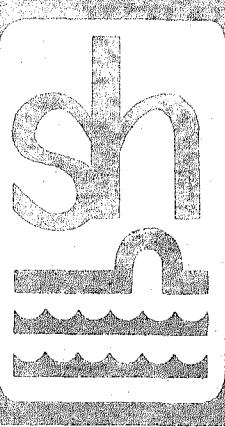
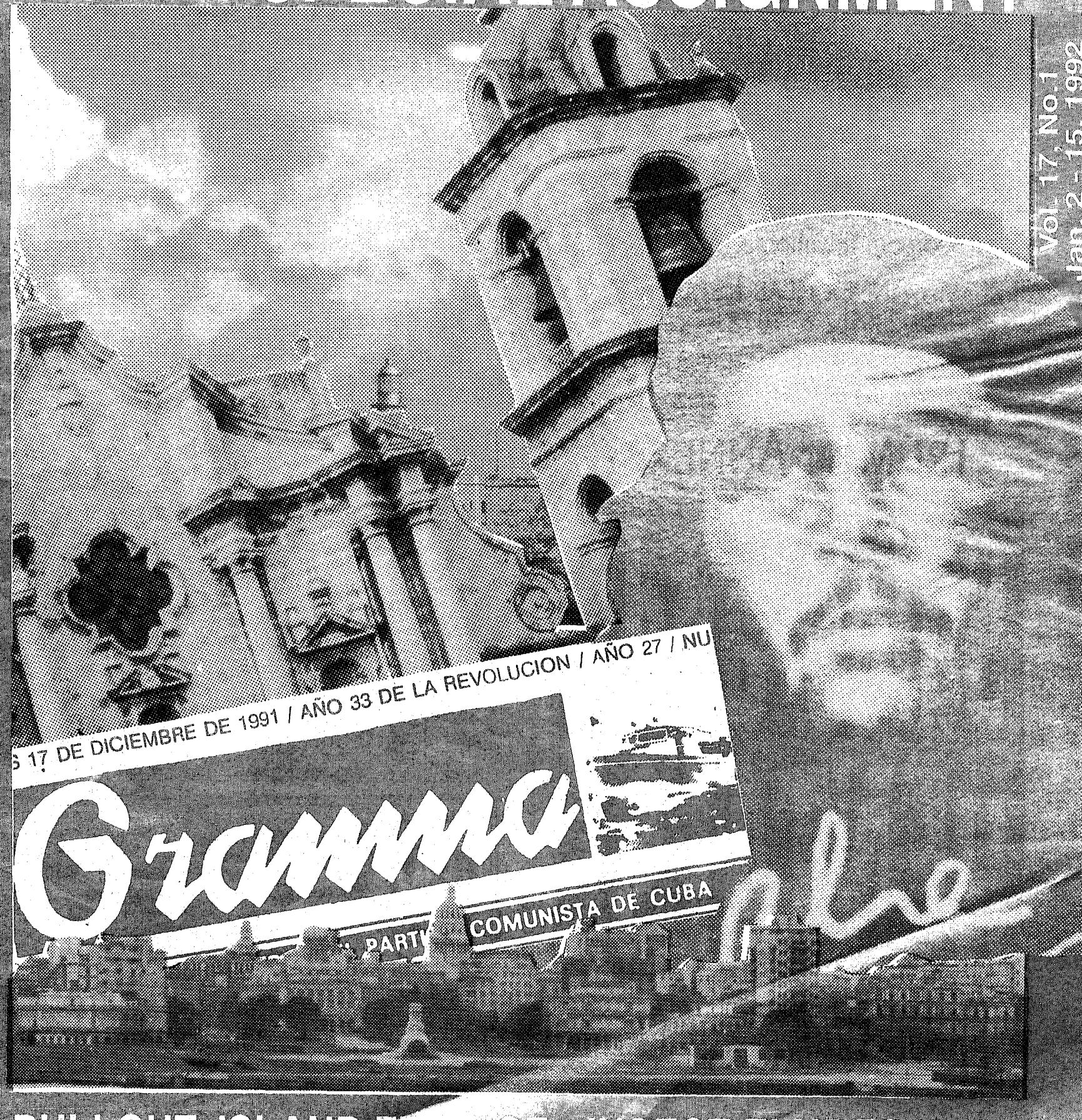


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CUBA: SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

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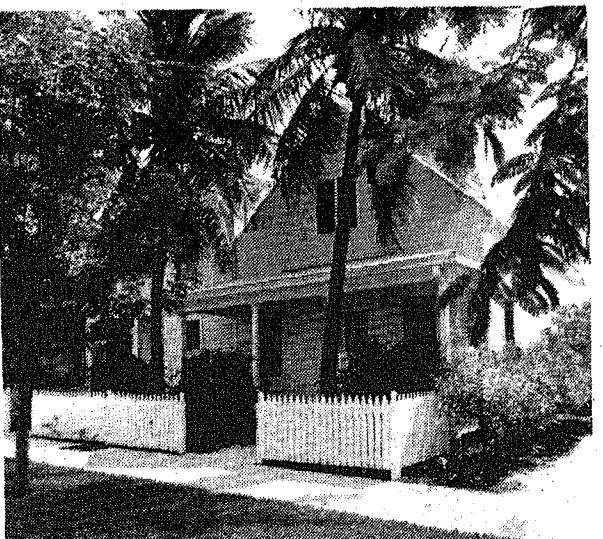
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Jan. 2 - 15, 1992

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## Looking Back & Ahead

Another new year. Many publications take advantage of the January timing to review highlights of the previous year. Indeed, 1991 was not lacking in its share of intriguing stories. Think back to some of the obvious contenders:

City manager Felix Cooper gives former police chief Tom Webster the bureaucratic boot (then the mayor ploys to fire the city manager, and Webster qualifies to run for commissioner); Berenson's greyhound track is shut down due to blatant (not to mention atrocious) violations of state statutes (it's gamblers vs. animal rights activists); director Richard Magesis takes local playwright Tom Grimes' *Spec to L.A.* (and they like it!); amidst a flood of champagne tears, La-Te-Da is auctioned (and then re-opens, as pink as ever); city elections churn up dark stories of vote-buying and mysterious bundles of cash stashed in city lockers (the cash-connected candidate wins, first round); a popular Capt. Tony loses his mayoral seat, and Dennis Wardlow takes over as numero uno (the business community is ecstatic); defeated candidate Cookie Key abandons the Oreo campaign (while his fellow political hopeful, Noodleman, fires up yet another joint on the steps of City Hall); psychics Starlady and Barbara Norcross head upstairs to "avoid the hurricane" (then move back a few months later); Cuban refugees arrive daily, bewildered by their newfound freedom (and a grueling

90-mile trip); the citizens group Last Stand sues the U.S. Navy (based on a roomful of documents, some questionable, compiled by their commissioner Harry "Keep-Peary-Court-Green" Powell); Virginia Panico leaves her official political life for a more private public position (but not before convincing fellow commissioners to sue the friendly folks at Montenay, our useless waste-to-smoke incinerator); and the cost of rebuilding Wicker's Field is, well, way out of the ballpark.

Without a doubt, there is plenty to reminisce about. But the staff at *Solares Hill* decided we wanted start the new year by looking ahead, by prying our way into the future. So, we devoted our January issue to learning about Cuba, our dubious neighbor to the south. Two staff members, Frank Taylor and J.D. Dooley—along with friends, a Cuba expert and several freelance writers—boarded a 28-foot boat and motored to the mysterious socialist country.

This issue, "Cuba: Special Assignment," includes three pieces, which are based on information and photos gathered during the week-long journey. We plan to continue to study Cuba and its relationship to Key West as best we can. We hope you enjoy the copy, and we encourage readers to write to the paper with personal stories, letters, comments and criticisms about Cuba, our stories and related issues.

Happy New Year!

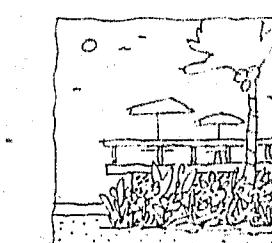
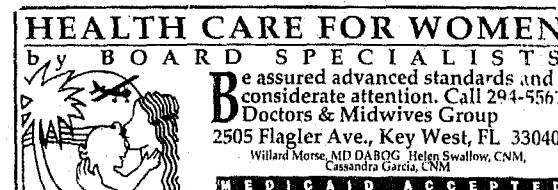
Ann Boese

The cover collage was designed by Suzanne Periera; all cover photos were shot by J.D. Dooley.

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## DATELINE: Havana, Cuba



By J. D. Dooley

Havana, the forbidden city. The mere mention of its name conjures images of intrigue and sets off heated discussions.

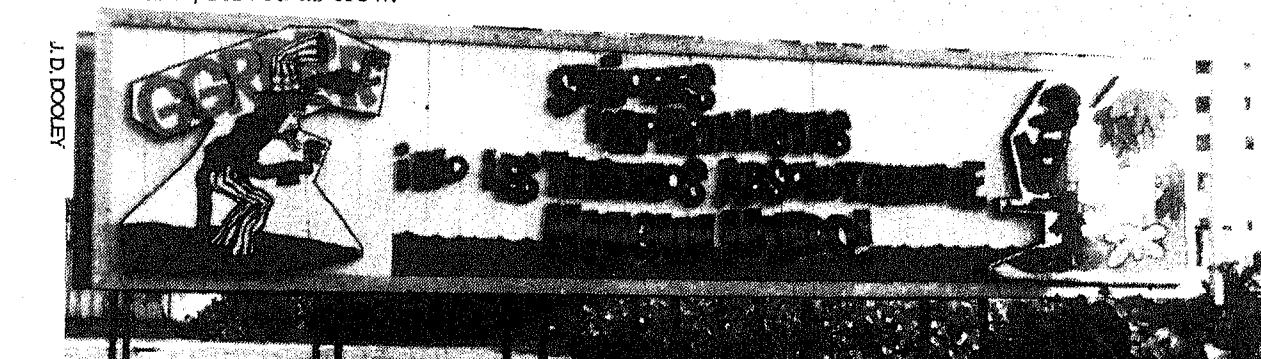
For 33 years Cuba has remained Key West's closest though enigmatic international neighbor. Not a day passes without some sketchy report surfacing. Last year, stories about refugee arrivals and defections monopolized the news, while details of life in Cuba remained mysterious.

In the past, most of the information from Cuba has come from dissidents. It would stand to reason that there is another side to the story, and that side would only be available on Cuban soil and in the streets of Havana, the nation's capital. With that in mind, *Solares Hill* decided that now was the time to cross the 90-mile stretch of ocean and pay the country a visit.

After six months of dialogue and arrangements, we decided to travel by boat. Journalist and former city commissioner George Halloran volunteered his 28-foot Bertram, the *Havana Pearl*, as our vessel.

There were ten aboard for the passage over, including film producer Paul Madden; music producer Gerald Bix; Last Stand's Jim McLernan; *Solares Hill* vice-president Frank

Taylor; novelist John Leslie; Sandra Levenson, the director for the Center for Cuban Studies; George Halloran and myself. Andrew Halloran, George's son, and his friend, Chris Dunn, served as crew.



MESSAGE: The sign, which shows a Cuban soldier shouting at Uncle Sam, reads: "Senores imperialists, we have absolutely no fear of you!"

Our quest was to meet and learn about our neighbors to the south, to observe their day-to-day existence, and to discover how they are coping with the impending oil crisis. We did not intend to lend support to Fidel Castro's socialist regime; nor did we plan to supply fodder to those who would depose him. Frankly, we hoped to remain apolitical, simply painting the picture of life in Cuba we absorbed during our short visit.

For me, Havana was a learning experience, and most of what I learned indicated that Cubans and Americans are not all that different.

For instance, Cuba is listening.

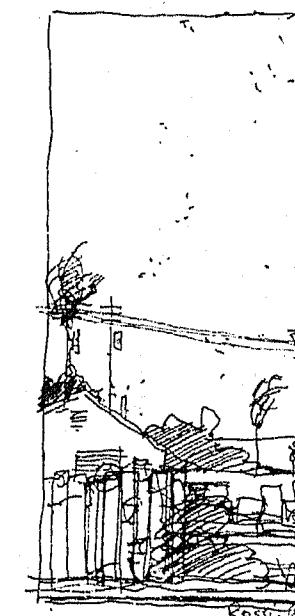
The favorite radio station among young revolutionaries is our own WOZN, broadcasting from Key West. When a young Cuban discovered I was from Key West, he asked if I knew Stew Shaw, a WOZN deejay.

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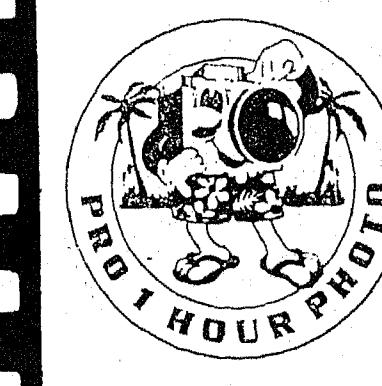
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KEY WEST GANG: (From left) Frank Taylor, J.D. Dooley, George Halloran, Andrew Halloran and Jim McLernan.



American music is played on Cuban radio, and I was able to keep up with the happenings in Key West by listening to Bill Becker's WWUS 1 radio newscast from Sugarloaf Key. The Cubans listened, too.

I also realized that not everyone is ready to take the 90-mile raft ride. Castro promised the same for everyone and enough for all, and to some extent, on the most basic of levels, he has fulfilled that promise.

There are, for instance, 38,000 doctors in Cuba, and over half are women. One black female doctor told me that for generations her family worked in the cane fields. Before the Castro revolution, she said, there had been no hope of changing their social status. Today she is not only the first educated member of her family but a respected doctor as well.

The economic downside, however, has tainted the socialist promise. One Cuban man invited me to have coffee with him and his wife. He is an award-winning filmmaker. He

said that, due to the oil crisis, large employment cutbacks are necessary. Among the first to lose jobs were those working in the entertainment industry.

As of January 1, he said, he and his wife must make do with only her salary.

As it happens, this man is also an accomplished artist. His paintings grace the walls of their humble apartment. If he were to sell them on the sidewalk outside of one of the tourist hotels, he and his wife could live comfortably despite the economic crisis. But theirs is a socialist society, and private enterprise is strictly forbidden.

Their future is uncertain, and they said that they would leave the country with only the clothes on their backs if the situation worsened to becoming a question of survival.

Surprisingly, most educated Cubans are extremely knowledgeable about world events. They watch American television and listen to world news radio. Newspapers such as the *International Herald Tribune* are available. Most educated Cubans also have a better grasp of the Soviet situation than do many Americans.

For nearly 30 years, Soviet alignment

kept the Cuban economy alive, while the U.S. blockade did its best to kill it.

The issue of the U.S. economic blockade is multi-faceted and difficult to comprehend. The Cuban government claims that the Miami exile community is controlling the U.S. foreign policies concerning Cuba.



TEMPORARY HOME: The *Havana Pearl* docked at the Marina Hemingway.

# CUBA Contrast & Contradiction

By J.D. Dooley

Havana today is a study in contrast and contradiction.

In the last bastion of organized socialism in a world where socialist countries have ceased to exist seemingly overnight, one man is attempting to hold onto the ideals set down a hundred years ago by Lenin and Marx. In doing so Fidel Castro has created possibly the most unique, though difficult, system of parallel economies in a Third World nation, where survival is the only concern of the people.

Perhaps the most beautiful city in this hemisphere, Havana (spelled *Habana* in Cuba) is the soul of a country on the brink of total economic collapse. In a struggle to avoid certain disaster, Castro has turned to what would seem the antithesis of the very ideals that govern the society he has created—tourism.

What keeps the average American from entering the country is the United States trade embargo and travel ban. From the extensive stores of American and international goods

available to the tourists, it would seem that the U.S. is one of the few nations adhering to the economic blockade.

Since Cuba opened her shores to outside investors earlier this year, dozens of other countries have taken advantage of the opportunity and have entered into joint ventures with the Cubans on merchandise, hotel and other resort enterprises.

For this report, *Solares Hill* attempted to sift through the mire and determine the current status of these ventures, the effect of these ventures on Cubans and the possible effect on Key West.

Havana shares a special heritage with Key West and that tie is strong on both sides of the Florida Straits. With the sudden flurry of questions flying about on this end, it is hoped that the information gleaned is of some positive value.

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**Havana: Still Beautiful**

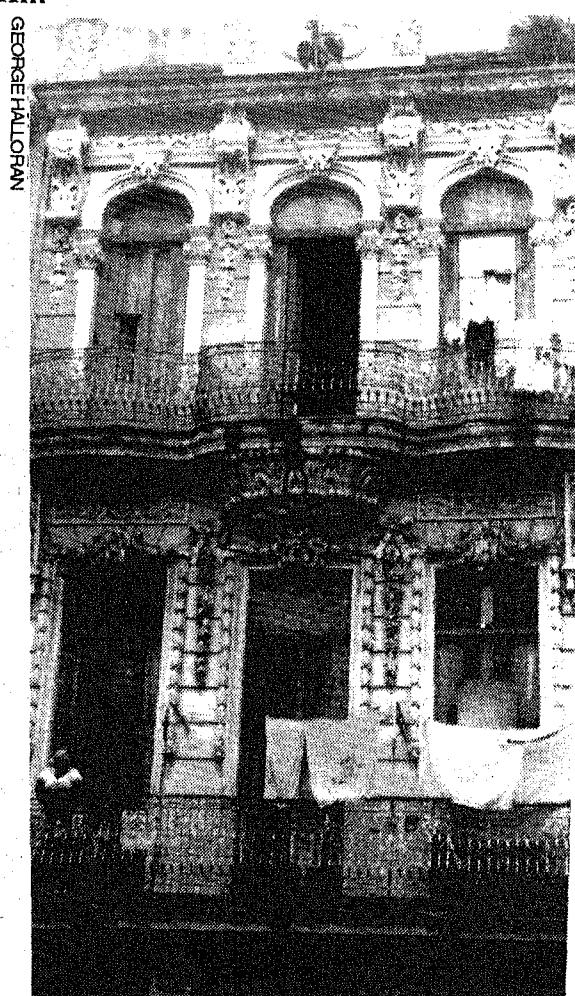
Havana's appearance has not changed much during the 33 years of the revolution. Entering the city from the west near Santa Fe, where the Marina Hemingway is located, you still travel east on 5th Avenue along the beautiful tree-lined streets of Miramar past grand estates previously owned by rich Cubans and Americans, now home to the Communist Party and foreign embassy offices and residences.

A tunnel beneath the river Almendares deposits you onto the Malecon in Vedado, the heart of Havana. The Malecon (or sea wall) runs from the river to La Habana Vieja (Old Habana). Serving as the north coast highway for the city and a popular gathering place for Cubans, the Malecon offers a breathtaking view of the 16th century city and the intimidating Castle Morro, which for centuries has guarded the mouth of Habana Harbor.

From the Malecon, the city climbs up the steep streets of the Rampa and the Prado, once the economic and cultural center of the city, to the hotel Habana Libre which was the Habana Hilton prior to the revolution, now completely restored. Along with the Habana Libre, several other hotels built during the 1950s have been restored, including the Capri and, the grandest of them all, the Hotel Nacional.

Aside from the hotels, however, most of the once-thriving Vedado section of Havana is crumbling into the streets, literally.

Buildings, once occupied by wealthy American companies and European businesses, are vacant or have been converted to housing units, which are heavily in demand.



Entire blocks of commercial space have slipped into various states of disrepair as they sit vacant.

The Old Habana section recently underwent a much-needed facelift, which restored a great portion of the area to its 16th century splendor.

Largely for the appreciation of the multinational tourists, who continue to pour into the city at a growing rate, Old Habana contains the museums and the architecture of a city which was once the heart of the new world.

Further inland is the José Martí memorial at the Plaza de Revolución, where Castro gave many of his famous albeit lengthy speeches. Hundreds of statues and parks along with the medium high-rise apartment complexes that have been constructed since the revolution dot the city's interior, but most of the area is as it appeared in 1959.

West of the city, in Barlovento, lies Marina Hemingway, a tourist/residential community. Condominiums, hotels and houses line the quay-style canals which make up the marina. With the capacity to accommodate several hundred boats, the marina plays host to the annual Ernest Hemingway Fishing Tournament, which will be held in 1992 from May 18 to 23. Last year, over 20 boats from the United States participated. Currently, mariners from Germany, France, Venezuela, Mexico and the United States are visiting the marina.

