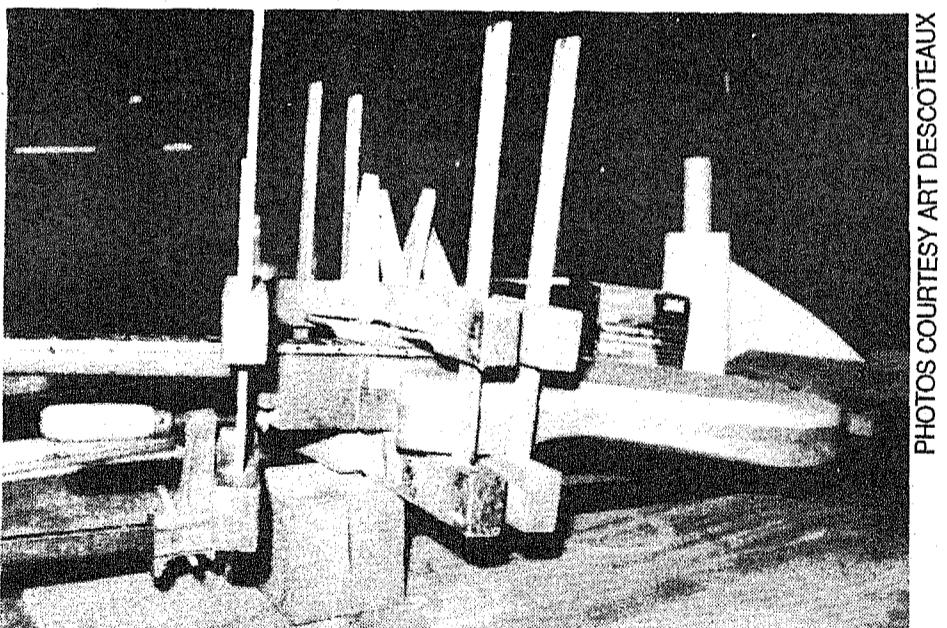
One Christmas Art received a Dremel rotary power tool as a gift from his mother and brother. He used it to build his first guitar from custom parts. Carving an intricate design into the wood to create a one-of-a-kind instrument, Art eventually sold that guitar to

Carlos Alomar, who was David Bowie's lead guitarist at that time.

"When that happened, I realized I could make a life out of building guitars," says Art. "But I knew I had a lot to learn." His quest for knowledge took him to the Roberto Venn School of Luthiery in Phoenix,

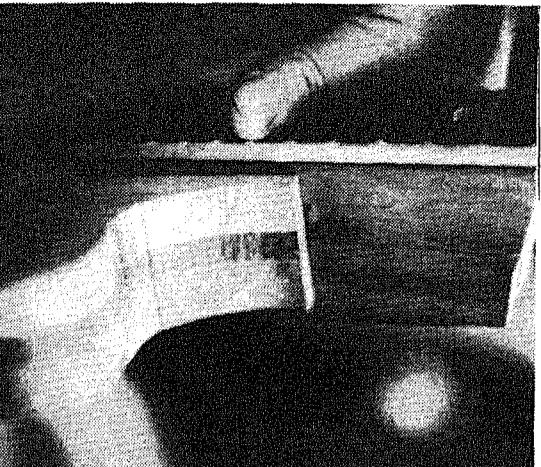


Sculpting sound. Acoustic guitar bracing is a marvel of construction. Here, the luthier achieves his desired "voice."



The union. The neck is joined to the body. Such precision tools as calipers and squares aid the luthier.

PHOTOS COURTESY ART DESCOTEAUX



Precision. The neck block adds strength by increasing two gluing surfaces to six.

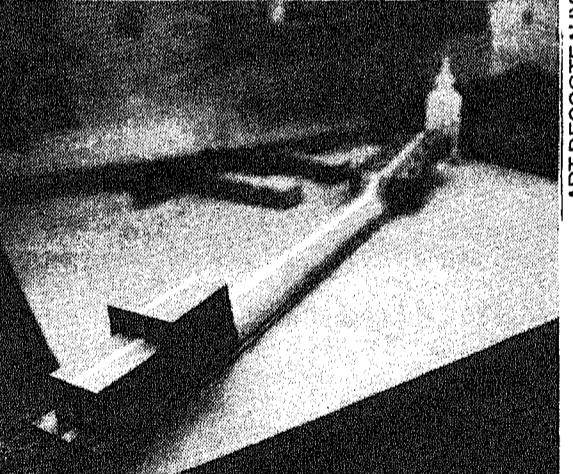
Arizona, one of less than a dozen such schools in the United States. Art spent six months in intensive study at Roberto Venn.

"I thought karate was the hardest thing I'd ever studied until I went to guitar-building school," says Art. "It was incredibly focused."

Students at Roberto Venn design and build at least one acoustic and one electric guitar. They also acquire the essentials of guitar repair by watching instructors work on instruments that come through the shop. No custom parts here; everything is measured, cut, fit, built and decorated by hand. Here's a woodpile -- make a guitar.

