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# Solares hill

FREE

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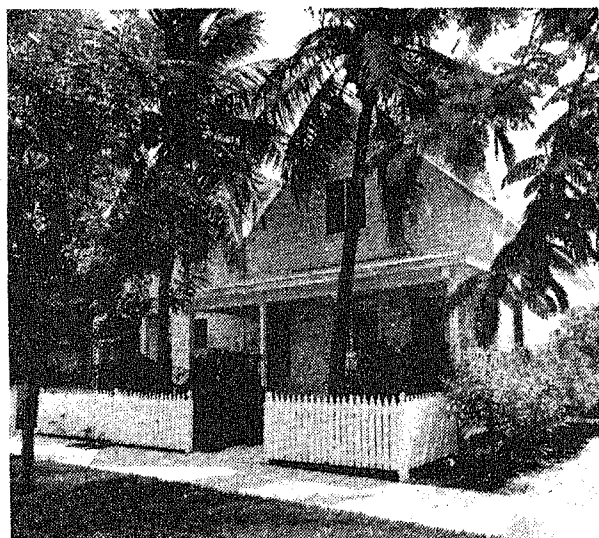


ANALYSIS: TOURIST SEASON  
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THE ORCHID KINGS  
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## NURTURING NATURE

Key Westers should be honored to learn that the crew of the *Odyssey*, a research vessel docked at Truman Annex in preparation for a four-year study of whales, finds our community to be more in touch with the relationship between humans and the environment than most.

Indeed, it seems natural that we would have a decent understanding of this intended harmony. We live on an island that is home to one of the world's most delicate ecosystems, and we are surrounded by the Gulf and the Atlantic—bodies of water that support a significant portion of the world's marine life.

Most of us also realize, however, that the Keys' environment—the wetlands, the coral reef, the ocean—is vastly different from the pristine combination of water, air and land that it once was.

While our development projects are pushing endangered species to extinction, the effluent from our insufficient sewage treatment systems and the chemical runoff from the mainland is degrading our water quality to extents unknown.

Disturbing evidence of other destruction surfaces incessantly as we notice the increasing lack of butterflies, the obvious decline in resident and migrating bird populations, the cancerous tumors plaguing sea turtles, the undeniable death of coral and life on the reef. And, yes, the Key deer are also dwindling, although many would prefer to believe otherwise.

This issue of *Solares Hill* includes "The Odyssey: A Vessel of

Virtue," an article on Page 6 which was written by Major Benton. It is about a sailing vessel's special team of researchers, led by Dr. Roger Payne, and their environmental mission. We encourage readers to consider their suggestion that we *must* change the way we live.

At this point, it seems obvious that human attitudes about quality of life must expand and transcend: we must be less concerned with instant gratification and material wealth and more aware of the effects of our individual actions on the environment—and on the future.

An ardent environmentalist, Key West's Pritam Singh has agreed to allow the *Odyssey* to dock free-of-charge along the Truman Annex property. The Annex developer explains in an interview on Page 9 that he believes no cause is more urgent than the preservation of our environment and the realignment of our relationship to it.

Perhaps with the influence of the *Odyssey's* internationally-recognized conservation projects combined with the positive efforts of other conservation organizations located here—the Nature Conservancy, Last Stand, Reef Relief and the Audubon Society, to name a few—Key Westers will, in the near future, be one of the first groups of people to have radically rethought their role in the universe—and to have bravely acted accordingly.

Ann Boese

Our cover art, "Lunar Bacchanal," which is acrylics on canvas, was painted by *Solares Hill* art director Suzanne Pereira.

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# Season's Greetings: Tourism Is Strong

by J.D. Dooley

The season. For a community boasting a year round temperature in the 70s and a scant meteorological difference between summer and winter, the term "season" seems a likely candidate to be tossed from the Key West vocabulary. In fact, quite the opposite is true. The term, which is generally preceded by the word "tourist," has an almost reverent connotation.

Tourist season is when the money is made. The business transacted during that time funds the government, feeds the children and employs the workers. With tourism-related industries rated as the highest non-governmental employer, tourism proponents believe that a healthy tourist economy makes for a healthy all-around economy. Locally, thousands of workers are directly involved in tourism, and just about everyone else's finances are affected indirectly.

The study of the season has become a science of sorts, with experienced well-paid persons defining, shaping and sometimes predicting the constant flow of tourists who, until the mid-1980s, made their appearance only once a year. As one prominent business figure says, however, determining what has happened and what is going to happen in the area of tourism is largely a guessing game of variables.

According to Rick Van Hout, president of the Key West Business Guild, a determination of whether any given season is successful depends largely on specific businesses, their expectations and even their agendas. That's why a gallery that sells fine art might cry "disaster," while a downtown bar will insist the season's been terrific.

"Some shop owners have over extended themselves," said Van Hout. "Last year they had a shop that did well. This year they have three shops competing against each other, and when business is not what they expected, they claim tourism is down."

One of the many "barometers" of the Key West economy is the Conch Tour Train.

"We have had a roller-coaster season," said Randall Castillo of the Conch Tour Train. "January and February were soft, March was good and April looks soft."

Castillo says that the number of passengers on the trains do not always indicate the number of overnight tourists in Key West.

"We do business with tour buses and cruise ships," Castillo said, when you see a full train, chances are it is a group."

Castillo said that the day-trippers who arrive on buses and ships are a boost to the downtown merchants and attractions as they spend a few hours roaming the streets and patronizing the downtown establishments.

With this in mind, an analysis of the

1991-92 season and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council's (TDC) plans to attract visitors during the summer "slow" season can, at best, identify a general trend.

## Economic Indicators

Due to the current recession, which for the past several years has boosted domestic tourism, and the relative high value of foreign currency drawing visitors from abroad, Key West has enjoyed an affluence absent in other areas of the state.

The economic indicators which depict the success of the tourist season are average daily room rates (ADR), food and beverage sales and hotel/motel occupancy averages. With the exception of day-trippers and cruise ship passengers, most tourists spend the night and eat in Key West.

According to the 1991 *Monroe County Statistical Abstract*, occupancy averages from February 1988 to February 1989 ranged from 66 percent in December 1988 to 93 percent in February and March of 1988. For the same period in 1991 through 1992 the average ranged from 91 percent in April 1991 to 63 percent in September 1991 with a year round average of 77.67 percent.

Over the last two quarters, Monroe County had the highest occupancy rate in the state of Florida and was the only area in the state to report an increase in the average daily

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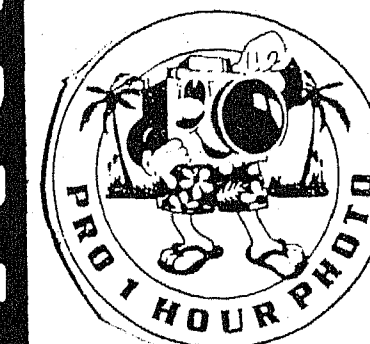
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room rate.

Statewide average 1991 room occupancy ran from 42 percent in the Panhandle to Monroe County's 72.4 percent, with a state average of 60.3—a full 12.4 percent below the Monroe County average.

The TDC, which analyzes tourist information, reports that the Florida Keys and Key West have fared "very well" thus far this winter, in comparison to the rest of Florida. "Our aggressive advertising and marketing has kept the Keys just slightly ahead of last year, bed-tax wise," says Sandra Higgs, the TDC's administrative director.

Though the latest figures tell a similar story, according to Brooks White, editor of the *Monroe County Statistical Abstract*, the numbers can be deceiving on a local level as there are now more rental units in Key West competing for a larger number of tourists.

The fact that Key West enjoyed the state's highest room occupancy average while the number of transient room rental facilities increased, however, indicates that Key West is growing at a rate that is being supported by the number of tourists vacationing here. Anyway you look at it, those figures point to a successful season, recession or not.

Mona Santiago, operator of the Southernmost Guest House agrees that the season was good. "We were at 100-percent occupancy from December 1991 through March 1992 and April looks good," she said. "The tourists were watching their dollars but they are still coming."

Claiming a large European clientele, Santiago said that the tourists were looking for a decent, clean room at a low price.

Interestingly, food-and-beverage sales in Key West are several times higher than the state average on a per-room basis.

In fact, according to White, the food-and-beverage average for Key West is higher per day than the average occupied room rate. In other words, the hotels are making more money by offering both rooms and food services than with rooms only. Couple that with a tourist trend more economical room rates, and the formula for success seems to be a hotel-restaurant combination or a hotel with low-priced rooms.

#### Targeting Tourists for the Summer

Business-oriented groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel & Motel Association, the Key West Business Guild and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council have fine tuned the methods by which we attract tourists. They target specific demographic groups during specific times of the year in hopes of expanding the foundation tourist season which runs from Christmas-to-Easter.

The TDC is the county organization that collects tourist information and analyzes it in an attempt to identify trends and to look for potential markets, which may be targeted with advertising.

Three agencies make up the TDC: Stuart Newman Associates, which is in charge of TDC public relations; Tinsley Advertising, which creates the advertisements promoting Key West and the rest of Monroe County; and the administrative office, which, run by administrator Sandra Higgs, oversees and is fiscally responsible for TDC operations.

Looking ahead to summer, Higgs says that direct sales efforts will center on several major activities: Meeting Planners International, an annual meeting targeting corporate and association meeting planners; the Swedish Sales Blitz; and VUSAMART, an organization that targets Asian tour operators who offer U.S. programs.

"These are just a few of the activities," says Higgs. "In addition there is a major mailing updating the information available on the Florida Keys to all AAA offices on the East Coast."

The TDC will also schedule ads to hit markets ranging from Atlanta south to Miami, a region that Higgs says will generate the majority of the summer visitor base.

To complete this campaign, the TDC is planning to:

- continue with its national magazine schedule in the major consumer travel magazines;
- run national cable television;
- run radio and television in key markets in Atlanta south to Miami;
- run co-op newspaper ads in key markets from Atlanta south to Miami.

In addition to managing their own campaign, the TDC has allocated \$10,000 for the Key West Business Guild to specifically target the gay market.

"We are running full page ads in the *Advocate* and have installed an 800 number," Van Hout said. "The phone is ringing off the hook for summer reservations."

The Key West Business Guild says that gay tourists represent 25 percent of the overall tourist economy.

#### The Public Relations Role

Meanwhile, the public relations efforts of Stuart Newman Associates are designed to increase awareness of the Keys and Key West destinations and to support the work of the TDC's advertising agency and its sales and marketing departments. Specifically, Stuart Newman Associates plans several group media familiarization trips—one will originate from the United Kingdom and one from Germany.

The public relations firm is also cooperating with the advertising agency in developing a major radio campaign in central Florida, which, when approved by the county commission, will result in several week-long live remote broadcasts and several months of intensive promotional activities in the area.

"Some other generic promotional activities," says Higgs, "include a Keys visit by members of the Metropolitan New York Outdoor Editors association, representations of the Keys at the Outdoor Writers of America conference, public relations support of major summer special events and a continuing program of news release and visual distribution to print and broadcast media around the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom."

#### The Marketing Strategy

In addition targeting particular geographic locations, the TDC identifies its primary target audience as adults, 35 to 65, whose household income exceeds \$60,000.

Higgs says that indigenous and unique special events continue to play an important role in marketing the Keys to this audience. Not only do the events attract visitors, they also generate a great deal of publicity.

"Events such as Fantasy Fest have garnered millions of dollars in print and broadcast coverage," says Higgs, "and all without incurring media costs. Fantasy Fest alone resulted in exposure for Key West valued at more than \$1 million, utilizing prevailing media costs."

Andy Newman Associates reports that last year it arranged broadcast coverage on CBS "Morning News," NBC "Today Show," Cable News Network, Telemundo and numerous affiliated stations throughout the country. It also coordinated a publicity campaign which resulted in substantial advance coverage of these events in publications such as *Atlanta Constitution*, *USA Today*, *Caribbean Travel and Life*, *Boston Globe* and more.

The major wire services carried stories and pictures, which were distributed to print media sources around the world.



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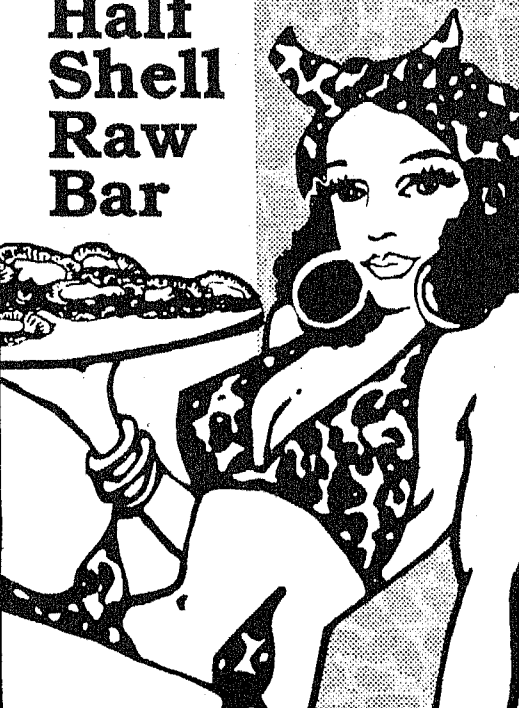
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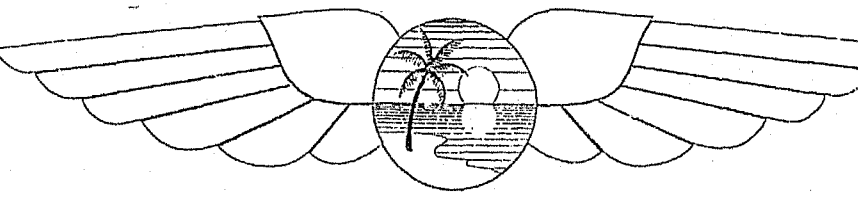
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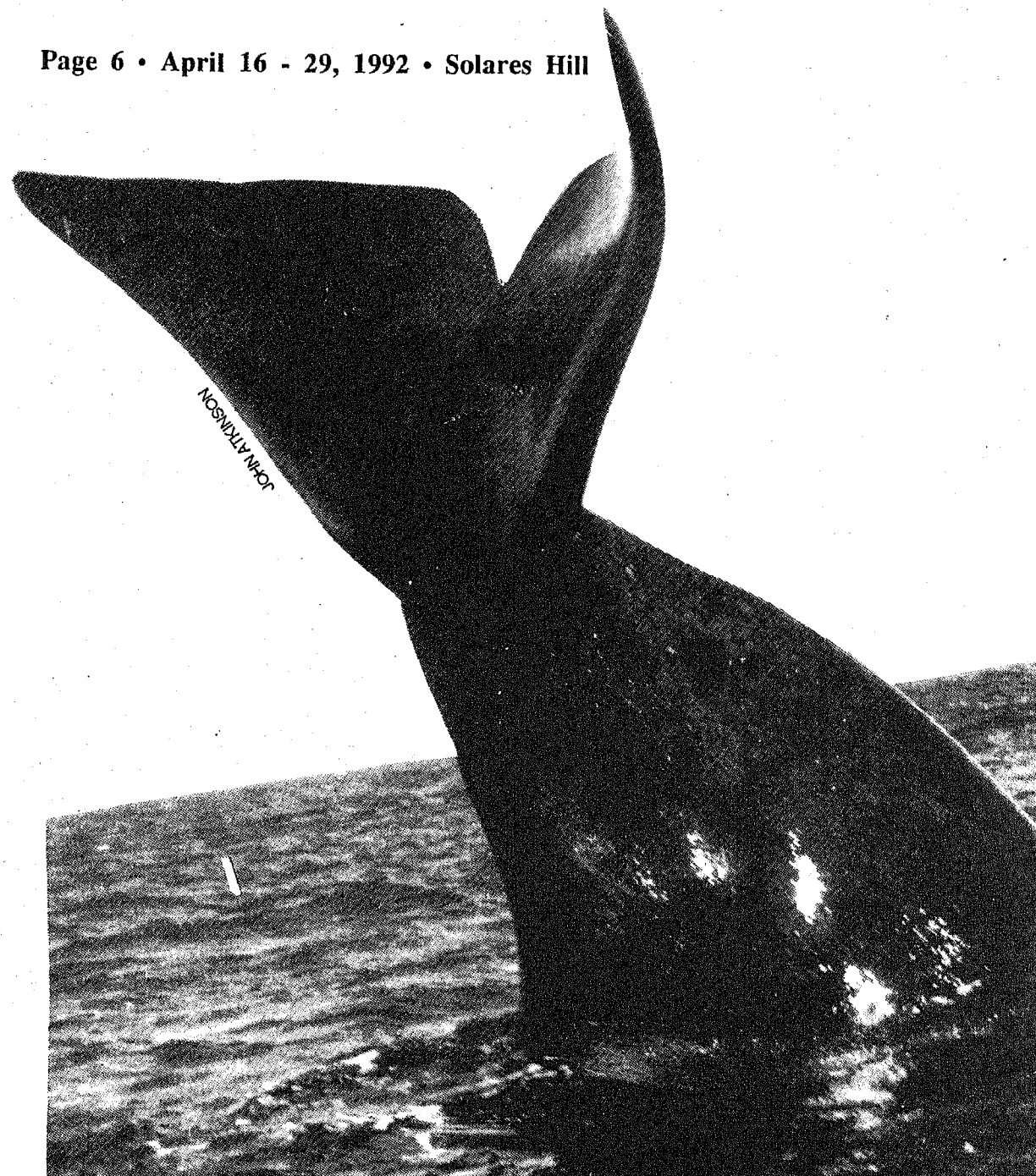
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## Reaching The Whales

by Major T. Benton

*Back and quickly! Out to sea again!  
Go on, go on; wander the high seas.  
from The Odyssey by Homer*

Docked alongside a pier at the Truman Annex, is the elegant yacht *Odyssey*, a world-class, steel motor-sailer, 93-feet long, and weighing 98 tons. She was built in New Zealand in 1976 and can comfortably accommodate up to 14 people.

The *Odyssey* was under private ownership until recently, when a financially generous deal was made to turn her over to the Whale Conservation Institute. The WCI is a non-profit group about to embark on a four-year around-the-world expedition as soon as it can raise the necessary funds.

Their accomplishments include 22 years of cetacean (or whale and dolphin) research data: the sampling and analysis of the world's largest collection of whale songs, the pio-

neering of several non-lethal marine mammal research techniques, and a world-wide education and conservation outreach program.

The institute has also completed over 30 documentaries, plus it has provided assistance on two major motion pictures, "Star Trek—The Voyage Home" and "The Hunt for Red October." Their whale-song recordings have even reached outer space as part of the payload of the Voyager 1 and 2 spacecrafts. Two of their recordings, "Songs of the Humpback Whale" and "Whales Alive," have been big sellers, with the latter being nominated for a Grammy award.

### An Invitation From Pritam Singh

So what's the *Odyssey* doing in Key West?

According to the *Odyssey's* Captain, Iain Kerr, "I have to be quite blunt and say it's because of Pritam Singh," who is a member of the institute's board of directors.

The local developer agreed to let the *Odyssey* have free dockage and electricity, and to help the crew out with their programs and other projects.

