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No. 18 Vol. 5



REMEMBER MOTHER • MAY 13

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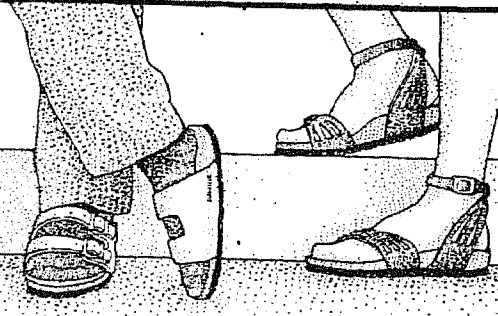
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EDITORIAL

The sound and the fury. These are the results of Key West's latest, greatest sound ordinance. As mentioned in Christine Naughton's "The Sound of No Hands Clapping," on Page 16, our city has been battling the bands for at least a decade.

About four years ago, the city commission hired attorney Roberta Fine to write up a sound ordinance. The language of that ordinance was rewritten until the city had one which seemed solid and enforceable.

Why didn't that ordinance work? The primary reason, as was pointed out several months back at a sound ordinance committee meeting, was that no police officers were certified to use the decibel meters the city used to measure the volume of sound at its source. Consequently, the otherwise enforceable ordinance went unenforced.

A small group of citizens who live near Duval Street and who claim the quality of their lives and the amount of sleep they are able to catch each evening is reduced to the point of unbearable remained unsatisfied. It is primarily for these individuals that the city has a new noise ordinance. These people have rights, and those rights should be protected.

That's where the problem with the new ordinance comes in. Code enforcement, which is now determining what is and isn't too loud by standing 150 feet from the sound source and listening, is enforcing the ordinance based on complaints -- many times from their own officers.

If code enforcement officials (who say they give the sound ordinance a high priority) and the police (who say they give it a low one) would respond only to

complaints called in from the outside, the city would eventually single out and quiet those sources that are causing citizens distress. Why cite an establishment for sound that is not bothering anybody? Even if a sound level exceeds that which is mandated by the ordinance, is it not the main thrust of the law to protect not to punish?

Some bars will be hit harder than others; and, fortunately or unfortunately, depending on one's perspective, they will need to comply with the ordinance or suffer the consequences. Should they feel unjustly treated in relation to their equally loud competitors, they have every right to call and complain, which could create a domino effect. But if bars and musicians consider what's best for them as industries, and if law enforcement officials consider what's best for the city as a tourist town, Key West may be able to transcend a potentially petty, bitter and ugly mindset.

With all the problems -- social and economic -- that Key West faces today, doesn't it make sense to use code enforcement resources on an as-needed basis? It seems wasted time for a code enforcement officer to stand on a mark 150 feet from a bar and seek sound levels that bother nobody but that officer.

The idea behind the ordinance is to make peace, not war. Let's implement it that way.

Ann Boese

On the cover: "Mother and Child" is an original acrylic on canvas painted by Key West artist V.K. Gibson. His work is exhibited and sold at the Lane Gallery, at Truman and Duval Street.

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Greyhounds: Life and Death on the Fast Track

by Gregg Lasky

The grounds are quiet at Berenson's Key West Greyhound Track on Stock Island, the 37-year-old institution having closed its doors for the season April 14. Gone are the sounds of yelping dogs and cheering crowds that rang out since early November.

Now track officials face another kind of noise: opposition from animal rights activists who claim too many dogs are needlessly killed each year because they don't run fast enough to earn their owners a profit or because they are too old to race. In addition, activists say, the greyhounds live in cramped quarters and are transported north at the end of the season with three or four other dogs in cages designed to hold one or two.

But state and track officials and others involved in the industry paint a different picture of their sport, saying that it is for the most part an honest business that is increasingly and sufficiently regulated by state law and national industry groups.

In Key West, the issue of how greyhounds are treated came to a head last month after a local man placed a public service announcement in the April *Solares Hill*. Running in paid advertising space, the announcement claimed the dog racing industry kills "300,000 dogs annually ... because they don't earn enough money for those who exploit them."



Uncertain destiny: A racing greyhound.

J.T. Thompson, who ran the advertisement, says he based his claim on a report he heard on either *CBS News* or *60 Minutes*, though he could not remember which one.

"Whether it's 300,000 or 3,000 or 300 [dogs that are killed annually], it still is wrong," says Thompson, an animal rights activist who works at Solares Hill Design Group, a Key West advertising agency.

"The public would never sit still if they were cute little beagles or Afghans that were being killed. Greyhounds are viewed as disposable because there is a profit industry behind it."

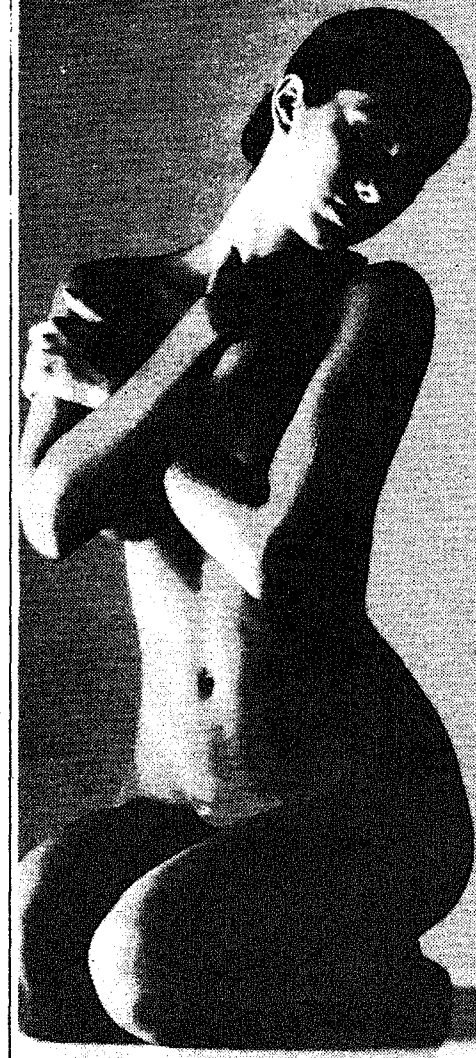
Thompson's charge has caused an uproar among industry officials, who call the claim "impossible" and "absolutely not true." The American Greyhound Council, an association of track operators, tagged the charge "absurd, false and libelous." Based in Abilene, Kansas, the group estimates greyhound deaths at 37,874 in 1988 and 38,443 in 1989. The industry has made "great strides," the council says, in finding homes for retired greyhounds and in limiting the number of dogs killed each year.

But, says Thompson, "the figures reflect what the Greyhound Racing Council wants America to see. That's just common sense."

Others disagree.

"It's impossible," says Starr Patik, who works as a veterinary assistant at Berenson's. "I'm not trying to promote the sport -- it can be a dirty business -- but people do give a damn" about the dogs.

Since Stephanie Harris took over as the track's chief inspector in November, Patik



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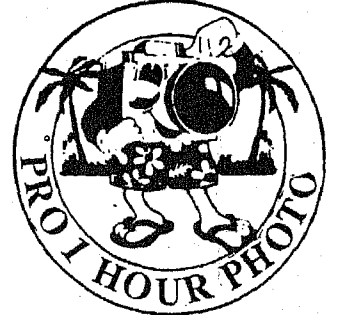
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says, word has gotten around that trainers will be held strictly accountable for the health and safety of their dogs. The veterinary assistant is aware of only two dogs having been "put down" in the last three months of the season, and both were irreparably injured or ill.

"The ad is ridiculous," agrees track veterinarian Dr. Douglas Burley, a seven-year veteran at Berenson's. "Trainers can't breed the dogs fast enough" to populate the country's 53 greyhound tracks, he says, and therefore would not kill dogs for other than "humane reasons."

Burley's son, Dan Burley, a track judge, points out that it doesn't make sense for a trainer to harm his livelihood. Neither of the Burleys agrees with Thompson's claim.

"It gives the impression of an unregulated industry, but it's a very regulated industry," Dan Burley says.

According to the younger Burley, the dogs are inspected individually one hour before they race, as dictated by state law, to protect against potential drugging. Those who are injured or ill do not run. After each race, the winning greyhound and one other randomly selected dog undergo blood and urine testing.

Chief inspector Harris does not deny that some trainers have been irresponsible and

guilty of "some violations," though she would not specify. But, "we've made very big strides. Some of the trainers, I assure you, will not be back," she said.

The industry is still reeling from several apparently isolated instances of abuse or abandonment of greyhounds by trainers. Last year, the industry banned from the track for life Don Mitten, a Daytona Beach trainer accused of abandoning dozens of greyhounds after encountering financial difficulties. The result was that 83 greyhounds were starving and so ill they had to be "put down" by injection.

Says Dan Burley, the track judge, "It was a slap in the face to the entire industry."

Despite claims to the contrary, animal rights activists complain that greyhound living conditions are poor.

"It's horrible. Deplorable," says Linda Sherer of the Lower Keys Greyhound Rescue League, a non-profit organization which this year is trying to find homes for about 20 greyhounds turned over to them by trainers from the local track.

"It's just a crime that [the trainers] are allowed to mass breed these dogs," she says. The dogs are generally emotionally confused, dirty and tick-infested when the Rescue League receives them, Sherer says.

John Pozar, bureau chief of investigations for the state division of parimutuel wagering in Miami, says the state is currently filing complaints against one Key West trainer who overloaded his vehicle with greyhounds after the track closed last month. In addition to the administrative complaint, Pozar's office is filing an animal cruelty charge against the man, whom he would not identify.

But Pozar says he and his team of investigators found other trainers to be complying with transportation regulations and kennels to be in satisfactory condition. Nearly all the building code and general maintenance violations that threatened the opening of the track last November have been corrected, Pozar says. At that time, the state threatened to block the track from opening if it did not repair ceilings, fences and windows, and take care of such problems as exposed wiring.

In addition, industry groups, track officials say, continue to do their "level best to insure the safety of the dogs," says Dr. Burley. The American Greyhound Council plans to establish a toll-free national telephone number to promote funding for greyhound trainers and training farms, he says. In addition, he says, retirement farms for greyhounds whose racing careers are over are "right around the corner."

As for the alleged killing of dogs at the end of the season, activists say the industry has distorted the numbers to protect its image. If the public knew how many dogs left Key West and the number that actually made it up to Berenson's track in Belmont, New Hampshire, where most Key West trainers spend the summer, they would not support the sport, they say. What is needed is a serious attempt to find homes for all retired greyhounds and new laws which punish trainers caught abusing dogs.

"All I want is for the trainers to give the dogs a fair chance, a chance to live out their natural lives," says Thompson, who promises more animal rights advertisements. "Why can't they guarantee an attempt at placing all dogs? Why can't [Berenson's] be the first track in the country to say there will be no healthy dogs put down? It would be the greatest public relations move," he says.

According to Pozar, the majority of trainers are honest and have turned in fellow trainers who they felt were abusing the dogs. "There's a small minority involved in the neglect issue," he says.



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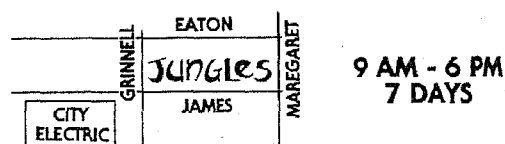
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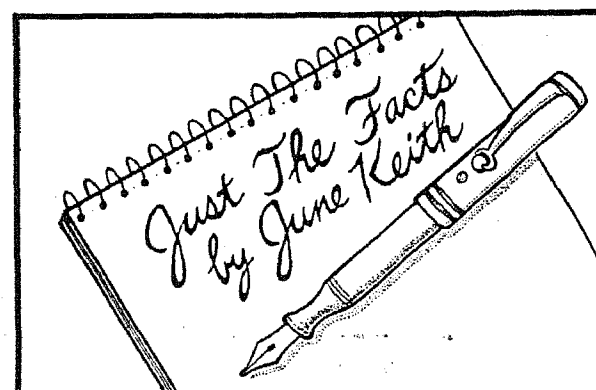
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Targeting Crime

The Key West Crime Task Force, a 16-member committee appointed by the city commission in early March, has made its recommendations. Among suggestions for beefing up the city's fight against skyrocketing crime rates is a call for uniformed foot or bike patrols in Bahama Village -- a key issue each time the task force met.

"Foot patrols are not efficient," Police Chief Tom Webster told the group. "They are subject to meandering around without proper supervision. The liability is extensive as to their safety."

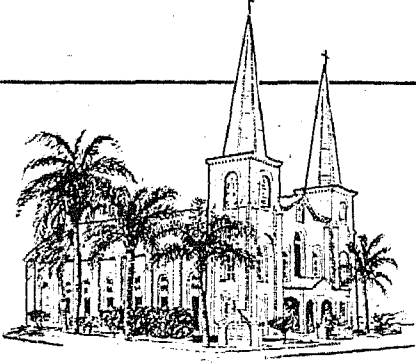
Webster, whose last job was in Oregon, said that foot patrolmen were hampered by inclement weather, like rain or high winds.

"In my professional opinion, it's an unaffordable expense that would be a luxury that maybe one day we can afford," said Webster.

What about the county's offer of \$400,000 worth of crime-fighting assistance in the form of foot and bicycle patrols in Bahama Village that was made to the city back in November, after two undercover agents were shot in the high-crime area?

"I never [thought] those funds were available in the first place," Webster told the Task Force. "I think that was all a show. If those funds were available, yes, I would have welcomed those resources to this city."

Tax Collector Harry Knight said the



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county tax dollars definitely had been available. Not any more, though. When the city did not take advantage of the offer, county commissioners rescinded it and spent the money on other needs.

"It amazes me that the chief gets away with stuff like this," says Monroe County Sheriff Allison DeFoor. "If I said something like that, they'd run me out of the county on a rail."

City's Top Dick Concerned

Key West Police Department Detective Tom Chapp has released a 15-page summation of his investigation into the passing of last August's one-cent sales tax increase. Chapp was ordered to look into city involvement in the passing of the increase. The county-wide referendum was approved by 75 percent of voters. But Police Chief Tom Webster, who initiated the investigation, thinks that taxpayers may have been unfairly influenced by several public officials. Chapp's report is critical of then-City Manager Richard Witker, County Administrator Tom Brown and Chief Circuit Judge Richard Fowler.

"There are strong concerns and possible criminal implications for the actions and undertakings of Richard Witker and possibly others," Chapp's report says.

Witker organized several meetings with city employees, calling upon their assistance in planning strategies to inform voters about the proposed sales tax increase. A one-page brochure outlining the ways that the money from the new sales tax would be used was mailed to Key West voters.

The new money the voters approved will be used for police and fire department equipment, a refurbished police station and fire department, new sewer storm fields, an all-new City Hall building on Jose Marti Drive, and recreational playing fields.

The report states: "There appears to be strong evidence of city funds being taken and used for a political campaign. It appears that Richard Witker was not only responsible for this spending, but also for initiating the political committee known as CETA -- Citizens for an Equitable Tax Alternative."

Prior to election day, the Monroe County Sheriff, the state attorney and the public defender called a press conference to inform voters about the urgency for new money to build a bigger county jail. Chapp says that Judge Fowler was at the Court House that day, too, and that he made this statement to the press: "You would feel uncomfortable if

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you knew facts about some of those we have to release."

"There may be a possible ethics violation by Chief Circuit Judge Richard Fowler," hints Chapp, who is not an attorney.

Currently, citizens of Key West are facing another referendum. In the September primary, voters will be asked to approve a bond issue to borrow \$13 million for infrastructure improvements. The bonds will be paid back with part of the cash flow from one-cent sales tax revenues.

But here are some frightening questions:

If this whole investigation and 15-page report is not a misuse of time, energy and tax dollars, as many citizens think, and if Detective Chapp's concerns prove to be valid, and if Richard Witker is brought up on criminal charges and Judge Fowler has committed an ethics violation and city money was improperly used to distribute brochures supporting the one-cent sales tax passage -- what then? Do we have to give the money back? And what about the new jail? And the new police facility? And the new soccer fields?

Here are Chapp's recommendations:

"The fact that our state attorney, chief circuit judge and public defender had an interest in the tax, I can only recommend that the State Board of Elections, the Board of Ethics and a special prosecutor or similar entity be provided copies of this report. I would request that they review this case and provide a response."

So far, there has been no report or acknowledgement of, or response to, Chapp's findings from any of the above

agencies.

Bearing Arms

When Key Wester John Hynes reported for jury duty he found himself in a group of 21 candidates being interviewed to serve on a jury of the trial of a man charged with illegal possession of a handgun. During the selection process, all who possessed handguns were asked to raise their hands. Eighteen of the 21 persons admitted to having handguns.

Hynes, a peace-loving Duval Street waiter, told attorneys he was shocked by the disclosure. He also said that he hated handguns and thought they should be outlawed. He was chosen to serve on the jury.

Tarracino Taxes Tourists

Mayor Tony Tarracino announced a plan to add \$4 million to the city's general fund, at the April 23 city commission meeting.

Saying that tourists should help pay for the high cost of living in Key West, Mayor Tarracino has suggested tacking an additional three-cent bed tax onto the bill of people staying in hotels within the city of Key West.

The mayor's announcement was greeted with cheers and applause.

Currently, there is a county-wide bed tax of four cents per dollar. The mayor says the additional three-cent tax would add \$4 million to the city's general fund revenues. The general fund pays general government costs, salaries of City Hall employees, police and fire protection, the city cemetery, and culture and recreation. This year, the

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general fund budget was \$15,497,649.

Tarracino mentioned another possible source of revenues: the cruise ships.

He hoped that the proposal could be put before the commission in the form of a resolution at the next meeting in two weeks. But Commissioner Virginia Panico said that the new tax would have to be put before the people in the form of a referendum. City Attorney Bob Gray was asked to research the facts and report to the commission.

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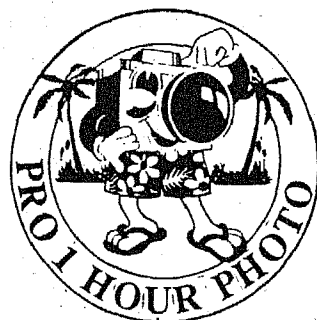
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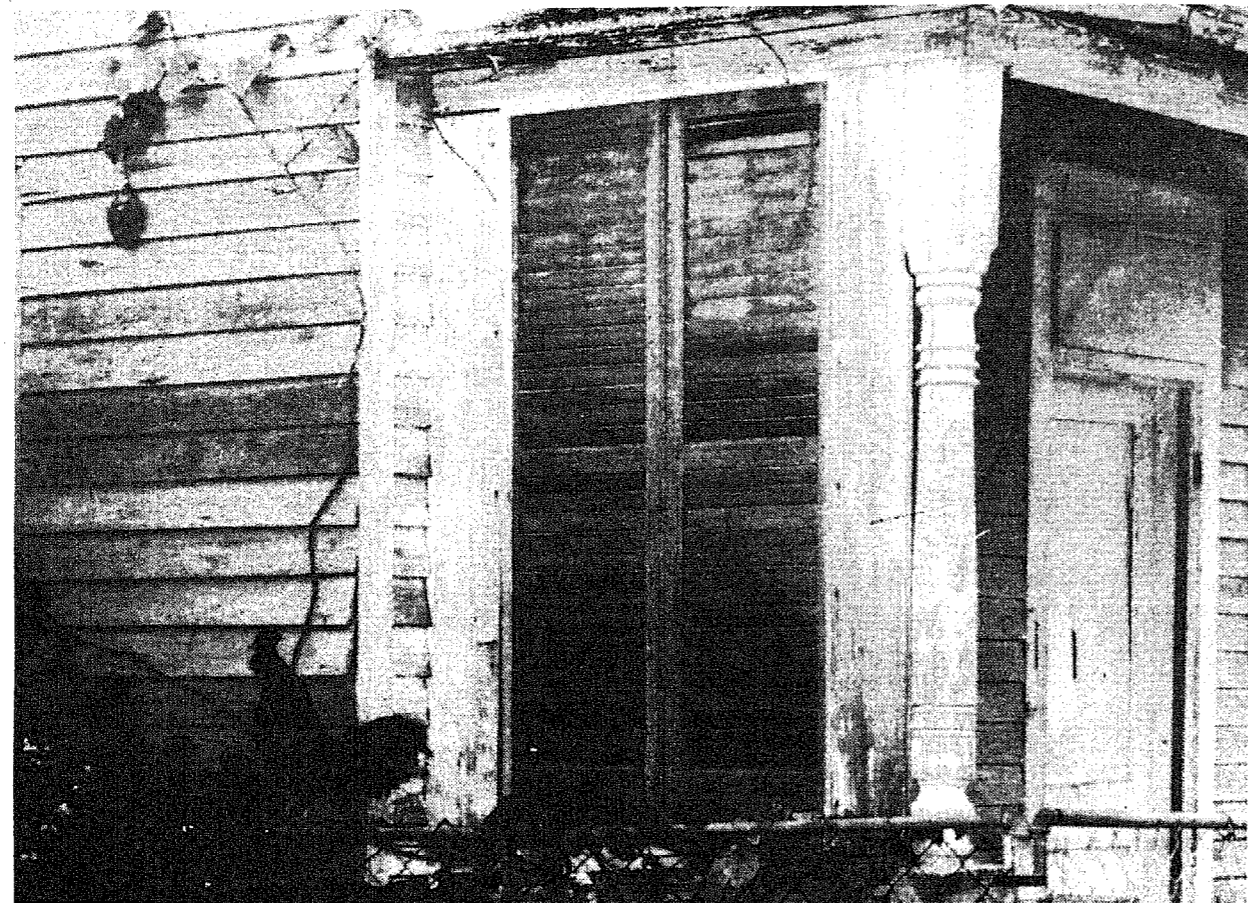
...It shall be unlawful for any person having charge, custody, control or ownership thereof, to keep within the corporate limits of the city any dog, bird or other farm animal or fowl, which howls, barks, meows, caws, crows, shrieks, or squawks, for continued duration, or upon three (3) or more occasions cumulatively during any nine-hour period from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., so as to disturb, across a residential or commercial property line, the reasonable peace and quietude of any person ...

-- Section 53.081, Animal Noises
The Key West Code

The cock crowed at dawn. Anyone would accept that as a given, however grudgingly. But the rooster that bedeviled my existence for months was not content to announce only the beginning of a new day. He crowed also at 11:47 p.m., 12:16 a.m., 1:03 and 2:01 and 3:12 and 4:10 and on and on, until full sunlight brought quiet.

The trouble began last spring, plaguing my hard-earned retirement nights with nerve-jangling agony. I came to miss the comparatively soothing thunder of trucks that had zoomed down Second Avenue, below my bedroom window, every night during the 25 years I lived in New York City. Now I resided in Key West, where a rooster's ravings had rendered my new bed in my new home on Watson Street more agonizing than an Indian fakir's nail-studded pallet. I became an insomniac wreck.

There were those on Watson Street, like Annie the barmaid, who worked until 2 a.m. and couldn't sleep until late morning because of the damned rooster. Annie maintained that he was actually an escaped fighting cock. But to my bloodshot eyes he was an ordinary, scrawny, beady-eyed



KEVIN CREAN

wretch with dirty orange, black and white feathers. What he lacked in looks, however, he compensated for in lung power. Never has a two-pound bird packed more volume per ounce, perched as he was nightly in my next-door-neighbor Joe's Key lime tree.

Despite my aversion to violence, I was inclined to drive a wooden stake through the evil chicken's heart. But I couldn't get near enough. So I called the city's office of code enforcement. Sympathetically, they explained that Key West's three code enforcement inspectors must check into all reported violations of city code -- sanitation, health, rabies control and the like. As a result they have little time to investigate complaints of rooster noise. What's more, inspectors knock off from work at 9 p.m., a time that neatly dovetails with crowing hours. After that, it's up to the police.

So I called the cops. After my fifth nuisance call in five nights, I met with two polite policemen at the gate. "What rooster?"

The cops inquired. (It was 2 a.m. and, of course, the crowing had temporarily stopped.) One cop observed that he had never heard of any rooster owner/custodian/protector being fined up to \$400 or jailed 60 days, as the law provides, for violating the animal-noise provisions of the city code. He was a ten-year veteran of the force.

In the months that followed, I resorted to zany, mad, devious and ridiculous measures to rectify the rooster problem. Neighbors Anne and John relish the memory of my broom-wielding, bathrobe-flapping pursuit of "our" rooster. But, thank God, no one was around on another early morning when, having bounded from my bed, I ran cursing, naked, after the malevolent bird, pumping him full of pellets from an air pistol. I drew angry squawks and dislodged feathers from the rooster's tough hide. But, alas -- no blood. I was ready to kill, by then.

Next I tried commando assaults. A butcher knife clenched between my teeth, I slithered one rainy night underneath my neighbor Joe's house -- the rooster's favorite sanctuary. But, once again, I couldn't get near him.

Another pitch-black morning, I sneaked under the fishtail palm in which the bird was roosting and, shining a flashlight into his insolent eyes, tried chemical warfare. I sprayed the bastard with bursts of Raid Wasp & Hornet Killer, which "kills on contact from 12 feet away." Naturally, that didn't work. But the rooster's retaliation did: washing rooster poop from your torso and shampooing it out of your hair is not fun. Believe me.

With neighbor Paul's help, I tried to capture our nemesis humanely in a wire trap loaned by the code enforcement office, and not so humanely with a huge, spring-action

rat trap baited with poisoned popcorn. Fortunately, it was just about that time when salvation reared its wonderful head in the person of one Ringo -- "Call me Ringo, like Starr" -- Diaz. Ringo was conjured up by neighbor Ralph, who did nothing to dispel rumors that Ringo is descended from a long line of Neapolitan warlocks.

Ringo, a squat, well-muscled young Cuban who has raised fighting cocks, came to the point. "Give me \$30 and I'll catch the rooster and bite its head off."

"Hired!" I said. Ringo promised to return with his equipment. "It takes a chicken to catch a chicken," he said.

Aha! I thought. *Cherchez la femme!* Ringo returned, but not with a nice, young pullet or even a staid old hen. He had, instead, a handsome, peppery-spirited young fighting cock. That struck me as amusing.

"I thought you'd use a lady chicken to lure him," I said. "Are you saying that in Key West, even some roosters are gay?"

"Naw," replied an unamused Ringo. "Rooster's no *maracon*. You go after him with another rooster, you go for his pride, you make him defend his territory."

And that's exactly what happened. Ringo attached a length of fishing line to his fighting cock's leg and tethered him to a bush. He stroked the cock's feathers and cooed what sounded like loving encouragement. In a minute or two, our villain came strutting out from under the house, mad as, well, a wet hen.

Their feathers flushed in full battle array, the roosters made pass after angry pass at one another. Finally, the Great Ringo simply strolled up behind the villainous rooster

and grabbed him.

"Here's your goddam rooster," he said, handing me the vile beast. And there I stood, foolishly though happily holding by the legs the now piteously helpless creature that had been the object of our disaffection.

Happy endings are the rule here. Some of my neighbors gratefully chipped in to pay Ringo's \$30 rooster-ridding fee. Neighbor Joe spirited the rooster off to his mainland farm, where the beast now presides over a harem of hens and is, no doubt, whomping up new generations of rooster pests.

Peace, of a kind, has come to Watson Street these nights. I sleep, knowing that if horror-history repeats itself, I can call Ringo Diaz for help. He is the hero I have dubbed The Champion Conch Cock-Catcher of Cayo Hueso.

Albin Krebs, who has been on the writing and editing staffs of *United Press International*, *Newsweek* and the *New York Herald Tribune*, recently took early retirement from the *New York Times* after more than 20 years there.

