

THE HIGHEST POINT IN KEY WEST

Solaris

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There was this truly remarkable society editor at *The Key West Citizen* (in days of yore) named Dorothy Raymer, a.k.a. Rosebud, who could be found laughing and hooting at nearly every party, art opening, saloon christening, street dance or whatever took place in Key West, for many years in her star-sprinkled career.

Continued on Page 12

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Meter Madness

Word gets around. It's a good move that city manager Felix Cooper (or the city commission) rescinded his decision to change the city parking meters from a daytime pay period to 24 hours. Otherwise the word would have made its way through the island grapevine, and eventually the tourists would have realized that they were being singled out to pay otherwise "unenforced" meter violations.

While such activity might be accepted, even expected, by Northern motorists driving through some Southern towns, it would not have fared well with vacationers who have arrived at their destination resort—Paradise.

Citizens were reminded during the political campaign by the Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel & Motel Association and by the candidates chosen for office that tourism pumps the town's lifeblood. Felix Cooper has appeared to share that belief. With that in mind, it made sense that the city would reject a move to discriminate against those we need to please.

A sticker system, brought before the commission by former commissioner Harry Powell, is one option for collecting revenues from parking motorists. For \$5 per year, locals and tourists alike would be allowed access to city parking spots without additional meter costs.

It is suggested that this method would save the city \$42,000 a year in fixed meter costs and collect an estimated \$2.4 million in sticker fees (as opposed to the \$353,000 generated by the town's 750 meters). We

suggest a go-slow attitude here. Collecting five bucks for parking from every tourist car that comes to town might be easier said than done. Because such a tariff would be highly visible, it might also have a dampening effect on many visitors. And, of course, it would take away any motive that anyone would have to move their car and let someone else park.

Suggestions have ranged from signs which inform drivers of their sticker obligations along U.S. Route 1 to putting the responsibility on the hotels, guest houses and other businesses. It is unlikely that the hospitality industry will support this idea. Indeed, the Chamber of Commerce has voiced its objection to the stickers.

Perhaps further investigation into park-and-rides from outside the hub of Old Town or pay lots will provide realistic solutions to the city's parking and traffic problems. Also, better signage routing motorists around congested areas and the synchronization of our downtown traffic lights might help. (Some handicapped parking spots might be nice as well.)

In any case, public hearings are definitely in order. A thoroughly informed commission vote, not a haphazard decision by the city manager, is the logical way to arrive at the most suitable solution.

Ann Boese

The cover photo of Dorothy Raymer and Bill Church, both employees at the Key West Citizen, was shot by Don Pinder in the 1950s.

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Meter Mayhem

By J.D. Dooley

On November 5, Key West city manager Felix Cooper announced a new scheme to increase city parking revenue. The new policy immediately sparked public resistance and was rescinded two days later.

The controversial new policy involved the placement of stickers on existing parking meters, warning motorists that the meters must be fed quarters seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The stickers first appeared on November 5, city election day.

Later that day, Cooper issued a press release declaring that the city had no plans to enforce the meters beyond the previous six-day-a-week, 8-a.m.-to-6-p.m. enforcement schedule.

Under the strategy, locals would know that the meters would not be policed during the "extended hours." But tourists would be led to believe that they would be. The deception would result in increased revenues for the hard-pressed city. In an interview, Cooper said that the plan had been aimed at the "late-night crowd that frequents the bars downtown."

According to the press release, "The city hopes that even without additional meter maids and enforcement, day trippers and other out-of-town guests will feed the meters and help ease the burden on our local home-

owners and taxpayers."

A Fine Plan?

Predictably, tourists were angry, calling the plan a "ripoff," "sanctioned lying" and "just another tourist trap," among other terms.

But even some locals balked. One citizen who asked to remain anonymous began systematically to remove the stickers. In highly visible areas where she felt vulnerable to the eyes of the law, she simply blackened the stickers with a magic marker.

Public outcry escalated until Cooper issued a second press release two days later which said that the plan had been a mistake.

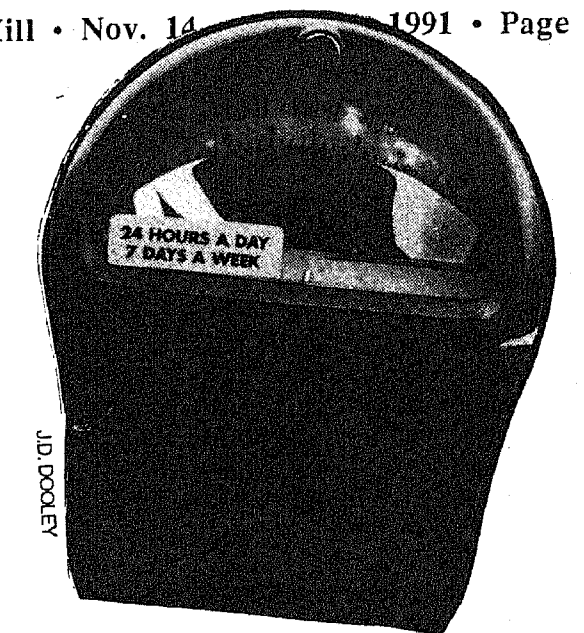
Cooper apologized for the action. "Sometimes things do not work out exactly as planned," he said in the release. He said that the city lacked the manpower to write tickets during the additional hours. Therefore, he was rescinding the plan.

Cooper said that the city commission ordered the move during the budget process.

"I don't remember authorizing an idea this absurd," said Tony Tarracino, who was mayor at the time.

Then-commissioner Harry Powell echoed the mayor's response.

City commissioner Sally Lewis remembered talk of raising the rate on metered spaces to as late as 9 p.m.—but not 24



hours, she said. Lewis placed 24-hour meter enforcement as a discussion item on the November 12 city commission agenda.

Drinking and Driving

Posting a warning that the meters must be fed all night—and specifically targeting the bar crowd—could discourage people who have been drinking from leaving their cars parked downtown overnight. They'll drive home instead.

Lt. David Lariz of the Key West Police Department said all the bugs had not been worked out of the program. Cars are often left downtown overnight, he said, presumably some of those belonging to people unable to operate them safely.

"Obviously we don't want people to drive after they have had too much [to drink]," he

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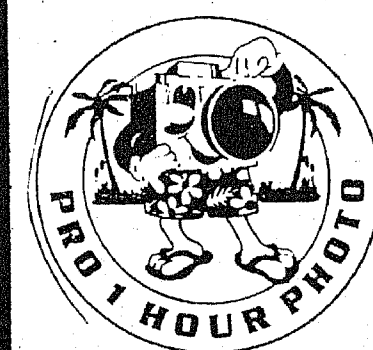
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said. "This could affect the decision of whether or not to leave the car downtown, but this is one of the problems that will be worked out."

Last year the city grossed \$352,916 from the 750 meters in Old Town, an average of \$470.55 per meter. This year's budget predicts the same revenues.

Maintaining meters costs about \$47,000 annually—\$32,000 for employees and

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\$15,000 for maintenance. A meter must be refurbished every two years at a cost of about \$40. A new meter costs \$180 (some meters are lost to vandalism). When the rates change, the city must send the meters to Arkansas for recalibration, which costs \$40 per meter.

Stickers: A Sticky Issue

In 1989, former city commissioner Harry Powell suggested the city sell parking stickers. A study conducted in 1989 by Carolyn Walker, the city's chief licensing official, claimed that the city could generate \$2.4 million in parking revenues by selling yearly parking passes for \$5 each.

The parking-pass plan involved selling parking stickers, to the locals as well as tourists for \$5 per year. The passes would be allowed year-round parking in any authorized city space year-round.

Cooper (who has assigned parking spaces at city hall, old city hall and Truman Annex) opposes the idea because "the locals working downtown would take all the good spaces, and the tourists, who are the lifeblood of the city, would have no place to park."

Walker's study added the 460,791 automobiles operated by tourists on the streets of Key West each year to the 21,400 local automobiles registered in Key West for a total of 482,191. Multiply that by \$5 for the \$2.4-million study figure.

"Of course," Powell said, "that is not all revenue. The stickers would have to be printed and the vendors would require some sort of incentive, but I'm sure that we could gen-

erate an additional \$2 million."

Cooper disagrees. "That's ridiculous," he said. "There is no way to mandate that people pay for parking. Nobody would buy one of those stickers except some worker at Fast Buck Freddie's who would park on Duval Street all year for \$5."

Year-round Parking

Powell says stickers in rear windows, would make parked cars easy to identify. Rental-car drivers could purchase a removable sticker or one that would hang from the rear-view mirror. Rental-car drivers could reuse the pass if they visited Key West within the year.

Under Powell's plan, vendors would sell the passes. Motorists who do not purchase passes could park in commercial lots, which run about \$10 a day or more during special events.

"Passes could be available at city hall and the Chamber of Commerce as well as hotels, motels, guest houses and rental-car agencies," Powell explained. "Even if the parking pass revenue wouldn't solve the problem of available spaces, it would go a long way toward funding a solution."

Cooper says the sticker system would devastate downtown businesses. "The local workers are now paying \$60 to \$70 a month to park in commercial lots," he said. "Who would do that if they had a \$5 sticker?"

Complications

Where should locals park?

"In private lots," Cooper said. "You're missing the point. The metered spaces are not

designed to generate revenue—they are to keep the flow of traffic moving. The meters are for short time only; people go into one of the shops and then leave."

He also said that there is no way to mandate parking costs. In other words, there is no way to force tourists to pay the \$5.

Cooper also believes that a mandated parking charge in Old Town would deter people from going there.

The Chamber of Commerce agrees with Cooper. A chamber memo six months after the Walker study opposed parking passes, claiming that the parking pass would be "expensive to administer, result in needless aggravation for our visitors, especially those only in town for the day." The net gain in revenues, if any, the chamber concluded, "will not be sufficient to offset the aggravation to all participants."

City commissioner Sally Lewis agrees that meters aid in the turnover of downtown parkers. But she says it's definitely a source of revenue, too.

"If you don't believe it, just listen to the discussions during budget hearings," Lewis said. "The price of meters should reflect a price high enough that people will pay and use the spaces for only the time they need it and then move on, but it is definitely a source of revenue."

Everyone seems to agree that the city needs more downtown parking.

To fulfill the need for more parking, the city has proposed park-and-ride shuttles and multi-level garages for Mallory Square and the corner of Front and Duval streets. Also, commercial lots have sprung up throughout

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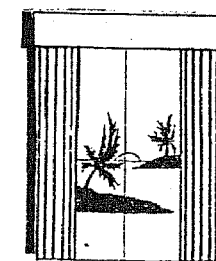
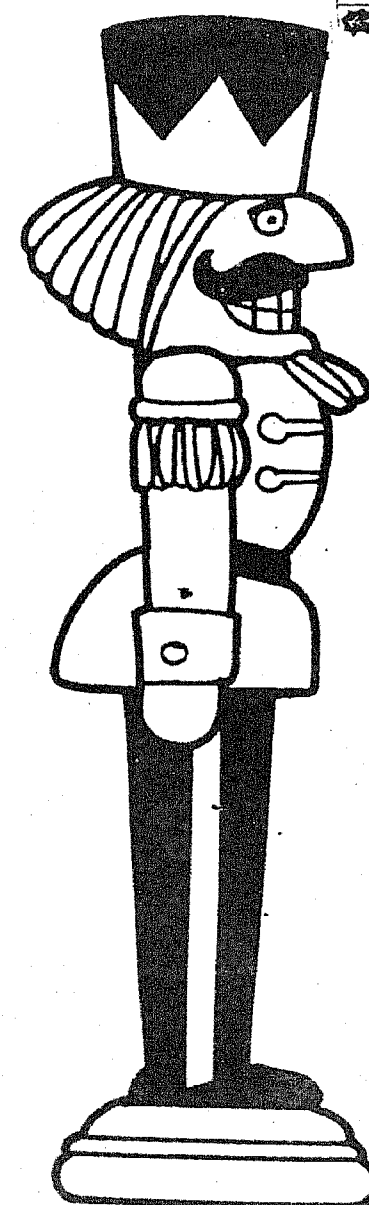
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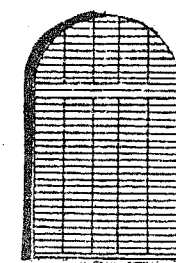
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Buildout!

new projects or additions to existing properties. Because of the GMO, large new hotels are required to build "residential units." Local properties seeking modest expansion, on the other hand, must rely for their residential units on housing other people have built.

In place of the heady expansion of the supply of hotel and motel rooms of the 1980s, the GMO has provided modest and orderly market growth. It's unlikely that the virtues of this kindly regulation are lost on the local hotel industry.

Reviewing Density Regulations

Mayor Dennis Wardlow met with city staff on Tuesday, November 12 and said he wants a review of the density regulations applied to major development in Key West. "I don't feel we need major new development in Key West," he said.

At the same time, Wardlow believes that tighter density regulations wouldn't necessarily be applied to projects involving small numbers of units. These projects, he said, "are needed to keep our construction forces working."

Finally, the newly elected mayor said he'd be working with the state Department of Community Affairs on bringing density in line with state environmental restrictions. "If the state says 14 units [for some other number]," he says, "then that's what would be approved."

The city calculates that it has fewer housing units today than it did five years ago, Strader recently told the commission during a recent meeting. At that meeting, the commission rejected the Community Impact Assessment Statement (CIAS) for the proposed 533-unit Key West Fairways housing project. Strader also says that with the recession, the GMO backlog—the number of

residential and transient housing units permitted under the GMO—is increasing each year.

Citing the 900-unit Oceanwalk project and other apartment developments, some environmentalists challenge the planner's statements. "That's absurd," says restaurateur Elliot Baron. "There needs to be an audit."

Under the GMO, an annual maximum of 300 units of construction, only a quarter of which can be transient, are permitted. The last year that maximum number of units was built was 1986.

"The GMO came at a time when development was running rampant," says commissioner Jimmy Weekley, who strongly supported ordinance. "We were out of balance in terms of residential and transient units. Now that situation is different. To manage growth we have to fine-tune it."

Weekley thinks Key West needs to address the "low side" of the housing mix.

Baron claims more hotel rooms have been built than the GMO ratio allowed. He also says that the city has not kept track of the number of housing units turned into small commercial projects. "The number goes into the hundreds that may have been lost," Baron says.

On November 8, Strader said he was in the process of updating his numbers. He wanted to get them up-to-date for the November 12 city commission meeting.

At the meeting Tuesday night, consideration of the Holiday Inn Beachside's 72-unit expansion, the South Roosevelt Boulevard Beachside Inn's 21 luxury rooms, and Atlantic Villas 96 condominiums on Atlantic Boulevard were all tabled. Wardlow said that he and newly elected commissioners Joe Pais and Harry Bethel needed time to study the issues. All three projects have been stopped under a 180-day moratorium, which declares them inconsistent with the city's unfinished comprehensive land use plan.

GMO Loopholes

The calculation process under the terms

of the GMO is complex, Strader says. The city commission's approval of a Community Impact Assessment Statement (CIAS) is what vests a developer with the right to build transient units.

But the city commission sometimes put conditions on its approval. A developer who doesn't get a building permit within a year or doesn't build in the time specified by the building permit can lose his vested rights. And under the GMO the city commission can rank approved projects in other than chronological order.

Strader calls the GMO "a bear to enforce." He says, "This ordinance won an award, believe it or not."

Loopholes in the GMO are adversely affecting the ability of the community to control growth, says Baron. "The only thing that's applied to a major project is requiring a CIAS," he says.

The GMO does not establish standards as to who can buy affordable units. Developers had been selling these to their preferred customers. With the slowdown in the real estate market, the units unrestricted in price have been coming down to the price of the "affordable" units.

The so-called "lockouts," suites which can be divided and rented separately, thus evading the housing-to-transient ratio, are presently restricted by administrative regulation. The city may want to review their status.

Strader sees the state doctrine of concurrency as "a way of managing growth without establishing an arbitrary buildout number." With concurrency, he says, the city must evaluate the impact of development on

city services such as water, sewerage, transportation systems and recreation.

Though the city planner sees the limits imposed by one or more of these resources as what he terms "the controller" in limiting growth in Key West, he doesn't pretend to know which one will play that role. It'll probably be traffic circulation, he speculates. Or it could be something else, like water supply.

The city's comprehensive plan embodying the state-mandated concurrency approach had a final public hearing October 8. It's now gone back to the Department of Community Affairs in Tallahassee. After the comprehensive plan is adopted, the city will adopt a revised land use ordinance.

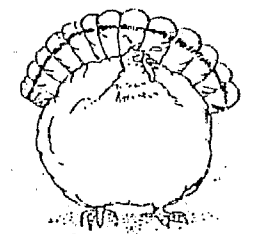
Strader said the GMO anticipated greater development pressure than has materialized. He concedes that the ordinance probably did slow hotel development. ☐

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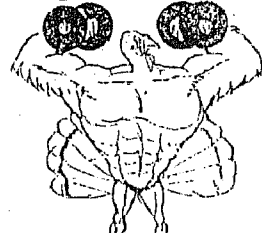
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models among several important variables in Key West's economy: a 300-unit yearly ceiling, a three-to-one ratio between hotel development and residential development, and a specific requirement that 40 percent of the residential units must be "affordable."

At buildout, if the GMO scenario is followed, Key West will have about 1600 more transient units than it does now.

Under the GMO, the slowly increasing supply of transient units gives a practical advantage to hoteliers seeking either small

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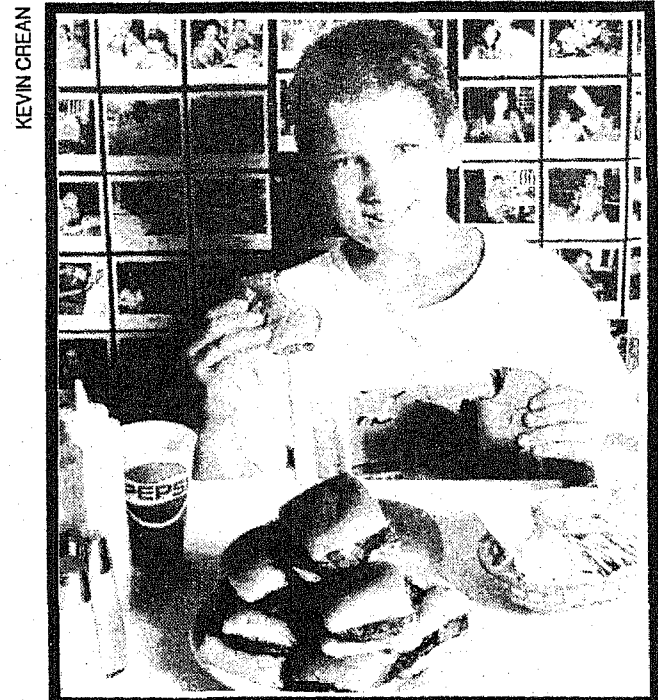
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Suddenly, Homeless

By G.B.

First you need a few hard knocks, like having your business go down the drain, followed by illness and no unemployment insurance. Then you proceed to lose just about everything in the world, including, of course, a place to live. Not a difficult accomplishment these days in America, especially here in the Conch Republic.

The rest is easy. Just add to that mess a wife and your dog and your depression is near complete. Being disabled and unable to work is simply an added extra. Asking for too much help from friends, family or government agencies is equal to driving a nail through your forehead with your own hand.

There are rules, even for homeless camp-

ers. First and foremost, learn to pick your friends. Find persons who will not rob you blind of what little you have, and stay away from the junkie population, especially Crack Heads, who would dig up their mother's grave to steal her wedding ring. I guess the only reason they don't dig her up is that it requires much-too-much work.

If you live in a car or van you must always give thanks for your good fortune and show compassion toward those who are on foot living in the weeds. Never bum a smoke from the same person twice in one day, but accept one when it's offered. A drink, as well, should never be turned down, because you need to avoid as much stress as possible, and a shot of booze helps.

Also, avoid bad judgments and depres-

sion. (They go hand in hand.) Such things lead to getting arrested for sleeping in public or trespassing, which complicate your chances of survival. Having your car or van towed, for instance, means simply that your shelter is now gone. When you get out of jail you will be one of the homeless on foot. Very depressing!