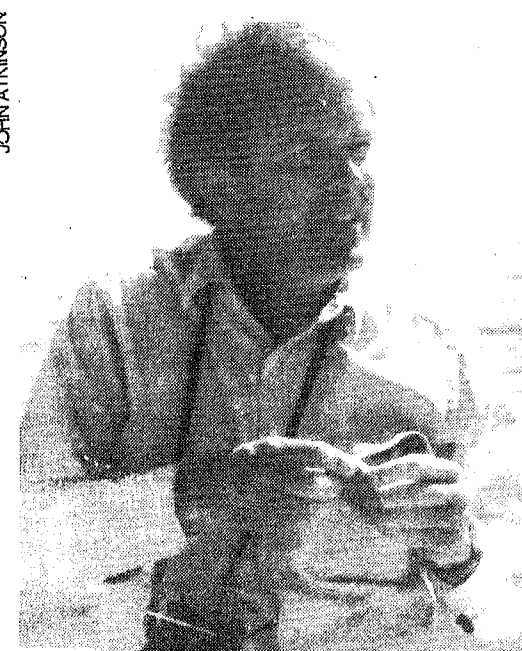
"For example," says Kerr, "a guy working for him helped us with a piece of welding the other day, for free. And Pritam made possible the Hot Tuna fundraising concert at the Reach in January."

According to Kerr, "Our connection with Pritam Singh began about four years ago. Pritam wanted to support programs with dolphins as an education outreach. And his idea was to make it a far more vibrant environment for the dolphins and to be done in conjunction with the Dolphin Research Center (DCR) of Grassy Key."

"What actually happened was I was invited to a meeting as an adjudicator type of thing, with Pritam Singh, the lawyers, John Paul Gouin [the Frenchman who owned DCR], and Mandy Rodriguez, who was running DRC along with his wife, Jayne. I was just sitting there and every now and then someone would ask me what I thought, and I would say this and that and this and that. Eventually, Pritam asked, 'Who the hell are you?'"

"I wasn't officially invited to be there, but had been asked to come along by Mandy. I had just come back from the Galapagos, had wild hair and everything, and I said, 'Well I do this and that with whales, etc.' I looked around and said, 'Oops, sorry. I didn't mean to be taking over your meeting.'

JOHN ATANSON



WHALE RESEARCHER: Dr. Roger Payne.

And Pritam Singh said, 'No, no, this is my meeting. You just keep talking and I'll tell you when to stop.' And that was it."

The *Odyssey* crew views Key West as a community-oriented place, where people understand WCI's purposes and needs. They also compare the Keys to island communities where people live in harmony with the ocean, a place where people are more aware than most of the link between the oceans and land.

### Dr. Payne Discovers A Song

The president of the Whale Conservation Institute is Dr. Roger Payne, who discovered in the late '60s, along with his associate Scott McVay, that the long complex sounds made by humpback whales were actually songs. That started the "Save the Whales" movement (which was one imitated in Key West by the popular T-shirts, "Save the Bales"). The vinyl recording of whale songs that appeared in *National Geographic* still holds the number one spot for the largest single printing of any record to date.

Payne's achievements also include being knighted by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands; a member of the International Whaling Commission; author of some 40 articles; and co-writer, presenter, and scientific advisor of a four-hour mini-series, "In the Company of Whales," to be shown on the Discovery Channel (11) "Thursday, April 16, from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Saturday, April 18, from 3 to 5 p.m."

### Current Mission Includes Developing Nations

The institute's current mission, tagged the "Odyssey Expedition," is to conduct and promote worldwide research, conservation, and education activities in support of cetaceans and their habitats. By providing information based on solid research, they hope to conquer the lack of understanding with which they believe many people view the wild world.

The expedition will also provide an opportunity for scientists and politicians in Third World developing countries to come on board, learn and participate. It will also utilize new film and media technologies to educate the project's own people.

The crew intends to dive deeply into the

domain of the sperm whale, using sonar to study its behavior, foraging ecology, and the energetic costs associated with diving.

Some of the data to be collected will be baseline information on how insidious pollutants are dispersed in the oceans and into marine food chains. A continuous census of cetacean species encountered will enable the crew to learn more about population dynamics and dispersal.

The four-year around the world expedition will not only travel to the "hot spots" of known environmental degradation, but also to places people have never been. Many of them are out in the middle of the ocean where they'll simply stop and check for pollution, salinity levels, PCBs in the ani-

mals, and whatever else shows up.

The primary threat the whales face, comes from toxic pollution. Kerr says, "If you look around at any animal, any species, you see that animals adapt to nature. What's the biggest thing about humans? Humans adapt nature to suit itself. And we've created compounds to which nature has no antidotes."

"We're dumping things into the oceans, and what happens is, in the case of PCBs, they dissolve in fat, not water, and they bio-amplify up the food chains, also producing the 'generation effect,' where the marine mammal mother, in her milk, passes along 30 percent of her toxic debt to the next generation."

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### Upgrade To A Full-Blown Research Vessel

The WCI is currently working to raise funds for the upgrade and operation of the *Odyssey* to a full-blown research vessel. She is a true blue water vessel, one that can spend extended periods of time offshore in all weather conditions. With her large pilot house, double-skinned hull, deep draft, sonar tube, crow's nest, and overall staunch construction, the crew would be hard pressed to find a vessel more suited to their needs.

It would also be difficult to find a more able or dedicated crew. Besides Kerr as her captain and Dr. Payne as the on-board scientist, the *Odyssey* will also carry an engineer, cook, first mate, and deckhand, all earning only \$100 a week during the expedition. Everyone pitches in wherever needed.

Kerr was born and raised in Scotland, earning an engineering degree in England where he then taught school. For years he has assisted Payne in Argentina studying right whales; he has also captained the 80-foot research vessel *Siben* on an international expedition off the coasts of North, Central, and South America, logging over 25,000 miles at sea.

The engineer, Bob Wallace, has been with the *Odyssey* five years, and knows the vessel "like a baby." Englishman Kit Rogers, the 24-year-old first mate, has a biochemistry degree from Oxford and has captained research boats in the Azores studying

whales. Canadian John Atkinson is a poet and writer of children's books whom the group can send anywhere to represent them. Kerr describes Atkinson as "an over-talented consultant and representative whom we could not afford if we paid him what he's worth."

"With the *Odyssey* as our research platform we hope to become a 'voice from the sea,'" says Kerr. "More than ever before, whales now have an acute significance as an indicator species, and perhaps as our ocean's canary in the coal mines."

### Largest Brains On Earth

Almost everything about whales seems to be clouded in mystery. It is known, however, that they have the largest brains of any creature on earth, and many people feel their brains are more capable than our own.

In the February 26, 1990 issue of *The New Yorker*, writer Diane Ackerman quotes Roger Payne: "People often wonder just how intelligent whales really are. But I could argue that the human brain is the most unsuccessful adaptation ever to appear in the history of life on earth, because it threatens its owner with self-annihilation in fewer generations than any other organism. We may be the biggest flop that ever appeared on earth."

"Whales have an important lesson to teach us. They have a huge and complex brain but show no signs of threatening their own destruction. They haven't reproduced themselves into oblivion, they haven't destroyed the resources they depend upon, they haven't generated a giant hole in the ozone, or changed the atmosphere so that the earth might end up with a runaway greenhouse effect."

For a while, whales came close to extinction, and they became an endangered mystery. "It is an extremely important endangered mystery," says Payne, "because they may have the answer to how you can enjoy the fruits of this wonderful, magnificent calculator-computer-imager in your skull without threatening everything you hold

dear. Whales seem to have done that."

### Changes In Attitudes

Kerr is greatly concerned with people's attitudes today. "People don't seem to realize, and this shocks me, that we're not drinking the water because it's got 'stuff' in it, and we're not jogging in Boston or L.A. because of the impurities in the air, and we're having to walk carefully on the beaches because of syringes, and garbage, and bottles, and all kinds of crap."

The institute has observed how our lifestyles are being affected everyday, and members feel it's not "if" we're going to make a change, but "when." Kerr says, "We have to change our attitude towards the environment or else everything is going to be, in Jimmy Buffett's sort of ideology, 'swimming in a roped-off sea.' You can't go there, you can't be here."

Kerr believes we live in an information-bombarded society where it's almost impossible to filter out the positives. The type of change he's talking about is changing human perspectives and opinions. He says it can't happen overnight but will be the result of methodical persistency which will bring about a bridge between the ocean and humanity.

For him, technology is the key issue. "Not only is this the decade of the environment and high technology. This is also the decade of the environmentalists working with technology to help further their cause. It's crucial that science promotes public concern if we are to preserve the environment and these fascinating creatures [whales] for posterity."

### Individual Efforts Are Imperative

Kerr insists that no one should underestimate the value of an individual effort. He quotes Edmund Burke, who said, "No one did worse than he who did nothing because he feared he could do so little."

Kerr uses the analogy of bees and honey to illustrate his point. People can walk into any store and see shelves of honey. Where does the honey come from? "From a million trips by a million bees carrying something so damn small we can't even see it. Yet look what their combined individual efforts produced."

Another example Kerr uses is beer cans. If the 40,000 or so people in Key West on any given day saves one beer can each, that would be 280,000 cans a week being recycled in this one spot.

The same analogy appears true for the support of the "Odyssey Expedition." Kerr says that if someone comes up and gives him one dollar for his program he'll be flattered and impressed, because if everybody in Key West did the same thing they would have 30- or 40- or 50-thousand dollars.

### Back To The Future

Payne hopes that the work on the *Odyssey* will help restore the balance of an earlier time. "At the beginning of time," he says, "we all had the right kind of wonder and reverence for whales. It got lost. And in that moment we not only lost something beautiful but something vital to our understanding of nature and our place in it."

# The Unknown Singh

by Major T. Benton

After a few years of tough press which focused on Pritam Singh's once-crumbling finances, the Truman Annex developer is beginning to receive favorable attention from the media again. In late January, the *Miami Herald* referred to him as a "survivor." It appears he has also earned the respect of area businessmen and politicians who seem to realize that he does, in fact, have the energy, willpower and business savvy to stick with the Truman Annex project through extremely tough financial times. This interview with Singh, who practices the Sikh religion, took place recently in his office in the Truman Annex Management Co. The talk was about whales and the environment.

**SH:** What is your association with the Whale Conservation Institute?

**PS:** I've been involved with them for, I think, four years. I'm actively involved in the affairs of the institute, almost on a daily basis—dealing with various issues going on, including the direction of where the institute goes, the philosophy of the institute, and how we deal with the problems facing the environment. The institute, of course, is involved with marine mammals, particularly whales and dolphins. I'm interested because I think we face an enormous threat to the environment, and this is one aspect of it: dealing with the research and understanding of marine mammals. One reason I got interested in the institute is not only because I get involved with helping in its direction, but also with going out and having interaction with marine mammals. I've become very close friends with Iain Kerr, the captain of the *Odyssey* [the institute's research vessel], as well as the rest of the crew."

**SH:** The Nature Conservancy has an office in this building. Is this something you also participate in or help with in some fashion?

**PS:** Well, I gave them a bargain lease so they could get it for half the normal price. Within what I do, in my own job, I try very hard to be responsible by doing things like giving them access. I also give the Department of Community Affairs their space for a discount. You know this project area right here [Truman Annex] was the biggest industrial waste dump in the Florida Keys when I bought it. And now, it's the single best, environmentally sound real estate development in the Florida Keys.

We have a whole set of rules here which we voluntarily agreed to in terms of what we do with waste-water runoff, etc., that no one else in the Florida Keys has agreed to or does. So not only have we cleaned up a huge amount of toxic waste on the site, but also, in terms of the water runoff that goes into the ocean here, it's very clean.

**SH:** Is this a side of Pritam Singh that most people in Key West know about?

**PS:** Nah, [with a laugh] I don't think so. I've kept this pretty much to myself."

**SH:** Is this something personal that you felt



CONSERVATIONIST: Pritam Singh.

you wanted to take part in?

**PS:** Well, I've always been interested in doing what I think is right. To express it in the terms of the way the Sikhs would put it, I want to be going "towards the Light, and away from the Darkness." Darkness I think is defined as ignorance, non-caring, greed, and avarice. Going towards the Light would be just the opposite: caring about the world, compassion, kindness. So each day each of us has choices, and many times we make the wrong choices. As much as possible I'd like to make the right choices.

My public involvement within the community, has primarily been my involvement with the Truman Annex development project: economics, aesthetics, etc., which I think is important. But just as important to me, and something I spend a huge amount of my time on, are these other issues. I think these environmental and ecological issues that face us are essentially the crucible that is going to change the way we see the world.

**SH:** Glancing at your bookshelves, I notice mostly titles like *Biospheric Politics*, *Gala Consciousness*, and other environmental subjects. Is this your personal library?

**PS:** Yes. This is where I spend my time. This is what I'm interested in."

**SH:** You have an office downstairs as well as this one upstairs?

**PS:** The one downstairs is my business office. This is my real office. This one isn't the one I have to go to. This is the one I want to go to."

**SH:** From your perspective, is there anything in particular about the Whale Conservation Institute and the *Odyssey* Expedition that you would like to emphasize.

**PS:** Yes. They have a very unique program

which they have devised, and I don't know how many people are aware of it yet. They're offering a program whereby donors in the \$10,000 range can actually participate in the project, staying on board the *Odyssey* for ten days, and traveling to places they could not otherwise go, observing wildlife which is still in a state as close to Eden as imaginable—unusual and exceptional.

Like, for instance, the Galapagos Islands. And there are even parts of the Galapagos Islands that only they can go to. So you can literally be involved with this group in a way that allows you to go to places that are extraordinary, and to be involved in interacting with these creatures in a way that you otherwise couldn't. Plus, you get to see first hand precisely what your donation is paying for.

**SH:** What incidents stand out for you as a supporter?

**PS:** Ask Iain [Captain Kerr] to show you the picture of him underwater looking up at 200 hammerhead sharks. And he's been swimming with sperm whales, pods of sperm whales, which are enormous mammals. Pretty courageous stuff! So I think you have a group here that goes into very special areas.

You know one of the biggest things that changed people's consciousness about animals and the natural world was when we realized that whales sing. Because that meant we all of a sudden realized that these creatures—other than human beings—have consciousness. It wasn't just mechanistic singing; it wasn't just a bird tweeting. Here was real intelligence. And Iain is like the guy in *Star Trek*, Captain Picard, who's a friend of ours. Captain Picard chases alien intelligence. And that's what Iain does. He does! And that's pretty incredible. This really is an extraordinary group of people, and I support them because I believe that."

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# J.D. Dooley

## 510 GREENE STREET

Compared to the past several city commission meetings, the one held April 7 seemed anticlimactic. There was no stomping, screaming and loud protests, no polarized crowd with opposing views. In fact, facing fewer than a dozen spectators, the commissioners seemed uncharacteristically relaxed as they prepared to tackle an agenda with no controversial issues.

### Sewer Pipe Re-Routed

Environmentalists will probably be pleased to learn that a sewer pipe, which now traverses the salt ponds, will be decommissioned with the new sewer upgrade. The commission approved expenditures to re-route the line across the roadway, a project that will lessen sewage outfall in the protected area.

### A Loan To Fort Zach

Commissioners voted to "loan" the Friends of Fort Zachary Taylor \$22,800 for restoration of the historic fort's entrance. The non-profit group received a grant which entitles them to reimbursement of funds expended on restoration. The problem was, however, that the non-profit organization had no such funds. To enable the restoration project to proceed, the commission has agreed to "loan" the funding from the city's general revenues, with a guaranteed payback within 12 months. No interest will be charged.

### Students Provide Historic Preservation Plans

Last year, city historic planner Gene Burr

played host to historic architectural students from the University of Florida's Preservation Institute. The students studied eight local historic landmarks, and now that data will be put to good use on the city's behalf.

According to Burr, the city is getting nearly cost-free what would otherwise be an expensive consultation. The students performed their study as part of a summer institute program last year. They chose Mallory Square and the San Carlos Institute, among others, to illustrate how these properties can be put to practical use.

Architect Leslie Divoll of Palm Beach County has been retained to analyze the data and publish the findings. The publication will help guide future historic planning and preservation as well as provide needed information for the Key West comprehensive plan.

A state Bureau of Historic Preservation matching grant will fund the project with no cash cost to the city. The project will be completed before June.

Mayor Dennis Wardlow said that while he was not in opposition to the publication, he was dissatisfied with the lack of lifelong Key West residents involved in historic preservation planning.

For those interested in historic preservation, a conference has been scheduled for May 21 and 22 at Old City Hall and the San Carlos Institute. The public is encouraged to attend the various sessions, which will include discussions on refining the city's preservation strategy, hurricane recovery and striking a balance between preservation and tourism. Phillip Morris of *Southern Living* magazine is the keynote speaker.

"Our aim is to make the public aware of the preservation efforts and enlist their help and support," Burr said.

There will be a \$50 registration fee for the entire conference, or \$10 per session for locals.

### No-Bid Contract

Questions about bidding procedure surrounded a rather complicated move to switch general contractors on the Garrison Bight expansion project.

The original contractor, Oakridge Construction, has failed to provide a performance bond for the project which would guarantee completion or entitle the city to mitigation. All major city projects, which go through the bidding process, require a performance bond at the time of the bid.

Commissioners agreed, however, that this case was exceptional. Originally, Oakridge won the bid with the intention of financing the project. Later, when that contract was amended, Oakridge was required to obtain a bond. Unable to do so, the contract was re-issued to Bellingham Marine without a second bid process.

By not rebidding this project, the city will receive the work for the price agreed upon two years ago. Should the city re-bid, there is no such guarantee.

Commissioner Harry Bethel questioned the legality of re-issuing the contract without calling for bids.

City attorney Ginny Stones said that Oakridge has agreed to the reassignment. The company says it stands a chance of obtaining subcontract work on that project since its equipment is in place, ready for resumed construction.

City manager Felix Cooper assured the commission that all future bids will require a performance bond.

### A \$5000 Limit

In what he terms a safeguard, the city manager has limited the amount of money at his disposal.

Felix Cooper sponsored an ordinance which will allow him to access funds for small emergencies, such as the removal of a fallen tree; future expenses over \$5000, however, will have to be approved by the commission. Cooper said he was uncomfortable with the unchecked amount of cash available for transfer.

The commission approved the ordinance which will limit to \$5000 the amount of contingency cash transferable without commission approval.

### Numbers, Please

Commissioner Sally Lewis sponsored an ordinance that should make locating foliage-covered Key West addresses a little easier.

The new ordinance will require homes and apartments to display three-inch street numbers visible from the roadway; businesses must now display five-inch numbers. While the measure was intended to aid police and other emergency services, it should help anyone who has difficulties finding street numbers (provided one can locate the correct street).



## On The Town

with Jane Phillips

Few of us got to Key West by accident. We chose it for its special ambiance, but if we could change one thing...

Actress, mother **Joy Hawkins**: "More innovations in our schools to make sure our kids aren't so isolated—next to that we need more garbage cans."

Reach executive **Marsha Howard**: "Real stores so I could shop for the kind of clothes I wear in Key West."