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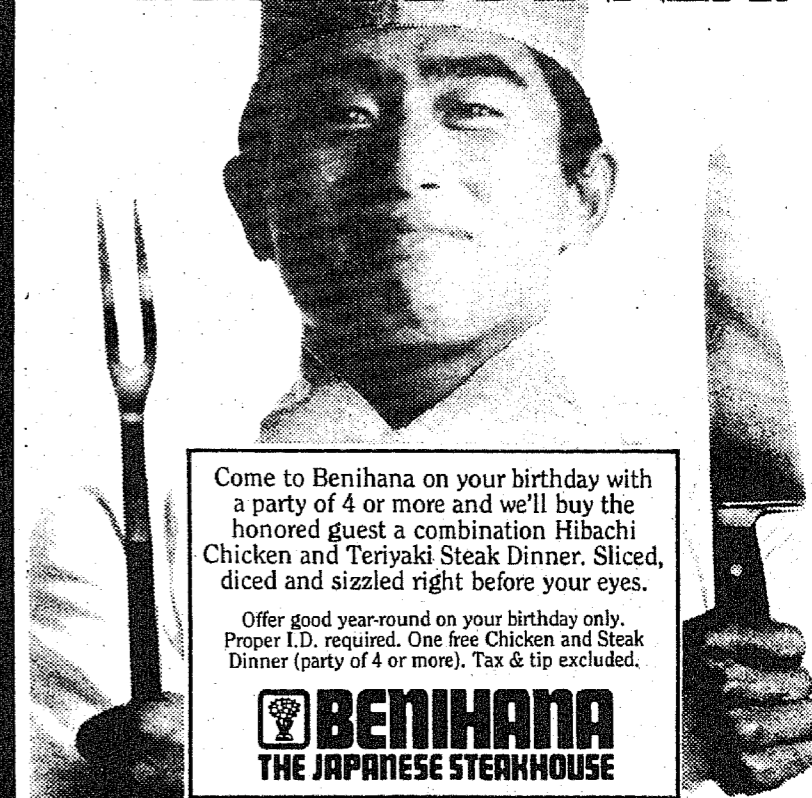
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David Wolkowsky: The Prince of Key West

by William Wright

I met David Wolkowsky in Philadelphia in 1960. I was an editor at the old *Holiday* magazine and he was a real-estate developer who had made a modest fortune buying blocks of shabby row houses and tarring them up to become stylish townhouses. His reputation was more for imaginative and visibly pleasing designs -- creating "a mood," as he puts it -- than for steel-girder durability. His business flourished and it became a badge of prestige to own one of David's houses.

Later his impact on a tiny island at the Southernmost tip of the United States would be difficult to measure. Prominent among Wolkowsky's many Key West projects are the Pier House; Pirate's Alley and the Rooftop Restaurant; the Kress Building, which includes Fast Buck Freddie's and Margaritaville; the 700 block of Duval Street -- home to the Greenpeace Store and Farrington Galleries; and the Sands Beachclub, which sat where The Reach is today. He has also renovated dozens of Old Town houses and turned his private island, Ballast Key, into an idyllic anthology of tropical vegetation. Most agree that his projects have been done with taste, sensitivity and an exuberant enhancement to Key West's rare ambience.

David was born David Williams Wolkowsky in Key West in 1919. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, he settled in Philadelphia and became a provisional member of society there. In the 1940s, *Life* Magazine featured a spread on the year's top debutantes which included a photograph of a Tracy-Lord type, in a ball gown, slouched insolently on a sofa. Slouched beside her, with matching insolence, in a black-tie rig that looked as though

it did nightly service on the party circuit, was David, looking handsome, debonair and to the Main Line born.

By the age of 19, David had distanced himself considerably from Key West -- one of the nation's poorest towns during his brief residency here as an infant. In 1923 when he was four, his father, a Duval Street merchant, relocated the family business to Miami, where it thrived. David had little knowledge of Key West until, as a teenager, he returned and spent a few weeks with an uncle while waiting to go into the Navy. To fill the time, he got a job driving a dump truck, but was abruptly fired when he lifted the back load too quickly and flipped the rig. His mechanical skills have not improved over the years.

Our acquaintanceship in Philadelphia in the early '60s was slight. When *Holiday* moved its editorial offices to New York in 1962, I moved with them and lost sight of David. Eight years later, I was living in the Midwest and working as the editor of *Chicago* Magazine. One evening, when I was alone in my office, the phone rang and I picked it up to an unmistakable, languid Main Line drawl.

"Bill? This is David Wolkowsky. I'm launching a hotel in Key West and would like to invite you to the opening party."

I knew nothing about my friend David having left Philadelphia or left the construction business. But, to him, such explanations were time wasters. He wanted to know: Could I come?

As it turned out, I could not accept. But within a year I flipped my dump truck by offending Mayor Daley with satiric jibes in my magazine and was forced to resign. I decided to try making it as a writer. I got an assignment from Hugh Hefner's *OUI* Magazine to do a piece on scuba diving. This involved a trip to Key Largo, and I phoned Wolkowsky to see if we might meet up in Key West.

After establishing that his earlier invitation was for the hotel opening only, and the freebee aspects no longer applied, he said he would be happy to see me at the hotel he had built, which was called the Pier House.

It seems that, about the time I left Philadelphia in '62, David left for Key West. He

had experienced some business reversals -- something about a partner absconding with funds -- and had lost an oceanfront beach house in New Jersey to a hurricane. While he was smarting from these blows, his father died and left him a few pieces of property in Old Town. On a trip to Key West to examine them, he was enchanted by the broken-down, oddball town he found and decided to try out his developing skills on his native Key West.

Wolkowsky was the first one with money to invest who saw the potential.

Back then, Wolkowsky had the town pretty much to himself. There were a few tourist hotels at the ocean end of Duval Street. But at the Gulf end, there were few tourist amenities. Besides the Conch Train and Audubon House, the rest of that area was taken up with commercial docks. Some Gulf Oil storage tanks stood where the Ocean Key House stands today, making the district appear as promising a vacation spot as the polluted mud flats of Hoboken.

When the U.S. Navy closed down the Truman Annex in the early 1970s, word traveled among Florida developers and hoteliers that Key West real estate and workers were abundant at giveaway prices. They came and looked over the prospects. But the smart-money consensus was that Key West had no future as a resort for one simple reason: no beaches.

Wolkowsky disagreed. He was the first one with money to invest who saw the potential. As for the lack of beaches, he knew that was a diminishing problem, as private swimming pools were rapidly becoming affordable to people of average means. He recognized that the lack of beaches was more than offset by a quality found nowhere else in Florida -- charm.

Wolkowsky is not a particularly analytical or verbal person; but he has an un-



canny sense -- so useful with impresarios, film moguls and developers -- of when something is "right." He relished what he saw as the island's unique mood. Key Westers were quirky, erratic and impulsive; so was he. Like them, he did not just tolerate the foibles of his neighbors, he reveled in them. He also felt Key West was underappreciated and, as a result, was falling into ruin. This was brutally obvious.

Few other developers would have put up with the vagaries of Key West's labor force, and few laborers elsewhere would put up with Wolkowsky's preferred approach to construction -- to plan buildings after they were built. Running around Old Town on the golf cart he affected for business

errands, David would tell workers who had just spent a week building a masonry building that the facade should have six windows rather than four and the front door should be moved to another wall, another house, another town. Though the workers were being paid by the hour, many were aghast at such wasteful whimsy and drifted away. Others thrived on the unpredictable zaniness of the Wolkowsky spectacle.

His first project was Pirate's Alley, a *cul de sac* of shops off Front Street, aimed at catching tourists debarking the Conch Train. He also began renovating some old houses, moving a few of them down Duval Street. But his main scheme was the most hare-brained: to accumulate enough land at the

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juncture of Duval Street and the Gulf to build a resort hotel.

When, by trading and buying, Wolkowsky had accumulated the land parcel he desired for the hotel, he hired a highly regarded Miami architect, Iannis Antonades, to design it. Together, they worked out a plan in which the buildings bordered on three sides a man-made beach. This would be open to the Gulf with a pool in the center. Sand was brought in, palm trees planted.

David Tackett, an old friend of Wolkowsky's who later became president of Southeast Bank here, recalls what a ghost town Key West was during the days when the Pier House was going up. "I can remember walking with David from the site up to Kress's to get some lunch. You could have rolled a bowling ball up Duval Street and not hit anything. That's how deserted it was at noon on a weekday. When we got to Kress's lunch counter, we were the only people there!"

The Pier House's stunning design and private beach, sloping to the Gulf where shrimp boats glided by, immediately made it the most attractive hotel in town. For years it was in a class by itself. It says much about the resort history of Key West that the Casa Marina was then a shuttered derelict and remained so until the Marriott people reconsidered their verdict on Key West's potential and purchased it in 1978.

But even with its monopoly on looks and style, the Pier House's business was slow at first and for Wolkowsky, who has an aversion to involving partners or banks in

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his projects, money was tight. Friends of mine tell of arriving for their first visit, being taken to their rooms and later learning that the night clerk who registered them and carried their bags to their rooms was the hotel's owner.

Some guests were not amused when they pulled the cord to draw their curtains only to have the rod assembly come crashing down, burying them in fabric. Others got into the zany spirit of the place and perceived that, like Key West itself, with its lack of beaches and other shortcomings, the Pier House offered abundant compensations for its maiden-voyage bugs. In those days, when giant motel chains were homogenizing lodgings across the continent, Wolkowsky's Pier House developed a reputation for cranky individualism, not unlike Rosa Lewis's Cavendish Hotel in London.

The Pier House quickly became the center of what little sophisticated action Key West had in the late '60s and early '70s. The Chart Room, the small bar off the lobby, was claimed as a hangout by city officials and their business pals. The restaurant by the beach, originally intended as a source of drinks and snacks for sunbathers, became the most popular restaurant in town and was soon turning out a hundred shrimp or yellowtail dinners each night from a kitchen built to fry hamburgers. While the food was generally considered the best in Key West at that time, local people were also lured by a desire to check out the cream of this week's crop of visitors.

Years later, I was having dinner on an

David was not the first hotel owner to offer hospitality as a public-relations device.

off-night at another Wolkowsky restaurant, the Sands. Looking around the near-empty room, the owner observed in his laconic way, "I never stopped to think that the hotel rooms at the Pier House kept the restaurant filled with customers." This would seem to be a rather basic equation of the hotel-restaurant business; but such textbook axioms were never his approach to making money.

When I arrived in Key West on my magazine assignment in 1971, David greeted me and gave me a friendly discount on a room. I would soon witness constant gestures of generosity -- based on their ability to pay -- from David to people he liked and admired. That this hospitality was usually prefaced by an explicit demarkation of its boundaries -- meals and long-distance telephone calls were not included -- made me suspect he had been badly exploited once or twice.

David was not the first hotel owner to offer hospitality as a public-relations device, but few have ever bestowed treats in a more individualistic way or with farther-reaching results. He believed he had created something very special with the Pier House and was keen on seeing that word of this reached not just customers, in general, but amusing customers.

It is always good for business to house well-known people, but in this regard David was as quirky as he is in most other things. Celebrity, *per se*, did not excite him. When they were shooting Tom McGuane's *Ninety-Two in the Shade* in Key West, the Pier House was home to such luminaries as Peter Fonda, Elizabeth Ashley and Burgess

Merideth. David was cordial, but underwhelmed. His enthusiasm was reserved for writers. Had Tennessee Williams asked him for the lifetime use of a suite overlooking the Gulf, he would probably have gotten it.

Word spread in the northern literary circles that Key West now had a resort hotel of funky *luxe* whose owner was partial to writers. A number of them, seeking a winter escape as well as sympathy, arrived to investigate and were charmed as much by Wolkowsky as the island. Many began making annual visits and ended up renting or buying houses here. Other writers besides myself, who entered Key West via the Wolkowsky route, were Truman Capote, Joe Lash, John Malcolm Brinnin and Nancy Friday. There is a photo Wolkowsky prizes of Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote and James Kirkwood, all looking gleefully happy, standing at the Pier House bar. It is worth noting that Wolkowsky is not in the picture, though he was a good friend with each in the group and could easily, like most genial owners, have insinuated himself into the shot.

One of Wolkowsky's many idiosyncracies is to be incredibly tight when he is flush with money, and incredibly extravagant when he's strapped. An important sale will fall through and he will fly off to London and, on an impulse, buy a huge antique, non-functioning telescope for \$10,000. He is also pathologically closed-mouthed about his life and has a strong aversion to parting with hard information. This aversion may explain why he is not very good at calling up facts. Proper names are a particular problem. He will turn and ask, "Do you remember *that time when that friend of yours came down and we went to that place ...*" By now, you're grasping the side of your chair, hoping for the smallest clue to indicate which memory is struggling to surface.

He saw the island, fell in love with it, and wanted to acquire it for his own use and nothing more.

The Pier House was not only a stylistic and esthetic success; it did extremely well financially. One symptom of David's burgeoning prosperity was his purchase in 1973 of Ballast Key, a 24-acre island eight miles southwest of Key West. He saw the island, fell in love with it and wanted to acquire it for his own use and nothing more. Bringing building supplies by barge, he built a house on the island, but was too busy with the hotel to use it. For years, Ballast Key was primarily a place to take friends or favored hotel guests for a swim and a picnic lunch.

In 1978, when I was frantically working to meet a book deadline, Wolkowsky suggested I replace his island-sitter, who wanted time off. Alone on a tropical island --

what better place for concentrated work? (David later remarked that, because of this stint, I had spent more nights on the island than he had.) I took some supplies; but because refrigeration was a problem, he told me a boat would come out after two days to bring me more food.

Two days later, no boat. On the third day, my food and water almost gone, I had ceased reveling to the romance and drama of my plight and was frantically searching the horizon for sign of a boat. David can be notoriously vague and forgetful and I began having fantasies of my emaciated cadaver being found a month later by an ever-so-regretful David who had rushed impulsively off to London or Paris and forgotten his island guest/prisoner.

As paranoia swept Ballast Key, I began to wonder if the whole thing was deliberate, some elaborate hazing or initiation into an inner circle of Wolkowsky intimates. On the fourth day, an insouciant Wolkowsky finally arrived with a group of friends for lunch and brushed aside my sputtering efforts to learn what had happened. David hates post-mortems, especially if they might point to dereliction on his part. He had arrived; so had bags of groceries. Why talk about the groceries that weren't there yesterday?

I've heard people in Key West say things like, "Of course he owns a private island. He's rich." Such comments show a wholesale misunderstanding of the rich and miss the point about Wolkowsky. Most of the rich would sooner do 60 days of community service than own a private island with its inconvenience, headaches, vulnerability and, the greatest horror, *discomfort*. For years, Wolkowsky had two glistening white bathrooms in his island house, but no running water. And without running water, as we all know, bathrooms lack a certain *je n'est sais quoi*. Attractive as Wolkowsky's house on Ballast Key is, a visit there is roughing it, in many respects, and meals -- invariably, turkey hot dogs or hamburgers on paper plates -- are strictly do-it-yourself.

That's David. Turkey hot dogs on an island worth a fortune. And this is the food everyone gets -- whether he is David's Key West bookkeeper's husband or Prince Michael of Yugoslavia. I imagine he figures that in the rare beauty of that setting, even turkey hot dogs taste good -- and they do. At least they did for the first five years.

Ballast Key is perhaps the best example of Wolkowsky's unique style. And style is a quality he prizes above almost any other. That he works assiduously on his own can be seen in the solar-powered canopy he has installed on his rusting golf cart for fuelless jaunts around his island, or the mad-collector hodgepodge that has made a Smithsonian storeroom of his Kress Building penthouse, where a framed Matisse pencil sketch might be found propped up next to some moldy stuffed birds.

Wolkowsky rarely exploits property to the extent allowed by law. The code permitted the Pier House to go up four stories; David built two- and three-story units because he thought they looked better. That kind of thinking could get a kid expelled from the Harvard Business School. On the other hand, having started out in Key West

at a time when the few existing building rules were loosely enforced, he can be cavalier about the rules if there is something he particularly wants to do. This has earned him a reputation as someone to watch, which is unfortunate because, while the attention of the preservationists was riveted on David's nickle-and-dime infractions, multimillion-dollar nightmares were springing up all over the island.

And his projects, most people would agree, are attractive additions to the town.

When the Pier House is viewed today from the water, it is rendered almost invisible by the money-gorging monstrosities that now surround it. It would be difficult to find a more attractive restaurant-beach club anywhere in the world than the Sands. That David built a one-story complex on that stretch of oceanfront would, by the least rapacious business standards, disqualify him to be called "a developer" and brand him, instead, a madman.

Over the years, Wolkowsky has been subjected to a degree of private and official obstruction not inflicted on other contractors. Permission was denied him to build two-story houses on a stretch of beachfront he owned immediately to the left of the White Street pier. Within a year of this refusal, three mammoth four-story condos, twice the height and ten times the size of the structures David had proposed, were being built by other developers further down the same stretch of beach.

On an oceanfront piece of property he owned on Sugarloaf Key, ecologists protested his intention to cut just enough of the hardwood hammock to build a boardwalk from the car park to the house. The only alternative would have been a tunnel. Neighbors to the left and right of him, in order to create lawns, had cleared their entire properties with no complaints.

The relentless harassment over the Sands eventually drove Wolkowsky from the site and netted the town the pink assertiveness of The Reach. And while formid-

able obstructive efforts were crippling the Sands' chances of surviving commercially, island-sinking condos were proliferating around Key West with no hindrances.

That Wolkowsky should be the target of such selective tormenting is baffling in that he is personally popular. And his projects, most people would agree, are, in the end, attractive additions to the town. Perhaps he is the victim of his own flamboyance -- anyone who keeps an antique Rolls convertible parked in front of his hotel bears watching.

It may also be that he is perceived as the first to make big money from Key West development and is, therefore, a bellwether for new assaults on the town's fragile beauty. But to lump Wolkowsky with all the island's other big-money developers is like equating a Masarati with a lot full of Oldsmobiles. The sad truth is that most of the commercial interests who followed his lead -- all of whom built with less taste, less concern for the town and, thanks to David, suffered less risk -- have made far more money than he has.

I am much more indignant about all this than David is. Once, when we were having lunch together at the Sands, which was already up for sale, the staff of *Solares Hill* was at a nearby table enjoying a birthday celebration for one of their group. Wolkowsky sent them a round of drinks.

"Good God, David," I said. "They did as much to put you out of business as anyone. Why are you being so friendly?"

"Forget it," he said. "The town's too small ... and life's too short."

William Wright is a writer and biographer who has documented the lives of Klaus Von Bulow and Lillian Hellman, among others. He was editor of *Holiday* and *Chicago Magazines*.

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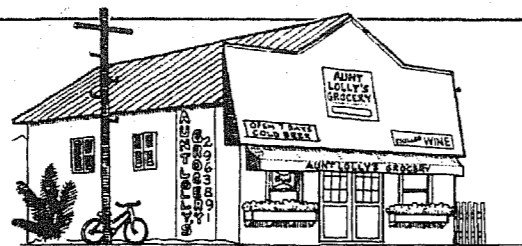
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Survey Favors Slower Growth

by Geddy Sveikauskas

When it comes to land use, the people of Monroe County don't seem to think what some of their county commissioners thought they would think. The results of the recent \$6000 survey commissioned as part of the revisions to the county's comprehensive plan are obvious and clear-cut: most citizens support a slowdown in development.

Though expressing concerns about environmental degradation, the county commission has been sympathetic to growth and has used its political power to oppose state constraints on development. The commissioners seem certain the residents of Monroe County approve their stance. But that's not what the "Survey of Monroe County Residents for the County

Comprehensive Plan," prepared early this year for the county by Regional Research Associates of Boca Raton, found.

In January, 2557 surveys were mailed to a random sample of Monroe County propertyowners with homestead exemptions. An additional 300 surveys were hung on front doors in three areas of the county with a high number of rental properties. The county received an unimpeachable 29 percent response rate.

Respondents were asked to indicate whether the county needed more or less of various types of development: residential, commercial and industrial. A line which read, "Overall Development in General" was followed by four boxes: More, Less, Same and Unsure. Countywide, 56 percent of the 826 respondents checked the "Less" box,

17 percent "More," 24 percent "Same" and 3 percent "Unsure."

The results are nothing if not decisive. Seven Monroe County residents favor a slower rate of development for every two who favor a faster pace. Moreover, almost twice as many people, when given a choice of the kind of commercial development they'd favor, checked "none of the above."

In a slap to the home-rule aspirations of county commissioners, 44 percent of the respondents were opposed to removal of the Area of Critical State Concern designation for the Keys; 30 percent were in favor. Far more people -- 41 percent -- thought the county's code enforcement procedures were too lenient than those (19 percent) who thought them too strict.

The survey asked the respondents if they felt they had a voice in the land-use planning process. Seventy-one percent of them said they did not, as contrasted to the 13 percent who said they did.

In reviewing Regional Research

Associates' work in February, commissioners detected a flaw. To their horror, they discovered that study director Dr. William Strong had included Key West in his sampling.

The next month, Strong was back with revised findings. Even with Key West's exclusion, the overall results didn't change significantly. Strong found that 56 percent of Upper Keys residents, 59 percent of Middle Keys residents and 53 percent of Lower Keys residents wanted less growth.

Faced with the now-reinforced conclusions, Commissioner Gene Lytton was able to detect another flaw. What about the people who own land which doesn't have houses on it? RRA agreed to poll 2000 of these, many of whom don't live in the county, for \$3000 more. As of the last week of April, Strong hadn't received county

authorization to go ahead.

On his overall conclusions, Strong said, there is a likelihood of only a three percent swing. He says he is more than 90 percent sure that the proportion of Monroe County residents in favor of less development is between 53 and 59 percent.

How is he so sure? His survey followed professional standards. It was monitored for type of property, geographic location and value of property. Returns were weighted to give the appropriate voice to both owner-occupied and rental housing.

It would be no easy job to reverse the survey's conclusions on development. The numbers are just too overwhelming. Any professional politician will tell you that you won't reverse an election landslide by challenging the results in a couple of precincts.

One should not underestimate the ability of politicians -- or of ordinary folk, for that matter -- to ignore conclusions with which they disagree. But unless the pro-development forces find a new Achilles heel in the survey, those who have advocated a slowdown in the pace of Monroe County development seem to have gained a valuable political weapon.

Whatever the county does with this land-use hot potato, the state will be unlikely to ignore it when it begins review of the revisions to Monroe County's comprehensive plan later this year. It is even possible that the survey's repercussions, if they are more widely disseminated than they have so far been, could affect this fall's county elections. ☐



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13th of May: Mother's Day

The Sound of No Hands Clapping

by Christine Naughton

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone?
"Big Yellow Taxi"
Joni Mitchell

Bert Lee looked tired as he took the podium at the Key West City Commission meeting April 23. He and about 20 other musicians had been waiting since 5 p.m. for commissioners to address amendments to the controversial sound ordinance passed in late March. It was now 9 p.m.

"We seem to be striving to answer the classic question: 'If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?' Does anyone care? Code enforcement cares ... especially if he doesn't like the way I do Otis Redding," quipped Lee.

He was referring to citations code enforcement served the Rooftop Cafe, a Front Street establishment where Lee and partner Leanna Collins play, the week after the new ordinance became law.

The Rooftop received two citations that week; in both cases the Survivors were playing. Prior to these citations the Rooftop had never received a complaint about noise.

What bothers Bert Lee and other musicians is that no outside complaints were lodged before code enforcement issued the citations. Originally, the ordinance was written to protect citizens who were disturbed by amplified music. But here it was only code enforcement officials who "complained." The statement is clear: the city intends to enforce the new, restrictive ordinance whether it receives outside complaints or not.

Dubbed "Week From Hell" by local musicians and club owners, the first week the ordinance was enacted, 12 citations were issued to Key West bars. In addition to the Rooftop, these included Sloppy Joe's, the Bull and Whistle, Portside Key West, Hog's Breath Saloon, Green Parrot and



Peek-A-Boo Lounge. The citations carry fines of \$400 each; two citations may result in suspension of a club's liquor license. Owners may appeal the citations.

"We were directed by the city manager at that time to let offenders know the ordinance would be fully enforced," said Gary Addleman, director of code enforcement. "We were highly visible; we did not operate secretly. We went out during the day on March 30 and clearly marked off the 150-foot boundaries around all the bars. That night, we began issuing citations as we had been directed to do."

"It's no different than the enforcement of any other code on the books," Addleman explained. "If an officer sees unauthorized building going on, he issues a citation. He doesn't wait for a complaint. Why should this be any different?"

But musicians say an outside complaint should precede any investigation and subsequent citation from code enforcement, and they want the ordinance language changed to read that way. A number of people support the ordinance as written.

During the commission meeting Commissioner Sally Lewis asked City Attorney Bob Gray's opinion on altering the ordinance. Gray expounded about setting precedents and administrative policy. The commission tabled the issue. Tired and disappointed, musicians filed out of the city commission chambers.

"I'm sorry it's come to this," said Commissioner Harry Powell, a few days later. "Both sides have valid complaints -- a few bars do display flagrant disregard for others by continuously playing loud music. On the other hand, music is an important attraction in Key West. I'd hate to see the place become New Orleans. But I'd hate to see the sidewalks rolled up at 10 p.m., too."

"This ordinance, as it stands, has a couple of problems," said Powell. "The issue of whether or not a complaint needs to be received before a citation is served is one. Another is a loophole in the ordinance that affects people living within the 150-foot distance of a bar -- they have little recourse if they are bothered by sound that does not go beyond 150 feet."

"If I lived within 150 feet of the Chicago Stockyards," said a police officer who prefers to remain anonymous, "I shouldn't complain about the smell."

Along with code enforcement, the police play a role in this drama. It's their job to enforce the ordinance, as well.

During a meeting of the sound committee -- appointed to advise the commission before the ordinance became law -- Major Lew Mertz pointed out that, by the very nature of what a police department does, enforcement of the sound ordinance cannot be a top priority. Too many other priorities face the department on a daily basis for it to devote valuable time and personnel to following up sound complaints, said Mertz.

Lieutenant Bill McNeill agrees. "If we've got calls coming in about a couple of strong-arm burglaries, a bar fight and a domestic dispute on any given night," he says. "The call about a sound complaint is going on the back burner."

Addleman says the ordinance has top billing in his office. "We have many priorities, and they change daily. Recently we have been directed by the city manager to wait for a complaint before issuing a citation for excessive sound -- that's the current administrative policy."

But, Addleman says, the ultimate decision to issue a citation is still code enforcement's. "Citations are issued at our discretion," he says.

McNeill says Key West has been grappling with the sound issue for ten years, and that the dynamics behind the problem are the same. Residents feel the music invades their privacy; musicians and club owners fear their livelihoods are threatened by an ordinance that is overly strict. Tempers have flared on both sides more than once.

But the issue extends beyond personal gripes. The music and atmosphere on Duval Street are major tourist attractions in Key West: hush Duval Street and tourism suffers. If that happens, virtually every business in Key West's tourism-based economy will experience the financial pain.

There are those who say life has im-

proved for everyone since the new ordinance took effect. But musicians and club owners are gun-shy at best, and a number of musicians are talking about packing it up and heading North to what they consider more receptive towns.

Likewise, word of Key West's new low-volume status has worked its way to the mainland. "Margaritaville Sells Its Soul" -- an article in the April 8 edition of *Sunshine*, the Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel's* Sunday magazine -- reads: "A noise ordinance will soon close in second-story, open-air bars and muzzle raucous street-level music." The rest of the article documents how ordinary Key West has become, labeling it as gentrified, sold out and an illusion.

Flip Ferrari, bass player for the Southernmost Blues band, says news is out among Fort Lauderdale musicians that Key West is not the place to come for gigs. The island's larger establishments, such as Sloppy Joe's and Rick's, regularly import known bands to draw crowds.

If no reasonable solution is found to this dilemma soon, we here in Key West may learn the unfortunate answer to a variation on another classic question: "What is the

Solares Hill • May 1990 • Page 17
sound of no hands clapping?" It's the same sound as that of no cash registers ringing.