"My interests are quite broad, and it's against my nature to specialize," says Art. "But luthiery combines my skills. It marries the aesthetic and the technical. I can design a guitar, build it, carve and inlay, and then I can play it! Still, there's always more to learn about it. It would take more than a lifetime to fully refine guitar-building skills, so it keeps me interested."

The acoustic guitar Art built at Roberto Venn is as much a work of art as a musical instrument. It's a jumbo-size 12-string, with lush Nicaraguan mahogany sides and back and gleaming spruce top. A rosette, hand-cut from purple-heart wood, or amaranth, and abalone, dances around the sound hole. Rose inlays, hand-cut from mother-of-pearl, run up the ebony fingerboard. Pick guard, bridge and head cap are fashioned



ART DESCOTEAUX

A perfect fit. Several neck angles are fine-tuned by hand in this procedure.

from Koa -- a rare wood which grows only in Hawaii. Roses are carved on both sides of the heel of the neck.

Just seeing this creation would be enough to satiate the artistic appetite for most. But there's more to the guitar than beauty. Because 12 strings carry 150 percent of the tension of six strings, Art built

additional strength into the neck to sustain this tension. And because the tops of 12-string guitars often bow due to the added tension, Art designed braces stiffer than normal and tapered to carry waves of sound from one end of the instrument to the other. The result is a rich, ringing, resonant and sustained sound.

"It was a lot of work," says Art. "It took 250 hours of work, in fact. I'm quite proud of it." It took him only slightly less time to produce his electric guitar. Its body is designed in standard proportions, yet it is shaped with line and form which make it uniquely Art's creation.

The top is flame maple, with mahogany back and neck. The neck has a maple lamin-

ART DESCOTEAUX

KEVIN CLEARY



Renaissance man. Art plays the guitar he built at Roberto Venn School of Luthiery. (center) strip for aesthetics as well as structural integrity. Parts, knobs and cover plates are all handmade. Maple trim, rosewood headcap and hand-built, hand-wound pick-ups with quilted maple boxes add to the instrument's beauty and reliability.

Students at Roberto Venn are advised to avoid points and curves if they intend to use decorative mother-of-pearl inlay, due to the delicate nature of the material and its tendency to break. Art, however, was fascinated by the City of Phoenix symbol, the phoenix rising from the flame. Though the design was all points and curves, Art couldn't

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resist using it as the prototype for his eagle-and-flame headcap and the tiny flame dot inlays along the fretboard. Here Art's excellent craftsmanship is perhaps most evident: the inlays, each with its own small variation, are intricate and lovely. He says the image reminds him of the spiritual fire of the musician -- the inspiration.

Guitar builders strive for balanced sound and tonal range. "The point," says Art, "is to make the wood sing."

"A musical instrument is like an organism," he continues. "Every part influences every other part. A luthier needs to know each part and how it relates to the whole."

Art believes that, because of competition, there are some good mass-produced guitars. But the assembly-line method of guitar building does not take into account the differences in wood.

"No two pieces of wood are exactly alike," says Art. "If you tap the side of your thumb against them, you can hear slight differences in the sounds they produce. So even if two mass-produced guitars look and feel exactly alike, the sounds they produce will vary."

"Since each guitar player requires a different sound, according to different types of music and styles of playing, the ideal guitar is always custom built. But if that's not possible, it's important to spend time playing different guitars before deciding on one to buy."

The cost of buying a handmade guitar is not as exorbitant as one might think. A hand-carved guitar built from custom parts runs about \$1,500. A completely hand-built instrument runs \$2,500 and up.

Art feels that, though electronic instruments are currently in the developmental spotlight, there's still a lot of room for development of acoustic instruments -- such innovations as different numbers of strings, sizes and lengths. He is especially interested in the recent development of the acoustic bass guitar, currently available from Guild, Martin and Kramer companies.

His shop is set up only for stringed instrument repair right now, but Art intends to get back to guitar building soon. He has all the tools, but lacks sufficient space in his existing shop. He is hoping to locate the right space within the next year. Art can be reached through Morrell Music, 296-0954 or at his home, 296-1203.

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APRIL CALENDAR

Cultural Events

4/1 • **The Fifth Annual Sunset Hall of Fame Awards** at Jan McArt's Cabaret Theatre, 8 p.m. This popular annual event will feature the All New Vaudeville Variety Review, starring the Solares Hill String Band, Love 22, St. Petey Twigg, Will Soto, Ya Ba Dabba Do and a host of favorite local buskers. Mayor Captain Tony Tarracino will appear. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Presented by the Key West Cultural Preservation Society. Call 294-7837.

4/5 • **Billy Bishop Goes to War** performed by the original Canadian company, this musical comedy is a presentation of Festival of the Continents at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island. One performance only, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 296-7701, ext. 198.

4/6 • **La Traviata** presented by Festival of the Continents at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island. International opera stars join the Metropolitan Opera and the Broward Symphony Orchestra in this all-new production. One performance only, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for children. 296-7701, ext. 198.