Plush lawns and thatched huts make up the marina complex. The grocery, liquor and clothing stores look as if they could be built in Florida.

**Parallel Economies**

As with all other tourist facilities in Cuba, only U.S. dollars or Cuban "tourist dollars" are accepted in the tourist stores.

Tourists are not allowed to spend Cuban pesos, and Cubans are not allowed to pos-

sess U.S. dollars. American dollars are accepted anywhere tourists may shop, and such areas are strictly off limits to Cubans. In fact, Cubans are forbidden to enter a tourist shop unless accompanied by a foreigner.

This system has created two state-sanctioned parallel economies and a third illicit economy: capitalism for tourists, socialism for residents, and the black market for whomever can get away with it.

For the citizens of Cuba, the collapse of Eastern European socialist countries means hard times in Cuba. Once strongly supported by the Soviets, Cuba no longer has any clout in the world socialist markets. Unable to purchase fuel with inflated sugar profits, Cuba faces extreme cutbacks in transportation, electricity and other fuel dependent enterprises, which will effect every aspect of Cuban existence, with the exception of those Cubans with either approved or illicit outside incomes.

**"A Special Period"**

During a speech while *Solares Hill* was in Cuba, Fidel Castro explained that the country is operating with half the fuel necessary, and that soon only one third of the country's needed fuel will be available.

"The revolution must go through this special period, and it could get much worse," said Castro.

How much worse?

According to party members, January will bring further cutbacks in transportation and distribution; employment layoffs are imminent.

Already the country is in dire straits as the fuel crisis has slowed down the public transportation system, or *guagua*, which is operating with fewer routes and less buses.

At each stop there are usually many more riders than there is available space. Most buses seen traveling through the city have riders hanging from open doors and clinging to the side. Often workers are hours late for work because bus after bus arrives without any possible space for another passenger.

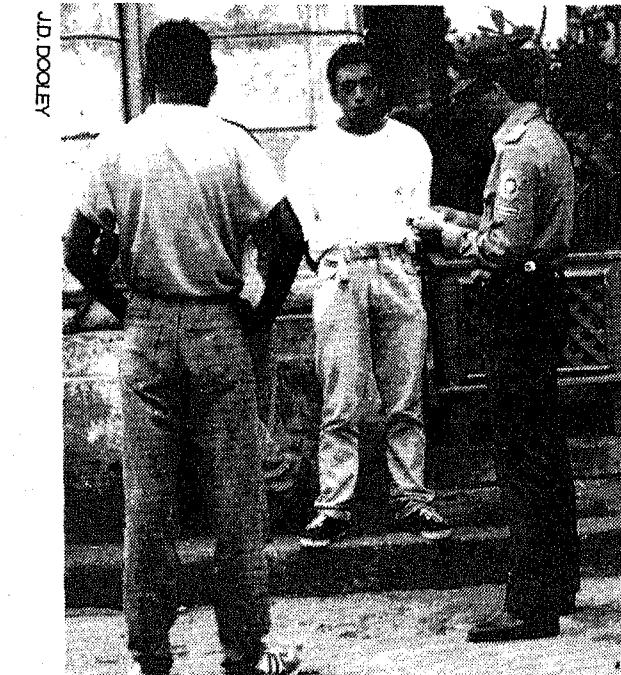
**Sugar & Oil: An Imbalance**

On December 27, Prensa Latina, the official Cuban news agency, reported that Cuba had entered into agreements with the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, two of the newly reformed post-Soviet commonwealths.

The most-favored-nation agreements reportedly stipulate trade of the much-needed oil for sugar, fruit and medicine at world-market prices, but according to a speech delivered by Castro on December 6, it won't be enough.

In an address given to the Federation of Students in Intermediate Education (FEEM), Castro said that the sale price of sugar was based on the production cost of sugar in what was then called the Soviet Union. In other words, Castro could trade a ton of sugar to the Soviets for several tons of oil. The world market price is roughly 1.3 tons of oil for 1 ton of sugar.

Castro said that the cost involved in planting, harvesting, refining and transporting a ton of sugar is greater than the cost of producing a ton of oil, and, that at world market prices, the cost of sugar production is higher than the trade value. Simply put, the



**DETAINED:** Cuban police carefully scrutinize a young Cuban's identification papers—a common occurrence.

more sugar Cuba produces, the more oil is required.

Castro said that it was to the Soviet's advantage to buy sugar with oil and other industrial products, because the production cost for sugar in the Soviet Union was so much greater.

Since the Cubans buy crude oil that must be refined in Cuba, certain infrastructural costs are built in, such as the costs to operate the refineries.

Even in the light of recent agreements, Cuba's crisis is far from over.

**Barren Shelves**

Food is extremely scarce and supermarkets are empty. Everything is rationed. According to most Cubans, there is rarely enough for complete meals. Long lines form early in the mornings for staples, such as bread and milk. Luxury food items are unheard of.

In order to cope with the crises, most Cubans are cautiously and quietly waiting to see what happens, while some are doing what most desperate situations call for, the application of desperate means.

Mario works at a popular tourist bar in Havana. Each day he goes to work and watches tourists spend more in a night than he will make all year. His mother stands in line for hours just to try to purchase the basic food needs of his family. On some occasions she stands in line for nothing as the supplies run out before she has a chance to purchase them.

Mario earns 200 pesos a month waiting tables, roughly the equivalent of \$20 in American currency, or one round of the drinks served at the bar where he works. As a good socialist, he is expected to turn in his tips as well as the hundreds of dollars that pass through his hands each day.

It wasn't long before this situation was a hot topic of conversation among the tourism workers during hushed, late-night discussions.

It also was not long before Mario began to withhold a portion of his tips, which later led to a small conspiracy between himself and the bartender. They pick tables running large tabs and submit to them a hand-written check

reflecting a few dollars more than the actual tab. The bartender then rings up the actual tab and the two split the difference and turn in the tips, like good socialists.

According to Mario, this is standard practice throughout the industry.

"Every day I risk imprisonment just to put food on my family's table," Mario said.

As his stash of American dollars increases, Mario makes a list of the items needed by his family, and recruits a tourist for purchases in a dollar store.

In the instance I witnessed, Mario purchased over \$300 (American) worth of goods for his family. Each item purchased was a necessity, such as toothpaste, laundry detergent, soap, clothing for an infant nephew and food. On two occasions, the clerk in the store slipped in an extra \$20 for purchases of her own.

## CAFE MARQUESA

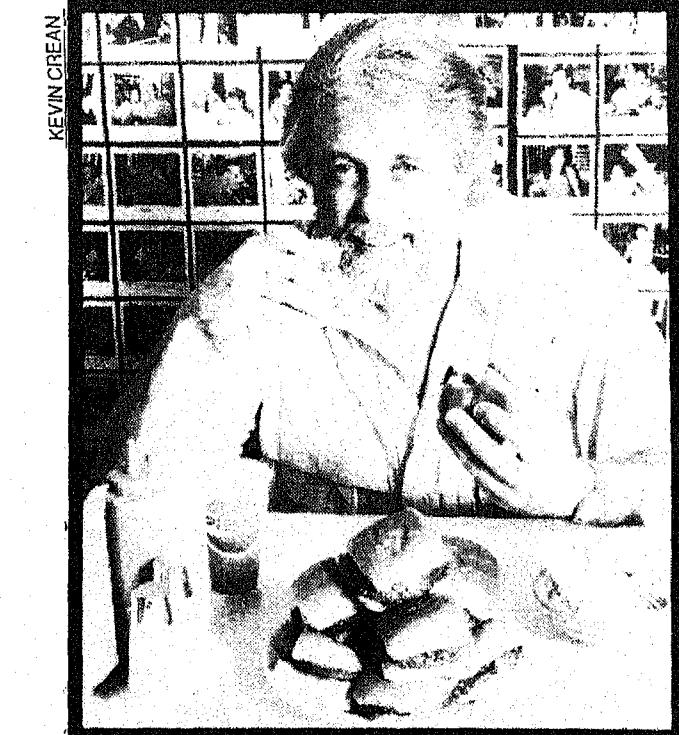
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**From Nurses to Prostitutes**

For many women the situation is the same though the procurement of American cash differs.

The first thing one notices when entering a Cuban tourist disco or bar is the incredible number of beautiful women, who are dressed in the latest Miami fashions.

In this version of the world's oldest profession, girls, by the dozens, wait outside the tourist-only facilities and introduce themselves to the male tourist population to gain entrance. It is not uncommon to see one male tourist enter with three or four girls. The girls are not shy as to what they are after.

Estella is 28 and has two daughters. She said that she worked in the shipyard until her job was cut due to the oil crisis. She receives a small pension from the government, but she says that it is not enough. Unable to find another state job she was forced to seek her own subsidy.

"In the early days, Castro said that he took all the whores and made them nurses and teachers," Estella said. "Now, he is taking the nurses and making them whores."

Estella said that she is not happy with the current situation, but a night or two per week with the tourists will put food on the table and decent clothing on the backs of her two daughters. However, Estella said that she would never leave Cuba because of her daughters.

**An Island of Survivors**

In fact, most Cubans interviewed said that they genuinely believed that the situation would improve.

"We are an island of survivors," said one. "Things are bad now but still better than before the revolution. Before the revolution we had nothing."

If Cuba is an island of survivors, then why did 2500 Cubans attempt the 90 miles raft ride?

"Radio Marti," Sandra Levenson, director of the Center for Cuban Studies and editor of

the magazine *Cuba Update*, said in an interview in her Havana apartment. "Do you know what the U.S. has done to this country?"

"The Cubans won't admit that Radio Marti is effective, but they put recent arrivals on the radio from the states enticing them to get on the innertube," she said. "Most Cubans are not running from Cuba, they are running to a false idea of America."

Levenson said the current economic situation certainly has something to do with the number of exiles, but she maintains that the only way to overcome the fear involved in getting on an innertube and attempting to paddle 90 miles is to show all those who made it.

Joe O'Connell of "Voice of America," Radio Marti's parent organization, uncategorically denies "enticing" would-be refugees to take the 90-mile crossing and says that Radio Marti constantly broadcasts the dangers involved. He says, however, that they do report the names of the recent arrivals for the benefit of families left behind.

**"Radio Marti is enticing Cubans to get on the innertube."**

Radio Marti also puts recent arrivals on the air and asks them how they like the U.S., but, O'Connell says, that the practice is for research purposes only.

"If people are enticed then, well . . . people are going to do that," he said.

**Doctors, But No Aspirin**  
They're not leaving because they are oppressed?

"The oppression is from the American blockade and bad planning," Levenson said.

"The Cuban government didn't invest in the basics, which they had coming in from other socialist countries. Now they don't have anyone to trade with so they have the best doctors and hospitals in Latin America but no aspirin."

"The people that are really hurting now are the true revolutionaries, who will not buy on the black market and go to bed hungry," Levenson said. "[They are] people who will not destroy their principles to make their lives easier."

Fernando Rojas, of the Cuban American National Foundation, disagrees.

The CANF, founded ten years ago with the sole purpose of bringing democracy to Cuba by peaceful means, wholeheartedly supports the U.S. trade embargo.

"These are the same measures that were successful in South Africa," Rojas said. "Most of the foreign aid that Castro has received was not spent on food or infrastructure, where it was needed, but on military adventures in Angola and South America."

"Socialism didn't create TVs or tourism," he continued. "We don't know what they believe, we only hear the lies they preach."

A glance around Philipo's apartment confirms his strict belief in capitalism as a political preference. A brand new Sony color TV, VCR and a stocked refrigerator is clearly, if not mockingly, visible. Philipo plays the black market for all it's worth, but claims to spread the wealth around to his family.

After two weeks in Havana, the questions remain mostly unanswered with the words of so many Cubans lingering in the silence that accompanies exhausted conversations:

"Only time will tell," they say.

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# Cuba Diary

By George Halloran

On December 11, 1991, ten Americans left Key West on the 28-foot *Havana Pearl* and headed to Cuba. On board were: George Halloran, captain; Andrew Halloran, crewman; Chris Dunn, cook; Frank Taylor, vice-president of Solares Hill; Jim McLernan, public relations; J.D. Dooley, photographer/ writer; John Leslie, writer; Paul Madden, film director; Sandra Levenson, director of Center for Cuban Studies; and Gerald Bix, music specialist. What follows is a personal account of their voyage.

**LATE NOVEMBER:** John Leslie calls with rumors from John Young, publisher of a local newsletter on Cuba, that shrimp boats are running to Cuba with dishwashers and razor blades. Young reports that Frank Taylor sailed there and back three months ago. Taylor acknowledges the trip, and says he'd like to go again. Since journalists are among those allowed to spend money in Cuba, we mad that the new gauge doesn't seem to be accurate.

Twenty miles from Cuba we see mountains to the east, then the skyscrapers of Havana itself. The gas situation is now critical. We have moved most of the luggage onto the rear deck to bring up the bow. Everyone is seated aft except the comatose Bix, who is sea sick, and we have cut the engine speed to conserve fuel, but nothing helps. The gauge drops to empty, and as we

notify Morro Station that we need an escort to Marina Hemingway, the engines start out. We ask the Cubans to bring us some gas or give us a tow.

Everyone knows they can bring only one bag and it has to be on the boat tonight. A few people arrive with an extra satchel or a camera bag. Frank Taylor pulls up with six bags and three heavy boxes. We load the luggage, four bicycles, an emergency life raft, sleeping bags, and enough food and water for a week.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 10:** We have been planning for a week. The head count is now at 10, with a dozen more waiting. Through a series of hypothetical questions, we have ascertained from U.S. Customs that the boat won't be seized.

A few people are worried. Sandra asks if we will capsize. J.D. takes notes. Frank relaxes in the fighting chair and breaks out more food. Jim McLernan launches a series of funny stories, and we wait for the Cuban coast guard. It is 1:30 in the afternoon.

A serious-looking gunboat with lots of

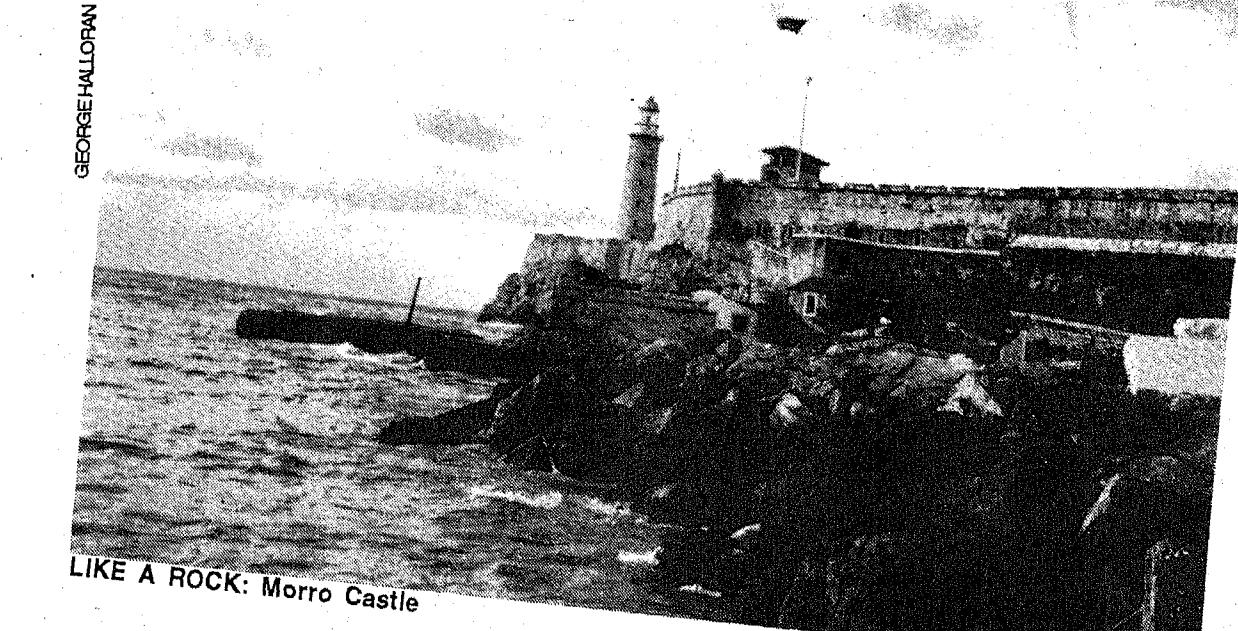
soldiers on deck appears and circles us. J.D.

and Chris harass them with cameras. Finally, a 40-foot sportfisher arrives and takes our tow line.

It is after dark when we arrive at Customs. We are inspected by a nurse and a

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11:** Paul and I eat breakfast at 5:30 and ease the *Havana Pearl* out of Garrison Bight. Everyone is waiting at Land's End Marina as planned, but there is more luggage. Lots of it. My wife Marcia

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tells me later our water line is buried.

We pass Ft. Taylor doing 14 knots in a moderate chop. By 10 we are in the Gulf Stream and the waves have swelled to the five-foot range but are headed partly our way. We labor up their backs, then surf down their faces. The new fuel gauge I have installed for the trip begins to drop rapidly. We carry 165 gallons, so I am not worried—just a little mad that the new gauge doesn't seem to be accurate.

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food-and-agriculture specialist, then searched for contraband or stowaways. The paperwork takes over an hour. We receive visas, and our passports are left unstamped. One apple that appears to have a worm hole is confiscated. We give the inspectors cigarettes and a few packs of gum and are cleared to enter the marina.



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Our berth is at the side of a canal, 20 feet from a bar/restaurant with very loud salsa music. We each receive a free rum and coke and are greeted with smiles, handshakes and curiosity. We are the only Americans at the marina. Sandy, Bix, Jim, John, Paul and Frank leave for Havana by car. The rest of us move the boat beyond the 100-decibel range, and Chris makes up a nice dinner. I call home from a little booth nearby with no trouble. It costs \$17.50 for five minutes.

After dinner we break out the bicycles and ride into Santa Fe, a village just west of the marina. Lots of wooden houses that could just as easily be found on Petronia Street. It is nearly 10 p.m., and we are strangers; yet an older couple invites us into their home for coffee. A sign on the house identifies the owner as part of the *Guardia*. He tells us he is the "eyes of the government" on this street.

Back at the marina by midnight, we are drawn by a live band to the bar. The open air dance floor by now is filled with good-looking women in skin-tight dresses doing incredible things with their lower bodies. We are all impressed. Later we find out that some of these women work as dancers and are encouraged by the government to come to the marina, which is off limits to the average Cuban. From our bunks on the boat, we hear the music end at 2 a.m. and then boatloads of revelers passing by in the canal with blaring speakers. They are headed for another bar which stays open until 5 a.m.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 12:** We are up fairly early, and discover the restrooms have no toilet seats, no paper and no soap. The one shower is outdoors in a recreation area, visi-

GEORGE HARRIS



16TH CENTURY; Stately mansions in downtown Havana are now split into tiny apartments. Residents use balconies in place of yards or parks.

ble to all. We shower in our shorts and spend most of the morning just getting hooked up for electricity (we have to modify the strange, five pronged outlet) and water, doing more paperwork for the marina and filling the gas tank. They tell us the fuel is 95 octane and charge \$3.22 a gallon. This is a major attack on our finances.

At dark, Andy and Chris return to the

Only one engine starts, but we postpone further repairs until mañana, and head for Havana. We are riding American mountain bikes, and everyone stares. We get many offers to trade for the Chinese-made "Flying Pigeons" that most people ride. Bicycles are everywhere, many with heavy packages tied on or with two adults and a baby aboard. Some highways have lanes devoted to bicycles only, others are marked for no bikes. Enforcement is strict. We are stopped twice by police, and also told to put on our shirts.

During the 20 kilometers to Havana, two bicyclists go by balancing a pole between them with a five-gallon bucket in the middle. Another rides along with a live chicken. Ancient American autos from the 40s and 50s, customized and patched together, struggle along in traffic.

Havana is big, throbbing with life, people everywhere—in doorways and balconies, buses jam-packed and belching diesel fumes, gorgeous stone and concrete buildings, tourists from all over the world wandering the streets, young Cuban men trying to hustle us for dollars or American goods.

We find a *hamburguesa* stand and order four burgers. It is the only food they have, and nothing to drink. It seems to be pork flavored soybeans. J.D. tosses half of his into a dumpster, stealthily.

We pass long lines of waiting shoppers outside stores that seem to have only one or two items. The egg store. The apple and potato store. The bread store. Cubans call the lines *colas*, or tails, and ignore stores or restaurants without them. No *cola*, no food.