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Political Whispers from the Birdcage

Study Restructures County Pay Scale

by Bud Jacobson

A two-volume, highly detailed and comprehensive review of Monroe County's organizational structure and pay policies for its 510 employees is complete. The \$25,000 study by Cody & Associates, issued in February, is the focal point for considerable discussion -- official and unofficial.

County staff members, who will speak only on the condition that they not be identified, point to the hottest part of the study -- the pages dealing with wages and salaries.

"What touches my pocketbook is what concerns me," remarked one worker. "The charts and big words they can keep."

The study classifies 211 jobs and positions, listing present pay grades and ranges from minimum to maximum. The study also lists the grades and ranges "proposed" for the future. (The commission must agree on these figures for them to go into effect.)

In 114 of the 211 classifications, the pay grade suggested for the future is lower at the minimum (or starting) level and, in some cases, at the maximum, as well.

One way to look at the results is in terms of the old game of Chiefs-and-Indians. The study, to over-simplify only slightly, decided that the Indians were being paid at competitive rates, although a higher maximum pay was suggested for the veteran warriors. The chiefs were being underpaid, Cody said -- and especially the super-chiefs, county administrator Tom Brown and his six division heads.

"For the most part, Monroe County's actual wages and benefits provided to its employees are competitive," the Cody study found. "The entry levels of most of the salaries for non-management salaries [sic] exceeded market levels; however, the maximums were for the most part below our



survey findings. Key management salaries were low in relationship to those surveyed."

Non-management employees were assumed to be recruited locally. In the cases of managerial, professional, technical and administrative workers, to the contrary, recruitment was assumed to be statewide or regional; Cody surveyed 18 other counties, practically all of which had larger populations than Monroe County, "as a guide in arriving at our recommendations." This methodology may have been important in the conclusion that management is underpaid and labor is not.

By Cody's classification, county administrator Tom Brown's position was in a class by itself, separated by two pay levels from his closest underlings, the six division directors. Cody recommended Brown's present pay grade, presented in a report exhibit as having a minimum pay of \$50,753 and a maximum of \$56,160, be raised to a minimum level of \$58,240 and a maximum of \$84,450.

Cody recommended putting the Department of Veterans Affairs, which currently reports directly to Brown, under a community services division head instead. Otherwise, the study found Brown's

present span of control "appropriate, advisable and comparable with" other counties surveyed. "We found the median number of managers reporting directly to the county administrator amongst other counties is 6.93."

The county's present administrative structure of six divisions was praised. All division heads report directly to the county administrator, and can be hired and fired by him. Each division director presently has a salary ranging from the minimum of \$42,966 to the maximum of \$47,508. It was suggested that the pay of those six persons be raised to a minimum of \$46,230 and a maximum of \$67,000.

Each division encompasses a number of departments, each of which is headed by a director.

A part of the Community Services division, Social Services, seems to be the hardest hit in wage reductions in the reorganization plan for Monroe County.

Under 25 job classifications in Social Services, 24 are singled out for lower minimum wages; two of them for lower maximum wages; one of them, listed as the "respite care worker," is given a \$2-per-year increase in the minimum wage.

The Social Services director, Louis LaTorre, presently makes between \$45,345 and \$50,753. The salary for his position would be scaled down to a minimum of \$31,470 but could go up to a maximum of \$45,630 -- a drop of \$14,000 in the minimum and a drop of \$5000 in the maximum, according to the plan.

Of all the listed department heads in the Cody & Associates reorganization study, the position of Social Services director is the only one scheduled for lower minimum and lower maximum. There are 15 directors.

Among others, the minimum pay level for code enforcement director would be lowered, though the study says: "This unit [code enforcement] is not staffed adequately to handle all the code ordinances passed by the county over the years. In order to enforce all the codes currently enacted, two more inspectors and one code enforcement aide would be needed."

But the study goes on to say that the code enforcement board couldn't "handle the additional work which would be created by adding new inspectors ... therefore [the study does not recommend] any staff increases at this time ..."

The study notes that "Monroe County has been the highest cost-of-living county [in the state] since at least 1983. This is a point which should always be considered when determining salary increases and proper wage levels."

In a later section of the study, Cody addresses the apparent lack of qualified mechanical workers: "We understand the county has had difficulty in the past in recruiting skilled trades workers at any price. This is understandable due to the high cost of living."

According to the report, Monroe County having the highest cost of living in Florida does not determine the going rate for a particular occupation. "Asked by several persons if the county should adjust their salary schedule based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (cost of living)," the report says, "our answer was no."

The study continues:

"The CPI is an easy 'fix' to the problem of when and how to raise salaries ... cost-of-living adjustments are attractive, appreciated by employees, backed by unions ... and do assist in maintaining the purchasing power of the employee's dollar."

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view of already established "ordinance positions," and to find out "what the total impact would be on the county's budget."

In taking a fresh and thorough look at Monroe County's employment classification system, the Cody study has done a job that has needed to be done for a number of years. The data base the consultant provides is invaluable. But the county commission would be well advised to take its own look before adopting the Cody recommendations. Too many lives and careers are at stake.

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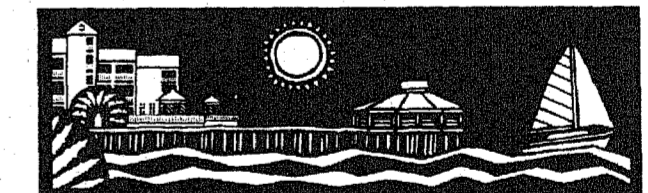
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Community Notes

Explorers sought. Project ReefKeeper will join the American Littoral Society, a national marine conservation organization, from October 21 to 27 to conduct a diving survey expedition aboard the *Bottom Time II* to the Exumas Islands, Bahamas. Berths are open to certified divers and snorkelers. Proceeds will benefit the Littoral Society's conservation programs. Write to the American Littoral Society, New College, USF, 5700 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida, 33243, or call 813-351-3886.

Guardian angels. Since late 1989, Florida has had a guardianship law, which provides a way for people to designate a specific person to take over their affairs should they become incapacitated. Setting up guardianship requires an appearance before a judge. The services of an attorney should be retained to draw up a formal petition, describing the guardian's responsibilities, for presentation to the court.

AIDS legal network. The Florida Bar Association has established the AIDS Legal Network, comprised of lawyers throughout the state with a special interest in AIDS-related matters. Most of these lawyers will take a client's financial situation into consideration when setting fees and many will take cases free of charge for clients who cannot afford to pay. Contact Michael Tartaglia, 650 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-2300, or call 1-800-342-8011.

This is only a test. In accordance with Environmental Protection Agency requirements, City Electric System line and electrical crews began testing PCB levels in more than 3,000 transformers in the Lower Keys in April. Larry Thompson, operations manager at CES, said power should not be affected by the testing.

Living benefits. People with AIDS may be able to negotiate lifetime settlements on their life insurance policies to generate money to help defray medical costs or other financial obligations. Under certain conditions, the insured converts his or her insurance into a cash equivalent. Contact AIDS Help, Inc. at 296-6196. AIDS Help also has information about the AIDS Insurance Demonstration Project.

Taking credit. Three years ago, Florida Keys Community College and Monroe County high schools instituted a dual enrollment program, under which students can complete college courses at no extra cost without leaving the high school. Upon graduation, these students may receive college credits from all Florida public colleges and universities, as well as from many out-of-state schools. Information can be obtained from FKCC and local high school guidance counselors.

Toll-free AIDS info. Updates on clinical trials of drugs and biologics used in the treatment of AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses are available through a toll-free telephone service. Dialing 1-800-TRIALS-A accesses health information specialists, some of whom speak Spanish, with information about locations of studies and eligibility requirements for participation.

How much does your garden grow? The Monroe County recycling centers are making free mulch available to Keys residents. The centers are located on Industrial Road in Big Pine Key, Peter Jay Street in Marathon, and at MM 106. All centers are open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The centers will not accept yard waste until further notice. For recycling information call 294-4641, ext. 223.

Staying active. AIDS Help, Inc. has opened an activities center in their offices at 2700 Flagler Avenue. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, the activities center offers yoga, nutrition classes and discussions, free movies and bingo. Future plans include a daytime support group for HIV-positive people, art classes and afternoon tea in the gazebo.

Thanks, Maynard. Reef Relief and the Marathon High School band were the beneficiaries of the profits from a recent concert by jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson at Hawk's Cay Resort and Marina. Co-sponsored by WWUS radio and the *Florida Keys Keynote*, the event was attended by over 500 people.

Remembering David Cormier. Sheriff J. Allison DeFoor and Monroe County Sheriff's Office personnel joined the family and friends of Reserve Officer David Cormier in a March 22 memorial ceremony

for the officer, who died in November 1989 in a traffic accident. Cormier was posthumously named 1989 Deputy of the Year, and the award was renamed the David Cormier Memorial in his honor.

Crane Point Hammock. On Earth Day, the Crane Point Hammock nature preserve, with its Museum of Natural History of the Florida Keys, officially opened. The museum is the most comprehensive environmental education center in the Keys. Crane Point Hammock has been preserved for use as a nature sanctuary and education center by the Florida Keys Land & Sea Trust. Located at MM 50, the 63-acre site contains endangered tropical vegetation and is home to the last virgin palm hammock in North America. For more information call 743-9100.

Hazardous waste amnesty days. Almost every home contains hazardous waste, including asbestos insulation, mercury thermometers and batteries, paints, solvents, acids and pesticides. These materials pose hazards to human health or the environment when improperly handled. Monroe County is planning amnesty days on June 8 and 9 for homeowners and small businesses to safely store hazardous waste until it can be shipped out of the Keys for proper disposal. For information call 296-9680, ext. 205.

New reserve deputies. The Monroe County Sheriff's Reserve Deputy Program added 13 new auxiliary officers to its rolls. The volunteers graduated from a three-month intensive training program at Florida Keys Community College's Institute of Criminal Justice. These officers, who pay for most of their equipment, must donate at least 16 hours of duty monthly to the sheriff's office. More reserve academies are underway.

Bright ideas. City Electric System is sponsoring 14 United Way agencies' memberships into the Alliance to Save Energy. The \$15 membership entitles each agency to an energy-saving guide, information about products and techniques, and a special energy-efficient lightbulb. Memberships help support national programs promoting energy efficiency and environmentalism.

Banding. Does the thought of a band playing in the park on a Sunday afternoon make you misty-eyed? If so, and if you can play a musical instrument, share the spirit of bring-



Honored: Reef Relief founder Craig Quirolo listens as President George Bush presents his environmental group with a "Point of Light" award, the highest civilian honor given to volunteers in the private sector. Reef Relief has set up mooring buoys along the reef and been instrumental in fighting offshore oil exploration in the Keys.

ing old-fashioned fun, memories and music to Bayview Park. To join the Florida Keys Community Band, call Jimmy Vagnini, 296-2276; Julie Giovannucci, 294-7374; or Ed Elwood, 294-5212.

Bonded. City Electric System is sponsoring an energy conservation contest at five area schools. The student at each school with the greatest decrease from April to May in kilowatt hours consumed by his or her family will win a \$50 savings bond. CES's public information officer, Lynne Slaughter, said the company hopes to reach two generations with this project.

Network. The Monroe County Library has been awarded a grant to create the Keys Area Information and Referral Service (KAIRS). This service will list resources in many categories, including employment, education, housing, transportation, social welfare, legal services, health, recreation, disaster and nutrition. This countywide listing, free to the public, will be available in libraries throughout the Keys. If your group or organization wishes to be listed, call Gail Keeler at 294-8488.

Wrestling the 'gator. The final report of the Grand Jury for the fall term of 1989 was issued, detailing the jury's investigation of the Alligator Bookstore on Duval Street, where seven sexually explicit magazines and two videos were purchased by the Key West Police Department. Asked to determine whether the materials were obscene, the jury found that, though they "were offensive and at times disgusting," they "did not depict any children or youth in any acts of violence or sado-masochism." The Grand Jury concluded that "...as long as blinds are drawn and doors are shut, we do not find that the current community mores in Monroe County have been violated."

Brunch with the Boston Pops. Key 93.5 FM is adding two new programs to its Saturday afternoon schedule. The Boston Pops Orchestra, recorded live in concert under the direction of John Williams, will begin airing May 5 at noon. It will be directly followed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, also recorded live under the musical direction of Seiji Ozawa.

Bloody Mary? No, Rum Runner. If you're up around Islamorada on May 7, stop in at the Holiday Isle and donate some

blood. Holiday Isle is offering incentives to donors in their second American Red Cross Blood Drive this year, including TCBY Yogurt, refreshments and a chance to win dinner for two at the Isle's Horizon Room restaurant. A complimentary Rum Runner will be given to donors of legal age, which should make for quite a buzz right after giving blood. Holiday Isle is at MM 84.

Sit up straight. Governor Bob Martinez has signed a proclamation calling for the observance of Correct Posture Month during May. Chioprac groups throughout Florida will embark on a program of public information and education about the spine and nervous system, and spinal clinics will be conducted throughout the state.

Hitching a ride. Monroe County Social Services will provide transportation to Dade County for medical purposes Tuesday, May 8, and Thursday, May 24. To schedule transportation, call Cecil Bain at 294-8468 at least three workdays in advance.

Compound Q. People with AIDS who decide to pursue treatment involving Compound Q are strongly advised by AIDS Help, Inc. to learn as much as possible about the drug and to consult a physician experienced in its use. Compound Q has been implicated in severe adverse reactions in a small number of study participants.

TDC gets innovative. The TDC is proposing a centralized reservations system utilizing its present collateral fulfillment service. The system would give visitors and travel agents a convenient, one-stop vacation information and reservations outlet. There is a similar reservation system currently operating in the Bahamas. If approved, the new system's trial run will be August 1 of this year to January 31, 1991.

TDC gets award. The TDC won first-place for its float in the Gasparilla Parade of Pirates in Tampa. The float, "Kaleidoscope of Islands," is more than 100 feet long. It has also appeared in the Orange Bowl Parade and parades in Fort Myers, Bradenton, St. Petersburg and Plant City.

Official cruise ship greeters. Volunteers greet the cruise ships that visit our island. The Official Cruise Ship Greeters are always on hand to welcome passengers and present them with hibiscus flowers, information and maps of the city. Many

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passengers say this is the warmest greeting they receive anywhere during their cruise.

Say cheese, Mr. Barracuda. From May 26 to September 1, amateur photographers and videographers will don wet suits and focus their lenses on the protected reefs of Key Largo and Looe Key for the fifth annual National Marine Sanctuaries' Underwater Photography Contest. Prizes will be offered in several categories. There is also an intensive mini-contest, Wind-Up Week, that will run from August 23 through September 1. For entry forms and rules for both contests, contact Waterhouse Photographic Tours at 1-800-272-9122 or write P.O. Box 2487, Key Largo, FL 33037. Registration is \$10 for either contest, \$15 for both.


Conch Republic Days are here again. Visitors will join Conchs May 4 to 6 for the Eighth Annual Conch Republic Days, celebrating the founding of this tiny island nation. This year's celebration is truly in Conch Republic fashion -- two weeks late. From Friday night's World's Longest Parade down Duval Street to Sunday night's Grand Ambassador's Ball at Marriott's Casa Marina, the three-day celebration promises to be the best ever.

Jailbirds rake in the dough. This year's Jail and Bail event raised over \$36,000 for the American Cancer Society, a record for money raised for a single event in Monroe County for the American Cancer Society. Moe Moesher was Number One Jailbird, raising the most money of all those arrested.

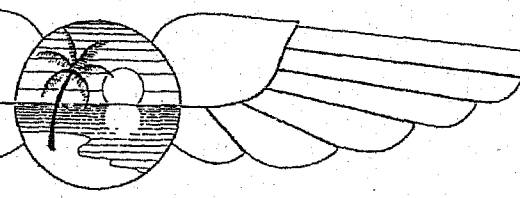
Reef Relief shines. On Earth Day, April 22, President George Bush personally presented Reef Relief with a "Point of Light," the highest civilian award honoring volunteers in the private sector. Accepting the award was Reef Relief founder Craig Quirolo. Said Quirolo, "We are honored and hopeful that the President will protect us from offshore oil [drilling]."

It's a wrap. The Nashville Network's (TNN) fishing program, *Celebrity Outdoors*, returned for its third visit to the Florida Keys. Three days of scenic and action filming for the show were completed in April. The program will air in May or June, and features country music artist Lee Greenwood and Shawn Southwick, host of USA Cable Network's *Hollywood Insider*.

FKCC Silver Jubilee. Florida Keys Community College celebrates 1990-91 as its 25th anniversary in the Keys. Community residents are invited to make tax-deductible contributions to the Florida Keys Educational Foundation, to be matched by the State of Florida. Contributions will go toward scholarships, faculty chairs, equipment and building improvements at all three campuses. Call 296-9081, ext. 281 or 283.

Smart art. Art by Florida Keys Community College art department's instructors and students will be permanently displayed at The Top of La Concha Hotel, beginning during the month of May. 

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Nelson English Park: Black History and Green Space

by Ian Brockway

Two months ago Nelson English Park lay in the chaos of reconstruction -- an image of Sesame Street spliced with reality. Orange bulldozers sundered the soil. Workers installed check valves, connecting lines of sewage from Key West to Fleming Key. Today the park, a 250-foot area next to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center on Thomas Street, is complete with a basketball court, picnic tables, jungle gym, swings and a green play area.

First interviewed several months ago, children at the park seemed to enjoy their space; an aura of free play emanated from the group. But one person, who requested to be identified as Air Jordan -- the name stenciled with a razor into his hair -- said: "They messed up the park, man. It used to be just a big ole open field. We used to play football, baseball. And all that stuff, now it ain't nothin' -- no space." When asked further about what improvements could be made, the kids responded: "A football field! A waterslide! Alright, a football field, then!"

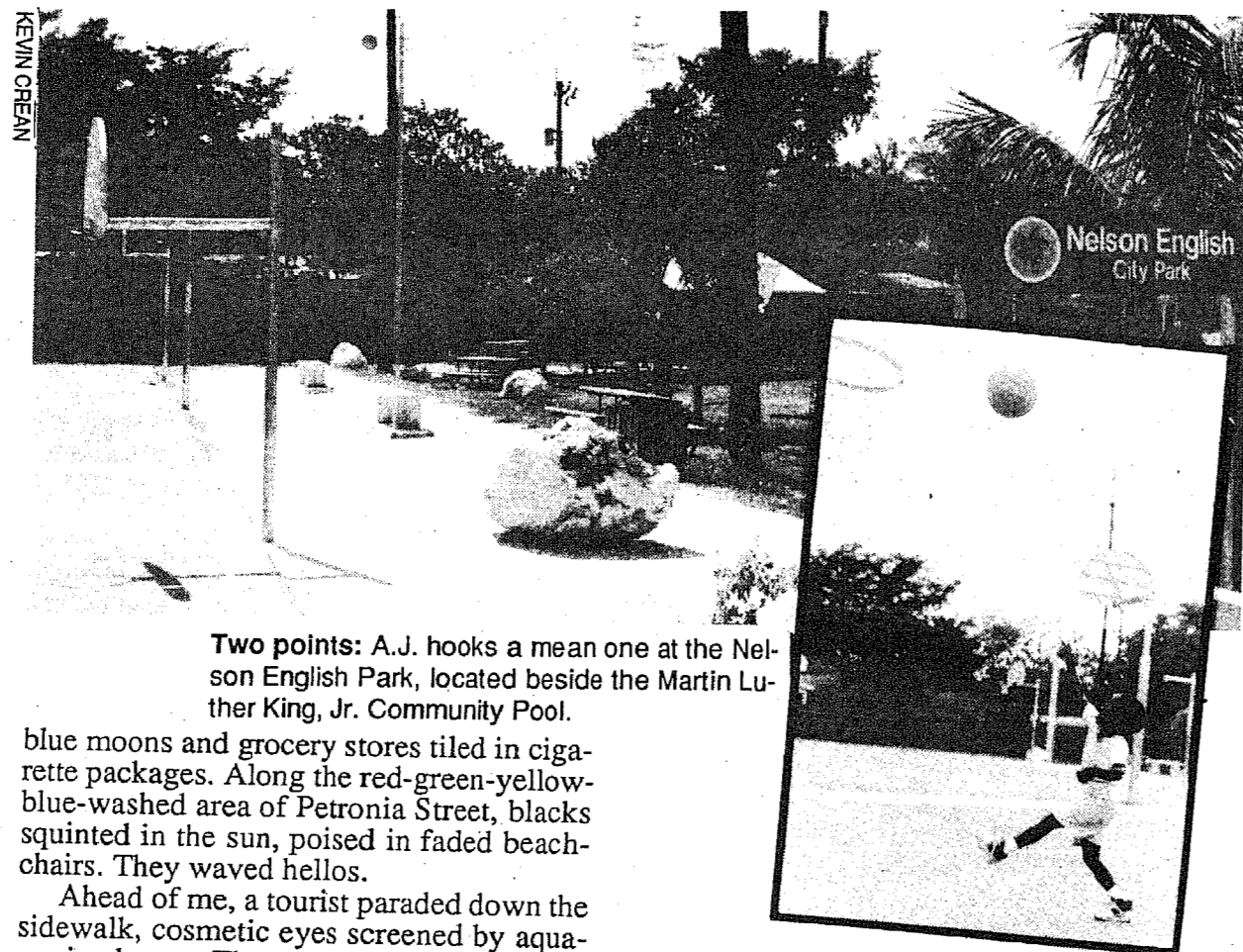
But on Easter, kids clad in holiday hues lined the park entrance with jubilation. That day the park was alive: a pair of kids was swinging gleefully in arcs, smiling with a clear view to the sky. Though there is no football field or waterslide, most of the pessimism seems to have disappeared. According to Solomon, a local youngster, the completed park is "Way better than it used to be, though the basketball hoops should be higher. Younger kids can hang on them and hurt themselves."

Community pool supervisor Lee Thompson says her city job now includes supervision of the park, as well. She said she is encouraged by the park's appearance. "I expect that the newly completed park will bring in kids from other areas. Though today it is used primarily by youngsters from the community, I have seen a few other kids."

The park helped to inspire Norman Moody in his revitalization project of the entire area of Petronia and Duval Streets. "I want to make it more accessible to the Key West tourist community at large," said Moody. "The park is just one of the positive changes that are happening. I want to renovate shops and stores. It's going to be cleaned up. A few years ago the streets were too intimidating."

Lee Thompson expressed the importance of recognizing Nelson English as an outstanding Key West figure. She admitted there was controversy when the park was christened after English. "Packs of black teens attempted to destroy the sign. They were confused, completely unaware of Nelson English's race and contribution to Key West society."

In search of Nelson English's family history, I set off to the domain of Roosevelt Sands, Sr., who lives at 314 Virginia Street. His home rests in the land of neon-



Two points: A.J. hooks a mean one at the Nelson English Park, located beside the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Pool.

blue moons and grocery stores tiled in cigarette packages. Along the red-green-yellow-blue-washed area of Petronia Street, blacks squinted in the sun, poised in faded beach chairs. They waved hellos.

Ahead of me, a tourist paraded down the sidewalk, cosmetic eyes screened by aquamarine lenses. The scene conjured thoughts of bottled beach sand expensively applied between the toes and developers cementing blue sky and water into a delusion of convenience. Never have the dischords of culture seemed so apparent.

Roosevelt Sands' house is a storehouse of memories. Photographs of the family in full graduation regalia were poised on the heavy table. A portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. hung on the wall, posed with a serene, Christ-like reverence.

Sands, clad in white shirt and indigo suspenders, calmly discoursed on the romance of a green Nelson English Field as it was in 1931 -- the only field used by the black community when Sands and the Coconuts defeated the Pelicans by a score of 46 to 0.

He spoke of Circuit Judge Jefferson B. Browne's letter, which urged city officials to name the park after Nelson English. In 1881, English became Key West's first black postmaster. Later in 1886, he served as assistant postmaster under the leadership of Judge Brown.

According to Sands, English's son Leo was a master of the coronet -- "a triple-tongue artist." Leo English went on to practice dentistry in Toledo, Ohio. One of Nelson's daughters, said Sands, was principal of Douglas High School in 1916. By all accounts, the English family appears a respected and cherished element in Key West history.

Sands rocked lightly in his overstuffed chair. When asked about the condition of Key West's black community today, he commented quickly, then regressed to earlier times.

"I'm not as comfortable as I was in, the

old days, on account of this crack," he said. Then he recalled Bernie C. Papy, a state representative who awarded scholarships to blacks at a time when they were not eligible to vote. "Can't beat that."

I left Roosevelt Sands alone with his memories and returned to designated areas of pristine white gingerbread and restoration. Helplessly, my mind re-ran images of bulldozers appearing in view of a Bahama Village window. Orange vices gripped the portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. and replaced it with a bland seascape. Photographs packed in boxes were sent off to the Salvation Army. Machines bulldozed away the roosters, knocking down the old wood under an aqua-pink cloud.

Lee Thompson believes the Nelson English Park is vitally important to Key West as "the only park utilized primarily by the black community." The park breathes against the tide of commercial renaissance with the help of a \$25,000 Federal Recreation Development grant combined with an \$82,000 Bahama Village grant instituted last year.

Director of recreation Randy Sterling is content with the results, with the exception of a "12-foot by 15-foot concrete wall that will surround the butterfly valve that just happens to be in the middle of the park."

Like the children who play there, I relish the Nelson English Park -- a rare green field that exists as if fallen from the sky -- in full interplay with the community. Little people running, laughing, skipping. Balls bouncing, powered by hands, swirling in orange through hoops in defiance of bland monoliths that block the sun and erase the sky. The Nelson English Park remains a cherished and necessary place to play.

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A Special Section on Key West Business and Finances

To Live, Work and Hope To Buy a Home in Key West

by Pamula Mason

Vicki and John have been in the Keys 11 and 15 years, respectively. They met, fell in love and decided to get married eight years ago. John has worked as a carpenter since he settled here, and Vicki earned a degree in nursing and worked in a hospital.

After they married, they decided to buy a home here and become a permanent part of the community. Vicki began looking for something they could afford. She didn't even consider Key West, already knowing the exorbitant prices of property here. She also decided the income of a nurse looked paltry compared to what she could make bartending, so she switched jobs in order to help John save for the downpayment.

Vicki was steadily employed at the same establishment for three years. After considerable sacrifice, she and John saved a few thousand dollars. They found a trailer on Stock Island, which they thought would allow them to save for a better home in a year or so.

They were advised by friends that the only banks from which they could possibly get a loan to buy in the Keys was a national bank -- specifically California Federal or Citicorp in New York. They applied and were tentatively approved, only to discover at the closing that banks don't like trailers, which tend to depreciate like cars instead of appreciating like homes. Banks also tend to view bartending as less than secure employment regardless of length of employment. So they found a trailer they could buy outright with their savings, only to discover they couldn't get a loan for land with no permanent structure.

To make matters worse, the owner, from New York, demanded half cash, allowing financing for only half the 50-foot-by-100-foot lot for which he was asking \$40,000. In the meantime, Vicki became pregnant and had more reason to seek a place with space and permanence.

Vicki continued the search for a "real home." She discovered the federal government offered low-interest loans to people in their income range -- \$35,000 annually -- but the house must cost less than \$95,000. Nothing in Key West could be found at less than \$100,000.

Finally, she found a small house for \$72,500 on Big Coppitt Key, owned by the last survivor of the *Titanic*. It needed some work. The government required a signed contract prior to acceptance for the subsidized loan.

After the signing of the contract, they had 30 days to come up with the \$23,000 downpayment. In addition, the government loan required that the house meet code standards prior to acceptance.