4/10 • Jazz luminary **Lionel Hampton** appears at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island, for one performance only, at 8 p.m. Tickets for this presentation by Festival of the Continents are \$30, \$25 and \$20. Call 296-7701, ext. 198.

4/13 • **Arista Trio** presents chamber music for one performance only at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island. Tickets are \$15; curtain is at 5 p.m. Call 296-7701, ext. 198.

4/14 • **Vicki Roush is A Diva by the Sea** in her one-woman show at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island. Tickets are \$15, \$12 and \$10; curtain is at 8 p.m. Call 294-6232.

Through 4/15 • **The Boys Next Door**, the story of the residents of a group home for mentally retarded men, at the Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval Street, behind the Woman's Club. Curtain is at 8 p.m. 296-9911.

4/16 • **El Salvador**, a drama by Rafael Lima, opens at the Waterfront Playhouse on Mallory Square, 8 p.m. Call 294-5015.

4/19 • **Adam Neiman and Sonia Muniz** with the Broward Symphony Orchestra, at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Neiman, 11-year-old piano genius, will feature his interpretation of Mozart's 23rd Piano Concerto. Sonia Muniz, young concert pianist from Sao Paulo, Brazil, will play selections from Chopin. Tickets are \$15, curtain is at 8 p.m. Call 296-7701, ext. 198.

4/21 • **Fredrick Bratcher and Company**, contemporary dance theater, will appear for one performance only at Ten-

nessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island. Tickets are \$15 and \$10; curtain is 8 p.m. Call 296-7701, ext. 198.

4/22 • **Key West Jazz**, featuring a few of Key West's jazz artists, appears at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island for one performance only. Tickets are \$10; curtain is at 8 p.m. Call 294-6232.

4/23 • **Frankie and Johnny In the Claire de Lune**, a romantic comedy, opens at 8 p.m. at the Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval Street, behind the Woman's Club. Call 296-9911.

4/28 • **John James Audubon Birthday Celebration**, 12 to 4 p.m. in the gardens of the Audubon House, 205 Whitehead Street. The ninth annual awards presentation of the Historic Florida Keys Preservation Board will take place at noon to open the celebration. Call 294-2116.

4/28 and 29 • **Key West Garden Club Plant Ramble**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at West Martello Tower, Atlantic Boulevard at White Street. Open to the public, no admission fee. A variety of plants and shrubs for sale. Call 294-3210.

Common Good

4/2 • **City Commission Meeting** at Key West City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 6 p.m. Always open to the public and televised on Channel 5. Call 292-8200.

4/4 • **The Law and You with Attorney Fred Butner, Live from Key West**, will feature the topic of AIDS and the law, from 4 to 5 p.m. on AM 1600 Talk Radio WKWF. Listeners may call with legal questions for Butner or his guests, attorney Susan Vernon and Assistant State Attorney Sally Parr.

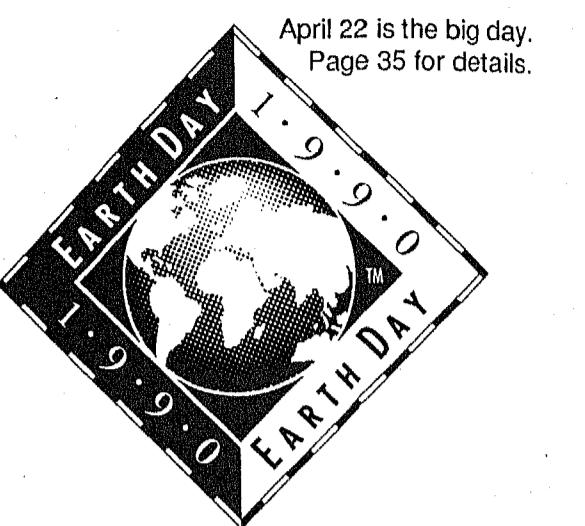
4/4 • **AIDS Update: What the Keys Community Needs to Know**. TCI Channel 5 will air the first locally produced AIDS education video at 8 p.m. The film, produced by Key West AIDS Prevention Center Director Noreen Sofronac and TCI director Joe Dietrich, was recently nominated for a national award.

4/5 • **AIDS In our Community**, a special, live, one-hour presentation of Eye on the Keys on TCI Channel 5 at 7 p.m. Local doctors, lawyers, educators, community service professionals and people with AIDS will offer a close look at how AIDS affects each of us in the Keys.

4/16 • **City Commission Meeting**, Key West City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 6 p.m. Always open to the public and televised on Channel 5. Call 292-8200.

The Sporting Life

4/1 • Deadline for entry into the Marathon International Tarpon Tourn-



April 22 is the big day.
Page 35 for details.

ment, scheduled for May 4, 5 and 6 at Sombrero Resort & Lighthouse Marina in Marathon. Top prize in this release tournament is \$10,000 for the highest point total. Registration fee is \$400 and registration is limited to the first 50 anglers. 743-2250.