Winter is coming, and I'm afraid we'll be seeing the homeless population on the island rise to six or eight times what it is now. Just in case this most unfortunate condition should afflict you, I'll continue with my list of hints for survival sans a home.

If you're one of the on-foot people, try to buddy up with one or two people you know and trust. Otherwise you may wake up with

all your belongings gone. Sleeping alone in the weeds or under a bridge decreases your luck by 99 percent—you may not wake up at all!

Make a point of finding a fresh-water shower be it hot or cold and use it at least once a day. Nobody likes a smelly homeless person. If possible, use soap. Often times some fat-cat will leave a partial bar of the stuff behind at public showers. You must use good judgment picking up anything else left behind. The judge will not be amused by your version of "Finders Keepers."

Pick up your own area. (You'll find most homeless will do this, while tourists and some local teens will not.) Even though it pisses you off, pick up their messes, too. Wherever you sleep, eat or sit, it's your home: keep it clean.

Bathrooms are very important to the homeless, and if one of you leaves a mess it will spoil things for everyone. Don't steal more toilet paper than you need! (You cannot buy toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, denture adhesive, dog food, foil, charcoal, booze or smokes on food stamps.) Vincent, the maintenance man responsible for Higgs Beach, has a sign in the restrooms that reads: "I'm not your mommy, you flush it!" Be nice, the man breaks his ass trying to keep the facilities clean for "everyone."

Unless you absolutely have to, don't dig through the dumpsters. Rats carry fleas and fleas carry disease. Also avoid drinking anything found in an open container, like the Lotto Lady says, "You never know!" You can, however, find all the "charcoal" you need in any wood-chip pile scattered about the island.

Don't throw that stale bread away. Break it up for the birds, nothing should go to waste. Leftover food should be a constant reminder to you to offer it to another homeless person before throwing it away. And never, never sell your food stamps for any reason. Speaking of which, one of the few agencies—and, boy, they are few—who will treat you with an ounce of dignity is the local food stamp office.

Learn best how to conserve your stamps, because if you run short you cannot get your monthly stamps early. I, myself, am getting \$105 per month (due to my disability). Some get more, some less. In either case you will learn anew how to shop. It's not like when you had a home and refrigerator. A word of caution—it costs more to eat out homeless. Without ice (which you cannot buy with stamps), you are restricted to buying only what you can eat for one meal. Otherwise it will spoil and you'll be throwing money away. Stamps are money!

To those who like to argue, I say, "You can stomach black beans and rice only so often. Meat, milk and eggs is a homeless person's delight."

And if anyone complains to you about the food stamp office, pay little attention. They probably went in and applied for assistance while in need of a serious attitude adjustment.

If you do run out of stamps as I did (nine days with no food staring me in the face), fight the depression and don't panic. It only means the lean times will be leaner, and there's hope and help if you know where and

when to look.

But first a reminder, you've probably already pissed off most of your friends asking for a couple of bucks. You will not get a sandwich at city hall or any county office, even if you voted for them. Remember too that some people have their jobs because homeless people aren't competing for them. They seem to rejoice in the more homeless the better. Keep your hope in your pocket. Compassionate words will not fill your stomach, they will only add to your frustrations.

The churches, including the Salvation Army, will do the best they can to insure you don't starve to death. What they give you may not be much, but soon after becoming homeless you'll realize just how many people there are out here and what these groups are trying to do. It's a helluva task to be sure! All are on overload now (some are already out of funds for the homeless), and, God help us, it's only October! What will it be like for these groups? How much bigger their tasks will become is simply a nightmare. Humble pie and a thank-you are in order.

If you have a waitress or waiter friend, treat them nicely—a free cup of coffee once in a while does a lot for your downed spirits. To Ed and Ruthie and other friends who have been helping from time to time, all I have to offer in exchange is my deepest thanks.

You'll understand quickly out here that nothing is strange. Consider the able-bodied but mentally disturbed people who supposedly like living this way, for instance. (Many are vets from WW II to present.) Perhaps they find homelessness a more attractive option than becoming institutionalized. These are the people, it seems, who face the most danger from rape, robbery, and murder. At times, it is like a zoo without fences.

You'll also find people with jobs living out here. At first that strikes you as being strange, but after talking with them awhile you're reminded of where you are: In Paradise! And it ain't cheap! The only thing remaining low-cost is the air rushing off the sea, and with my lungs in the shape they're in I get cheated on even that one.

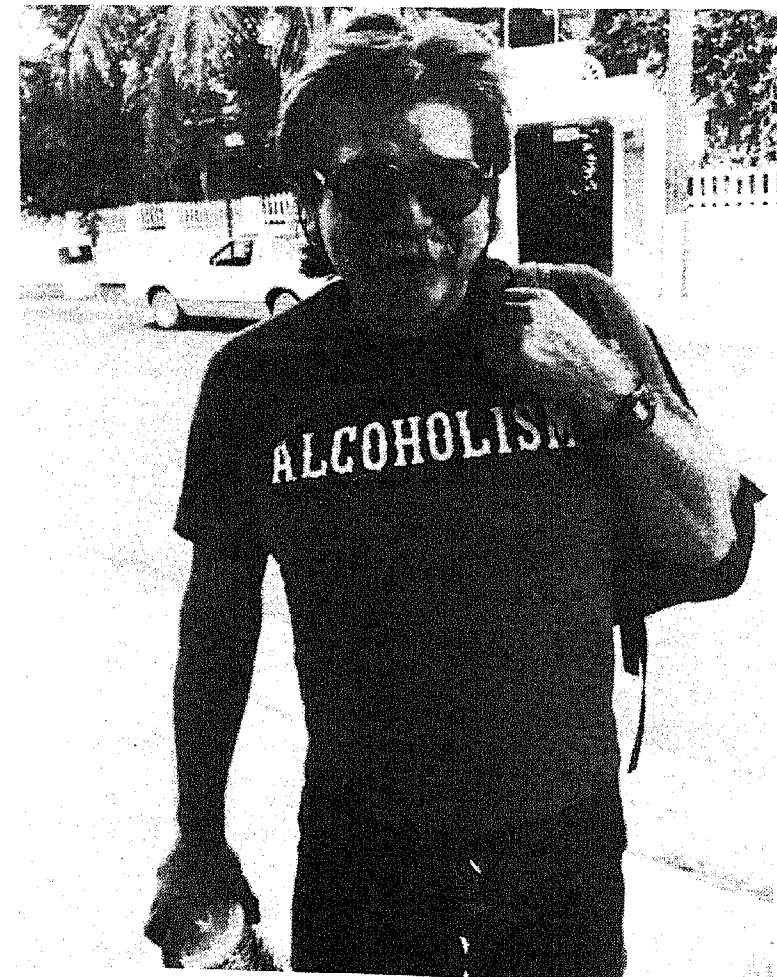
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KEVIN O'BRIEN

KEVIN O'BRIEN



applying to Social Security or Social Services or the Housing Authority. Their governing rules and policies are such that you'll either go crazy, commit suicide or perish into a dark hole of despair.

If you live common-law (my wife and I have for 11 years) you're both counted as only one person. Chances are Social Services will tell you that if they grant you housing assistance you cannot live together. The Housing Authority presents the same problem. (Florida does not recognize common law marriages they'll tell you.) I have no idea if that's true or not!

In any case, there's no advantage to getting married. Social Security tells me I'd lose \$138 a month by getting married. Apparently Social Services thinks breaking up any sort of family unit is good for your mental health. Sorry, I don't see it that way; I love my dog.

Housing allowance the Social Services way is a real Minus/Catch-22. Understandably there are ceilings set, but the way its

disbursing is set up will drive you and any landlord you approach into heaps of laughter. Then he'll ask you if you're crazy!

First you have to find an apartment (they don't keep listings, even for their own records) with utilities for around \$450 a month. Then you explain as quickly as possible, before he starts grinning, that you're moving in with no security deposit and that he'll get his first month's rent "in 30 days." What you're really saying, therefore, is that you will always be running a month behind. By that time he's holding his stomach and tears are running down his face. He thinks you're joking, of course, but when you reassure him you're not, the laughter stops. I've faced this at least 16 times in two weeks.

In all fairness, I must admit the Housing Authority did come up with a housing lead; one room at \$450 a month on Terry Lane, share bath, etc. It would have been just for me, my wife cannot stay there and animals are not allowed.

The New Look

Newly elected mayor Dennis Wardlow made his first appearance as mayor of the 1991 city commission Tuesday, November 12. Commissioner Harry Bethel was not in attendance because he had slipped in the bathtub and cracked some ribs.

Wardlow made it clear from the start that he intended to run the meetings. Though he said he would not put time constraints on public speakers, he would require that they stick to the facts. Wardlow also asked that all speakers address the mayor and not individuals or city staff.

Speakers under the Tarracino reign were used to loose rules, which sometimes led to long and emotional speeches. Quick to bang the gavel when talk in the gallery interfered with the speaker on the floor, Wardlow gave the impression that he intended to maintain control.

We are pushing hard into our third month living in the car. I wonder if I've already gone crazy, or if it's just from sitting in the sun too long. Beware if you think it could never happen to you. A year ago we ran our own business.

One thing for sure is that I'm really having fun out here. I've been waiting on a Social Security approval since November 1990 after having two SS-appointed doctors tell me, "I wasn't sick enough—yet!" Well, I must be sick enough now since doctors at the clinic and hospital tell me I'll never be able to work again and may not even be around long enough to collect my Social Security!

So let the adventure begin. Join us—the homeless; thousands are every day, and we're having fun. Rumor has it Mt. Trashmore will become a park for the homeless; children under 12 will be free, homeless parents will be charged \$2.50 per day. Don't forget to bring your own firewood!

Peterson Appointed Police Chief

The first order of business for the new commission was the acceptance of Harry Bethel's resignation from the Key West Housing Authority, which was followed by a vote to replace him with Frank Topino.

City manager Felix Cooper announced that he did not plan to advertise the city police chief's position and that he will, instead, appoint acting chief Ray Peterson to the position on December 3. The audience applauded.

Cooper said that the department's morale has never been higher. Peterson, he said, has made great progress in community relations and in the development of innovative programs, such as bicycle and foot patrols.

Wardlow, who during the campaign promised to streamline meetings, moved

the commission quickly through the agenda one item after another. A four-percent, across-the-board pay increase for all non-union employees, an issue which some lower-paid employees had grumbled about during the elections, was among those items.

Non-union employees make up a large portion of city hall support staff, ranging from secretaries to the city manager. Last year non-union workers received a \$1500 across-the-board raise. This year city manager Felix Cooper announced that he would ask for a four-percent increase instead of the fixed amount. The figure, he said, was based on an average of what union employees would receive.

Who Benefits?

With the four-percent increase instead of a lump sum, high-paid employees benefit more. There are some 35 non-union employees on the city payroll, the majority of whom are paid more than \$30,000 per year. The eight remaining employees earn between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

Given the percentage increase, an executive secretary earning \$22,885 (the actual salary of the city's lowest-paid secretary) will realize a \$915 annual increase; city manager Felix Cooper will add \$2800 to his \$70,000 base salary.

Earlier this year, Cooper received a \$10,000 raise during the annual employee review process. Cooper is paid \$5000 per year in lieu of life insurance, and has an annual housing allowance of \$6000 and a car allowance of \$2400, which brings his take-home pay to \$83,400 per year. A four-percent increase brings his figure to \$86,200. With all benefits totaled, Cooper nets \$94,062.

This year Cooper has seen an increase of \$23,000—that is more than the aforementioned secretary makes in a year.

One city assistant who stands to gain less than \$1000 this year said she was glad to get anything at all with all the talk of cutting back at city hall during the mayoral campaign.


Meanwhile, Back at the Podium

Wardlow made it clear that he was not prepared to discuss the much-anticipated Atlantic Villas and Holiday Inn Beachside projects.

"I can't make an intelligent decision based on what I know now," he said. "The new commissioners need to meet with staff and be fully informed on all the specifics. It is a very, very important decision and one not to be made lightly."

Those items should appear again in December.

The commission then shifted discussion to the \$3 tax on rental scooters proposed by Cooper. The proposed tax, which would be collected by the vendors

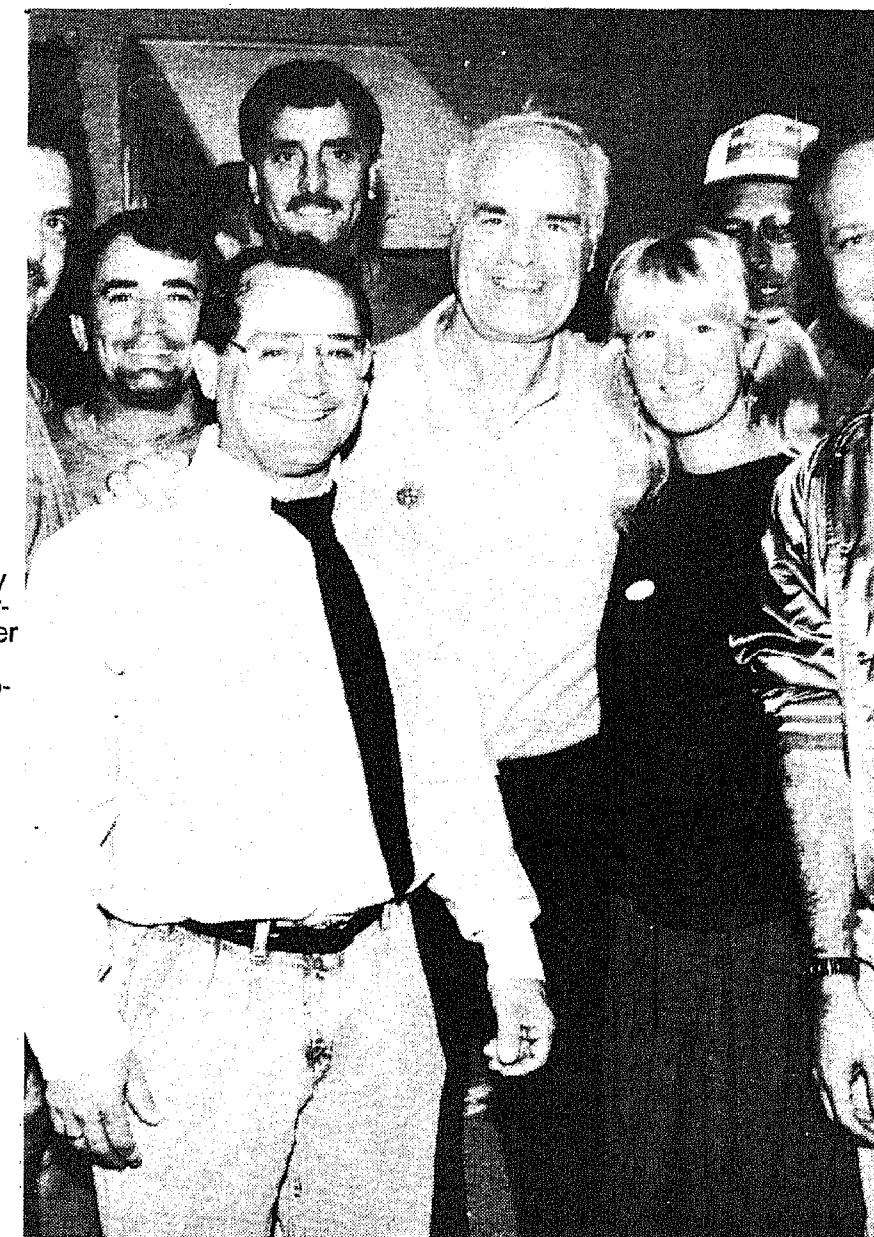


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VICTORY SMILES:
 New city mayor Dennis Wardlow (left) shares a warm and congratulatory moment with friends Gerry Tinlin, general manager of the Ocean Key House Resort, Cricket Judd, a local artist, and other supporters.

RICHARD WATHERWAX



and used for law enforcement, was met with public resistance and sparked the first spirited public debate of the new term.

The city manager explained that the tax would be a user fee to offset the cost of law enforcement the scooters require.

Outraged scooter rental agents spoke out against the measure, saying that existing taxes already paid for law enforcement and that the rental agencies should not be solely responsible for funding police efforts to control the high level of scooter operation on the island.

While rental agents agreed that the police should strictly enforce laws pertaining to safe operation of scooters, one agent referred to a recent study which

showed that 51 percent of all scooter accidents involved locals not tourists.

Frances Flanagan was the only citizen to speak in favor of the plan.

"We need something of this nature," she said. "This industry is placing a burden on Key West without doing anything to relieve that burden."

Acting Chief Peterson sided with Cooper, saying that the city could not afford to place an officer on the newly acquired blue-and-white police scooter. Revenue collected by the tax, he said, would help put a driver on that machine.

Wardlow thanked the speakers, told them that he would take their comments under advisement, and moved on.

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Society Editor Sans Peer

Continued From Front Cover

Of the many characters (and they were legion) who slaved away at the old newspaper building on Greene Street, in the early '40s, '50s and '60s, she was probably the best loved and surely the best known—for a multitude of reasons.

The doings and dalliances, misdeeds and lascivious early morning bacchanals around Key West in those years (what else was there to do?) were all grist for Raymer's mill, which was "Conch Chowder," the society column. Luckily for one and all, only snippets of the most salacious saw the light of print, and then those were so delicately phrased that unless you were an eyeball witness to the naked caperings you'd never guess the bald truth.

Raymer, a native of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania (Joe Namath's hometown, too, and Raymer never failed to mention it) blew into town in the mid-'40s and opened a flower shop on Simonton near Fleming, which, unhappily, came under the spell of a sly old coot of a lawyer. In a matter of a year her bankroll faded, the bloom was off the rose and our Dorothy was out on the sidewalk.

But Dorothy, large bosomed, trusting and generous, had more bounce to the ounce. Having newspaper background at *The Miami News*, she signed on at the local daily as the society editor. She was the whole department; you couldn't ask for more.

Party invites flowed onto her desk like cold beer from the taps across the street at Sloppy Joe's, which then was a sailor and shrimper's hangout—no glitz, no T-shirts, a large beer was 25 cents and the demon rum kept newspaper men from dying of thirst.

Raymer had a roving and wicked eye and would coyly admit to "liking real men, if y'know what I mean, dear," and they were many and varied.

She lived in a second floor apartment in an old wooden house at the corner of Elizabeth and Dey streets, and shared the digs with one of her boyfriends, Major Winthrop Graves.

Graves was a large, blustery rogue from Boston who sported old tweed jackets, bow ties and flannel slacks. Ivy League, y'know. Claimed he got through Williams but only finished a year at Amherst. Then, oh shame of it all, one of her pals at the newspaper ran a check on "the Major," and found out his title came from the days he served in the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). The CCC was a kind of grown-up Boy Scout bunch created during the Depression to get people working. Finito to Graves.

Raymer's parties, which she staged in her place during the winter season when all the swells hit town, were "must go affairs." The



tiny apartment would be wall-to-wall with society types, booze all over the place and tables filled with gooey snacks.

She had a famous police dog, then, dubbed Torpedo, whose most endearing traits were a simpering smile and always-drooling mouth. Often in the middle of a party, you'd lean over to pick up a dainty tidbit only to find it half bitten and well-drooled over. Oh, well.

During one of those tropical storm alerts, when boarding up was in serious progress, the newspaper types were bearing down on a deadline while Dorothy was at Sloppy Joe's doing interviews, she told the city desk.

It was late afternoon, raining and blowing, when Bob Moore, a regular at the bar, and piano player, decided the piano needed cleaning—tuning was out of the question. So he took out all the keys and washed them in the sink below the bar, then set them out to dry.

Ray Knopp, city building official on patrol at the time, watched the process over the rim of his scotch and soda; he shook his head, worried that Moore had gone too far, and he told him so. The keys, meanwhile,

warped like driftwood.

The men argued. Hot words flew, while Dorothy, always the peacemaker, kept tugging at Knopp's sleeve.

"C'mon, Knoppie, let's go home and hang a shutter," she cooed. Off they went.

