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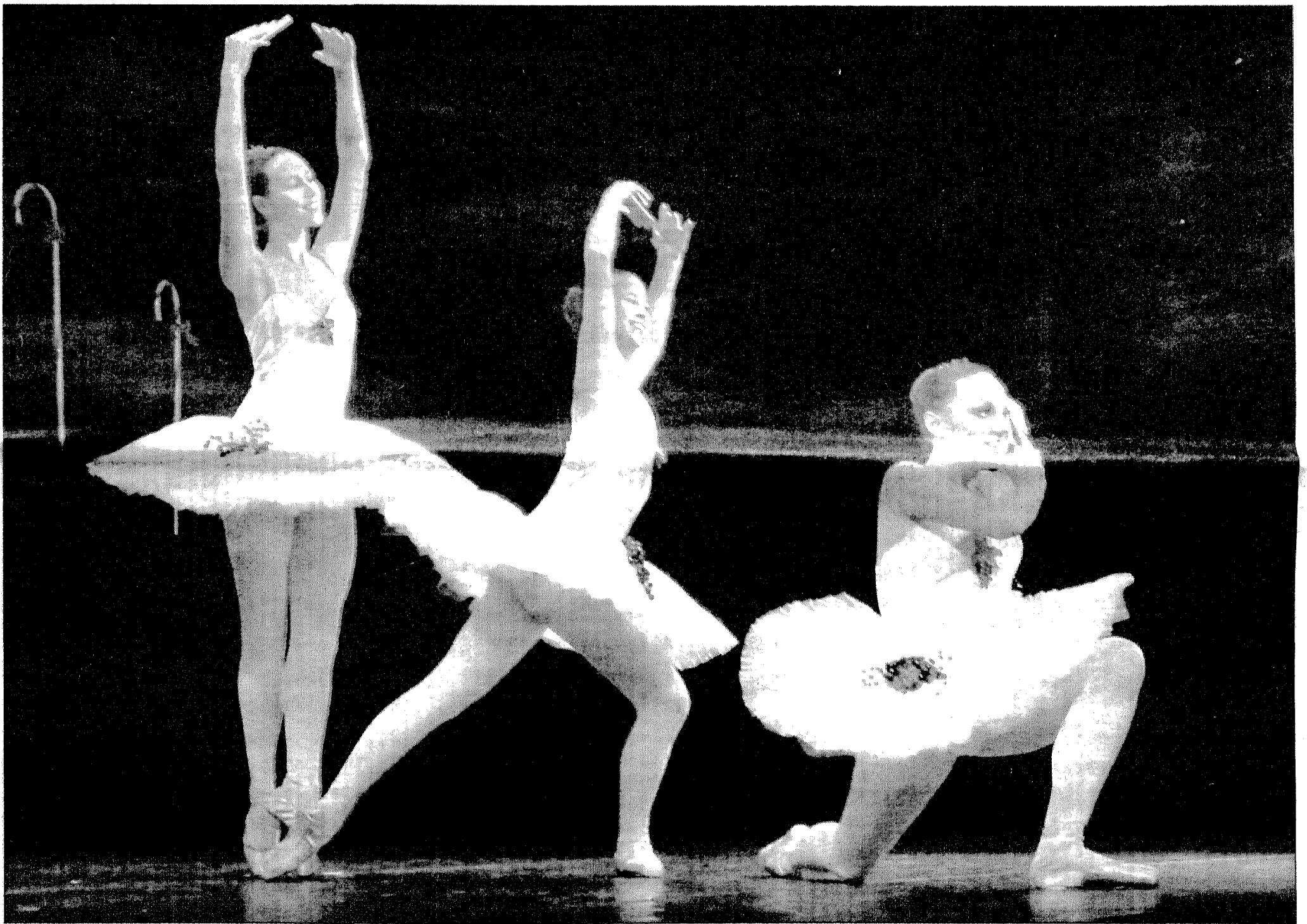
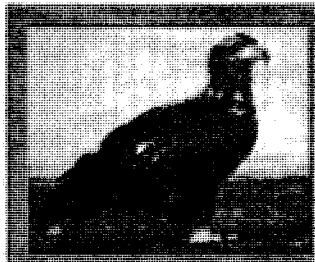


Photo by Renny Severance

The Marzipan Dancers, Elizabeth Case, Emily Case and Morgan Leppanen dance in the Gulfshore Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* at Schein Hall at BIG ARTS on Saturday, Dec. 21. More photos are on page 2B and Marsha Wagner's review will appear in next week's *Islander*.

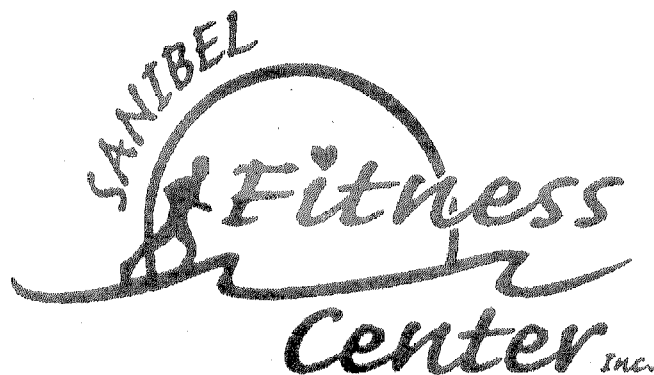


Bev Postmus explores the beauty and fascination of eagles in their habitats on our barrier islands.