At dark, Andy and Chris return to the

boat. J.D. and I explore the *Havana Libre* Hotel, and bump into Frank and Jim at a restaurant. J.D. has steak, and I have fish—both with beans and rice and a salad for \$15 apiece.

We meet up with Sandra and some Cuban friends nearby, and end up at a rooftop cabaret 15 stories above the city. A hot salsa band blows life into all of us, and again the dancing is amazing: old men with cigars twirl tightly packaged women; young couples practically mate.

The band quits at two, and J.D. and I find a \$40 double room in a small hotel. The desk clerk stashes our bikes in his office, and begs to be taken to Key West. He says he hates Castro and will gladly hide in the engine room.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 13:** Wake up call at 7:15. J.D. has interviews lined up so we find Frank and, with bikes in the trunk, blast off for the marina, arriving an hour later. The music has already started, and a few couples are dancing to the beat of a huge hand-cranked wooden organ. Two men turn big handles as stacks of perforated paper a foot wide are pulled through the machine.

J.D. leaves with Frank, who is still on a fast American schedule. The rest of us spend most of the day at the marina, talking with tourists from Venezuela, Belgium, Germany, France, Mexico and Canada. None are worried about Customs, and all think the American blockade and travel restrictions are silly.

We take a taxi back to town at about 5 p.m. and meet John at the *Hotel Morro*, where he and Paul have a two-room suite for \$63 a night. They are off to a film festival offering called "Tom Mix." We try spaghetti at a cafeteria. Two dollars and terrible. We wander the streets and come across the *El Presidente Hotel*. As we head up to the bar in our T-shirts, the elevator operator tells us it is full and we can't go in. We smile and go in anyway, and drink strong Cuban beer as an aging Cuban songstress croons old numbers from Bogart movies.

Outside again, we find dozens of punk-dressed teens on a plaza. No drugs or booze, just music and talk. They are friendly, and a few volunteer that they like their country just fine. We taxi home and realize that we are beginning to recognize our "guards," who sit under a nearby tree or walk the docks day and night. Our American boat seems to be

watched more carefully than the others.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 14:** Up early as usual. Our frying pan, left on the dock last night, is gone. Each morning we greet the workmen who come to the marina to toil nearby on a new shower and bath facility. They are very relaxed. Only two or three of the eight men work at a time. The others fish, cut each other's hair, talk to us or stand in the shade. We can see little construction progress at the end of each day.

Dockside water is available only a few hours each morning. We fill our tank and any other containers we have, and wash down the boat. Today, we do laundry in our coolers with dish soap, hanging the clothes between two trees. We have seen no laundromats in Cuba.

We talk to the marina officials, who are curious about what American marinas have to offer. We tell them what a real marina is like.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 15:** Most days we can pick up U.S. weather reports broadcast from Sugarloaf. Today we hear cold fronts are predicted for Tuesday and Wednesday, our planned departure dates.

J.D. leaves for another interview, this time at the home of a dissident. He is a little worried about security, and leaves us the address in case he doesn't return.

We decide to go fishing. Asking advice from the local charterboatmen, we learn there is no live bait available, so we borrow a lure and try to leave. Customs stops us at the harbor entrance: back to the marina for a fishing permit. Another half-hour of paperwork, but no fee. We troll the 100-meter line just off shore—no hits. Three or four Cuban boats fish nearby; later they tell us they caught several big wahoo.

**MONDAY, DEC. 16:** Chris, Andy and I hit the bikes for Havana again. This time we head inland to a tiny village, down a back road, and finally into a dead-end ghetto. Friendly people invite us into their home to see their shrine to St. Lazarus, whose feast day is tomorrow. The houses are shacks, raw sewage runs in the pathways and collects below the village to form a putrid stream. We are invited back that night for a fiesta. They call the place *Pelenke*.

Andy speaks the best Spanish, and manages to spend some *pesos* for delicious ice cream. We try seven bike shops before finding

ing an allen wrench to tighten my handlebars, and pay for the service in gum.

We meet nearly all our original crew plus Key Westers John Young and Tim Gatewood, who had shown up earlier, at the Hotel Capri. After boarding a tour bus, we drive through Old Havana, learning who conquered whom for the past 400 years and where José Martí was baptised. Luckily we have brought a bottle of rum. Frank refuses to drink, and he and the tour guide take turns scolding us for talking in the museums or lagging behind.

There are constant distractions. We see passengers clinging to the outsides of buses like flies. When we stop, hookers sidle up and give us the eye. A kid asks for gum, and before your hand is out of your pocket six of his friends materialize. J.D. says they can

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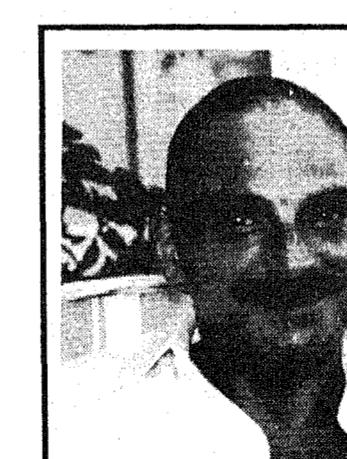
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hear us open a zipper a block away.

Areas set aside for tourists are lifeless and the goods reserved for us to buy are unattractive. Jim's humor and the rum keep us going. Our final stop is the *Plaza de Revolucion*, where the *Solares Hill* banner is unfurled and photos taken. The only other human in sight is a soldier who has to be there. As we leave the tour, our guide says we were worse than even the Russians.

Back at the Capri the seats are missing from our bikes, which are locked up in plain sight of a policeman. Moments later a hotel employee brings them out. It is a joke. We repair to Frank and Jim's room. This is one of the better hotels, but the public toilet is a mess. Again, no paper, no soap, no seat.

Upstairs, in the corridors between each room, we find unlocked utility shafts that drop to the main floor. Sure death for a drunken patron who opens the wrong door. But drunks are uncommon here; in 10 days I see only two tipsy people on the streets.

A maid arrives and thinks we are all crowding in for the night like Spring Breakers, and we have to leave. Andy and I lose sight of Chris halfway home. This is a long bike ride. We are averaging at least 35 miles a day and feeling very healthy for it—so we decide to look for *Pelenke*. No one seems to know the name, but we finally get directions by asking for the "River of Shit."

We begin to hit roads that are blocked by soldiers—it turns out Castro was in the area that night—then we recognize a huge biochemical factory we had passed in the daylight, and retrace the route to our friends.

We are welcomed and treated royally.



**IDENTIFICATION:** A student sunning on the Malecon shows the I.D. all Cubans must carry. She and her family live in one room.

Glasses of refresca (Kool-aid?), cake with slightly rancid frosting and, finally, cold beer. We are asked to dance, and do so amid gales of laughter. I make an offering to St. Lazaro of a pack of cigarettes. This is a mistake. J.D.'s zipper theory comes into play big time and I am forced to hand out packs to those nearby.

Suddenly a surprise. The marina presents us with four free T-shirts and a bill for \$925

turns into many, with wild cheers at each flash. Our bikes, locked by our host in his corral, are returned and we head back through the sewage. A young man in the street begs us to meet him "at a point in the sea" and take him north. He says he will swim out and wait for us. We explain this is sure death. He persists, but we ride off with apologies. Finally, we reach the boat and fall asleep to the raging salsa.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 17:** We had planned to leave today but the weather is bad. Paul has already left by plane for Jamaica, and tells me later Cuba seems clean and prosperous compared to the piles of garbage and beggars on the streets near Montego Bay. Jim stops by the boat to report he and Frank plan to fly home tomorrow. We are all nearly out of money, but Jim comes through with \$65—a big help.

J.D. sleeps late today, then reports on a party that lasted until 5 a.m. and would have continued, but was broken up by Cuban police. Everyone was forced to sit on the couch and show their papers. He says they were all scared, but eventually everyone was let off. Apparently, he was conducting interviews all night.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18:** We have been taking turns calling our families and they have relayed messages. The latest news from home is that Chris may have lost his job. The weather looks better today. We make plans to leave tomorrow morning early.

We prepare to leave and one final photo

for the "saving operation." We go to the office and argue. They eventually cut it down to \$700, including our dockage for the week, but maintain they must charge this much because of "international maritime law."

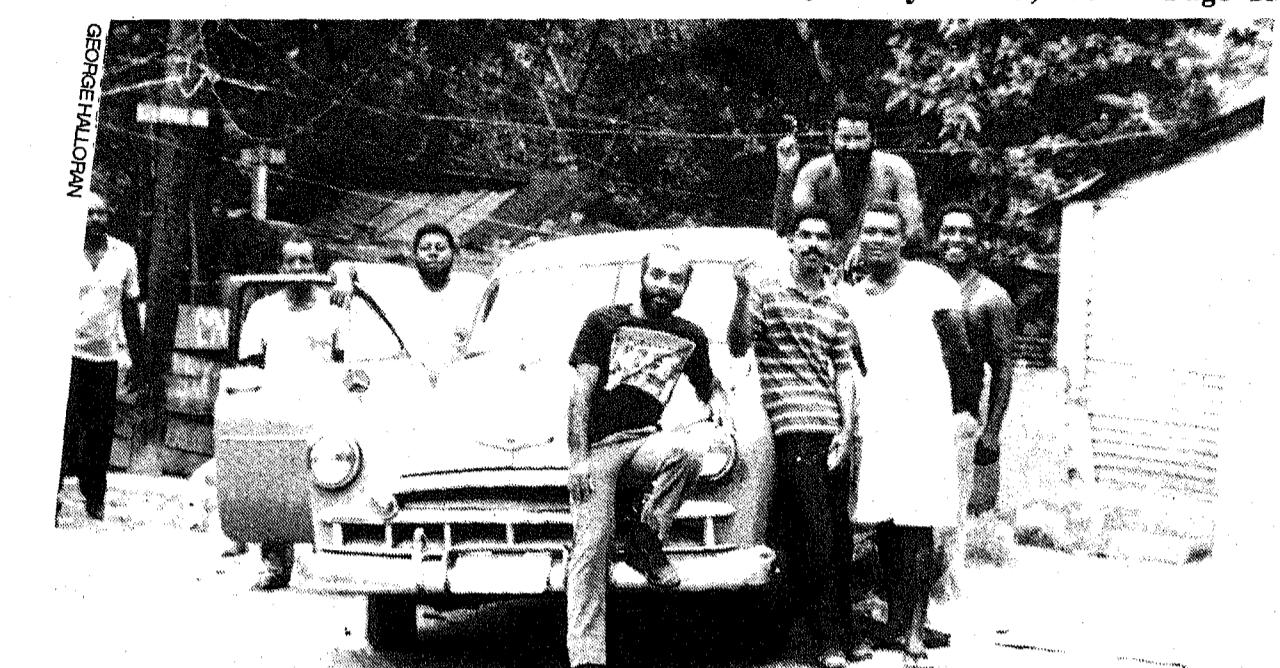
We explain we have no money anyway, and they decide to give us credit for our remaining stay. We can eat at the marina, buy more gas, shop at the store and pay for it all when we get home. We immediately buy a case of beer and two chickens.

John Leslie has been staying with Sandra and Bix at Sandra's lovely apartment, living in relative splendor, while we four struggle on the boat. We have learned a lot about each other—who should use more deodorant, how disgusting a snuff habit can be, and how tough it is to keep a small boat neat and still operable with four adults and their gear crammed aboard. We call Sandra and tell her to get John here early tomorrow or we leave without him.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 19:** We are up at dawn and the wind is down. No whitecaps visible. We prepare the boat for traveling, give away a lot of our canned goods and supplies, break down the bicycles and stow them, sign papers at the marina office and wait for customs. We continue to wait until 11 a.m. before the paperwork is complete.

By this time the wind is howling again, and the seas are bigger than ever. We leave anyway, but start taking seas over the bridge and rolling wildly. We plug ahead for a mile or so, then turn back. Too risky with more bad weather ahead.

We are all disappointed. It looks like we will be here at least two more days. J.D.'s



**FESTIVE:** Pelenke residents gather for a religious feast.

wife is any-day-now pregnant, and John has to get back too—so they decide to fly home together.

After peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, Chris, Andy and I put the bikes together and pedal off to town. We stop at a Cuban supermarket. The prices are okay—eggs, 15 cents each; flour, 79 cents a pound; rice, 39 cents a pound; and matches, 2 cents a box.

But there are only a few containers of each item on the shelves, and only people with ration cards can shop.

We leave and run into a couple and their daughter, whom we had met last week. We go to their one-room home in Old Havana—a

black-and-white TV, small sleeping loft, no kitchen. They cook at a grandmother's house down the street, and carry the food back to eat. The bathroom is down the hall and primitive—a sink with a garden hose and a toilet with no tank and, of course, no seat. They have one lightbulb, and carry from room to room, as needed. We promise to bring them a few bulbs from our boat.

We ride on to the waterfront, and for 2 cents our bikes are trucked through a tunnel under the harbor to Morro Castle. The city is beautiful from that side of the bay.

After awhile, we hit the road for Marina Hemingway. We buy 6 fish fillets, 8 eggs

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Sandra shows up to take John and J.D. to town so they can make the airport by 8 a.m. tomorrow. J.D. sells his bike to pay for his plane ticket and gives us the rest of the cash to survive on. Nice guy. The weather report says there is a gale in Key West.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 20:** Chris cranks out another great breakfast. We are out of instant coffee bags, so he strains *Café Pilon* through a polishing rag, and we love it. We have rigged a shower with the hose and a tripod of scrap wood, but it is too cold in the wind, so today we hose off in the cockpit. John Young stops in to say goodbye—he will fly home tomorrow.

We meet Juan Vidal, director of the Hemingway Fishing Tournament. He gives us entry forms, and tells us how wonderful it will be. For only \$450, three anglers and boat crew will get two parties and lunch for five days. The prize is a trophy.

It is cold and windy. We clean the boat, do some reading and call home. My wife tells me the Christmas tree is up. We are told the Cubans don't celebrate Christmas, and the only decorations visible are a few colored lights in the tourist hotels. We are down to a crew of three now, and tonight we have had enough of Cuba. We want to go home.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 21:** After breakfast, the weather report sounds better. We plan to leave Sunday, and talk to the marina people

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about an early start. They seem understanding. Chris goes fishing, Andy rides off to visit friends, and I head back into Havana alone for one last look around.

I stop at the foreign-nationals-only supermarket near the Russian embassy for a bottle of water and find the shelves stocked with nearly every American product you can buy in the states. Bicycles, Coca-Cola, fans, generators, medicines, film—all with American labels. Someone is making a bundle selling American products through a third party, while our economy and our balance of trade suffers. The checkout lines are huge, and people are buying dozens of items at a time. The total for the man in front of me is \$342. Chocolates, quarters of beef, fine wines—there are no shortages here. It reminds me of the Navy commissary in Key West.

A woman on a balcony turns her back on me when I try to take a picture, but three men next door smile and hold up their drinks. After a photo, they invite me up to drink some rum, and the father shows me his workshop and 50-year-old Stanley tools. He is a carpenter.

A daughter is introduced as the 1991 national chess champion of Cuba and brings out a big trophy to prove it. This is a real thrill for me. We play a game, and she wins easily. Her brother insists on a game also, and he wins easily. I blame it on the rum. More photos, an exchange of addresses, and a promise to send pictures to family members in Miami.

Sandra invites me to her apartment for dinner and goodbye. It is the nicest home I have seen from the inside in Cuba. Her friend agrees to drive me back to the boat. He is a professional, has lived for a time in Russia, and is the only Cuban I met who doesn't blame his country's problems on the American blockade. He says the trouble is incompetence and 30 years of dependence on foreign handouts.

Back at the boat, we monitor NOAA and

decide to leave tomorrow. We have been the weather source for several other boats, and they decide to go also. We finish the rum and Tang, and eat the last of our crackers with peanut butter and cheeze whiz. Nice combo.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 22:** We are at the marina office before 8 a.m. to sign our final papers. They promise Customs will be right over. An hour later we find the Customs people smoking cigarettes with the tourist guide. Papers are processed for the three of us, but a problem arises when John Leslie's name cannot be found at the airport immigration desk. Apparently, they think we have left him at large in the country. Various other waves of paper rise and fall around us. We consider postponing the crossing until Monday. Finally, all is in order and, after a thorough search for stowaways, we leave the dock at 12:15.

We set a nice cruise speed of about 12 knots, but it soon becomes a rough trip. Anyone who listens to NOAA weather has heard the phrase "seas higher in the Gulf Stream." Believe it. Twenty-five miles out, we try to reach some friends back at the harbor. Morro station comes on instead to ask if we are in trouble. We say goodbye, and minutes later hear the U.S. Coast Guard advisory of a search for three missing mariners. Later they warn of water spouts. These are not pleasant messages, but it is comforting to hear American voices 65 miles from home.

We are drenched and tired by sunset, and no one feels like cooking. We eat carrots dipped in peanut butter. Very tasty. The sunset is beautiful, and 18 miles out we see the glow of Key West. The moon comes up through wild clouds, the seas seem to drop off a little, and we finally spot Sand Key light. Eight and a half hours after leaving Cuba, we tie up at the A&B Lobster House dock and call customs.

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## Solares Almanac January 3 - 16

By John Cole

Unlike the part it plays in the so-called north temperate zone, where January traditionally produces some of the most bitter coldness, this first month of the year in Key West is surprisingly benign. Temperatures during the first half, when the days are still some of the year's shortest, normally range from the high 60s to the low 70s, although, as even short-term Key Westers will recall, there are those times when a heavyweight cold front will come stomping down from the northwest, wearing combat boots and a cloak of icy gales. Then temperatures will drop into the 50s, and have gone (as recently as 1983)

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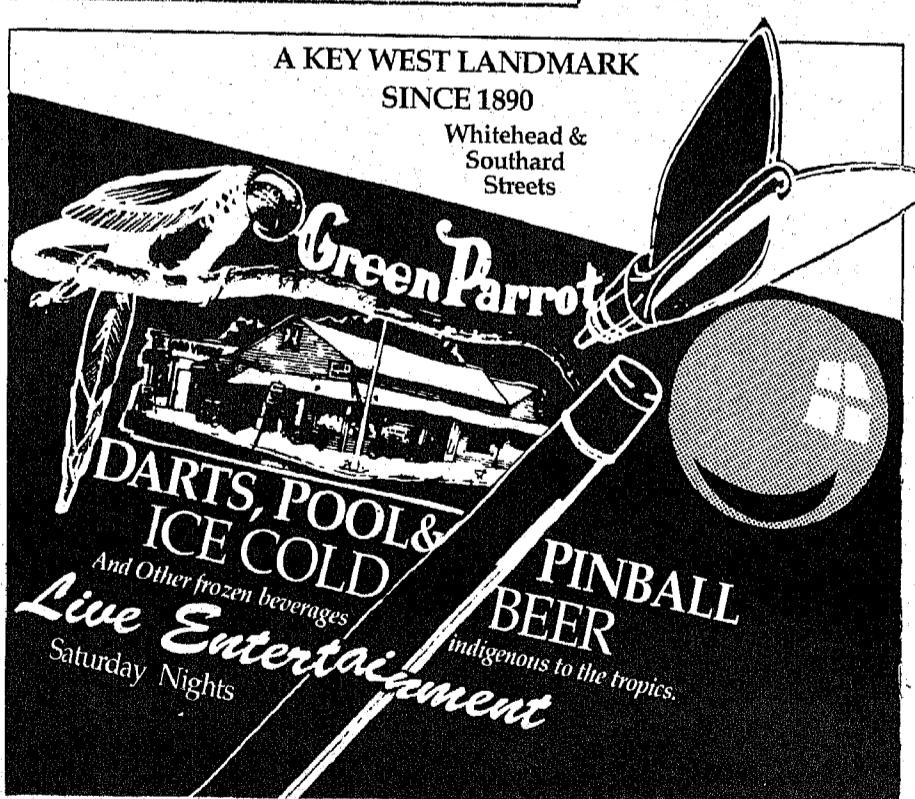
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into the low 40s.

But those brutish moments are a January exception; the rule is a series of all but cloudless skies, an inch or two of rain scattered over the entire 31 days, with moderating winds prevailing from the northeast.

Harry Truman understood the statistics well enough to arrange to spend a good deal of winter on this island when his home address was the Little White House. And as the fortunate journalists assigned to cover the President filed their stories about Key West's gentle Januaries, increasing numbers of non-presidential visitors made the journey south.

They came—and still come—for the sun, and it's here.