It just happened that Raymer's bedroom window overlooked the VFW Club on Elizabeth. And it also just happened that Raymer wore a hearing aid, which she often removed during special circumstances. But love conquers all, and in the middle of a torrid scene involving acrobatics, complete with sound effects, Torpedo joined the fun. The dog leaped on the bed and bit Knoppie solidly on his bare behind.

The ensuing roar was greeted with applause from the VFW vets who were cheering the action from across the street. That was part of the hurricane alert story that did not appear in Conch Chowder.

In another encounter, so to speak, Rosebud, and a well-known local fellow who had a glass eye (fully operative otherwise), whispered sweet nothings and made goo-goo eyes one night which ended up in crazy passion in her apartment. It was all over town the next day because the guy was married to a well-



HIGH SOCIETY: Dorothy Raymer, Tennessee Williams, David Wolkowsky (standing, left to right), and others mingle in the early 1960s.

known lady who had somehow divined the marital slip.

Raymer, however, went blissfully to work in the newsroom. Suddenly her maid walked in during one of those silent spells when everyone was listening.

"Miss Dorothy," the maid said in a loud voice (Raymer was stone deaf and wore a hearing aid), "I found this here eye under your bed. You want to save it, hon?"

She knew almost everyone in town and met every celebrity that arrived. Once, when Tallulah Bankhead was here to meet with Tennessee Williams she was introduced to

Raymer at a party. Raymer, of course, was escorted by that monster police dog.

Tallulah was told about the hearing aid and leaned over to Raymer:

"Sugah," drawled that wonderful Southern belle, "that's your seeing-ear dog." Dorothy had that lined quoted in the next "Conch Chowder."

Raymer was, under different names, a character in many books and short stories; one of the earliest was in the novel "The Last of the Southern Winds," by David Loovis. Loovis had captured many of the locals in a story centered around the old Trade Winds bar which was located in the Caroline-Lowe

home at the corner of Duval and Caroline.

She was a dear and close friend of Tennessee Williams, who was then world famous for his plays and she could be easily recognized in his story, *The Gnadige Fraulein*.

Dear Dorothy.

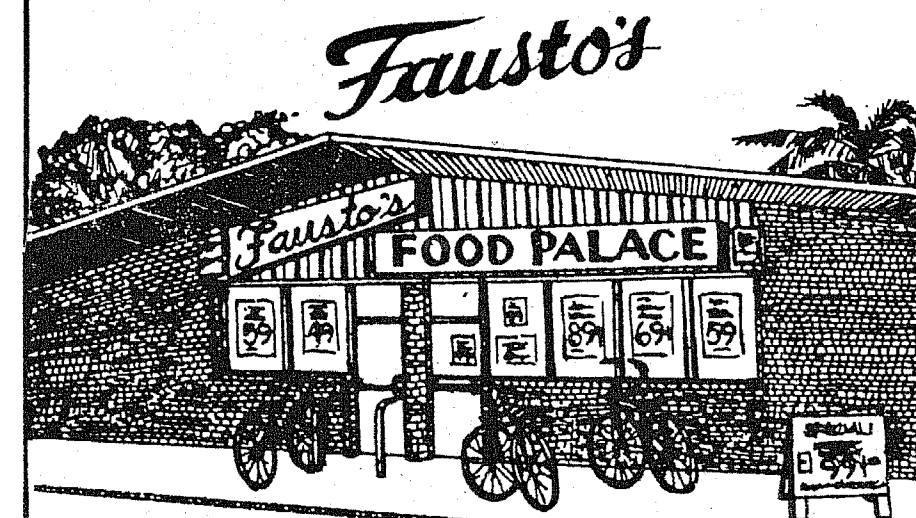
Raymer was the endless source for merriment and Thorne Smithian wackiness in a newsroom which, for all its addled talent and schizo temperaments, would give the prize for best-loved to her (even though none of the so-called hardbitten news writers and photographers would get sloppily sentimental and say as much). □



HAPPY HOURS: Dorothy Raymer and friends talk shop at the Trade Winds bar, a favorite hangout for writers, photographers and other locals.

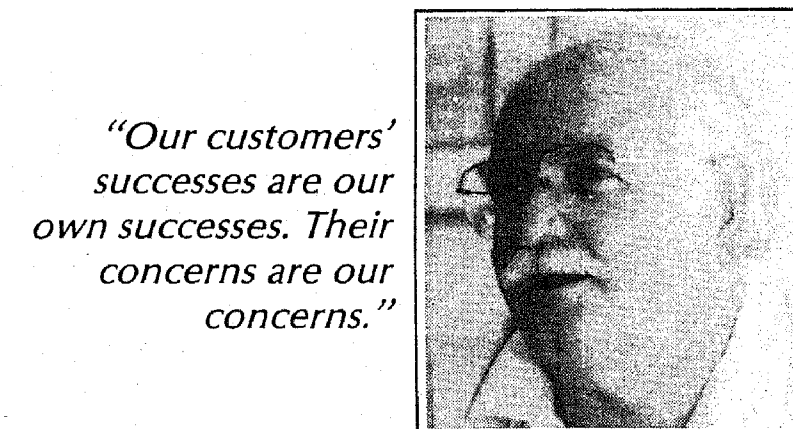
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Drums Roll To Open Cuba

By Geddy Svelkauskas

Amidst the honking horns and booming drums of the Veterans' Day parade on Duval Street, the Monroe County Commission held an Open Cuba organizational meeting at the San Carlos Institute. The main accomplishment of the meeting was the creation of committees to study the possible effects of Cuba's opening on the Keys.

Neither the time nor the place of the meet-

ing proved an entirely auspicious choice. One early arrival found a red ribbon binding closed the building's regal glass doors. "Are you a veteran?" asked Arturo Espiñola from the inside. No, a reporter. "You can't come in, it's a closed meeting."

Because the San Carlos didn't yet have a certificate of occupancy, it was against city law to hold an open meeting there. But it was against the state Sunshine Law to hold a closed meeting. The commission decided it had to keep the doors unlocked. But it left it to Espiñola, president of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce, to decide who would enter and who would not.

Espiñola opened the door.

Inside, the committee was on the horns of a dilemma. Commission chair Mike Hunt, who did most of the talking at the meeting, convened the commission and allowed the members to introduce themselves. He said that the special problems of Monroe County had been "totally ignored" by the state Commission on a Free Cuba.

The job of the county commission, Hunt said, was to focus on preliminary fact-finding on two issues: the influx of a large number of people from Cuba, and a competition for the tourism dollar between the Keys and Cuba. Hunt didn't brook discussion as to whether these were the most likely issues.

After passing out sheets of paper with committee names written on them, Hunt went through the problems as he saw them, emphasizing the logic of his choices. It was important to find out the plans, if any, that various levels of government had made, he said. And government debt levels had to be ascertained, he said, because competition from Cuban tourism could have a devastating economic impact on the Keys.

Other members felt that the commission shouldn't jump to conclusions on the basis of a single scenario. "One plan doesn't fit all umbrellas," said one member. Hunt said that there were two scenarios, quick or slow change, and he moved on to the next item of the agenda.

Hunt said that his strategy was "to identify the negatives first, and they'll give us a basis for information and a direction to go in."

The chairman then passed out more sheets of paper. These contained the names of his choices for committee assignments in the scheme that he had advocated.

The committee on local government plans and coordination will be headed by Harry Powell. Danny Toppino will head the committee on state plans and coordination, and Gilda Niles the committee on federal plans and coordination. The economic impact committee will be headed by William Joyce. José Gonzalez will chair the committee on business and commerce, whose chief charge seems to be to examine the competitive threat that Cuban tourism may pose for the Keys.

As the meeting came to a close, the steady beat of a large parade drum could be heard moving slowly up Duval Street.

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On The Town

with Jane Phillips

After a seven-year romance one of Key West's favorite couples, Susan Hawkens and Michael Whalton, exchanged wedding vows in a mountain ceremony in Hedgeville, West Virginia. The bride wore an off-white Victorian lace dress with a satin sash and carried a bouquet of roses and wild flowers. They honeymooned at their West Virginia farm, where their closest neighbor reacted to the news by saying, "Praise the Lord!"

Glamour couple Sondra and Howard Schneider leave their New York penthouse every winter season to enjoy island living. These marvelous party-givers recently hosted an intimate cocktail party at their new digs on Riviera Drive. Topping the guest list was neighbor Paco Achillo. (Sondra always likes to know where she can go to borrow a cup of champagne.) Others enjoying the evening were house guest Judith Powers, just back from the Hamptons, Esther Toppino, Stephan Widdup, Bill Halpurn, Kathleen and Dick Moody, Sue and Ty Buford, and Dawn and Colin Chorley.

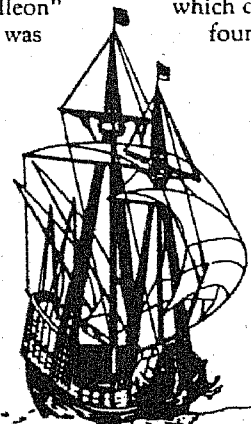
The Chorleys just returned from Greece

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PARTY PERSONS: (from left) Lynn Mercer, Diane Meyerson, Michael Miller and Helen Colley.

and Turkey. Travel certainly agrees with Dawn; she's more beautiful than ever. Son Adrian is training for his pilot's license, and all three will be involved in opening a new guest house.

Another lovely blonde, Jane Vandergrift, really sparkled at the Founder's Society Ballroom fundraiser. Jane was on the arm of her steady, who is the new man in charge of hosting Key West Art and Historical Society parties. Jane will don the apron of Max McQuillin, who was an extraordinary host and retired last season

with much appreciation. You'll still see popular Max just about everywhere. He was looking better than ever at a poster signing party for artist Bill Brockway at Gallery 227.

It's a jungle out there, and it was moreso than ever during Fantasy Fest. Schooner Wharf's Evalena Worthington and Tracy Budzin looked sensational in their leopard outfits. Musically the area was one of the best spots in town with entertainers Bill Blue, The Survivors and the Baron of Bourbon Street, Coco Robicheaux.

In case you think that blondes are having all the fun, you haven't talked with Brona Levin. Brona, the beauty and brains behind Sweet Mischief took an Hawaiian holiday and had the time of her life. She's also seen around town with any number of interesting men.

Mimi MacDonald, who just keeps on getting better, celebrated her 40th birthday at home surrounded by Red Barn friends and well-wishers. Music was supplied by the Paradise Trio. Helping Mimi mark the milestone were Joy Hawkins, John Wells, Paula Jo Chitty, Bruce Kirle, Richard Tazwell, Richard Magesis and, of course, loving husband Gary.

Diva Vicki Roush, looking more glamorous than ever, was one of the entertainers at the super party Peggy McClain hosted for political candidate Joe Pais (now city

commissioner) at the Casa Marina.

Among the list of treasures donated to Reef Relief for their annual fundraiser at East Martello Garden was an Atocha piece of eight donated by Deo and Mel Fisher.

Sign spotted at a local eatery: "Tipping is not a city in China."

Last year's Fantasy Fest Queen Pat Green says she doesn't feel like she's giving up her crown to this year's winner Stretch Frew. As Pat puts it, "There's always room for another queen in Key West."

She's a stunning, talented painter; he's a handsome Harvard-educated architect. Together Helen Colley and husband Michael Miller definitely qualify as "beautiful people." They often put their Duval Street gallery to good use by entertaining friends. Recently, they hosted a Fantasy Fest parade party, where guests enjoyed a fine selection of wines accompanied by a Fantasy buffet as the floats and bands streamed by below.

Among those enjoying the view were Elaine and Hy Weitzen, Diane and Harvey Meyerson, John and Lynn Mercer, Reen Stanhouse, Jack King, Sharon Wells and writer Bill Manville with his favorite redhead, designer Suzie Salowe. Bill spent the summer in Ibiza, Spain writing the screenplay for his novel *Goodbye*, now in the hands of a Canadian producer. He hopes to have his latest novel finished by the first of the year.

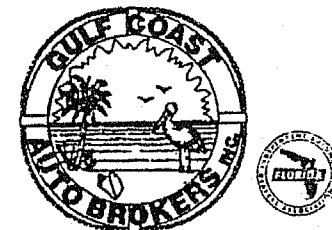
People are gossiping about behind-the-scenes events at a local publisher that rival anything they ever printed. . . trendy business owners that packed up their tent and left town in the middle of the night.

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Fort Zach Needs a Makeover

The fort of Fort Zachary Taylor is closing temporarily as it is in need of a makeover due to age and constant exposure to the coastal environment. The Florida Park Service has closed the building's interior and exterior upper levels but has left the fort parade grounds, museum and beaches open to visitors. Educational presentations will continue as usual. FPS will strive to re-open the fort as soon as repairs can be funded and completed. Currently funds have been raised by the efforts of the non-profit group Friends of Fort Taylor and the FPS's operating budget. Anyone interested in donating or becoming an active volunteer for Fort Taylor should contact Buff Wiley at 292-6713.

Lower Electric Bills in November

According to the Utility Board of the City of Key West, consumers may experience a decrease in their November electric bill because the fuel adjustment cost is decreasing. The adjustment cost, the rate on the bill which reflects the cost of purchasing fuel and power from other utilities in Florida, will decrease \$4.10 per 1000 kilowatt hours. The average residential bill reflects a consumption of 1000 kilowatt hours.

Japanese Interns Available

International Internship Programs (IIP) is seeking host businesses and host families for Japanese individuals interested in working as non-paid interns in our country. IIP has been

operating since 1979 out of Tokyo and has placed over 2,000 Japanese interns with companies in the U.S., Canada and Europe. The idea behind the program is to allow the intern exposure and training in a foreign working environment, while allowing the sponsoring company and family the benefit of his/her Japanese experience and expertise. For more information, write: IIP, 6-19-14 Hongo Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113, Japan or call (81-3) 3812/0771.

Reef Relief Goes to Jamaica

Reef Relief will be heading to Jamaica November 15 to 17 to conduct a reef mooring-buoy workshop. Thirty reef mooring-buoys will be installed at Negril's coral reef by members of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society in cooperation Reef Relief, which will provide equipment and expertise. The agenda also features world-renown coral reef expert Dr. Thomas Goreau, fisheries expert Carl Aiken and eco-tourist authority Herbert Hiller, all of whom will address how a healthy economy depends on a healthy environment.

Sure Cure for Rock Fever

For those interested in venturing off the island, the Florida Department of State along with the Florida Museum of History is sponsoring historical exhibits on Florida throughout the state. Subjects include: "Crate Expectations," a history of the Florida citrus crate label; "Being Seminole: Three Generations of

Tradition and Change," videos, artifacts and photography; and "Alligators: Dragons in Paradise," an exploration of man's fascination with the alligator. For information on dates and locations, call the Museum of Florida History at (904) 488-1484.

Culture for Children and Adults

The Share School of Music is currently offering courses for children and adults. Instructor Tracey Tajan will be teaching children "The Magic of Creativity" and beginning drawing. She will be teaching adults a drawing course entitled "A Way of Seeing." Tajan will also be instructing a shrine workshop at Florida Keys Community College from November 14 to December 12. The workshop will focus on the natural activity of perceptions and personal and spiritual images. For more information, call the Share School of Music at 294-5299 and FKCC at 296-9081, ext. 282.

Little White House Dedication

The formal dedication of President Harry S. Truman's Little White House as a museum was held November 8 on the grounds of the Truman Annex. Built in 1890, the Little White House recently underwent an extensive two-year restoration. The buildings and grounds have been meticulously restored to reflect the 1940s, when President Truman stayed in the house. The house was donated to the State of Florida in 1986, and the \$1.7

COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES •

million restoration was paid for with private funds by the Little White House Company, the current leasehold owner. The dedication attracted several government and military dignitaries.

Scholarships Available

According to the National Sports Foundation over 100,000 collegiate athletic scholarships are available each year to male and female high school and junior college student athletes. Contrary to popular belief, students do not have to be All-State to qualify. Since much of this money goes unused, the foundation has developed a new publication with forms, sample letters and tables of factual information that take students step-by-step through the process of applying for a college athletic scholarship. For information, send a #10 self-addressed envelope to: The National Sports Foundation, 612A Willow Drive, P.O. Box 940, Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

Mainstreet Project Gets Underway

The Main Street program moved another step toward reality this month when residents and businessowners in the neighborhood surrounding Petronia Street met to discuss the area's future and decided to create a nine-person Main Street board. Seven of the board members will be elected in a special election at the end of November; two will be appointed by the city commission. Candidates will be nominated by various organizations.

MARC Your Calendars

With Christmas well on its way, Monroe Association for Retarded Citizens is gearing up for its 8th annual Christmas tree sale, the major fundraising effort for the organization.



ME AND MY TREE: Board member Susan Hawkens surveyed the trees in South Carolina which will be sold at the MARC house Christmas Tree Sale beginning Nov. 29.

This year's selection of trees includes first quality Frazier firs, white and scotch pines, Colorado blue spruce trees plus beautiful poinsettias in red, white, pink and marble. The Christmas-tree lot, located at the Harris School on Southard Street, will open on November 29 and remain open through December 22. MARC is currently recruiting vol-

unteers as salespeople. For information contact Susan Hawkens at 294-5685.

A Night to Remember

Their hair may be grayer and their waists may have given way to middle age, but the Kingston Trio is still together and they're coming to Key West on November 16. Along with the Fabulous Spectrelles, the Trio will perform at the Naval Air Station Truman Annex Beach from 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets are on sale to the general public at Spec's, Morrell Music, Records and Rags and the Holiday Inn Beachside. ☐

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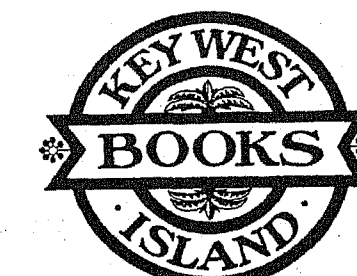
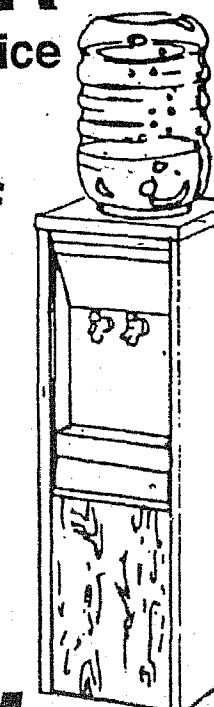
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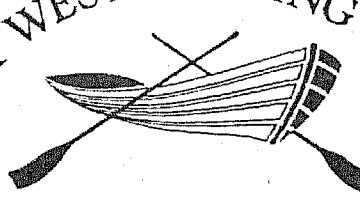
Key West Days & Nights by Bill Manville

"America has entered a neo-Napoleonic era," Mab said. "Bridges falling down, the homeless ever with us, unemployment mounts. The politicians give us wars, invasions, medals and military parades. *La Gloire*. Eat that!"

We were having a late breakfast on the porch of the Conch Café on Duval Street. Mab paused to lean toward the mirror he had propped on the table, and drew a Kohl-black line beneath his left eye. He took a little brush from his makeup case on which he had propped the mirror, wet it on his tongue, and smeared the line for a hot sooty look.

Carl the waiter was waiting to take our

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order.

Like most people interested in domains of power, Mab usually has trouble making up his mind about a menu. "People do such competitive ordering," he says. "I hate it when their food arrives and it looks a better choice than mine. So unfriendly."

Mab looks at the menu again. His make-up job was only half finished. His left eye was held in green and purple shadows, the nicely smeared Kohl liner beneath. The right side looked naked and vulnerable.

He took off his tie. "Forgive the suit," he said to me. "I hate business drag, but I've just been on a job interview."

"Do you still give locals 15 percent off?" he asked Carl.

"It's yours," Carl said.

"Did you hear I got fired when the economy caused my bank to be merged?" Mab said. "Forty-seven of us, doing a good job, and then it's thank you and goodbye."

He paused while painting his lips with Lancome *Soir de Honte*. "I had to move in with Betty Bennett," he said. "Her new house on Southard Street."

"Where is Betty these days?" I said.