Chico manager, weaver **Ellen Steinger**: "Better economic structure for people who work here."

Musician **Skipper Kripitz**: "Big waves so I could go surfing—the kind we had in Atlantic City."

Reef Relief director **Craig Quirolo**: "I'd like to turn the clock back to the Key West of the 1930s."

Artist **Carrie Disrude**: "Get rid of the tacky T-shirt shops."

Resident **Marion Stevens**: "Keep the large trucks out of town—they're a menace."

Realtor **Roger Holtcamp**: "All the diverse characters that made this place so special are being driven out—I wish I could change that."

Kennedy Gallery manager **John White**: "I'd like to lower the cost of living—otherwise this is a slice of paradise."

Owner of the Key West Cigar Factory, **Eleanor Walsh**: "I wish new people coming down here would stop trying to change things."

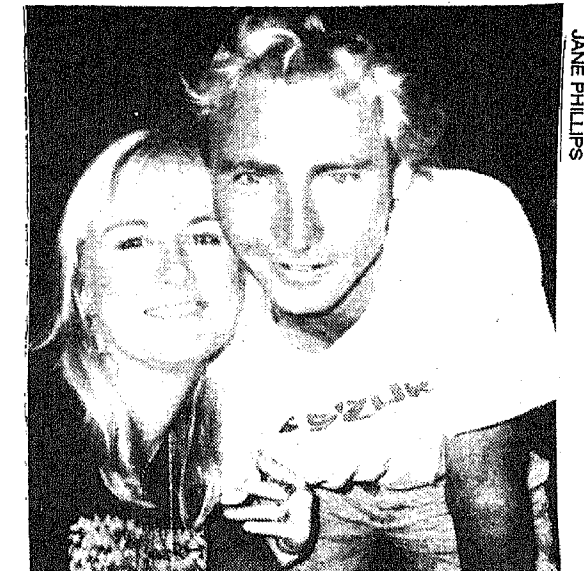
A good number of people were disenchanted with local politics, but no one put it more graphically than media personality **George Murphy**. What would he change? "The mayor."

Good Samaritan award... **Athena Cronk** stopped her car in the middle of Eaton Street to rescue a cocker spaniel that had just been hit by another car. She rushed the dog in for emergency treatment, and eventually the mended pup was returned to her owner.

Ladies who lunch... **Connie Sands** and **Anne McKee** planned a luncheon fashion show at the Casa Marina ballroom to benefit the St. Paul Episcopal Church Restoration Fund. Fashions were provided by Le Trend, Britches, Robbie, Assortment, Inc., J.C. Penney and Virgin.

Anne found the perfect emcee for the event—photographer and man-about-town, **Vidal**. No one is more fashionable or has more fun with clothes. He's replaced his last year's **Arsenio Hall** look with a snazzy "George-Hamilton-goes-to-the-tropics" style. The personality is pure Vidal!

Three hundred ladies attended along with a handful of men—among them Father



REACHING OUT: D.K. White and John Adams.

**Harry Powell**, **John Adams**, **Marion Stevens**, **Anne and Ross McKee**, **Molly Leeds**, **Kay Maunsbach**, **Iris Bernreuter** and **Russ Chezum** with daughter **Harmony** who brought two Mickey Mouse dolls—one to play with, one to share.

**Patty Cakes**, a favorite bartender at Square One, is pictured in the Spring Break Photo Show at East Martello in a dress borrowed from **Jane Vandergriff**. Jane wore it to a **Ronald Reagan** Inaugural Ball. She is currently chalking up lots of frequent flyer miles as she commutes between Key West and Merrie Old England. Couldn't be for the weather, the food or the fashions.

Partygoers at **Ron Harrison** and **Kevin Hayes'** Oscar Night Party outdid one another dressing up. Two televisions kept guests informed as they helped themselves to champagne. We hear Nashville newcomer **Mikel Louvorn** was every bit as entertaining as the stars. Enjoying the fun were **Bob Warren**, **Lisa Griggs**, **Tanya Young**, and "Cupcakes" roommate **Donald Stady** from Chicago.

For the third year in a row, **Virginia "Legs" Panico** and Miami television personality **Art Carlson** teamed up for the celebrity/local artist auction to benefit AIDS Help, Inc. at the Casa Marina. **Shelly Malone** coordinated the successful event, which brought in a whopping \$30,000, topping last year's \$27,000. AIDS Help director **Ed Seebol** can't thank everyone enough.



HELLO MICKEY: Russ Chezum and daughter Harmony.

and she is communicating just fine on land too. The man in her life is **Brent Litch**, who was so taken by Vicki during a visit to Key West that he opened a branch of his business—Sound Artists—here and moved down.

Vicki, along with radio personality **Kelly LaCombe** is heading up Florida Keys Earthweek '92, starting Easter Sunday.

Kelly made a terrific auctioneer for the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition benefit at East Martello. Organizers **D.K. White** and **Father Gendreau** seemed to be everywhere, tending to food, music, etc.

Enjoying music provided by the Key West High School Jazz Band and the Tincture of Time group were **Mary Magill**,

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# The Orchid Kings

by Martha van Noppen

Within this bustling little island city of Key West, a city of tropical beaches, bars and hotels bespeckled with tourists and locals alike, lies quite another world—the world of orchids. Front yard, back yard, side yard, on just the other side of that wall of turkey aralia could be hundreds of . . .

*Dendrobiums! Cattleyas! Vandas! Cymbidiums! Phalaenopsis!* Like long lost lines of poetry from some ancient language, the names of these orchids ring out in the backyard garden of Dannie O'Neil, as he passionately spins a tale (from memory) about this orchid and that.

"I think of them as living things with personalities," he says. "Each of my orchids has a little story. I can tell you about it and where it came from and who was with me and what I did." And, that is just what he does when someone inquires of his orchids or asks to take a look.

He recalls the many times he, alone in his canoe, has gone orchid-looking in the Florida Everglades. "It's hard to find anybody else who loves going into the swamp with alligators and snakes and spiderwebs so thick you have to pull them back with both arms for your little canoe to get through."

He thinks of his orchids as good friends. "After spending ten years with them, watching them grow and behave—you can move them and they won't do anything for a year, but sulk—they just like to know you're around. If they get filled with ants, that you'll take care of it."

Orchids are the most satisfying plant, taking the least effort, he observes. "My hibiscus plants are harder to grow and keep looking good."

Examining a small plant hanging from a low-growing tree in the yard, he says, "You can see they don't have to be too large to bloom . . . I think this one's just as cute as it can possibly be, and it's the first time it's bloomed!"

## A Trip To the Everglades

It all began for O'Neil, a professional gardener who also works at the Palms Hotel, during an eight-mile canoe trip into the Ever-



COMMERCIAL: Orchid grower Ernie Hudson with one of about 4000 plants.

glades. On this excursion, he was so taken by the Everglades' orchids that on his return trip home he bought three in Homestead, and after that began to order them from catalogs. Soon thereafter, he joined the Plant-A-Month Club, from which he has collected most of his orchids. Currently, O'Neil has about 400 orchids in his collection.

In 1990 O'Neil, a member of the Key West Orchid Society, entered one of his orchids in a local show, and he went away with an award presented by the American Orchid Society. The proud winner named the orchid for himself. A cross among brass-avola, laelia and *Cattleya* (Blc), it will be registered as Blc "Dannie Boy."

## Wild About Orchids

In yet another part of town, Billy Gaeth's small side yard, completely hidden from view by a row of aralia is home to some 350 orchids. "I am an orchid enthusiast," says Gaeth, "not an expert."

He, too, has an intimate knowledge of his orchids. "I have warm-climate orchids from areas of the Philippines, Central America, and

Brazil—places where the climate is not too dissimilar to ours."

Also a professional gardener and member of the Key West Orchid Society, Gaeth simply has a great love of plants. He has been growing orchids for four years. "I was given a plant, and, after I bought one I was given a few more," he says. "Pretty soon I was hooked."

Gaeth agrees with O'Neil that orchids are easy to grow. Having lived in several other parts of the country, including California, he finds that Key West is the only place in the United States that orchids can be grown outdoors all year. "I like to see orchids start out," he says, "come of age, mature, watch them fill their niche in the garden."

The behavior and needs of each orchid



have become a matter of familiarity. Removing a potted orchid hanging from the lattice that shades them, he says, "Now, here's one a lot of people would look at and think, 'That's dead,' but this orchid put out its leaf earlier in the year. It drops its leaf before it actually blossoms."

After the hour-and-a-half ritual of seeing to the orchids' needs, he pulls up a chair on the patio, kicks back, and just enjoys them. "It's very peaceful and relaxing, helps me center myself when I'm out here with my plants. It's very meditative," he says.

The garden is his own oasis where he can retire after a long work day. "I've got my orchids and they never fail to surprise me. I

walk through this little garden and think to myself, 'Oh look, this is going to pop out.'"

What does it take to grow orchids successfully? "I adapt the plants to fit into my lifestyle," says Gaeth. "Other than giving them good care, I don't adapt myself to their lifestyle."

Gaeth is not the type of person who, even if the expense were not prohibitive, would rebuild his house to "satisfy" the orchids. Having skylights throughout one's house and having greenhouses is wonderful, Gaeth says, but he is perfectly happy in his own little outdoor paradise.

"If you have the time to love your plants," he says, "then you have the time to grow them. If you don't love your plants, you probably won't do well with them."

## A Commercial Grower

The largest local orchid collection, perhaps, is that of Key West Orchid Society president Ernie Hudson, who lives only a few miles up the Keys. The proud owner of some 4000 orchids, Hudson is a commercial grower, who, in addition, manages a full-time job at one of the Navy bases.

Many of Hudson's plants hang in wooden baskets from an overhead screen, the ordered arrangement itself a spectacular sight, not to mention the blooms of every shape, size and color.

When he is not working at his regular job on the Navy base or tending his orchids, he is selling them. Several years back, he bought Sea Cloud Orchids, the business he currently operates, from a woman who used to be a judge for the American Orchid Soci-

ety. He sells to people all over the country, doing packaging and shipping, too, although, as he points out, 70 percent of the people who come to the Keys drive down, and many take plants back with them.

Hudson supplies several local nurseries and takes orchids, himself, to the Big Pine Key flea market once a week. To help pay for his orchids, he does landscaping jobs for several area residents, and, as another sideline, he rents the plants.

People can rent an orchid for any occasion, for one day or two weeks and pay no more than they would have for an arrangement of cut flowers, which would not last very long, he points out.

For someone who takes the business of orchids seriously (he has missed only one orchid society meeting in three years), one might wonder when Hudson has time to enjoy them. And, yet, every morning, he comes to the peace and quiet of his garden, sits down beside his little table, and, in the middle of all his blooms, sips his coffee and communes with his orchids for about 45 minutes before the workday begins.

Are there other secret gardens in Key West? Well, there are 83 other members of the Key West Orchid Society, and there are many more people growing orchids who are not members of the society. One might just want to take a peek over the neighbor's ficus hedge.



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## Living With AIDS

# Please! Don't Ask

by George A. Leidal

Most persons with AIDS (PWAs) might agree that relationships with others can be the most trying part of living with a terminal illness. Well-intentioned friends see you in the street and inevitably ask the polite question: "How are you?"

"Please don't ask me how I feel, I am fine for someone who has a terminal illness," I'd like to say. But to be polite I usually nod

and say, "I'm hanging in there."

Few really want to hear about my latest skirmish with the HIV virus, especially when the only news I have to offer is the day-to-day struggles with the disease. Most people, however, are only interested in hospitalizations, not the daily battles with pain that I endure. (In fact, the most distressing illnesses related to AIDS usually do not warrant a trip to the hospital, especially if one has no

insurance.)

When I've been hospitalized people have sent flowers, or have come by to visit. Both very much appreciated. But the care stops at the hospital door. Soon after I return home, my friends no longer call to say, "Hi." Few come by to visit. And, of course, there are no flowers. So I lie there, too weak to get out of bed.

Ultimately a time comes when the Camille act wears thin even with yourself. Then come those magical days when it is possible to walk a block or two in God's wonderful fresh air. For a few magical moments you can believe you'll lick this thing.

Then you run into a friend who asks the how-are-you question, and you are back to square zero.

Or, the friend wants to chat. There you are, barely able to walk, being cornered on a street in Key West with no place to sit. It is hard to break off discussion politely when it becomes urgent to rest your legs.

If Key West truly had compassion for its elderly and convalescing populations, there would be a bench at least at every bus stop, if not more liberally spread about, especially in Old Town.

The doctor suggests exercise such as walking to reduce the time spent in bed. With perfect weather most of the time and interesting vistas, the advice is welcomed. However, a PWA need walk only one or two blocks before his strength is noticeably gone.

At times like these, a bench would be a godsend.

I understand the reason why there are no benches along Key West streets - they would be used by homeless people. Well, I say, if people need benches to sleep on during night hours then there should be a law protecting the use of them for this purpose. It would mean the police can keep an eye on, and thus serve, the homeless. During the day, benches should be available to pedestrians.

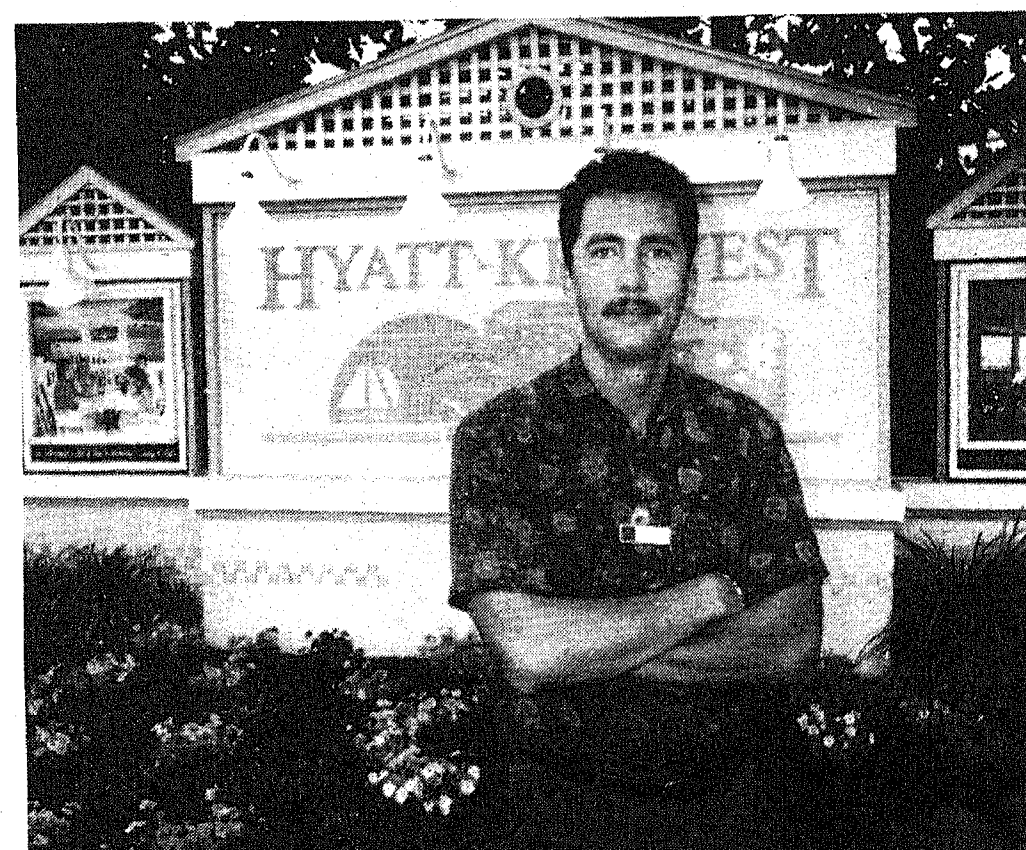
I doubt this reasoning will sway the powers that be. So I limit my walks to stretches I know will afford me an occasional seat.

Benches would also make it possible for those of us who don't get around easily to use the bus system. At the same time, they would afford those of us living with AIDS an opportunity to get out and meet people, or just to watch the passing parade.

If Key West really wants to welcome visitors it ought to give some thought to the elderly and infirm as a matter of common courtesy. If the city won't or can't add benches, then individuals and businesses should be encouraged to put a bench out near their place of business.

There is no place on earth where it is nice to live when one has AIDS. Key West is almost a paradise; and life here could be immeasurably improved by the simple addition of benches.

Until that day comes, if you see me in the street, point me to a place to sit so we might chat. Otherwise, please don't ask me how I am.



**TOM GARCIA**

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER, HYATT KEY WEST

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"Thanks, Design Group. Keep up the good work."

*Tom Garcia*



Adjusting his lucky rhinestone-and-papier maché tiara ("Happy New Year 1937") so it tilted more cunningly over one eye, Mab said: "Do you believe the President of the United States lives in a hotel room in Houston, Texas?"

"No."

"The Internal Revenue does. Do you believe the American economy is showing strong signs of recovery from the recession?"

"No."

"This economist the President sent down to talk to the Miami Rotarians does."

"Where did he work before the government hired him?"

"Financial advisor to Southeast Bank."

"Which is bankrupt too?"

"In the midst of life we are in debt," said Mab. He had run over to Blossom's and come back with a can of Niblets. He threw bits of corn on the ground. We were soon surrounded by chickens.

I think it can be argued that now La Bodega has folded, perhaps the premier take-

out sandwich place in Key West is the Paradise Café on Eaton Street. As part of Mab's campaign for President, he has begun reading the newspapers very intently; the above conversation was him instructing me from the pages of the *Miami Herald* as we ate our Cuban mixes at one of the Paradise's outside tables.

"Presidents are always banging-on about big-spending Congress," said Mab. "But not one president in my lifetime ever sent up a balanced budget. 'Wait till next year,' they say. But that's like 'Free Beer Tomorrow.' A balanced budget never comes."

"Not even Ronald Reagan?" I said.

"Puh-leeze!" said Mab.

"But you're going to vote for President Bush?" I said. "I thought you were a conservative."

"Bill," said Mab, now feeding corn to a duck who had waddled over to join the chickens, "I am a banker first. So was my father, and his father too. In three generations, not one person in my family ever voted for a Democrat. But that was when *conservative* meant *fiscal integrity*. Neither family nor government spent money it did not have. These guys are not conservative. They are merely right wing. Which is why I am running for the Gay Party. Vote for me."

Our plan was to attend Wednesday Jazz Night at the Pier House, to hear the superb Christine Naughton sing. Mab, of course, said he had nothing to wear. We walked over to the Key West Trading Post on Truman. Stuart, the owner, had phoned to say he had in a new shipment of antique evening gowns, "and some special movie star stuff, slightly

worn Hollywood underwear."

Mab went through a rack of pink, white and purple blush frillies. Smoke came out his ears. He modeled one such mystery garment for me.

"What is it supposed to do?" I said.

"Shameful secrets of the stars," said Mab, and bought two.

We had dinner at Tamarinds, Leon, Laurence and Damian all back in town, and red hot. A couple of Cuban bullets after at Baby's (Mab's laced with Carlos Primero from a silver flask dipped from his handbag), and then on to the Havana Docks. Christine sang, something like Sarah Vaughn topped off with Lee Wiley. Mab was wearing long green satin with lots of cleavage.