Even early January tides are well behaved. The new moon on the fourth orchestrates little more than a blip in the lunar rhythms of Key West harbor, with high tides progressing from mid-morning on the third to mid-day on the ninth. After the moon builds to her first quarter on the 13th (Martin Luther King's Birthday), high tides slide toward the late afternoon and evening.

So moderate are the currents that sailors and anglers will hardly sense the sea change. They should enjoy the tide's good manners while they can; as the full moon approaches, moderation becomes a virtue of the past and extremism will be the norm. (Of which, more in our next column.)

Since this column's sunset data has been questioned (rightly, if nit-pickingly, so) in a Letter to the Editor (see the last issue), I have accumulated several tomes of computerized printouts, including one from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Each has its indecipherable (for me) variables, so I'll tell you that on January 3 the sun will set over Key West at about 5:50 p.m. Over the next two weeks, days will lengthen about one minute each, meaning sunset will occur at about 6:02 p.m. on the 16th. Which does not mean that I have surrendered to approximates; I shall return with an authoritative consensus, also in our next column.

Ignoring earthly questions about its schedule, the sun above Key West continues to work its wonders on all manner of natural

presences. The updrafts it generates on days when conditions coincide give a lift to hundreds of turkey vultures, whose large, dark silhouettes against cerulean skies may remind each of us of our mortality.

As one story goes, the birds may be as confused as we. Their *kettling* (the ornithological term for these soaring assemblies of hundreds of vultures) may be a gathering of creatures who are trying to decide what to do next. Having migrated (like so many Americans) south from the northeast, and reached the southernmost point, the big birds realize they have a Caribbean to cross.

That stops them.

So they circle Key West on the sun's thermals asking the leader of the flock, "Okay, Big Bird, what do we do now?" The reply, judging from the evidence, is, "Keep on circling."

Birder Bill Ford reports sighting a scissortailed flycatcher, a relatively rare, and quite dramatic winter visitor, whose long tail feathers give it its name. Stock Island, says Ford, is a good spot to look for scissortails perched on the high wires along Route 1. (With Stock Islanders currently reviewing options for a name change—to improve the neighborhood's image, they say—Scissortail Key might well be added to the list of possibilities.)

Mango trees are blossoming, writing their own flowery preview of next spring's crop of this island's most succulent fruit. And the sapodillas that will ripen soon after are already as large as hen eggs, full of promise for 1992.

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

Powdery carpets of soft sand, licked by foaming surf: that's the visitor's vision of South Florida. Unfortunately, sand is scarce stuff in the Keys. With the exception of Bahia Honda State Park (considered one of America's finest beaches), most beaches in Monroe County are small, often rough, marsh-covered and suffering from erosion.

While not postcard perfect, these beaches are in fact part of the natural geography of the Keys, but not necessarily a favorite with tourists. For that reason, local officials have been struggling for 12 years to improve, or change, the beaches along the south-facing shore of Key West.

Some restoration above the high-tide mark has been completed, but getting approval to work below the mean high-water line has plunged the Monroe County Beach Advisory Board, the group charged with overseeing beach improvement, into a morass of bureaucratic red tape. Now, it seems, the odyssey may be nearing an end—one that will mean lovelier beaches, and a final cost of about \$6 million.

Despite criticism from citizens who wonder why they don't have more sand to romp in, the board has been very busy choreographing the necessary paperwork of myriad state and federal agencies which must be satisfied to keep the project plodding slowly along.

"If you haven't been involved with this step-by-step, it's hard to believe anything's going on," remarked board member Emma Cates during a recent meeting.

### Fixing That Damned Pier

Historically, attempts by humans to "improve" upon nature to give an area more recreational possibilities or to make it more attractive to the tourists have resulted in environmental mini-disasters and red-faced "experts."

In 1960, at the request of the City of Key West, the Florida Department of Transportation built the now infamous White Street Pier. The structure added 794 feet to the south end of White Street, jutting its T-shaped form into the Atlantic Ocean.

Originally meant as a fishing spot for locals, the pier was a "natural" disaster from the very start. Without any openings beneath the waterline to keep the flow of water moving, it created a littoral barrier. As a result, the

RENEWABLE



## Solares Hill • January 2 - 15, 1992 • Page 17

of the pier and another 35 feet at the far end, allowing fresh seawater to once again wash across the beach face. The majority of the structure, however, will remain intact.

Reconnection of Higgs and Rest Beaches, on either side, will require a re-alignment of the exposed shore—moving sand from west to east. But, before any permits can be issued, a computerized hydrographic study, examining the effects of the proposed construction on tidal areas, is required.

The study will cost \$60,000 from Monroe County Tourist Development Council money earmarked for improvement of tourist attractions.

### Project On Hold for Mitigation

The beach reconnection plan was approved in November by the Department of Natural Resources and placed on its 1992 budget. Local officials, however, are putting the reconstruction at the White Street Pier on hold for now because they believe mitigation for problems which will be caused up at Smather's will help reduce overall costs.

Ironically, clearing a passage for the water near the pier and connecting the beaches, a sure boon to most factions of the marine environment, is being stalled so officials have a chance to mitigate marine damage which will be caused by the restoration work at Smather's Beach, further east.

Beginning from the foot of Bertha Street, then working east, 3000 feet of Smather's Beach length will be widened to 130 feet, using sand from a source approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Spreading

## The Battle For Better Beaches: Victory Is In Sight

By G.S. Wynn

once-popular Rest Beach, located just to the east, became a stagnant cesspool, a collection area for dead marine plants and animals as well as unsavory heaps of non-biodegradable trash.

The stench of rotting seaweed and swirl continues to waft all-too-pungently on the tropical breezes, catching the attention of locals and tourists, alike. Not surprisingly, most of the roseate spoonbills, herons and other shorebirds that once graced the beach with their beauty have long since moved away.

Planners at Post Buckley Jernigan and Shuh, Inc., the county-hired consultant firm, want to dismantle the first 35 near-shore feet

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## Page 18 • January 2 - 15, 1992 • Solares Hill

the new sand will smother 3.25 acres of turtle grass, a crucial spawning habitat and food source for marine life.

Since government regulators are likely to insist the re-planting of the killed grass beds, local planners want a chance to soften the environmental blow, by mitigating the harm off Smather's Beach with the rectification of the White Street Pier.

Put simply: they want to trade "bad" for "good."

## Timing Is Everything

Walt Marlowe, chairman of the county's Beach Advisory Board, says, "We want to be sure to get credit for opening the White Street Pier. If we do it too soon we won't be able to mitigate the destruction of the turtle grass. It'll be too late."

This sort of timing has become de rigueur for the advisory board.

"At least two years have been spent trying to determine exactly who owns the pier," says Cates.

The City of Key West assumed the deed earlier this year from the county. City police patrols have resumed. The street lamps have been re-lit.

## Smather's: \$490,000 Already Spent

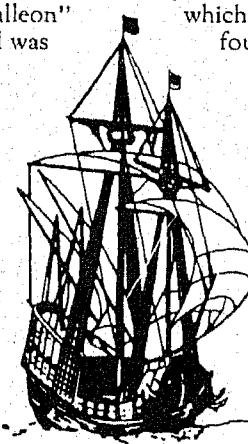
So far, \$350,000 in tourist-tax funds have been spent for improvements at Smather's Beach including: renourishing the sand (above the water line), repair of the gazebos and picnic tables and the restrooms along South Roosevelt. Another \$140,000 has been spent for studies and permitting costs.

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The Army Corps of Engineers has already set aside \$193,000 in its 1992 budget toward restoration of Key West beaches. Total cost for this east-end of the project is \$2.8 million.

The Tourist Development Council now holds \$1.1 million earmarked for beach improvements, but it is reluctant to cut them loose. TDC chairman Tim Green is worried about funding a project without solid figures in hand.

"We need a beach," he agrees, "but we don't have a bottomless pit."

Since there is no telling how state and federal agencies will agree to the mitigation offer at White Street Pier (which gives the go ahead for further beach work), Key West city commissioner Sally Lewis understands the TDC's dilemma.

"Mitigation is one of those nebulous things," she says. "I can see how they would have trouble with that."

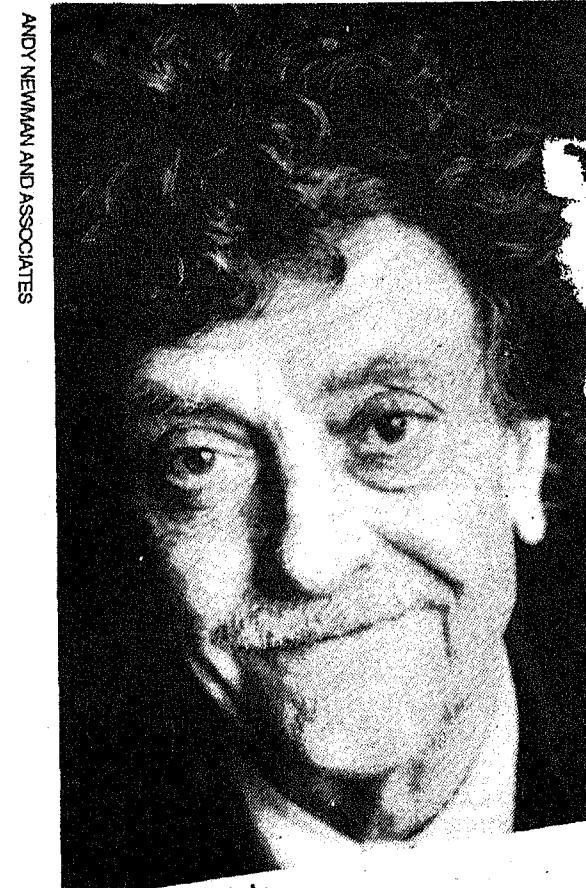
## Straight to Tallahassee

To secure a positive decision, the Monroe County Beach Advisory Board is planning a mass showing at future TDC meetings and a lobbying trip to Tallahassee. Members will be heading to the state capital with an extra ace in the deck: an offer of a "never-develop" agreement, covering the Salt Ponds and the Bridle Path just across South Roosevelt Boulevard. The properties were purchased earlier this year by the Monroe County Land Authority.

"If that's what it takes to come back with these permits in hand," said Marlowe, "we should do it."

If the beach board is able to get approval for its plan, the project could go out for bids within a matter of months. Actual restoration work will take two to three years to complete — just a twinkling in the long battle for better beaches.

ANDY NEWMAN AND SELMA COSSACK



By Anne Carlisle

Seventeen years ago, I sat down to write my first fan letter—not to an actor or popular singer, but to the author of *Breakfast of Champions*, Kurt Vonnegut. Lurking behind Vonnegut's inventive wackiness was a middle-of-the-road sensibility that appealed to my midwestern values. Coincidentally, Kilgore Trout, the hero of the book, makes a stop at a Holiday Inn at the outskirts of Ashtabula, Ohio, a small, eroding corner of the old Western Reserve, and my hometown.

To my admission I was a "fan," and in self-conscious imitation of Vonnegut's off-beat style, I added a hand-drawn picture of a wind-batting device.

In the end I didn't send the letter, but over the years, as I struggled with my own writing, I would take it out every once in awhile; and so, when Kurt Vonnegut's name turned up on the list of luminaries slated for the Tenth Annual Key West Literary Seminar, you can imagine my delight.

By the way, I said to Vonnegut in our phone interview: "There are in *Hocus Pocus*, your most recent book, two references to Key West, my new hometown."

Now, is that fate, or what?

Struggling and published writers, schol-

ars and conference groupies, literary agents and literary giants alike find Key West a fateful meeting place for what one journalist has called "America's most important literary gathering."

"Ten years ago," said David Kaufelt, outgoing president of the KWLS Board, "we were naively thinking not about money but about the celebration and investigation of the written word."

That consuming interest in "the word" is reflected in the high return rate of the nearly 400 participants, who trek in from all corners of the world to rub elbows with the cultivated and the famous.

It is also apparent in the year-round volunteer efforts of the board and its active program committee. Those helping prepare this year's topic, Literature & Film, include Ross Claiborne, long-time publisher and vice-president of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures; David Ethridge, executive director of the Old Island Restoration Foundation and president of Scam Bay Publishing; and Frank Taylor, well-known editor/publisher and vice-president of Solares Hill Publications.

When the celebration begins with a Sun-set Welcome Reception at 5 p.m. on January 9, the introduction of the panelists will read like a filmlover or booklover's wish list. They include not only Kurt Vonnegut, whose

seventh novel, *Slaughterhouse-Five* was adapted for the screen, but also William Goldman, whose credits include *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *All the President's Men*, *Marathon Man*, *The Princess Bride*, and an adaptation of Stephen King's *Misery*; Budd Schulberg, known for *What Makes Sammy Run?* and *On the Waterfront*; local celebrity Robert Stone, author of *Children of Light and Dog Soldiers*; actress Blythe Danner; film critic for *The Village Voice* and *New York Magazine*, Molly Haskell; and many others.

Following the seminar panels at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center January 10 and 11, will be a Screenwriters' Workshop January 12 and 13 at the Pier House Caribbean Spa. It will feature a hands-on approach to the subject of filmwriting, with Paul Lazarus III, Budd Schulberg, and agent Arlene Donovan, whose most recent production is *Billy Bathgate*.

Lazarus is an articulate speaker, as well as a prolific producer of films, including *Extreme Closeup*, *Westworld*, *Futureworld*, *Capricorn One*, *Hanover Street* and most recently, *Barbarosa*. He is writing a book that will interest hopeful screenwriters. He also directs the Motion Picture Program at the University of Miami.

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Recent phone interviews with Vonnegut, Lazarus and Donovan included discussion of some issues that will be debated in the five-day seminar, including the health and welfare of the writer; the realities of the marketplace; violence as it is treated in film, television and literature; adaptations of literature into film; and censorship.

**SH:** Is writing good for anybody? So many writers crack up. Why is that?

**VONNEGUT:** Statistically, we used to be uninsurable, largely because of our reputations for drinking and taking chances. We were classed right up there with firemen. About 20 years ago PEN [a writer's organization] hired an actuary to see what the life expectancy and insurability of a writer was. Turns out we were quite ordinary.

Why do we go crazy? I don't know. There's a book called *The Writer and Psychoanalysis* by Dr. Edmund Bergler. He was so sick he's dead. Anyway, he says a writer deals every day with his neurosis and treats it with his writing. He cracks up when he is no longer able to do this.

**SH:** All writers endure a certain amount of frustration. Is that even more true of screenwriters?

**LAZARUS:** The frustration is different for screenwriters. Most writers look at the prospect of sitting down at the word processor and struggling as a desperately solitary and sometimes depressing exercise.

If you are by trade a novelist, when you finally come out of your study, book in hand, at least you can be assured it will be your work. Your name is on the spine, and its success or failure in the marketplace is yours.

Movie pictures are a collaborative art form, and the screenwriter knows that once he delivers his manuscript into the process it is going to be picked apart for all manner of different reasons. His frustration is that he

has lost control of his artistic creation. This is what drives screenwriters not only to drink and drugs, but also to direct.

**VONNEGUT:** Yeah, but writers are not the drunks they used to be. One reason writers used to drink so much is that they didn't want to be thought of as feminine.

**DONOVAN:** Maybe because I'm so pro-writer, but it always seems to be writers who get the short end of the stick.

**SH:** Given the high-rolling competition, do screenwriters have even less of a chance of success than novelists?

**DONOVAN:** Things are bad right now. It's always hard in the beginning, especially when spec scripts don't have the cache they did a year ago. What with all the catch words and trends in Hollywood, I'm glad I'm in New York. Surprising things do happen, so it's hard to make rules. They need the written word; that's what movies come from.

**LAZARUS:** I think people go to movies to see a good story, but you can't convince the industry of that. In today's world the producer and the writer are of far less strategic importance in Hollywood than is the director; the assumption is that audiences go to see a star and a director. The head of Columbia pictures a few years ago was a functional illiterate; his lips got tired when he was handed a script.

I have an odd theory, which is that the final nail in the coffin of Hollywood literacy came through the feminist movement. It used to be the best and brightest story minds held the job of story editor, and these were principally held by women who were in the publishing world.

When women, rightfully so, decided they wanted some of the limelight, demanded and got jobs as creative directors and heads of studios, the role of the story editor shifted to that of somebody who assigns work to readers, but doesn't really know how to

make a good script into a great script.

**SH:** So nobody's minding the story.

**LAZARUS:** Exactly. There's no emphasis placed on structure and story, and then they are surprised that scripts get worse.

**SH:** Is there a dearth of good scripts out there?

**DONOVAN:** With the New York University film school and the Columbia film school there are a lot of trained screenplay writers in New York. It is hard for agents to handle unsolicited script. Say, for instance, that someone sends in a script about Bugsy Siegel, and you already have it. You might be accused of usurping the idea. But you try to help where you can, especially when things are recommended. Clients get very avid representation; but the times are bad for everybody.

**SH:** We also live in a time when violence and sex are the predominant subject matter.

**VONNEGUT:** Television gives us a constant dose of death in order to hold our attention without stopping. It is the medium that never wants to let you go, and this is the one thing we will watch again and again. It's a catastrophe if a half hour isn't popular.

A book can be put down, for a week or a month, and the author doesn't commit suicide. In a book there may be a death, at which you will marvel and mourn. On television, death is all too common and provokes little if any response. Yet it is tremendously important.

**SH:** How about violence in film?

**VONNEGUT:** The filmmaker doesn't have to worry about people getting up and leaving or switching the channel.

**SH:** So, by implication, he has more time to say something about violence and to make you feel something.

**VONNEGUT:** Of course I have done a little switching around in multiplex theatres. You pretend you're going out to get popcorn. With as many as eight, I'll bet you anything they will let you wander around.

**LAZARUS:** I think it's difficult to lump all the violence under one heading, especially in film, where the task of the director is so critically important. In *Barbarosa*, the last film I produced, I was led to the director by the way he treated violence in a little Australian film, *The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith*.

What he did was treat violence in an off-handed way; it was part of the terrain, part of the time, not something to be focused on and underlined.

Our film was about the American West in the 1840s, when violence and killing were an everyday occurrence. What we got from the director was a way to blend violence into the landscape.

**SH:** What about film's treatment of sex?

**LAZARUS:** We've now said that when it comes to violence, anything is fair game. Interesting, however, we don't say the same thing about sex. You can show a woman's breasts being cut off and get an R rating; but if the breasts get kissed, you may get an X. We still seem bound up in Victorian notions in that area.

Also, if you listen to the public—not the blue-haired ladies in Iowa, but the real public—they have pretty much had their fill. I think the graphic depiction has pretty much run its course, and violence will be portrayed with more regard for the public sensibility than we have seen in the past dozen years.

**SH:** Do you think that what can and cannot be shown on the screen is going to be subjected to another look by the Supreme Court, which is now 7 to 2 conservative?

**LAZARUS:** It could very well be, and not unique to film, that certain things we have taken for granted as under the protection of the First Amendment, for example *Playboy* Magazine, could very well have new definitions attached. I'm very nervous about where the First Amendment is going to go in the new era.

One of the outgrowths of the Mapplethorpe trial is that one of the judges said that in his opinion you had to look at each separate photo rather than the whole exhibit. You take that logic and apply it to a film and you could say that one frame is a work as a whole, and that really tortures the logic of what everyone had come to understand as the standards for what is obscene.

**SH:** Mr. Vonnegut, *Hocus Pocus* seems to hinge on a rather bleak joke, that America is so screwed up that eventually the Japanese, having taken everything over, will eventually pick up and leave in disgust.

**VONNEGUT:** Yes, that's what I had in mind. It's a very pessimistic novel. I think that by the year 2000 the Japs will own Radio City in New York, by the year 2000 they will own Pebble Beach golf course, by the year 2000 they will have bought the horse of the year, MCA, and my publisher, Putnam. I will be driving a Honda and saying it's the best car I ever drove. What's the joke?

adapted into a very powerful motion picture. Were you pleased with it?

**VONNEGUT:** I've said it again and again: There are two of us who should be extremely grateful, and that is myself and Margaret Mitchell.

**SH:** Obviously your experiences as a soldier held captive during the bombing of Dresden had a powerful impact on your work.