"We did Europe together this summer," Mab said. "Paris, the Balearics, South of France. A consolation present."

"Maybe Betty will want to marry you?" I said, I must admit, a bit jealously. (Faithful readers will remember that Betty is going to go through a period of celibacy, while trying to decide what it is she wants from men, and what it is that she tries to get from them that she should really have gotten from her mother. I am one of several waiting for the decision.)

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"Why not?" Mab said. "Women can get laid anytime they like; it's not often they can find a man like me."

True enough. He had gone into the john, taken off his grey suit, and put on the contents of the Madison Avenue polished leather lunchbox in which he had carried his dress ups for the job interview. He was now wearing red satin hot pants and a peekaboo silk blouse knotted at the midriff. He put a crushed white Borsolino on his head, and looked up from painting his right eye. I was taking notes.

"Be sure to write that I'm wearing trashy high heels," he said.

"What I told Betty is that she can fall in love as often and promiscuously as she likes," he said. "It's *liking* each other that keep people together. Betty and I traveled for three months, never a quarrel."

Some of the people at other tables had been watching Mab's coloring number. One of them approached us, a kind of sun-bombed type. An unemployed lifeguard is what he looked like; maybe a guy who had played football a few years ago. Maybe ten pounds too heavy.

"Is that makeup hypoallergenic?" he asked Mab.

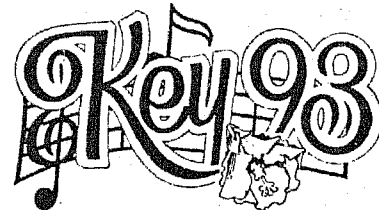
"It's a brand called *Phas*," said Mab. "It works like magic, and you can only get it in Europe."

Mab smiled, his radiance completing the transformation. My friend had disappeared. A beautiful woman sat there in his place.

"Here," she said, holding out the green eyeshadow to the suddenly shy young man. "Break the candle in half, and burn all four ends." ☞

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Baby's Place Coffee Bar, 1111 Duval Street. Serving the finest coffees from the four corners of the earth, roasted and ground on the premises. Enjoy favorites like café con leche, bucci, colada and European blends and fruit and herb teas as well. Baby's also offers all-day breakfast, speciality sandwiches, pies, cakes, cheeses and Veuve Clicquot champagne. Open daily, 7 a.m. to midnight. 292-3739.

Benihana, at S. Roosevelt Boulevard (A1A) and the Atlantic Ocean. Voted America's most popular full-service restaurant. Oriental chefs artistically prepare the finest steaks, shrimp, lobster and chicken right before your eyes. Full bar. Complete dinners from \$12.95. Open nightly. 294-6400.

Bill's Key West Fish Market and Restaurant, 2502 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Serving the finest local seafood from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily. A local favorite. 296-5891.

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

Captain Outrageous' Last Straw, 1116 White Street. "The Worst Food and Drink in Town" and home of the "Bad, Bad, Bad 70-cent burger." Open at 11 a.m. seven days a week. Beer, wine and other food specials. Eat in or take out. 294-9947.

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

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

Conchabamba, 618 Duval Street in the back. Pick and choose from our various exotic small plates or our unique large plates in our beautiful covered garden setting, the largest in Key West. Two bars, indoor/outdoor dining—great food, exotic drinks in a fun tropical setting. Gazebo with nightly entertainment. Serving noon until midnight. Credit cards accepted. 294-7787.

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

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Howard Johnson's Restaurant, 3041 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Breakfast includes strawberry hotcakes for \$3.95 and broccoli and potato scramble for \$4.85. Lunch includes The David, a burger topped with mozzarella cheese, mushrooms and grilled onions served with cole slaw or fries for \$4.95. The dinner menu includes the All-U-Can-Eat Seafood Feast with shrimp, clams, fish, french fries and salad bar for \$9.95. 294-4342.

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

Lighthouse Café, 917 Duval Street. Specializing in wonderful Southern Italian and seafood dishes, served in a beautiful garden setting or cozy indoor dining room. Open for dinner 7 to 11 p.m. Reservations suggested. Diner's Club, Visa. 296-7837.

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

Mangrove Mama's, milemarker 20 on Sugarloaf Key. Featuring natural and local seafood served in an old tyme Keys atmosphere. Dining inside in an old 1919 "Flagler building" or outside under the banana trees. Enjoy the wine bar with a large selection of wines by the glass. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. For dining reservations and entertainment schedule, call 745-3030.

Martha's, at South Roosevelt Boulevard (A1A) and the Atlantic Ocean. Steaks and seafood. Exotic island drinks and soft live piano music set a refreshing mood to compliment Martha's famous menu of steaks, prime rib and fresh native seafood. Open nightly from 5:30 p.m. Major credit cards. 294-3466.

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

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

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

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

The Sand Bar, at The Reach at Simonton and the Ocean. Dine overlooking the beach and the Atlantic on conch chowder, oysters, grilled fish, chicken and sausage sandwiches, cocktails and frozen yogurt daily from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 296-5000.

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

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

Sugarloaf Lodge Restaurant, milemarker 17 on U.S. Route 1. Waterfront dining serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Specializing in fresh local seafood, prime rib and filet mignon. Still serving the best drinks around. Dance with deejay Capt. Chuck on Friday and Saturday nights. Piano music by John Conroy every Sunday evening. Dolphin shows daily at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. A short drive back to the keys you'll remember. 294-3741.

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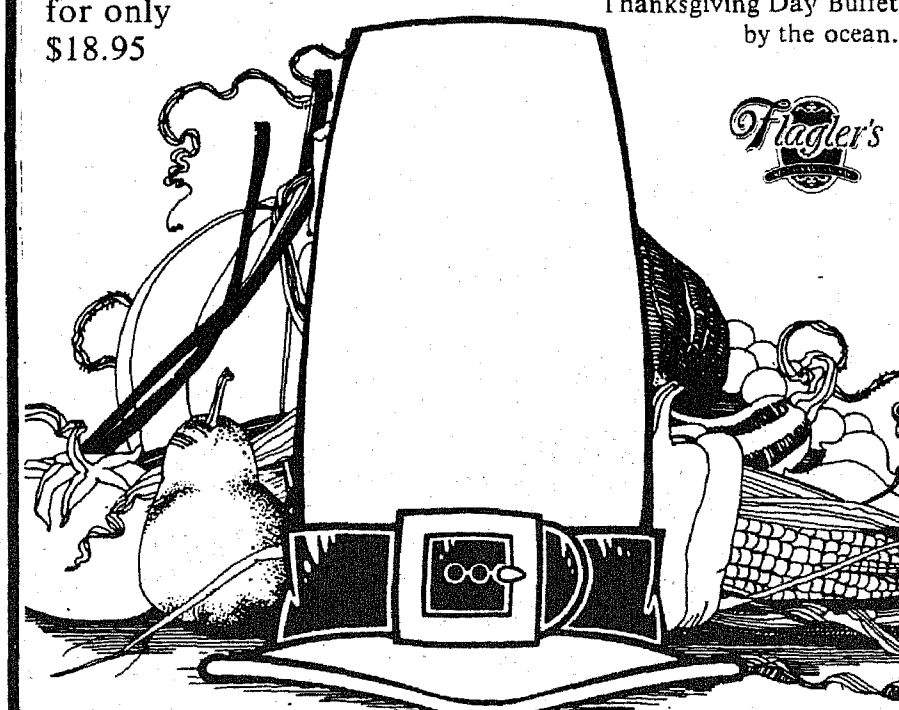
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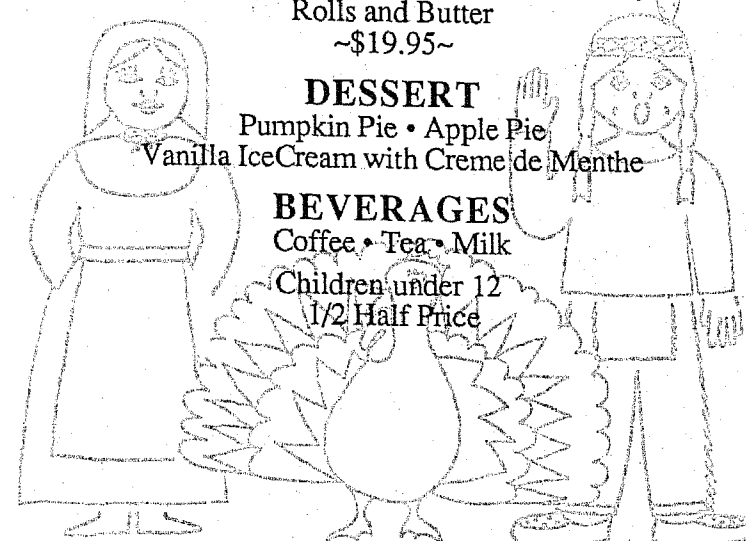
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prepared with brown sugar,
orange and cloves.

Roasted butternut squash
and green apple soup.

Baked onions stuffed with duck
sausage, cabbage and yucca.

Accompanied by ~ sage corn
bread stuffing, maple candied
yams, butter roasted shallot
succotash, cranberry kiwi relish.

For dessert ~ Indian bread pudding
with vanilla ice cream, pumpkin
pie with whipped cream ~ \$18.95

Reservations suggested • Serving 1-9 pm

A Well-Dressed Turkey

Considering that three of the four upscale food magazines to which I subscribe turned up this month with the traditional golden brown gobbler decorating their covers, I feel safe to assume that roast turkey is back in fashion. For good reason. It tastes good, and, as most of us know, it's good for you. Personally, I like it once or twice a year, and, even then, only if it is still succulent, stuffed with an interesting dressing, and served with all the trimmings, especially whipped potatoes and pan gravy.

But just-another turkey resting on just-another grape-garnished platter no longer whets my appetite. As I gazed at the three turkeys gracing my magazines, I thought there surely must be some new and exciting way to present America's favorite *pièce de résistance*.

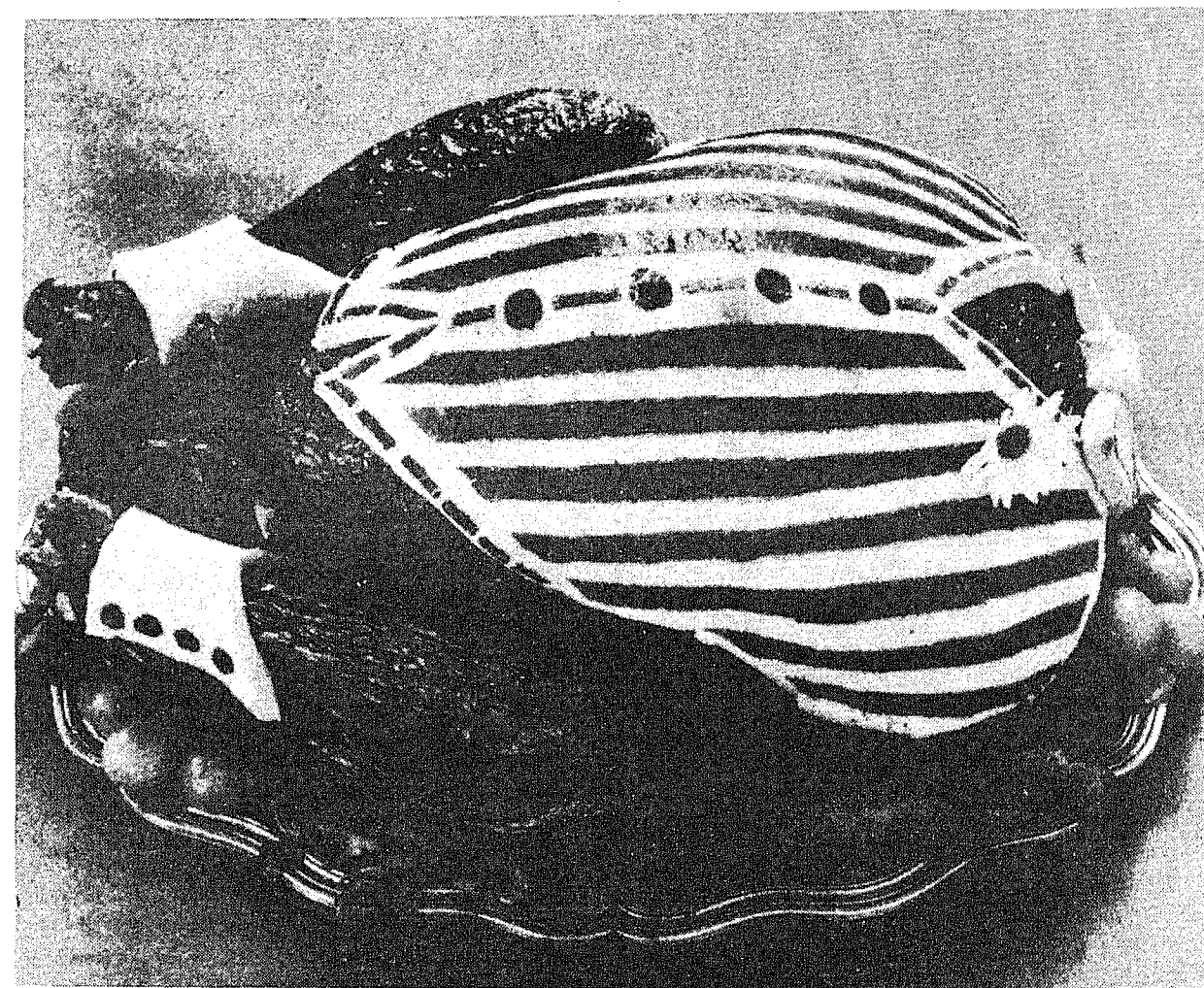
As I pondered, I remembered the "Well-Dressed Turkey." This natty fellow originally appeared in a wonderful book on stenciling I published some years ago, and the two artists, Jim Boleach and Jim Fobel, responsible for all its designs, instructions, and illustration dreamed him up along the way.

These two Jims had collaborated since their days at the Otis Art Institute in California, and I consider them the most creative people I have known. Sadly, Jim Boleach passed away last fall and this article is, in part, written in fond memory of him.

Jim Fobel eventually turned from the fine arts to the culinary arts, becoming a protégé of James Beard's and, for some years, heading the test kitchen at *Food & Wine*. Today, he is a highly regarded food writer who works for all the magazines and has just seen his sixth cookbook, *Jim Fobel's Diet Feasts: An Inspired New Cuisine*, appear in print.

In any event, while we in Key West may never get more dressed up than putting on a new T-shirt, the "Well-Dressed Turkey," with his formal striped vest, bow tie, and spats, goes a long way towards compensating for our laggardly ways. In fact, he might even serve to inspire us.

All the patterns for the big bird's "clothing" are here, but they must be enlarged so



that each square of the grid equals 1 inch. You can do this with a photostat machine or a pantograph, or you can merely draw a grid of 1-inch squares on a large piece of paper, making as many squares as are on the original. Then just copy into each square the lines appearing in the corresponding square of the original. Finally, the new pieces are cut out. (These pieces were made to fit an 18-pound bird; if yours is smaller or larger, adjust them accordingly.)

The finished "clothing" is made of a rich butter pastry that adds considerably to one's dining pleasure, but you can also use pie-crust mix. The stenciling is done with an edible "paint" of egg yolk, water, and food coloring if any of the painted portion should crack before or during baking, just touch them up with more paint before serving).

Making this project is a lot of fun, but hearing the gasp of disbelief you'll get when you present the final product is even more fun. Because most people already have a favorite turkey recipe, this has been omitted for reasons of space, but everything else you need to know follows.

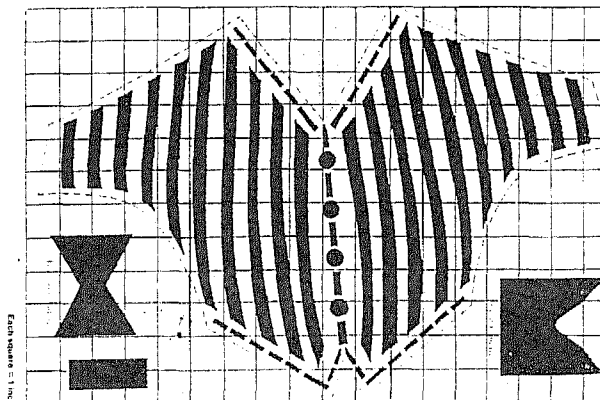
Materials

1 turkey, 18 pounds
butter pastry (recipe follows)
string or twine
illustration board, 15 by 20 inches
stencil paper, 18 by 24 inches
masking tape
#1 X-acto knife with #11 blades
egg yolk
muffin tin or custard cups for "paint"
food coloring, in red, blue, and green
watercolor brush, #5
sharp kitchen knife

Procedure

1. Make butter pastry:
3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 pound chilled unsalted butter
1/3 cup vegetable shortening
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons ice water

Place flour in large bowl. Cut butter into small pieces and blend along with shortening into flour until mixture resembles coarse meal. Do not overwork dough so that butter does not soften. If it does, refrigerate the bowl for a few minutes. Then



rapidly mix in the salt and ice water to form a stiff dough. Shape it into a flat round, wrap it in waxed paper, and chill at least 3 hours.

2. Prepare your turkey according to your family's favorite recipe, stuffing it if desired. Tie the legs together with string, bend the wing tips underneath, and brush with melted butter. Place it in the preheated oven and, brushing it occasionally with more butter, roast until it is 15 minutes away from done.

3. Meanwhile, prepare the stencils for the "clothing." Enlarge all four designs to size on the illustration board as described earlier, allowing at least 2 inches between pieces. Cut stencil paper slightly smaller than the illustration board and tape it over the designs. Cut out stencil openings with the X-acto knife and then cut out the vest shape along the dotted line.

4. On a lightly floured surface, roll out chilled dough to a 1/8-inch thickness. Then cut it to a 12- by 17-inch rectangle and lay it on a sheet of waxed paper that is slightly larger. (Reserve scraps for another project.) Center vest stencil on the pastry and gently press on it to make it adhere.

5. To make the base for the stencil "paint," mix the egg yolk with a teaspoon of water. Measure 1

teaspoon of it into one of the muffin-tin wells and stir in enough red food coloring to make it bright red. Place another 1/2 teaspoon into each of two more wells. Add green coloring to one until it is bright; and, to the other, add 2 drops red, 2 drops blue, and 2 drops green to make black. Reserve remaining base.

6. Dip the tip of the brush into the red paint and gently press the bristles against the side of the well to remove any excess that might run under the edges of the stencil. Being careful not to rest your hands on the pastry, stencil the strips of the vest by evenly painting through each opening. Avoid overworking the paint on the wet dough to keep the design neat. When you have finished, rinse the brush with water and dip it into the green paint. Using the same procedure, stencil the stitching design around the vest. Rinse brush again and, with the black paint, stencil the button shapes.

7. Lay the patterns for the bow tie and its band and the one for the spat on the unstenciled areas of the dough around the vest and cut around them with the knife. Reposition the spat pattern and cut a second one. With the black paint and the brush, make four button shapes on each spat, placing one set along the right-hand side and the other along the left. Refrigerate all pieces until firm.

8. When the turkey is 15 minutes from being done, remove it from the oven and increase the temperature to 425 degrees F. While oven is heating, arrange the "clothing" on the turkey. To add the vest, spread your fingers as wide as possible and then carefully lift it off the waxed paper onto the turkey (a helper may be of use here). If the "sleeves" are too long, cut away the excess. Next, wrap the band for the bow tie around the center of the bow itself and brush along the bottom of it on the wrong side with the reserved egg-yolk base. Center it over the top of the V of the vest neckline and lay it in place. Finally, wrap a spat around each drumstick as

shown—these will stay in place without the egg-yolk base.

9. Return the turkey to the oven and bake about 15 minutes, or until the pastry is crisp and the edges golden brown. Remove completed turkey from oven and let rest 15 to 20 minutes before carving.