"Mab," I said, "you can't run for President dressed liked that. It isn't common sense."

Mab kissed a blushing waiter. "Common sense," said Mab, "is the kind of intelligence that assures you the world is flat."



## WAIL 99.5

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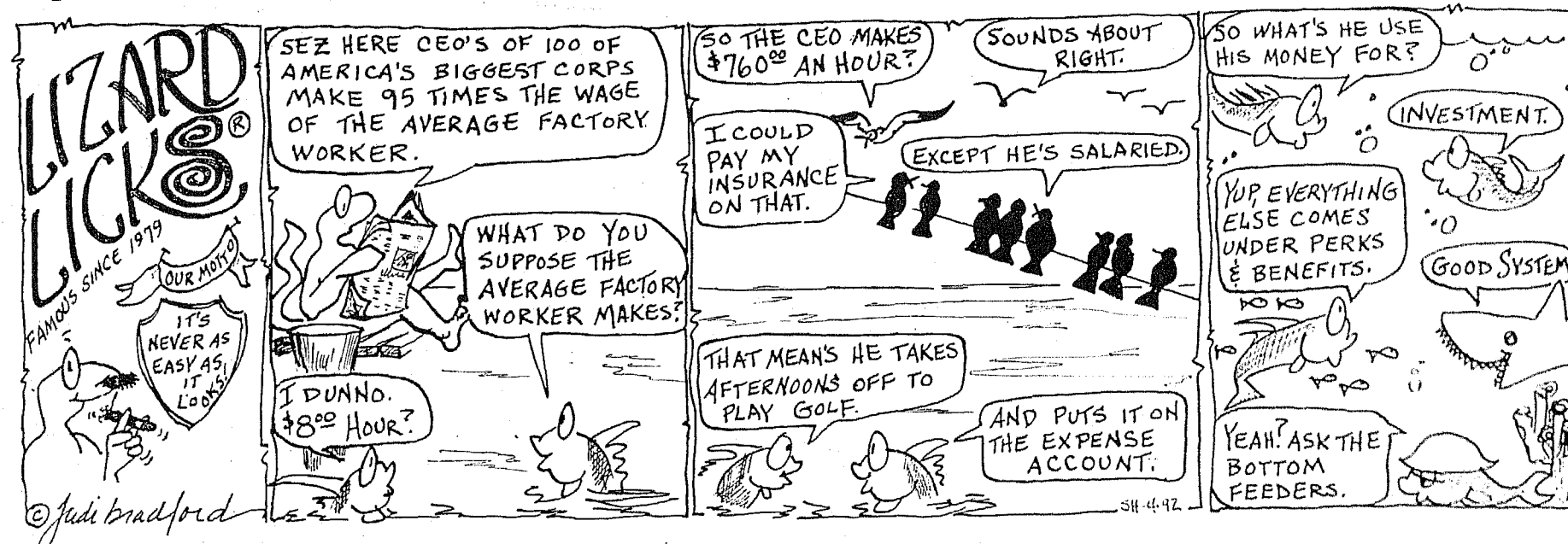
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## Readers Write

### Peary Court Analysis

Dear Editor:

Abraham Lincoln said, "You can fool some of the people..."

It is totally inaccurate to say that if the Navy can't build housing at Peary Court then:

- the Navy will leave Key West or;
- the land would be paved over by a private developer.

We all know that if you repeat something often enough, no matter what the truth is, that some people will believe what you are repeating is true. Capt. Currie [commanding officer at Navy Air Station Key West] intimidated both ideas at a recent city commission meeting. He was applauded by a hundred or more NAS civil servants that he had urged to attend that night.

Apparently some people believed him. However, the Secretary of the Navy, visiting Key West last week, said that NAS is an extremely valuable training base and dismissed the idea that opposition to housing on Peary Court would jeopardize the Navy's presence here.

As to the second premise, the idea that Peary Court would become another Truman Annex or condo project—that's exactly what it will happen if the Navy's plans go forward. We'll see a security fence, guard houses and 160 units scattered over 29 acres. Now if that were to be built and then excessed, it would most likely go to the "guys with the deep pockets."

But the GSA's rules for excess federal property state is that it must be first offered to other federal, state, county and city entities before it can be sold to a private party. If an excessed Peary Court had the Navy's housing project on it, it's doubtful that anyone but a private developer would want it, or be able to afford it. While the land is vacant it may be excessed to a city for a 100-percent discount.

Peary Court has historic and recreational values unlike the Truman Annex, which was already built up and in the pipeline for commercial redevelopment. Peary Court is a simple green space. Ideally, if excessed, Peary Court should be transferred to the Department of the Interior, the National Park

Service or Florida's Department of Parks and Recreation and remain open and free for all of us forever.

There are other locations (in and around Key West) for military housing—if it's truly needed.

The Roman statesman Cicero observed that when you have neither the law nor the facts on your side—abuse the plaintiff. In this case, the plaintiff is not only Last Stand [the local citizens group that sued the Navy over what it called an inadequate environmental assessment, and won], but anyone who would dare question the government's plan for Peary Court.

Last Stand is now labeled by some as unpatriotic, zealots or outsiders. However, a federal judge has said the Navy has broken the law, and that's an undisputed fact. What other laws would a government agency break if it weren't scrutinized by the people it serves?

That heretic Thomas Jefferson said that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. We who live here, pay our taxes and love this island ask that it be protected from within and from without. Does the "here today—gone tomorrow" Navy really care more about Key West than those who live here?

Harry Powell  
Key West

### Baby Bird Alert

Dear Editor:

Baby bird season has arrived! Each year about this time the phone at the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center starts ringing off the hook with reports of baby birds being found. We would like to offer some important guidelines for handling these little ones.

What if you find a baby bird that is feathered, hopping around or flying short distances? This bird is a fledgling, in the process of leaving the nest and learning to fly. Place it in a nearby bush away from danger and observe to be sure the parent bird returns. This may take a few hours.

What if you find a baby bird that is not fully feathered and not hopping around? Locate the nest and return the baby to it. Watch to make sure a parent bird returns. The parent bird will not reject the baby because you have

handled it. If you are unable to find the nest or the nest is out of reach, create a makeshift nest out of a plant pot or basket, making sure to provide for drainage should it rain. Do not use paper or cotton as nest material; Spanish moss or grasses work well. Secure it safely in a tree near the original nest site, out of direct sunlight, and watch for the parent bird to return.

What if the bird is injured or you are certain there is no parent? Call the bird center immediately. Time is critical when dealing with baby birds. Twenty-four hours can make a life-or-death difference. If you are tempted to try and raise the bird yourself, keep in mind that raising a wild baby bird will require countless hours of time. Some nestlings can require feedings as often as every 20 minutes! It also requires knowledge of proper care and nutrition, since different species require different diets. An improperly balanced diet, fed for even a short time, can cause irreversible damage to a rapidly developing bird. Also, it is illegal to keep a wild bird without proper state and federal permits.

Remember, parent birds are much better equipped to raise their young than are humans, so it's important to give them every chance to do so. But when that is not possible, your wise intervention can make a difference as to whether these little ones live or die.

Cathy Baier  
Florida Keys Wild Bird  
Rehabilitation Center

*Editor's note: The Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured and orphaned wild birds. It is staffed by volunteers, funded by donations, and receives no county, state or federal monies. It is located at 93600 Overseas Highway, Tavernier, and is open to the public. To reach the center, call: (305) 872-2120 or 852-4486.*

## History of the Conch Republic

by Peter Anderson

In April of 1982, the U.S. Border Patrol set up a check point at the head of the Keys in Key Largo. The resulting traffic jam in both directions paralyzed the Keys. The government's reason for the border checkpoint was to intercept illegal aliens attempting to enter the mainland.

What was the Border Patrol doing cutting off the Keys? Were we a separate country? Was Key Largo a border of the United States? Tourism had ceased, and our lifeline to the mainland was severed by their inappropriate actions of the Border Patrol. In response, the Mayor of Key West, Dennis Wardlow (who, incidentally, was re-elected as mayor last autumn), went into federal court in Miami to obtain an injunction against the government, and get the check-point removed. The court refused to lift the checkpoint. Devastated, and sorely upset, the mayor returned to Key West a defeated man. But Wardlow, however, was not a man to stay down long. After a meeting with his advisors, and leading citizens, he sat at his desk and wrote three proclamations. The first proclaimed Key West's secession from the Union and the birth of the Conch Republic. The second declared war on the United States of America. The third surrendered, and demanded foreign aid.

*we seceded where others have failed*



Captain Tony Tarracino (left) and flag creator Claude Valdez.

To this day our secession stands as proclaimed on the 23rd day of April, 1982. While the conveniences of belonging to the United States continued—things such as our zip code, telephone area code, water supplies, and the luxury of paying federal income taxes—the spirit of independence still lives in the hearts and minds of all good Conch Republicans. (Conch Republicans are not to be confused with the Republican Party of the United States). This spirit of unbridled independence is what we celebrate each year. It is the driving force in our opposition to federal imposition of offshore oil exploration just north of the Keys. It is our belief that this "Don't-tread-on-me!" attitude is the central core of what is really great about America. It is hoped that our secession is, and will continue to be, an inspiration to the rest of the United States in this era of increasing encroachment of the federal government in every area of local life. We remain a beacon of true freedom, a light in the dark, a point of a thousand lights, the sun lancing through the storm clouds of oppression, a shining example of the Spirit of Freedom and Independence that guides the hearts and minds of men and women all over the world.

CONCH REPUBLIC - 23 DAYS - MAY 1 - 1982



# conch republic days special

## 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conch republic days celebration schedule



CHEERS: Ambassador Richard Heyman toasts the Conch Republic.

by Christine Naughton

Hear ye, hear ye! We live in our own little world down here in Key West, and we're damn proud of it. We even hold an annual festival to

demonstrate our local patriotism: Conch Republic Days. Since this is the celebration's tenth anniversary, organizers are calling it "Ten Days of the Tenth."

The agenda, which runs from April 17 to 26, is packed solid. During this time we celebrate our renegade way of life and applaud each other as neighbors. Cubans, buskers, environmentalists, military folks, Conchs, families, writers, artists, Italians, soldiers and sailors—everybody gets a moment in the sun.

At 7 p.m., the Cuban

This April 23 marks a decade since the birth of the noble Conch Republic, when fearless leaders of the day led the Florida Keys to secede from the United States of America in rebellion to the Border Patrol's road blocking of US Route 1. What a better way to commence such a happening as to partake of a bit of roast pig and loads of great live music? And at what better place than Key West's favorite neighborhood oasis, the Schooner Wharf Bar? (In the Key West Seaport at the end of William Street.) The Kick-Off Party starts at 7 p.m., Friday, April 17.

Saturday, April 18, brings a cultural event, the Bahama Village Tribute to the Conch Republic Independence Celebration at Nelson English Park. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Key West Neighborhood Improvement Association sponsors a celebration featuring food, music and activities which spotlight our island's Bahamian/Caribbean heritage. The gala event offers opportunities to win many prizes, including a rare Caribbean Conch Pearl set in an 18-karat gold pendant, reef trips with Admiral Busby, and a \$50 coupon good for scooter rentals. Among the epicurean offerings are Helen Fleming's spare ribs, Sam Carrol's sausages and Hazel Singleton's Jamaican food.

PHOTOS COURTESY CONCH REPUBLIC DAYS CELEBRATION



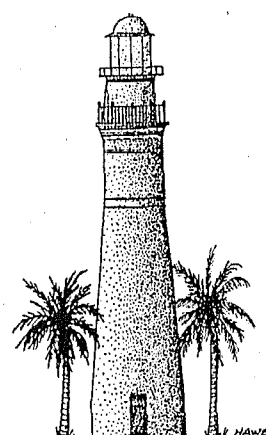
### The Bull key west

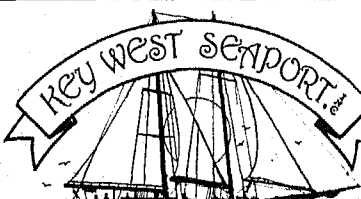
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- Chip & Mike

(See our schedule for events)

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SALUTES THE CONCH REPUBLIC DAILY EVENTS

KICK OFF PARTY  
PIG ROAST  
CONCH CRUISER CAR SHOW  
VICTORY PARTY

PIRATE'S BALL  
PARADE PARTY  
WRECKER'S RACE  
GREAT INSHORE POWER BOAT RACE

Solares Hill • April 16 - 29, 1992 • Page 19

# conch republic days special

**Heritage Celebration of Cuban Music** resounds in the San Carlos Institute on Duval Street. This event coincides with the 100th Anniversary of the exile of Cuban patriot José Martí in Cayo Hueso,

and exhibits on the subject may be viewed at the San Carlos Institute throughout Conch Republic Days.

There's fun in store for kiddies on Sunday, April 19, when the **Conch Republic Global Heart Earth Day** takes place at the Casa Marina. Activities begin at 1 p.m., and include an underwater Easter egg hunt (don't forget your snorkel!), music and "co-creation" for children of all ages.

On Monday, April 20, at 5 p.m., the **Conch Republic Salutes the Sons of Italy** with eats, drinks and, of course, bocce ball, at Sonny McCoy Indigenous Park. Members of this social group will be

cooking up sausage, pepper and onion hoagies, and serving beer and soda. They will also be selling raffle tickets; prizes include a two-night stay at Coconut Beach Resort, Turtle Walk gift baskets, a gift certificate for MARC House plants and others.

The **Conch Republic Salutes Her Veterans** Tuesday, April 21, at the historic American Legion Post 28 on Stock Island. Conch Republicans pay tribute to

those who have served us all in times of war and peace. The all-day, all-night celebration begins at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 22, brings one of Key West's favorite ceremonies, the **Cultural Preservation Society's (Sunset) Hall of Fame Awards**, to the Oldest

House, 322 Duval Street. This colorful and beloved sector of our island population comes out in full force, beginning at 7 p.m., to mark another year of busking in paradise with food, music and their own singular entertainment. As with all events of Conch Republic Days, the public is invited.

The Conch Republic's tenth birthday starts a rowdy weekend on Thursday the 23rd. First, it's the **Raising of the Conch Colors** at Fort Zachary Taylor state park. The Friends of Fort Taylor present an afternoon of games, food and music, beginning at high noon, when the fort is taken over in the name of the Conch Republic. The Key West High School concert and jazz bands will provide live entertainment until 4 p.m.

Other recreational activities at the fort include swimming from the beach area, fishing (if you have a license), visiting the park's museum and picnicking. Picnic tables, grills, outside showers and restrooms are available. Don't forget to bring your swim suit.

A **Re-enactment of the Secession** occurs at 5 p.m. at the Customs House. Conch Republic founder and first Prime Minister Dennis J. Wardlow joins friends and fellow founders to re-create that fateful day in 1982 when "We

seceded where other failed."

The **World's Longest Parade** queues up at 8 p.m. An impromptu affair, with no fee or sign-up, the parade winds its way from the Atlantic Ocean end of Duval Street to the Key West Seaport by the Gulf of Mexico. There, revelry reigns supreme at the **Schooner Wharf Bar's Parade Party**, beginning at 9 p.m.

Friday, April 24, is Conch Republic Navy Day. The **Conch Republic Naval Parade** begins at 7 p.m., led by Rear Admiral Captain Finbar Gittelman and his (s)curvy wenches aboard the **Schooner Wolf**, flagship of the Conch Republic Navy. Local charter boats, schooners and sunset boats traditionally take part.

Immediately following the parade is the **Great Battle** between the Conch Republic Navy and the Border Patrol. May the good guys always win! This year's battle features a fly-by and special forces demonstration by the **United States Navy** in a salute to the Conch Republic. Taking place in the Gulf of Mexico, the colorful spectacle may be viewed easily from any waterfront on the harbor. Better yet, pick up the phone and secure passage on one of the many spectator pleasure crafts before it's too late.

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Since great battles have been known to induce great thirsts, the Schooner Wharf bar hosts the **Victory Party** for the Conch Republic Navy, beginning at 9 p.m.

Party, party, party! At this point, an early Saturday morning rise-and-shine is beyond the realm of possibility, even with a Bloody Mary. Just have several close friends wheel you, bed and all, to the La Conch Hotel at Duval and Fleming Streets. Write a \$50 check to AIDS Help, Inc., and enter the **Island FM**

**107 Bed Race**—traditionally the hands-down hoot of Conch Republic Days.

The organizers of Conch Republic Days know this: the mother of all hangovers needs gentle treatment. At the finish line of the Bed Race, they don't expect anyone to jump out of bed and run to the nearest bar. Prone—on hands, knees, tummies and tongues—is the correct position for the **First Annual Conch Republic Lower Duval Crawl**.

Sponsored by Hog's Breath Saloon, Rick's, Durty Harry's, Rumrunner's and Sloppy Joe's, this outrageous bar crawl takes over the lower two blocks of Duval Street. Participating bars offer drink specials, prizes, contests and, what else?—parties.

At this point a bite of food and a little culture sounds like just the ticket. On Greene and Fitzpatrick streets, at Duval, sunset craftspeople offer their wares at the **Cultural Preservation Society**

(**Sunset**) **Crafts Fair and Food Fest**. Beginning at noon, it injects a note of class into the bar crawl, no?

Cop a late afternoon nap, don your tux and tails and head down to the Key West Seaport, where Capt. Tony, the Republic's good-will ambassador, will perform dockside weddings (recognized in only the Conch Republic and good for not more than 24 hours.)

After an hour of salutation to everyone from our prime minister to the "regular" island citizens, the *Atlantic X* will depart from the dock at 8:30 p.m. Meet, greet, rub elbows with and dance with the ambassadors and dignitaries of the Conch Republic during the **Grand Ambassadors' Ball**. Dress may be formal, informal or in the style of a Key West character from any era. Food, drink, gambling and entertainment will be offered in abundance. Call the *Atlantic X* at 292-1777 for reservations.

Those not feeling seaworthy and preferring a more casual evening might choose to unite at the Schooner Wharf Bar for the **Pirates' Ball**, beginning at 8 p.m.

The **First Annual Conch Cruiser Car Show**, begins at noon, Sunday, April 26, at the Key West Seaport. Bring that thing you call a car for free entry in the contest with prizes galore! Find out how lucky we are Florida has no car inspection requirements!

Speaking of wrecks, Key West Seaport is the perfect spot to view the **Wreckers' Race**. Beginning at 1 p.m., it brings to life the Conch Republic's tradition of wrecking—once it was a way of life here, and the island's major industry. The elegant vessels of the Conch Republic Navy will participate in a ruthless one-way race to the reef to claim the booty!

Small fry will love the **Great Inshore Powerboat Race**. Radio-controlled model boats streak through Key West Bight at speeds in excess of 70 mph! Sponsored by Southernmost Radio-Controlled Boat Association, the race begins at 2 p.m.