4/2 • **The Texaco Hemingway Key West Classic Release Tournament** carries one of the largest purses ever offered by a Keys fishing event. Registration is scheduled for 3 p.m. at Louie's Backyard, 700 Waddell Avenue. Fees are either \$400 for either the marlin division or light-tackle division. The tournament will take place May 3 to 5, offering a \$30,000 cash purse for each division. Call 294-4440.

4/21 • **The Ninth Annual Seven-Mile Bridge Run** begins at 7:30 a.m. An estimated field of 1500 road racers is expected to participate in this medium-distance competition. Registration is \$20 and includes a race T-shirt. Deadline for entry is March 31. Forms can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce and First National Bank in Key West.

Fun For Funds

4/7 • **Crafts and Food Fair** by the Key West Preschool Cooperative will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bayview Park. Easter Egg Hunts begin at 11 a.m.; children should bring their own bags or baskets. Games, a raffle, an appearance by E. Bunny and live music will be featured. Rain date is April 14.

4/21 • **Old Island Restoration Foundation Members and New Members Only Party** 6 p.m. in the gardens of the Wrecker's Museum, at the Oldest House, 322 Duval Street. New members are welcome. Call 294-9501 or 294-9502.

4/27 • **Second Annual Feather Our Nest Auction** to benefit the Key West Woman's Clubhouse Restoration Fund, 6:30 p.m. Last year's auction bagged \$15,000 for clubhouse repairs. Auction begins at 7 p.m. Food, drink and entertainment are scheduled highlights.

Always Happening

Adult Children of Alcoholics meets at Holy Innocents Church, 901 Flagler Ave-

ne Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 p.m. 294-8912.

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

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

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

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

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.

Mental Health Care Center of the Lower Keys conducts an ongoing therapy group for manic-depressives every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., with Dr. Elizabeth Saenger. Another new program is Com-

Island Wellness, at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled courses and activities. Yoga, Tai Chi, meditation, rebirthing, metaphysics, gay issues, personal growth and hypnosis are some of the subjects covered. A gay rap and a healing circle are also featured. Call 296-7353 for details.

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

Key West Worship Group holds two meetings each Sunday at 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Quaker form of worship is held in silent meditation waiting upon the Lord. Meetings are held in various friends' homes and gardens around Key West. 296-2787.

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

Mental Health Care Center of the Lower Keys conducts an ongoing therapy group for manic-depressives every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., with Dr. Elizabeth Saenger. Another new program is Com-

Solares Hill • April 1990 • Page 51
ing with Depression, which meets with Dr. Christina J. Taylor, on Thursday evenings. Call 292-6843.

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

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

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

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

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

RESTAURANT DIRECTORY

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

Benihana, at S. Roosevelt Boulevard (A1A) and the Atlantic Ocean.

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

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

Cafe Exile/Cafe Tropic, 700 Duval at Angela Street. A European streetside cafe known for its eggs, burgers and alfresco ambience. Serving until 4 a.m., weekends until 5 a.m. 296-0991.

Henry's, 1500 Reynolds Street. Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Located in historic Casa Marina Resort serving Continental Cuisine and Key West's most popular Sunday Brunch. Reservations are suggested. 296-3535.

The Eatery, 1405 Duval Street on the beach. Open 7 days a week, serving bountiful buffets. Breakfast 8 to 11 a.m., Lunch 12 to 4 p.m., and Dinner 5 to 9 p.m. Visa and MasterCard accepted. 294-2727.

El Loro Verde, 404 Southard Street, is 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.

Emma's Seafare, at The Reach, Simonton Street on the Ocean. Open 7

days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This is a room that radiates the sun and sea. Dine indoors or on a terrace that overlooks the Atlantic. The menu features fish and more fish, prepared 105 different ways. 296-5000.

Harbour Lights Restaurant and Bar, on the water at Garrison Bight Marina, offers breakfast, lunch and dinner daily from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Enjoy gourmet dining at moderate prices in a romantic setting on the Upper Deck. Breakfast is served daily on our Lower Deck at the Barrellhead Bar where License to Kill, the latest 007 James Bond thriller, was filmed. 294-9343.

La Lechonera, 3100 Flagler Avenue.

La Trattoria Venezia, 524 Duval Street, open daily. Featuing Italian and French cuisine. Dine in an elegant European atmosphere complete with Italian music and friendly, warm service. 296-1075.

Lighthouse Cafe, 917 Duval Street, open for dinner 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Martha's, at S. Roosevelt Boulevard (A1A) and the Atlantic Ocean.

Rich's Coastal Cafe, located in the Hyatt Key West at 601 Front Street, open daily, serving lunch and dinner. For waterfront dining and the best Italian cuisine, call 296-9900 for reservations.

Pier House Restaurant, One Duval Street. *Travel & Leisure* said the

Scampi in Amaretto was well worth the trip. *The New York Times* called it "Key West's premier restaurant." Reserve a table with a waterfront view. 296-4600.

Rich's Cafe at the Eden House,

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off the beaten path in Old Town, serving

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count. Amex, Visa & M/C. 296-6868.