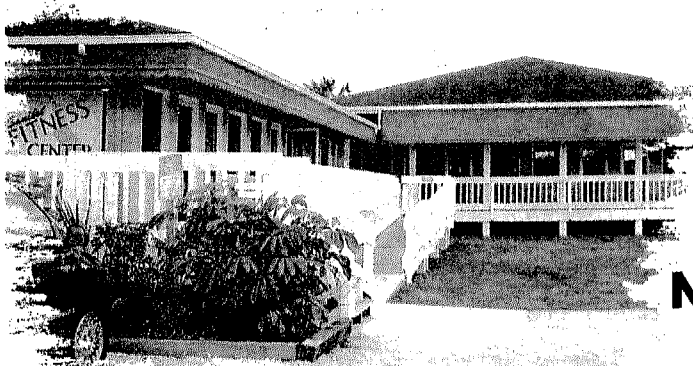
See page 9.

What are you doing for New Year's Eve? Some of the more entertaining possibilities are explored beginning on page 1B.





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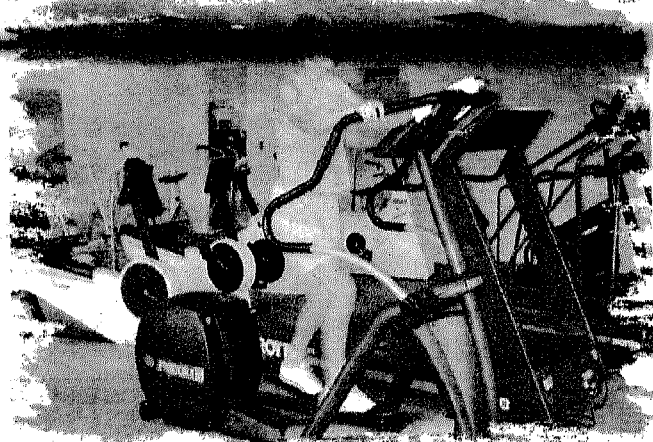
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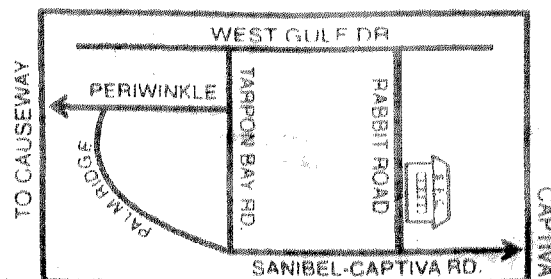
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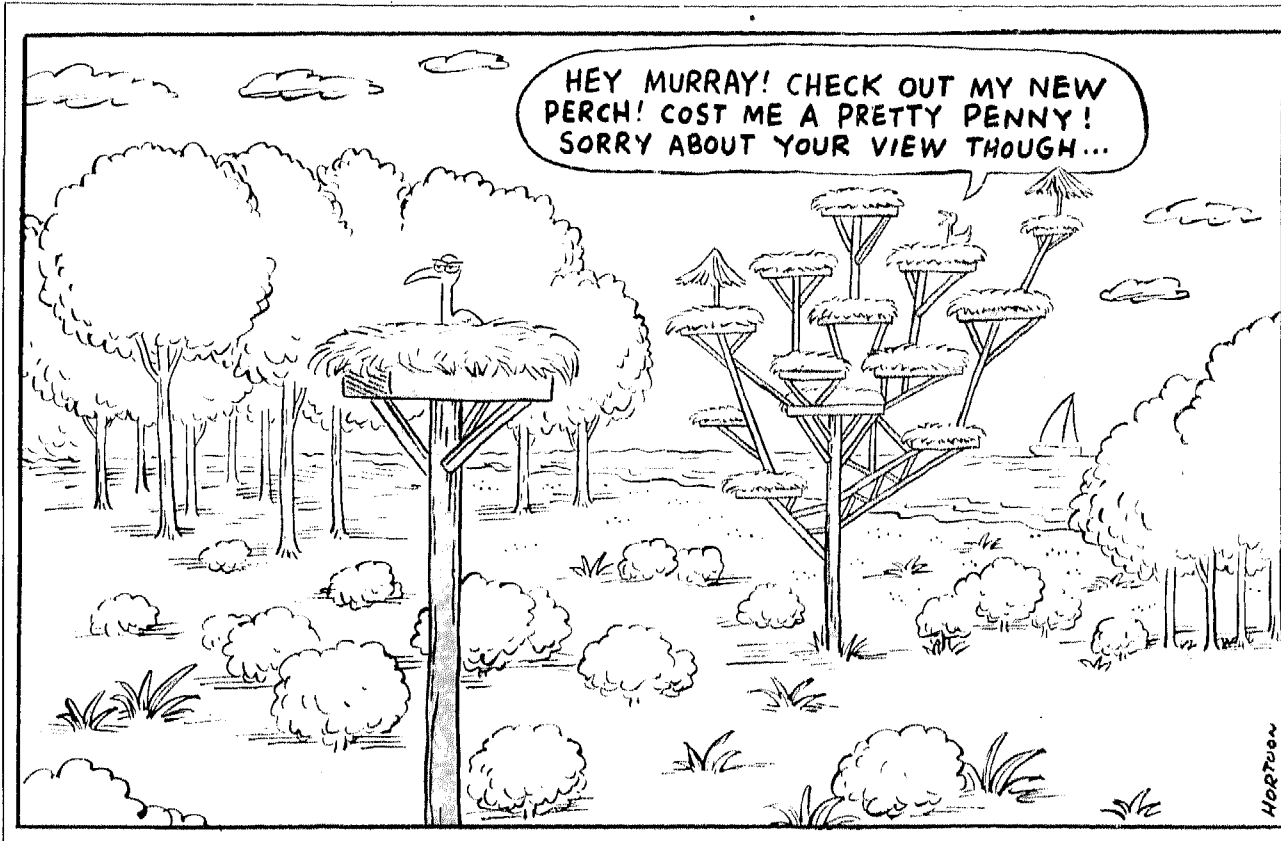
TOO MUCH SUN