As it began, so it ends at the Schooner Wharf Bar, where Conch Republicans gather for one last hurrah and the **Wreckers' Race Awards Ceremony**, beginning at 7 p.m. If you feel like a wreck yourself at this point, don't worry. You're in good company. [2]

# conch republic days special

## the bed race (or how to travel with three sheets to the wind)

by Christine Naughton

Overheard at the Schooner Wharf Bar one evening last month, a young couple's conversation:

He: Come on! Are we gonna do it or not?

She: Well . . . I guess so. Okay.

He: Yessss! Your bed or mine?

She: Yours. I don't think my bed can take it.

He: No problem, we'll use mine. I don't have any decent sheets, though. Do you?

She: My brand new sheets? Forget it! And don't think I'm gonna do all the work, either.

He: All right already. Now that we've decided, we'd better call Island FM 107.

Who are these people? thought the befuddled eavesdropper. And why would they want to call a radio station right now? Key West certainly is a weird little town.

Little did the eavesdropper know but the young couple was discussing their entry in the Island FM 107/Miller Genuine Draft Anniversary Conch Republic Bed Race.

A number of off-the-wall ceremonies, parades and celebrations occur in Key West



throughout the year, but this baby has a special lunacy of its own. Organized by Island FM 107 radio and hosted by self-proclaimed "Mr. Bed Race" himself, George Murphy, the four-posters, canopies, bunks and berths will roll as fast as they can from the Holiday Inn La Concha at Fleming Street, down Duval to the judges' stand and finish line, located in front of the Bagatelle restaurant.

(At least, they're *supposed* to roll that way. One can only hope for the best, as no steering devices of any kind are allowed, and *raceus interruptus* is likely to occur.)

Local luminaries Ed Swift, Virginia Panico, Dick Moody, Ed Seebol and Sally Lewis will handle the delicate adjudication process to name the best beds in each of seven categories. Lucky winners will proudly clutch their trophies until next year's bed race, at which time they must either surrender the prize or defend their

title. Other prizes include 107 bottles of Miller beer and \$107 in cash.

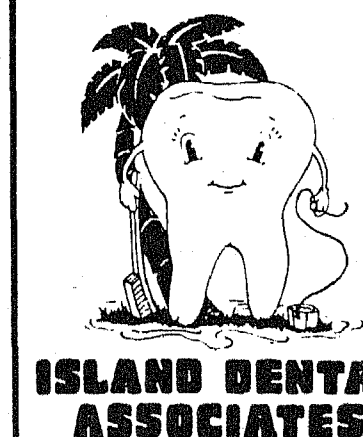
The infamous bed race emerges from a three-year hiatus, and Murphy assures us that all entrants are "hot to trot." Fluffing pillows for this year's competition are the Sebago Catamaran, the Key West Women's Football League, the Lower Keys Health System, First State Bank, the City of Key West Police Department, Stick and Stein lounge, and others.

All proceeds, including the \$50 entrance fees, will be donated to AIDS Help, Inc. At press time, limited space on the starting line was still available. Call Island FM 107, 292-1133 for rules and details.

The race will begin bright and early (for Key West) at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 25. So shine up those bed pans, load up the camera and shuffle on down to the Conch Republic Bed Race, where legends are made and dreams come true.

Regards from  
**E. William Goldner, DDS**  
Ambassador of Dentistry  
Conch Republic  
Key West, Florida

Conchs Are Tough!  
Just Keep On Chewing



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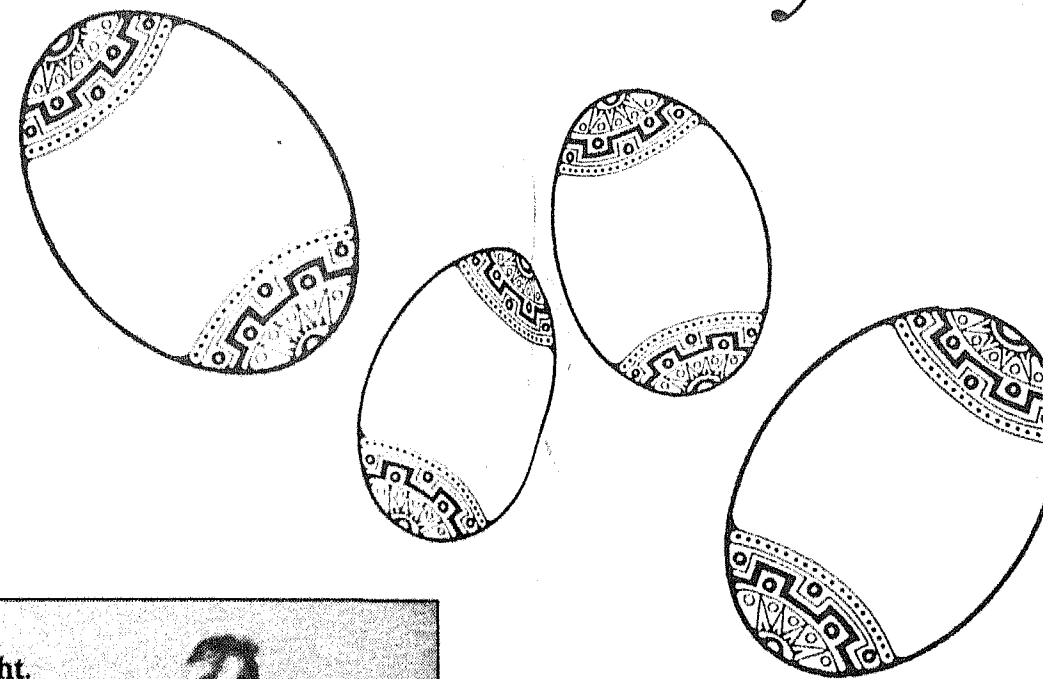
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# conch republic days special

**HAPPY CAMPERS:** Captain Finbar's sole male crew member is surrounded by some of the (s)curvy wenches aboard the Schooner Wolf. Top row (l-r) Dotti Clifford, Karen Abas, Captain Terri Amaddio, Captain Will Gordon, Captain Lynda Schuh, Jean Bragdon. Bottom row (l-r) Sharon Kilman, Lisa McDaniel, Barbara Sellers.



Laura Small

## naval parade & battle on the high seas

by Christine Naughton

Eyes wide and hands flying, Captain Terri Amaddio of the *Schooner Wolf* was clearly taken with her subject.

"First, there's the big parade of all the different boats: the catamarans, all the sun-set and charter boats, military vessels—any that want to participate," says the captain. "The crews decorate and the boats always look really nice. So that's what people see first. And once the parade's over the others sail on, or a lot of them hover around and watch. Then we have the Great Battle!"

The Naval Parade and Great Battle is traditionally one of the brightest gems in the Conch Republic Days array. It's the clash of majestic tall ships at sunset: the Conch Republic Navy vs. the Border Patrol.

Speaking in Captain Finbar Gittelman's absence (Finbar was in seclusion, planning the *Wolf's* battle strategy for this year), Amaddio came by her enthusiasm for the Great Battle honestly. She always gets a front-row seat aboard the *Schooner Wolf*, flagship of the Conch Republic Navy. With Rear Admiral Finbar at the helm and his intrepid crew of "(s)curvy wenches," the *Wolf* has emerged victorious from the fray each year for the past ten.

The *Wolf*, traditionally accompanied by the *Schooner Clione*, defends the Conch Republic from an attacking vessel by posing as a Border Patrol craft.

"We do passes at each other and have a mock battle with cannons and shotguns loaded with blanks," Capt. Amaddio continued. "Of course, the Conch Republic Navy always wins, and when the battle's over the ship playing the Border Patrol shoots off a smoke signal symbolizing they've lost. They make it look like they're sinking. And they surrender. It's great!"

A mischievous twinkle came into Amaddio's

eyes. "Then it's pretty much a free-for-all. Everybody throws sponges at each other, and all the boats join in. We used to throw water balloons, but we don't do that anymore."

(Every good Key Wester knows that turtles and other marine species mistake balloons for food. When ingested, the balloons are often fatal. So keep your hot air to yourself.)

Amaddio had to pause for laughter as she recalled Great Battles past. "Last year, the free-for-all part got pretty crazy. One of the Coast Guard boats put the tilt way up on their 250-horsepower Yamaha engine, and shot a four-inch stream of saltwater all over everybody. They doused us. They probably won't do that again. I think they got in a lot of trouble for it."

Another branch of the military has, in fact, planned more dignified proceedings for this year's Great Battle. The U.S. Navy will execute a fly-by and a Special Forces demonstration to salute the Conch Republic.

The Naval Parade and Great Battle will occur Friday, April 24, beginning at 7 p.m. Space may still be available aboard some charter vessels in the spectacular fleet. Otherwise, the colorful spectacle may be viewed from any waterfront spot along the Gulf side of the island.

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# conch republic days special



FOREST FUNDS: Captain Frank presents a check to Hilda Doody for the Sigbee Rainforest fund.

by Alyson Simmons

While Key Westers are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Conch Republic, the citizens of Puerto Limon, Costa Rica will be noting that exactly a year has passed since an earthquake in their area took 56 lives and caused massive destruction. Certainly a day of personal pain for the Costa Ricans, April 22 also marks the anniversary of a growing kinship between Key West and Puerto Limon. It was on that day last year that the cities became "sisters," a union which links us in times of need as well as of joy.

In making the formal announcement of the relationship, then-mayor Tony Tarracino declared, "...whereas, the citizens of Key West opened their hearts and provided aid to the citizens of Puerto Limon... and whereas, Costa

## key west's sister to the south

Rica is a small, proud country just as Key West is a small, proud island, and a bond exists between these diverse peoples with common interest, I, Tony Tarracino, Mayor of the City of Key West... hereby urge all citizens of our city to join with me in recognizing Puerto Limon and Limon Province as Sister Cities, and to approve their

Sister City status through interaction with mutual benefits for all."

Measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale, the huge quake destroyed thousands of homes, and infrastructure damage has been estimated in the millions of dollars. Roads and bridges collapsed, making access to the city impossible. On the coastline, the quake heaved the sea bottom above the waterline, virtually cutting off the port's access to the ocean.

Captain William P. Frank, a maritime historian and Key West resident, was visiting Costa Rica when the tremor hit. When he saw the devastation, he decided to return to Key West and organize a relief effort.

"I lived in Mexico once," says Frank. "When they had an earthquake, the people would cry for a year then try to figure what to do next. Same thing in Nicaragua when Managua got all knocked to pieces. In Costa Rica, the Ticos—that's their nickname—cried for one day, and the next day they went out with shovels and started putting the country back together."

Frank called the damage "amazing." "The bridges that fell," he said. "It would be like if all the bridges on the keys highway went down. [It] certainly made a problem getting to Limon."

On a national level, Soviet-built helicopters from Nicaragua worked side-by-side with U.S. and British military planes to build temporary bridges and deliver immediate aid that poured in from other Costa Rican cities. Key West also responded quickly and generously to the appeal for aid. Within three months over a ton of supplies had been collected.

"The combined effort by this small island was tremendous," says Frank. "The Navy helped, St. Mary's helped, the Cuban community helped. When I wasn't here [at my house], people came

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**FRIENDS OF ANIMALS BENEFIT:** (From left) Dennis J. Crowley, Ann Esposito, ClairAnn Moody, Mike McCorkle and Bob Smith at Louis Backyard restaurant.

The board of directors of First-Bancorp, Inc. announced the appointment of James W. Aultman to the board of directors of First National Bank of the Florida Keys. A 35-year resident of Marathon, Aultman is the owner of Aultman Construction, a contracting firm based in the Middle Keys. He is involved in several community associations, including the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Florida Keys Contractors' Association and the Monroe County Licensing Board. "Aultman will be a great asset to our Business Development Program; he belongs on our team," said Jerry Williams, bank president and CEO.

Lower Keys Friends of Animals held its annual meeting late last month at the Ramada Inn in Key West. New officers were elected: Paula Johnson, president; Vicki Snow, vice president; Mary Baughman, secretary; Lew Savini, treasurer. Also

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named was the new board of directors: Mike Burlew, Mike McCorkle, Vicki Sawyer, Ann Esposito, Eleanor Walsh, ClairAnn Moody, Carroll Snow and Michele Grahl. The volunteer non-profit organization is financed solely by contributions. Its primary goals are to subsidize and arrange the spaying and neutering of animals and to help prevent animal abuse. For information or to make a contribution contact the Lower Keys Friends of Animals, P.O. Box 1043, Key West, FL 33041.

The air waves are now traveling in style aboard the new WOZN FM Radio remote broadcasting van. The van is equipped with all the latest in radio broadcasting equipment and is designed to transmit a clear remote signal from locations throughout the middle and lower keys. The van will be used to produce "live remotes" for local businesses and community and military events. "We plan to become very involved in helping community and business organizations broadcast their special events and promotions live with our new remote van," said Larry Blocher USA ret., general manager of Classic Rock 98.7. Look for the van at the Overseas Market Easter Egg Hunt and Student Art Show Saturday, April 18.

Central Mortgage Associates, the full-service mortgage banking firm that provides funds for residential mortgages, announced that Timothy Gaffney has joined the firm as a loan officer. Originally from the Midwest, Gaffney came to Key West for a two-week vacation in the summer of 1990 and has never left. He has a background in communications, and for five years he was the president of a travel mar-

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keting company in Hartford, Connecticut. CMA, located at 3714 N. Roosevelt in Perry's Plaza, specializes in VA, FHA and conventional home loans and refinancing. For information, call 292-1001.

Michelle Neumann of Tropical Window Treatments a.k.a. "The Blind Lady," announces that she has been named the exclusive dealer in Monroe County to carry custom interior P.V.C. shutters. According to Neumann, these shutters look exactly like hardwood, but they won't crack, peel or warp—an important consideration in the Keys' humid climate. Their color won't fade, and they carry a lifetime warranty on their finish. They cost about half as much as do wood shutters. For more information, call 296-9999 or 745-1110.

The National Natural Foods Catalog, a publication of the Granary, Inc. of Sarasota, is the first in the nation to offer organic produce overnight to home buyers in Florida. In addition to organic produce, they also offer a complete line of natural foods, vitamins, books, cosmetics, bulk foods and other health-related items. The free catalog of over 220 pages and 15,000 items also features informational columns, recipes and tips on using and/or preparing health products available in the catalog. To order a catalog, call 1-800-274-2749.

John Santiago Salon, located at 1201 Duval Street, will pitch in on Earth Week by hosting the Aveda Beaut-a-Thon '92 Make-over for Planet Earth on Sunday, April 26. The salon will be one of more than 2000 Aveda salons across North America to offer haircuts and other beauty services at a reduced price, donating the day's proceeds to the Give to the Earth Foundation. Santiago says the day offers people a chance to do something good for the environment while doing something good for themselves. For more information, call 294-8413.

Social worker Suzanne M. Laska has joined the AIDS Help, Inc. case management team. She comes to the organization from Florida's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services where, as a public assistance specialist, she was responsible for HRS's Institutional Care Program and Project AIDS Care (Medicaid Waiver) in the lower keys. "Having been involved at HRS with Project AIDS Care, I'm looking forward now to working as well with the many other services and programs available to people with AIDS and HIV through AIDS Help," says Laska.

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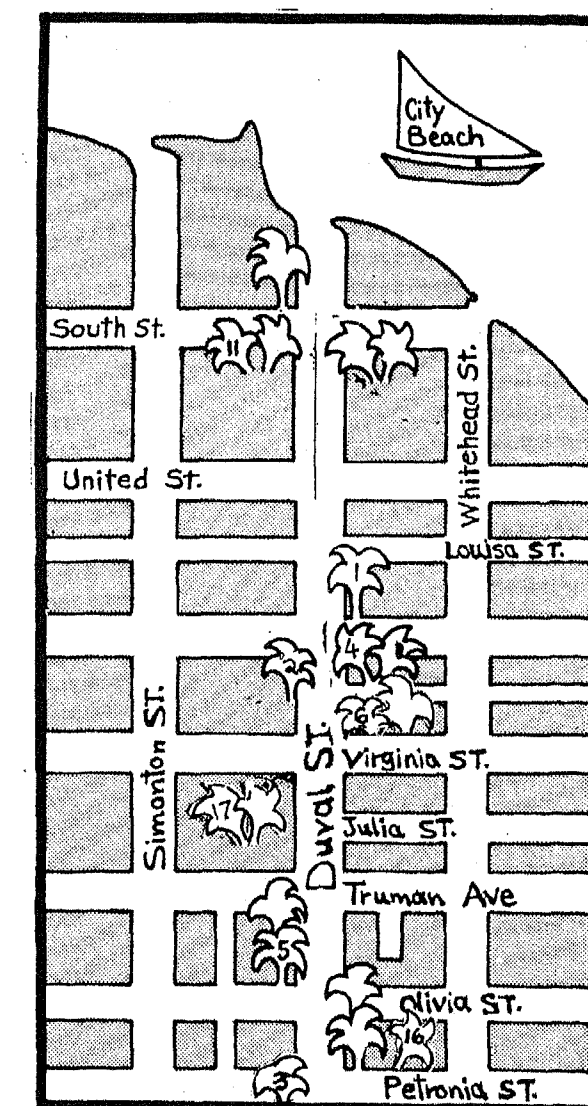
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Uptown Duval continues to evolve and develop, merchants take particular pride in preserving the laid-back atmosphere they say characterizes their area. Sip a genuine Cuban café con leche at a sidewalk café, then stroll along the street for exclusive shopping adventures. In

your travels, glance South and catch the sparkle of the ocean. Uptown makes you remember why you came to Key West—a tropical island paradise. (Each business is keyed into the map. Check the bottom left corner of each box for the number.)



# ART~CIRCLE By Judi Bradford Mud Pi

Students bustle through the ceramics department at Florida Keys Community College. Chatting and pulling out projects, they settle down to work. The studio is tidy and busy. Eight electric potter's wheels line one wall, a slab roller presides over the center of the room and student work crowds the shelves.

Around the area, the influence of the three instructors can be seen in the student work. Gloria Shaw is known for her sculptural representation of people and animals. Jerry



FIRING UP: Jerry Cash at the raku kiln.

Cash's work puts graceful simplicity to its best use. And Jay Gogin's pieces are monumental, with a ceremonial tone.

Ready for a riddle? What's serious and funny and covered in mud? Mud Pi—a quasi-fraternity of ceramics students at FKCC.

The serious part is the money the 40-some students raise for equipment and materials for the ceramics department. Faced with declining funds and other budget cuts, the students banded together last fall and formed an efficient fundraising effort.

The funny part is the combination of personalities involved. Cash and Gogin are the club's faculty advisors. They are as good at banter as they are at clay.

"It's serious work," says Gogin, who is modeling mug handles. "But if I wasn't going to have fun, I may as well punch a clock somewhere—the pay is not all that good."

Tony Gregory, who has been seen on public stages doing some very funny acts, is the club's president. A small man, he wields a gavel almost as big as himself. "I'm a figurehead," he says.

Gregory is also playing with clay. He has just bicycled into Gogin's studio, docked himself into the big swivel chair and picked up a ball of pale clay. As he talks, his hands pinch it into a bowl, flatten it into a disk, roll it into a coil. It looks like a warm-up act for an animation feature.