Turtle Kraals, Land's End Village,

foot of Margaret Street. Harbor view

dining for lunch and dinner. Great ham-

burgers, seafood and check out the mu-

sic. Visa, Mastercard okay. 296-4008.

Yo Sake, 722 Duval. Open for

lunch 12:00 to 2:30 p.m., dinner 6

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

side or torchlit garden dining; traditional

Japanese and original island crea-

tions. Full Sushi Bar. 294-2288.



Sushi: In the Raw

by Jeanne McClow

It was inevitable. When I moved to the Keys three years ago, I rediscovered my passion for sushi, for our hot, sticky climate makes no-fuss cooking and eating light almost a necessity. Originally it was a decade after my first experiment in Japanese cooking -- steak Teriyaki -- that I, like millions of other Americans, fell prey to the indescribable delights of sushi. It was healthful -- a real power food -- easy on the environment and delicious. Eating sushi made one feel good about oneself. It was a way of life. In fact, despite having an occasional yen for piles of whipped potatoes with gravy, I could see no reason not to live on sushi exclusively, except that it was expensive. So I learned to make it myself.

Because of the bountiful waters surrounding Key West, learning to make sushi is an ideal pursuit for anyone who lives here. Of course, the early Japanese hardly had our pleasure in mind when they created the dish. They were simply feeding themselves with what they could find or grow on or around their small island: tubers, rice, scallions and cresses that could be grown in standing water; soybeans; and all manner of things from the sea. The marine environment around Japan is so rich with plankton that its sea harvest is unsurpassed. Like the Keys, Japan had not enough land or fresh water to permit even small-scale farming or raising livestock.

Hence, the Japanese developed their quick, high-temperature cooking techniques -- stir-frying, deep-frying and grilling -- or they didn't cook at all because they had no wood for fuel. And their dishes lacked dairy products because they had no grazing space for cows. What they did eat, we now know, was miraculously high in vitamins, minerals and fiber content and almost devoid of animal fats. It was a nearly perfect diet, if sometimes high in sodium. (Speaking of sodium, you can replace your old soy sauce with a new, lower-salt version.)

What is sushi, anyway? It is a large group of dishes, limited only by the ingredients on hand and imagination. Based on vinegared, glutinous rice, or "sushi" rice, sushi can take a number of forms: rolled in

seaweed around a filling and sliced; placed in a salmon-skin cone to make a handroll; stuffed into fried bean curd; pressed with a topping of some kind and cut into bite-sized pieces; molded into oblong patties usually garnished with raw seafood. Sushi is even used in salads. Because its ingredients can be prepared ahead and, when assembled, it is always served at room temperature, sushi is immensely popular in Japan as cocktail food or as a first course. It also makes delightful picnic fare.

The only question regarding sushi's superiority as a food is whether it's safe to eat raw seafood today. Since fish is adjunct to sushi, with scores more vegetarian than fish varieties on the menu, this isn't a problem. One need not eat raw fish. Personally, I indulge without a qualm when the fish is flopping-fresh off the boat, especially if I know the captain. I wouldn't eat it every day, but I don't eat anything every day except bananas. I haven't yet found a single negative about bananas.

Before we unroll the sushi mat, keep in mind that the Japanese have no special sushi-making genes. Proficiency is merely a matter of practice. And, like throwing a pot on a wheel, making sushi is therapeutic. In fact, gather some friends together, set out some extra mats and have a party. Take photographs, relax, have fun.

What you'll need is available at Mon Yume on Truman Avenue and the Waterfront Market on William Street. For the confirmed sushi head, Mon Yume has a high-quality sushi knife for \$35, lovely lacquered sushi bowls and chopsticks, and even a sushi "machine" for \$65. But the basic ingredients should cost less than \$15, and they'll make a lot of sushi.

- Bamboo rolling mat (*makisu*): made of tied bamboo strips, it is indispensable for making sushi. About \$2.
- Japanese soy sauce (*shoyu*): has a lighter, distinctively different flavor than Chinese, but the latter can be substituted. Buy low-salt versions.
- Dried, purple-layer seaweed (*nori*): purchased pressed into sheets for sushi-wrap-

ping, this will last indefinitely if stored in a dry place. If not purchased toasted, hold the sheet for a moment over a flame. To prevent the wrapper from becoming soggy, sushi should be eaten promptly after assembly.

- Pickled, or pink, ginger: thinly sliced and pickled in brine. If kept tightly covered in the refrigerator, it will keep for months. Essential and addictive as sushi garnish.

- Glutinous rice: traditional, Japanese short-grain rice, when cooked, should be sticky enough to hold together. Always serve at room temperature.

- Rice vinegar: high-quality vinegar made from rice and often served "preseasoned." Essential for sushi; can also be used as a dressing for salads and vegetables.

- Sesame seed: available both toasted and raw. If raw, spread on a baking sheet and heat just until seeds begin to pop. Often sprinkled over sushi fillings.