Vicki and John gave up on this "helpful" program, applied at Navy Federal Credit Union and were accepted for a loan which "balloons" in three years, meaning the balance then comes due and requires new financing. So this little family, determined to live and work in the Keys, struggled to get what they have and will continue to struggle to try to keep it. They pay \$476 per month to the bank, \$100 per month to the original owner toward the downpayment, and they expect to spend an additional \$25,000 to make the necessary improvements with John doing all the work himself in his "free time." Vicki, a hardworking mother of a two-year-old, says, "There's not an extra penny now."

How did it happen that the citizens of Key West, even Conchs with generations of residence, can no longer afford to live here?

"Ten years ago, I paid \$22 for three months of trash pick-up service. Now it's \$24 a month," says Eulalee Jones, 85, a fifth-generation Conch. "The people who live here are asked to pay taxes to [provide infrastructure improvements] for the sake of the hotels and tourists."

"Rich folks from New York and California come here and buy houses, paying more than any local could afford, then they only spend a short period of time here and rent their houses out at double the rents they were, or they try to sell at a profit. All this investment raises the taxes for everyone living here. What do they care what happens here? They still have their big homes to go back to. But we have only the problems they leave us with."

Jones said she was concerned for the younger people. "Where will the children of the original residents be able to live?"

Mary Hamilton, of the Key West Assoc-

iation of Realtors, says that there are currently 898 residential properties for sale in Key West, with a year-to-date total sales of 87.

"The total dollar volume has increased, while the number of sales is down. In 1977 it was a seller's market," continues Hamilton. "Since that time, listings have risen, resulting in a soft, or buyer's, market. In Monroe County taxes on property are adjusted with each sale. Higher selling prices result in higher taxes. This affects the value and taxes on comparable properties."

"Qualifying incomes [here] are higher than median incomes for the entire state of Florida, and information from the Keys is not even included as a Metropolitan Statistical Area." An MSA is an area with a large population that, along with adjacent communities, together have a high degree of social and economic integration.

As Curt Wild, of Curtis Wild-Coldwell Banker Real Estate Company, so aptly put it, "The rich will always have money. It's only the little guys like you and me who are affected by the changing economy. The markets in the areas of Key West's major buyers, the East Coast and West Coast, are slowing. Therefore, they are less likely to invest in vacation homes here."

"Our current supply is greater than our current demand, due in large part to the recent major developments like Truman Annex. We are losing our exclusive clientele who frequently comment that we 'stink.' We have so many people making so much trash that the streets literally stink. What on first glance looks like paradise, after a few days of walking around smells less than heavenly."

Wild says that in the last three years sales have slowed significantly while the asking prices have continued to rise. Why doesn't the law of supply and demand kick in and result in lower prices?

"Because of a growing interest from foreign investors, especially those from Canada and Europe where the dollar value encourages U.S. investments," says Wild. "When it comes to property values, only three things really count: location, location and location. Key West is still, at least for a while, one of the most beautiful places on earth."

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To Buy or Not To Buy Buyers' Concerns Over Financing Techniques

by Carter R. Vineyard

Do you dream of buying a new home or property but wonder what it takes these days to make that dream come true? Unless you are a financial whiz or have knowledge about creative financing techniques, making the transition from tenant to purchaser, especially in the Key West real estate market, can be difficult. Timing is also a consideration, particularly if one is caught either in a buyer's or seller's market. An understanding of market conditions, terminology, and the tools necessary to meet commitments prior to closing can make the process an easy one. There's no sense in plodding along through uncharted waters.

A good way to get an idea of what type of property you can afford is to evaluate your current income with your needs. Can you afford a \$150,000 property on a \$25,000 or greater individual or combined salary? You should find out -- it will save time for you, your agent, lender and, ultimately, the seller. Add up your monthly income -- salaries, plus income from rents, dividends, interest or royalties -- and multiply by 12 to annualize.

Once you've derived your annual income, you can determine how much you can afford to spend on a house by two

methods: 1) multiply your annual income by 2 1/2 to get the desired price level; 2) multiply about 2/5 of your monthly income to determine what monthly mortgage payment you can reasonably handle, should you go for financing. Either of these methods will allow you to qualify what you can afford.

To cash buyers, this information will be of little concern. But for those who desire the advantage of leverage -- the usage of other people's money to buy property they normally could not purchase themselves -- it pays to shop around for potential sources of financing. These come in the form of commercial banks, savings and loans, mortgage brokers, financing provided by the seller and even "call your Dad" loans.

Commercial banks and savings and loans can provide qualified prospects with conventional financing -- usually fixed or adjustable rate mortgages. Mortgage brokers provide financing packages which allow potential buyers to meet their financial needs. Seller financing is an incentive for sellers, to lure more potential buyers who can't make a large downpayment or who may need more cash to make, or bridge, the contract. "Call your Dad" refers to getting or borrowing money from a close friend or relative to make a downpayment on a property. This can help you to readily qualify for a loan.

Whatever the case, it pays to realize the less cash you plunk down, the more important it is to shop around for the most financing at the lowest cost -- in essence, more "bang for your buck."

Points, the lender's costs of handling the loan, are regarded as prepaid interest, and are paid at closing. Interest rates among lenders are competitive, and the relationship between interest rates and the points charged can make a difference as to whether your monthly mortgage payments will be higher or lower, once your deal closes and you begin to make those payments.

Shopping around in easy or difficult markets can add or subtract valuable dollars and time. To ascertain market climate, look at the average amount of time listings

actually remain on the market. If the period is relatively short, prices are running higher than normal, and there aren't that many listed properties, it's a good bet that you're in a vigorous seller's market. If the period is relatively long, you see indications of price cutting, and there are plenty of properties around, your buying opportunities are better; this is a negotiable buyer's market.

Right now Key West real estate options create a strong buyer's market; the supply of available buyers is less than the supply of properties available in various price ranges. As a result, it may pay for you to shop around for the most amenities to go with a property that most suits your pocketbook.

Keep in mind that in the case of agency or disclosure, where fiduciary loyalty and responsibility automatically rest with the seller or client of the property, you can employ a selling agent to be your buyer's broker. This allows you to negotiate more strongly with a seller through your agent, and not directly with the listing agent or seller; it also allows you, the buyer, to pay one commission only at the closing table.

Make sure, in any event, that your agent fully discloses for whom he or she is employed, and what that agent will do for you from the moment you meet him or her. Otherwise, dual agency can result, which can place the agent indelicately between whom he represents.

Should you use an agent locally for purchasing property, test his or her knowledge

of financing techniques by coming prepared with information. Ask for the type of market that currently exists for the type of property desired; what the average single-family -- or multi-family if you are an investor -- prices are for the area; be prepared to answer questions about annual income and what money down you can offer; plus what closing costs you can expect to pay for your property.

Closing costs are those transaction costs that a seller or buyer can reasonably expect to pay, such as title insurance (either through an attorney or title company, typically negotiable at 50/50); property taxes (usually prorated); home insurance (if mortgage involved); rent if necessary; recording of deed (seller); recording of mortgage if necessary; plus brokerage commission. As a rule, all closing costs are and should be negotiable between seller and buyer.

Other closing costs may be incurred in prepared surveys, pest control, structural inspections, and contractor's or architect's expenses if a fixer-upper is involved. As a rule of thumb, the buyer should be prepared to pay between 1-1/2 to 3 percent of the purchase price in closing costs, and more if a buyer broker is involved.

Once your offer has gone into contract and you decide now is the time to approach the lender of your choice, be prepared to have your agent or yourself present a copy of the contract to the lender so that the following can be identified: 1) escrow, or good-faith money, paid by the buyer into

initial offering; 2) downpayment, or how much more money can be placed into escrow as good faith or at closing, plus the remaining amount a lender should be prepared to finance.

The lender will usually consult an appraiser of its choice locally to determine the market value of that property and assign a loan-to-value. This usually ranges from 70 to 80 percent of market value. If the appraisal comes in at contract price, your loan will be approved and the transaction can move to closing through a closing agent, usually an attorney or title insurance agent. Depending upon the loan approval, time from contract to closing can vary from 21 to 90 days. Again, it pays to shop around.

Lenders look attractively at downpayments of 20 percent of purchase price or greater. Purchasers can, in vigorous seller's markets, negotiate down to 10 percent, with such documentation as tax returns, financial statements and evidence of liquid assets.

In short, if you, the potential buyer, can identify your financial needs in advance, before approaching a competent realtor or licensing agent, a responsible lender and a responsible closing agent or attorney, you will eliminate much of the concern in buying property in any type of market.

Carter R. Vineyard is treasurer of the Key West Association of Realtors. He is also a realtor with Bender-Tanis ERA Real Estate in Key West.

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1322 OLIVA ST. Corner of Florida St. 3 units making income. \$165,000.
512 PETRONIA ST. Two units 14 blocks off Duval St. One unit transient, other owner. \$168,000.
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915 ASHLE ST. 3 Separate quality units, each with private entrance, like new, close to shopping center. \$188,500.
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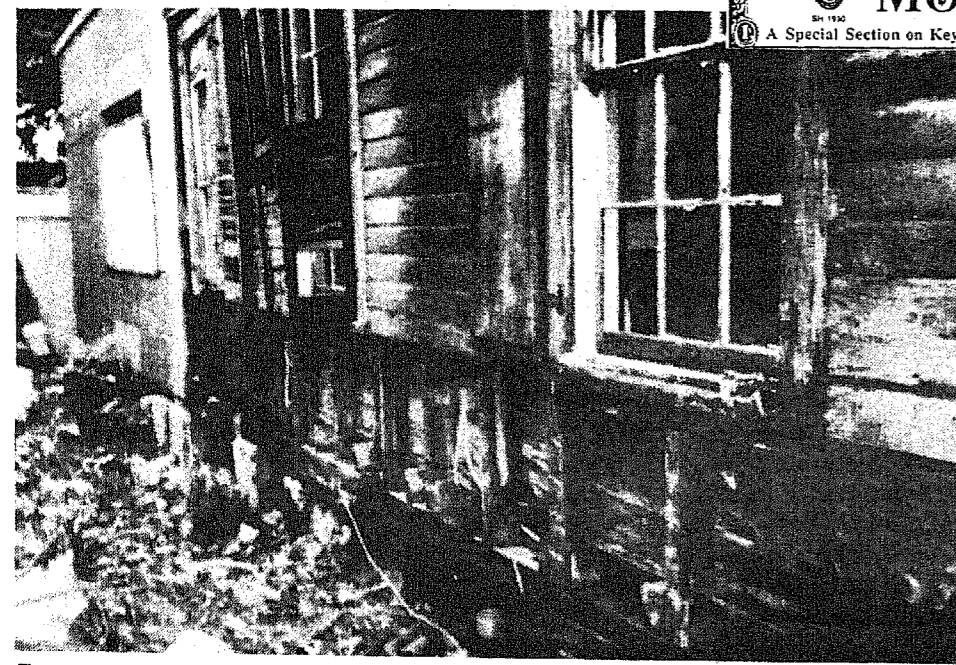
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Poor conditions: Before Jack Marshall received money from the Mayor's Revolving Loan Program, portions of his house were rickety.



Wow! Like new: The Marshalls' home, refurbished and painted.

Revolving Loan Program Matches Dreams, Dollars

by Elizabeth M. Smith

The Mayor's Revolving Loan Program provides funding to make physical improvements to homes/buildings for low-income homeowners or community service, non-profit organizations.

From MRLP Guidelines

Once the Marshalls' home in Bahama Village was an eyesore, a nightmare of rotted wood, exposed electrical wires and a sagging roof with holes. Now, it's the pride of the neighborhood -- a beauty inside and out. The new clapboard exterior is conch-shell pink; and its spacious interior is breezy and light.

The transformation is incredible, a real success story. It's the result of funds the Marshalls, acquired through the Mayor's

Revolving Loan Program -- an understated program that helps dreams come true for Key Westers who otherwise couldn't afford the dream.

Before improvements, the Marshalls' kitchen and bathroom were housed in a small addition tacked onto the original dwelling. A large ficus tree had grown so close to the home it jammed the addition's outer door shut. Creeping vines entangled the roof. When it rained, the bathroom and kitchen became unusable. Eventually the tree was removed; part of the roof went with it.

Jack Marshall describes conditions: "You couldn't come through the door for the rain in there. It would rain in the kitchen and you couldn't get through to the bathroom. The whole thing was falling apart. I used to say that it didn't rain *outside*; it would rain *inside* and leak outside." A fire on the gas stove had also caused considerable damage to the ceiling and one wall.

The Marshalls first heard about the MRLP from City Commissioner Harry Powell, while he was visiting their neighborhood to encourage attendance at a public meeting. Powell later assisted the Marshalls in applying for a loan.

It took six months for the new addition,

which is much roomier than the old, ramshackle one, to reach completion. The new kitchen is beautifully spacious, with high ceilings and fitted cabinets. Large window spaces allow for plenty of light and refreshing breezes.

The entire roof was replaced, new plumbing installed and the house rewired. Exterior and interior walls have been refinished. Aluminum windows have been added. The loan also paid for yard-clearing and pearock. "I'm proud of the way it looks now," says Marshall.

Harriett Chipchase found that she was able to have her house, off Truman Avenue, completely renovated by taking out a loan through the program. "If it hadn't been there," she explained, "I would probably have had to do one room at a time. But with the revolving fund, I was able to do the whole job. The payments are reasonable."

For the most part, Chipchase is pleased with her enhanced home. But she remains upset that the Historic Architecture Review Commission would not allow her to replace her old jalousie windows with the wind-up awning type, despite earlier renovation projects in her neighborhood that installed such windows. Physical limitations make it dif-

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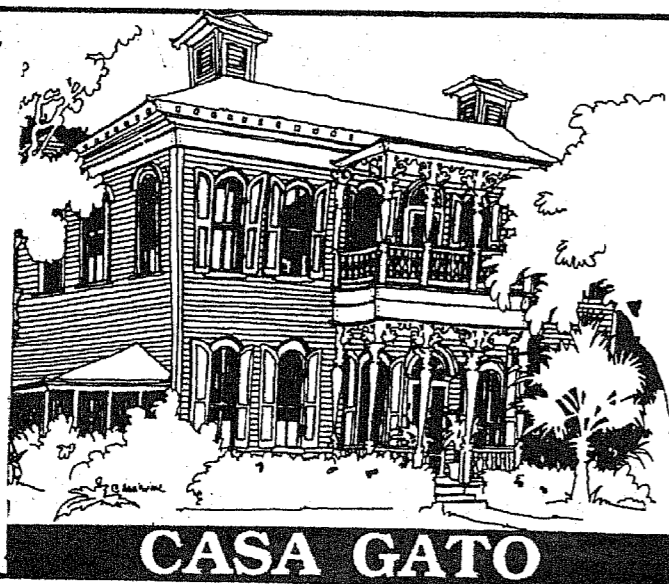
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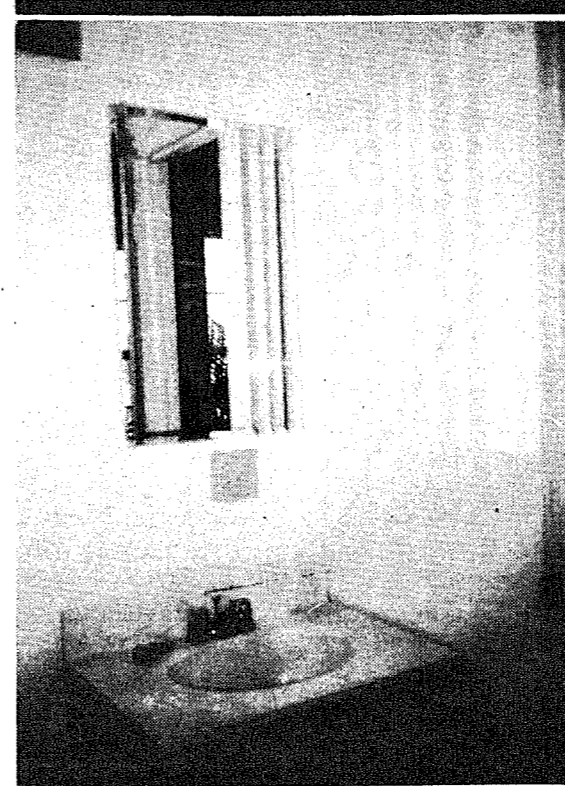
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Class act: This new bathroom replaces a detached facility.

difficult for her to raise the sash windows required by HARC.

Chipchase highly recommends this program and has told many people about it. She knows of "several who have said they were going to apply for a loan since my home was done."

To date, 85 dwellings have been approved for funding through the program, which was created in 1976 using federal

grants and city monies. David Tackett, former president of Southeast Bank and present chairman of the MRLP board, believes the original fund was about \$150,000.

Loans provided through MRLP are low-cost. Interest rates for homeowners have dipped as low as two percent and are currently three percent, as opposed to 17 to 20 percent on the open market. To be eligible, applicants must be Key West property owners who fall within the program's income guidelines: from \$18,200 per year for one person to \$32,500 for a family of eight. The first criterion is that it be impossible to obtain other financing.

"The mayor's loan is the last resort," says Tackett. "It is to assist people who are unable to make repairs to their homes which are absolutely necessary. We see this in terms of the bathroom, the roof, pieces of the house that might have been falling apart which people could not, for financial reasons, complete themselves. These loans are to assist occupants in bringing their homes up to building code standards."

Richard Heyman, former mayor of Key West, reactivated this program during his

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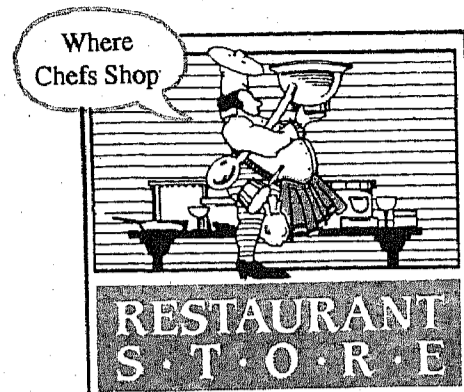
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first term from 1984 to 1986. He asked Tackett to serve on its five-member board. Previous to its reorganization, the program had been largely dormant for several years. There were outstanding loans on the books; many payments were not kept up to date. No new money had been committed to the fund in several years.

"It had simply become moribund," explains Tackett. Perhaps the taint of an earlier reputation remained: stories abounded of an unscrupulous contractor and building inspector preying upon low-income families who applied for this loan. Shoddy work for exorbitant prices was the name of their game. It was the old tale of private individuals lining their pockets with public funds.

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The program is no longer run by the city. Since 1988 it has been administered through the Community Development Office by contract with the Key West Housing Authority -- an autonomous organization. Marlene Hagesfeld of the CDO is the rehabilitation coordinator. Contractors must be approved by the MRLP board and the program is closely monitored.

Each renovation project and the relevant costs for each stage are precisely figured before work begins. Money is apportioned for each phase of the project. Inspections are made by KWHHA personnel while work is in progress and upon completion of one phase before funds for the next are released.

Currently, a loan of up to \$20,000 may be granted. The repayment schedule extends

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for up to 20 years with payments starting 30 days after loan closing. All monies generated by the program are returned to the fund, hence the *revolving* concept.

When the committee established by Heyman reorganized the program, new guidelines were set for loan documentation and appraisals on homes, since the city takes a lien on the dwelling as security.

"The city is not in the business of taking property," says Tackett. "To my knowledge we have never foreclosed on a loan. Our purpose is not to foreclose, but to help somebody survive and have a roof overhead or a bathroom in the house."

By the end of Heyman's first term, the board was able to report that payments on all but two of the loans on the books were being brought up to date. New applicants

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were actively sought: local ministers were asked to help find members of their communities who might benefit from the program. Applicants have been primarily older people living on minimal social security in the old section of town.

Information regarding the MRLP continues to be posted in local newspapers and business establishments. But Tackett says, "The greatest way to generate additional loans is to make them and employ word of mouth."

When people see neighbors fixing their homes with money from the program, says Tackett, they tend to want to apply for a program loan themselves. It's a snowball

effect -- one that benefits for all parties concerned. While homeowners improve their private living conditions, property values and neighborhoods are upgraded. According to one borrower, "I had a friend who had her house done and I liked the way it was renovated and the terms of the loan, so I thought I would try it."

Anyone wishing further information regarding the Mayor's Revolving Loan Program should contact Marlene Hagesfeld, Rehabilitation Coordinator, Key West Community Development Office, 1403 12th Street, P.O. Box 2476, Key West, Florida, 33045, 292-1221.

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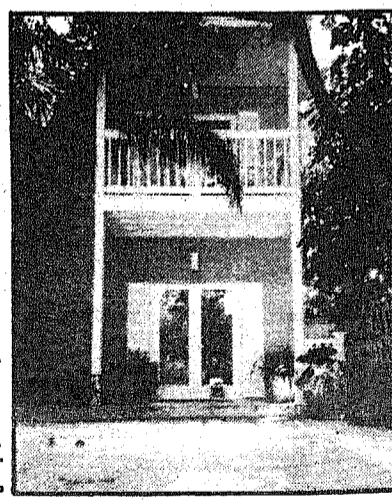
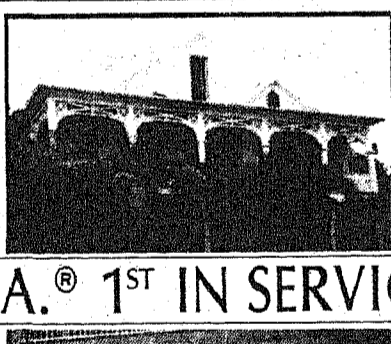
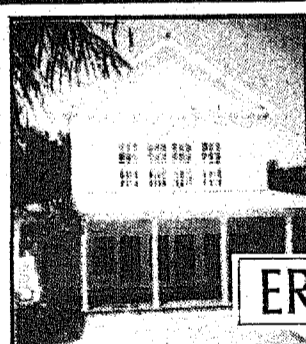
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May 8 Special Election: Pick Your Poison

Key West Solid Waste Spread Sheet

	1989-90	1990-91*	1991-92	1992-93	1993-2006	Total
Const. Cost Closure Phase I	3,200,000					\$ 3,200,000
Const. Cost Closure Phase II				3,700,000		3,700,000
Landfill & Ashfill Siting 89-90	300,000					300,000
Land		3,000,000				3,000,000
Permit & Design		500,000				500,000
Construction Management			400,000			400,000
Construction			4,300,000			4,300,000
Leachate Treatment			1,900,000			1,900,000
Construction 97					1,600,000	1,600,000
Construction 02					2,100,000	2,100,000
Class III Siting (debris)		200,000				200,000
Permit & Design		100,000				100,000
Construction			700,000			700,000
Transfer Station		193,500				193,500
Drainage Control (Trashmore)	1,095,000					1,095,000
	4,595,000	3,993,500	7,300,000	3,700,000	3,700,000	\$23,388,500

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* 5% annual inflation rate is included.
 ** As interest rates increase, reserve requirements increase.

\$27,000,000

by Geddy Sveikauskas

Key Westers are being asked to pick their poison in the form of either higher waste disposal rates or \$27 million in new debt. Already burdened with the highest rates for solid waste disposal in the state, citizens of the island city are being asked if they want to pay more now ... or later.

The city projects it will take a \$20-a-month increase in the \$24-a-month residential rate for 1990 to pay for the closure of the existing Stock Island landfill facility and the opening of a new facility at a location not yet chosen. Non-residential rate-payers would be socked with increases of a similar proportion.

At the May 8 special election, Key West voters are therefore being offered the opportunity to avoid this rate increase by agreeing

to invest in the \$27-million bond issue. Though rates would increase just as much if this route were taken (and actually more, since interest would have to be paid on the bonds), they would go up more gradually over an extended period of time.

Key West is under federal mandate to close the Stock Island landfill by 1993 or face fines of up to \$250 a day. According to information provided by the city (see chart above), closure of the existing landfill will cost \$8 million. Replacing it with another facility will cost \$11.4 million. Finally, later expansion of the replacement facility will add another \$7.2 million in capital costs. Total pricetag: \$26.6 million. Round that off to \$27 million.

The city wouldn't just go out and borrow the money, of course. Finance Director David Fernandez says it'll be borrowed as it's needed. Fernandez sees voter approval as an essential bargaining chip for the city with the state and federal governments ("There is no such thing as Key West credibility -- Monroe County, either"), and with the county ("They could take a passive attitude, and then buy in later"), which has opted to deal with its solid waste problems independently of Key West's.

Will the electorate go along? The 13,620 voters of Key West eligible to go to the polls have a tough choice to make.

The fiscal situation would have been even more complex had an accompanying \$13.5-million infrastructure bond issue that had been scheduled for the same date not been cancelled because of technical problems. This latter bond issue, which the city

had intended to repay with most of the proceeds from the one-cent infrastructure tax approved by Monroe County voters last year, is now waiting in the wings for the September primary. If the solid waste bond is defeated, it's possible that some of it may be folded into that September effort.

Given the importance of the solid waste vote, there hasn't been an overwhelming amount of news in the local press about it. The April 28 *Citizen* presented the city administration's vision for it: that the voters are being given an opportunity to avoid a 89-percent increase in rates next year.

It's by no means clear that the hike is a certainty if the voters turn down the bond. Folding it into the infrastructure bond's only one alternative. A second is for the city to use the proceeds of the one-cent tax for the closure costs and delay other infrastructure moves. A third possibility is to strip the closure costs from the rest of the solid waste problem, bond only that, and accept the county's offer to have a private hauler truck Key West solid waste to the mainland for five years.

The Machiavellians of Key West politics, meanwhile, are of two schools in explaining the light publicity campaign for the solid waste bond act. One contends that the city government, seeing a chance of success in a light vote May 8, deliberately waited until the last week before the vote and sent out its mailing to the voters with only a few days left -- hoping it would be too late for a well-organized opposition to be mounted. The other argues that the city bureaucracy really doesn't expect to win, that it's only

shielding itself from the intense furor that will accompany an inevitable increase in solid waste rates.

The city mailing shows residential charges increasing from the present \$292 per year to \$551 later this year with no solid waste bond issue and increasing to only \$315 with the bond issue. For the year after, they're \$484 without the bond issue and \$337 with it, and for the year after that they're projected at \$385 without it and \$356 with it. Finally, the year after that -- 1993 -- they're projected to be back down to \$293 without the bond issue and up to \$371 with it. So the relief offered by the bond issue is, regrettably, only temporary.

The city apparently hasn't, as of this writing, calculated the cost of the hauling-out option by Florida Disposal which the county is seriously considering. Only eight days prior to the public vote on this \$27-million public works project, the city administration does not have all the costs at its fingertips. City technical services director Paul Cates said on April 30 that he

was still working on that scenario.

The decision-making matrix is not bewildering in its complexity. There are only two possible solutions to Key West's solid waste crisis: either one disposes of it on the Keys, or one disposes of it elsewhere. It does not seem unreasonable to expect to know the costs of each.

The ineptitude of the information campaign for the bond issue, however, does not mean that the measure should not be looked at for its merits. If Monroe County -- and the county's an offstage player in this little drama -- is to have a fighting chance at a less-than-catastrophic-cost solution to its solid waste problems, it must continue to pursue the landfill option. This bond issue may or may not be the time for Key West to bite the bullet, but if it isn't this time it had better be soon.

"I don't think you have an option," David Fernandez says. "If I don't have a landfill, I don't have an alternative. I can't

Residential Charge Comparison

Year	With Bond Issue	Without Bond Issue
10/1/89	292	292
10/1/90	315	551
10/1/91	337	484
10/1/92	356	385
10/1/93	371	293
10/1/94	410	333
10/1/95	426	350
10/1/96	453	410
10/1/97	467	379
10/1/98	471	392
10/1/99	481	409
10/1/00	501	430

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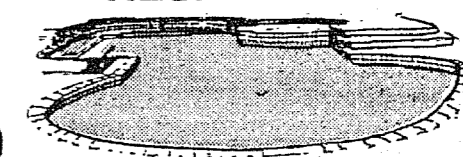


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Can Old Houses Make New Money?

by Sharon Wells

Can old houses make new money? Yes, definitely. Through rehabilitation efforts,

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owners of old houses in Key West benefit economically and personally. What's more rehabilitation and re-use of historic structures have positive effects on both local and state economies. Some benefits, such as new construction jobs, are immediate; others, such as additional property taxes, are secondary, but long-range. And what makes rehabilitation even more attractive are federal tax incentive programs.