**VONNEGUT:** No, they only gave me something to write about.

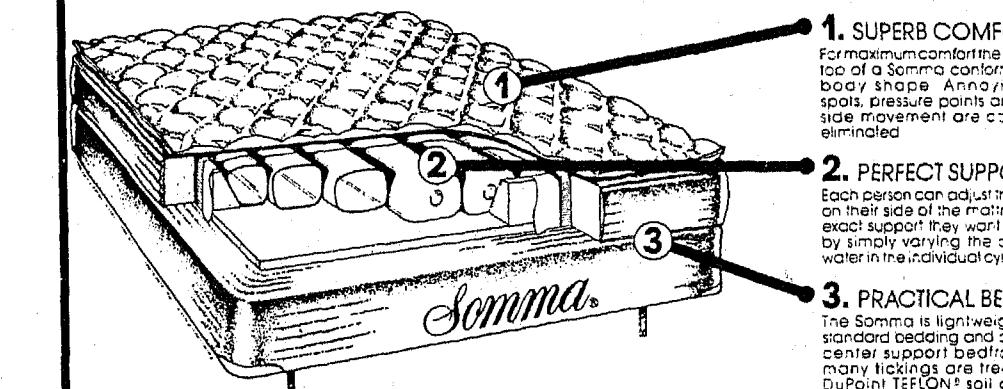
*The Florida Humanities Council will sponsor a roundtable discussion of violence in literature and film with William Rothman at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, January 11, at TWFAC. It is free and open to the public.*

**SH:** Your novel *Slaughterhouse-Five* was



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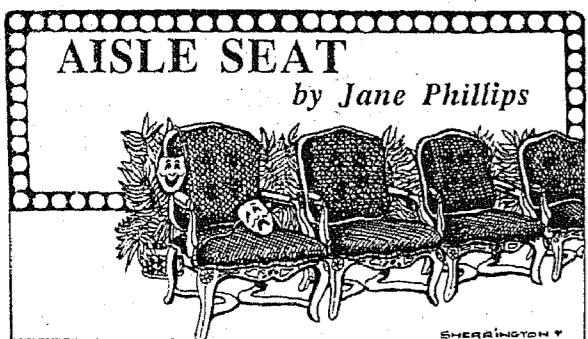
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"I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their house pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it."

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On December 19, 1843 Charles Dickens first published *A Christmas Carol* in England. In Key West, for the second consecutive season, the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center has brought this classic Yuletide tale to life. Perhaps this will become an annual tradition.

The Dickens' novel was adapted for the stage by Charles Jones and performed by members of the Fort Worth Shakespeare in the Park players. Billed as "A joyful new musical treat" it fulfilled all expectations. With a cast of 33, numerous scene changes, beautiful costuming, spectacular sets and special effects, this was a theatrical production of the highest caliber.

From the opening scene on Christmas Eve in the old city of London to the last scene on the following Christmas morning the

audience was spellbound as Scrooge's entire life unfolds. We were mesmerized by the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future. The grand four-poster canopied bed became a whirling dervish as it spun around the stage, while Scrooge was forced to confront his "bah humbug" existence. In other scenes the stage became an animated old-fashioned Christmas card, as snow fell gently on the city streets.

From "Ebenezer Scrooge," masterfully created by Bob Edes, Jr. to little "Tiny Tim Cratchit," played by Luke Hogan each actor captured the spirit of the era. Monica Lynn Rivers was an unforgettable "Nelle," and Audra Hans and Karl Christian were charming "Dancing Dolls," along with a fine performance by Frank Hawkins as the irrepressible "Bob Cratchit."

Musical accompaniment was provided by a chamber ensemble with keyboard and woodwind instruments. The production was directed by Brett Lassiter; Scott Kenneth Lenig was musical conductor.

#### Standing Room Only At Christmas Concert

There was "standing room only" at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for the Eighth Annual Christmas Concert. Initiated and coordinated by Ann McKee and assisted by Susan Hawkins this benefit has become a premier theatrical event that reaches out to the entire community. In the true spirit of Christmas, each performer donated their talents and gave each of us an unforgettable gift.

The concert began with the traditional candlelight procession, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," followed by a greeting by Ann McKee and the Fabulous Spectrelles singing "Winter Wonderland." The whole audience clapped in spirited unison.

John Wells, Zoe Hawkins Wells, Sonja Manning and Amber McDonald delighted everyone with "The Twelve Days of Christmas"—Key West style. Each verse ended with "a pelican in a palm tree."

Starlady, in a cloud of blue hat and gown,

HARDWOOD THEATRE



SWEETHEARTS: Paula Jo Chitty and Art Nicholas will appear in *Prelude to a Kiss*, which ran successfully on Broadway. Opening January 8 at the Red Barn Theatre, the show will run for five weeks.

sang "When You Wish Upon A Star," making everyone believe their dreams could come true. Jerry Cash sang a spiritual, a cappella, and Larry Harvey walked up the aisle singing, "The Friendly Beasts."

One of the most moving performances was newcomer Nicholas Corbett singing "The Little Drummer Boy." Music filled the entire church as Carmen Rodriguez sang "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" accompanied by Richard Tazwell, Jim Olean and Dick Moody's soaring saxophone.

After many other utterly enjoyable performances by many talented people, the concert ended with everyone singing "Joy To the World." It's doubtful there was a person attending that wasn't touched by this very special evening.

#### Kids Loved Holiday Performance

Christmas just isn't the same without children, which why the annual musical production at the Red Barn is so special. The show is performed by young people from the Key West School of Performing Arts and directed by Richard Magesis.

This year's production "Oyster Crackers, Undershirts and Mauve Lemonade," by Lavonne Mueller and Larry Dwyer, was pure fun. There was music, dancing, lots of kid jokes and a cast of 14 bright youngsters that never missed a beat. Congratulations to each and everyone.



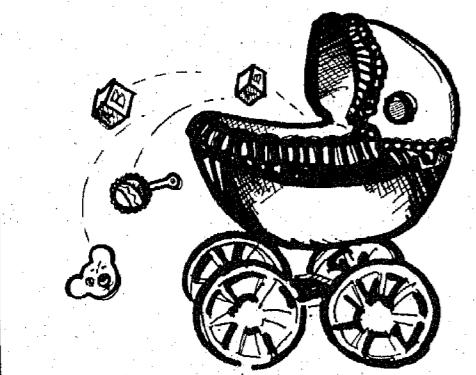
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## On The Town with Jane Phillips

Last Stand president Jim McLernan hosted a most congenial party at his ocean-front residence for the Red Barn Theatre "family" and its new Honorary Board, which includes such literary luminaries as Richard Wilbur, James Merrill and Phillip Burton. Enjoying the evening were other board members Lynn Kephart, David Spangler, Sally Lewis, Ann Irvine, Florence Fox-Loeb, Gerry Tinlin, Steve Bennett, Alan Farago and Frank Taylor. If they all show up at the barn at the same time there won't be room for anyone else!

Artist Ann Labriola got a wonderful Christmas present. The Key West Woman Club purchased a piece of her "Stargazer" underwater sculpture. Doing the honors for the club was prexy Peggy McClain and members Marva Green and Donna Harvey.

Evie and Dick Fuggitt invited neighbors over for a holiday brunch. Richard Magesis, who lives practically within whispering distance said, "Gee, do you think people can hear what goes on over here?" (Probably not if you keep the air conditioner on, Richard.)

Moving targets . . . Mart and Martin White out in from the Hamptons hardly unpacked and they're off again. This time to Switzerland for skiing. They just might see Joe Bryan on the slopes. He left for the Alps after returning here from North Carolina. Molly Leeds and Kay Muns-

ECLECTIC: (From left) Gerri Louise Gates, Cynthia Gooch, Vicki Roush and Kelly Moore.



bach just arrived back in town from Paris and South Africa, and Paulie Raymond managed to get to Maine for a brief holiday.

The highlight of the Gates' family open house was a transatlantic call from Rae Coates in merrie olde England. Rae chatted with Gerri Louise, Vicki Roush, Kelly Moore, Bruce Peterson and Cynthia Gooch, while new friends and old enjoyed lots of holiday cheer.

At Christmas, Susan and Michael Walton's home looks like a Victorian greeting card. Among the guests at this year's party were Sue and Bill Sellers, Joy Hawkins, Susan Olsen, Shirley Freeman and Gordon Ross. Carmen Rodriguez arrived from entertaining at the Casa Marina and spotted David Ethridge all decked out for Christmas. "Oh David, I love your red balls," she blurted out. David almost blushed and Carmen definately did!

She's lovely, she's engaged . . . Allegra Kessler, beauty consultant at the Pier House Caribbean Spa, and Howard Stahl cele-

brated their recent engagement with a party for friends. When are they getting married? "Probably never, but we love being engaged." They know what they're talking about. They've both been married before.

Katie Truax had friends in for a Christmas Eve buffet celebrating the first year anniversary of owning her own home. Marilyn Ferguson was there with hubby Capt. Jim, and George Hempler appeared without his Santa Claus suit. He delighted Carolyn and Jerry Cash's dinner guests the night before dressed as St. Nick and was last seen riding his bike down Duval Street, all in red, making everyone smile.

Dawn Chorley, just back from Bali and New Zealand had a romantic encounter on her trip—husband Colin paid her a surprise visit! They had a lovely Christmas day open-house at their magical Summerland Key estate with guests from far and wide.

"I'll Be Home For Christmas" . . . former city commissioner George Halloran barely made it back from Cuba to spend the holiday with his family. He took 10 people aboard his 28-foot boat to visit the island. Familiar faces on board included Frank Taylor and Jim McLernan. These people left home with a lot more than their American Express cards, and the boat ran out of gas.

George's New Year resolution: "I'm going to be much more careful about how much weight I allow on board." He added, "Actually it's almost easier to fly there from Canada than travel by boat."

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BY FRANCES ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

Jessie-Jewel is 70, and doesn't look like it at all—except for today. She smokes avidly, inhales into her creaky lungs, exhales, throws the cigarette into a flower bed. The flower bed circles the foot of a frangipani tree, receiving the drifting yellow petals of its blossoms.

Jessie-Jewel's 46-year-old son is to arrive for a meal. The son, Steamboat, and she have an unspoken filial feeling for each other; however, they are not intimate, hardly close nor affectionate. They have had a long but not deep experience of each other. Steamboat's father broke his neck deer hunting in Georgia in '64. Jessie-Jewel remarried and had an unhappy time of it.

Steamboat says he is bringing to this island his handsome, pushing self and his dazzling girlfriend. Dazzling is too exciting an adjective, and Jessie-Jewel wonders if she can handle it.

Steamboat tells her that the girlfriend wears a snake instead of a necklace at dinner parties up the Keys. She says it keeps her neck cool.

It seems that Steamboat has bought a long, triangular lot of land in Bahama Village. It's the fashionable investment now, he says. Great buy! Rumor has it that it comes to him as payment of a poker debt. Jessie-Jewel keeps visualizing Steamboat building a factory there, making perfume out of tobacco juice. Or maybe a landing pad for helicopters.

It's not that she has hysterical ideas about mankind's crass destructiveness of Earth; it's that Steamboat's brain has always been filled with more chicken-headedness than other children's. Untold times Jessie-Jewel has bailed him out of his difficulties. When Steamboat sets his mind on something, it's no use telling him his tie is on fire.

Clash of cymbals. Swirl of driveway gravel. Steamboat.

Jessie-Jewel stands still in her starched cotton dress. Perhaps with age she favors her great-great-great grandmother, who left North America with her family. They lived out on the island of Spanish Wells for generations after the colonists rose up against the British king. Her smile suddenly causes her to look younger and less preoccupied: traces of humor and repose appear in her face.

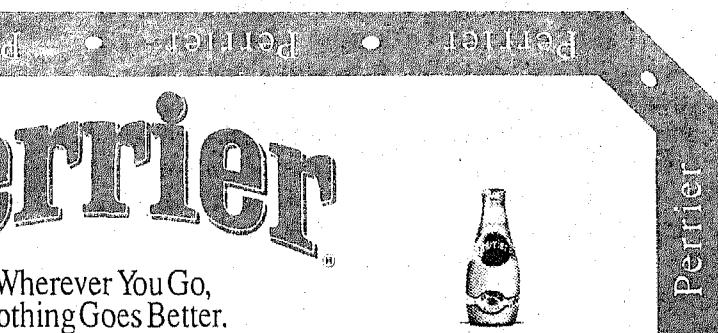
Steamboat, a slight, energetically charming fellow with a blond toothbrush moustache, and the girlfriend alight. She is teetering on high heels.

Jessie-Jewel thinks: She looks like a hooker. Then, she pulls herself up short. I take that back, she thinks, having no experience of hookers' dress codes.

Steamboat, hugging her, says, "Prodigal son is here. Slaves, bring out the dancing girls." Up close, she sees and touches the faded seven-shaped scar on his cheek. He says he was blown up in a bomb in New York City. Some hateful Conch friends of Jessie-Jewel's acquaintance say it's the result of peeping through key holes.

makes any other man look like old grits.

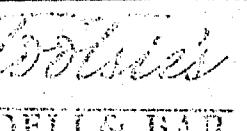
After the holiday repast of venison steak and turkey and cornbread dressing is consumed at the table laid with a green lace cloth, then is the time. Jessie-Jewel will contrive to lay her comment onto Steamboat's plans for his land: "You butter your bun, you'll have to lie in it."



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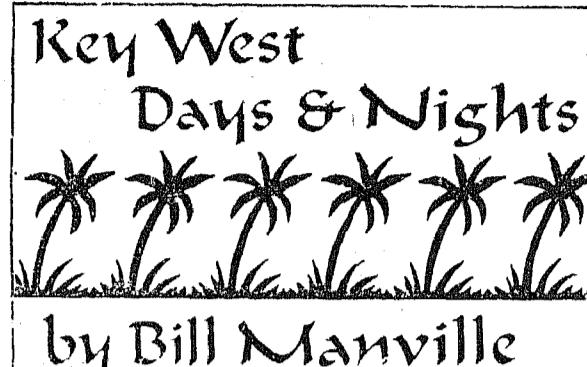
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Author's note: This column is dedicated to my darling Suzannah, and Mary of Covington, Kentucky.

"My definition of heaven," said the poet, Jim Palm, "would be sitting right here in Merriman's Restaurant. It would always be a sunny, Sunday morning, just like this, with an umbrella and trees for shade. An eternal brunch, with all the women I have ever loved and who loved me; and none of them would be jealous."

"And you could eat all you want," said Big Mary. "No calories in heaven."

"In fact," said Teddie Rand, "the rule in heaven would be: the more chocolate you eat, the more you look like a Modigliani."

Mab, who had just come from church, was wearing no makeup, his hair tucked in to a little white Jackie Kennedy pillbox and a demure little white-and-blue A-line number, flat heels. It made him look like a naughty schoolgirl.

"Heaven," he said, "would be to wake up every morning with someone you love on a ship sailing South."

"Just the two of you, sailing through eternity..." sighed Big Mary.

"That would not be heaven," said Mab.

Champion Jack Dance was down from the Upper Keys, in town for a dirty weekend with a very pretty companion.

"My idea of bliss," the Champion said, "is to see your ex-wife's book reviewed in *Time* magazine in language so scathing it would make a Key West cop blush." (Jack saw I was taking notes.) "And speaking of wives," he said, "I think you had better refer to my companion here as Mrs. Nameless."

"When I die and go to heaven," said Mrs. Nameless, "my contract will read, one weekend on with Jack, three weekends off."

"The problem with marriage," said Jim Palm, "is you wake up the next morning, she hasn't gone home. She's still there. *In fact, she lives there.*"

"What's more," said Champion Jack, "she isn't speaking to you. You ask what you've done. 'Nothing,' she says in that tight little voice, 'just nothing.' Hell is that long silent Sunday that now stretches before you."

John the Handsome Waiter came around to ask if anyone wanted more coffee. Philip and Antonia, who own the Merriman's, stopped by to say hello.

"What a glamorous pair," said Big Mary. "Both so thin... In heaven, I would be either of them. Or both."

"Speaking of immortality," said Jim Palm, talking to me, "I've just taken care of yours."

I asked how. He named a famous poet who lives in

Old Town. "When I was visiting last week for a Christmas drink, I waited til he had to run out to Fausto's 'All-Famous-Nifty-People-Meet-and-Shop-Here' Supermarket. We needed more beer. While he was gone, I found an old paperback Ellery Queen he had laying around. Inside the cover, I wrote, 'Dear Bill: If you will read p. 87, you will find explication for the idea I tried so unsuccessfully last night to cram into your full brain.' Then I signed his name.

"Someday, they will be going through his library, and some Ph.D. student is going to find that book. He will write his entire doctoral dissertation on the search for the identity of 'Bill—A Famous Poet's Dull, Unknown Friend.'"

Half the people at our table were painters. One of them was the beautiful Helen Colley. She put some money down for her share, and said she had to get back to her studio.

"Some people think work is hell," she said, voicing a plaint I've heard from artists all around the world. "Not to work is death. Happy New Year everybody!"

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and peace  
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## An Analysis Of The Economy & Personal Investment

By G.S. Wynn

In the arena of personal investment management, St. Petersburg-based Raymond James & Associates, Inc. has one of the best track records around. *Florida Trend*, a statewide business magazine, ranks RJ&A among the best-performing public companies in Florida. *Forbes Magazine* has them listed at 118 in their line-up of the "Best 200 Small Companies." With nearly 700 offices worldwide, RJ&A specializes in small and medium-size company stocks.

In a recent interview, John Wolf, vice-president and manager of the Key West RJ&A branch, said he sees signs of an advancing economy.

"The world is not as bad as the evening news reporters say," says Wolf. "Monies are coming out of banks because of the low interest rates. It is finding new homes for investment."

Guarded optimism in economic up-turn is reflected in the status of the 15 Florida companies tracked by the RJ&A research department. Eight are ranked "buy" and are expected to outperform the market over the next 12 months. Six others have a "hold" recommendation, with average performance predicted. Only one carries the "sell" sticker.

Twelve of the Florida 15 are likely to experience aggressive growth, marking them as more speculative investments, ideal for the person willing to withstand higher risk for greater gain.

Says Wolf, "So many of them are not mature companies. They are in their growth stage. That growth will remain dependent on so many factors outside of their control."

### World Trading Blocks

The monumental political, social and economic changes that rocked the world last year will be echoed in 1992, Wolf believes.

"If you watch the markets," he says, "you are seeing the world divide into three trading blocks: Europe, which will become the United States of Europe in '92, with a common currency; the Pacific Rim; and here—Canada, the United States and Mexico. Those not in touch could wind-up losers."

"Companies who are myopic, with tunnel vision, will see their markets taken away. That's because of the speed of transmission of goods, products and ideas."

But, says Wolf, "All of this will lend [itself] to a better market for everyone in the next 10 to 15 years."

### Economy Still Topsy-Turvy

Despite five cuts in the prime lending rate by the Federal Reserve Board, a steady decline in bank interest rates and a gradual drop in mortgage rates, consumers remain hesitant to start spending money.

"It's been a mixed bag for the past three or four months," says Wolf, "because the

### Financial Forecast 1992

Here's a financial forecast for 1992, provided by Raymond James & Associates:

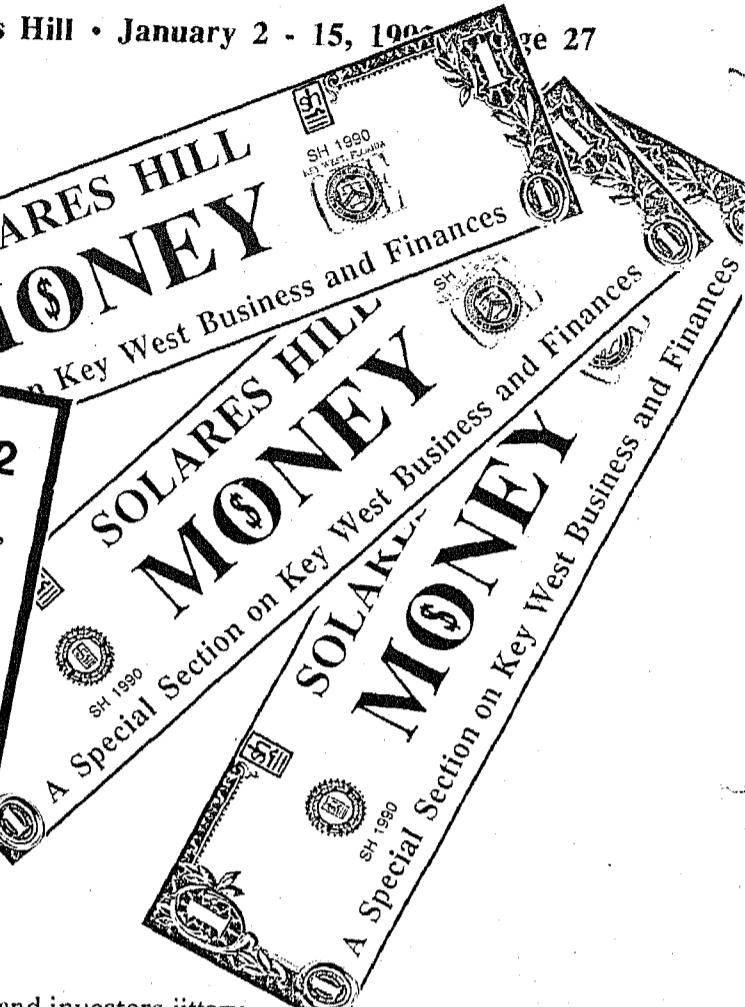
- They predict weak economic recovery for the year, with strengthening in the second half of 1992.
- Interest rates will decline a little more.
- Corporate earnings will rise about 15 percent, due to cost reduction programs.