The patter shifts to title suggestions for a fantasy (or maybe not)—a pottery talk show: "Clay Talk with Tony and Jay" or "Cash on the Line," with Jerry Cash hosting. "How about 'Let's Talk Pot,'" says Gregory, tapping into an infinite vein of jokes that play on the word "pot."

The double entendre is a universal element in the underworld of clay. I know a North Carolina potter, for instance, who raised eyebrows (and possibly post office inspectors' suspicions) in the '70s by stencilling "POT" on ceramic shipments he made to his customers. There is a similar repertoire of quips in the world of ceramic glazes—the chemicals.

Stretching things. It may be an actual extension of working with the elasticity of the

media. Clay has a suggestive way about it—seeming like rock sometimes, or leather or skin. It bunches up into bulbous shapes that often resemble amusing body parts. (Toes, we're talking toes here, right?)

One of Mud Pi masters' funniest clay incidents, however, came about by accident, and by coincidence. On April Fool's Day Gregory was in search of new bats for the department's potters' wheels. (Bats are the removable plates that the wet clay adheres to for "throwing" on the wheel.) He called Creative Industries in California and asked for a catalog and samples.

A confused reply prompted Gregory to inquire, "You have bats for wheels, don't you?"

Turns out, it was not a craftsman's supply house, but a lingerie/modeling/escort service.

"They were not amused," laughed Gregory.

"We were," Gogin chuckled.

Amid all the lightheartedness, however, there is a strong sense of purpose. In the few short months the group has been active, it has raised more than \$4000 for the ceramics studio.

Mud Pi now sponsors the master craftsman workshops that the ceramics department used to manage. The group is able to produce four workshops per term in comparison to the one per term offered by the department.

The workshops serve as inspiration to the students. Master potters from around the country demonstrate their skills and share some of their trade secrets. "I've been astounded," says Gogin. "I wondered for ten years how someone did some particular thing, and they tell it in the workshops. Just like that. It breaks through the artistic competitive code."

Recent workshop masters included Nathaniel Kaz, sculpture instructor at the Art Students League in New York for 50 years; Mike Newhall, a Buddhist monk and artist from Minnesota, who demonstrated brushwork on clay; and local and international artist Roberta Marks, who gave a slide presentation and talk.

Louie and Christine Columbarini did a paper kiln demonstration that wowed the

entire department. They constructed a seven-foot-high beehive of chicken wire and paper—non-recyclable magazine paper—around the pots to be fired. It was saturated with slip slurry, which dried to form an "eggshell." It was then ignited, creating a controlled blaze that fired the pots within.

The master potters are lured to FKCC with a modest honorarium and the promise of a keys vacation, with excursions provided by the students.

The La Concha Hotel chips in with rooms for the artists. Gogin expresses the group's appreciation in clay. Several of his large ritual-style vases are in the Rainbow Room of the La Concha lobby.

The workshop artists each, in turn, leave a piece of work they created for Mud Pi. At Christmas, Mud Pi throws a party and raffles off the clay works, earning money for the next year's workshops.

Last year, the first annual affair was held at Lee Dodez' studio, where Gogin has his private working studio. Two-hundred-and-fifty people enjoyed food, champagne and egg nog.

This year, Mud Pi members are planning a dinner in the fall—\$25 a plate, and you get to keep the plate. During the summer, when there are no classes, Mud Pi members will begin stockpiling 150 one-of-a-kind handmade plates for the event. Gogin points out that this is a good experience for the club members. They will see the project through "from dry bags of clay on the shelf to the finished product"—a good insight into production work.

The extra income has gone not only for workshops but also for equipment and materials. The week of this interview, Gregory, Gogin and Cash were all fired up about a newly purchased Oxy-Probe for the department's kilns. It is an \$800 instrument that measures the gases in a firing kiln, allowing the potters to more accurately control reduction and oxidation. It will reduce fuel costs and increase the efficiency of the firings. "Scientific," they called it.

Despite rough economic times the department is optimistic about its future. When Cash started working at the college three years ago, there were seven ceramics students. Now there are 112, with almost half active in Mud Pi. The club has wedged itself into the college as a powerful force.



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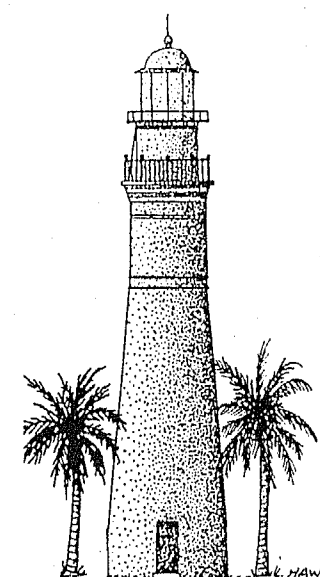
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**Lee Dodez Showroom** • New classes at FKCC by Jay Gogin. Sculpture by Lee Dodez and hand-built clay pieces by Jay Gogin. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

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**East Martello Museum & Gallery** • "Photographers' View of Spring Break '92," amateur and professionals invited. 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** • "Flores Para Los Muertos," a celebration of cemeteries. Photos from Key West and Marathon cemeteries. 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** • Carol Sadowski show of oils on canvas, featuring historic buildings in Key West and the South of France. 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** • Carrie Disrud, acrylic on canvas, painted furniture and papier-mache wall-hangings. Harry Greene, oil sticks on paper. Marble garden sculpture by Pat Stone. All our regular artists. Art classes continue with instructors Errol Etienne Harry Greene, Jim Salem and Sanford. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

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

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

**Harrison Gallery** • Bonsai by Norman Aberly and ceramics by Byron Temple and Susan Thayer. Andre Henocque, Matthew Lineburger, Sondra Schneider, 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.

**Island Wellness** • "Conch Fritters" by visiting New Mexico artist Joyce Mechelina Centofant. Paintings by Jeff Wheeler and other local Caribbean artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. 530 Simonton St. 296-7353.

**Kennedy Gallery** • Zbyszek, internationally recognized mixed media artist. Thom Millap, dynamic oils. Vibrant oil paintings by Michele Kennedy. Watercolor streetscapes 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; and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 306 Front St. 293-0999.

**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. Also ethnic musical instruments, tapestries and toys. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings until 9 p.m. 1208 Duval St. 294-3771.

**Lane Gallery** • David Paul, English miniatures, and Tony Chimento draped fabric studies. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

**LedaBruce Gallery** • World-class gallery of originals, many local artists. Stay in touch for special Sunday afternoon events: plays, poetry readings, jazz and Jacqueline Rosenblatt at piano. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ocean side on U.S. 1, MM 30.2, Big Pine. 872-0212.

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

**Lucky Street Gallery** • "The New World," collages and photography by Thomas Szuter. All new collection of primitive and folk art. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 10 p.m. 919 Duval St. 294-3973.

**Miller Gallery** • Helen Colley new paintings, April 18 to May 8. Daily, except Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. 517 Duval St. 2nd Floor. 294-7687.

**Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters** • Old Key West engravings from Harper's Bazaar. Errol Etienne watercolor

alligators and other critters. New paintings from South America. Back country paintings and prints by Michael Shannon. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1107 Duval St. 296-6124.

**Pandemonium** • A mad vase and tux sale. Distinctive art fashions and furniture, tile tables, ceramic house numbers. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m. 704 Duval St. 294-0351.

**Pearl-Beal Studio** • Hand-painted furniture by Jeff Beal and Lenny Addorisio. Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 531 Whitehead St. 294-0815.

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

**Plantation Pottery** • Come see our new arrivals. Functional and decorative ware from some of America's finest potters. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., sometimes later. 717 Duval St. 294-3143.

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

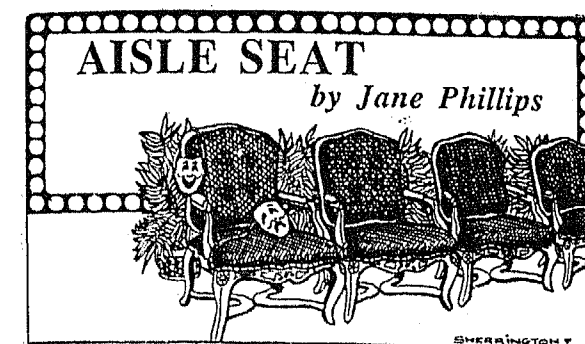
**Robinson Galleries** • Featuring the art of Wyland and six other international artists. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 292-1655.

**Studio 227** • Handbuilt claywork, watercolor originals, Bahama Village scenes by local artists. Locklear multimedia. Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 227 Petronia St. 294-7141.

**Sunset Arts and Crafts** • Selected 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, hairloom 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.



"The buck stops here."

—Harry S Truman

The Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center showed perfect timing in presenting Kevin McCarthy as President Harry S Truman in *Give 'Em Hell Hell, Harry*. What could be better in an election year, when we are all bombarded with political rhetoric, than to showcase the plain-speaking man from Independence, Missouri who became the 33rd president of the United States?

This Midwesterner didn't mince words or waltz around questions—he was known to "shoot from the hip." His honesty and straight talk became more refreshing with each succeeding decade.

Truman exhibited a streak of non-conformity from the very beginning when he was bestowed the letter "S" for a middle name. "S" is not an abbreviation—two grandfathers shared the same initial, but not the same name. Rather than choose, he was simply given the letter "S."

For actor Kevin McCarthy, this is one more superb performance to add to a career that has been distinguished by them. He has received critical acclaim in New York for roles in *Two for the Seesaw*, *The Seagull*, *Harry Outside*, *Advise and Consent*, and others. His screen credits include "Death of a Salesman," "The Misfits," "The Prize," "The Best Man," "The Howling," again, among others, and a film that has the dubious reputation as the most played on television, "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

History comes alive with his sensitive portrayal of the president. His skill as an actor cuts through the chasm that divides audience from performer, and he maintains a sense of intimacy essential in this kind of play.

In addition, McCarthy was a real trooper in the finest show-business tradition. He carried on despite the terribly disconcerting glitches in the sound system—from loud static to strains of music from a local radio station being picked up by the equipment. (On another night, I hear, the lights went out during an important scene.) The seasoned actor handled it all with style and grace.

The play, written by Sam Gallu, is a perfect vehicle for McCarthy's talents. Its focus on major events (Korean War, firing of General MacArthur) is nicely balanced within minor ones such as the writing of a letter to the music critic at *The Washington Post*, who found his daughter Margaret's singing ability rather dubious. This work is not an historian's approach to the Truman years but rather a humanist's view of the man who was never awed by the presidency, but had an unswerving respect for the office—perhaps more than any other president.

The script is filled with amusing anti-



LOVERS: Juliette Holland and Tom Luna.

dotes about his predecessors, contemporaries, presidential decisions; and it touches on the extraordinary relationship between the president and first lady. It's just plain good writing.

Early on he says: "God made the Earth in six days, but that was before labor unions." He mentions Winston Churchill's comment about Clement Atlee when he became prime minister: "There's a lot less there than meets the eye." He says he was not the ideal prospect as a future husband for Bess: "Behind every successful man there's a good woman and a surprised mother-in-law." Decades before the Exxon oil spill he said about oil companies: "If they had their way, they'd scar this country from one end to the other." On war: "War is too serious to be left to the generals." On knowledge: "It's what you learn after you know it all is what really counts."

His personal philosophy, however, is best summed up with this statement: "Always do right—it will gratify some and astonish the rest."

American scholars rate Truman "near great" in their appraisal of the United States presidents. The TWFAC audience accorded Kevin McCarthy the same with a standing ovation at the close of the play.

#### Pulitzer-Winner Talley's Folly Promises Power, Emotion

Director Mike Mulligan felt so confident about his production of *Talley's Folly*, which opens at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center April 16, he invited me to a preview rehearsal a week prior to opening night. Even in the midst of a partially assembled set, with only a work light to illuminate the actors, it was obvious this would be a very powerful production.

The play was written by Lanford Wilson, who made the memorable contribution to the Key West Literary Seminar's "New Directors in American Theatre." It's a beautifully constructed play that illuminates the complexities of human emotion. *Talley's Folly* was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1980.

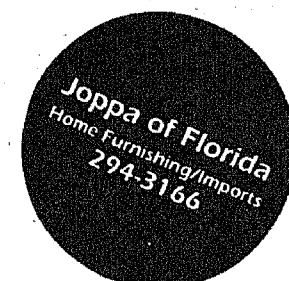
The two-character play stars Tom Luna as "Matt Friedman" and Juliette Holland as "Sally Talley." Luna's role is a complete departure for the versatile actor, who was last seen as the Italian opera singer "Tito Morelli" in *Lend Me a Tenor* at the Waterfront Playhouse. Newcomer Juliette Holland plays opposite him. The actress is from New York City where she co-founded an experimental theater group. Among her favorite roles are "Cherie" in *Bus Stop* and "Arlie" in *Getting Out*.

The two share an unpredictable, off-beat, romantic encounter in an old Victorian boat house. Only portions of Michael Boyer's set were completed, but the sketches I saw backstage promise this will be one of his outstanding designs.

Mike Mulligan is a sensitive, creative director. His solid acting background (last year's performance in *Deathtrap* won him rave reviews) enhances his talents on the other side of the footlights. He nurtures his actors in the exploration of their characterization. A graduate of the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago, he's been involved with the theater most of his life.

The play runs April 16 to 18 and 22 to 25. Call the box office for reservations at 296-9081, ext 326.

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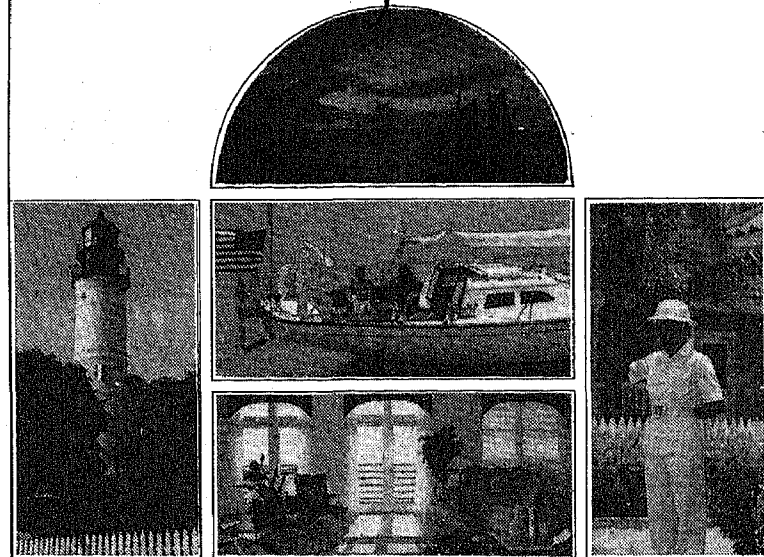
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# Gigs

by Christine Naughton

## Carmen and Richard at Flagler's

The key to Flagler's Lounge in the Casa Marina is its casual elegance. Plush seating,

dimmed lighting and colors, and discreet but attentive service are a few of the elements that contribute to this feeling. The most important enhancement, however, is on the entertainment stage: Carmen Rodriguez and Richard Tazewell.

This talented duo has been together a little over a year, and is an outgrowth of a bigger band, the Paradise Swing Orchestra. Rodriguez and Tazewell are dedicated to rehearsing regularly and expanding their eclectic repertoire. Their efforts have paid off in steady work and increasing popularity.

Rodriguez is an accomplished musical actress who has appeared in countless local theater productions. Her transition to nightclub singing seems effortless—she is lovely,



COURTESY RICHARD TAZEVELL

composed and graceful in the setting. Her voice has a velvet quality, which straddles the alto and soprano ranges.

Though Rodriguez may wax theatrical for a phrase or two, turning up the *vibrato* and throwing back her head to belt, she never gets carried away. She is in constant motion on stage, dancing to the music she sings. She makes the duo a pleasure to watch as well as to hear.

A veteran lounge lizard, Tazewell has worked in most of the clubs in Key West for the past 13 years. At Flagler's white baby grand, he holds down the time with a left-handed bass line in synthesizer. Tazewell also sings beautiful harmonies and occasional lead. He is a thoughtful and flexible accompanist, who follows rather than leads. His piano solos are carefully thought out and rhythmically interesting.

Without a doubt, diligent rehearsals benefit their performance. Rodriguez and Tazewell's polished vocal duos are strong points in their act—with smooth harmonic blend and crisp, clean phrasing and diction. Tazewell's selective ear picks out the prettiest harmonies, not always the easiest. And their repertoire is impressive, with ample rock and roll, island, and Broadway. The list shows a dedication to quality with some seldom-heard but gorgeous tunes.

The highlight of a recent Thursday evening set was Rodriguez and Tazewell's excellent rendition of "Lo Siento Mi Vida" ("How Sad My Life"). They pulled off a flawless vocal harmonization in Spanish, and Tazewell built intensity, introducing the synthesized bass line on the second chorus.

After a short piano solo they segued into "South of the Border," a true western ballad of unrequited love. Rodriguez delivered the poignant lyrics simply and sweetly, the overall effect as delicate as Spanish lace.

Other bright spots were Tazewell's cool vocals on "Polka Dots and Moonbeams," a beauty by Burke and Van Heusen, and on a Billie Holiday hit, "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone," and Rodriguez's warm, swinging execution of Sammy Cahn's "Tender Trap."

Rodriguez and Tazewell can be heard in Flagler's Lounge on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9 p.m.

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

### LVW Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Monroe County is holding its annual meeting Saturday, April 25, 11:30 a.m. at the Sombbrero Country Club in Marathon. League officers will be elected and the 1992-93 study-and-action program will be finalized during the meeting. The keynote speaker, Dr. Sydel Barnes-LeGrande will address "Women and Children's Health Issues in the Florida Keys." For reservations, call Mary Gene Bruce at (305) 743-3817. The cost is \$12 per person.

### Earth Week '92

Earth Week in the Florida Keys runs from April 19 to 26. The week begins with the Global Heart Celebration for children on Easter Sunday at the Casa Marina followed by a non-denominational benediction at Mallory Square that evening. Tree plantings, island cleanups, celebrations, documentaries, symposiums and films will all take place during the event. For a complete schedule, contact TCI Channel 5 at 296-6572.

### Bereavement Support Group

A ten-week closed group for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close will begin April 23. The group will meet thereafter on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For further information, call Charmaine Jordan of Hospice at 294-8812, or Pam Soucy at the Care Center for Mental Health at 292-6843.

### Volunteers Needed

Advocates are needed to provide support to victims of violent crimes. All volunteers will receive training from the State Attorney's Office. For more information, call Christine Smith at 292-3400.

### Fantasy Fest '92 Theme Announced, Organizers Looking for Art

The Fantasy Fest theme for 1992 has been announced by festival director Ann Dickinson and Association for Tourism Development president Don DeFeo. "Halloween in the Devil's Triangle" was chosen because the Grand Parade falls on Halloween night plus a "Devil Triangle" motif will allow people to draw from the island's air and sea connections. Encouraging a supernatural emphasis, Fantasy Fest organizers are looking for Keys artists to submit fine-art designs for the festival. The winning design will be the official symbol for Fantasy Fest '92 and will be used on T-shirts and posters. Interested artists should contact the festival office at 296-1817 for a complete list of design specifications. Deadline for submission is April 30.