In Key West, nearly 20 historic structures have been certified for federal tax credits. The Walter Kemp House at 312 William is one example. The building was sold in December, 1978, for \$34,000 and re-sold in January, 1983. It was certified and rehabilitated to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in

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1984. The taxable value of the property increased markedly -- from \$25,766 in 1982 to \$116,051 in 1988; it was sold in 1987 for \$289,500. At another certified rehab project at 501 Whitehead Street, the taxable value increased from \$69,968 in 1982 to \$126,728 in 1988.

Since 1976, the Internal Revenue Code has provided preservation tax incentives to encourage capital investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of the nation's historic commercial, income-producing buildings. The most significant of these tax incentives was the 25-percent income-tax credit enacted under the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

Legislation which originally enacted the 25-percent credit was changed in 1986 to reduce the available credit by 5 percent and institute limits on passive income credits. The number of rehabilitation projects dropped dramatically. Current legislation before Congress seeks to restore the original credit and remove the passive income restrictions.

The 20-percent tax credit can be used to rehabilitate certified historic buildings. The certification program is administered nationally by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. As of March 30, 1985, the National Park Service had certified rehabilitation work on 12,286 projects having an investment credit value of \$8.2 billion.

One way to analyze the economic impact of certified rehabilitation projects is to determine the increase in employment resulting from rehabilitation expenditures. Labor cost as a proportion of total project cost is usually higher in rehab work than for a comparable amount of new construction.

A reason for this difference is that many of the construction materials needed on a rehab project are already in place; for example, the foundation and outside walls. Rehabilitation also frequently requires the

use of artisans and other skilled persons in addition to construction workers, since the Secretary of the Interior's Standards require keeping as much of an historic building intact as possible.

The restoration/rehabilitation of old houses in Key West has experienced a boom period for nearly a decade. The benefits to both individuals and the community as a whole are varied.

To the homeowner, the foremost benefit is the personal satisfaction of restoring an historic home or building to its original material and features. Secondly, the property values increase in recently renovated areas.

Records at the Monroe County Tax Appraiser's office reflect the increase in values of historic buildings in the Old Town area. The Gideon Lowe House at 409 William Street was a recipient of a Restoration Award in 1982; the purchase price for the building over a decade increased from \$40,000 in 1978 to \$385,000 in 1988. The taxable value of the residential building at 920 Fleming Street went from \$49,051 in 1982 to \$156,415 in 1988, with the sale price spiraling from

\$10,000 in 1970 to \$380,000 in 1989.

For the local community and its government, benefits may include: 1) an enhanced community image and increased tourist activity; 2) increased property tax revenues; 3) additional revenues from sales and income; 4) revitalization of downtown areas; and 5) increased revenues for the city from building permit fees. In Key West, the building permit fee is \$24 per \$1,000 valuation for rehabilitation work and \$18 per \$1,000 valuation for new construction.

The link between historic preservation and tourism on the aggregate appears strong, but the financial impact of historic preservation on tourism is elusive. Tourism is the largest industry in Key West. Visiting historic sites is one of the principal activities of visitors to Key West.

Rehabilitation of historic buildings creates an atmosphere conducive to attracting visitors. It also establishes a sense of place, historical setting and community identity. The retention of buildings from previous eras helps to distinguish Key West from other cities which offer glass-and-concrete towers and suburban malls.



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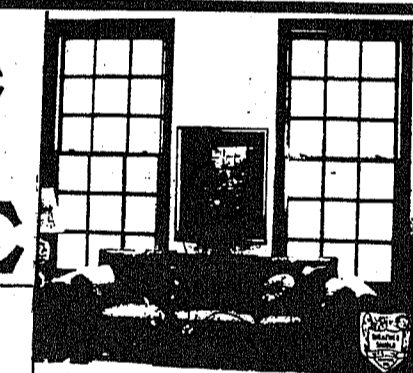
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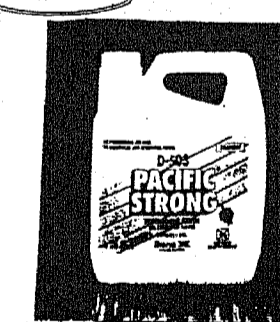
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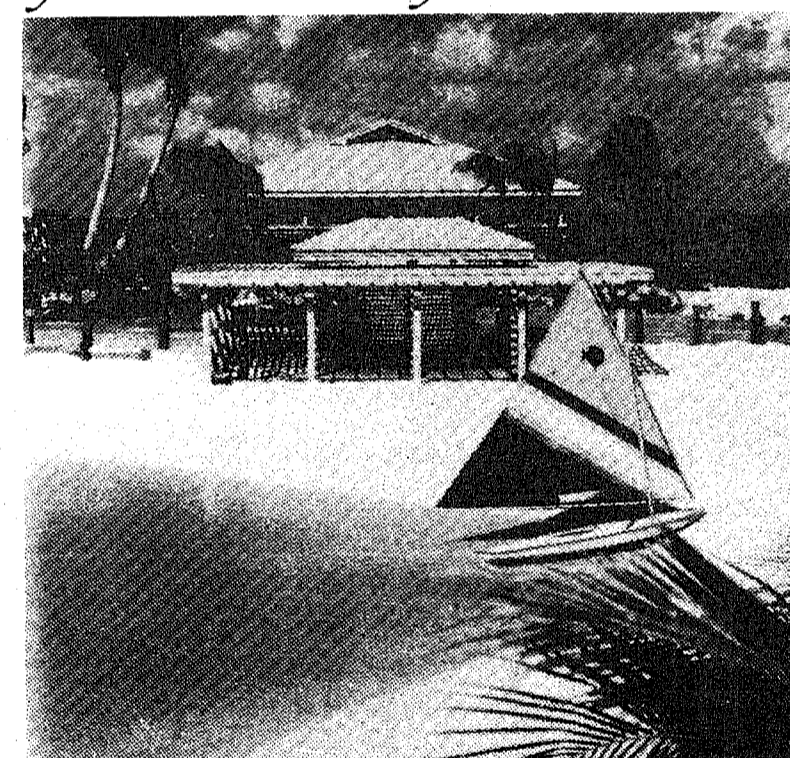
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Business Briefs

Daniel Lee, president and chief executive officer of First State Bank in Key West, has announced three recent appointments at the bank. Dani L. Austin is the new marketing coordinator. She began her employment at First State in 1988 as a teller. Pat Lucas, who has been with the bank for two-and-a-half years, has been promoted to the position of personnel administrator. And Joel D. Beck now holds the position of assistant vice president and manager of training and education.

The board of directors of TIB of the Keys announced a 28-cent-per-share dividend for the first quarter. The dividend was paid in April to shareholders on record as of March 31. The dividend increased by 12 percent following a stock split in January. The locally owned and operated bank has six branches from Key Largo to Key West, with assets in excess of \$150 million.

Quality Discount Bedding & Bath, located in Searstown, is owned and run by Joyce and Alan Toriello and their children, Chris and Nadine. The shop offers everything for the bedroom, bath and kitchen at affordable prices. Special services include delivery and lay away with no interest charges. The shop is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but other hours can be arranged. Call 294-9901.

Key West's newest art gallery is ecologically sensitive. **Gallery Mendoza** owner Gaspar Mendoza uses wood obtained only from tree trimmers, dead trees and driftwood for his sculptures and frames. Showing wood sculptures and paintings by Mendoza and other artists, Gallery Mendoza is located at 218 Whitehead Street, in the New Galleon Square, #3. It is open seven days a week. Call 294-2011.

Two local artisans, Carolee McReynolds and Barbara Plache, have opened a shop at Land's End Village. **The Painted Pelican** features local artwear and the work of Sunset artisans at off-Duval Street price ranges. Craft classes are offered and local artisans are invited to hold classes. The

shop is open Monday through Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. Call 294-7300.

The **Marine Bank** became the Citizens and Southern Bank of Monroe County on May 1. C&S regular savings accounts currently pay five-percent interest. Several other savings options are also available. For information call your local branch office.

If Key West's rocky shoreline has been keeping you from getting your feet wet, visit **Ocean Footwear & Accessories**, at 515 Fleming Street. Owners Jack Dinetz and Kenneth Weschler have stocked a large selection of ocean-loving footwear for both men and women. Not just for the beach, these slip-ons are perfect for boating, working out, bicycling and street wear. Call 296-8700.

Southernmost Credit Consultants, Inc., at 501 Whitehead Street, has been offering financial services since 1987. Owner Jonatan Zahav has been a licensed mortgage broker since 1988. The company purchases mortgages owned by individuals, and offers real estate financing, first and second mortgages, and special programs that offer lower rates than those normally available. Call 292-0064.

Pedal Pushers Bike Rental has moved from Greene Street to Land's End Village, home of Turtle Kraals and Half Shell Raw Bar. They are running a two-for-one special this month.

Dana L. Severns and Rick Van Hout are pleased to announce their purchase of 619 Eaton Street, soon to be the new home of **Key West Realty, Inc.** This real estate agency specializes in property management and sales. Their phone number is 294-3064.

The **Market** at Blue Heaven recently held its grand opening. Located at 729 Thomas Street at the corner of Petronia, the Market offers fresh produce daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The ice cream parlor next door specializes in frozen yogurt with fresh fruit toppings.

Paulette Rossi isn't afraid of Friday the 13th. That's the day in April she opened

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Oasis Travel: Paulette Rossi, Ben Dixon and Gina Soos.

Oasis Travel Agency at 3152 Northside Drive, behind Searstown. Oasis is a full-service agency utilizing the most advanced reservation system in the industry -- Sabre. Rossi, Ben Dixon and Gina Soos can be reached at 296-4305 or 1-800-872-8208.

Ron Chespak at **The Advertising Agency** has moved his company to a new location, 724 Simonton Street. The Advertising Agency, formerly Bechtold & Chespak, was established in Key West in 1987. Since that time, the Casa Marina, Holiday Inn, Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center and La Te Da have been counted among its customers. The agency offers a full range of print and broadcast media advertising services. Chespak can be reached at 296-1843.

PL's Secretarial & Bookkeeping has been in operation for over five years. The company, owned by Patti Anthony, offers such services as bill-paying, bank statement reconciliation, payroll, correspondence, and maintenance of books to small businesses and individuals. It also offers "In Home Service" for senior citizens or disabled folks. Notary services are available; special rates are offered senior citizens. Call 296-7410.

Walk one block from City Electric, to 916 James Street, and enter the **Jungles of Key West**. This new plant nursery specializes in orchids and other tropical and subtropical plants. Their potting soil is a rich blend of Everglades "muck" (black dirt), freshwater sand, stable sweepings and wood shavings. Allen Robinson is residing plant expert. The company is open every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 292-9272.

One World Fabrics has gathered a collection of batiks, tie-dyed and one-of-a-kind, handcrafted fabrics from around the world. Owner Gail Keeler says Key West, with its international flavor, is the natural setting for her mail-order business. She imports fabrics from Africa, India, Guatemala and Indonesia. A current swatch catalog can be obtained by sending \$4 to One World Fabrics, P.O. Box 4755, Dept. PR, Key West, FL 33041, or call 296-1203.

Nature Notebook

The Spectacular Pineland Wildflowers

by Carl Weekley, Jr.

Stand in the Keys pinelands and look skyward to view the burry crowns of pine trees and a vast expanse of blue. Look toward the ground to find a bewildering tangle of pint-sized palms, ferns, scrubby shrubs, grassy scrub. Catch, from among the ground cover, glimpses of red, blue, yellow and white: these colorful flecks are the pineland wildflowers, dozens of which are native to the open-canopied pinelands.

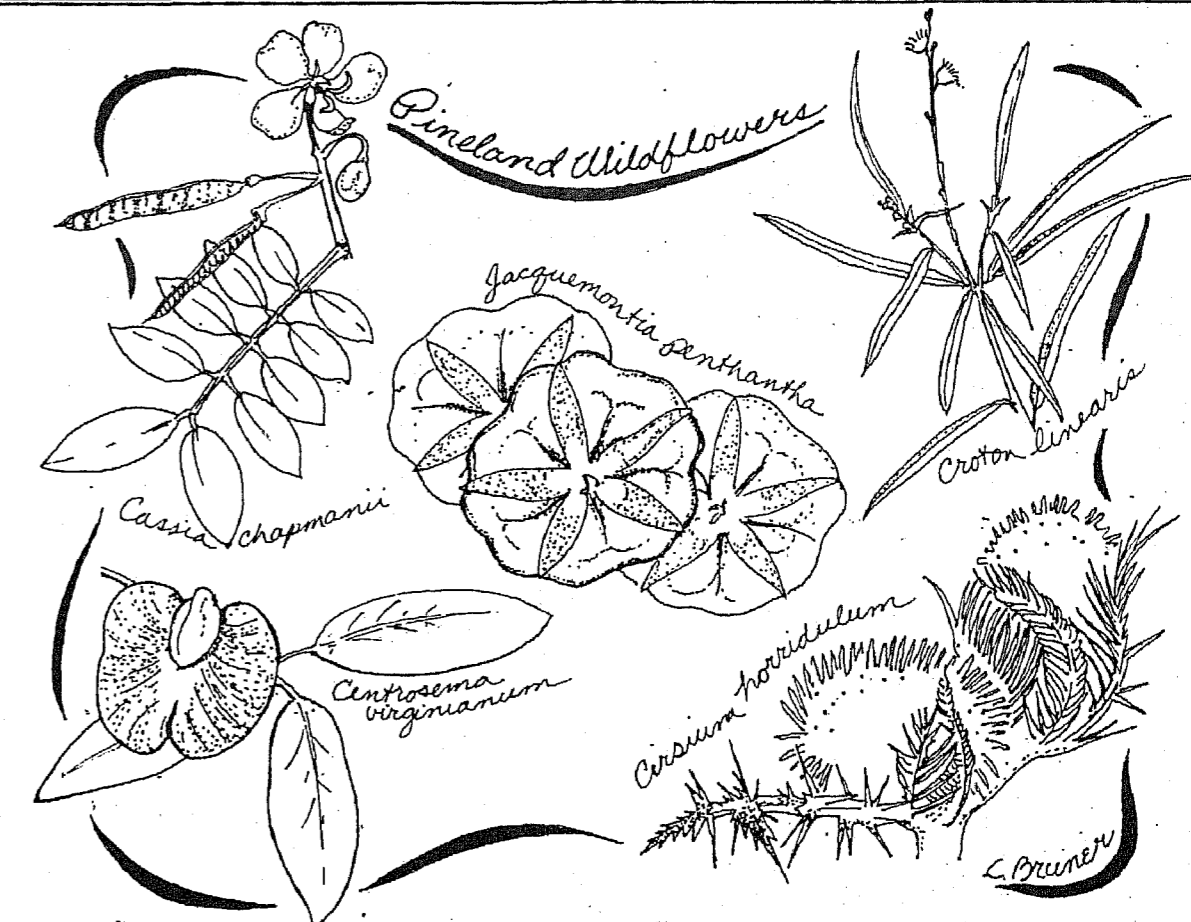
In a sparse and spartan habitat, wildflowers add spectacle and splendor. Some -- a terrestrial orchid and a carnivorous plant, for example -- are rare. But those described here are common and conspicuous. They can be admired around the Blue Hole or along the Jack Watson Nature Trail -- both on Big Pine Key.

Bahama senna (*Cassia chapmanii*) is a shrub that can grow erect or in a sprawling pattern. It has pinnately compound leaves and clusters of five-petaled, golden-yellow flowers measuring about an inch across. The similar Big Pine partridge pea (*C. keyensis*), which is endemic to the Keys pinelands, is much rarer. It grows flat to the ground, has smaller leaves and leaflets, and its flowers are red at the base of the petals.

Both *Cassias* are pollinated by bees or butterflies. They host the larval stage of the cloudless sulfur butterfly, a Key-lime-yellow insect common to the pinelands.

Butterfly pea (*Centrosema virginianum*) is a ground-hugging vine with purplish-blue pea-like flowers. Peas are a subfamily within the family Leguminosae, distinguished by their arrangement of petals, which resembles the wings of butterflies. The botanical name for the subfamily is Papilionoidae from the Latin term for butterfly.

Pineland croton (*Croton linearis*) may be a disappointment to anyone familiar with the common hedgeplant -- splendidous in its 300 varieties -- which Conchs call *croton*.



The pineland type is so unprepossessing, it is often mistaken for a fern. The leaves of this small shrub are narrow and linear, one to three inches long and scaly-looking on the underside. Small and pale but fragrant and attractive to numerous insects, both male and female flowers occur on the same plant. Pineland croton is the host plant for the Florida leafwing butterfly -- a brilliant, orange tatter when in motion, which looks, while at rest, like a dead leaf.

Of the two-dozen species of morning glory native to the Keys, most familiar is the large blue, purple or white roadside vine. The similar railroad vine, with pinkish-purple flowers, is a sandbinder in the coastal ecosystem. Smaller and rarer species of morning glory are found in other habitats.

Bahama morning glory (*Jacquemontia pentantha*), for example, is a scrambling vine with deep blue flowers the size of a nickel.

Asters, daisies and chrysanthemums are members of the family Compositae; so are thistles. They are called composites because their "flowers" are actually *inflorescences* -- clusters of tiny flowers. Thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*), is an erect shrub about a foot high. Lobed, prickly leaves, irritating to human touch, grow at the base of its flower stalk. Its inflorescence, which is about three inches across, varies from purple to pink and is popular with butterflies.

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Key West Days & Nights

by Bill Manville

Champion Jack Dance snaked through town last week and gave me a call. I know Champion Jack is not a favorite with many who remember him from his days at Sharky's -- now Jimmy Buffett's Famous People Drinkatorium. But one Christmas, when I was at low ebb and Jack was broke, he invited me to his First Annual Tropical White Christmas Dinner.

We went to the Sunbeam Less-Work-for-Mother 24-Hour Market, and the Champion bought us both a slice of white turkey breast on a white paper plate. It was garnished with grits and mashed white potatoes and milk gravy. A slice of white Tip Top Bread went with everything. White Christmas Dinner, indeed. Later, some people off a boat came in, and we danced. But that, discretion tells me, is another story.

The reason Champion Jack was broke that year was that he had just been through a tough divorce and, in fact, he had to flee town two weeks later, leaving a trail of bad checks behind him. A phone call from a Duval Street merchant to the highway cops and, since US-1 is the only road out of the

Keys, an APB caught Jack before he'd made it across the Seven-Mile Bridge.

"Bill, this is the Champ," the phone call went. "I have a favor to ask. I just got a call from my ex-wife. Thanks to her, I haven't seen my son for six years. In 11 minutes, he's flying into Key West, PBA Flight 1089. They flunked him out of the Marine Corps, and he wants his father's advice on what to do with the rest of his life."

"You want me to drive you to the airport?" I asked.

"No," Jack said. "I'm in jail. I want you to bring him here."

And that's what I did, spotting the kid getting off the plane with the shortest haircut. "Is Dad waiting for me at home?" the boy asked.

I started the car. "Let me tell you a little about the unusual father you've got," I said, as we turned onto Roosevelt Boulevard. Last I saw, the two of them were meeting through the heavy armored glass window of the door in the Monroe County jail.

"But all that's changed," Champion Jack said to me last week. "I've made a whole new life for myself in the Upper Keys. I bought a little gardening/landscaping business in Tavernier. My son's my partner. We have a house. You know, Bill, people up there are different. You go to a restaurant -- Snapper's in Tavernier, The Fish House in Key Largo -- right away you know you're not in Key West. They got this funny little race of short, muscularly non-coordinated people up there, for instance. They don't speak English very well. They're called children, kids -- people up there. They have something, they're called *babies*. No gays up there, either; very few Cubans."

"There's a roadside dancehall called Woody's in Islamorada, right across the street from the Cheeca, where George Bush stays. In their radio advertising they call the music Big Richard and the Band. You go there on a Friday night, everybody's drunk and it's Big Dick and the Extenders."

"Some woman I know put her Plantation Key house up for sale. A guy came along the next day, met her full asking price and \$50,000 cash down to seal the bargain. He told her he'd see her at the closing. He never showed up, leaving her \$50,000 richer. But he had three months' doping use of a waterfront house on a lonely piece of coastline."

"Wait a minute, wait a minute," I began to interrupt. "Last time I saw you, you were dead broke, the cops after you, no credit. Where'd you get the money to begin this new Upper Keys life?"

"Remember why I crashed and financially burned to begin with?" Champion Jack asked.

"Your divorce," I said.

"Right," Jack said. "My wife caught me wrongfooted because she lived in one state, filed in another where the laws were more on her side. But I discovered she'd paid no income tax in that state, even though she declared herself a resident for divorce purposes."

"You turned her in for the tax reward money and started your new business that way?" I asked.

"They audited her cute new husband, too. He thought up the idea for her. In the end," Jack said, a hint of smile in his voice, "people try to dance with me, they learn just what I'm champ of." ☐



I make a visit to an aunt-in-law who, in the '60s, married a Barbados man 40 years her senior. Auntie's little house is placed on a lane where roosters still crow Key West mornings. It's the sort of little house that looks like there's someone in there spending the mornings putting up peaches and cucumber relish.

Auntie holds her broom as she admits me. She is sweeping. She always is sidling about, sweeping, anytime anyone comes. She has a long, wistful face, a tiny woman with narrow bones -- you might say slatted. She's of such puny physical stature that she hardly seems to displace the ozone.

Auntie turns to introduce me to Thelma, who seems to be her pride and joy, or one of her prides and joys. Thelma is a male, wheat-colored cat with a long, yellow tail. He has a most intelligent glint in his eyes. When he was a kitten he had cataracts and Auntie had him fitted with tin eyeglasses. Now and then, he reaches up a paw and resets his glasses on his nose like a human.

"He's so smart," says Auntie, "that you have to spell things in front of him, things you don't want him to hear."

She says, "I am having t-i-l-e f-i-s-h for supper. Caught them from the Jolly Roger yesterday somewhere toward the buoy light off Sand Key. Took 600 feet of line. I f-i-s-h once a week." Thelma is straining his ears when he hears her spelling out. Thelma, I decide, is a considerable personality in this house.

Auntie opens another door, flips on a light and indicates her Pride and Joy Number Two. The Barbados husband lies supine on a sofa, groaning elaborately, now and then feebly kicking a pillow.

Auntie comments in tones of a sight-seeing bus announcer. "He always turns out the light to see how dark it is. Drunk from the top of his head to his toenails. Like the pig that died in clover. I found him down in a corner of Bayview Park digging a hole with his hands. Wearing a backpack he must have bought from a hitchhiker coming in on US-1. Thinking he's in the Foreign Legion and his battalion has run out of water and is surrounded by Arab devils."

"I don't see how you handle him," I say. Instead of counting him a failure among her triumphs, Auntie puts on a small, faintly proud smile.

She says, "He threw a plate of beans at me on Mother's Day. I caught them and threw them all back at him, handful by handful. If you don't know him you don't know how to tackle him. You see, the heart has reasons that reason doesn't know. The heart won't explain, but the heart knows. I believe it's deeply immoral to be unhappy. He always has taken the long road. First time I saw him, in from Barbados, he stood atop La Concha Hotel throwing off \$100 bills that his father left him. Child, stop and think. The Corporal and I have each other to cling to, nights, like two hot water bottles."

Thelma is slinking about sniffing for a m-o-u-s-e. Auntie says to him, "Keep that up and I'll fill your bowl with black medicine." Thelma knows he walks the thin edge of the wedge. He flounces off, holding his body with cat understanding, shifting his tin eyeglasses up on his nose, yellow tail slapping.

An artist neighbor of Auntie's enters, carrying some paintings of hers. She has so many lottery tickets about her person there aren't enough pockets for them, so she has sewed two to her skirt. Auntie introduces her as Ms. D. "Ms. Diphtheria," whispers Auntie.

I inspect the pictures. Her art -- grey, fading cats, pelicans sinking over the horizon -- is so dim that you wonder if she paints wearing mittens. I ponder the act of creating. I know that a writer puts down not exactly what she sees but what she thinks about what she sees.

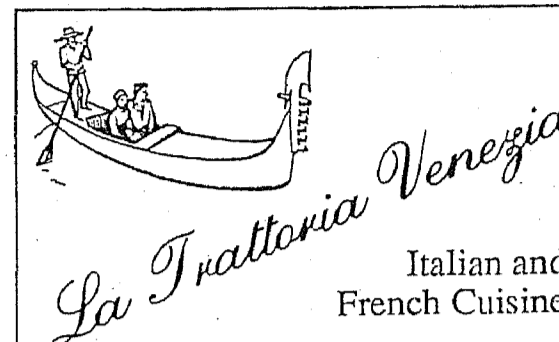
Ms. D. drops onto the divan as though clubbed down. I smell burning hair. Auntie cries, "Get up! Don't make a mess! Be careful! Look out!" Ms. D. is extricated and shaken out and sat up, hiccupping. Auntie dives after one-third of a lighted cigarette of hers which is burning merrily away on her horse-hair divan.

I am leaving now that all has calmed down with Auntie, Ms. Diphtheria, Thelma peering out through her tin eyeglasses and

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the Corporal moaning, "Hark! They're bringing in the small guns first."

We are out front on the lane. A small cloud, the shape of a uterus, plummets down out of a leaden sky and gives us a light, wet kiss.