- *Wasabi*: extremely hot, green horseradish, available powdered or already prepared in a tube. To turn powder into paste, stir a few teaspoons of water into two level tablespoons of wasabi to make a thick paste. Let stand, covered, 10 minutes to eight hours. To use as a dipping sauce, place about one tablespoon soy sauce in a little dish and blend in a bit of wasabi. Using chopsticks or fingers, dip the end of a sushi roll into it.

Mon Yume also has red fish roe, often used as sushi topping. Alaskan pollack that serves as Alaskan king crab, an assortment of crisp, pickled vegetables to enhance your feast and an excellent choice of Japanese beer and sake (rice wine, usually served warm), green tea and plum wine.

For vegetable sushi, almost anything will work in any combination. Use, for instance, spinach, carrots and turnips or soaked, dried mushrooms, strips of omelette and red bell pepper. Some items may need a bit of preparation first -- parboiling, soaking or marinating -- to soften them. Since space doesn't permit giving individual recipes, you'll need to experiment.

As for raw fish, the only rule is the fresher, the better. See the list of possibilities with the sole sushi recipe. To make the popular Japanese bagel rolls, you'll need smoked salmon, cream cheese, ripe avocado and sesame seed. For a California roll you'll need avocado, cucumber and raw fish.

Of course, the best way to determine your sushi repertoire is to indulge at Key West's two Japanese restaurants that serve sushi, Yo Sake on Duval Street and Kyushu on Truman Avenue. Both offer combination platters as well as single selections.

To start, here is a basic menu, with recipes for sushi rice, cucumber and sesame *Kappa-maki* (with raw tuna, it becomes *Tekka-maki*), and sole (*hirami*) sushi to be interspersed with the *Kappa-maki*. Traditionally, the latter is topped with raw seafood. To round out the platter, add some sashimi, which is simply raw seafood sliced diagonally about 1/4-inch thick. In Japan,

sashimi is as revered as oysters on the half-shell are here. Garnish with a small mound of wasabi, pickled ginger, grated raw vegetables such as carrot, *daikon* (horseradish) and bits of green.

Sushi Rice

Makes about 3 cups

1 cup plus 2 level tsp Japanese short-grain rice
2 tbsp rice vinegar
2 tbsp sugar
1 tsp salt

1. Line a colander with a double layer of cheesecloth that extends well over the edge. Add rice and rinse under cold water for about three minutes. Set colander in a bowl and cover rice with cold water; let rest for 10 minutes and drain. Repeat this procedure three times, but reduce rinsing time to 30 seconds. When rinse water runs clear, gather cheesecloth around rice and squeeze until as much water is removed as possible.

2. In a small, noncorrosive saucepan, combine vinegar, sugar and salt; place over low heat and, stirring occasionally, heat until sugar and salt have dissolved. Let cool to room temperature.

3. Place rice in a heavy, medium-size pot with a tight-fitting lid. Add 1-1/3 cups cold water and bring to a boil over high heat, stirring just once when it begins to boil. Reduce heat to moderate, tightly cover with lid -- weighted, if possible. Boil five minutes. Without lifting lid, reduce heat as low as possible and still maintain a simmer; cook until all water has been absorbed, 12 to 15 minutes, checking no more than once or twice during final five minutes to prevent loss of steam. Remove from heat, remove lid, place two layers of paper towels over pan and return lid. Let rest for 10 minutes to

complete cooking. (The paper towels prevent moisture on the lid from dripping back into the rice.)

4. Transfer rice to a shallow baking dish and spread it over the bottom. Drizzle with half the vinegar mixture and rake back and forth through grains to separate them. To hasten cooling, fan with a piece of cardboard (the Japanese use a special fan). Add remaining vinegar mixture and continue to fan and separate grains until cooled. Cover with a damp kitchen towel until ready to assemble. You can also just toss the rice with the vinegar in a bowl, but the result won't be as good.

Cucumber and Sesame Sushi (*Kappa-maki*)

Makes 6 rolls

2 kirby cucumbers, each about 4 inches long, peeled and cut in half lengthwise, with seeds removed
2 tbsp toasted sesame seeds
3 sheets nori, cut in half horizontally with scissors
3 cups prepared sushi rice (see preceding recipe)
1 1/2 tsp prepared wasabi
Japanese soy sauce
Garnish: pickled ginger and grated raw vegetables

1. Cut cucumbers in 1/4-inch strips, cover and set aside for up to an hour.

2. To assemble sushi, place one sheet of nori, shiny side down, on the rolling mat with one end extending about 1/2 inch below the bottom edge. Dip hands into cold, vinegared water, shake off excess and evenly spread 1/2 cup rice over nori, leaving uncovered about 1/2 inch at top and 1/4 at other edges. Run a damp finger across center of rice to make a shallow indentation; spread with about 1/4 teaspoon wasabi. Arrange two rows cucumber

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strips over wasabi, trimming them to fit, and sprinkle 1 tsp sesame seed. (See drawing below.)