### Indian Key Festival

The history of the Florida Keys will come alive April 25 and 26 at the 14th Annual Indian Key Festival. Actors dressed in authentic 1800s costumes will recreate a spectacle similar to what must have taken place 152 years ago when Indians attacked the wrecker's village. Historic artifacts, treasures, guided tours and crafts will also be included in the event. A 10-minute boat ride

from the nearby Indian Key fill, located just south of Islamorada at mile marker 78.5, bayside on the Overseas Highway, will transport visitors to Indian Key beginning at 8:30 a.m. both days. Cost is \$3 round trip and covers admission. For more information, call 1-800-FAB-KEYS.

### Cut-a-Thon Was a Success

A group of local hairdressers got together early in March and cut hair for nine hours, raising nearly \$1000 for AIDS Help, Inc. Held at The Salon, located in the Russell House at 915 Simonton Street, the Cut-a-Thon was the idea of Richard Day and Mari Chaplin of The Salon. New to Key West, they were looking for a way to become involved in the community. Stylists from several other local salons also participated. The event will now become an annual fundraising event for AIDS Help, a non-profit, service organization.

### Monroe County United Gets New Numbers

Monroe County United, the new organization dedicated to the restoration and support of constitutional government, has announced that it has a new office and telephone number. The office is located behind the Club 800 Restaurant in Cudjoe Gardens, on Drost Drive, mile marker 17. The new telephone number is (305) 745-2910. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 1375, Marathon, FL 33050. Anyone interested in more information is encouraged to write or call.

### MCC Holy Week

A full schedule of Holy Week observances will be offered at Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street, beginning with a pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon on April 11, and ending with Easter celebrations at 9:30 and 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday. Also on April 12, Rev. Donald Eastman, second vice moderator of the Universal of Metropolitan Community Churches will speak at Palm Sunday services. An activist for the civil and human rights of gays and lesbians, he has confronted city officials and legislators on the subject. For a complete schedule of events, call 294-8912.

### Toss a Friend in Jail

For \$25 you can have a friend—or enemy—"thrown in jail." The American Cancer Society, working with the Key West Police Department and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, will "arrest" people during the Annual Jail-N-Bail April 21 and 22 and cart them off to "jail" at First State Bank on Simonton Street. Suspects will be incarcerated until they raise the required bail set by a Jail-N-Bail judge. Bail money goes to support the fight against cancer. To "press charges," call the American Cancer Society office at 294-9385, or Debra at Barnett Bank at 292-3820.

**NIA Joins the Conch Republic Celebration**  
The Key West Neighborhood Improvement Association (NIA) announced that

Bahama Village will participate in the Conch Republic celebration April 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Nelson English Park, located in the area between Catherine and Thomas streets. Bahamian music, games (with prizes including a rare Caribbean Conch pearl) and delicious foods will fill the day. Churches, organizations and individuals are invited to rent booth space for a \$35 contribution. For more information, call Roy Grant at 296-5763, or Rev. Burke at 294-3391.

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Solares Almanac

April 16 - 29

by John Cole

By now, even in this blissfully casual environment, most folks in the Keys have acknowledged Daylight Savings Time, which began some ten days ago. Few of us, however, are fully adjusted to this elemental diurnal shift that will move sunset closer to eight o'clock as April's last two weeks take center stage.

And what splendid weeks they should be. With sunrise before seven, we are blessed with Old Sol for more than 13 full hours; add dawn and dusk and you realize that these luminous days are embroidered with almost two additional hours of gentle half-light. Surely it is these late April solar performances that have inspired most of the lyrical prose and poetry praising Key West.

A full moon on the 17th will be bracketed by some of the most violent tides of the year. The rush of waters, which began on the 15th (along with IRS Day), hits a galloping extreme from the 16th through the 19th, when low water will reach at least a half-foot below its regular averages, and high tides will rush to a rise of two feet above their norms. Those highs will peak in the mid-morning through the 18th, and the lowest of the lows will arrive late in the afternoon.

As I discovered during a March day on the water, tidal extremes in these parts can be even more dramatic than their predicted dimensions. For if the wind has pushed from a specific quarter for two or three days, it can

add significantly to the moon's tug. Three days of winds from the north a month or so ago shoved a near-normal low tide to record setting levels. Portions of the flats I had never seen exposed were high and dry. At least two sloops were heeled over at their permanent moorings, which, most of the year, are not subject to such rude groundings.

The sea birds, gulls, cormorants and terns feasted on crustacea and other marine life normally sheltered from predators by at least six inches of salt water. Wading birds also found the phenomenon to their liking, and as far as I looked across the flats, I could see white, feathered sentinels standing, shimmering pale mirages wavering in the sun's refracted rays.

All of this helped to explain an unexpected visitor at our place earlier that same month. For almost a week, a white ibis perched on the hood of our parked car. It would be there when we opened our door in the early morning and would stay until the car was put to work on its appointed rounds. Then the ibis shifted perches to a fence post, apparently reluctant to leave. Every now and then, it darted to the ground, plucked some morsel from the grass with a lightning stab of its curved bill and repaired to the fence post for further repose and digestion.

Why, I wondered, had this amusing visitor chosen those particular days to come calling. I may have found the answer in a brief, but enlightening pamphlet titled "Wetlands of the Florida Keys," published by the Izaak Walton League of America, which I picked up at a meeting of the Keys Audubon Society. Wading birds, like the ibis, leave their accustomed haunts when extreme high tides make feeding all but impossible. Of course, I can't remember the precise date our guest dropped in, so I can't check to learn if flood tides might have helped prompt the unusual behavior. But believe me, the next time I find an ibis imitating a hood ornament, I'm going to check the tide tables.

This is a time of change for those who work on the water. For even though benign breezes, moderate temperatures and bright skies dominate April's final weeks, the lobster-crawfish season closed on the first of the month, and in two weeks, stone crab trapping will shut down until mid-October. These are economic, and gustatory, staples of the region's economy and their conservation is critical.

The departure of crabbers and lobster catchers from the waters around this island is prelude to a general deceleration of the often feverish activity of the past four months. As May begins and poinciana blossoms drift crimson in the breeze, Key West slows delightfully, idling easily toward summer.

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 the Key West tide tables; flats fishing guides Capt. Gil Drake and Capt. Jeffrey Cardenas; the Florida Keys Audubon Society; the meteorologists at the Key West National Weather Service office at the Key West Airport; the National Marine Fisheries Service; Thomas J. Wilmers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist; and others who generously provide insights and information. Any errors, however, are the author's and his alone.



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## Large, Two Sugars

For anyone lusting after even the smallest taste of Key West the way it used to be, all he needs do is step right up to the open window or counter of one of the town's tiny *bodegas* (grocery/delis) and order a *buche* or a *con leche*. It is said that a double *buche* has as much buzz in it as a double martini. So forget about the margaritas and rum runners. Have a real drink. Have a Cuban coffee.

Key Westers have always seemed to thrive—and survive—on Cuban coffee. Certainly it is more popular than American-style. It wakes one up and keeps one up. One scalding shot of *buche* (scalding is the only way the Cubans drink it) can get even the seemingly hopeless going again.

What's the secret? The caffeine in the bean, of course. And the Cuban variety is loaded with it, ranking it right up there with the high-flying Guatemalan. After all, caffeine is a drug, though we think less about it than, for instance, do the Islamic countries, where the imbibing of coffee has always been banned.

In any event, it is probably a safe bet that more Cuban coffee is still consumed than just about anything else wet in these parts, with the possible exception of beer. What is certain is that caffeine beverages have a decided advantage over the alcoholic, for while they loosen the tongue nicely, they sharpen the wit at the same time.

But today's per-capita consumption is probably minuscule compared to yesterday's, when Key West was about 60 percent Cuban and coffee shops lined both sides of Duval Street. According to a column in a recent *Citizen*, there were 32 shops in the year 1917 and some 380,000 cups of coffee were drunk.

When considering the statistics, though, it is important to know that these coffee shops offered more than just coffee and a place to socialize. They were also places to play cards and dice and to gamble. Of course, gambling was illegal, but this was the infamous Key West.

Actually, the United States is one of the few Western countries where gathering at some version of the Cuban coffee shop hasn't become a part of the daily life. In fact, most Americans today are so busy that they dispatch a cup of coffee in much the same fashion as their daily vitamin pill.

To meet the demand of such busy people, technology has produced instant coffee, percolators, and even computerized coffee makers, but none of these conveniences has affected Key Westers much. If you like Cuban coffee and don't have the expensive machine required to make it, you still must go out for it. Thus, a ritual has been established here that is just one of many setting the town apart from the rest of the country.

The machine required is, actually, just a

version of the Italian espresso machine, which "presses" hot water through the ground beans with such force that it can be done only mechanically. So, Cuban coffee is really just espresso made with Cuban beans. Served straight in a little cup, it is a *buche*; mixed with milk heated in the same machine, it is a *cafe con leche*, though locals long ago dropped the word *cafe*.

There is a certain irony about today's Cuban coffee, though, since the beans for it come from everywhere but Cuba. It is, of course, illegal, to import Cuban goods into this country at the moment, so the coffee is blended from other beans to approximate the real thing. Hence, most establishments simply use the already-blended and ground brands from the supermarket.

There are places in town, however, that blend and grind their own and at least one, the new Babie's Place Coffee Bar on Duval Street even roasts its own. Reflecting the growing trend that has the coffeeshops of the 1950s and the Beat Generation (*sans* alcohol and smoking) making a comeback, Babie's is long-overdue in a town as sophisticated and international as Key West.

The centerpiece of Babie's is "babie" herself, a purple-and-brass roaster that fills an entire room. Three times a week, Babie goes into action, roasting, at the moment, some 26 varieties of coffee beans from around the world, much of which is shipped out. However, coffee made from any variety is available at the bar, along with some scrumptious pastries and cakes, I might add.

Four blends of Cuban coffee are listed on the menu, but alongside the listings is a notice stating that one must at least be 21 to buy it. (It turns out that youngsters were coming in alone, plunking some money down on the counter, and demanding a *buche*. Evidently, the word is really out.) In addition to the regular Cuban espresso, described as "dark and stormy," Babie's offers the Amelia Street Jump (Amelia Street was once notorious for its cockfights and other gambling activities), the self-explanatory Duval Crawl and Babie's Private Buzz.

So, regardless of where one chooses to

buy his Cuban coffee, he is most definitely participating in one of Key West's oldest traditions when he drinks it.



## Brew It Yourself

If you're not one to hoof it out to a corner coffee shop for a steamy cup of *con leche*, *buche* or special blend, you can always buy the beans and brew up your own pot. While you can find Cuban coffee in just about any local grocery, there are several shops that sell specialty coffees. Here are two that offer more than 20 selections.

• **The Cook's Bazaar, 516 Fleming Street.** Co-owner Jerry Creeger has been selling coffees for 12 years. Of the shops 24 types, the best selling is Key West Cuban Roast. It's Creeger's own formula, and he won't divulge any specifics about the mysterious blend. Buying from two of the oldest roasters in the country, Cook's Bazaar's choices include Sumatra, from the island of Sumatra, Cream of Hazelnut and Southern Pecan. Also available is their pure-water decaf, which is decaffeinated without the use of chemicals. The shop provides coffee to a local clientele as well as many out-of-towners, including one in Alaska.

• **Heavenly Ham, 911 Toppino Drive.** Known primarily for its scrumptious spiral-cut hams, Heavenly Ham is actually a specialty shop, according to owner David Schobert. Recently he began carrying Superior brand gourmet coffees, which are ground on the premises. The 25 different select beans include Colombia Supremo, Costa Rican, Mocha Java and Premium blends. The best coffee, says Schobert, is the Jamaican Blue Mountain, which is sold by the pound and half-pound, as are all coffees. The shop also sells flavored coffees and blends.

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## RESTAURANT DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Crab Shack**, 908 Caroline Street across from Land's End Village. Fresh seafood served from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., daily. Peel-your-own spicy

steamed shrimp every day. Widest variety of crab dishes on the island. We also cook your catch as you like it. For the landlubber, charbroiled steak and prime rib. Blue plate specials nightly. Dine indoors and out. 294-9658.

**Croissants de France**, 816 Duval Street. A typical french bakery and restaurant serving the best croissants, crepes, and galettes. Also homemade daily soup, salads, quiches, melts. To go or to enjoy in a very pleasant tropical outdoor atmosphere. Great cappuccino and café au lait and of course delectable desserts. The bakery is open every day but Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; the restaurant is open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for breakfast and lunch. 293-2624.

**Dim Sum**, 613 1/2 Duval Street in Key Lime Square. A gourmet Asian restaurant serving exotic Chinese stir-fries, Indian curries and Thai, Indonesian and Burmese specialties. Wine and sake bar. Open 6 to 11 p.m., Wednesday through Monday. 294-6230.

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

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

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

**Full Moon Saloon**, 1220 Simonton Street. "Where locals always visit, and visitors always feel local." Serving 11 a.m. to 4 a.m., daily. Lunch, dinner and late-night specials. Featuring a moderately-priced American menu, including fresh seafood, meats, pastas, salads and sandwiches. 294-9090.

**Half Shell Raw Bar**, Land's End Village, foot of Margaret Street. Serving lunch and dinner till? Freshest shrimp, fish and lobster direct from

their own fish market at the shrimp docks. Cash only. 294-7496.

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

**Larry's Ice Cream & Yogurt**, 1075 Duval Street in Duval Square. Truly gourmet ice cream in scrumptious flavors and fresh-fruit frozen yogurt. Experience a variety of treats inside or out, including ice-cream cakes and pies. Open seven days: Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight. 294-2301.

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

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

**Lucy's**, 1114 Duval St. Enjoy our American cuisine with a southern Cajun influence in a relaxed open atmosphere. Serving breakfast from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 6 to 11 p.m. Wine and beer available. 292-4002.

**Mango's**, 700 Duval Street. Great island cuisine with a Caribbean flavor, local seafood and vegetarian dishes. Daily hours are breakfast, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; lunch, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Happy Hour, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with tropical drinks and munchies; dinner, 6 p.m. til midnight. Outdoor seating right on Duval. Large inside dining room. All major credit cards. 292-4606.

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

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

**Ocean Club Restaurant & Lounge**, at the Reach Resort, Simonton at the beach. Dine under the stars and enjoy gourmet cuisine prepared with Caribbean flair. French pastries baked daily. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, and a Sunday Brunch that many say is "without a doubt the best on the island." Dine oceanfront or indoors. Visit our new piano lounge open Tuesday through Sunday. All major credit cards accepted. 296-5000.

**Paradise Café**, corner of Eaton and

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

**Rich's Café**, at the Eden House, 1015 Fleming Street. A relaxed tropical garden setting with outdoor specials; serving special German beer and wine. Breakfast and lunch, daily, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday brunch, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 296-1183.

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

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

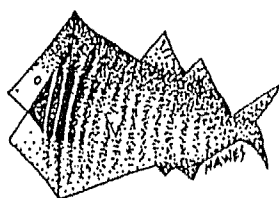
**Savannah**, 915 Duval Street. Fine Southern home cooking featuring dixe delectables like mouth-watering fried chicken, cornbread, collard greens, fresh fish, and unbeatable mash potatoes. Dine in a grand old conch house or outside in a tropical garden setting. Open for dinner daily at 6:30 p.m. 296-6700.

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

**Sugarloaf Lodge Restaurant**, milemarker 17 on U.S. Route 1. Waterfront dining serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Specializing in fresh local seafood, prime rib and filet mignon. Still serving the best drinks around. Dance with deejay Capt. Chuck on Friday and Saturday evenings. Dolphin shows daily at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m. A short drive back to the keys you'll remember. 745-3741.

**Tamarinds**, at Duval Square, 1021 Duval Street. Key West's newest café offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our menu features eggs, grilled seafood, fresh salads, sandwiches, burgers, soups and luscious desserts at affordable prices, presented in an innovative manner with a Caribbean flavor. Enjoy dining inside or outside in our relaxing oasis. Breakfast 8 to 11:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday Brunch 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Takeout available. 294-2809.

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



## Book Review: Celebrities Of Nature

by Sable Max

*Celebrities of Nature: Endangered and Selected Species of Florida; 22 postcards; Light Flight Publications; \$12.95.*

The photographs in Alan Maltz's book, *Celebrities of Nature*, are technically correct, with glorious colors, and grand, portrait-like images; the subject are symmetrically placed in the frame, making them the absolute center of attention. They are truly wonderful as postcards, which is the photographer's intent.

This simplistic view depicts each species more in relationship to the camera than in its interaction with its surroundings. Often, the images appear almost sterile, unreal in their stillness and physical perfection. Considering the fact that the photographs are also postcards and posters makes this perspective quite acceptable. Maltz is very successful in creating a celebrity-status image of the perfect beauty of each species.

Reviewed by Stephen R. Humphrey, curator of ecology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, the captions inform us of the reality behind the image. They present pertinent, often alarming facts concerning the status of each species and the current efforts underway to prevent their extinction. Maltz includes concise, educational information and descriptions about each one, from their origin and physical characteristics, to the changes necessary to protect their survival.

The manatee, floating solo in shades of blue-green, is almost comical, with a slight smile on its face. Maltz presents it as a giant, harmless creature, seemingly content within its spacious home. The caption, however, is disturbing. One is appalled by the careless and unnecessary acts that threaten its survival.

Adding another dimension to each photograph, are the imaginative, thought-provoking titles he has chosen; they provide a delightful interpretation of each image. "Angels of Love," for instance, describes a silhouette of two dolphins, which appear to be surrounded by twinkling stars, as the light reflections sparkle across the ocean's surface.

One of the more creative photographs is of the pink flamingoes. The motion expressed here gives them the appearance of pink ballerinas, delicate and fragile in their dance.

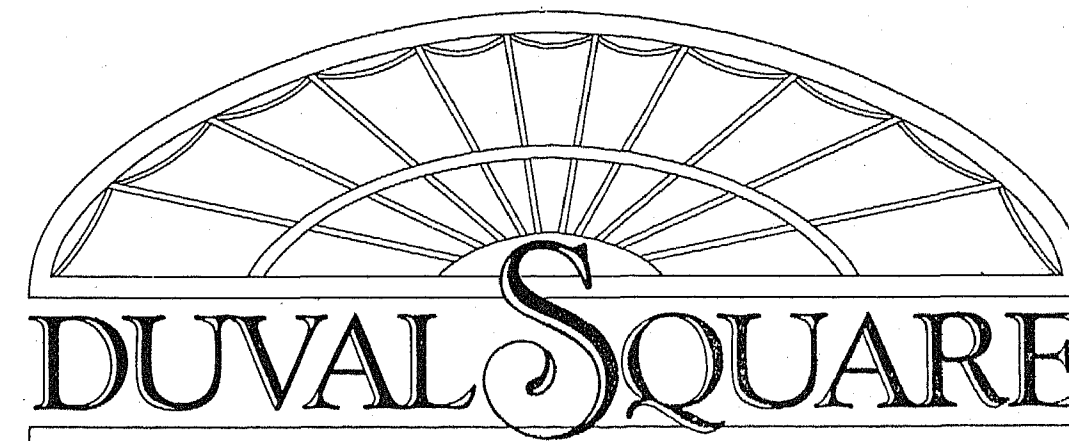
Some of the more outstanding visuals were created by combining compatible images. This caused an interesting size relationship in the photograph of the osprey, perched

upon its nest, juxtaposed against a huge, yellow moon. We see one marvelous creation next to another. The osprey's wings seem to span much wider than the moon. Together they are tied in a mysterious, infinite wisdom within the red darkness.