• The stock market will continue at near record high levels in the near term. Between 2800 and 2950 points.

• The Dow Jones Industrial Average will be up eight to ten percent against an improving economic backdrop.—G.S. Wynn



ON LINE: John Wolf of Raymond James & Associates believes telecommunications, computer software and environmental companies will make good future investments.



and investors jittery.

"The market hates uncertainty," reminds Wolf. "They like to feel they've got a handle on what their company is going to do. If you read that a revolution has occurred in a country where your company has large plants and distribution systems, you might get very nervous about the prospects for your company, if all of it has been taken over by the new junta."

Smart investors never put all of their financial eggs into one basket, a belief that has spawned an axiom at RJ&A.

"The hallmark of prudence is proper diversification," Wolf adds. "If you put all your money into CDs, or all your money into bonds, your chances are not good for being a survivor."

Nevertheless, the company does have a basic formula for success, starting with firm ground. They recommend a good, solid mutual fund for beginning investors. Mutual funds create a pool of dollars from numerous investors, which is then plowed into various securities. While mutual funds don't have the sky-high possibilities of other methods, they also carry a significantly lessened risk of losses.



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# The Taxman Cometh

By G.S. Wynn

When you want to know, go to a pro. In the tax business, that means H&R Block, the world's largest tax-preparation company. Founded in 1959, H&R Block has 9000 offices worldwide, and last year topped \$1 billion in business. There are four H&R Block offices in the Keys: Key Largo, Marathon and two in Key West. Louise Ferris is the franchise-owner of the branch at 1601 North Roosevelt Boulevard. Ferris spoke with *Solares Hill* recently about taxes, sharing information useful to most taxpayers whether their taxes are being prepared by a small private firm, a local accountant, a large company or themselves.

**SH:** What is the benefit of having a professional do your taxes?  
**LF:** Many first-time clients sit down to do their taxes, after buying a house or getting married, and find out the return that could have taken them weeks, took someone, who knows how to do it, a half-hour. It's finished, they have it—and it's correct. Someone else has taken that burden off their shoulders.

**SH:** How do people pay for your services? Is it a certain percentage of the taxes?  
**LF:** No, nobody should do taxes that way. It would leave a lot of chances for fraudulent tax returns. [The charge is determined] by the number of forms involved and the number of hours spent doing the bookkeeping. Some people will bring in their bookkeeping, say for their little restaurant, in a suitcase full of receipts for the whole year and nothing's been done. Of course, you charge them for that.

Basically, H&R Block started as the "store-front" tax preparer because the average guy couldn't do his tax return. Every year

that the IRS has gone to a simplification of the tax form, it's gotten more complicated. A big thing now, with the soft real estate market, is that people want to sell their second home in Key West, and the banks are very tight with the money. So, they consider owner-financing, where they become the bank and get the interest and the principal payments. It's a complicated system.

**SH:** What's the latest change in the tax law?  
**LF:** This year, there is a big complication for the simplest of tax returns: parents with one or more children, who make under \$21,000. Those people had gotten what is called "earned income credit." Last year, they got up to \$950 out of a fund they did not pay into. Now, the government says, "We're going to make that more complicated."

The simple method of looking up how much income you have and giving yourself this credit has turned into a three-chart fiasco. You get extra credit if you had a child born in 1991; you get extra credit if you pay your own medical insurance or it's taken out of your paycheck. If you have *more* than one child, there's a credit for the babysitter—a credit you don't get if you only have one child.

The changes are unfair to the people who have always done their own tax return to have to go through this system, but the credit can be \$2235. So, it might be worth the extra money to have your return professionally prepared, because that's a lot more than last year's credit. It's one of those trade-offs. President Bush wanted to just give everyone with a child under eighteen \$1000. That didn't pass. This is the compromise.

**SH:** What happens if a professional tax preparer goofs and makes a mistake on someone's tax return?

**LF:** If there is a mistake on a tax return, most preparers will go to audit with the client or if there is a math error, most preparers will



A TAXING WOMAN: Louise Ferris of H&R Block agrees that taxes are complicated and not necessarily fair.

pay the penalty or the interest. For most people on computers that doesn't happen, because the computer knows how to do the math. Most mistakes are math errors.

**SH:** Do folks ever figure out their own taxes and then come to a professional to compare notes?

**LF:** Yes, lots of times they bring them in just to have them checked; to make sure they have things in the right order and for us to make suggestions. Another thing people do, to secure refunds, is to bring them here to have them electronically filed. We can pay the refund or the IRS can pay it.

The IRS wants to, by the turn of the century, not to accept paper through the mail. They want everybody to electronically file their tax return. In that system, you would come to the center and send the tax return over the telephone wires. In a matter of hours they blip us back, telling us if it's been accepted. Two things can happen. One: they can mail the check and you'll get it within 14 days. You know it's been filed, accepted and you'll get the check. Two: there is a loan program. Come back to our office the next day and we'll give you a check.

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**SH:** What will be the effect of a computerized system?

**LF:** These things cost money. What we're saying is, "The IRS should give taxpayers credit for doing it. There should be some incentive." The IRS told us, four years ago, that everytime an electronic filer goes in, it saves the IRS \$85. They don't have any paper trail. They don't have somebody opening envelopes. It goes directly from our computer to their computer, there is no input operator. There is so much less of a margin of error. The returns are corrected before they go to the IRS. The checking system is really excellent. They say they'll be able to store the information on mammoth disks.

In Ohio, this year, the IRS is testing an easy call-in system. You just punch the numbers into your touch-tone phone, and give the tax return over the telephone wire. It's going to be for the 'E-Z' filer. Someone who has one W-2, doesn't have any other income, etc.

**SH:** What is *most* often forgotten on tax returns?

**LF:** People don't include all the income from a bank account, leave off a W-2 from a job they had for a month (and forgot about), or they thought you were getting paid under the table, but at the end of the year they found out they weren't. This is a daily occurrence, and these people are going to pay back-taxes.

**SH:** What about the person who just plain doesn't file?

**LF:** There are new laws covering failure to file. There are penalties when you leave things off, and the IRS feels it was intentional. These penalties are 75 percent. The computer system is working so well, they don't have to go out into the field and audit as much.

People say, "Don't they get the big guys?" Yes, but you don't hear about it much. You hear about the single mother who's being audited for the babysitter. We feel terrible about that. But the IRS is narrowing the margin of error for the babysitter deduction.

Before 1987, you never had to include the babysitter's name. Now, you have to put down the babysitter's name and social security number on the tax return. The IRS can check that social security number to see if that income was reported on that tax return. There are many people who say, "I can't put this down; I'll lose my babysitter." But you should.

**SH:** How should workers who receive tips handle their taxes?

**LF:** The safest way is to every night report to the employer eight percent of the sales you have rung-up. If you don't receive that much in tips, report what you do get. Keep a log. If you keep a logbook of how many tips you get, the IRS will take that.

At the end of the year, the employer is either going to have eight percent on the W-2, or if you haven't reported nightly, they're going to do what they call "allocation of tips." That really hurts people in the service business. You end up paying social security on that allocation, as well as taxes. A logbook is the way to go for tipped people. It doesn't need to be anything fancy; a datebook will work.

**SH:** What about an employee who has to "tip-out" another worker, like a busboy or a bar-back?

**LF:** That can be taken off as an itemized deduction. It used to be written right off the top. In 1987, the rules changed; if a waiter can't itemize, he can't take it off the top. If he's a married person, he needs over \$5700 in itemized deductions to beat the standard deduction.

The question is not whether you tip-out, but do you have a house and property taxes? That's because there is no more interest deduction for personal income. You can't take off cars, you can't take off credit cards. The only deductible interest is mortgage interest. A lot of people refinance their house to buy a car. The reason is they want all that interest to be deductible.

**SH:** Taxes seem to have gotten a lot more complicated, just over the past few years.

**LF:** Yes, and they keep changing the rules. Middle-income people pay the most in taxes and suffer the most from the tax laws. They

really didn't get anything this year. The top-rate for capital gains is 28 percent; the top tax-rate is 31 percent. So, they've reduced it a little but it's not anywhere like it used to be. They've cut out a lot of the good deductions people used to take.

**SH:** Do you have any hints for people who choose to figure their taxes at home, on their own?

**LF:** Be sure to sign the tax return. If you mail that tax return unsigned, it can't be accepted as filed. It may take six weeks to get back to you and that check will be held up—so, sign that return. Check the math to be sure it's accurate. Finally, be sure to list an address where the refund check can arrive, if you're expecting one. If you are going to move, give mom's address. The IRS doesn't care what address you give, as long as it's secure. Remember, everyone knows what those government checks look like, so give a safe address at a safe mailbox.



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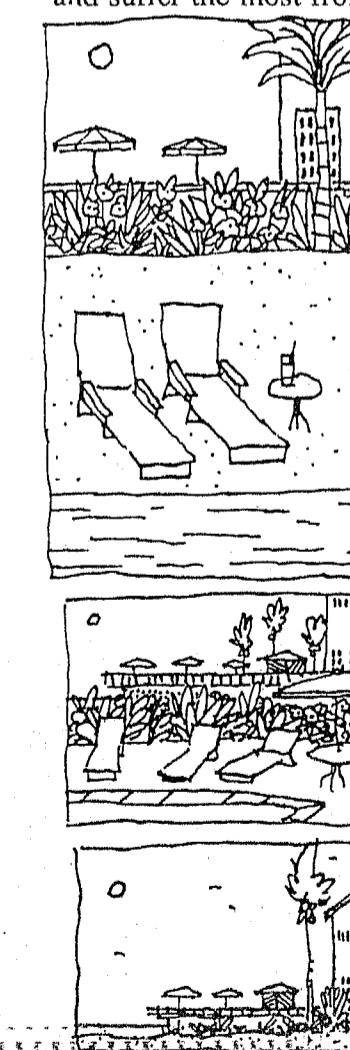
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# In A Recession, Experts Say Keep Advertising

By G.S. Wynn

Experts agree that advertising is more important during a recession than ever. Keeping the advertising message in view of prospective customers, they say, is vital when the chips are down. What's more, when the economic pendulum finally swings into the growth phase, business-people who withstood the temptation to kill the ad budget will likely end up on top.

Ann Dickinson runs the Key West-based Market Share Company with partner Linda O'Brien. They handle promotions for clients as varied as the Holiday Inn Beachside and Barnett Bank. Their biggest account is the annual presentation of Fantasy Fest, which has become one of the nation's most talked-about events.

"When money's tight, the first thing people cut is advertising," says Dickinson. "It's the worse thing you can do. People are still spending money, but they may not be spending as much. So, you've got to get that message out there, and make sure you get your market share."

A study by McGraw-Hill Research indicates that the firms that maintained strong advertising campaigns during the 1981 recession, enjoyed as much as a 256-percent

lead in sales over competitors who zapped their ad budgets. The numbers also show that places that market aggressively during a recession gain the precious consumer dollars that remain available. What's more, once the recession has passed, consumers are drawn to places that promoted themselves when the going was tough.

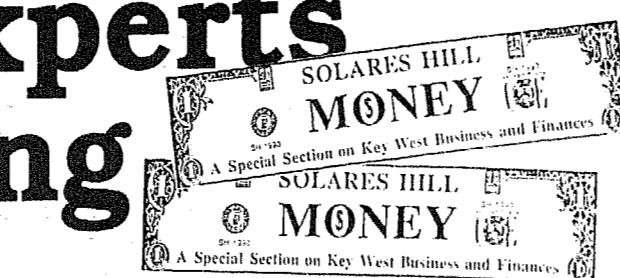
#### Small & Mighty

Over 90 percent of Monroe County businesses are considered "small" by federal guidelines. The increased competition that comes with a recession has sent local businesses scrambling.

Virginia Panico, executive vice-president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, says, "You're seeing a shift in how the American citizen is spending their dollars. They're economizing. Forfeiting the \$100 dinner for the \$50 dinner. Buying tchotchke and little souvenirs, instead of something more elaborate."

Dr. Bill Smith is professor of entrepreneurship at Florida Keys Community College.

"One of the differences between the truly small business and the big guys is the big guys have secondary markets," says Smith. "The primary market may help you just break



even. It's the secondary market that pushes you into the black, makes you profitable."

Targeting the advertising scheme to reach the desired market becomes more important during a recession. "The ideal ad," says Smith, "reaches only your potential market and not another living soul. Use a rifle, not a shotgun."

He believes the traditional forms of media—newspapers, magazines, television, radio, for example—will continue to serve the advertiser, but will be enhanced by new uses for video technology and interactive telephone-computer hook-ups.

#### Hello, Mr. So-and-So

Recently, Key West jumped into the telephone marketing field, when the Tourist Development Council of Monroe County signed a contract with the Chamber of Commerce. Since November 7, operators have been answering tourist requests at the Wall Street offices. Before then, explains Panico, those calls were received by Kansas City, Missouri.

"If someone asked about the weather, they couldn't tell," says Panico. "It was very impersonal and cold. They took name, num-

ber and address, and sent out information. We felt we could do a better job servicing and selling our product by answering the calls here."

Operators will handle up to 300,000 inquiries each year.

It's that kind of service that has made the Florida Keys the number two visitor destination in the state. Only Orlando's Disney World theme-park draws more travelers than does Monroe County. A survey by the Key West Chamber of Commerce shows the composition of visitors to the Keys:

- 20 percent are foreign visitors
- 30 percent of the domestic visitors are from Florida, half of them from Southeast Florida
- 17 percent are from the Mid-Atlantic states
- 84 percent are visiting for pleasure
- 40 percent are on a get-away trip
- 18 percent are celebrating a special occasion
- 25 percent are sightseeing
- 12 percent come for a specific activity or event
- 38 percent visited *only* the Keys during their trip

#### Hip-Deep in Tourists

Moving the telemarketing operation to the Keys is just the latest effort by local authorities to provide better service for prospective tourists.

"In the mid-80s," says Smith, "the entire Monroe County business establishment began to pull together to try to do some regional and national advertising for the first time. They were so successful, that by two or three years ago, there were cries to back-off, because we were hip-deep in people."

That's the sign of a successful campaign.

A one-time ad is certainly not a campaign. Repeating the message again and again is essential, according to Dickinson.

"The retention of the consumer, whether it's a destination or a hamburger, just doesn't last very long," says Dickinson. "It's a basic throughout the industry: you must present what you are selling frequently. If you drop out, they think you may have gone out of business. Frequency and consistency are very important, and you have to use several different media."

Someday, when the recession is over, it'll be the business person who spent the advertising dollar wisely who will end up the leader.

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## Passenger Figures

# A Plane View

By Geddy Sveikauskas

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Express' local service has been absorbed by TWA. And a new name with historic overtones, Chalk's, is serving the southernmost city.

With all these changes, it's the stability of passenger traffic at the Key West airport that's the surprise. US Air, which switched to smaller planes in mid-1991, is still the leader with 128,702 Key West passengers in 11 months (as compared to 155,333 for all of 1990). Delta's Comair handled 85,777 in 11 months of 1991 (compared to 80,433 in all of 1990). American Eagle has carried 69,495 in 11 months of 1990 (as compared to 58,010 in all of 1990).

#### 300,000 Passengers

With about 300,000 passengers through November, these three major carriers appear likely, without further structural change, to continue their domination of the Key West market.

Pan Am Express, which carried 51,176 in the 11 months of 1991 that it was in business, will be missed; it's unclear at this time what TWA's numbers will be.

Airways International, which had carried 7889 passengers to Key West through November, will double its 1990 totals in 1991. And Chalk's has carried 1233 passengers in the brief few months it has been in business.

If there's a dark cloud in the picture at Key West, it is that the passenger market seems to have been weakening toward the end of 1991, indicating fewer fare bargains and the effects of the continuing recession.

The first half of the year saw the number of commercial passengers down only about 1 percent from a year ago. For the carriers, the second half has been much slower.

#### Weakness Is Relative

Such weakness is relative, of course. Even at the present levels, the rate of commercial activity in and out of Key West still exceeds the pace of 1987, the third busiest year after 1990 and 1991.

Many passengers report that the Miami-Key West segment of their travel itinerary is the most difficult to book, especially in the winter months. Eventually, the airlines are likely to respond to that situation.

It wouldn't be a surprise if one or more of the existing carriers seek in 1992 to increase the size of the planes they use to service Key West. The giant planes Eastern used on its Miami-Key West route a few years ago, however, are not expected to return.

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# Bank President Says Times Are Tough

By G.S. Wynn

"Things are tough now. We've got more people than are past due, more claims in litigation, that we've ever had in the history of this bank." Those are the words Harry Woolley, Jr., president and CEO of Barnett Banks of the Keys. His local contacts indicate "about a 10-percent decrease overall" in

paying customers.

Woolley, who is also president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, says Key West seems to be faring better than other parts of Florida, which have a more diverse economic base.

But the islands are not immune.

"Charterboat captains are not getting their charters," said Woolley. "Waiters and waitresses are not getting their tips. Businesses aren't creating enough sales. All of that stuff equates to less net spendable income."

"We've got nine or ten residential mortgage loans in the process of foreclosure," he continued. "We don't want those homes. We're not in the real estate business. By the same token, our stockholders demand, and the regulators demand that, if a loan gets so far past due, we have no choice but to take legal remedies: take the collateral, sell the collateral, and get the cash back."

Woolley explained, however, that banks are founded to serve their customers, and that it is easier to serve customers who keep in touch.

## Add it all up:

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**114**

Years our Directors have lived in the Keys

**274**

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Years our employees have spent in the banking business

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Years our employees have spent with Barnett Bank

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**"We've got nine residential mortgages in the process of foreclosure."**

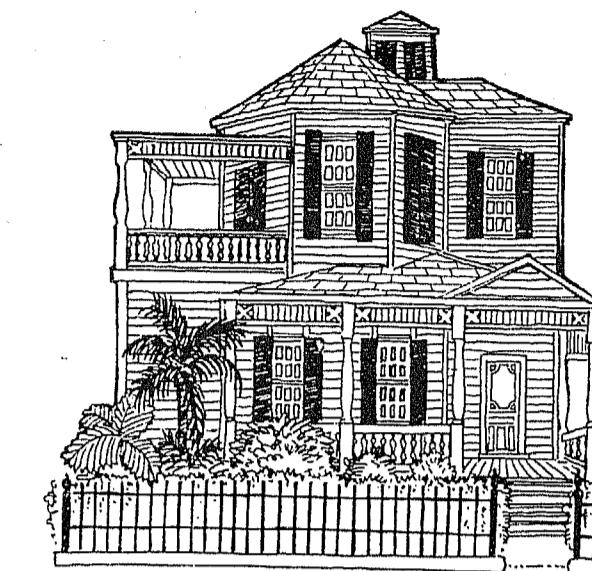
However, banks can't afford to be too free with compassion and are not about to overlook lavish living, if a customer can't keep up with payments.

Quips Woolley, laughingly, "We're looking for it to be a mutually painful experience."

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## Real Estate: Opportunity Knocks?

By G. S. Wynn

The real estate industry is experiencing a buyer's market now. In Key West, realtors have the greatest number of properties for sale than ever.

Rick Van Hout, partner in Key West Realty, Inc. and president of the Key West Business Guild, says, "We've been running in excess of \$100 million in inventory. A lot of people who own homes down here, own it as a second home or as an investment. When

they get in a financial crunch back home, the first thing they do is put that luxury home on the market."

The upshot is a chance for first-timers to become "landlords." Key West Realty president Tim Henshaw says, "Owners, sellers, and financial institutions are getting more creative."