There stands Auntie with broom as I drive away. Auntie is very certain about her own way of life. ☐



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Blueprints for Life

by Ann Boese



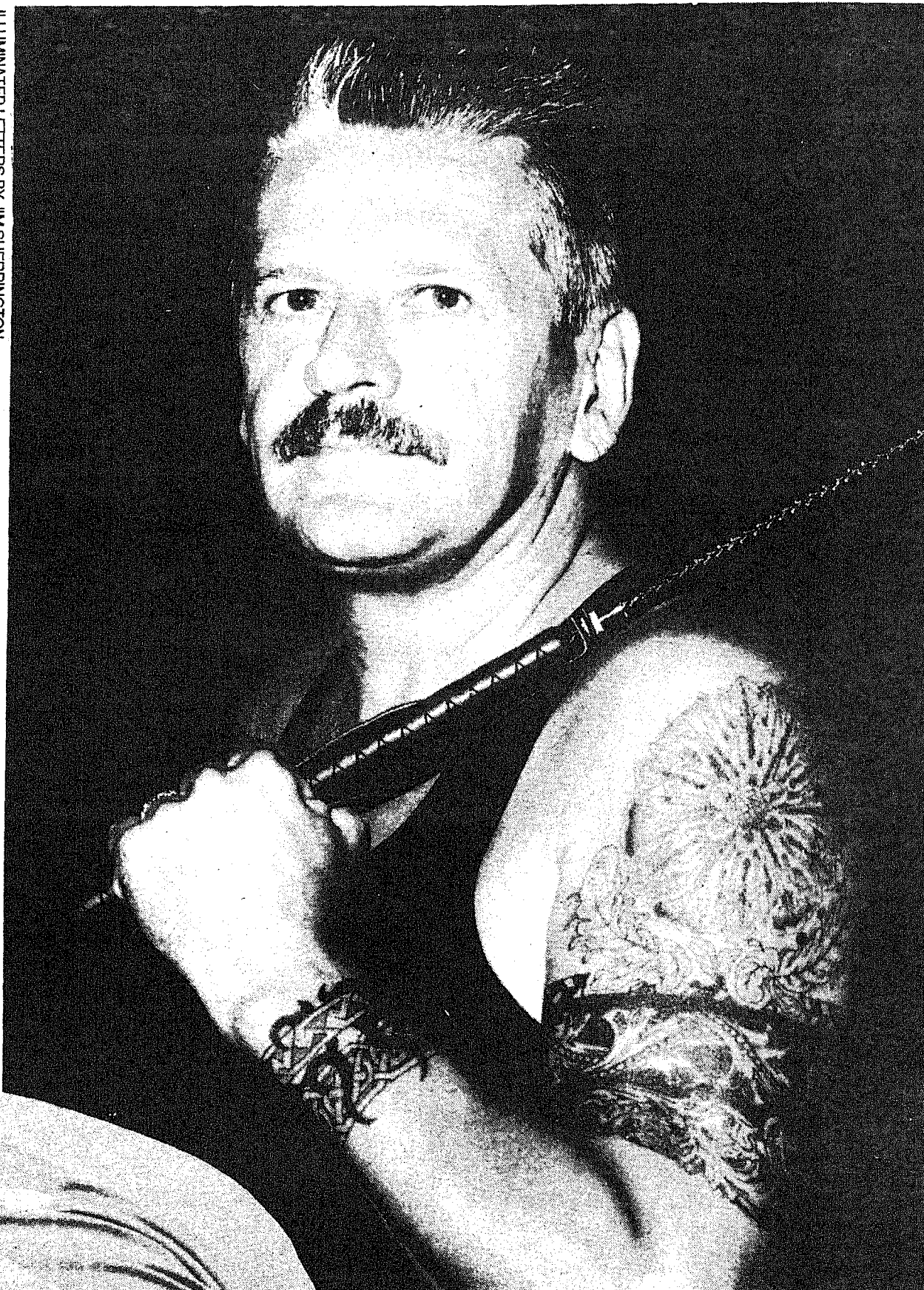
had lived in the Victorian house on Simonton Street about a month when I first heard it. A hissing, a buzzing spray sound emanated from the apartment above mine at odd hours: midnight, 3 a.m., dawn. For weeks, I tried to place it, to match it with an object. Finally, I concluded that Butch, the upstairs tenant, went through a lot of bathroom aerosol. A 250-pound, leather-clad biker pressing the top of a 12-ounce can of summer gardenia: preposterous. I didn't give it another thought; that is, until I noticed the traffic.

Men, women and the occasional indistinguishable tramped up the oaken staircase past my apartment. Through the peephole in my door, I caught only glimpses of the activity: a rolled Zap comic stuffed in a Levi's back pocket; a Raisin Bran box, Ray Charles Raisin's smile flashing, tucked beneath an arm; a Grateful Dead album cover, swinging from a leather-gloved hand. Then, ten minutes later: psssst -- the spray.

What was going on? Eventually, the white bandages all visitors wore on the way out clued me in: the spraying was the sound of a tattoo gun. Butch was a tattooist; and my house was an illegal tattoo parlor.

The night I figured things out, my dreams were surreal, exotic. It was me and Butch. I was lying on my stomach and he was tattooing a blue butterfly on my shoulder. It was exquisite, ornate -- a filigreed wideness of powdery wings. The next morning my shoulder ached; and as I hazily contemplated the pain, it organized into a shape. A butterfly? My eyes sprung open. I craned my neck

ILLUMINATED LETTERS BY JIM SHERINGTON



Flex: John Wilber bares an armband.

to look. But the sensation was positioned where I could not see it. I catapulted from bed, flew to the mirror and looked. The moment was excruciating: a roller coaster ride of fear and anticipation.

Tattooing is old. It dates back over 4000 years, originating in the Orient -- primarily Japan, where even today the best tattooists ink fantasies onto skin. Other early cultures were into tattoos as well. Egyptian mummies dating back to 2000 B.C. were unwrapped to reveal permanent marks; and people in the Arctic were discovered to have needed their flesh with soot-covered thread. *National Geographic Magazine* divulged the

Anonymous:
A Key West derriere.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN CREAN



Both sides: Chris Skoglund's elaborate tattoo scenes, done in Chicago, are examples of Japanese technique.

little-known scarifying rituals of the aborigines and Maori warriors. In fact it was the European explorers, returning from such far-away places as New Guinea and the South Pacific, bare-breasted women in hula skirts inked on their biceps, who started the Western tradition of sailors and tattoos.

Anthropologists say our predecessors tattooed themselves to entice good fortune or repel evil and sickness, to prove and display rank or status, and to decorate oneself in an act of vanity or out of self love. But eventually, the favorable reputation of tattoos darkened. In Japan, they came to represent crime when the *yakuza*, or professional gamblers, chose to identify themselves by covering their entire bodies with tattoos. And in the United States the tattoo's association with lawlessness or barroom mentality stems back to its debut as a carnival attraction in the 1800s. Yet anyone in Key West with keen eyes and an open mind can see that local tattooed culture encompasses all kinds.



Mark Ethridge, 22, got his crucifix tattoo when he was 16. "There were a couple of us, and we decided to make a tattoo gun," he says. Using the motor from an Erector set, Ethridge rigged up a contraption that consisted of a spoon, a mechanical pencil minus the lead and a guitar

string. The motor, which was designed to operate a crane, became the pump that injected India ink into teenaged flesh.

"I wasn't drunk," Ethridge says. "I didn't like beer then." Still the college student, who is finishing up this summer at Florida Keys Community College and hosts the campus' program "Friday A.M." on TCI, says he can't give a good explanation as to why he



Claws: Dave Schroer's tigered thigh.

gave himself a tattoo. "I guess I just wanted to fit in with the crowd."

One afternoon Ethridge and four other boys poked designs into their bodies -- permanently. "Almost everybody else regrets it now," Ethridge laments. "Some people were doing things like pentagrams and chains holding a skull -- sacrilegious. None of the guys turned out to be devil worshippers. They wanted people to think they were tough. But they were all wimps in the end."

Ethridge points out inconsistency in the pigment in his tattoo -- an amateur's crossing of two lines. Under professional circumstances a tattooist would have used a sterile needle -- often secured in a "gun" -- to push pigment about a millimeter beneath the skin's surface. Ethridge says the quality of his tattoo deteriorated when the huge red scab that crusted over the cross peeled off. "Some of the ink came with it," he says.

Ethridge didn't hide his tattoo from his mother. "But then again I didn't go out of my way to show it to her either. When she finally saw it she preached about 'having this for the rest of your life.' But I knew this already. She finally freaked a year later."

Tooling around the Bicycle Center on Truman Avenue, Dave Schroer looks like a farm boy. He's got a clear complexion and crystal-blue eyes. A charming smile crosses his face so frequently, one wonders what he's up to. The dark blue eagle that hovers on his

Indian-smooth chest gives a clue.

Schroer, a 16-year resident of Key West, has managed the Bicycle Center for two-and-a-half years. He came to the island when he was in the service. "Somehow I made it through the Navy without getting any tattoos," he says.

Schroer says it's a good thing he waited, because the quality of tattoos has improved much since then. He's referring to the pin-and-ink hack jobs seen on high-school kids and the cheap stenciled variety often etched on war veterans -- especially those who fought prior to Vietnam. These blobs of blue can look more like bruises than tattoos, as is evident on the



Shoulder statement.

right forearm of photographer Don Pinder. A ghost of its former image, the Key-lime-sized indigo stain there, takes the photographer back to the 1930s when a carnival came to the island. "The guy said, 'Tattoos for a quarter,' so I reached into my pocket," Pinder says.

Youth is one excuse. But many adults dive into the tattoo commitment without fully comprehending their behavior. It's the old drunken sailor syndrome. Dave Schroer says that the tack tattoo artists took in Hong Kong, where he stopped over while in the Navy, was "to fill you full of beer and then stick you with the tattoo needle. I just drank the beers," he says. His buddies woke up to a big surprise.

Years later, Schroer began collecting his

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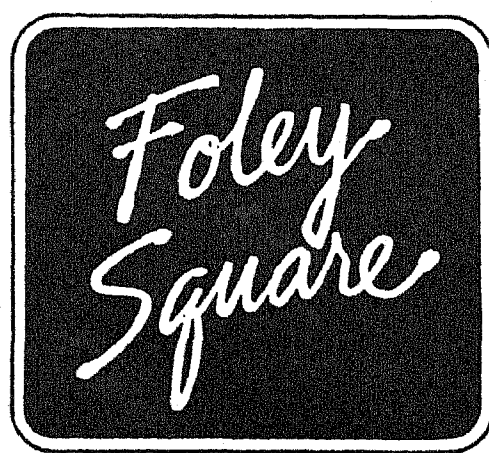
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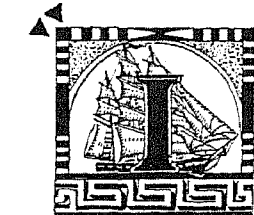
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own tattoos. He says he thinks before he inks. The tiger climbing down his thigh is based on an Oriental poster which hangs in his home. The tattoo was done in Homestead and took about five hours to complete. Since then, the closest he's come to a spur-of-the-moment decision was the Harley-Davidson motorcycle tattoo he acquired at a campground in Daytona. It was a deal: \$75 for the bike, one color. If a doctor had been on the premises, which would have made the procedure legal, it would have cost five times that amount.



think people with tattoos are animals," declares Mike Horne who owns the lemon-yellow Harley-Davidson shop over on Truman near White. Horne says about 20 in 100 bikers who saunter into his shop are tattooed. "You know, a guy has a Pisces symbol -- that's one thing. But a skull-and-crossbones statement? I don't need a tattoo to make a statement -- I am a statement."

In 40 years of biking Horne says he has never considered getting a tattoo. "I don't think it makes me a better person 'cause I don't have one. I just dislike [tattoos]. That's my personal opinion."

It's also Horne's opinion there is no link between motorcycles and tattoos. "I don't know what you're talking about," he responds to the suggestion that there is. But Harley-Davidson's Spring/Summer 1990 Motor Clothes and Collectibles catalog advertises: "Removeable Tattoos -- Select either our traditional package of 8 logos or a set of 5 fashionable women's tattoos." Horne repeats: "I don't see a connection. That's my personal opinion."

Business partners Chris Skoglund and John Wilber stand behind a glass case displaying their wares: magazines, whips, latex clothing, bondage wraps. In the business of bodies, they own and manage the Pleasure Chest, the sexual accoutrement store which moved last year from Duval to Southard Street. Both men wear black, bits of leather, studs. But, despite the hard-lined, rough-and-tough sex-slave getups, these guys seem like pussycats. Talking with them about tattoos is like gossiping with a neighbor in the produce aisle.

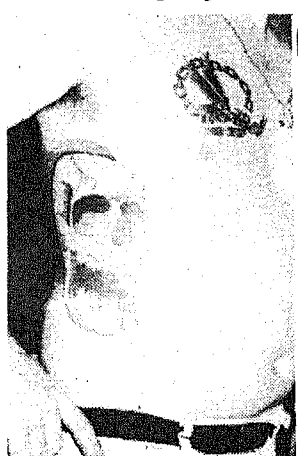
An intricate armband in blackwork -- tattoo lingo for all black ink -- circles Wilber's well-muscled bicep. Armband tattoos, he explains, stem from Polynesian cultures. His

incorporates traditional rosettes with symbols from the Hopi Indians. The plan is to tattoo both arms -- shoulder to wrist. Then his skin will complement leather vests and blue jean jackets cut off at the sleeve. He says tattoos are becoming popular with gays. "Another fad," he suggests.

"I wanted [a tattoo] for 25 years," says Wilber, a big blonde with a flat-top. "It was a notion in the back of my head." Back then Wilber wore Brooks Brothers suits and drank three-martini lunches; he worked in advertising. Around his 50th birthday he decided he'd better take the tattoo plunge: "Before I'm an old prune."

Klaus Raeth has never heard of Ray Bradbury's *Illustrated Man*, the sci-fi story of a carni whose tattoos come to life and foretell his future. Like the story's main character, Raeth is almost entirely tattooed; his torso and arms -- total ink. From neck to wrist to upper thigh, the German retiree, who once worked as an insurance claims officer, is covered with tigers, birds, chrysanthemums, sea creatures, Greek symbols and dragons. In 25 years he estimates an investment of over \$20,000.

Raeth is sitting in the hot sun in the backyard of his summer home on Frances Street. His ornate body plays tricks on the mind. A turquoise whale swirls around Raeth's navel, a cherry-and-gold chrysanthemum quivers into bloom, the emerald serpent slithers ever-so-slightly. It's a flesh jungle.



Schroer's skull.

"I have chosen my tattoos mostly by myself," says Raeth, in thick German accent. "I have an idea before I approach the artist. To me the images expand the dimension of the individual." Most of his tattoos are images from nature engaged in natural activities. For Raeth, whose head is clean shaven, tattoos are social as well as artistic. He says they make his life happier and freer. "I meet people who are interesting. They are astonished. They see I am open-minded and they want to talk with me." Raeth says women, more than men, will approach him in the grocery store and ask, "May I ..." or "Did it ..." or "Are you ..."

His most elaborate tattoo is a big back-

piece. "It is Shiva Notaradja -- the dancing shiva -- partly encircled by a horseshoe of flames," he says. "Shiva symbolizes the god of creation, fertility, wealth. The little female figure in one of his hands is the goddess Ganga. With one foot, Shiva steps down on a dwarf -- the symbol of ignorance."

While Mark Ethridge says that the tattoo needle didn't hurt -- his, remember, was homemade -- most people, including Raeth, agree that it does -- a lot. The three, two-and-a-half-hour sittings he endured while a dragon was tattooed on his buttock were, according to Raeth, about all he could take.

Raeth has been tattooed by Alf Diamond in Frankfurt, Danni Hansen in Copenhagen, and Mr. Sebastian and Dennis Cockell in London. In the States, Cliff Raven in Los Angeles realized some of the tattooed man's smaller, finer images. These names mean nothing to the lay admirer, but a flip through several coffee-table books on the subject indicates that these artists are among the best.

Tattoo books share the fascinating lore and artistic genius that epitomizes tattoo culture. *The Japanese Tattoo*, by Sandi Fellman, reveals the hypnotic works of Horikin -- Japan's premier tattooist. Elegant design, perfect balance, exacting technique combine to form scaled carp, dragons and Kabuki dancers -- all undeniably exquisite. Traditionally, these tattoos inhabit an entire body. To bury them beneath shirt and pants, it seems, is to smother an art form, to suffocate a system of living ink.

"Tattooing proliferated far from the developed world of science, progress and reason," reads G. Rondinella's *The Sign Upon Cain*. This book is largely about tattooing in the States. One photo shows a three-dimensional vault tattooed on a punk rocker's cue-balled head. The vault is open, with nasty bolts of electricity jutting in, or out: a point, well made.



at a friend's house on Simon-ton Street, Jaime Bernstein and Dave Blanchette are packing it up, leaving Key West for the season. Tomorrow they'll drive to Cape May where they plan to tie

the knot. Before she'd agree to marry Blanchette, Bernstein insisted he get a professional tattoo to cover the bird-flipping devil with pitchfork he paid a few pesetas for in Spain when he was teenager. "I said, 'I'm not looking at that shit for 30 years,' and then I took him to the guy in New Jersey who did most of mine," says the 31-year-old artist whose work hangs in Gloria's Garden where she also waits on tables. The guy in New Jersey is a cop.

Blanchette, who cooks at The Reach, proudly rolls up a sleeve to expose a green-and-red parrot, perched on a heart and surrounded by bouquets of flowers. Hearts: besides her blood pumper, Bernstein's got

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four -- two tattooed on her toes, one on her ear, another on her pinkie. These tattoos are illegal: tattooists aren't supposed to ink the hands, the feet or above the neck. People regret having them there the most.

"I hate to admit this but I was drunk, in New Orleans, and I was 18," she says about the first time. "It's no big deal. Some people have scars, some people have moles -- a lot of people have things they'll have for the rest of their lives."

Bernstein's first design was a thorn-pricked rose stem that wound up her finger. "It was done by a friend of Spyder's," she says, looking at her hand and wagging her fingers as if they glistened with diamonds. She's referring to the revered Spyder Webb, whose tattooing style of solid patterns is unmistakably his.

"People always come up, look at my tattoos and say 'Oh my God, is that real?' And I say, 'No -- I got a fake tattoo.'" Bernstein says she loves her tattoos; she considers them part of her body, her art.

Still, she's not getting any more. "I made a promise to my mom. She's worried because I cannot be buried in the family plot." Bernstein says the Jewish religion refuses to bury the bodies of people with tattoos. "It's against the religion because Jewish people were tattooed during World War II in the concentration camps."

But a Key West rabbi says Bernstein's mother can relax. Hers is a common, but false, belief that refers to a Jewish regulation dating back 3500 years to pagan rituals. It no longer applies, he says.

Arms stacked with boxes, Blanchette glances at his new tattoo and then turns toward the table. "You might want to try one," he says, smiling, snaggle-toothed, straight at me, and walks on.

There's a story in town about a woman journalist who years ago researched a story about tattoos in Key West. They say she got so involved in the myth and the culture that at the end of the project she got tattooed -- both arms, top to bottom. It sounds like a fairy tale. But she wouldn't return my calls.

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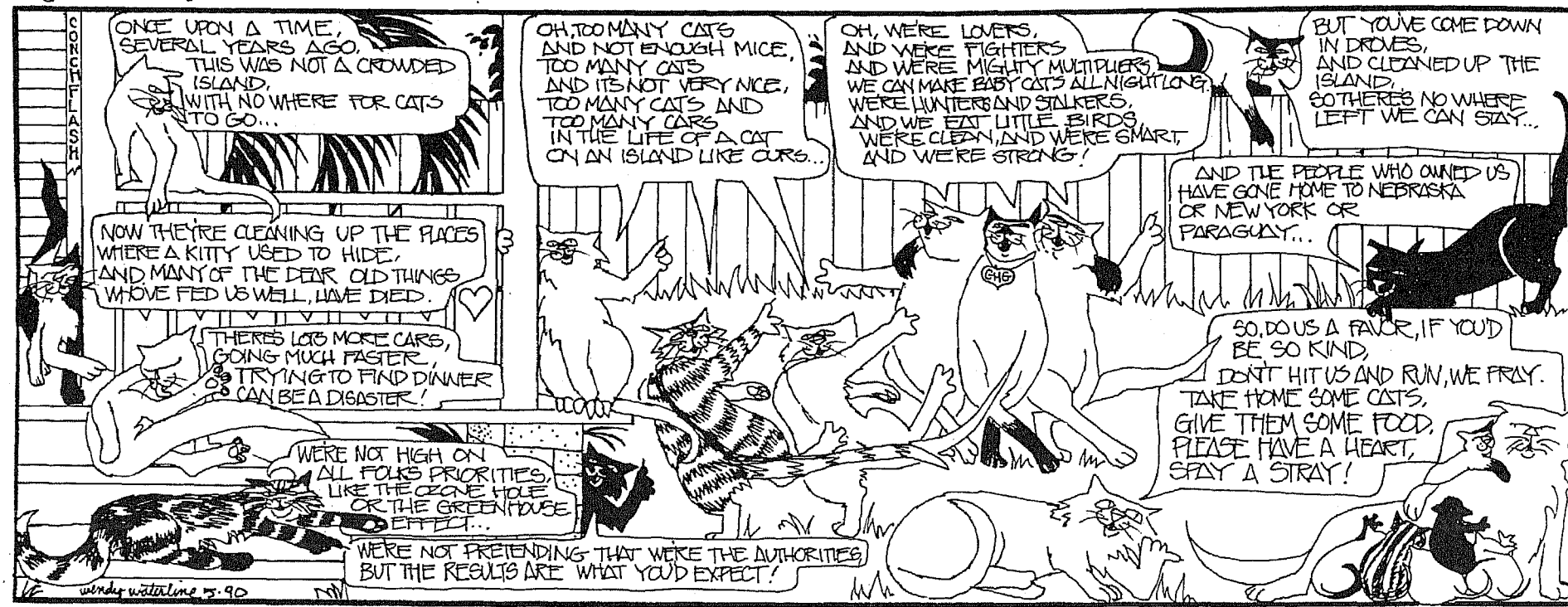


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Readers Write

Dog Eat Dog

Dear Editor:

The author of the advertisement on greyhounds which appeared in the April issue of your newspaper was uninformed and such statements deserve a retraction.

The National Greyhound Association, the official registry of all racing greyhounds in North America, registered only 37,874 racing greyhounds in 1988 and 38,443 in 1989 to race at the nation's 53 greyhound tracks. Thus, the author's assumption that 800 greyhounds are put down each day is absurd, false and libelous.

The sport of greyhound racing has made great strides in the area of retired greyhounds. Many greyhounds which no longer race are retired to the farm for breeding purposes. Still others are given good homes as pets through Greyhound Pets of America. Presently the American Greyhound Council is planning a retirement program for greyhounds when no homes are available.

Occasionally, as with horse racing or other professional sports involving animals, it becomes necessary to put a greyhound to

sleep. It should be noted however, that this is done in the same humane fashion as prescribed by humane societies. That is, no differently than in the manner in which they put to sleep 15 or 20 million cats and dogs each year in this country.

Gary Guccione
Secretary-Treasurer
National Greyhound Association
Abilene, Kansas

A Tourist Speaks

Dear Editor:

I have never written a letter to a newspaper, but Roberta B. Marks' "I Am a Local," in your March 1990 issue hurt my heart. You see, my "sun-crazed" son and I have just returned from a marvelous, wonderful, fantastic, three-day stay in Marks' beloved Key West. After reading her letter I feel that we were not wanted.

I am 62, a widow and recently retired after working 30 years. My son, 26, is physically handicapped. I am beginning to realize quickly that a retiree's pension does not cover all monthly expenses and that I must

learn to budget with the hope that we can save and take at least one little trip a year.

The trip to the Keys was our first and nothing I had read prepared us for all the fabulous sights. No old, two-lane wooden bridge over miles and miles of water like I had imagined! We rode the "screeching" Conch train and learned more local history from Elliott, our knowledgeable, entertaining, delightful guide/driver, in two hours than we could have learned from a textbook.

Benji would have loved to see Mel Fisher's treasures and the aquarium, and I'd have loved to see the inside of Hemingway's home. But with lack of money being a prime consideration and our very nice room being \$129 per night, we couldn't afford it. However, we did taste Conch fritters for the first time -- delicious! And we had a lovely dinner at the Pier House, which cost us an arm and a leg, but for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, it was worth it.

We saw the sun set behind a cloud at Mallory Square in a crowd of "wandering" but quiet, appreciative "tourists." I bought a lovely purple island-looking dress at a lovely shop and used its sash to wrap around a straw hat! I also found some huge,

paper earrings to match and, yes, Benji bought a T-shirt and a cap, both of which advertise Key West!

I learned that Conch is pronounced "konk" and that Key lime pie is yellow, not green. We had such a fun time -- looking, learning, exploring, appreciating -- not wanting to leave. And we didn't spill any warm, flat beer on the pavement.

I envy Ms. Marks -- she has lived in Key West nine years. We would love to spend just another three days there, but I doubt we'll ever be able to drive that far again. While her remarks were crushing, she can't take away our memories.

Ernestine Harrell
Knightdale, North Carolina

Mallory Square Affair

Dear Editor:

When the fracas involving the Key West Cultural Preservation Society/Mallory pier entertainers vs. City Hall erupted in Feb-

ruary over leases, dockage of ships and the future of the pier, I was compelled to make an unscheduled excursion to my favorite island. I was hoping to be able to banish a gnawing dread that had gripped me the moment I'd heard the news.

A long pedaled tour and many enlightening conversations later, my heart hung even heavier with a new realization: Key West is undergoing a sterile yuppification, complete with overdevelopment, overcommercialization and underappreciation of a rich tradition and culture. While many Conchs assured me that the style and flavor of the island remains intact, I could not help but feel that the "Mallory Square Affair" was yet more evidence of this trend.

The city's unreasonable demand of \$4,000 per month lease for use of the dock was justifiably met with outrage from the artists, musicians and performers who put on the nightly sunset celebration. Key West is already one of the most expensive places in the country for street artists to perform, eclipsing New York, San Francisco and

Solares Hill • May 1990 • Page 31
New Orleans on a cost-per-day basis.

The colorful men and women who provide us with this festive highlight every evening of the year are symbolic of what is truly unique and refreshing about Key West: simplicity. They are the soul of the island and deserve to be nurtured and appreciated as part of the culture. Likewise, their territory must not be invaded by repressive and stultifying influences.

Let us be warned: The Key West Bohemian is an endangered species that, once migrated, might as well be considered extinct. If their natural habitat is replaced with a beige backdrop of banality, an adaptive transformation so total as to render them unrecognizable would be necessary for their survival. By adopting this camouflage of invisibility to the white-washed environment, the vanished eccentrics would unwittingly turn the island over to the hordes of the hum-drum and the homogenization of Key West would be complete.

Eager to usher in this mainstream tide would be the small but powerful minority in

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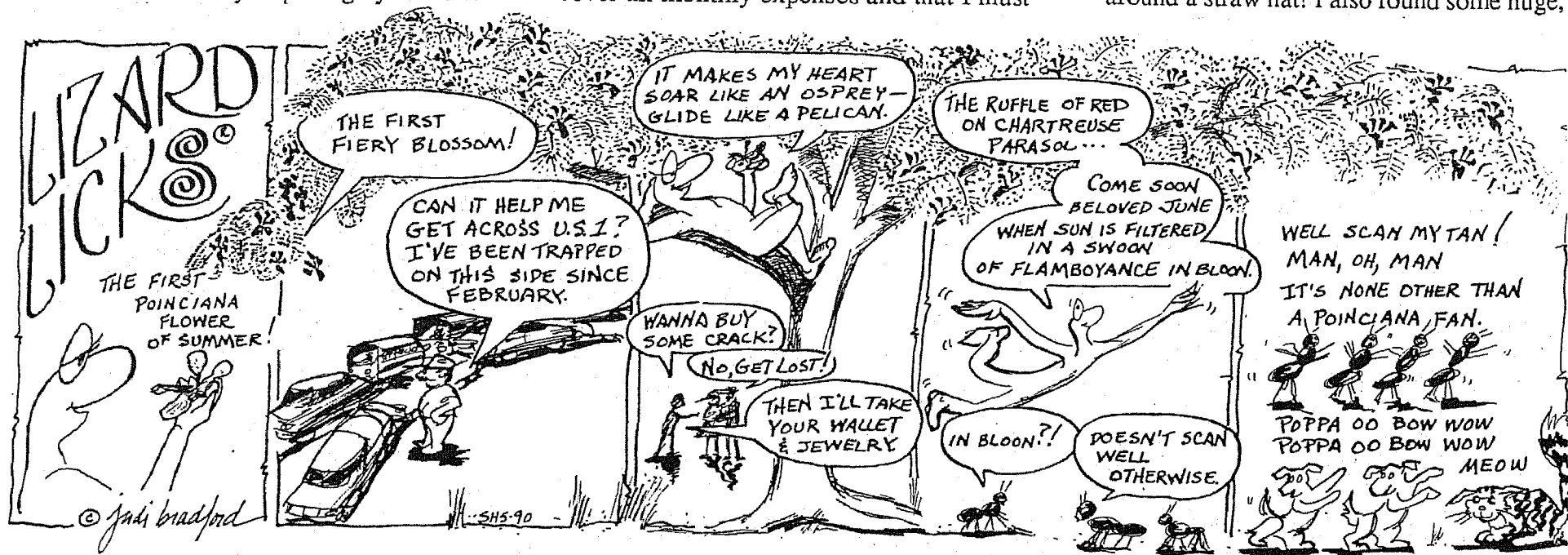
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MONROE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CALENDAR MAY 1990

May 3, 1990
UPPER KEYS WORKSHOP 7-10 PM
Plantation Key Gov't Center, Courtroom A

May 8, 1990
Comprehensive Plan, 10:30 AM at
Board Of County Commissioners Meeting

May 10, 1990
Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan Workshop
8:30 - 10:30 AM, Marathon
Advisory Committee on the Environment
Hawks Cay, Duck Key, 6-10 PM

May 11, 1990
Advisory Committee on Transportation
Public Service Bldg. Chapel, Stock Island
2:30 - 4:30 PM

May 16, 1990
Goals, Objectives and Policies Draft II

May 17, 1990
LOWER KEYS WORKSHOP, 7-10 PM
Sugarloaf School Cafeteria

May 23, 1990
MIDDLE KEYS WORKSHOP, 7-10 PM
Marathon Jaycees Bldg.