This book is not only enjoyable, it stimulates our visual senses and satisfies our curiosity. But more than that, it invites us to learn about how our own actions can nega-

tively affect another species, and what we can do to change these circumstances.

Educating the public about ways to preserve these and other species will encourage intervention. This information can be passed along for the price of a stamp. These picture postcards are not just beautiful; they have redeeming value. Share one, or better yet, the entire book, and you will have raised someone's consciousness. ☐



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# CALENDAR • APRIL 16 - 29

## Earth Week 1992

At press time not all event times and locations were available. For additional information contact Kelly LaCombe at 296-6572.

### Global Heart Day Easter Sunday, April 19

1 p.m. • **Underwater Easter Egg Hunt and Concert** at the Marriott's Casa Marina. Including games and children's activities. Fundraiser for Sigsbee Elementary School's Save the Rainforest Campaign.  
6:45 p.m. • **Benediction** (non-denominational) at Mallory Square. Kicks-off Earth Week.

### Global Environmental Awareness Day Monday, April 20

**Environmental Window Display Contest** • Takes place throughout the City of Key West.  
**Carpool Campaign/Ride a Bike to Work** • Takes place throughout Monroe County.  
**Clinton Square Dedication** • Tree planting by Key West Business Guild.

**A Hamaca Park Replanting** by the City of Key West  
Tuesday, April 21  
Government Road Clean Up and Truman Annex Base Clean Up •

Hosted by Sigsbee Elementary School and U.S. Navy.  
**Bahama Village Clean Up** • Hosted by the Key West Jaycees and the Neighborhood Improvement Association.  
**"In the Company of Whales"** • A feature-length documentary in addition to a fundraiser for The Whale Conservation Institute.

### Global Earth Day/ Report Card Day

Wednesday, April 22  
**Island City Plant-a-Tree Day Proclamation** • Coordinated by the City of Key West, Key West Chamber of Commerce and Monroe County Schools.  
7 p.m. • **Adopt-a-Block Awards** by the Daughters of the Conch Republic.  
9 p.m. • **Environmental Film Festival** on TCI Channel 5.

### Global Eco-Tourism Day Thursday, April 23

6:30 p.m. • **Environmental Symposium, "Business in the Environment"** at the Pier House Resort and Caribbean Spa with guest speakers featuring Bruce Anderson, president of Earth Day USA, Rep. Ron Saunders, Craig Quirolo, and others.

**Global Networking Day**  
Friday, April 24  
Stargazer's 7th Addition to the Environmental Artificial Reef Pro-

gram • Presented by Ann Labriola  
7:30 p.m. • **Cocktail Reception** at the Casa Marina Resort with a Live Remote Telecast and an Environmental Rock Opera.  
8 p.m. • **Statewide airing of TCI's "Environmental Film Festival"** • serving 1.2 million people.  
10 p.m. • **Awards for Environmental Window Display Contest.**

**Global City Clean-Up Day**  
Saturday, April 25  
**Key West Clean Up of Smathers Beach** • with the Key West Jaycees and the City of Key West.

12 p.m. • **NAS Officer Women's Club Boca Chica Road Clean Up** on Big Coppitt Key.  
2 p.m. • **Dedication of Cozumel Park** by the City of Key West on 19th Terrace.  
**Grand Finale "Above and Below Water Symphony Concert"** at the Pier House Resort and Caribbean Spa.

**Sunday, April 26**  
10 a.m. • **Sixth Annual Outer Island Clean-Up** sponsored by Reef Relief.



ENCORE: Dottie Martin, who has been a regular cast member of "Key West Classics," will appear again this year.

## Culture

4/16 • Classical guitarist Matthew Jampol in Concert 7:30 p.m. at the Museum of Natural History of the Florida Keys

in Marathon. For information, call (305) 743-9100.

4/16-4/18, 4/22-4/25 • **Talley's Folly** by playwright Lanford Wilson at 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

4/16-4/26 • **Six Women With Brain Death—Or Expiring Minds Want To Know**, a musical revue at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911 for ticket information.

4/18 • **Elektra**, opera by Richard Strauss 1:30 p.m. on KEY 93 Radio.

4/24-4/25 • **The Annual Key West Classics** at 8 p.m. at the Waterfront Playhouse. Showcasing a vast array of local performers. Call 294-5015 for ticket information.

## Events

4/16 • **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** 4 p.m. at Florida Keys Community College. Dedication of FKCC's new Ron Saunders Student Center.

4/18 • **Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt** at 10 a.m. at East Martello Towers. All children and toddlers through grade three are invited to participate. \$2 entry fee. Special appearance by Rick Fowler as the Easter Bunny.

4/18 • **Art Show and Easter Hunt** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Overseas Market in Key West.

4/19 • **Pier House Resort's Mad Hatter Party** featuring a hat contest, parade, entertainment and brunch. Sign up for the parade contest will be held in the

Wine Galley from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the parade beginning at 2 p.m. For more information, call 296-4600, ext. 591.

4/25-4/26 • **14th Annual Indian Key Festival** featuring fun-filled historical re-creations, displays and events. A 10-minute boat ride from mile marker 78.5, bayside on the Overseas Highway, will transport visitors to Indian Key for \$3. For more information, call 1-800-FAB-KEYS.

4/25 • **Key West Business Guild's Citizen of the Year Awards Dinner** at 7 p.m. at the Pier House Caribbean Spa Conference Center followed by dinner at 8 p.m. For reservations, call 294-5135.

4/25-4/26 • **Key West Garden Club's Plant Ramble** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the West Martello Towers. On sale will be plants, shrubs, vines, flowering trees, natives and exotics. Admission is free. For more information, call 294-3210.

4/26 • **Second Annual Conch Chowder Cook-Off** at 1 p.m. at the Ramada Inn Tiki Bar, 3420 N. Roosevelt. All proceeds benefit Monroe County Special Olympics. For information, call Ann Esposito at 294-5541.

4/26 • **Sixth Annual Reef Relief Out-Island Clean Up** focusing on the Key West-area out-islands of Boca Grande, Man/Woman Keys and Snipe Point. Volunteers should meet at Reef Relief at 10 a.m. For more information, call 294-3100.

4/26 • **Jack Daniel's Bung Pitching Tournament** 2 p.m. at the Ramada Inn Tiki Bar, 3420 N. Roosevelt. All proceeds benefit Monroe County Special Olympics. For information, call Ann Esposito at 294-5541.

4/29-5/2 • **Grady Patrick Invitational Backcountry Fishing Tournament** on Plantation Key. For information, call George Williams at (305) 367-2661.

4/29-5/2 • **Texaco-Hemingway Key West Classic** featuring offshore and in-shore divisions with large cash prizes. For more information, call Michael Whalton at 294-4440.

## Special Interest

4/16 • **AIDS Education for Health Professionals** 6 to 10 p.m. at Florida Keys Community College. Course provides mandatory AIDS education for health-care re-licensing requirements in Florida. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 282.

4/21 • **AIDS Prevention, Safe Sex and Anonymous Testing Seminar** 6 p.m. at the AIDS Help Activities Center, 2700 Flagler Ave. For information, call 296-6196.

4/22-4/23 • **"In Bloom,"** a two-day event with luncheons, speakers and designer arrangements assimilating art with flowers at the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale. For information, call (305) 525-5500.

4/23 • **Special Delivery/Childbirth Preparation Class** 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays through May 28 at Monroe County Public Health Unit. For information, call 296-9081, ext. 282.

4/27, 4/30 • **Community CPR** 6 to 10 p.m. at Florida Keys Community College Middle Keys Center. Course provides training within the standards of the American Red Cross. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 282.

4/28 • **HIV and Important Legal Matters Seminar** 6 p.m. at the AIDS Help Activities Center, 2700 Flagler Ave. For information, call 296-6196.

4/28 • **AIDS Education for Cosmetologists and Barbers** 6 to 10 p.m. at the Florida Keys Community College Mid-

dle Keys Center. Course provides mandatory AIDS education for healthcare re-licensing requirements in Florida. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 282.

4/28, 5/1 • **Standard First Aid** 6 to 10 p.m. at Florida Keys Community College Middle Keys Center. Course includes training in CPR, bleeding control, treatment of shock all in the standards of the American Red Cross. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 282.

4/28-6/1 • **Special Delivery/Childbirth Preparation Class** 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Tavernier Monroe County Public Health Unit. For more information, call 296-9081, ext. 282.

## Meetings

4/16 • **CES Special Meeting** 5 p.m. in the Louis Carbonell Board Room located in the William Arnold Service building, 1001 James Street. Focus of the meeting is transmission line engineering proposals. Call 294-5272.

4/16 • **Key West Planning Board Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/21 • **County Commission Meeting** 9 a.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/21 • **City Commission Meeting** 7 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/22 • **County Commission Meeting** 9 a.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/23 • **Code Enforcement Board Meeting** 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

4/24 • **CES Bid Opening Session** 10 a.m. in the Louis Carbonell Board Room located in the William Arnold Service building, 1001 James Street. Call 294-5272.

4/25 • **Monroe County League of Women Voters Annual Meeting** 11:30 a.m. at Sombro Country Club in Marathon. Featuring keynote speaker Sydel Barnes-LeGrande, M.D. For reservations, call Lisa Versaci at 294-0759.

4/27 • **KWAMI Meeting** (Key West Alliance for the Mentally Ill) 7:30 p.m. at the Care Center for Mental Health, 4th Street and Patterson. Featuring guest speaker John Cooper, director of the psychiatry unit of the Lower Florida Keys Health System, who will outline services offered. The public is invited. For more information, call Helen at 294-4875 or Mary at 294-9905.

## Ongoing

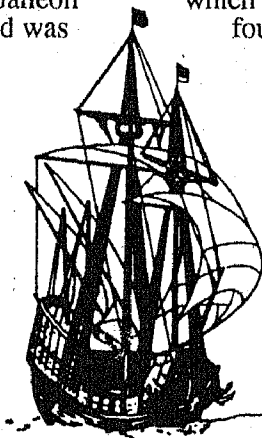
**Adult Children of Alcoholics** meets Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 p.m. at Holy Innocents Church, 901 Flagler Avenue. Call 296-3286. **"A Course in Miracles"** study group meets at the Crystal Loft, mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine, every Monday at 8 to 9 p.m. Call 872-9390.

**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,

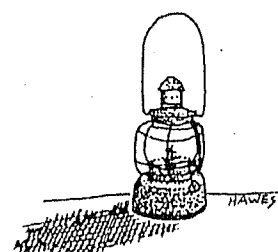
## Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society Museum

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She lay on the ocean floor for over 360 years. She held in her hold the wealth of the new world and the hopes of the Spanish Empire. For 16 years a man of adventure sought her. Mel Fisher had the courage and the vision to find her. The Atocha! The spirited, legendary "Golden Galleon" which disappeared in 1622 and was found in 1985. Learn the stories! Share the glories!



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

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

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

**Bereavement Support Group**, a ten-week closed group for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close. Meets Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Free of cost. For more information, call Charmaine Jordan at 294-8812 or Pam Soucy at 292-6843.

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

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

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

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

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

**Cancer Support Group for Cancer Patients** meets Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m.

in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8196.

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

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

**Childbirth Classes** begin monthly at Key West and Big Pine locations. Sponsored by The March of Dimes and FKCC. The course is affordable for everyone. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

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

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

**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.

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

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

**Gurdjieff and Ouspensky Reading and Discussion Group** meets 7 p.m. every Monday at Unity Church, 3424 Duck Avenue. For information, call 292-4964.

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

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

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

**Key West Community Band** meets in the Key West High School Band Room Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone who can play and read music is invited. Bring your own instrument. For information, call June MacArthur at 294-9329.

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

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

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

**Key West Rowing Club** meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in their historic boathouse at the Land's End Marina. For membership information, call 292-7984.

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

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

**KWAMI (Key West Alliance for the Mentally Ill)** holds monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Care Center for Mental Health, 4th Street and Patterson Avenue. Each meeting will feature a guest speaker or special program. Call Helen at 294-4875 or Mary at 294-9905.

**KWAMI Come Back Club-Project Return**, a self-help social club where people with emotional disturbances and mental illnesses gather with KWAMI members. Group meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Peace Covenant Church, 2610 Flagler Avenue. Call Helen Gerbracht at 294-4875.

**KWAMI Share and Care Support Group** for families and friends of people with mental illness meets 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Care Center for Mental Health, 4th Street and Patterson Avenue. Free of charge and open to all. Call Helen at 294-4875 or Mary at 294-9905.

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

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

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

**Literacy Volunteers of America** meets 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month and offers volunteer training programs as well as workshops. LVA also offers one-to-one tutoring for adults in basic reading and math, GED preparation, or English as a second language. Call 294-4352.

**Literacy Volunteers of Monroe County** is seeking volunteers to help in

working with the media and in teaching others to read. Students are also needed. Call Lisa Snyder at 294-4352.

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

**Lower Keys Friends of Animals** helps animals that are victims of misfortune. Group meets 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings at the Ramada Inn. For membership information call 294-7467 or 296-3926.

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

## Entertainment

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

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

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

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

**Club Havana** • The Pier House at 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

**Cocoanuts 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.

**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.

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

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

**Mango's** • 700 Duval Street. Voodoo at Mango's for the month of April: *Insomnia* with deejay Curtis Lee Friday nights; *Vision* on sound by London Loudboy Tony V Saturday nights; *Meister Lee & phonic phind Utopia* Monday nights; *T.V. Rush into Liz's spaceship playground* Tuesday nights. Call 292-4606.

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

ner every Friday night from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. *Sam Anderson* on guitar every Saturday from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Island dancing with *The Survivors* on the last Sunday of every month. Call 745-3030.

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

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

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

**Nick's Bar and Grill** • Hyatt Key West 601 Front Street. Mel and Tracey Wed-Sun, 7 to 11 p.m.

**Nightfall** • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. *Mickey and Squirt* 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a spectacular sunset nightly. Call 296-5000.

**Ocean Club Lounge** • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. *Larry Smith* on piano 7 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Drink specials and canapes. Call 296-5000.

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

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

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

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

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

**Red's Place** • Corner of Duval and Caroline, behind The Bull. *The Carl Davis Group* plays blues-plus nightly from 9:30 to ?

**Rooftop Café** • 310 Front Street. Vocalists *Cathy Grier* or *Leanna Collins* alternating nightly either 3 to 9 p.m. or 9 p.m. to midnight. Call 294-2042.

**Schooner Wharf** • 202 William Street. Every Thursday jam session with 10 to 15 musicians. Every Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. songwriters group where local songwriters sing their latest. Call 292-9520.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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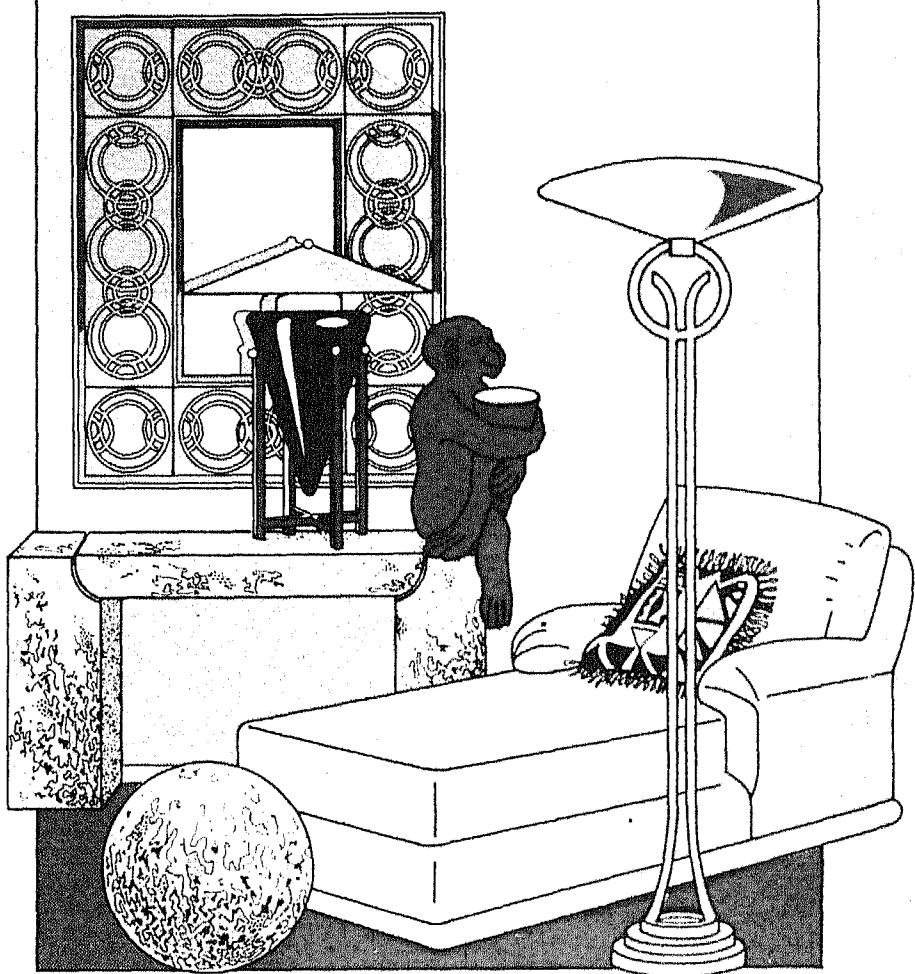
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Raw Bar	Sandwiches
Half Dozen Oysters.....3.95	(Platters 1.50 extra include French Fries & Cole Slaw)
Half Dozen Clams.....3.95	Fried Dolphin Sandwich.....4.25
1/4 Lb. Iced Steamed Shrimp.....3.95	Grilled Chicken Breast.....3.75
Stone Crab Claws.....Market	Hamburger.....3.50
	Cheeseburger.....4.00
	Shrimp Salad Sandwich.....4.75
	Crab Salad Sandwich.....5.25
	Deep Fried Crab Cake Sandwich.....5.95

Appetizers	Seafood Platters
Conch Chowder.....2.50	Served with French Fries, Cole Slaw & Garlic Bread
Seafood Chowder.....2.50	Deluxe Seafood Basket.....7.75
Conch Fritters.....3.50	Dolphin, Broiled or Fried.....4.95
Fried Fish Fingers.....3.25	Fried Stuffed Dolphin.....5.95
Shrimp Cocktail.....7.50	Fried Jumbo Shrimp.....9.95

Salads
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Shrimp Salad.....6.25
Tropical Chicken Salad.....4.75
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