Owner-financing is one option. It allows owner of the property to finance the purchase, eliminating some fees. Service industry workers, in particular, benefit from a lack of income or asset statements usually required by lenders.

As usual, however, qualifying for a mortgage can be easier for buyers ready to plunk down a 20- to 30-percent downpayment.

Many properties on the Key West market are "turn-key," or resident ready. That way, explains Henshaw, "[new owners] can move in right away. They don't have to worry about the furnishings or re-doing the electrical or plumbing, or anything else. You get a lot better deal, rather than buying everything new."

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Two-hundred eleven realtors are members of the Key West Realtors Association. For many of them, Duval Street represents business as it should be, regardless of the many shops and stores that blossom, fade, then die.

**... financial institutions are getting more creative.**

"You're always going to have places that open and close," says Van Hout. "But look at how it was seven or eight years ago. In the summertime, half of Duval would close. Now, just about all the businesses are open year-round. That comes from the Tourist Development Council doing year-round advertising."

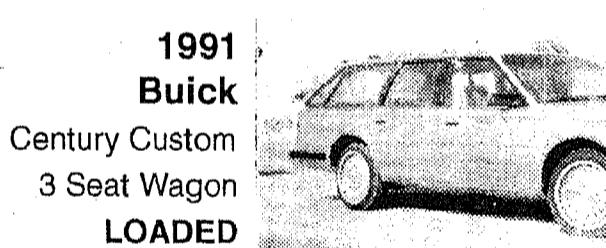
It seems like the conditions are right for investors ready to surf the wave of the incoming financial tide.

## WAGONS PRICED TO TRAVEL



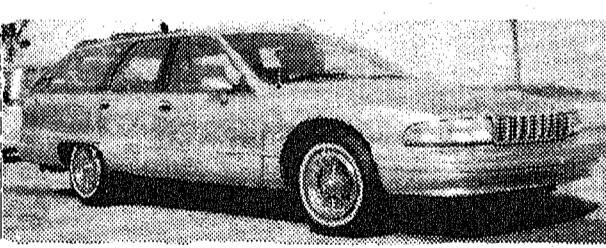
LIST PRICE  
Year-End-Savings  
\$19,965  
- 3,465

**MORRISON PRICE \$16,500**



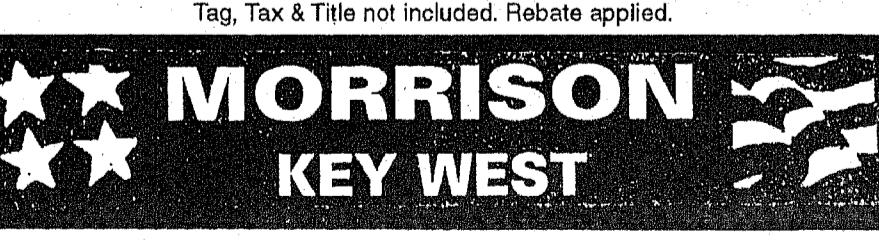
1991  
Buick  
Century Custom  
3 Seat Wagon  
LOADED  
LIST PRICE  
Year-End-Savings  
\$20,366  
- 3,566

**MORRISON PRICE \$16,800**



1991  
Caprice  
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Gallery co-owner Bob Chaplin is near to

## Key West & Southwest

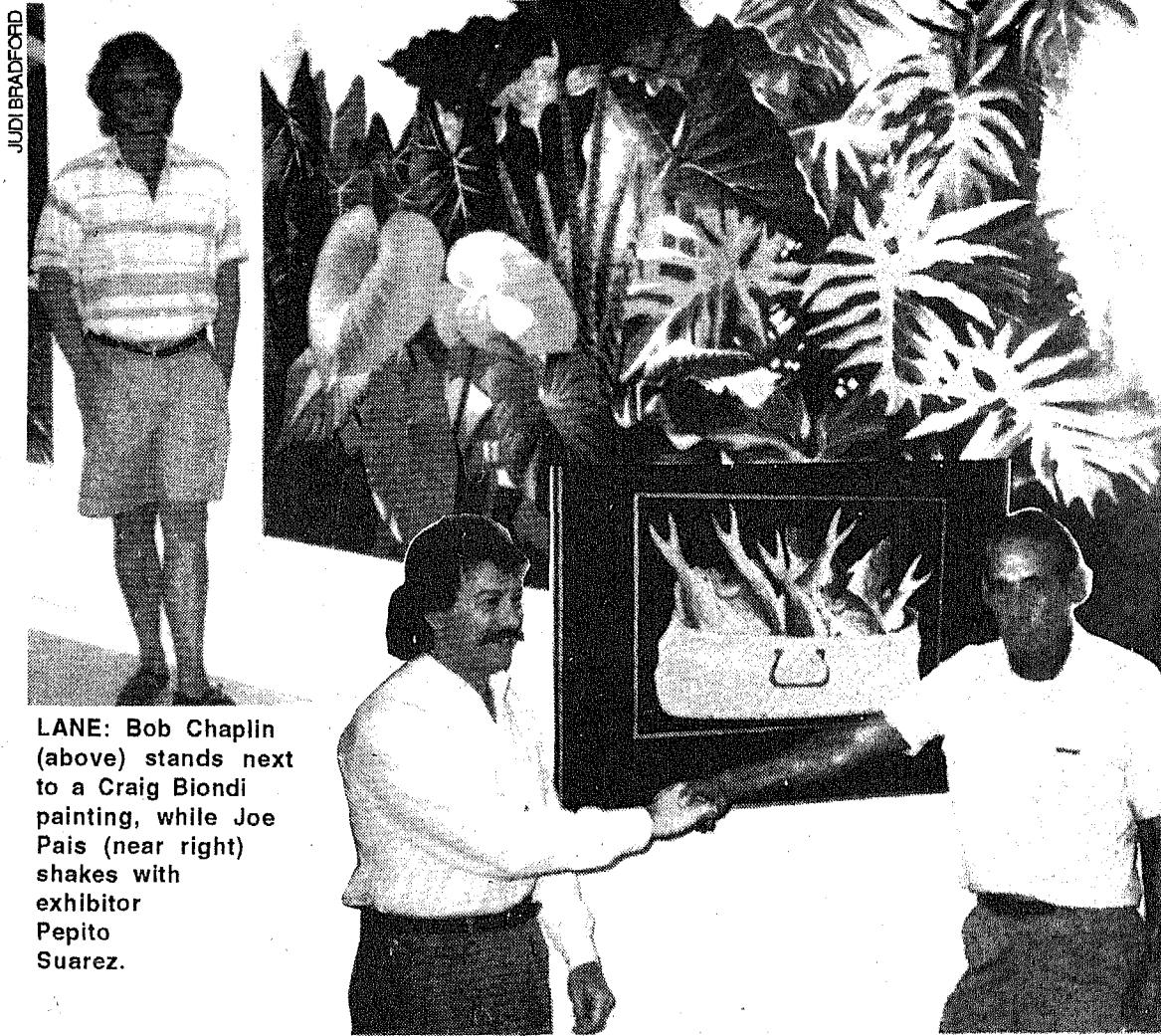
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Tricia Higgins Hurt

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*Great Southern Gallery*  
FINE ART GALLERY

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LANE: Bob Chaplin (above) stands next to a Craig Blondi painting, while Joe Pais (near right) shakes with exhibitor Pepito Suarez.

answer questions, but he is unobtrusive, allowing you solitude.

The work at Lane Gallery is eclectic, including representational, abstract, serious, humorous, bold and delicate. The media, too,

is varied, running the range of painting and exploring some new territory. Terry Gindel's painted work, for instance, is often on non-traditional materials—metals, vinyl, plastics. Sculptors exhibiting at Lane work in steel



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abstractions or mixed media humorous figures. Chaplin believes the unifying element is the color, which is vivid.

"Not necessarily hot, tropical colors," says Chaplin, "more jewel-like."

To create the gallery space, Chaplin converted a drugstore into the calming library-like area it is today. The idea was to "make the space invisible so the paintings would shine," he says. And then he jokingly adds that if the gallery should ever fail, the owners can rent out the space for square dances or basketball games.

Newly elected city commissioner Joe Pais, the second of three partners in the gallery, (Molly Leeds is the third) says, "We're still looking for an installation artist for the middle of the floor."

It is a perfect site for an unorthodox construction.

Lane Gallery is Chaplin's dream—or, perhaps, his destiny. He was unable to avoid collecting artwork. When houseguests, who viewed the paintings that covered his apartment walls, began inquiring if he was an art dealer, he began to think seriously about becoming one.

Before making the decision, however, he back-packed through Europe, the United States and Mexico.

"My hobby is moving," he quips.

While zipping through Key West he saw a Van Eno painting that haunted him in later travels.

"The painting wouldn't fit in a backpack," he said.

Eventually he gave up the backpack, returned to Key West, and started collecting—or, rather, couldn't stop himself from collecting. He recalls being impoverished to his last \$13 as a result of buying paintings. He also got to know Van Eno and other artists in town.

Meanwhile, a little gallery behind Jordan's Café on Duval had closed, and the restaurateur wanted someone to re-open it. Chaplin and Pais were ready for the challenge, and for two years they represented five artists in the tiny restaurant show space. Then it was time for the great leap: from a typical Key West operation—in scale with the island—to a huge room on the corner of the city's two main streets.

"I realized there was a tremendous art community here—more artists than galleries," Pais reflects. "I had confidence that the town would develop into a cultural center, so we took a chance on the bigger space. We wanted to challenge our artists."

Both have faith in Key West becoming an arts destination.

"We believe this town can be and should be the art center of the Southeast," says Pais, adding that it is a great challenge for the town

to maintain affordable housing and studio space and a market to keep the artists working.

Chaplin takes pride in the island's art scene. "It's not on the cutting edge of modern art," he says, "but there's good solid work here." And he notes that they have more and more clients who fly in for their art shows.

He observes the human element in art collection is on the rise, with more people making their own decisions rather than relying on the advice of a dealer. "It's getting so that art may be the only thing in a house that is not made in a factory," he points out. "It's high touch versus high tech."

Lane Gallery has been the site of the last two benefit auctions for Aids Help.

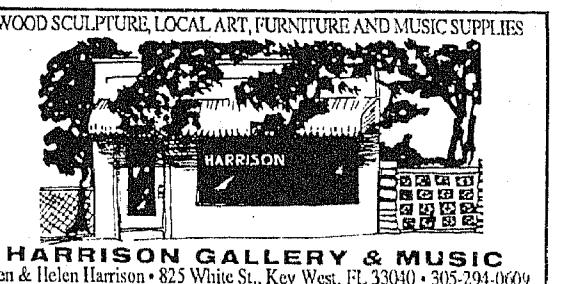
"We thought the standard art auction idea was being overworked," said Chaplin. So he and Pais worked with the fundraising committee of that group and developed a call for specially designed pieces on specified media.

The first year was boxes; the second year was pillows. National and international cele-

brities, as well as known local artists, donated pieces. Broadway notable Jerry Herman helped request the items, which ensured a favorable response.

Ed Seebol, director of Aids Help, said, "It was a big, big event for us. The introduction of dozens of world-famous names gave the auction an extra sparkle."

The two affairs brought in almost \$50,000 for the charity group. The fund-raising committee and Lane are working on the next one now. It will be similar in execution with a different object for design. Chaplin says they are considering satellite links or other high-tech additions.



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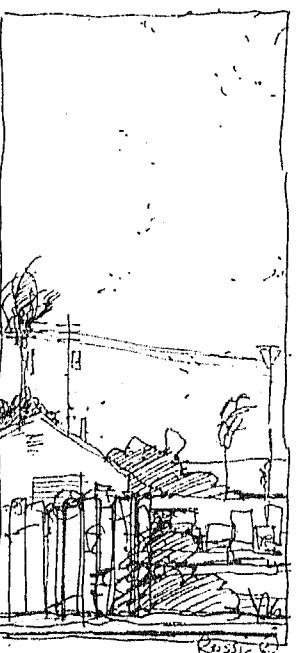
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**African Art Curios and Crafts** • Tribal and animal masks and artifacts. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 501-B Southard St. 294-1291.

**Art Collections Key West** • National and local artists in a variety of styles and themes. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. 600 Front St. in the Bottling Court. 296-5956.

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

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

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

**Bohem** • All-new selection of painted furniture, including a new line of framed mirrors. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 706A Duval St. 292-4035.

**Lee Dodez Showroom** • New classes at FKCC by Jay Gogin in January. Hand-built clay pieces. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

**East Bank Gallery** • Paintings by local artists, highlighting Dick Matson originals. Also

limited edition prints and custom framing. Daily, except Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 706 White St. 296-2679.

**East Martello Museum & Gallery** • "Key West in the Movies" exhibition, featuring film history of the island. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for adults. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

**Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery** • Library closed January 2. "Photography in Advertising," featuring local photographers, through January 10. Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

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

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

**Great Southern Gallery** • Patricia Hurt show coming January 4, opening 7 to 9 p.m. Soon: new outdoor steel sculpture by Cuban national Rafael. Classes: watercolor by Errol Etienne and acrylic by Harry Greene. Also our regular artists. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

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

Duval St. 296-6076.

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

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

**High Tide** • Oil paintings and prints with local flavor. Affordable prices from \$5 to \$300. Packing and shipping available. 9:30 a.m. to midnight. 826 Duval St. 293-0331.

**Is It Art?** • Hand-painted artwear, prints and wall-hangings. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 913 Duval St. 294-0411.

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

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

**Kennedy Gallery** • New wood sculptures by Boston artist John Vliet. Animal sculpture by Peter Otnoski. Etched glass pieces by Susan Pellish. Vibrant oil paintings by Michele Kennedy. Watercolor street-scapes by Robert Kennedy. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., maybe later. 1130 Duval St. 294-5997.

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

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

**Key West Lighthouse Museum** • History of Keys lighthouses and technology of lighthouses. Also, life of a lighthouse keeper. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 children 7 to 15, under 7 free. 938 Whitehead St. 294-0012.

**Kudu Gallery of Tribal Arts** • New acquisitions of tribal rugs and kilims. African art, collector's textiles, jewelry, international folk art. Big shipment of African masks and jewelry. Also oriental rugs, kilims, ethnic musical instruments, tapestries, toys and African art. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 717 Duval St. 294-3143.

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

**Robinson Galleries** • Featuring the art of Wyland and six other international artists. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 296-7920.

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

**Studio 227** • Handbuilt clay-work, watercolor originals, Bahama Village scenes by local artists. Neighborhood children's art classes. Hours: Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Locklear multi-media; acrylics. 227 Petronia St. 294-3973.

**Sunset Arts and Crafts** • Work by local artists and craftsmen—many Mallory Square vendors at the Sunset Celebration. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 296-7920.

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

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

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

**Pandemonium** • See our new line, "Depression Ware," in muted colors, novel textures. Also broken tile mirrors and lamps in our distinctive style, art fashions and furniture, tile tables, ceramic house numbers, tables, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon

to 5 p.m. 704 Duval St. 294-0351.

**Pelican Poop Shoppe** • Haitian art, paintings, metal sculpture, papier mache, wood carvings. Ceramics by Mary Ann Worth. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 314 Simonton St. 294-9955.

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

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# CALENDAR • JAN. 2 - 15

## 10th Annual Literary Seminar: Literature & Film

ed lecture with Donald Bogle at TWFAC. *January 11*

9:30 a.m. • Literature into Film for Television lecture at TWFAC.

11:15 a.m. • Violence: A Roundtable Discussion at TWFAC.

2 p.m. • Literature and Film Noir discussion with William K. Everson at TWFAC.

3:15 p.m. • Commerce: What Gets Made and Why, a talk about the realities of film in the marketplace at TWFAC.

7 p.m. • Meet the Panelists Reception at the East Martello Art & Historical Museum, 3501 South Roosevelt Blvd.

*January 12*

9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon • Literary Walking Tours meet in front of the Hemingway House, 907 Whitehead Street. Call for reservations, 745-3640.

5 p.m. • Meet the Authors Reception at the Pier House.

*January 10*

9 a.m. • Morning Coffee at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, 5901 West Junior College Road on Stock Island.

9:15 a.m. • Welcome with David Kaufelt at TWFAC.

9:45 a.m. • Adaptations of Classic and Contemporary Literature lecture with several of the noted participants in the seminar at TWFAC.

11:00 a.m. • A Conversation with William Goldman at TWFAC.

2 p.m. • Screenwriting lecture with several of the noted participants in the seminar at TWFAC.

3:30 p.m. • Film Screenings choice of *At Play in the Fields of the Lord* at the Cobb Cinema or *Money and the Woman* at the TWFAC.

8 p.m. • An Interpretive History of Blacks in American Films, an illustra-

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## Cultural

1/7-1/19 • *Baby with the Bathwater* directed by George Guglielotti at the Waterfront Playhouse. For reservations, call 294-5015.

1/7-1/18 • African-American Dance Ensemble 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

1/8-2/9 • *Prelude to a Kiss* directed by Joy Hawkins at The Red Barn Theatre. For reservations, call 296-9911.

1/9 • Finalists in the Palm Beach Invitational Piano Competition will perform at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. For tickets call Great Southern Gallery, 294-6660 or TWFAC at 296-9081, ext. 326.

1/9-1/13 • Literature and Film—The 10th Annual Key West Literary Seminar and Writers' Workshop with several noted literary figures. For registration information, call 745-3640.

1/11 • *Islamorada Holiday Isle Gran Prix* sponsored by Australian Gold and The Florida Keys and Key West. For more information, call 294-5500.

1/11 • Live at Havana Docks premieres at 9 p.m. Local talent will produce 90 minutes of knee-slapping insanity.

1/12 • Warsaw Wind Quintet with Michiko Otaki 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

1/15-1/19 • Eighth Annual Florida Keys Renaissance Faire in Marathon featuring jousting tournaments, human chess games and bountiful food and drink. For more information, call 1-800-FLA-KEYS.

## Events

1/2-1/10 • Spring Semester Registration at Florida Keys Community College. Call 296-9081, ext. 495.

1/9 • Recent Thoughts on Modernism at the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art. Featuring a lecture with distinguished curator E.A. Carmean on how modernism developed and matured. For more information, call (305) 525-5500.

1/9-1/12 • The Everglades Coalition Seventh Annual Conference in Key Largo. Featuring seminars, field trips and several noted guest speakers. For more information, call Ben Beach at (202) 429-2655.

1/10-1/12 • The Ninth Annual Palm Beach Winter Antique Show at the Royce Hotel in West Palm Beach, benefiting The March of Dimes. For more information, call (407) 483-4047.

1/11 • *Islamorada Holiday Isle Gran Prix* sponsored by Australian Gold and The Florida Keys and Key West. For more information, call 294-5500.

1/11-1/18 • Volunteer Appreciation Week held by the Monroe Organizational Volunteer Erolvement network. Call J.J. Brennan at 852-4246 for a complete schedule of events.

1/12-1/18 • *The Law and You* radio show with Attorney Fred Butner and guest attorney Steve Shea 8 to 9 a.m. on 1600 AM WKWF. The program deals with Bankruptcy and New Year's Money Problems. Call 294-5505.

1/15-1/19 • Eighth Annual Florida Keys Renaissance Faire in Marathon featuring jousting tournaments, human chess games and bountiful food and drink. For more information, call 1-800-FLA-KEYS.

## Meetings

1/2 • Tree Committee Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/6 • Public Library Meeting 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/7 • Board of County Commissioners Meeting 9 a.m. at the Key Largo Library. Call 292-4422.

1/7 • City Commission Meeting 3:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/8 • Board of County Commissioners Meeting 9 a.m. at the Key Largo Library. Call 292-4422.

1/8 • Contractors Exam Board Meeting 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/8 • Board of Adjustors Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/8 • Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/8 • District 1 Meeting of the TDC Advisory Committee 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Beachside. Call 296-2228.

1/8 • District 3 Meeting 9 a.m. at the Hawks Cay Marina. Call 296-2228.

1/9 • Planning Commission Meeting 10 a.m. in the City Electric Systems Board Room. Call 292-4422.

1/9 • HARC Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/9 • Key West Planning Board Meeting 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/11 • Violence: A Roundtable Discussion with William Rothman as part of the literary seminar, 11:15 a.m. at TWFAC. Open to the public.

1/13 • Public Library Meeting 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/13 • HARC Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/14 • District 4 Meeting 2 p.m. at the Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada. Call 296-2228.

1/14 • District 2 Meeting 7 p.m. at the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce. Call 296-2228.

1/14 • Civil Service Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/15 • Development Review Committee 1 p.m. at the Marathon Public Library. Call 292-4422.