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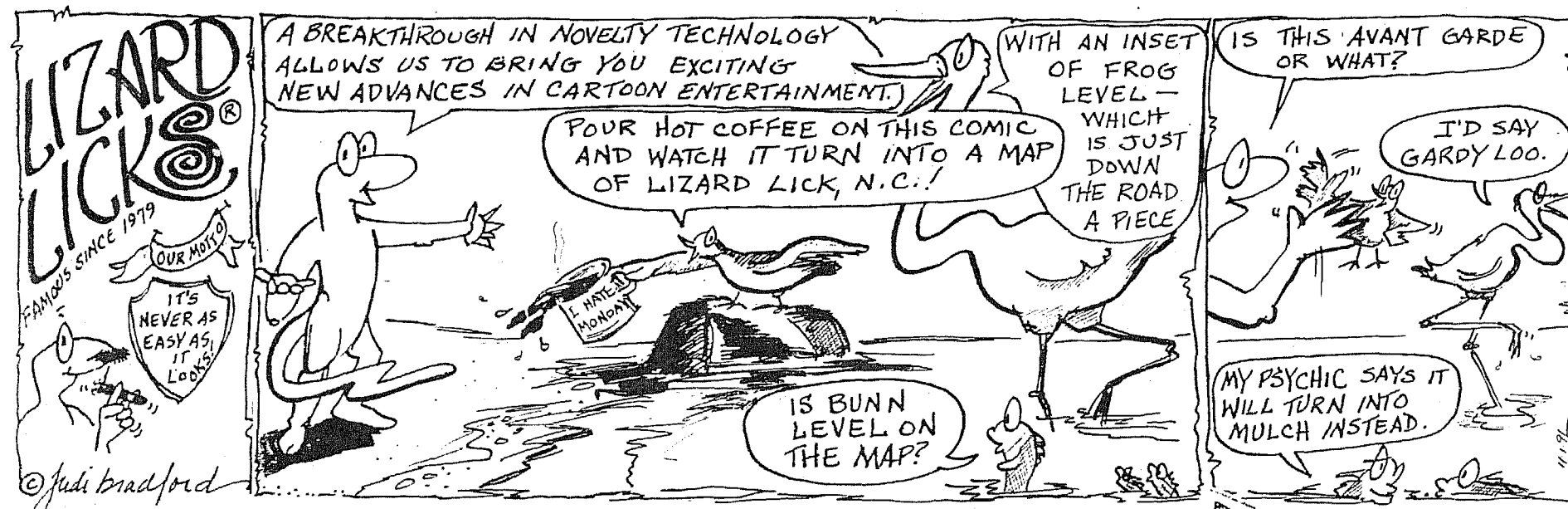
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Readers Write

Which Friends?

Dear Editor:

In regard to the item on Page 21 of the October 31 *Solares Hill*, I would like to point out that Friends of Florida is a Key West-based organization, active primarily in the Keys.

I believe your "Community Note" was referring to the 1000 Friends of Florida, based in Tallahassee, a non-profit organization dedicated to growth management for the entire state. 1000 Friends recently entered as an intervenor in the case of the Department of Community Affairs versus Monroe County, thereby helping to establish reasonable growth management in the Florida Keys.

1000 Friends of Florida, who can show some frightening statistics of population growth in Florida, devote themselves to every segment of developmental problems from overcrowded schools to environmental loss. The organization is knowledgeable and well-organized.

I recommend to anyone concerned with

the future of Florida that they join 1000 Friends of Florida. Memberships start at \$25 a year and their address is P.O. Box 5948, Tallahassee, FL 32314. Their quarterly publication keeps the members up-to-date on what's happening all over the state, and their staff welcomes input from members on issues affecting all residents of Florida.

Helen R. Chapman
Key West

What About Non-Gays?

Dear Editor:

I must take exception to Mr. Palmeter's letter in a recent issue of *Solares Hill*, in which he made gays. Ten thousand dollars may seem insignificant to Mr. Palmeter, but ask any charity or public institution that relies on donated monies and I'm sure you will get a differing opinion.

Many of our more affluent citizens, gay and straight, are extremely generous in supporting local charities and health-care organizations.

Mr. Palmeter admits AIDS is not just a gay disease, yet he only addresses wealthy gays. What about the wealthy non-gays who live here?

It is my belief that a person's compassion and worth should not be judged by what they leave behind or to whom, but by their deeds and actions while alive.

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Key West is a very caring and giving community, and I consider myself lucky to live here.

Joseph Duncan
Key West

Remove Judge Fowler

Judge Fowler's crimes [of lying to the police and leaving the scene of an accident] are not so great that we need blood. He paid fines, he paid damages, and without a gripe he served community time. That's punishment enough for him, or anyone else.

But something else here is considerably more important than Richard Fowler's personal career; and that being the very integrity of our judicial system. The position of Chief Circuit Judge has been seriously compromised. It is shocking, actually. I mean... we put these people in robes for God's sake!

The lies are what make the difference. Remove him.

Don Rockwell
Key West

Locals In Dire Straits

Dear Editor:

Having served for 20 years as tax assessor (now property appraiser), the inequities and injustices of the Florida tax system as applied to property owners in Monroe County have long been my chief concern.

Needless to say, the situation was bad during my last days as state representative, but the state of affairs in Key West and Monroe County today deprives our people of the basic liberties, rights and privileges guaranteed under both the Constitution of the United States and that of the State of Florida.

During my last two years in the legislature, I published a report each year pointing out to the powers-that-be the desperate plight of the residents of Monroe County, be they property owners or renters. These reports were distributed to each member of the Supreme Court, the Governor, the Cabinet and members of the legislature, both House and Senate. This was followed up by a personal visit to most members of the legislature and all members of other divisions of gov-

ernment mentioned.

In addition, I sought advice from the then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and some of the top tax attorneys practicing in Tallahassee. Everyone agreed that Monroe County and Key West were victims of laws, regulations and Supreme Court decisions, which were generally applied in a fair manner to other cities and counties of the state. Due to unusual circumstances existing on the Keys, however, we were correct in our allegations that the people of Monroe County are flagrantly denied equal protection under the highest and most sacred documents promulgated by our forefathers.

The question comes to mind: "Doesn't one or more of these individuals or agencies of government do something about it?"

The answer is simple! We are small in number with limited political muscle. To tamper with the present political system would be unwise and probably political suicide to a statewide officer. To tamper with the tax situation would mean upsetting school funding. With no criticism I found the school lobby, inside and outside the system, the most powerful in the state.

So, what is the answer? The problem lies with both the state and federal governments. In no other county is more than 95 percent of land area tax exempt. No other county is as regulated and restricted from an environmental standpoint as Monroe County—both from state and federal. Thus, any action would have to encompass both.

Working with Bonnie Tynes, president of our small organization Justice in Taxes, and with the cooperation of the property appraiser, Ervin Higgs, I compiled an extensive report with facts and figures showing without a shadow of doubt the injustices, which exist in-as-much as Monroe County is concerned.

Our ultimate conclusion is that a class-action suit in Federal Court alleging gross discrimination be filed either by local governments or individual citizens.

The next question is: "How can this be done?" The answer is that a countywide campaign be conducted including a petition drive with state and nationwide publicity, followed by litigation.

It takes money to even begin a campaign. Enlisting the cooperation of Dan Lee, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Debbie James Horan, aide to Senator Larry Plumber, we have held two breakfast meetings. Thus far, we have pledges of a little over \$7000. To do the job right, we need a lot more. It is hoped that some of the large taxpayers will contribute the additional funds needed.

Those who have contributed to the cause thus far are local taxpayers who not only are familiar with their own plight but know how desperate many of our local citizens feel, not only about taxes but the radical increase which has been assessed against them by the city and county for sewerage, garbage and other necessities of life.

While the increased assessments and relatively high tax rates hit large and small taxpayers alike, the persons on the lower economic level are the first to feel the difficulties in meeting costs of living. However, bankruptcies and business failure indicate that the time is not far off when businesses

and professionals will be hard pressed to keep costs down and still attract customers and clients. Many of the elderly, retired and workers on low incomes have already moved to other parts of the state.

Unless we attract national and statewide attention to our plight, we can expect no degree of success. Provided that it can be properly funded, the plan which we have designed is almost certain to demand the attention we need from the powers that be.

My heart goes out to those who have been forced out of the Keys and, most particularly, to those who are left but know that they can no longer make it on small salaries, pensions, social security and meager

incomes.

Justice is all we want! If the larger taxpayers will advance the seed money for this campaign, the little people of Key West and Monroe County will do their part, financially and otherwise.

Joe Allen
Key West

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The Professional Word

Stick & Stein: \$80,000 For Charity

Steve DeGrave, owner of the Stick & Stein bar and pool room in Key Plaza, has always had a passion for Corvettes. He combines this passion with one of his other interests—fundraising. For the second year in a row, DeGrave has organized a raffle for a brand new, completely loaded, 1991 Corvette convertible. All proceeds go to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Every year since DeGrave opened Stick & Stein 17 years ago, the business has donated money to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, arriving at a cumulative figure of about \$80,000. Not bad for a local billiard lounge, says DeGrave, who believes that a business should help its community as much as possible.

Key West has the world's highest rate of

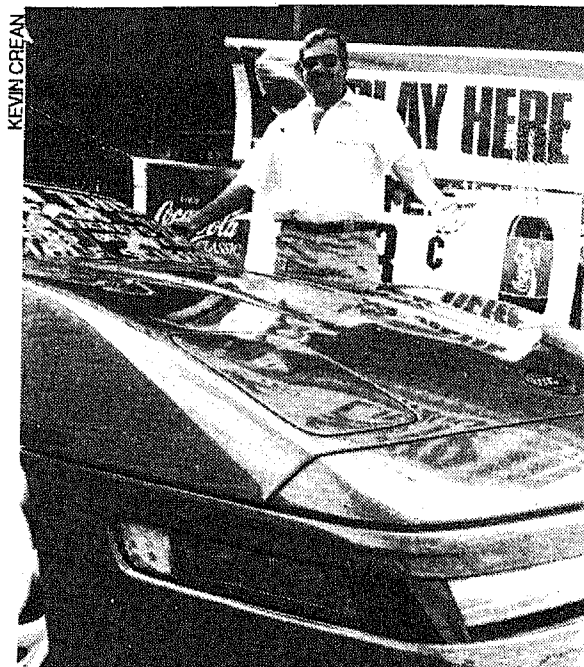
multiple sclerosis per capita. The reasons are still not known, but experts are looking for answers.

This year in particular, says DeGrave, Stick & Stein and the Multiple Sclerosis Society need help. The economy has slowed ticket sales, and about half of the 750 tickets to win the Corvette are still available. Tickets are \$100 each, four for \$300, seven for \$500, 12 for \$800 and 16 for \$1000; they may be purchased from Stick & Stein or charged by phone at 296-3352.

DeGrave suggests friends and neighbors jointly purchase tickets for a chance to win this \$42,000 automobile. The drawing is December 22, and all ticket holders may attend Stick & Stein Christmas party with free food and beer on that day. There also will be many other prizes drawn.

Last year locals Anita Moniss and Rick Bonnett won by pooling their money to buy just one ticket.

Years ago Stick & Stein was invited to join in the "Ugly Bartender Contest"—U.G.L.Y. standing for understandably, generously, lovingly, yours—to raise money for multiple sclerosis. DeGrave says the bar raised money in every conceivable manner:



ALL THIS COULD BE YOURS: Steve DeGrave, owner of Stick & Stein lounge, is raffling off this 1991 loaded Corvette convertible to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Tickets are still available for the December 22 drawing.

from car washes, balloon poppings, to receipt collecting; he even sold 50-cent chances to people who wanted to throw water balloons at the bar's managers and bartenders.

"The competition was fierce out there," says DeGrave. But Stick & Stein raised \$2900 that year, putting them in second place for the contest that year.

"That's when it all started," he says.

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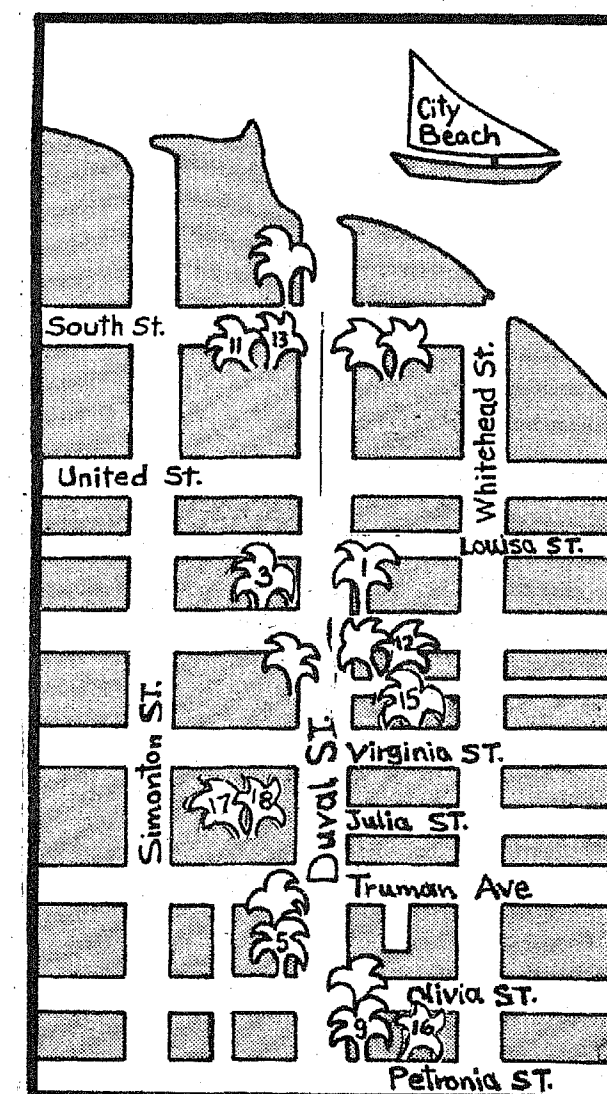
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(Each business is keyed into the map. Check the bottom left corner of each box for the number.)

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Business Tides

Congratulations are in order for **Bob Justice of Gulf Coast Auto Brokers, Inc.** in Key West who was named Dealer of the Month by the Florida Independent Automobile Dealers Association. Justice has been selling cars since 1962 from Maryland to Clearwater, Florida, ending up in Key West in 1989. Today he works with his wife Betsy, selling 300 units a year with four employees—two of which speak fluent Spanish, opening up their market to the Latin community. Justice says his sales approach is relaxed and low key, perfect for the Key West lifestyle. Gulf Coast Auto Brokers is located at 1200 4th Street by Captain Bob's Seafood Restaurant. Call 294-1649.

Nina Sampbel, manager of the **Body Shop at The Reach**, announced a new expanded schedule of exercise programs as well as hours. The Body Shop will now be open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thirty-two aerobics classes are now offered throughout the week, ranging from all levels of low impact and step aerobics to a 75-minute advanced step-challenge class. Classes are open to the public at per class rates. Aerobics and regular member-

ships are available as well. Call 296-5000, ext. 686.



DESIGN: One of Diane Talbot's own creations.

Diane Talbot would like to invite everyone to attend the official opening of her store, **Le Trend**, a fashion boutique for women at #2 Duval Square. This is her sec-

ond location; the other store is located in Boca Raton at the Royal Palm Plaza. **Le Trend** carries a beautiful line of handpainted clothing and jewelry, several of which are designed by Talbot. Talbot invites everyone to take advantage of her official opening sale, which will run November 14 through 31. Call 294-5466.

Dennis Conner, three-time winner of the America's Cup and owner of the **Stars and Stripes** charter catamaran, spent time in Key West this summer promoting sailing to young people. On one of his trips he hosted 17 girls from the Key West-Sugarloaf Brownie troop, 22 members of the newly formed Key West Yacht Club Youth Sailing Program and 6 fifth-grade students from Poinciana Elementary School. The Brownie troop presented Conner with pictures they drew to thank him for the trip. Conner had them framed and sent to San Diego, where they hang on the walls of the **Stars and Stripes** Base Camp.

Island Dental Associates is celebrating its 10th anniversary. When **Dr. Bill Goldner** opened the practice in 1981 at 1721 Flagler Avenue, his business consisted of two dentists, one hygienist and three treatment rooms, plus a healthy dose of hope for future growth. Today, Island Dental offers care by four dentists, five dental hygienists and a support staff of 15. It has expanded to include a new wing, which now houses non-

E. Wm. Goldner, DDS. - Founder,
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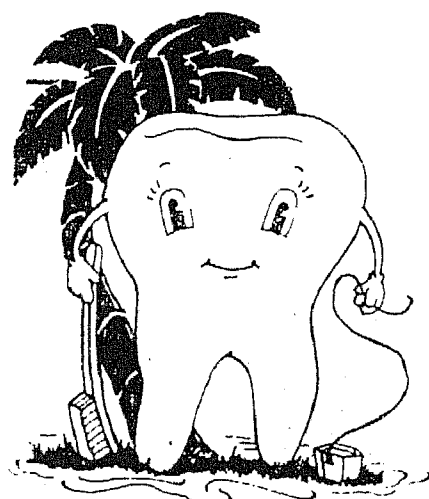
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PUT ME UNDER, PLEASE: Dr. Bill Goldner, owner of Island Dental, is celebrating his business' 10th anniversary. He wears regular dental garb during business hours. surgical periodontal services and ten treatment rooms with state-of-the-art equipment. Dr. Goldner devotes most of his practice to cosmetic dentistry, beautifying the smiles of island residents and visitors alike. Call 294-6699.

After spending the summer season in Camden, Maine, the **Schooner Apple-dore** is back in Key West and docked at the Land's End Marina in Old Town. This season the charter schooner will be running daily five-hour snorkel trips to the reefs, which will include lunch and beverages, and daily two-hour sunset cruises, featuring champagne, beer and wine and music. For reservation information, call 296-9992.

Dr. Stephen Oppenheimer is helping to generate support for needy Keys families by providing free eye exams in exchange for non-perishable food. The doctor, who has offices in the Overseas Market and in the Big Pine Plaza is giving free eye exams (\$50 value) in exchange for at least \$15 worth of food. The program began November 5 and will run through November 23. Food items will be turned over to the Metropolitan Community Church of Key West and St. Peter Church in Big Pine. The churches will prepare baskets for needy local families. For more information, call 294-5503 or 872-4641.

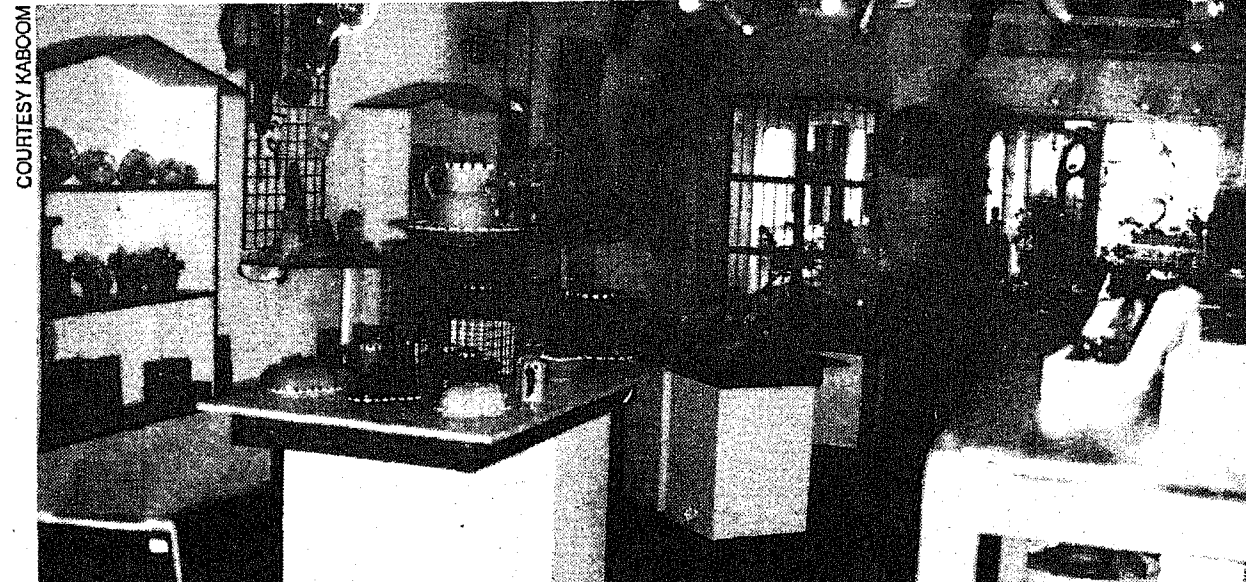
Located at Mile Marker 29.7, the **Blue Moon Trader New Age Emporium & Consignment Shop** will host its first weekly outdoor art-and-craft market on Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Artisans from throughout the Keys will be showing and selling their wares. The Blue Moon's two-story oceanside pink building is also home of **The Crystal Loft**. Together both stores feature a showing of a local artist of the month, massage therapy and Solaya, a psychic reader. For information, call 872-8864.