3. Holding the core of ingredients in the center with fingers, tightly roll the sushi in the mat, beginning with the edge nearest you. Firmly press the roll into a square shape (see drawing below).

4. Unroll mat and place the roll, seam-side down, on a cutting board. Make two more rolls in the same way and place on board. Using a very sharp knife, cut one roll crosswise through the center, placing two halves next to each other, then cut them at the same time into three equal pieces (see drawing). Repeat with the remaining rolls to make 18 pieces. Turn the pieces upright and arrange in groups of six on a serving dish. Serve with a small mound of wasabi, soy sauce and the garnishes.

Sole (*Hirame*) with Vinegared Rice

Makes 8

Sushi rice (see first recipe)
Prepared wasabi
1/4 pound raw sole or other seafood
Japanese soy sauce
Garnish: pickled ginger and grated raw vegetables

Form rice into eight oblong patties, each about one-by-two inches. With a very sharp knife, cut the fish on the diagonal into eight slices and thinly spread one side of each with wasabi. Place each slice, wasabi-side down, over a patty. Arrange on a platter and serve with soy sauce, a small mound of wasabi and garnishes. This dish is usually made with a variety of raw seafood. Popular choices include halibut, tuna, striped bass, red snapper, salmon, yellowtail, mackerel, squid, octopus, eel, shark, scallops, sea urchins, shrimp and fish roe. [9]

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**GEMINI**

The social agenda has you buzzing. A friend may talk you into an out-of-town or out-of-country jaunt. Mercury, your ruler, turns retrograde on the 23rd, and month's end brings up a sticky situation for resolution. A Full Moon on the 9th may bring a need for review of financial commitments.

CANCER

April 4 brings challenging planetary interplay -- don't jump to erroneous conclusions. The Full Moon on the 9th gives us all cross-tugs: freedom versus responsibility; closeness versus personal space. Spring energy is felt, though the pace is slowed somewhat when the Sun enters Taurus on the 20th, joined by a retrograde Mercury on the 23rd. There is some new idealism in the air, too.

ARIES

This is your month. The Sun in your sign emphasizes the power of personal perspective. However, as the Sun crosses Aries, it makes squares to Neptune (April 4 and 5), and then Saturn (April 14 and 15); others won't always validate your plans. Mars, your ruler, encourages you to go where others can't follow. Don't fear solitude; allow your own counsel to guide you.

TAURUS

This month provides you with lessons on self. Your authority may be challenged, and Mars, in the professional sector, brings rivals' intentions to the surface. Maintain a low profile until the Sun enters your sign on the 20th. At month's end, a retrograde Mercury indicates that matters will be unclear for several weeks -- be patient.

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choice. Your ruler, Venus, in the work sector inspires you to follow whimsy; Libra artists will be in a position to strike up more response.

SCORPIO

Helped by Venus' presence in Pisces after the 7th, you charm your opposition into submission. You find ways to innovate at work, even if you threaten coworkers a bit. And with Mars in the homelife sector, you're apt to be a bit domineering with roommates or live-ins.

SAGITTARIUS

Developments around the Full Moon may be illuminating. Venus' movement through the home sector may see you beautifying your residence or throwing a dinner party. Mars in your third house brings you a spirit of contest, and you join in debates of all sorts.

CAPRICORN

The Full Moon may bring a new business proposition, travel or relocation. Mars' presence in your money sector shows that you're pursuing new income or money markets. By month's end, domestic issues are important; if the house looks good enough, throw a party or host an event.

AQUARIUS

With Mars in your sign and the Sun moving through your communications sector, few will deny you anything. Capricorn planets -- Saturn, Uranus and Neptune -- slow down results. Changes happen below the surface without clueing you in. Venus in the money house shows gifts or money coming to artistic ventures.

PISCES

The financial picture brightens, enabling you to fine-tune your fiscal goals. Mars, in the sector of soul until 21st, reminds you to curb actions. Around the 20th, Mars comes to your sign, but Mercury turns retrograde; plans may radically change. Venus bathes you in charm and romantic appeal.

In the past year, Sioux Rose has expanded her professional universe beyond Key West. She now contributes monthly to Lear's Magazine and has been signed on by a New York agent, who is looking at television and writing opportunities for Sioux in the Big Apple.

Sorry, Wrong Number

Last month, a statement in "Keys Backcountry: Mother Nature's Cinderella," written by Barbara Bowers, read: *There are 18,000 registered boaters in Florida.* This is incorrect. There are actually 701,831 commercial and recreational boats registered in the state, according to 1988-89 statistics. The 18,000 boats -- 18,236, to be exact -- referred to in the article are registered in Monroe County.

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Business Briefs

The Pier House recently opened the doors of its new Caribbean Spa. The spa features 22 oversized guest rooms, each equipped with whirlpool or European-style steam/sauna, TV and VCR, full stereo system, and private patio or balcony. The fitness facilities offer a complete exercise circuit, aerobics and one-on-one training. The state-of-the-art Keiser workout equipment, Lifecycles, Treadmills and Stairmaster are the finest available in the Keys. To tour the facilities, call 296-4600, ext. 591.