1/15 • Contractor's Exam Board Meeting 2 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/15 • South Florida Water Management District Workshop 9 a.m. in West Palm Beach. Call (407) 686-8800.

## Well-Being

1/5 • Free Kripalu Yoga Classes with Tony Luttenberger for HIV-positive individuals at AIDS, Help, Inc. For more information, call Jared at 294-6968.

1/7 • Self-Esteem Workshop 2 to 3 p.m. for four sessions at the Mental Health Care Center. For more information, call 292-6843.

1/8 • "Quality Time—Parenting News for the Keys" 7:30 p.m. on TCI Channel 5. A television talk show focusing on family issues, presented by MOMS, Inc. that will be featured weekly. For more information, call 294-4837.

1/9-2/13 • A Series of Six Childbirth Classes in Big Pine. \$5 registration fee. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

## Ongoing

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

"A Course in Miracles" study group meets at the Crystal Loft, mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine, every Monday at 7 p.m. Call 872-9390.

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

AIDS Help Support Group Meetings for PWAs, ARC, HIV+, families,

friends and lovers are held each Thursday at 6 p.m. at 2700 Flagler Avenue. Call 296-6196.

Anchors Aweigh Club, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings daily at 404 Virginia Street. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

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

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

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

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

Depression and Manic-Depression Group meets 3 to 4:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

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

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

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

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

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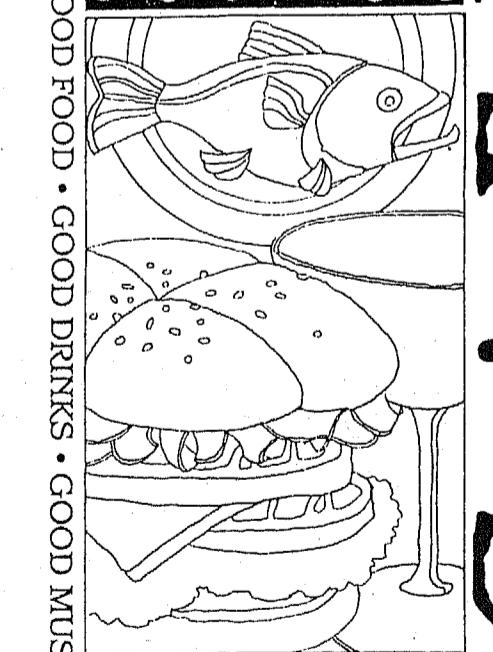
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**Guardianship of Monroe County** helps disabled adults and elderly residents in decision-making. To volunteer or for more information call Elizabeth Covino at HRS, 292-6728; Betty Cambell at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, 294-5531; or Liz Kern at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

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

**Island Wellness** at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled courses and activities. Monday: Daily R & R at noon; Tuesday: Tai Chi Chuan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Wednesday: Daily R & R; Thursday: Tai Chi Chuan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Friday: Daily R & R at noon; Sundays: alternating schedule. New: Kripalu Yoga classes with Tony Luttenberger, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 to 11 a.m. and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 5:45 to 7 p.m. Call 296-7353 for details.

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

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**Captain Tony's Saloon** • 428 Greene Street. Call 294-1838.  
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**Coconuts Comedy Club** • The Top at La Concha at 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.  
**Crazy Daizy's at La Concha** • 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.  
**Emma's Late Night** • The Reach at Simonton and the beach. Call 294-3474.  
**Flagler's at The Casa Marina** • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.  
**Full Moon Saloon** • 1202 Simonton Street. Call 294-9090.  
**Green Parrot** • 601 Whitehead. Call 296-6133.  
**Harbour Light's Barrelhead Bar** • Garrison Bight Marina. Call 294-9343.

**The Quay** • 12 Duval Street. Call 294-4446.  
**Ramada Inn Top O'Spray** • 3420 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5541.  
**Rooftop Café** • 310 Front Street. Call 294-2042.  
**Schooner Wharf** • 202 William Street. Call 292-9520.  
**Sloppy Joe's** • Corner of Duval and Greene Streets. Entertainment beginning daily at 2 p.m. Call 294-5717.  
**Square One Restaurant** • Duval Square. Joe Lowe on piano Thursday-Saturday evenings. Call 296-4300.  
**Stephen's Bayside Café** • 1970 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Call 294-5066.  
**Sun Sun Pavilion at The Casa Marina** • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.  
**The Terrace** • 1125 Duval Street. Pianist and vocalist Larry Smith Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday brunches with Larry Smith and Lisa Edwards, noon to 3 p.m. Call 294-7300.  
**The Top at La Concha** • 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.  
**Turtle Kraals at Lands End Marina** • 1 Lands End Village. Call 294-2640.  
**Two Friends Patio Restaurant** • 512 Front Street. Call 296-9212.  
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## • ISLAND ECONOMICS • ISLAND ECONOMICS • ISLAND ECONOMICS •

Business  
Tides

Michael Tierney, general manager of the **Casa Marina Resort**, announced that **Diane Schmidt** has been promoted to director of sales for the 312-room oceanfront resort. Schmidt joined the **Casa Marina** in 1983 as the director of catering, and was appointed director of group sales in 1990. She played a key role in increasing revenues by eight percent, leading the **Casa Marina** to receive the 1990 Hotel of the Year Award from Interstate Hotels Corporation. She resides on Sugarloaf Key with her husband

Mark, a light-tackle fishing guide.

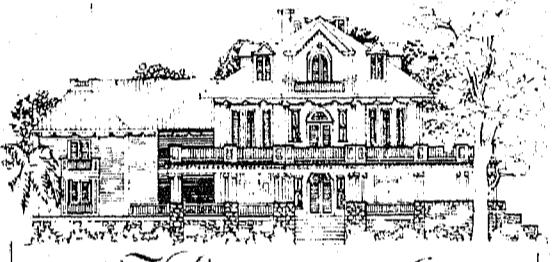
The **Monroe Organizational Volunteer Elevation** network (M.O.V.E.) announced the appointment of **Denise Tameron** of Barnett Bank to chairman of their Volunteer Appreciation Week, planned for January 12 through 18. Special events and awards are scheduled to be held throughout Monroe County during this week in recognition of the valuable contributions of volunteers in the Florida Keys. The events kick-off with a parade at the Tavernier Towne Shopping Center on January 12 from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, call J.J. Brennan at 852-4246.

**Jerry Williams**, President of First National Bank of the Florida Keys, announced that **Rodney L. Hall** has joined his staff as senior vice-president and senior loan officer. Hall comes to the Keys from the First Union Bank of Atlanta, where he was vice president and commercial banking manager for the past three years. He will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the bank's entire loan portfolio and will concentrate on the development of bankwide policies and performance goals. He and his wife, Kim, reside in Marathon.

**Pik'n Country WPIK** (102.5 FM) is now testing facilities at their new studios located at mile marker 22.5 on Cudjoe Key.

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They say the modern country format fills a void in the market from the upper-middle keys through Key West with "all stereo FM" all the time. A major contract assures listeners of immediate access to the latest, best country releases 24 hours a day. President **Theresa Parish** says the station may be reached at 745-9988.

**First State Bank** announces the appointment of **G. Joan Miller** as branch manager of the new Boulevard office located at 3406 N. Roosevelt Boulevard, next to Seastown. "This new office is much more convenient for our customers and potential customers in New Town," Miller said. "Our new office will have more drive-in lanes than any other bank in town, an on-premise loan officer, two night depository boxes and plenty of teller lines."

**Tracy Budzyn** of Alberta Street and **T.D. Press** of the **Mangrove News** have banded together to form **LHD**, or **Live at Havana Docks**. The 90-minute humor and music show of "knee-slapping" insanity premieres January 11 at the **Pier House**. **Mayor Dennis Wardlow** will open the show, which will include entertainment from Johnny Starr, Ann O'Shea, Katie Gillespie, Roy Boy Strawn, Terry Cassidy and Dan Mulberry. The doors will open at 9 p.m., and admission is \$5 (a portion goes to the Wesley House Children's Fund).

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## • COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES • COMMUNITY NOTES •

## Casa Gato Kicks Off 91-92 Season

Once again classical chamber music fills the halls of the historic **Casa Gato** condominiums with its 1991-92 season of impromptu concerts. The first concert, in December, featured harpsichordist George Luchtenburg. The 14-foot ceilings, wooden walls and expansive rooms make the acoustics at **Casa Gato** one of Florida's finest environments for small ensemble and solo music. This year, thanks to contributions from local businesses, the concerts will be recorded so that they may be broadcast at later dates on the radio. The next concert will be January 26 featuring a trio made up of oboist John Dee, violist Pamela McConnell and pianist Toby Blumenthal. For more information, call 1-800-342-AIDS.

## 15th-Century Excitement

Fifteenth-century merriment will come to life later this month at the Eighth Annual **Florida Keys Renaissance Faire** scheduled for January 15 to 19 in Marathon. The events are endless and varied ranging from dart tournaments, gypsy bullwhip demonstrations, jousting tournaments, human chess games plus an assortment of jugglers, musicians and balladeers. Bountiful food and drink feasts also highlight this year's colorful pageantry. For a complete schedule of events, call 1-800-ASK-KEYS.

## Local Book Released

The **Monroe County Environmental Story** book is now ready for distribution to the Monroe County School System and all Monroe County Public Libraries as a valuable resource guide. The book is a collaboration of work from local writers and is filled with information about the Florida Keys, its history, geology and environment. Look for it in local bookstores!

## Main Street Gets Underway

A recent planning workshop was held at the Martin Luther King Community Center to guide the City Planning Department and its project consultant, Thaddeus Cohen, in the further development of the Bahama Village Preservation Plan. Several local community leaders attended including Main Street manager Rick Tribble, city planner Ted Strader and historic preservation planner Gene Burr. The focus of the workshop was on the opportunities and concerns that have been identified in the assessment of the neighborhood. These include revitalization of Petronia and Emma streets as the commercial center of the area, rehabilitation of housing through low-interest loans, and improving the image of the neighborhood by emphasizing its assets and improving security through intensified police involvement.

## If You Are Harassed...

The Monroe County Coalition for Choice offers the following suggestions for victims of sexual harassment at work: 1) be clear in voicing your disapproval of the behavior by clearly saying, no; 2) take notes recording the time, place and specifics of incidents; 3) tell your co-workers about the situation; 4) file a written or verbal complaint, follow in-house grievance procedures, check time limits for filing; 5) if not satisfied with the internal company or agency investigation, contact the Miami district office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission at 1-800-872-3362.

## National AIDS Hotline

The National AIDS Hotline is a toll-free

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any detergent exceeding .5-percent phosphorus by weight, or any detergent manufactured for use in a dishwasher that contains more than 1.1 grams of phosphorus per tablespoon. Since local sewage treatment plants do not provide nutrient stripping, which eliminates phosphates from wastewater, the septic tanks leak phosphorus into the groundwater, which moves into the mangroves, seagrass beds, canals, and the coral reef. For more information, call Reef Relief 294-3100.

## New Teller Trainer Program

Florida Keys Community College, in conjunction with several local banks, will be offering a Teller Operations Training program. The five, one-credit hour courses include subjects such as security in financial institutions, Money and Negotiable Instruments, overview of financial concepts and products, services and professional customer service. Employees and members of the public are encouraged to enroll for these courses to increase opportunities for promotion or entry into the field. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 283.

## A Few Tidbits . . .

Black history is an important part of Key West. The Main Street, Key West newsletter invites citizens to share interesting facts and figures about black history with them by calling the City Planning Department at 292-8229. By the way did you know, Nelson English, the namesake of the park, was postmaster from 1882 to 1886. William Arrell was deputy collector of revenue. Charles Dupont was sheriff from 1885 to 1893.

## Florida Women's Consortium

The Florida Women's Consortium, an umbrella organization for all women's groups in Florida, will be holding its annual meeting in Tallahassee during the February Legislative Session—a great time to lobby elected officials on women's issues. Membership in the organization gives access to more information and contacts at the state and national level. For more information, contact Lisa Versaci at 294-0759.

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## LIQUID JEWELS

Cocktails and cocktail hours were born of man's so-called higher instincts as a way to please his senses—and that takes in more than just the one of taste.

When viewed through the eyes of an adult, probably nothing reflects the glitter and glamour of celebrating as well as a dazzling array of glassware flanking a collection of fine distilled spirits, aperitifs and liqueurs. In fact, a well-made, well-presented cocktail concocted from the contents of this grown-up wonderland can have all the allure of a rare jewel, pristine but full of promise.

When you go about buying for your bar, remember that like any effort of the culinary sort, the result can only be as good as the ingredients, so don't skimp on quality. No garnish is pretty enough to mask inferior elements.

But there is much more than taste alone to consider.

As stated earlier, a cocktail should be satisfying to all the senses. For instance, the vessel in which it is served should always be glass, never plastic, Styrofoam, or waxed cardboard, so as not to impart any foreign aroma or taste to the beverage. The chosen glass should have a rim delicate enough so that sipping from it is pleasurable and it should also feel good in the hand. I myself prefer to drink all beverages from long-stemmed goblets of some sort; tumblers are just too clunky.

Don't hesitate to bring out your best glassware. (I am refraining from specifying crystal here because recent findings indicate

that the lead in crystal can be drawn into the vessel's contents.) It should be spotless and well-polished—a linen tea towel works best—before it is put out in public view. Try to offer a variety of shapes and sizes, too.

Creative garnishing can contribute immeasurably to the visual appeal of a cocktail. The rule is not to overdo it. A perfect leaf of mint afloat in a rum punch will look a lot more enticing than some oversized chunks of fruit impaled in a toothpick. If you want to decorate the rims of glasses with fruits, cut them into reasonably thin slices; if you want to use them to garnish a punch, cut them paper-thin and let them drift. If you need lemon or lime twists, remove most of the bitter white pith first—it is the oil of the citrus that is sought.

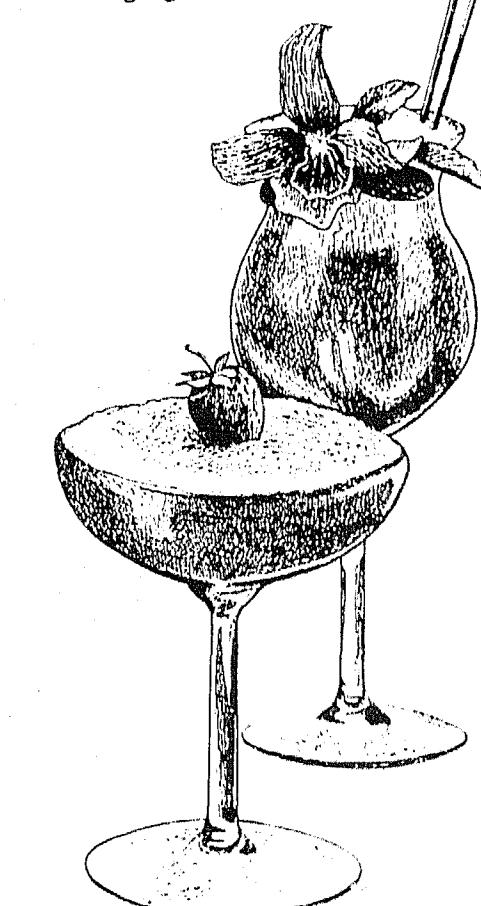
Don't overlook your backyard as a source of garnishes either—you never know what interesting leaf or flower you might discover. However, do avoid the poisonous varieties, of which there are many.

Finally, pay attention to the smallest of details. Essentially, this requires nothing more than being thoughtful of your guests, yet it is the way real elegance is achieved. Be prepared to begin serving at the appointed time; have an adequate supply of fresh, hard-frozen ice cubes on hand—this is not the moment to run out for a bag of the crushed variety; have the blender out of earshot of your guests.

Go all out when it comes to decorating the bar area for this will soon become the heart of the gathering. Preselect the music and keep the volume low—cocktail parties are for conversation. Set out ashtrays, cocktail napkins, and plenty of nibbles, especially if dinner is not being served.

Following are some recipes for cocktails that especially appeal to me for a whole

variety of reasons. Some are old favorites, some are new, some combine unique flavors, some are gorgeous to look at.



### Salt to taste

Shake or stir ingredients with a few cubes of ice until chilled and salt is dissolved. Strain into chilled 8-ounce glass and add more ice if desired.

### Margarita (Makes 1)

I include this recipe because failure to would constitute a near sacrifice here in "Jimmy Buffet-land." Besides a margarita now and then can be just the thing. If you increase the ingredients proportionately, pour into a large pitcher or bowl, and add chilled club soda to taste, you will have made a delightful pale green punch that provides a good canvas for creative garnishing.

### Lime wedge

Coarse salt  
1 ounce fresh lime juice  
1 ounce orange-flavored liqueur  
1 1/2 ounces tequila

Rub the inside of the rim of a 4-ounce cocktail glass with lime. Pour some salt on a plate, dip the rim into it, and shake off the excess. Then shake or stir the remaining ingredients with a few cubes of ice and strain into the prepared glass. If you want a frozen margarita, fill the blender two-thirds full with cracked ice and blend in the lime juice, liqueur and tequila.

### Frozen Fruit Daiquiri (Makes 1)

Because our island is so blessed with a great variety of exotic fruits, it is a shame not to use them whenever possible. These frozen daiquiris are one popular way.

About 1/4 cup cut-up ripe mango, peach, banana, guava, strawberries, etc.  
1/2 ounce fresh lime juice  
2 teaspoons superfine sugar

1 1/2 ounces light rum  
Fill blender container about two-thirds full with cracked ice. Add all ingredients and process about 15 seconds. Pour into chilled 8-ounce wine glass and serve with a short straw. Garnish with mint leaves if desired.

### Vodka and Cherry (Makes 1)

Here is another feast-for-the-eyes holiday drink that combines vodka with red cherry liqueur. Serve it in a stemmed glass and decorate with a lime twist.

### Key West Sour Orange Cocktail (Makes 1)

Although there are many sour orange trees in Key West, few of us take advantage of their fruit unless it is to incorporate their juice into the traditional Cuban marinade for pork. Here's a chance to enjoy it in a cocktail.

### Juice of one sour orange

2 ounces dark rum  
1 tablespoon sugar, preferably raw  
1 small slice sour orange for garnish  
Shake juice, rum and sugar with a few cubes of ice until chilled and sugar has dissolved. Strain into chilled glass and garnish with orange slice.

### Cranberry Vodka (Makes about 4 cups)

The cranberries in this homemade spirit make it perfect for holiday sipping. However, you must allow it to ripen for two days first. Then you can keep it covered and refrigerated for another several weeks. If you want to make a cranberry drink now, you can make Cape Codders, which are just vodka and cranberry juice.

### 4 cups cranberries

2 cups water  
1 cup sugar  
2 cups vodka  
Lime wedges

Combine cranberries, water and sugar in a large, heavy pan. Stirring to dissolve sugar, bring to a boil. Remove from heat, cool, and stir in vodka. Cover, let stand two days at room temperature, and strain into jar with tight lid. Chill and serve over ice with lime wedges.

### 3 ounces brandy

1 ounces white crème de menthe

Lime twist  
Shake brandy and liqueur vigorously with a few cubes of ice and strain into chilled 4-ounce cocktail glass.

Garnish with a lime twist.

### Solares Hill • January 2 - 15, 1992 • Page 45

1 ounce Cherry Herring

Juice of 1/2 lime

Lime peel

Shake or stir vodka, liqueur and lime juice with a few cubes of ice until chilled. Strain into chilled glass and twist lime peel over.

### Brandy Alexander (Makes 1)

For those who like smooth and creamy cocktails, here is probably the all-time favorite. If you substitute vodka for the brandy, by the way, you will have a White Russian, which is my choice.

### 1 ounce crème de cacao

2 ounces brandy

1 tablespoon heavy cream

Shake ingredients well with a few cubes of ice and strain into a chilled 4-ounce cocktail glass.

### Stinger (Makes 1)

This elegant cocktail is by far and away my choice for an after-dinner drink. The touch of white crème de menthe provides just the right foil for the brandy to my way of thinking.

### 3 ounces brandy

1 ounces white crème de menthe

Lime twist

Shake brandy and liqueur vigorously with a few cubes of ice and strain into chilled 4-ounce cocktail glass.

Garnish with a lime twist.

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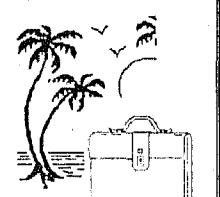
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