Artist **Norbert Szilagyi** continues his travels in the Far East. At last communication with local friends, he was in Taiwan studying Chinese painting and the Chinese language, while teaching English. He reports that, as in Key West, biking is the preferred mode of transportation (scooters being a close second). He is sending home new paintings soon for his exhibit space in **Guild Hall Gallery**, 614 Duval Street. It should be interesting to see the effect of Chinese painting on his tropical fauve style.

The creator of **Lizard Licks**, the official mascot of the Conch Republic, has added a new line of work for this season. While the original suction-cup, soft-sculpture critters are still available, artist **Judi Bradford** is now offering piecework wall hangings, pillows and framed elements she calls "Caribbean Country." They feature fabric pieced together in quilt patterns from American midwestern traditional and Seminole designs. Her new group of tropical piecework compositions can be seen at her studio in the **Guild Hall Gallery**, 614 Duval Street.

Longtime South Florida fashion consultant **Kim Harriss** has opened **From the Ruins**, an art-to-wear boutique and artisan gallery in Key West. The shop is based on her philosophy of dressing the soul and spirit of the individual. Located across the street from the Truman Annex at 219 Whitehead Street, **From the Ruins** showcases the works of world-recognized textile designers, sculptors and artists. Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily. On-street parking is available seven days a week.

Abe Mesa and **Eileen** and **Jack Wetzler** announced the grand opening of their new store, **Kaboom**, downtown on the corner of Fitzpatrick and Greene streets. The store brings to Key West a variety of unusual gift items, ranging from jewelry and decorative knickknacks of all sorts to coffee and tea service sets and dinnerware designed by renowned artists. All of **Kaboom's** items sport a flair found in New York City's Greenwich Village. The store will be hosting a grand opening bash on November 24 from noon to 6 p.m. featuring a ribbon-cutting ceremony with newly elected Mayor Dennis Wardlow



KABOOM: The new store will host its grand opening on November 24.

and entertainment by Vicki Roush. Champagne and cheese will be served.

Back from a buying trip to China, the owners of **The China Pearl Company**, a relatively new store on Greene Street, recently added several new pieces to its collection, including a few extremely rare purple pearls. The store, located on the corner of Greene Street and Telegraph Lane, also carries an exquisite collection of fresh water pearls, designer silk scarves, silk Picasso jackets, necklaces and bracelets from the orient. The shop's staff will also string pearls in the size or design of your choice. Call 296-8999.

Big Guys, Inc. of Duval Square has moved five doors down into the heart of the square. The new store is larger and carries an enormous selection of newly arrived Key West "winter" wear just in time for the holiday season. Layaway plans are available. The new store is located at 14-C Duval Square at the corner of Simonton and Virginia and is open daily. Parking is free. Call 292-1797.

Britches, the contemporary clothing store for men and women located in Key Plaza, recently opened another store in Old Town at 524 Front Street in the courtyard next to Key West Aloe. Like the original store, the new one will carry designers such as Esprit, Guess, Pepe, and Surya, a new line of sexy and fun clothing for women. Both stores also carry an excellent selection of accessories, including belts, jewelry, purses, and knickknacks for the hair. Call 293-9722.

Harry Woolley, president of **Barnett Bank of the Keys**, announced a new innovative mortgage program that could make owning a home possible for lower-income families previously barred from such ownership. Among the key elements of the H.O.M.E. program are financing of up to 95 percent of the value of the home, interest rates that are one-half percent below the usual market rate, and special down-payment standards that allow the money to come from a gift, grant, unsecured loan, or special "soft" second mortgage from a government or non-profit organization. For more information, call 292-3860. □

ART~CIRCLE

By
Judi
Bradford

Art To Eat

"It doesn't matter what it looks like—it's all going to the same place anyhow." My dad used to say this while he piled mashed potatoes and gravy and peas on top of ham and shoveled it all in with a piece of bread. Dad came from a family of 18 children, where the boarding-house reach was admired as a survival tactic and the food was plentiful but not fancy.

My mother was exasperated when I requested my sandwich to be cut in triangles, rather than hacked in two across the middle. She and I both wondered where I, an oddly sensitive child in a family of stoics, got such far-fetched ideas. When I visited a friend's house and saw her nanny fixing pancakes in the shape of animals, however, I knew there were others out there just like me.

Most of us put forth some effort—from a dusting of paprika on deviled eggs to a peacock sculpted out of fresh fruits—to make what we cook look appealing.

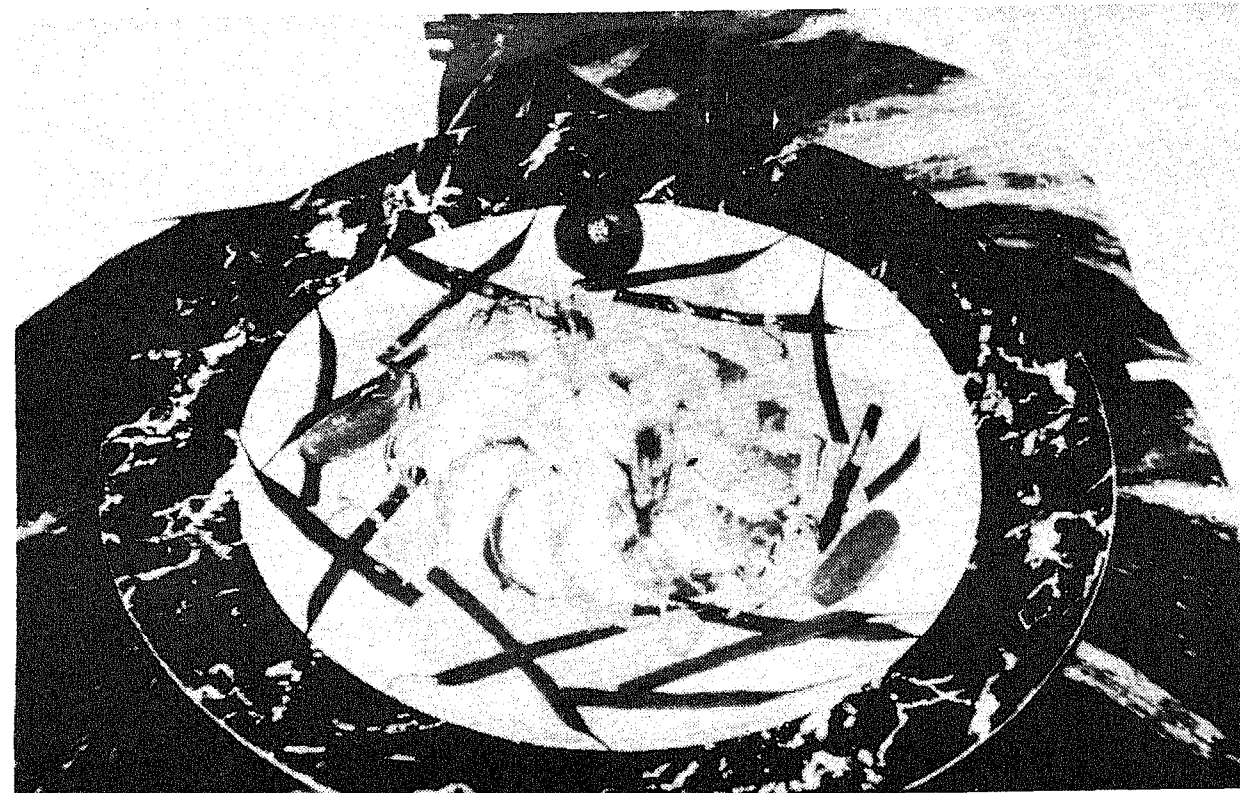
But to chefs, who balance the color and shape of vegetables and meat with nutrition and taste in the original design of menu components, the look of food is as important as its taste. Chefs are well aware that cus-



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ARTFUL: Lobster Tango Mango from Café des Artistes.

tomers are looking for more than a way to satisfy their hunger. A delicious snapper, for instance, *must* be served elegantly and promptly in appealing surroundings.

While the rest of us were kicking Tinker Toys around the living room floor, Claude Lucas was probably molding almond paste flowerettes. Now the owner of Croissants de France, Lucas grew up in a bakery in France. His artistry is evident in the portraits, cartoons, and landscape drawings that turn up on his sheet cakes.

For artist Dalva Duarte, Lucas created a tableau that featured an artist's palette and other items. Applying his skills to a party theme, he can create windsurfers on a sugar lake atop a six-tiered cake or bake bread in the shape of a swan and her nestlings.

Doug Shook is executive chef at Louie's Backyard.

"We take a minimalist approach," he says, describing their grilled quail and duck entree in which a wild mushroom sauce covers the plate and triangular pieces of polenta, alternating with the duck meat create a star. The quail is nestled in green beans.

"It's very attractive," he says, "but everything there is a part of the dish."

Shook considers color and shape, as well as taste, when he creates a dish. You can tell when he starts talking about food that he has

a deep respect for the complete presentation.

"We get flowers from Summerland Farms up the keys," he says, "that's the most extravagant thing we do. We have a couple of plates that don't have the bright colors. The flowers sort of pick things up a bit."

Sure, the visual aspect of food preparation is appealing, but it doesn't end there.

It has to "eat good" is how Andrew Berman at Café des Artistes puts it. He tells of spiderweb patterns in raspberry and mocha sauces.

"The desserts and the cold station [salads, cold appetizers, terrines] are the most fun for garnishing," he says.

Berman elegantly embellishes foods but strives for graceful simplicity. "There is a fine line there," he says. "We know whatever we put together here is going to taste good. We use a sober type of common sense, you know. Then we start on the visual."

Berman says color and shape play a big part in food preparation. "Conception, execution, presentation: those are the three important things that you have to remember in order to have a successful dish that people are going to like," he says. "It has to be well thought out first of all. It has to be cooked correctly, and then it has to be presented so that it is visually appealing."

Flagler's, the Casa Marina's new restaurant, goes for a Caribbean flair with banana leaves as placemats and regional garnishes like mangoes, marinated black beans, tri-color peppers, et cetera.

"We want the garnishing to draw attention to the plate, but at the same time not to be the main focus," says chef Richard McGowan. "I think the flavor and the food

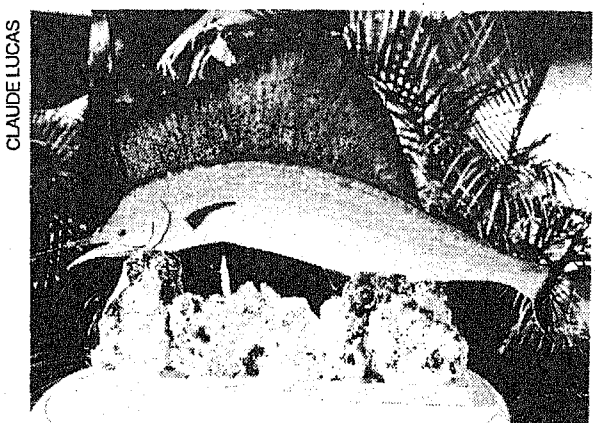
NORBERT SZILAGYI
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should be the main focus."

The restaurant's lobster-and-avocado dinner salad is a sliced lobster recreated on the plate with grapefruit and avocado pieces for the legs; the tail piece from the shell is positioned as a tail; fresh chives are the antennae with a small raddicchio filled with avocado relish for the head.

"We look for difference in color, difference in shapes, difference in textures, when you change from vegetable to starch to meat," says McGowan.

As the site of many conventions and community parties, Casa Marina often needs large ice carvings. Chef McGowan or sous



SEA SWEETS: A sugar sailfish sculpted and colored with food coloring by Claude Lucas of Croissants de France makes an impressive sailfish.

chef Paul Knoblock carve the blocks of ice in theme-related motifs: a locomotive and railroad cars for an upcoming Conch Train party.

To produce flawless clarity, the ice has to be frozen while in motion. Quickness and skills are important, as is the quality of the tools. After roughing the image out of the ice

with a chainsaw, McGowan works with a set of Japanese ice tools.

"I believe the Japanese are best at it," he says, "and their tools are the best." He describes the basic subtractive process: "You have to knock away the pieces that don't look like what you want."

Executive chef David Wirebaugh at the Hyatt considers the various elements composing the dish but also the relationships between them: the size of the foods, the size color and shape of the plate. He relates the garnishing components to the overall composition.

Wirebaugh believes *cioppino* is the most attractive item on his menu. Here he works not just with shape and color but also with height. His three-dimensional pattern of mussels, scallops, clams and lobster poached in a saffron bouillon is supported by garlic toast.

Not everyone who decorates a dish is a professional. My husband Gary Zimmerman, an artist and tour guide, counts playing with his food as his second favorite hobby (right after growing it). In ten years he has come from a culinary repertoire consisting almost entirely of burritos to an airplane he cut out of a watermelon for our daughter's birthday party.

Somewhere along the way, he learned how to make sushi, and that opened his eyes to the artistic possibilities of food.

Incidentally, I have been known to assemble a basil salad leaf by leaf and top it with tomato-skin roses.

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Nov. 16 - Dec. 1

By John Cole

A full Hunter's Moon will roll across the Key West night sky on Thursday the 21st, exactly a week before Thanksgiving—the official start of the Holiday Season. There have been Thanksgivings here chilly enough to remind northern refugees of the times when snow fell on the Macy's Parade or ice skating began on the town pond. In Key West in 1950, holiday chefs woke up early to begin work on their roast turkeys, and pumpkin pies were greeted by a downright depressing 49 degrees.

But that was something of a record low. Average temperatures for the last two weeks of this eleventh month are about 74 degrees—a good ten degrees lower than they were just two months back. One old salt predicts "an early winter" is on the way; in

these latitudes that means daily highs for Thanksgiving week won't get much above the low eighties, and will keep dropping as the winter solstice approaches.

If so, Key West should experience more normal cool spells—a marked change from the past two unseasonably balmy winters, when even Conchs began to believe there might be something to those global warming theories.

One natural act you can count on will be the strong tides, which will accompany that Hunter's Moon. Beginning on the 18th and maintaining their impressive momentum right through the 25th, tides in Key West Harbor will put on a show. Gathering force in the dark hours before dawn, ebb tides will rip past Fort Zachary Taylor at speeds well over two knots, or perhaps three if there's a brisk breeze from the northeast, late November's prevailing wind.

Sweeping high tides will flood the flats at sunrise on the 18th and will move through the mornings until Sunday the 24th when high tide will arrive with the noon whistle. As the month draws down and the moon wanes into its final quarter, tides will become much more civilized.

But the sun will set at 5:30 on Thanksgiving Day, which means at least some of the folks who show up at the Mallory Docks around 4:30 will have just left their holiday tables. Now that can make for a short day indeed. It should, however, be a sunny one.

Rainfall tapers off sharply as November ends and this island begins its dry season as well as its holidays.

It's a chill wind that blows plenty of good to Key West's November anglers, however.

"These two months, November and December, are the greatest fishing times of the year," says Edward J. Little, Jr., a driven angler and marine resources consultant. He reports one of the largest baitfish migrations of any autumn since he's been making observations. Where the small fish are, the larger ones are sure to follow—yellowtail and king mackerel among them.

On the flats, barracuda will gather to sun themselves on the white bottoms that reflect the warm rays. These inquisitive and intelligent fish are a clumsy flycaster's best friend. They respond with impressive aggression and curiosity, even when a fly is badly presented and ineptly retrieved. Good friends that they are, barracuda should be released if and when they decide to join your angling games.

If you travel the flats, keep your distance from the keys and hammocks in the back country, especially those northeast of Key West, which are part of the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge. Three of this region's most impressive large birds—the bald eagle, the osprey and the great white heron—are building nests, incubating eggs, or raising young hatchlings. Any disturbance, be it from flats skiff, air boat and especially jet skis, can destroy not only the essential protection nesting birds need, but will force adults to abandon a nest and its entire future generation. Check your charts for refuge boundaries and keep at least a half-mile of quiet water between you and its keys and hammocks.

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



NOVEMBER ART CALENDAR

A.E.S. Gallery • Florida and other artists working in clay, watercolor, constructed paper collage, and mixed media. Janis Rankin, Ann Smith, Julie Barker, Carol Grigg, Beth Arthur, plus posters, cards, gallery watches and other items. Daily, except Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. 1108 Duval in the Cuban Club, 293-3086.

African Art Curios and Crafts • Tribal and animal masks and artifacts. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 501-B Southard St. 294-1219.

Art Collections Key West • National and local artists in a variety of styles and themes. Daily, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 600 Front St. in the Bottling Court. 296-5956.

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

Audubon House • Historical documents and photographs of the Geiger family and their life in the Audubon house, through January. Admission \$5, children under six free, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St. 294-2116.

Banana Boat Batik • October is sale month! Handpainted silk and cotton by Key West Attitude. New ceramic work by Walt Hyla—animals, fish, lidded vessels, functional ware and hanging fish sculptures. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 419B Duval St. 296-2380.

Bohem • Hand-painted furniture. Lots of new stuff. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 706A Duval St. 292-4035.

Lee Dodez Showroom • Handbuilt clay pieces by Lee Dodez and raku work by Jay Gogin. Classes by both artists. Also ceramic supplies: clay, glazes, equipment for the potter. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

and by appointment. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

East Bank Gallery • Paintings by local artists, limited edition prints, pottery, custom framing and art furniture. Daily, except Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 706 White St. 296-2679.

East Martello Museum & Gallery • "Mysteries of Martello," a show of unidentified artifacts and photographs from the museum's archives. A fundraiser at the Customs House at Clinton Square will be Nov. 2. Customs House opens Nov. 3. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for adults. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery • Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

Gingerbread Square Gallery • Visit our new Uptown location. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1207 Duval St. 296-8900.

Grand Collection • Paintings, Asian antiques, ancient artifacts, tribal arts, jewelry. New hours: Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 810 Duval St. 292-1331.

Great Southern Gallery • Gay Cunningham village people oils. Lynn Vantriglia stitchery of local Key West scenes. Errol Etienne is back with more watercolors. Harry Green starts drawing and acrylic classes. Tricia Hurt's Key West oils, Charles Bradley's cut-paper reef scenes. Antique prints and maps of Key West from 1840 to 1890. Classes continue. Summer hours: Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery • Ink, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, prints, gyotaku fish printing, soft sculpture, fabric piece-work, printed and handpainted cards, ceramics, painted cloth-

ing, leather bags, photography, stained glass, ironwork, painted mirrors, collage, painted woodcarvings by 17 Key West artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and sometimes later. 614 Duval St. 296-6076.

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

Harrison Gallery • Susan Thayer, Andre Henocque, Matthew Lineburger and Helen Harrison. Daily, noon to 5:30 p.m. except Sunday and Monday or ring the bell. 825 White St. 294-0609.

Is It Art? • Hand-painted artwear, prints and wall-hangings. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., daily, except Wednesdays. Duval St. 294-0411.

Island Arts • An ever-expanding artist cooperative and consignment shop with a unique selection of local arts, crafts and painted objects. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1128 Duval St. 292-9909.

Island Wellness • Paintings by local and Caribbean artists throughout the summer. Daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. 530 Simonton St. 296-7353.

Kennedy Gallery • New wood sculptures by Boston artist John Vliet. Animal sculpture by Peter Otfinoski. Etched glass pieces by Susan Pellish. Vibrant oil paintings by Michele Kennedy. Watercolor street-scapes by Robert Kennedy. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., maybe later. 294-5997.