May 29, 1990
Comprehensive Plan, 10:30 AM at
Board Of County Commissioners Meeting

May 31, 1990
UPPER KEYS WORKSHOP, 7-10 PM
Coral Shores High School Cafeteria

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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THE MONROE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
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City Hall who see Mallory Square in a monochrome-green perspective. Their visions of the pier -- when not obstructed altogether by a behemoth cruise ship -- include not dancing and merriment but condos and boutiques. Ironically, this is the very clutter of civilization that prompted the harried to escape to Key West.

The Conch Republic is not the lone target of cultural assault in South Florida. Coconut Grove, once a sanctuary for free-thinking writers, poets and musicians, is today a squeaky-clean strip of swanky, exclusive specialty shops with all the sterile charm of surgical suites. Real-estate investors in Miami's nouveau-posh South Beach are effectively "flushing out" their unwanted element -- in this case, elderly retirees from the Northeast who carved out a balmy niche in the 1930s -- by squeezing them in the stranglehold of prohibitive rent increases.

The only factor that has kept the Cultural Preservation Society and Mallory Square entertainers from succumbing to a similar fate is their dogged refusal to say "uncle."

What happens in the next round? How long can the cultural vultures be kept at bay? It is my hope that tourists and locals alike will become supportive of the effort to preserve the essence of island living as we know it, before Key West becomes paved over as the Conch-rete Republic.

Ana M. Fuentes
Sunrise, Florida

Yay Liz

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank writer Elizabeth M. Smith for her wonderful story, "A Walk in the Woods," about the Botanical Garden, in the March 1990 edition of *Solares Hill*. Her description of the garden was so well written and I'm sure it contributed a great deal to the big attendance we had at our fundraising Garden Party on March 10. We were glad Liz could be there, too.

We would like to thank Liz again for taking the time to tour the garden and to follow up her visit with such a fine, perceptive article. We'd like to thank her also for joining our organization.

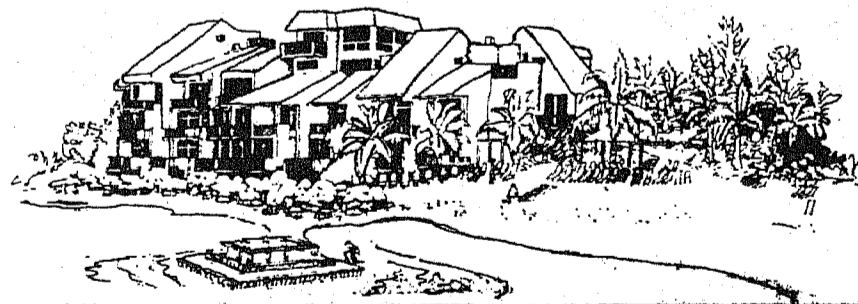
Betty L. Desbiens
Key West Botanical Garden Society, Inc.

Crime Busters

Dear Editor:

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Key West's Crime Task Force (CTF) was created to hold public meetings and take testimony from representatives from law enforcement, business, civic and neighborhood associations and the public. The CTF held seven meetings within 30 days, presenting its findings and recommendations to the city commission on April 9. Chairman of the CTF, State Attorney Kirk Zuelch, read the 21 recommendations to the commission, who unanimously accepted them. Commissioner Jimmy Weekley then put forth a resolution, which passed unanimously, to extend the CTF meeting period 90 days to prepare a long-term comprehensive plan.

Several members of the public addressed the CTF, calling for TDC tourist tax dollars to be used to fund CTF's various recommendations. One Duval Street businesswoman collected 50 signatures from businesses on a petition asking for tourist tax dollars to pay for police services. It came as no surprise that the CTF then voted 11-to-2 in favor of utilizing tourist tax dollars as the fair funding source. In this regard, the CTF recommended:

"The City Commission should do everything possible to obtain TDC funds for police protection and related uses. We believe that a portion of the bed tax which is paid for by our tourists should go to assist in providing them a safe and secure environment while they enjoy Key West."

When the CTF voted on this recommendation, the State Attorney's office, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the Key West Police Department (KWPD), the NAACP and city commissioners voted in its favor. Only the president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce and the representative of the Hotel/Motel Association voted against it.

The majority of the CTF recommendations related to crime prevention and education programs, improvement of hotel security and increased community relations to be brought about by creating school liaison officers, police/youth activities, neighborhood crime watches, and hiring a city-employed ombudsman to assist those previously convicted of a crime to obtain education, training, jobs, etc. One recommendation that demands top priority is the police department's need for a three-dog canine unit. Drug-sniffing dogs are a proven tool with law enforcement drug interdiction.

The CTF learned that crime in Key West

is up by 40 percent, but arrests are up by 60 percent. From 1987 to 1989, the KWPD managed an incredible 300-percent increase in arrests. The effectiveness and efficiency of the KWPD was comparable to a city double or triple its population, and the arrest rate is equivalent to a police department double the size of Key West's. These CTF findings should put to rest the perennial critics of the KWPD.

The KWPD is sufficiently staffed to service the 28,000 residents, but its ranks are stretched when one considers that it must also protect one- to two-million tourists and transients each year. Whether a tourist falls off a moped or gets robbed at the beach, police services are required. The basic economics of the statistics substantiate that the tourist tax is the proper source of funding for these additional service costs. Local taxpayers cannot afford more tax increases. The CTF, in recognition of this economic situation, correctly voted to utilize TDC money.

At the first CTF meeting, the question to the sheriff's representative was how much "bang for the buck" Key West taxpayers receive from their large tax contribution to the sheriff's budget. Those numbers are now being compiled. A member of the CTF also suggested the formation of a county-wide CTF to hold public hearings in Big Pine, Marathon and Key Largo because Key West is just one island in a long chain, impacted by the crime flowing down from the Upper, Middle and Lower Keys.

The CTF also found that there is a breakdown in the criminal justice system itself. The "enforcement" aspect of our criminal justice system (arrests) is the most developed, while corrections (jail overcrowding), judicial (early release of prisoners) and lack of drug rehabilitation and education programs continue to weaken our system. Statistics show the cop on the street is doing his part -- filling the jails. The problems arise before and after arrest. Nothing can be more frustrating to a cop than to see the young crack dealer he arrested over the weekend strolling down Duval Street on Monday.

Decreased funding at the federal level for social services are being felt at the local level not just in Monroe County, but nationwide. Funding drug-education programs without state or federal grant money will be a challenge in the 1990s. Moreover, a new \$35-million jail facility is being proposed for

Monroe County where it probably makes far more sense to build only a \$17.5-million jail and use the other \$17.5 million for drug education and rehabilitation programs and youth recreation facilities.

Key West has the potential to be the model "safe city" in Florida. But, as the CTF pointed out, the citizens of this community must first decide what values to place on ourselves and our children. The crime-prevention and creation of a "safe city" begins with local government recognizing that the highest obligation and responsibility to its citizens is public safety. If that requires a decrease in TDC tourist tax money for advertising, so be it.

A. C. Weinstein
Mayor's Representative
Key West Crime Task Force

Apology to Brown

Solares Hill ran a letter last month, "Brown Begs to Differ," from Monroe County Administrator Tom Brown, wherein Brown criticized the March "Political Whispers from the Birdcage" by Bud Jacobson.

Jacobson's column is a subjective analysis of local government. That is no reason, however, that it should contain errors of fact, inaccuracies of expression or random hearsay. The four paragraphs Jacobson wrote on the subject of a county career service hearing in March were below his usual standards of accurate reportage. We sincerely apologize to Brown and to his assistant, Peter Horton, for the mistakes in these paragraphs.

On a point-by-point basis, much of what Brown contends is true: Social Services Director Louis LaTorre was suspended by the administrator, not his assistant; Ron Stack was not reinstated as department head but demoted to a hazardous waste inspector for the Municipal Services District. Though we could find no recall petition of all the commissioners, it's not impossible there were "cries" for same; but we agree with the county administrator that such unverified reportage does nothing to inform the public properly.

Additionally, we take Peter Horton's statement, made during a telephone conversation, that he has not been involved with a county charter effort at face value; his name should not have been associated with such an effort.

Brown claimed we were inaccurate at putting the cost of his three-year contract at "over \$70,000 a year." The contract, he says, was awarded in August 1989 at a salary of \$64,584. Since county employees' benefits are calculated at 32 to 40 percent of base salary, we believe our statement is on solid ground. But if it isn't, we hope he's equally censorious toward the county's compensation consultant, which recently reported Brown's present pay grade as between \$50,753 and \$56,160, annually.

Brown's biggest complaint, however, seems to refer to article's discussion of the costs of both the LaTorre and Stack hearings. Brown writes, "Jacobson states the attorney fees for the LaTorre case to be \$70,000." The article reads, "[The board] charged the legal costs (Smallwood's and specifically a specially hired labor lawyer) to the big spenders, the county commission. The cost for this goof-up: \$70,000. The estimated cost for Ron Stack's: closer to \$100,000."

LaTorre's attorney, Sherri Smallwood, says that the county was ordered to pay her \$26,445 for representing LaTorre. Additionally, the county paid labor lawyer John Gronda from Miami for his services. There were costs to the county in terms of employee time: Smallwood says five department heads spent several many hours attending the hearing; other employees were involved as well. The article states that \$70,000 was the cost of the "goof-up" -- not the cost of lawyer fees. Jacobson tallied up his total based on the salaries and time of county officials involved.

In Stack's case, attorney Smallwood requested payment of \$104,485 in fees; the county declined to pay.

Brown suggests the way to inform the public is through "unbiased reporting -- bringing accurate information to the public and reporting both sides of the issues so that they, the public, could reach their own

Solares Hill • May 1990 • Page 33 conclusions." An itemization of *all* the costs in time and materials incurred by the county would be the best journalistic approach. County clerk Danny Kohlege is compiling those figures for *Solares Hill*.

Publications have differing standards for "whispers," rumors that cannot by their nature be attributed to a particular source because of that source's insider status and the possible harm to that status that can stem from their being identified by name. In general, we believe that there has to be a specific reason for the source to need protection, that this reason be disclosed to the editor, and that every effort be made to discover the information from a source that can be identified. We agree strongly with Brown that such reporting should not be a forum for the settling of personal grudges. We will not tolerate that behavior at *Solares Hill*.

A higher standard of editorial review should have been exercised over the March "Whispers" column. We thank Brown for the completeness of his response and the depths of his concern. We apologize once again. There was no intent on *Solares Hill*'s part to be malicious, slanderous, libelous or inaccurate.

-- The Editors

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Art Circle

Mudfire Rekindles: Walt Hyla's Work Is Down to Earth

by Judi Bradford

The '70s were turning into the '80s. Walt Hyla had been working in ceramics for 10 years. His local audience looked forward to his continuous parade of wacky sculpted fish with drool, bulging eyes and pudgy lips curved into wry smiles. For gallery shows he fashioned designs in chunky clay forms. His pieces had the look of clay and seemed to have risen from the tidal flats in a show of primordial humor. His studio at the time was called Mudfire, and that name aptly described his style -- an unaffected, straightforward manipulation of earth.

Key West was in a transition from Navy town to "upscale resort." The low rents and laid-back hippie lifestyles were on the way out and the momentum was building. Those who were in a position to catch that tourist wave of prosperity rode its crest to ever-increasing income. But many missed it; they tumbled in the surf of rising prices.

Walt found himself in shallow financial waters and decided to get practical. He

worked a "real job" for a while and devoted more time to commercial art -- an area in which he had freelanced all along. This led him to T-shirt designs, comic and colorful. Each one is a Caribbean cartoon. His cast of characters -- arrogant cats, pouting fish, vacationing flamingos -- began to turn up as tile patterns.

But all Walt's dreams involved clay; and he realized he couldn't push ceramics entirely out of his life. Soon a kiln found its way to the yard outside his home-studio. Now his ceramic work carries funky fish images from the earlier era with heavy influence from those years of two-dimensional, commercial designing.

Utilizing airbrush and watercolor techniques in ceramic glazes, Walt is turning out one-of-a-kind tiles and trivets as well as continuous repetitive designs for installing in kitchens, bathrooms and pools. His career is directed toward interiors now. He is thinking in terms of floors and walls. The patterns and images he works out for trivets today are the prototypes for tomorrow's living environments.

Even though his drive is presently geared toward large-scale projects, Walt still enjoys the sculptural pieces and even some functional items. He just finished a commission of centerpieces for Nick's Upstairs at the Hyatt, which fit the Caribbean image food and beverage director Tony Whittall is developing. Each table sports a Walt Hyla



PHOTO COURTESY WALT HYLA

Mudfire: Walt Hyla and his ceramic tiles. original clay island with lighthouse and palm-tree salt-and-pepper shakers.

"We were looking for an island theme," said Whittall. "And Walt certainly captured the spirit of the island." The pieces have

been on the tables since mid-season. "We have great feedback from the guests," said Whittall, "and we've sold quite a few, too."

The animals and objects Walt portrays are inspired by the Key West lifestyle: cats; fish; Key lime pie; sailboats; flamingos and all those Caribbean things we love to love. While they all demonstrate Walt's particular way of looking at the world -- as though it is being seen for the first time by an amused alien -- it is the tongue-in-gill fish that stand out. They cannot be described as outrageous; they are, actually, understated in tone. But they combine an outlandish assortment of features and end up looking quite funny.

"When you look at real fish, there is nothing here that doesn't happen there," said Walt. "Whatever I do sort of works because you can't go wrong. They're all so weird anyway."

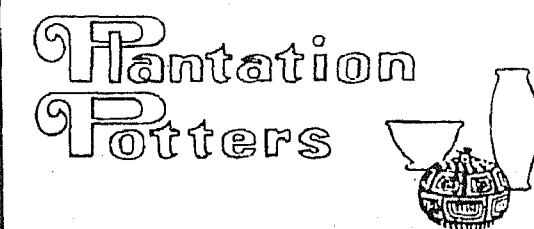
Walt's personal style, like his creative style, is understated. His humor is not the hilarious sort that leaves a person red in the face and gasping for breath. Rather, his humor makes a person smile and wonder if he heard correctly. It is a style that can slip past someone who is not alert. He is mild, never pushy. Much of his conversation is made up of shrugs and facial expressions.

But Walt tends to business. He works commissions and sells through several wholesale outlets and at Sunset. He and his girlfriend Cynthia Currier occasionally show at art-and-craft fairs.

"We just got back from the Viscaya Renaissance Fair," said Walt. They won first place for booth design while there.



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MAY ART CALENDAR

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Art Collections Key West • National, international artists, plus Keys works by Matson, Shannon and others. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 600 Front Street in the Bottling Court, 296-5956.

Art Unlimited • Oldest private art gallery in Key West. First to carry Haitian art. "I go in after it." Daily, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. 217 Duval St., 296-5625.

Audubon House • The Wonderful Waterbirds of John James Audubon, selected plates from the Double Elephant Folio, *Birds of America*, now through May 30; \$5 admission, children under 6 free, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St., 294-2116.

Banana Boat Batik • Hand-painted 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.

Lee Dodez Showroom • Clay work by Lee Dodez and others. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon; weekends whenever. 901 Duval St., rear.

East Bank Gallery • Paintings by local artists, limited edition prints, pottery and custom framing. Open daily from 10 a.m. or by appointment. 706 White Street, 296-2679.

East Martello Museum & Gallery • Art and History Fair, student art show, Monroe County pre-K through high school. May 5 through 27. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for non-members. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

Farrington Art Gallery • Pastellist Greg Biolchini. New "Antique Room" of framed antique prints. Thursday through Saturday and Monday, Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Wednesday and Sunday. Gallery and framing by appointment also. 711 Duval St. 294-6911.

Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery • The Best of Monroe County High School Art, opens May 18, 6:30 to 8:30. Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

Nancy Forrester Gallery • Antique prints of plants and animals: 1690 to 1890. Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. 518 Elizabeth Street, 294-0015.

Galerie Moderne • Abstract expressionism. Daily, 1 to 5 p.m. or by appointment. 516 Amelia St., 296-3156.

Gallery Mendoza • Wood sculptures and wood-framed paintings by Mendoza and others. Open seven days. 218 Whitehead St. 294-2011.

Gingerbread Square Gallery • Our regular stable of artists. Seven days, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 901 Duval St., 296-8900.

Great Southern Gallery • Returning Key West artist George Bailey showing graphic tropical watercolors. Patrick Nagle prints. Paintings by Tricia Hurt at TIB Bank at Eaton and Whitehead. Call about art classes. Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St., 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery • Drawings, paintings, prints, soft sculpture, cartoons, printed and hand-painted cards, ceramics, T-shirts, leather bags, photography, painted mirrors, stained glass and ironwork by 16 Key West artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Evenings sometimes. 614 Duval St., 296-6076.

Haitian Art Company • Two of our young artists, Carlo Jn. Baptiste and Michel-Ange Altidor will be exhibiting in the Musée d'Art Haïtien in Haiti. Open in Key West daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St., 296-8932.

Harrison Gallery • New works by Mark McMillan, Magen Prouty and Tom Harris. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 825 White St., 294-0609.

Is It Art • Hand-painted art-wear, prints and wall-hangings. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Weekend evenings. 913 Duval St., 294-0411.

Kennedy Studios • Graphics, limited-edition prints. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 133 Duval St., 294-5850; daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 716 Duval St., 292-0215; and a new store at 511 Duval St., 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 294-8564.

Key West Art Center • Watercolors by Irma Quigley, May 4 to May 18. Maxine McMullen, May 18 to June 1. Also, members' work. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St., 294-1241.

Lane Gallery • Wendy Turner and Michael Palmer, May 7 to 14. Beth Nablo, May 25 to June 6. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Duval St., 294-0067.

Lucky Street Gallery • John Martini sculpture and Michael Haykin paintings through May 15. New painted furniture by Greg Jarvis. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; open until 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. 919 Duval St., 294-3973.

Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters • Metal sculpture by Tom Joris. Back country paintings and prints by Michael Shannon. Bird prints by Mariana Bauerlein. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1107 Duval St., 296-6124.

Parker Chase Gallery • Oils by Sherrill Chase, antique furnishings, quilts, collectibles. 1024 Truman Ave. 296-0706.

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Rose Lane Antiquities • Pre-Columbian art. Daily, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. 524 Rose Lane, 294-2270.

Santa Fe • Southwestern art, jewelry and furniture. Open noon to dark, Thursday through Tuesday; closed Wednesday. 219 Whitehead Street. 294-0397.

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

Art in Your Neighborhood
1100 Block of Duval

by Judi Bradford

The 1100 block of Duval Street began to thrive in the early '80s. Most of the activity then revolved around the old Cuban Club -- a social institution which had been converted into a fashionable restaurant. Roomy and delightful, the Club reflected a languid ease until gas from a propane truck that was filling a kitchen tank ignited; the Club was consumed with flames. No one was hurt, but the building was demolished.

After nearly a decade of dormancy, the Cuban Club has been rebuilt and divided into living and shop spaces, which are attracting unique tenants. Not surprisingly, the rest of the block has bloomed with new shops as well. Most carry crafts or art pieces as part or all of their merchandise. These are not predictable resort shops; they are adventures.

Celebration, at 1100 Duval, occupies the front portion of the old White House hair salon building. Much of the store's merchandise is produced by Sunset artisans. Walt Hyla's tiles and trivets are for sale, as well as T-shirts, jewelry, critter marionettes, airplant-and-shell magnets and other items by various artists. This summer, Celebration will move a portion of its goods to the Duval Street Market.

On the corner of Amelia and Duval Streets, is Manana Island Designs, a charming little enterprise that features Jim Wegman's airbrush work and witty T-shirts -- "Support your local planet" is one such slogan. Jim and his wife Melissa Morrisico also sell Indonesian items, including clothing and intricate carvings.

The main attraction, though, is Jim's artwork. He airbrushes portraits of both American heroes and common folk on clothing and canvas. He's halfway through an eight-painting series of blues artists. So far, he's finished B.B. King, T-Bone Walker, Stevie Ray Vaughn and Leon Redbone. His silkscreened T-shirts capture the heart of Key West with glib captions and comic images: a bicycle thief hanging from the gallows; a mythical bar, "Sloppy Capt.

Rick's Dirty Parrot."

At the *cul de sac* on Amelia Street is Galerie Moderne where Gilberte Sweeney paints in abstract expressionist style. Call for an appointment first to see her work. She's a delightful woman and a fascinating conversationalist.

Son O' the Beach sells beach necessities but also reserves a wall to display what can be best described as "disturbed polaroids." The emulsion on polaroids can be stirred around before the image is fully set, distorting it in unusual and bizarre ways. Massachusetts photographer Doug Johnson has a group of beach and boating scenes created in this mode, which he calls *sur-realographic*. The photos are fascinating and, in eight-by-eight-inch and 16-by-16-inch sizes, they can be nicely framed.

A trip through Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters is a treasure hunt. Owners Dan and Ellie McConnell sell items and services that reflect everything they love about Key West: back-country canoe trips, comfortable safari clothing, antique maps and engravings of the salt flats by Michael Shannon, iron sculptures of birds and insects by Tom Joris. They have a cabinet of South American crafts and Balinese textiles and carvings, as well.

T.J. Marbles, also in this block, is a classy gift shop with merchandise to die for. Selling candlesticks, decorated boxes, collectibles and, of course, marbles, the store itself is a piece of art. Its painted floors and walls conjure memories of childhood.



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Nutrition: Common Sense for Good Health

by Jeanne McClow

Glance at the ingredients listed on a bag of dog food: soybean, corn and bone meal for protein; whole grains, corn, wheat and rice for carbohydrates and fiber; calcium, phosphorus, wheat germ, dried yeast and dried whey; the B vitamins, as well as A and D, iron, lysine, zinc, and so on. Human beings should be so lucky. The fact that dog food is more nutritious than the foods most people eat is no joke.

When a dog is not feeling up to snuff, his master pays attention. In fact, few people would let a bowl of guppies go hungry for a day. Yet these same folks overlook warning signals from their own bodies. The only plausible explanations for such neglect are fear, ignorance and/or laziness. None is a good explanation. But basic knowledge of nutritional requirements can help rectify a poor diet.

First and foremost, one must understand that every nutrient is needed by every body every day, and that no one of them is any more important than another. Bodily processes require the presence of numerous nutrients to work. For instance, calcium cannot be absorbed without Vitamin D. Nor can the fat-soluble vitamins, A, D and E, be used without the presence of fat. Finally, all these nutrients must be in balance in order to be effective.

To get an idea of your own state of health, take a look at yourself. Is your skin dry or excessively oily; is your hair dull, broken and lifeless; are your fingernails ridged and/or broken; do you have hangnails; is your tongue beefy, red, smooth and/or grooved? Do you have eczema, whiteheads, bad breath and/or body odor, gas, headaches? Do you bruise easily and heal slowly? All of these are symptoms of an inadequate diet. The only sure way to overcome or prevent these problems is to eat

healthfully -- always.

Weight problems are often corrected easily, though not quickly, with a nutritious diet. Many times, obesity is caused by a number of deficiencies rather than simply eating excess calories. Never follow a fat-free diet, because, as stated previously, everyone needs some fat daily. A serving of oil-based salad dressing is sufficient.

Beware of the quick and easy. When a diet isn't furnishing what it must, your body attacks your reserves and also pushes the immune system into action unnecessarily. Incidentally, from a health perspective, a thin layer of fat is desirable.

A risky kind of dieting is the "fasting" or "cleansing" diet, during which one tries to flush the body of, perhaps, decades of accumulated pollutants and poisons by living on liquids for several days. This type of diet quite literally entails poisoning oneself, with the danger being in proportion to the kinds and concentrations of the poisons being liquified -- facts that are impossible to know. And, again, the body must not live solely from its reserves, but must also go without the water-soluble nutrients such as Vitamins B and C, because they are lost in the urine; the body cannot store them. The needs of anyone who consumes large amounts of liquids, i.e., those who live in hot climates and/or drink alcohol, are greatly increased.

Following a vegetarian diet has certain positive aspects. Any would-be vegetarian should be familiar with the rules of nutrition to ensure that he will be getting enough of such important nutrients found primarily in animal products as protein, calcium and the B vitamins.

Protein, which basically builds and maintains body tissues along with supplying long-term energy, is one nutrient in which almost everyone is deficient, even those whose diets look good on paper. Even if one is well, not under stress and doesn't drink, the average adult needs at least 60 grams of protein a day. This amount is not easy to get, as you will discover when you begin to study labels.

Get into the habit of label-reading at the

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grocery store. The way I learned which products offered the best nutrition was by comparing labels a category at a time. This week, margarines; next week, yogurts. Take notes. And never go to the grocery store ravenous or without a list. Grocery shopping is serious business.

The best sources of protein are milk, yogurt, cottage cheese, nuts and seeds, liver and soybeans -- available as custardy tofu or flour, which, when mixed with water, becomes a nonfat milk substitute. Other good sources are brewer's yeast, eggs, cooked cereals, wheat germ, meats, fowl and seafood.

Just what is saturated fat, sometimes referred to as "bad fat"? Where does one get unsaturated fat, or "good fat"? How does cholesterol fit into the picture? The subject is, like nutrition, complex and becoming ever more so with new research. The following explanation, however, should give many who are confused enough information to be able to eat healthfully.

Saturated fats, the bad ones, are those found in animal products, especially mature beef and dairy products. The red meats veal and lamb, though, are low in saturates because they are from young animals. "Hydrogenated" fats, such as margarine and most peanut butter, are also saturated.

Mainly because saturated fats are associated with cholesterol, they should make up no more than 30 percent of one's total dietary intake. Dairy products, which contain so many nutrients that good nutrition is difficult without them, can be less threatening to the health when they are low-fat products. Every day, new low-fat offerings seem to appear in the dairy case. Saturated fats -- bacon drippings and butter -- are often overlooked. They should be kept refrigerated to prevent their becoming rancid, another serious threat to good health. Rancidity destroys many nutrients.

Cholesterol is a vital substance in the fat family that is manufactured by the body in huge amounts. It is also found in saturated fats. When cholesterol is accumulated in excess, it makes its way into the arteries, rupturing them as it does so. Scar tissue then forms over the ruptures, upon which calcium is deposited. Eventually, the arteries become completely blocked, causing "hardening of the arteries," or arteriosclerosis, a condition that poses a serious threat to the heart; in fact, to every part of the body.

Since there is no bodily need to consume cholesterol, avoid it. If your count tests

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high, decrease your intake and increase your intake of the B vitamins, which seem to play a role in emulsifying cholesterol. Don't panic. Counts can vary daily, depending on stress and recently eaten foods. Also, it has been estimated that at least 25 percent of the tests are inaccurate.

Unsaturated fats are found in vegetable oils, with their percentages varying greatly from oil to oil. These are the "good fats," for they supply the body with the three essential fatty acids it cannot manufacture. Everyone needs about two tablespoons a day; oil-based salad dressings are a good way to get it. There is no cholesterol in vegetable oils and, if unrefined, they provide such other essential nutrients as Vitamin E, as well.