Appointments are no longer necessary during morning hours at Old Town Medical Center on Southard Street. From 9 a.m. to noon, those requiring medical assistance may walk in and receive treatment on a first-come, first-served basis. Old Town Medical Center staff believes patients can expect prompt and, at times, immediate attention. The facility has also extended its Wednesday hours to 7 p.m.

Ocean Footwear & Accessories, located at 515 Fleming Street, carries Key West's largest selection of slip-on footwear. Slip-ons are perfect for beach, boating, gym, aerobics, bicycling and street wear. The shop offers the latest styles and colors for men and women. Grand opening April 6. Call 296-8700.

Terry Horton, general manager of the Holiday Inn La Concha Hotel, has announced managerial promotions for three staff members. In addition to her present duties as guest services manager, Sharon Smith has been promoted to director of rooms. Adam Halperin, who has supervised the hotel's accounting office for almost two years, has been named on-site controller and assistant to the Holiday Inn district controller in Miami. And Debbie Schiebel, who has worked at the La Concha since it reopened in 1986, joins the management team as sales coordinator.

Peru is now represented among Old Town's diverse shops, as Bananarama opens its doors. Owned and operated by Peruvian Patty Williams, Denise Mangioli and Cristian Swanson, Bananarama carries fashions and jewelry from South America. Liberal discounts are offered to locals. The new shop is located at The Gal- leon, 617 Front Street, 296-7668.

Key West's own Buttery Restaurant has been chosen for five stars, the highest rating by the 1990 Mobil Travel Guide. The annual Prentice-Hall publication rates over 21,000 hotels, motels, resorts, inns and restaurants in 4,000 locations across the country. The ratings are based on exacting

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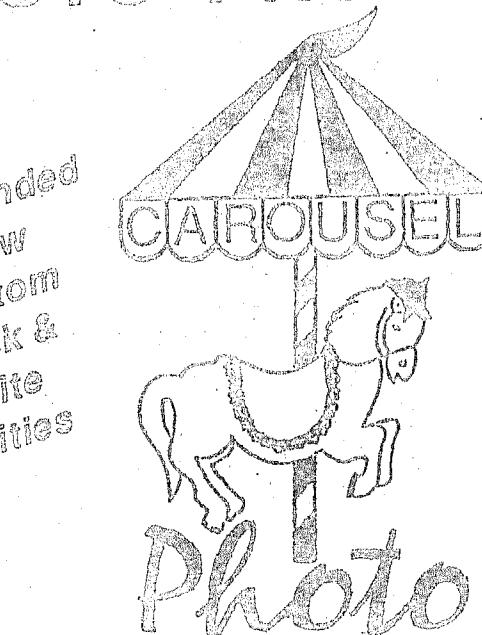
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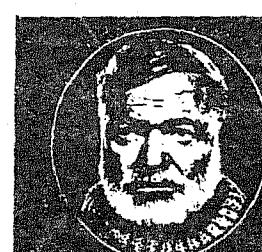
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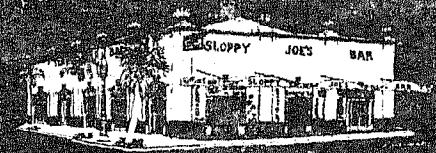


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& DUVAL STREETS

Sunday, April 1 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Satta	Monday, April 2 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, April 3 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 The Cutters	Wednesday, April 4 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mel & Tracy 7-11 Pat Dailey 11-3 The Cutters	Thursday, April 5 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dailey 11-3 The Cutters	Friday, April 6 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Faust & Lewis 7-11 Pat Dailey 11-3 The Cutters	Saturday, April 7 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Faust & Lewis 7-11 Pat Dailey 11-3 The Cutters
Sunday, April 8 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 The Cutters	Monday, April 9 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, April 10 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 The Cutters	Wednesday, April 11 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Wayne Faust 10-2 The Cutters	Thursday, April 12 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 The Cutters	Friday, April 13 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 The Cutters	Saturday, April 14 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 The Cutters
Sunday, April 15 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 The Cutters	Monday, April 16 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, April 17 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Great Train Robbery	Wednesday, April 18 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Wayne Faust 10-2 Great Train Robbery	Thursday, April 19 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Great Train Robbery	Friday, April 20 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Great Train Robbery	Saturday, April 21 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Great Train Robbery
Sunday, April 22 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Great Train Robbery	Monday, April 23 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Sompton Swingers 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, April 24 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Sompton Swingers 10-2 Out A Hand	Wednesday, April 25 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Sompton Swingers 10-2 Out A Hand	Thursday, April 26 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand	Friday, April 27 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand	Saturday, April 28 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand
Sunday, April 29 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand	Monday, April 30 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	HOLD ON TO YOUR HAT!!	DON'T MISS THE CUTTERS	THE HOTTEST MUSIC ... THE COOLEST DRINKS ...	DON'T MISS GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY & OUT A HAND	CONTINUOUS LIVE MUSIC!