Kennedy Studios • Graphics, limited edition prints. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 133 Duval St. 294-5850; 511 Duval St. 294-8564.

Key West Art Center • Closed Sept. 25 through Oct. 5. Paintings by art center members. Daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 301 Front St. 294-1241.

Key West Lighthouse Museum • History of Keys light-

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

Kudu Gallery of Tribal Arts • Big shipment of African masks and jewelry. Also oriental rugs, kilims, collectors textiles, international folk art, ethnic musical instruments, tapestries, toys and African art. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Wednesday, or by appointment. 1208 Duval St. 294-3771.

Lane Gallery • New works by Tony Chimento. Group show by Key West artists. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

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

Lucky Street Gallery • New paintings by Michael Haykin. Daily except Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. 919 Duval St. 294-3973.

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

Out on a Whim • Decorative arts. Call us for decorative arts services. Daily, noon to 7 p.m. 512 Olivia St. 294-4650.

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fashions and furniture, tile tables and a new line of ceramic house numbers. Sale items. Daily except Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m. 704 Duval St. 294-0351.

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

Plantation Pottery • Functional and decorative ware from some of America's finest potters. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 717 Duval St. 294-3143.

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

Studio 227 • Handbuilt clay-work, watercolor originals, Bahama Village scenes by local artists. Neighborhood children's art classes. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Locklear multi-media; acrylics. 227 Petronia St. 294-7141.

Tar Heel Trading Co. • Stoneware angels and Victorian figurines by Barabar Keener. Functional and decorative work from many of America's best-known craftsmen. Porcelain and silk jewelry, heirloom toys and puppets, inlaid wood boxes, pottery, fused glass and porcelain figurines. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 802 Duval St. 294-8589.

Whitehead Street Pottery • Stoneware, porcelain, Raku vessels. Daily, except Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1011 Whitehead St. 294-5067.

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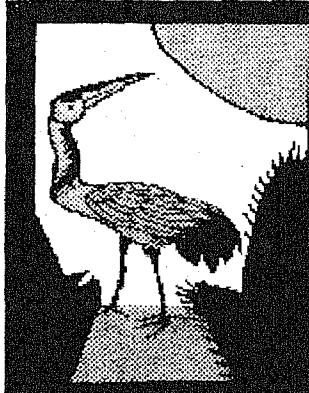
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Music Review

Rich McKay Aboard the Schooner Wolf

By Christine Naughton

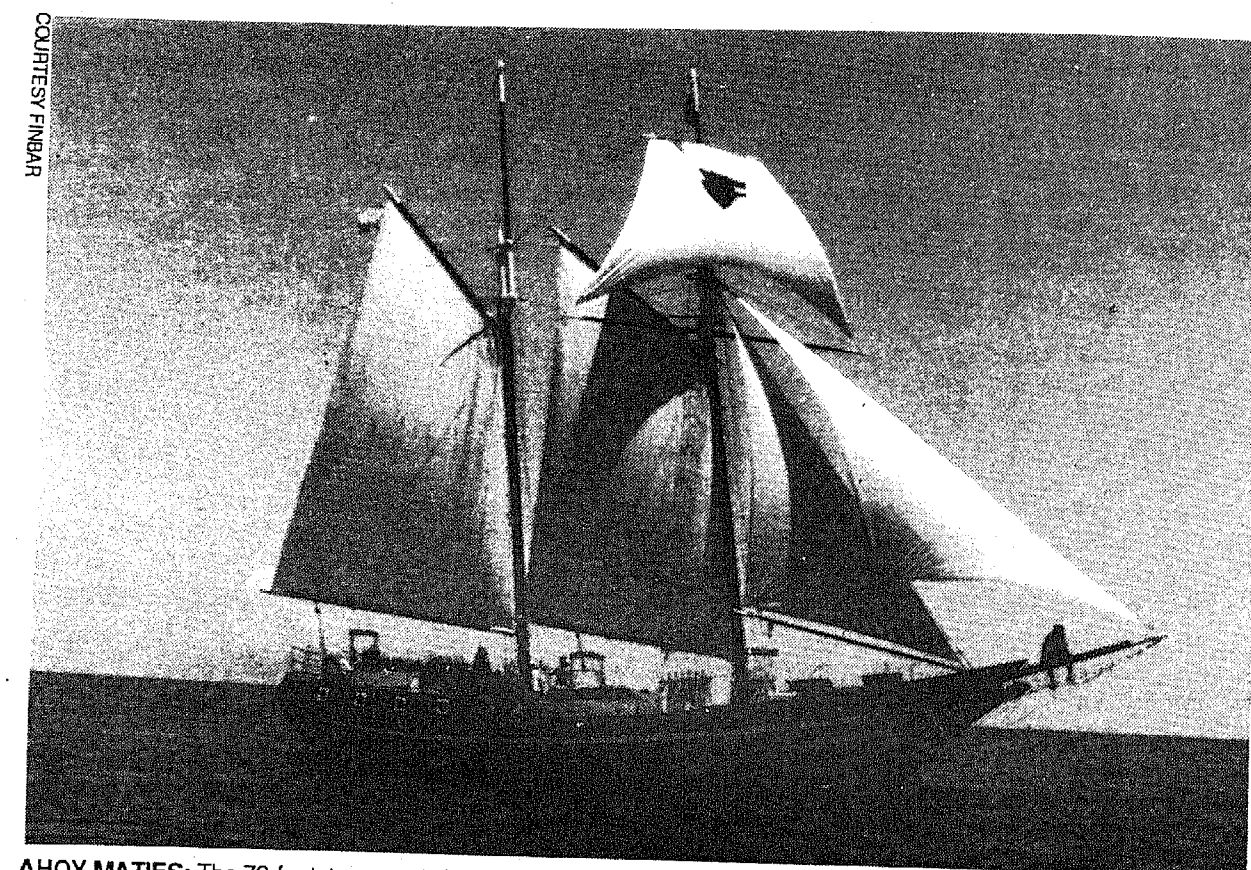
Oh, the canvas can do miracles,
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"Sailing"
Christopher Cross
Christopher, 1979

The remnants of tropical storm Frances' off-shore visit churned the harbor waters into a lively chop one afternoon last month, as the *Schooner Wolf* made ready for her nightly sunset sail. The illustrious Captain Finbar steered his 74-foot, two-masted topsail schooner out of her slip in Key West Bight under power of her diesel engine. Once in the harbor's open waters, he shut down the engine and called out for his crew.

"Haul away the mainsail!" he cried. "This is a very easy ship to sail," the captain said, in an aside to passengers within earshot. "All you need is a good, loud voice." Four women pulled on screaming lines that unfurled the huge canvas sheets to capture the stiff salt breeze. Her sails breathing like living things, the *Wolf* commenced doing what she does best.

Strolling to one side of the deck, Rich McKay tuned his acoustic guitar, set up a rhythmic strum, and serenaded the sailors with a traditional sea chanty, "Haul Away, Joe." It is one of many such titles in his



AHOY MATIES: The 72-foot, two-masted *Schooner Wolf* slides majestically through Key West harbor every sunset.

repertoire of sailing songs, island music, sea chanties and folk songs. McKay's warm, relaxed approach, playing as if he were entertaining guests in his own living room, mirrored and enhanced the comfortable vibe

that seemed to embrace everybody on board.

Having secured the lines, Finbar and his crew for that trip—Diane, Reen, Judith and Barbara—circulated among the passengers, conversing, answering questions and gra-



STRUMMING THE SIX-STRING: Rich McKay plays songs ranging from sailor chanties to hits and local favorites on the *Schooner Wolf*.

ciously serving cold beers and sodas. Altogether, Finbar's crew numbers eight women, including Captain Terry Amadio.

Finbar was asked why he maintains an all-female crew.

"Because I can!" he laughed, with raised eyebrows, as though any captain would be out of his mind not to do so. "And because I've found that in general, out on the water, women follow orders better than men. They also try harder and care more about my

ship."

As the *Wolf* carried us about two miles offshore, Key West became a bracelet of diamond lights in the distance. The ship's 35 tons ensured a smooth ride through the rough harbor.

McKay sang and played tune after tune, perfect complements for the ride—James Taylor's "Sunny Skies"; Billy Joel's "Down-easter Alexa"; a medley of Belafonte favorites, "Yellow Bird," "Island in the Sun," "Jamaica Farewell," "Shame and Scandal"; and his own composition, which sums up what seems to be McKay's dearest wish: "Have a Good Time."

McKay's playing and singing are as welcome and familiar as one's favorite pillow. His performance lies more in his heart and smile than in the music critic's scrutiny of chops, range, speed or style. He's quite simply the perfect guy for this gig.

As the cool, salty breeze fluffed our hair, the sun drooped toward the western horizon and wispy, watercolor-pink clouds softened the line between sea and sky.

Then a hush fell, and the tall ship seemed to stand still in reverence as the bright orange sun melted into the ocean. Behind her, the half-moon was already high and bright, pouring luster on darkening blue, green and gold water. A crimson ribbon appeared on the horizon like footlights on a curtained stage.

On another harbor-cruise tour boat, this would probably be the end of the story, but Finbar likes to sail. He kept us out well past dark, and when that distant bracelet began to take shape as home sweet home, the sky was

wearing a million bright diamonds of her own.

By now we were singing along with McKay, verse after verse of "Drunken Sailor," with Finbar providing bawdy lyrical instructions as to what to do with him ("Make him a captain on an Exxon tanker," "stick him in the sack with Margaret Thatcher," and "throw him in the bilge and make him drink it."), and McKay peppering the pot with pirate sounds, "Yarrrrr."

McKay pulled out a few more gems on the way back to the dock, including Joni Mitchell's "For Free," Irving Berlin's "See You in C.U.B.A.," and local songwriter Bert Lee's "Trouble in the Zoo." Then we all got to watch closely and hold our collective breath as Finbar maneuvered the *Wolf* into the extremely tight little dock space between a catamaran and a glass-bottom boat, which he pulled off as if he were parallel parking a Yugo. ☐

The *Schooner Wolf* embarks on nightly sunset sails, as well as daily reef trips and romantic moonlight voyages, from her dock in the Key West Bight, accessible by land at the foot of Elizabeth or William Streets. Rich McKay entertains every evening but Monday and Thursday. Call 296-9653 for reservations and departure times.

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Twig Does Sinatra

By Anne Carlisle

Dressing in drag is considered to be a male phenomenon, but there are a few exceptions to the rule. "There are not that many male impersonators," says costumer Ray West, "only a few in Vegas. There was a gal who used to open up her tuxedo at the end; she could imitate Wayne Newton and Frank Sinatra."

Locally, the stand out talent in this rare category of impersonation is Anita Branchi, a.k.a. Twig. Friday and Saturday nights at Crazy Daizy's at the Holiday Inn La Concha, Twig performs a live Sinatra and Tony Bennett impersonation that will knock your socks off. She recently finished a summer stint in Provincetown and has performed here at La Concha and Sam's Place, as well as making guest appearances at events such as Women's Week.

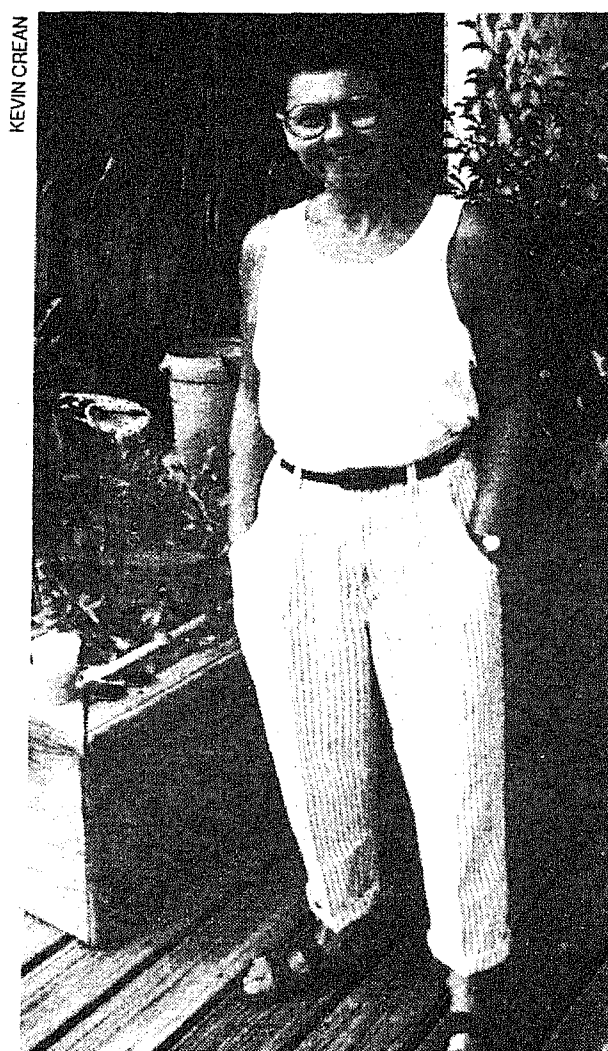
"I think Twig's act is phenomenal," says West, who has worked with her on occasion. "She is so little and vital that it comes off perfectly."

Formerly a restaurateur, cab-driver and hairdresser, Twig is from a Sicilian neighborhood in Boston she describes as "Sinatra crazed." As a kid she used to dress up as Jimmy Durante for Halloween.

"I have a brother, a year older, who looks just like Frank," she says.

"Years ago, I used to be a jazz singer. I was a bleached blonde. I used to wear gowns. And when I'd go out I'd shake because I couldn't stand the way I looked. I wasn't comfortable. I couldn't be myself."

The old Café Exile (which recently reopened as Merriman's) was looking for local talent and a friend suggested to Twig that her habit of singing Sinatra while she cooked had real potential. Twig found male impersonation so exciting—she did a lip-synch Sinatra



ANDROGYNOUS: Anita Branchi says she must "practice my life away" to keep on top of her male impersonations.

—that she spent the next two years perfecting a live act.

"All I do is practice. I practice my life away."

She would practice her act over the phone for her family and send video tapes. They were hard to please. "Ma," I would say to my mother, "you don't like me."

"Getting ready to be Frank," discloses his feminine persona, "is weird. I lay out all my clothes—I like to be by myself. I got my socks, my shoes, my tie, I got my suit hung up. I press my shirt, and then I go over the tapes and listen. By the time I put that bow tie on and smile, it's getting exciting. I start to sweat. By the time I'm dressed I'm in character. I feel different and I stay that way

COURTESY ANITA BRANCHI



A FRANK EXPRESSION: "Twig" puts on her Sinatra face for a performance.

until I take the suit off, or the next day."

"You can't even talk to me," she adds. "I don't even know what you're saying. I'm in another world. I'm thinking I'm him on my way to a concert."

Personally, she has no high regard for Sinatra. But when it comes to his voice—"anyone who says he doesn't have a great voice will get a fight from me."

His attitude, she says, was the hardest trait to acquire.

On stage, she looks, sounds and thinks the part. The clothes and hair, she says, are a very important part of the illusion.

"If I feel like an old Frank, I spray my hair gray."

Perhaps the most distinctive items in Twig's immaculate costume are the patent leather tuxedo shoes with velvet suede bows. "They're women's shoes," she says. "I added a thicker heel to give them an androgynous look." She has a sharkskin suit she's proud of, and a sequin tie she envisions as part of a new act imitating different personae.

"It's a performance but I gotta tell you I would love to dress in drag all the time."

Twig performs at Crazy Daizy's at the Holiday Inn La Concha hotel, 430 Duval Street, Friday and Saturday nights between sets from the Fabulous Spectrelles beginning at about 10:30.

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Fantasy Fest passes. Time to shop at Fausto's Food Palace for turkey sales, though for health, all have had about as much as they can stand of turkey sausage, turkey kielbasa and turkey bacon. A bitter disappointment, so muse Elnora and Clotilda, looking out from inside their old Conch house. They wear care-worn expressions, as the day looms filled, pregnant with unpleasant possibilities.

Brother has just called Elnora and Clotilda, his sisters no longer in the first blush of youth, and informed them that he is marrying the lady with Joan of Arc tattooed on her right wrist. They know that she is the beautiful one who wears a deer-stalker hat. Brother is moving his bride into this, their old family home that they live in, and they are to go into an immaculate, modern, up-to-date apartment in Key Haven.

"People are so much more difficult than animals," sighs Clotilda, who is knitting a jacket for the neighbor's labrador.

Elnora has more fight in her. She was an American spy. In World War II Germany, she got herself rolled up in carpet. She was vastly inconvenienced when they dumped her, not into Hitler's bedroom, but in on Goebbels' cook.

When she got home, started a Marathon health food store with four disabled parking spaces all along the front. She had so much heart it didn't occur to her that no one could get in except the blind, crippled and mentally unstable.

This disturbing move put forward by Brother also will inflict upon the sisters' variety of pets. These pets are a scratch lot: there are 12 cats and, regardless of sex, each is named for a Disciple. Also, there is Jacob, the porcupine. There are Thelma and Louise, two fierce little bulldogs who have nipped many a Key Wester's ankle. And, there is Anita Hill, a newly-acquired but sick bird that looks like a top-heavy pelican with very short legs. Lastly, there is Willie Nelson, a low-down, bone-witted goat, much beloved.

Unfortunately, Clark Gable is deceased. Raised from a tadpole, he became an amiable, portly frog. A sister-in-law weighing 246 pounds came in and sat on him there on the

porch bench. All the veterinary knowledge in Key West could not save him.

Elnora tries some ideas on Clotilda: "Maybe the bride won't like it when she finds the second bathroom has no inside door, a carpenter's mistake. Jacob, porcupine, slips in there and sleeps, cold nights. Wait until he stands on his head and orchestrates a kind of tune with is quills, an announcement of his mating desires."

Elnora also brings up the resident poltergeist that empties the salt from the salt cellar all over the table, nights. A thin, old 1875 lady manifested in a flapping stocking cap, she also snaps the television back on as soon as they leave the room.

"It won't put her off," says Clotilda, stopping knitting and starting to purl. "People now pay the earth for a dramatic history like this."

Elnora tries to see their old house with the opal-tinted glass in the front door. To see it as the bride would. She reflects, "Nothing gives a house a touch of old-world charm like a few tears in the furniture. Tears we have. Everything here has been torn at one time or another."

The telephone rings.

Elnora accepts the word from Brother. He has undergone a change of plans and, for whatever reason, will put his bride in a condo at Ocean Walk. Clotilda's expression hardly changes upon this bulletin. She is a person always seeming to be the calm in the eye of a hurricane.

John, head cat, has had his ear cocked, and he bustles out to pass on the good news of a reprieve to the other 11 cats; to Jacob, porcupine; to Thelma and Louise, bulldogs; to Anita Hill, bird; and to Willie Nelson, goat.

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Cultural

11/15, 11/16, 11/20-11/23 • **South Pacific** 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.
11/16 • **The Kingston Trio and The Fabulous Spectrals** in concert 5 to 9 p.m. at the Naval Air Station Truman Annex Beach. Tickets on sale at Spec's, Morrell Music, Records and Rags, and the Holiday Inn Beachside.
11/17 • **Grease** 8 p.m. at the Waterfront Playhouse. Call 294-5015.
11/28-12/29 • **Hansel and Gretel** matinees and evening shows at the Waterfront Playhouse. Call 294-5015.
11/29 • **Other People's Money** written by Jerry Sterner kicks off the season at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911.

Events

11/14-11/16 • **Key West/Offshore Professional Tour World Championship** continues in town. For information, call 296-8963.
11/16 • **A Seaside Soiree** benefiting the Dolphin Research Center 6:30 p.m. at the Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada (Mile Marker 82). For information, call Rita Irwin at (305) 743-4771.
11/16 • **Arts and Crafts Market** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in front of Blue Moon Trader New Age Emporium, Mile Marker 29.7 in Big Pine. Artists throughout the Keys will be showing and selling their wares. Call 872-8864.
11/19-12/17 • **Daycare Training Course** meets Tuesdays from 6 to 10 p.m. at FKCC. Course provides the mandated 20 hour training course

for daycare workers. Cost is \$40. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

11/20 • **Key West Garden Club Horticultural Workshop** 9:30 a.m. in the pavilion at West Martello Tower. Featuring experts in the field for an informal exchange of knowledge and experience. All are welcome. For information, call 294-3210.