Incidentally, "refined" foods are also of little value to the body. During refining, heat is used to "purify" the food, but few nutrients are not to some extent destroyed by heat. Flour, sugar and vegetable oils are often refined. If you can't find unrefined foods at your grocery store, it's worth a trip to the natural foods store to get them. All unrefined foods should be refrigerated. Someone once said, "If it doesn't have to be refrigerated, throw it out."

As you must have guessed by the number of times they are referred to, the value of B vitamins cannot be overemphasized. Because they are lost in the urine, they must be gotten every day and they must be in balance. This does not mean 100 milligrams of each B vitamin; it means that if you get 20 milligrams of this one, you need 40 of that one and 200 of that one. Since figuring this out is near to impossible, it is well to depend on satisfying your needs with foods that are high in protein and B vitamins, instead of relying on supplements. For one thing, many B supplements oversupply the inexpensive ones and skimp on those that cost, such as B6 and B12. Remember that the more fluids one consumes, the greater the need for all B vitamins.

One of the more important roles the B vitamins play is to maintain mental health. Inadequacies can bring on depression, irritability, confusion, fatigue, hyperactivity, even mental illness. In light of this, one can

easily understand why the combination of alcohol and B deficiencies can be so devastating. As long as a person drinks, he will have Vitamin B deficiencies; when the symptoms appear, it's back to the bottle to deaden the mental pain. There is some thought that megadoses of Vitamin B can cure alcoholism.

Calcium is another nutrient that must be mentioned, for not only does it build strong teeth and bones, but it is also nature's pain killer, tranquilizer and sleeping pill. In essence, it acts by "coating" raw, frazzled nerve endings. The best way to take it in powdered form is by the teaspoon, mixed in a glass of milk. Warm the milk to hasten the effect.

Don't forget about our old pal, Vitamin C. No, it doesn't make colds go away, but it does speed along any healing process, especially when taken with pantothenic acid and zinc. This vitamin performs so many functions, they would be difficult to list. But basically, it strengthens cell walls so that disease, pollutants, poisons, and the like, cannot penetrate them. It is recommended to prevent or treat anything from asthma and allergies to insect bites and stings. It is another vitamin that is lost in the urine. For best absorption, take it in small quantities throughout the day. Because it begins to destruct immediately upon exposure to oxygen, don't count on getting your quota from fruit and fruit juices.

Finally, I'll share with you here the nutrition routine I follow, in addition to choosing my foods well and trying to pay attention to the three basic rules:

1. Drink plenty of water -- eight to 16 glasses a day;
2. Avoid stress; and
3. Eliminate alcohol, nicotine and caffeine.

Because no one knows exactly how many benefits he is getting from his diet -- it depends on such factors as the soil in which a food was grown and how long it takes to get from that soil to your table -- I give myself some insurance in the form of a blender drink suggested by noted nutritionist Adelle Davis. I have yet to come up with a good name for it, so feel free. Basically, it supplies most every nutrient the body

The Drink

- 1 cup skim milk
- 2 eggs (whites only, if you prefer)
- 1 tbsp unrefined vegetable oil
- 1-1/2 tsp calcium lactate powder
- 1/2 tsp magnesium oxide powder
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup yeast, fortified with calcium and magnesium
- 1/2 cup plain or vanilla yogurt
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup powdered milk
- 1 tsp or more liquid lecithin
- 1/4 cup soy flour
- 1 tsp granular kelp (for iodine)
- 1/4 cup wheat germ (optional)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup frozen, undiluted orange juice or other juice
- 1 ripe banana, pineapple, mango, etc, cut into chunks
- 1 tbsp unrefined blackstrap molasses (for iron)

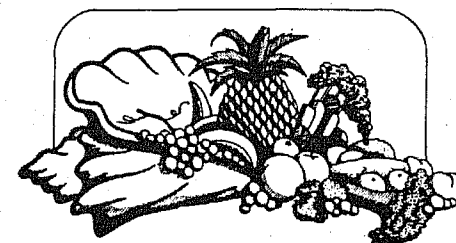
Blend all ingredients together, scraping down the sides of the blender occasionally until all have been worked in. Pour into a jar, cover and refrigerate. When ready to drink, mix one part base with three parts milk. For best absorption, drink in small amounts throughout the day. Keeps well for several days.

needs. I do believe that, with some vitamin supplements, one could almost live on it. And, yes, it does taste good, fruity, and you can vary the flavor with the fruit you add. I sometimes leave out the wheat germ because I like the drink smooth.

I also take some supplements, including a high-potency multiple vitamin with minerals, dolomite (calcium naturally balanced with magnesium), zinc, ferrous sulfate (iron), potassium, about 1000 milligrams of Vitamin C, a combined Vitamin A and D capsule, 400 units of Vitamin E and extra B6 and B12. I don't take large doses of anything, being the cautious person that I am.

So, here's to feeling good. All you need are the tools. ☞

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MAY CALENDAR

Cultural Events

Through 5/13 • Greater Tuna, a wild, small-town comedy directed by Richard Magesis, at the Red Barn Theatre. Wednesday through Sunday, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50. Call 296-9911.

4/30 through 5/5 • Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up? This rollicking musical comedy about the life of Catholic school students is presented for a limited run at Jan McArt's Cabaret Theatre. Curtain is 8 p.m.; tickets are \$17 and \$18. Call 296-2120.

5/3 • Florida Keys Community College Chorus, with Emily Lowe conducting, will present a free debut concert at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, 8 p.m.

5/5 • Brunch with the Boston Pops. Key 93.5 FM will begin airing concerts recorded live by the Boston Pops Orchestra and the Boston Symphony Orchestra at noon. Concerts will air every Saturday afternoon. Call Kim Combs at 296-2435.

5/8 • Papa returns to Jan McArt's Cabaret Theatre for an extended run. William Hindman is back by popular demand in his moving portrayal of Ernest Hemingway in John DeGroot's one-man play. Curtain is 8 p.m.; tickets are \$17 and \$18. Call 296-2120.

5/16 • El Salvador, a high-voltage drama about journalists in a war-torn country, opens at the Waterfront Playhouse. Directed by Rae Coates. Curtain is 8 p.m.; tickets are \$12. Call 294-5015.

5/18 • High School Student Art Show opens at Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery. Opening night party 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Show will run through 6/15.

5/19 • Adam Meets Amadeus & A Salute to Brazil features two piano virtuosos and the music of Mozart and Chopin. Adam Neiman, 11-year-old child prodigy, and Brazil's Sonia Muniz will perform at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. A Festival of the Continents production. Curtain is 8 p.m.; tickets are \$15. 294-6232.

5/23 • Frankie & Johnny in the Claire de Lune, a comedy/love story directed by Joy Hawkins, opens at the Red Barn Theatre. Tickets are \$12.50; curtain at 8 p.m. Call 296-9911.

5/25 • Florida Keys Community College Literary Series presents Richard Magesis, director of the Red Barn Theatre, reading selected literary works from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the college library. Free and open to the public.

5/26 • Fifth Annual National Marine Sanctuaries' Underwater Photography Contest opens at Key Largo and Looe Key National Marine Sanctuaries. Photos and videos best exemplifying the splendor of the Keys' marine life will win cash and equipment prizes valued at \$10,000. Grand prize is \$1,000. For entry

forms, rules and information call 1-800-272-9122.

5/27 • Florida Keys Community Band holds its first rehearsal in the band room of Key West High School. Anyone who can play an instrument is invited to attend. Concerts will begin mid-July in Bayview Park. Julie Giovannucci, 294-7374, Ed Elwood, 294-5212, or Jimmy Vagnini, 296-2276.

Common Good

5/1 to 5/15 • Florida Keys Community College will begin registration for the summer term. Courses in business, computer science, art, languages, EMT training, diving, aerobics, real estate, and much more. 296-9081.

5/2 • The Epidemiology of AIDS, and AIDS Satellite TV Network presentation, features Dr. Thomas Quinn of Johns Hopkins, a leader in the field of AIDS epidemiology, at Florida Keys Community College. Call Alina at 292-6701 for time. Free and open to the public.

5/3 • Upper Keys Workshop in the Plantation Key Government Center, Courtroom A, 7 to 10 p.m. Call Patricia Frazier, 296-3111.

5/3 • The Port Advisory Committee informational workshop to gather community input on a proposed ordinance: "Speed and Operation of Vessels Upon Waterways of Monroe County." The results of the workshop will be used to advise the county commission on the content of the ordinance. Workshop is at 7 p.m., Marathon Jaycee Building, 33rd Street Gulf.

5/5 • FKCC Scuba Club meets at 1:30 p.m. in the college Tiki Hut on the campus lagoon. Members must have taken one course at FKCC in the last year and be certified scuba divers. Call Becky Arnold, 292-7988.

5/7 • City Commission Meeting at Key West City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 6 p.m. Always open to the public and televised on Channel 5. Call 292-8200.

5/7 • Holiday Isle Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Isle's Quarterdeck Lounge. Rewards, refreshments and a complimentary Rum Runner to donors of legal age. Located at Mile Marker 84 in Islamorada. Call the personnel department at Holiday Isle, 664-2321.

5/8 • Vote on a \$27-million bond to close the landfill and open new facility.

5/8 • Board of County Commissioners Comprehensive Plan meeting, 10:30 a.m. Call Patricia Frazier, 296-3111, for location.

5/9 • Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. Call Patricia Frazier, 296-3111, for location.

5/10 • Boot Key Harbor Task Force will meet at 7 p.m., Marathon High

School. Harbor problems will be addressed; the attendance of all members is encouraged.

5/10 • Planning Committee Worship 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Marathon. Call Patricia Frazier, 296-3111, for location.

5/10 • Monroe County Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee will meet to discuss environmental issues at Hawks Cay, 6 to 10 p.m.

5/11 • Monroe County Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee will meet to discuss transportation. Stock Island Chapel, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

5/12 • Commencement for the 24th graduating class of Florida Keys Community College, 1:30 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Free and open to the public.

5/16 • Monroe County Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee will meet to discuss goals, objectives and policies. Call Patricia Frazier, 296-3111, for location and time.

5/17 • First Annual Architectural Seminar, to celebrate Old Island Restoration Foundation's 30th Anniversary. Architects, land planners, landscape architects, artisans and critics from all over the country will present a series of seminars and fetes on "Preserving the Old While Building the New." Call 294-9501.

5/17 • Lower Keys Workshop 7 to 10 p.m. at Sugarloaf School, in the cafeteria.

5/19 • FKCC Scuba Club meets at 1:30 p.m. in the college Tiki Hut on the campus lagoon. Members must have taken one course at FKCC in the last year and be certified scuba divers. Call Becky Arnold, 292-7988.

5/21 • City Commission Meeting, Key West City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 6 p.m. Always open to the public and televised on Channel 5. Call 292-8200.

5/24 • Middle Keys Workshop, 7 to 10 p.m., Marathon Jaycees Building.

5/29 • Board of County Commissioners Comprehensive Plan meeting, 10:30 a.m. Call Patricia Frazier, 296-3111, for location.

5/30 • Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. Call Patricia Frazier, 296-3111, for location.

5/31 • Upper Keys Workshop, 7 to 10 p.m. at Coral Shores High School in the cafeteria.

The Sporting Life

5/2 • Texaco/Hemingway Key West Classic, a release fishing tournament with total prize money of \$75,000, begins registration at Louie's Backyard at 3 p.m. The American Mental Health Fund will receive 50 percent of all entry fees from the tournament, which runs through May 5. Anglers compete in three fishing classifications. For specifics call 294-4440.

Always Happening

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

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

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

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

Guardianship of Monroe County helps disabled adults and elderly resi-

dents 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.

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

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

Mental Health Care Center of the Lower Keys conducts an ongoing therapy group for manic-depressives every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., with Dr. Elizabeth Saenger. Another new program is Coming with Depression, which meets with Dr. Christina J. Taylor, on Thursday evenings. Call 292-6843.

RESTAURANT DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

Duval Square Yogurt, located in the center of Duval Square, offers the ultimate in "sinless indulgence," featuring no-fat, no-cholesterol yogurt. Daily special flavors, including non-dairy fruit Rist. Also serving gyros. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. 296-2900.

Dynasty Restaurant, 918 Duval Street. Authentic and innovative Chinese cuisine. Indulge in sizzling Hunan, Cantonese and Szechuan specialties. Dine indoors or outside in a tropical garden setting. A local's favorite. Open nightly 5:30 p.m. Major credit cards accepted. 294-2943.

The Eatery, 1405 Duval Street on the beach. Open 7 days a week, serving bountiful buffets. Breakfast 8 to 11 a.m., Lunch 12 to 4 p.m., and Dinner

5 to 9 p.m. Visa and MasterCard accepted. 294-2727

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

El Meson de Pepe, 1215 Duval Street. Delicious gourmet Spanish cuisine, specializing in Paella by Pepe. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner 7:30am-10pm 7 days. A local favorite. 296-6922.

Emma's Seafare, at The Reach, Simonton Street on the Ocean. Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This is a room that radiates the sun and sea. Dine indoors or on a terrace that overlooks the Atlantic. The menu features fish and more fish, prepared 105 different ways. 296-5000.

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

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

Henry's, 1500 Reynolds Street. Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Located in historic Casa Marina Resort serving Continental Cuisine and Key West's

most popular Sunday Brunch. Reservations are suggested. 296-3535.

Holiday Inn, La Concha, 430 Duval Street. A downtown landmark with three restaurant choices. The **Rainbow Room**, open 7 to 11 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch, features seafood items. The **Top**, with its spectacular views of Key West and sunset, serves drinks, appetizers and desserts. **Crazy Daizy's** is a street-side cafe and fun spot specializing in paella, Frogmore stew and sandwiches by the inch. 296-2991.

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Hukilau, 1990 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Indoor or outdoor dining amidst a lush tropical island atmosphere. Inspired island cuisine and fresh local seafood with daily specials. Open daily; lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; dinner, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, 5:30 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday. 294-6912.

La Lechonera, 3100 Flagler Avenue, is one of the oldest restaurants in Key West, serving Spanish and Cuban cuisine with a full liquor bar. Daily specials. Happy Hour 4 to 7 p.m. Take-out available. 296-7881.

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

Lighthouse Cafe, 917 Duval Street, open for dinner 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Specializing in wonderful Southern Italian and seafood dishes, served in a beautiful garden setting or cozy in-

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

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

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

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

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

door dining room. Reservations suggested. Diner's Club, Visa. 296-7837.

Louie's Backyard, 700 Waddell on the Atlantic Ocean, open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. 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. 294-1061 for dining reservations.

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

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

Pier House Restaurant, One Duval Street. *Travel & Leisure* said the Scampi in Amaretto was well worth the trip. The *New York Times* called it "Key West's premier restaurant." Reserve a table with a waterfront view. 296-4600.

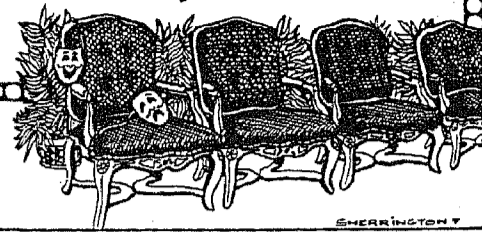
Rich's Cafe at the Eden House, 1015 Fleming Street. A tropical garden off the beaten path in Old Town, serving Continental fare with attention to detail. Beer and wine. A 10% local discount. Amex, Visa & M/C. 296-6868.

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

Yo Sake, 722 Duval. Open for lunch 12:00 to 2:30 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Neo-Japanese inside or torchlit garden dining, traditional Japanese and original island creations. Full Sushi Bar. 294-2288.

AISLE SEAT

by Anne Carlisle



As another season heads toward a last act, the supply of non-resident theatergoers dwindles and Key West's four theaters are left once again with their core audience of several hundred locals.

This is a group George Brashears, departing Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center artistic director, has credited with skyrocketing "off the chart" in terms of attendance support. But not everyone agrees.

"We were a little drafty at the sides," admits Denys Fitzpatrick, a local crooner who appeared recently before less-than-full houses in the Waterfront Playhouse's *Key West Classics*. And, as Brashears acknowledges, "there simply aren't enough people

here to sustain a company of actors. What we need is a major patron, somebody who is providing to the tune of \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year. In every theater town there is usually a ramrod who donates large sums of money simply because they can't live without good theater."

Brashears goes on to say that "the history of the arts has been one of private patronage." But, he adds, "if you accept public money there are strings attached." Either way, one must account for how well the audience was served when measuring the success of any theatrical endeavor. Would the Festival of the Continents recent production of *La Traviata*, for instance, survive such an audit?

In a word, no.

"Theater people get so involved with their work," comments local theatrical director Rae Coates, "that an outside eye is needed -- someone not connected to this heartfelt thing."

Unfortunately for all those who invested good time and money to bring opera to Key West, the outside eye had no trouble detecting tawdry seams showing in this embarrassingly shoddy production. Set and costumes were downright tacky -- a cardboard tree toppled and a tossed-off glass was all too evidently plastic. To top off the spectacle of disaster, the leading lady stopped the show about 20 minutes before curtain to glare at the orchestra and demand, "Pitch me, Maestro!" It was a fine idea to spend money importing an opera. But it was a bad idea to spend it on this company.

A pleasant contrast in value was afforded by the Waterfront's homegrown revue, in

which costumes were fresh, scene changes were lively and everyone had a good time. One of the intangible values that comes from non-professional theater is the chance to witness individual talents emerge and flourish. Of notable interest in *Key West Classics* was the debut of two young and very promising talents -- the lovely siren Paula Jo Chitty and poetical pianist Tom Carlisle. Both are welcome additions to the local talent pool.

Also, the Red Barn Theatre's recent production of *The Boys Next Door* was an added-value venture with the performance of a lifetime being given by Frank MacDonald who, like the diehards in *Key West Classics*, has been at it a long time.

A page torn from reality and a play with a conscience that still managed to entertain, *The Boys Next Door* showed the daily lives of four mentally retarded adults under the supervision of a "normal" man beset by "normal" plagues of modern life -- a bitter ex-wife, job burnout and self doubt. Tom Murtha demonstrated excellent control of the latter role, and wonderful performances were delivered by Tom Rhatigan and Adrienne Sher, who showed that a loving life need not be carried out in the fast lane.

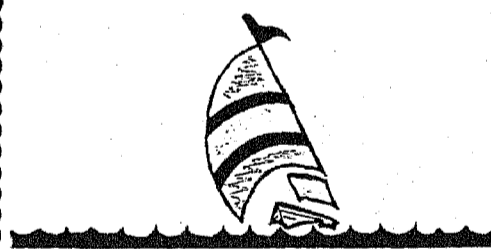
Each season new offerings are attempted, new lessons are learned. Rae Coates says he hopes Key West will be increasingly supportive of original work. "That's what summers here are for. What is wrong with inviting young playwrights down to work on plays in progress? We can work on the plays, see their flaws. They could be done originally in Key West, then on to Broadway. We could have college students from all over the country down here to build the costumes and sets, and then we'll tour around the country to make money to finance the next season."

The next season. That's when the auditor steps aside and the dreamer begins. ☐

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Conch Republic Independence Celebration

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 4

8:30 p.m. • **World's Longest Parade** will stretch down Duval Street from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. Everyone is welcome to participate and admission is free.

9:30 p.m. • **Blessing of the Celebration** and street party at the Key West Seaport, between Elizabeth and William Streets, with live bands, food and refreshment. Free admission.

Saturday, May 5

Noon • **Street Fair** at Key West Seaport, between William and Elizabeth Streets, continues through the day and evening. Performers, artists, craftspeople, maritime exhibition, refreshments. The public is welcome.

1 p.m. • **The Wreckers' Race**, a re-enactment of the Keys' tradition of

racing to the reef to claim the lion's share of salvage on a floundering ship. \$35 entrance fee for each vessel. Admission free.

2 p.m. • **The Great Inshore Powerboat Race**. Model boats from the Southernmost Radio Controlled Boat Association will race through Key West Bight. Admission free.

3 p.m. • **Pirates' Costume Party** at Key West Seaport, with prizes for best-dressed pirates in adult and children's categories. Free.

8:30 p.m. • **Official Commissioning Ceremony**. New officers and vessels in the Conch Republic Navy will receive their commissions and awards will be given to the winners of the Wreckers Race. Free.



Sunday, May 6

11 a.m. • **The Great Conch Republic Beach Party**, with bands, food, beverages, swimming and games for kids of all ages. On old Tank Island, via water taxis -- \$3 round trip per person -- from Key West Seaport. Free.

7 p.m. • **The Great Battle for the Conch Republic**. Situated in Key West Harbor, a mock battle featuring the Conch Republic Navy and a flyover and parajumping demonstration by the U.S. Navy. Free.

7:30 p.m. • **The Grand Ambassadors' Ball** honors the founding fathers (and mothers) of the tiny island nation. At Marriott's Casa Marina, 1500 Reynolds Street. \$25 admission charge includes gala buffet.



An earth and water emphasis, produced by the Sun's entry into Taurus, along with Mercury, complements the heavy planets of Saturn, Uranus and Neptune into Capricorn. To offset the serious dryness of this combination, Mars is moving through watery Pisces, with Jupiter in Cancer. This month favors family issues, matters involving real estate and looking at goals.

ARIES

Your ruler, Mars, spends the month in your most sensitive chart sector (12th house), but you can focus on roots with the sun in Taurus, your security sector. With Mercury retrograde (May 2 to 18), commitments may fall through. Watch your temper. Meditation will check emotional impulses. Venus brings loving support from others.

TAURUS

Sun in Taurus makes others take notice of your actions. The retrograde Mercury cautions you about signing long-term agreements between May 2 and 18. Mars hits your social angle and helps you work toward deeply held hopes. You may be in demand at gatherings. Venus, your ruler, in the karmic 12th house can bring romance.

GEMINI

Take time alone and meditate; consider what's going on in your life. Mars in the career sector could indicate that others will pull you in several directions. Mars makes a square this month which can lower your energy. Keep a low profile except in creative areas that let your imagination take flight. Invite others to join you.

CANCER

Social events boost your spirits this month as the Sun crosses the lively 11th house. You may also come closer to realization of your life's options. However, since Mercury will turn retrograde, remember that

you can change your mind. Mars in your travel sector urges you to take flight. Venus in the career sector favors those who rely on looks or charm to get the job done.

LEO

Your career may be spotlighted, though retrograde Mercury (May 2 to 18) can indicate a clash of plans. Another opportunity may come later. Venus draws you to travel for love or pleasure. Mars exercises stress over your financial sector. By late summer your financial status should improve.

VIRGO

The sun blazes over your travel sector. A trip is in order now, even though retrograde Mercury (May 2 to 18) can snarl plans. Mars in your mating sign suggests your mate needs a getaway, too. Problems may result if you glue yourselves to the normal routine. At least get out for a short trip up the Keys. Enjoy physical activity while being ecologically sensitive.

LIBRA

Mars is in the house of work -- it's time to get down to basics and work off debts. Imagination will guide you. Venus in your opposite sign can mean you'll be falling in love, again. Others may compliment you; believe in your attractive powers. There have been some heavy squares from Saturn and Uranus that sent psychic waste out with the tide.

SCORPIO

Much ado about partnership. Mercury retrograde may cause your partner to form judgements without listening to your words. However, Mars moves through seductive Pisces, your house of romance. Show unconditional love to create a positive shift in this month's scenario. Venus in your sector of work can bring joy and innovation to your endeavors.

SAGITTARIUS

You have ample energy for the tasks at hand. Retrograde Mercury cautions you to read the fine print and review important documents. Mars in the solar 4th house can bring vigorous work at home or volatile issues to work through. Venus in Aries

blesses your chart sector of romantic love.

CAPRICORN

Your romantic fifth house is being activated, and you may find yourself in the fields of love and passion. Mercury retrograde (May 2 to 18) reminds you to give extra thought to something said by a child. Venus encourages you to do some home entertaining or beautification. Mars in Pisces can make decisions difficult, but count on your practical nature to guide you.

AQUARIUS

Practical and domestic issues occupy your stellar agenda. The key, as always, is attitude. Venus puts you in the spirit for good conversation or light flirtation. Mars has you pushing toward greater financial freedom. You may have a breakthrough this month. If not, Jupiter's entrance into Leo this summer is a definite plus in this regard.

PISCES

Communications are in focus. There's someone you need to be in touch with to sort out old, confused issues. Mars adds confidence to your demeanor, and spurs you to exercise physically and launch new projects. Others may notice your newfound independence. Practical matters seem to be taking care of themselves. The universe is telling you to enjoy yourself. ☐

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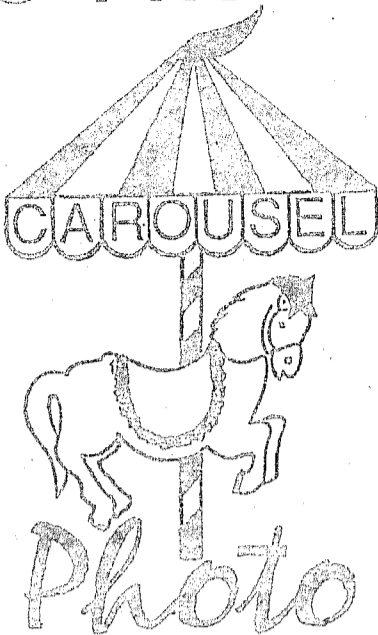
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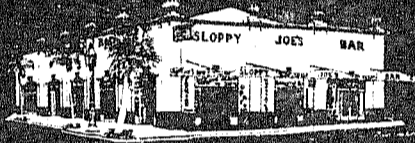


HEMINGWAY'S
FAVORITE

A KEY WEST
TRADITION

SLOPPY JOE'S

KEY WEST



THE CORNER OF GREENE
& DUVAL STREETS

GET READY KEY WEST... THE ROAD DUCKS ARE COMING!	DON'T MISS OUT A HAND!	Tuesday, May 1 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Out A Hand	Wednesday, May 2 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Wayne Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand	Thursday, May 3 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand	Friday, May 4 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand	Saturday, May 5 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand
Sunday, May 6 Noon-4 Dan Mobley 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Out A Hand	Monday, May 7 Noon-4 Wayne Faust 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, May 8 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Freedom of Expression	Wednesday, May 9 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Wayne Faust 10-2 Freedom of Expression	Thursday, May 10 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Freedom of Expression	Friday, May 11 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Freedom of Expression	Saturday, May 12 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Freedom of Expression
Sunday, May 13 Noon-4 Dan Mobley 5-9 Faust & Lewis 10-2 Freedom of Expression	Monday, May 14 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, May 15 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Tino Gonzalas	Wednesday, May 16 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Tino Gonzalas	Thursday, May 17 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Rusty Lewis 10-2 Tino Gonzalas	Friday, May 18 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Rusty Lewis 10-2 Tino Gonzalas	Saturday, May 19 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Rusty Lewis 10-2 Tino Gonzalas
Sunday, May 20 Noon-4 Dan Mobley 5-9 Rusty Lewis 10-2 Tino Gonzalas	Monday, May 21 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Full Sail Band 10-2 Road Ducks	Tuesday, May 22 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Road Ducks	Wednesday, May 23 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Road Ducks	Thursday, May 24 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Rusty Lewis 10-2 Road Ducks	Friday, May 25 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Rusty Lewis 10-2 Road Ducks	Saturday, May 26 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Rusty Lewis 10-2 Road Ducks
Sunday, May 27 Noon-4 Mike & John 5-9 Full Sail Band 10-2 Road Ducks	Monday, May 28 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Full Sail Band 10-2 Road Ducks	Tuesday, May 29 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Groove Monsters	Wednesday, May 30 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Groove Monsters	Thursday, May 31 Noon-4 Jeff Rutledge 5-9 Mike & John 10-2 Groove Monsters	HOLD ON TO YOUR HAT!!	CONTINUOUS LIVE MUSIC!