11/23 • **Wildlife Earthscape** 9 a.m. to noon in Marathon. Cost \$6. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

11/24 • **Grand Opening of Kaboom**, a new store located downtown on the corner of Fitzpatrick and Greene. Ribbon-cutting ceremony with Mayor Wardlow and entertainment with Vicki Roush. Call 293-0727.

11/26 • **United States Power Squadron's Boating Course** begins 7 p.m. at the Marathon High School Cafeteria. Course covers boat handling in normal and adverse conditions, seamanship, aids to navigation, compass and charting, etc. Call Roy at 743-6411.

11/29-12/22 • **M.A.R.C. Annual Christmas Tree Sale** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily at the Harris School on Southard Street. Volunteers are also needed for sales. Call Susan 294-5685.

11/30 • **Samantha's Craft Show and Sale** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mile Marker 30 on Big Pine Key. All local craftspeople with great holiday gift ideas. Call 872-2235.

11/30 • **The Metropolitan Opera** 1:30 p.m. on radio station Key 93.5 fm.

Meetings

11/14 • **South Florida Water Manage-**

ment District Meeting 8:30 a.m. in West Palm Beach. Call (407) 686-8800.

11/14 • **Marine Port Advisory Committee Meeting** 7 to 9 p.m. at the Marathon Public Library. Call 294-4641.

11/14 • **Spring Break Advisory Task Force Meeting** 3 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/14 • **HARC Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/15 • **CES Bid Opening Session** 10 a.m. in the Louis Carbonell Board Room located in the William Arnold Service Building at 1001 James Street. Call 294-5272.

11/16 • **Gardening South of the Suwannee: A Conference on Gardening in Central Florida** with the Bok Tower Gardens Foundation, Inc. Call (813) 676-1408.

11/18 • **Civil Service Board Meeting** 7:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/19 • **City Commission Meeting** 3:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/19-11/20 • **Monroe County Commission Meeting** at the Key Colony Beach City Hall. Call 292-4741.

11/20 • **Pension Board Meeting** 9 a.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/20 • **Contractor's Exam Board Meeting** 2 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/20 • **Code Enforcement Board Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/20 • **Citizens Advisory Task Force Meeting** 6:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/21 • **Monroe County Planning Com-**

mission Meeting 10 a.m. in the CES Board Room. Call 292-4741.

11/21 • **Key West Planning Board Meeting** 5 to 10 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/23 • **League of Women Voters Meeting on Child Welfare and Child Care** in Monroe County noon at the Holiday Inn Beachside.

11/26 • **City Commission Meeting** 3:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8252.

11/27 • **Monroe County Development Review Committee Meeting** 1 p.m. at the Marathon Public Library. Call 292-4741.

Well-Being

11/14-12/12 • **Shrine Workshop** with instructor Tracey Tajan at FKCC. An educational and historical course focusing on the perceptions of personal and spiritual images. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

11/14-12/26 • **A Series of Six Childbirth Classes** in Big Pine. \$5 registration fee. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

11/14 • **HIV Support Group** 6 p.m. at AIDS Help, Inc. Call 296-6196.

11/15 • **AIDS Education for Healthcare Workers** 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at FKCC. Course provides the state mandated AIDS education for license renewal for healthcare workers. Cost is \$12. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

11/21 • **HIV Support Group** 6 p.m. at AIDS Help, Inc. Call 296-6196.

11/27 • **"Doctors with A Heart"** held by Island Dental Associates at 1721 Flagler Avenue. Offer-

ing free dental care for the needy. Doors open at noon and patients will be helped on first-come-first-serve basis. Call 294-6696.

11/28 • **HIV Support Group** 6 p.m. at AIDS Help, Inc. Call 296-6196.

Ongoing

Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 p.m. at Holy Innocents Church, 901 Flagler Avenue. Call 294-8912.

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

AIDS Help Support Group Meetings for PWAs, ARC, HIV+, families, friends and lovers are held each Thursday at 6 p.m. at 2700 Flagler Avenue. Call 296-6196.

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

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

Blood Pressure Screenings (free) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the registration area of the emergency room of South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8118.

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

Breezeview 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. Call 872-2861.

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

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

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

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

Childbirth Classes begin monthly at Key West and Big Pine locations. Sponsored by The March of Dimes and FKCC. The course is affordable for every-

RICHARD WATKINSON



JUST ACTING: Actors Joy Hawkins and Sally O'Boyle, who performed in last season's *The Cover of Life*, will be auditioning for the Red Barn's '91-'92 season, which starts this month.

one. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

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

Community Learning Center at Harris School offers Adult Basic Education, Job Preparation and Placement, English as a Second Language, GED Preparation, Vocational Evaluation and Counseling, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free to eligible applicants. Call 292-6762.

Community Education Series dealing with the disease of addiction meets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Tower Building of South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8118.

Community Guitar Orchestra meets in Key West at the Share School of Music on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning September 11. The Big Pine Group meets at the United Methodist Church on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. beginning September 9. All guitar players are invited. Call 294-5299.

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

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

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

on the first and third Thursday of every month in the back room of Wag's restaurant on N. Roosevelt Blvd.

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

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

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

The Law and You with Attorney Fred Buiner, "Live from Key West." Wednesdays from 8 to 9 a.m. Radio debates. Guests include judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers and lawmakers. Broadcast on AM 1600 WKWF Talk Radio. Number to call in during broadcast: 294-1600.

Literacy Volunteers of America meets 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month and offers volunteer training programs as well as workshops. Call 294-4352.

Literacy Volunteers of Monroe County is seeking volunteers to help in working with the media and in teaching others to read. Call Bill Clift at 294-4352.

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

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

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

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

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

Patti Baldwin at 296-7337.

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

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

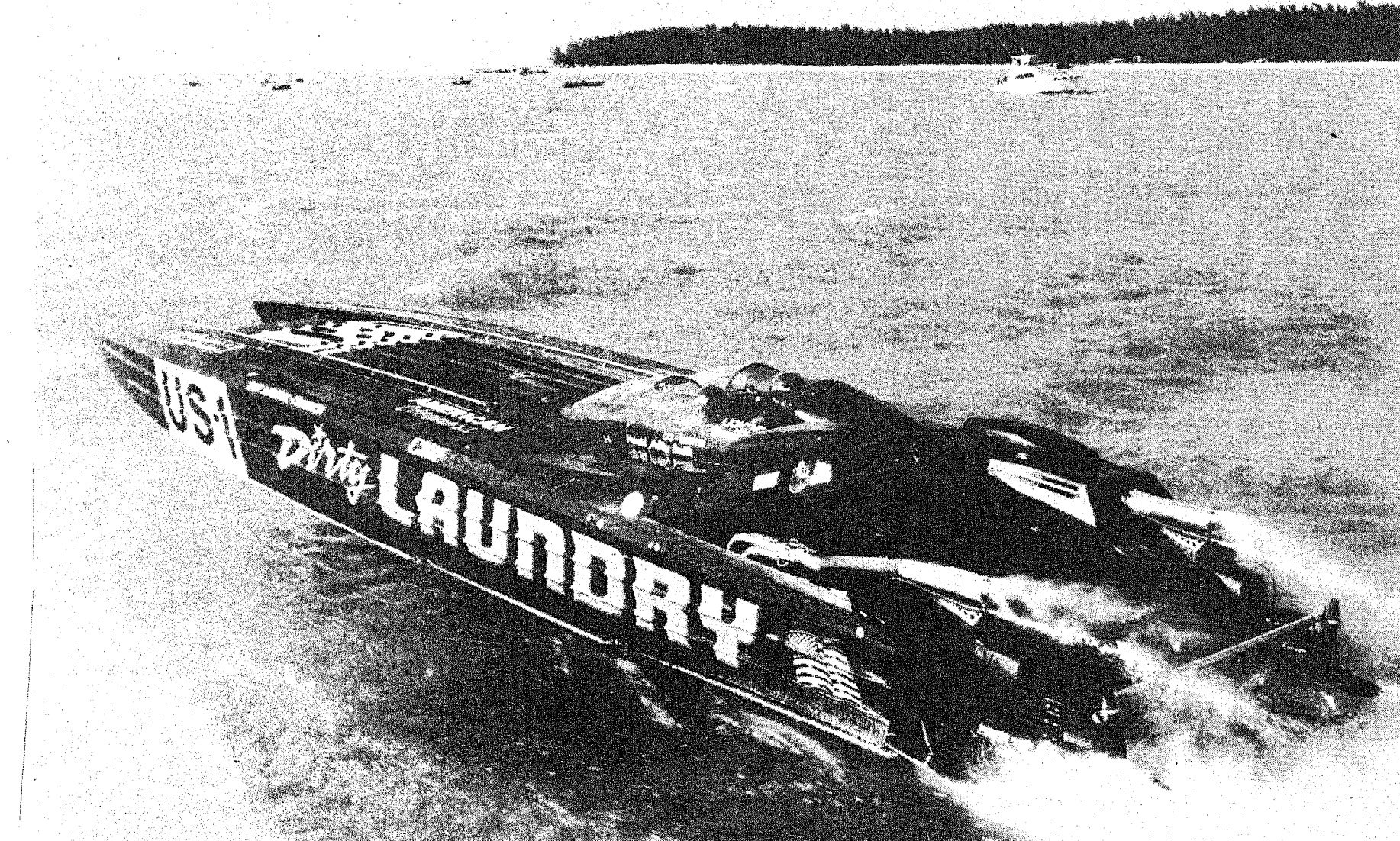
Island Wellness at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled courses and activities. Monday: Daily R & R at noon; Tuesday: Tai Chi Chuan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Wednesday: Daily R & R; Thursday: Tai Chi Chuan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Friday: Daily R & R at noon; Sundays: alternating schedule. Call 296-7353 for details.

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

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

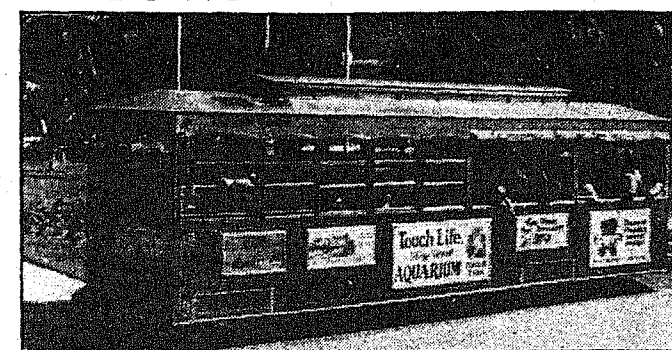
Key West Maritime Historical Society meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Garrison Bight Marina. Memberships cost \$10 per year for individuals and \$25 per year for families. Call Capt. John Duke at 872-3536.

Key West Sports Car Club meets at 8 p.m.



STIFF COMPETITION: The 1991 Key West/Offshore Professional Tour World Championship is November 14 through 16.

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Page 42 • Nov. 14 - Nov. 26, 1991 • Solares Hill

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

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

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

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

Ovarian Cancer Support Group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-7146.

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

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

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

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

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

Problem Solving Group meets Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Problem Solving for Teenagers Group meets Mondays 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Psychotherapy Group meets 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

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

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

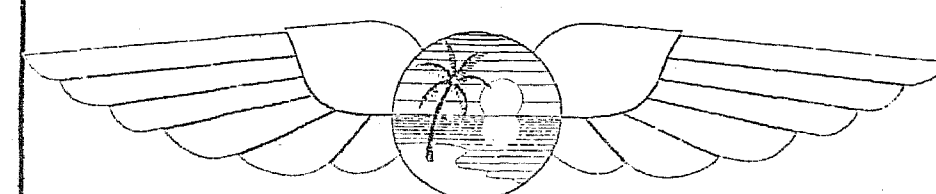
Schizophrenia Support Group meets alternate Tuesdays 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

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

Stress Management Group meets every Friday from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

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

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CALL 294-PURR
Limited seating available

T'ai Chi Chu'an Exercise Class, instructed by Will Jones, is a "soft" form of physical conditioning. Classes are at 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursdays at Island Wellness.

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

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

Understanding Family of Origin Group meets Tuesdays 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Writers' Walk, about one mile, takes place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10. Meet at Ocean Key House, 0 Duval Street.

Entertainment

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

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

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

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

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

Conchabamba • 618 Duval Street-rear. Bruce Kirtle on piano and Bonnie Donn singing tunes from the 40's. Call for schedule 294-7787.

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

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

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

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

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

Green Parrot • 601 Whitehead. Call 296-6133.

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

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

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

Hog's Breath Saloon • 400 Front Street. Nightly entertainment from sunset until 2 a.m. No

cover charge. Call 296-4222.

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

Mangrove Mama's • MM 20 Sugarloaf Key. The Survivors on 11/24 at 9:30 p.m. Dinner Jazz 11/29-11/30 at 7:30 p.m. Call 745-3030.

Margaritaville Café • 500 Duval Street. Live entertainment. Call 292-1435.

Martha's • S. Roosevelt Blvd (A1A). Call 294-3466.

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

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

Nightfall • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. Call 296-5000.

Pirate's Den • 300 Front Street. Adult entertainment nightly, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Peek A Boo Lounge • 300 Southard Street. Live adult entertainment nightly, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Call 294-0959.

Poinciana Lounge • 3432 Duck Avenue. Call 294-6800.

The Quay • 12 Duval Street. Call 294-4446.

Ramada Inn Top O'Spray • 3420 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5541.

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

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

Sloppy Joe's • Corner of Duval and Greene Streets. Entertainment beginning daily at 2 p.m. Call 294-5717.

Square One Restaurant • Duval Square. Joe Lowe on piano Thursday-Saturday evenings. Call 296-4300.

Stephen's Bayside Café • 1970 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Call 294-5066.

Sun Sun Pavilion at The Casa Marina • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.

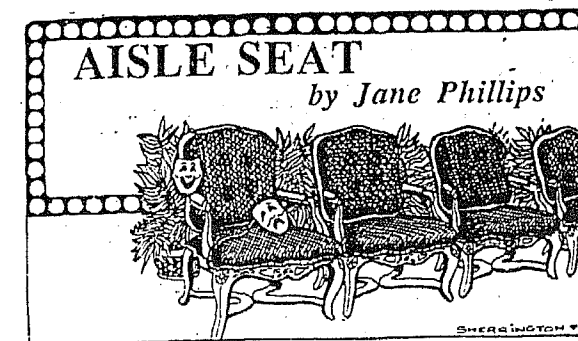
The Top at La Concha • 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.

Turtle Kraals at Lands End Marina • 1 Lands End Village. Call 294-2640.

Two Friends Patio Restaurant • 512 Front Street. Call 296-9212.

Viva Zapata • 903 Duval Street. Matthew Jam-pol, classical guitarist, every Friday and Saturday night, poolside. Call 296-3138.

The Wine Gallery • The Pier House at 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.



A recent article in *Time* magazine focused on new directors who are making exciting contributions to the theater. In Key West one theater, the Waterfront Playhouse, is already on top of the trend. It recently began its season with "New Directors Festival 1991."

Produced by The Key West Players and coordinated by David Bird, George Gugleotti and Nancy Holtkamp, the festival was a terrific success. The varied selection of one-act plays, directors and cast members combined for exciting evenings of theater. The festival featured the works of an eclectic mix of playwrights, including Tennessee Williams, Harold Pinter and Dorothy Parker.

Occupying the director's chair for the first time were Joe DeLuca, Scott Gilmore, Thommie Grimstad, Jane Milne, Michelle Habeck, Helen Chapman, Mary Providence Magill and Tom Simmons.

Circus Lady by Jason Miller, who wrote *Thar Championship Season*, was the most bizarre offering. Miller provided tremendous insight into the limited world of a person imprisoned by her own body.

Under superb direction by Joe DeLuca, Lori Katz gave a riveting performance as Marie Perez, a woman destined to be victimized by a neighborhood rapist. Heavily padded for the role, she lumbered about the stage, shuffling around the dingy apartment in a pair of floppy slippers, lowering herself into a reclining chair and struggling to get up.

Her son, John, effectively played by John Ayala, was a young man desperately seeking a way out of the city slum. Karen Corcelli, Randy Rodrick and Michael Moldau played the other characters who slipped in and out of Marie's life.

James McClure's *Laundry and Bourbon* was another standout. Set in a small Texas town after the Vietnam War, the action revolved around three women who have been acquainted since girlhood, and the men in their lives. Directed by Tom Simmons, this production starred newcomer Jane Milne as Elizabeth Calder, Gerri Louise Gates as her dear friend, and Mary Athanis as Amy Lee Fullernay, who dropped in unexpectedly. In a magical theatrical moment Hattie and Amy Lee confronted each other. They were wearing exactly the same dress.

All three women played their parts well. Gerri Louise provided flawless comic timing in her best performance to date.

Lone Star, also written by McClure, was the male counterpart to *Laundry and Bourbon*. In this play we met the men the ladies were talking about. In this play, directed by Jane Milne, the three good ole boys were portrayed with gusto by Tom Simmons, Tom Luna and Todd Burns.

The Author's Voice gave Kelly Moore an opportunity to give an incredible performance

COURTESY WATERFRONT PLAYHOUSE



THEATER TRIO: (From left) David Bird, Nancy Holtkamp and George Gugleotti coordinated the Waterfront Playhouse New Directors Festival.

as a horribly misshapen gnome. In this play, written by Richard Greenberg and directed by Helen Chapman, Kelly was supported by Van-essa McCaffrey and Tom Greenwood.


Directed by Michelle Habeck, Dorothy Parker's *Here We Are* was a delightful change of pace. Karen Corcelli and John Ayala played the featured roles. Written in the 1930s, the play sweetly portrayed a young couple off on their honeymoon—the eternal struggle of the sexes to communicate.

Tennessee Williams' beloved New Orleans was the setting for *Auto Da Fe*, directed by Scott Gilmore. Helen Chapman and George Gugleotti played two characters struggling with the complexities of life.

Harold Pinter's views on alienation were dramatically presented in *The Applicant*, directed by Thommie Grimstad with Kathy Klingerman and Art Nichols. A new play, *Mamactia*, by local writer Robert Magill and

directed by Mary Providence Magill, was also well received. In this play about an airport encounter with macabre overtones, Katie Tierney and Tom Murtha were featured.

The New Directors Festival was a fine way to start the new season. Like short stories, one-act plays go right to the heart of their subject matter and have great entertainment value. They give theatergoers an opportunity to see little-known works of major playwrights and offer a forum for new writers. We hope this festival will become an annual tradition.

Note: Francis MacDonald, a favorite actor with local audiences for the last 12 years, died October 13. He had appeared at the Red Barn, Waterfront Playhouse and Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, where he took his last curtain call. He will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered. 

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1/4 Lb. Iced Steamed Shrimp.....	3.95	Baby Back Ribs.....	9.95
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Appetizers		Fresh Catch of The Day.....	11.75
Conch Chowder.....	2.50	Grilled Catch of The Day.....	11.75
Seafood Chowder.....	2.50	Dolphin, Broiled or Fried.....	6.75
Conch Fritters.....	3.50	Stuffed Dolphin, Broiled or Fried.....	9.75
Fried Fish Fingers.....	3.25	Fried Jumbo Shrimp.....	11.95
Shrimp Cocktail.....	7.50	Stuffed Jumbo Shrimp.....	12.95
Marinated Conch Salad.....	4.25	Shrimp Scampi.....	12.50
Crab & Avocado Salad.....	6.50	Steamed Shrimp, 1/2 Lb.	9.95
Large Garden Salad.....	3.95	Deep Sea Scallops, Broiled or Fried.....	7.50
Sandwiches		Fried Clam Strips.....	7.75
Fried Dolphin Sandwich.....	5.75	Fried Oysters.....	7.95
Hamburger.....	4.25	Maryland Style Crab Cakes.....	9.95
Cheeseburger.....	4.95	Broiled Lobster.....	Market
		Stuffed Lobster.....	Market
		Broiled Seafood Combination.....	12.25
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