Dave Horton



Lee Horton



UP PERISCOPE

"At first the letters just trickled in to the United Nations Population Fund. A dollar here, five dollars there. It was enough to buy a few birthing kits or cure one 14-year-old mother of the silent plague of fistula."

That's the first paragraph of this past Sunday's Ellen Goodman column. It was the headline that caught my eye: "Steady stream of donations defies Bush policy."

"Now, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," Goodman continues. "Every day 500 or 600 more letters arrive in the New York office from Americans bearing gifts to women overseas."

It seems that, shortly after President Bush reneged on the \$34 million slated for the international family planning effort, two women — both outraged at the policy — had the same thought. One, a retired French teacher, wrote a scathing letter to the editor of her local paper; the other, a lawyer, sent out an e-mail calling family planning "a human-

ANNE BELLEW
Associate Editor

itarian issue, not a political one." And each of them, independently, asked the question, What would happen if 34 million Americans each gave a dollar to make up for the money? Amateurish? You bet. Making a point? 34 Million Friends are on their way!

It's not just the U.N. Population Fund. As Goodman points out, "From the moment Bush was sworn into office, his administration sacrificed international family planning to the farthest tip of the right wing of his party." First the gag rule: No money if an agency provides information about abortions. Then the UNPFA. Even worse, at the world conference in Bangkok to implement the 1994 U.N. Cairo agreement on population, the U.S. delegates — instead of talking about gender equality and pover-

ty, contraception and HIV — wanted to discuss natural family planning and delete any reference to "reproductive health." Basically, they went to Bangkok to unravel the agreement. Incidentally, among the delegates was a former Vatican representative and a woman who spoke extensively on her successful use of the rhythm method.

Goodman observes, "If Trent Lott is nostalgic for the wonderful yesteryear before civil rights, this administration is nostalgic for the days before women's rights. Is it any wonder that some Americans have responded to 34 Million Friends?" It took months to reach the first \$100,000, mere weeks to add \$50,000. This "amateurish" effort comes with an address, "a place where we can offer aid as well as dissent, a dollar as well as a message of connection to the women of the world" — U.S. Committee for UNPFA, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017.

Happy New Year!

COLUMNISTS

Fishing & Shelling
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The Metastatic Life
Lisa Pierot
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Center Stage
Marsha Wagner
— page 14



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HAPPENINGS

"You Drink. You Drive. You Lose" mobilization begins

The Lee County Sheriff's Office will be conducting special DUI enforcement operations during the Christmas and New Year's holidays to identify and arrest impaired drivers as part of the "You Drink. You Drive. You Lose" mobilization.

The special project is running from Dec. 20, 2002 through Jan. 5. Law enforcement agencies across Florida are mobilizing to save lives during the holidays.

"Many people choose to celebrate the holidays with alcohol," Sheriff Rod Shoap said. "Unfortunately, some of these people also choose to drive after drinking. They pose a serious threat to law-abiding citizens. That is why we are intensifying our efforts to arrest impaired drivers before they kill or injure others."

A DUI saturation patrol is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 27, beginning at 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 28, starting at 10 p.m. The operations will take place in various areas throughout the county. Additional operations may be scheduled before the special project is over.

"We encourage everyone to act responsibly during the holidays," Shoap said. "If you intend to drink, make arrangements to get home safely. Use a designated driver, public transportation, or a taxi. Remember... You Drink. You Drive. You Lose."

Carol Sing nets more than a ton of food

Residents who attended the 12th Annual Holiday Carol Sing at Harborside Convention Center last week contributed more than one ton of food to benefit The Soup Kitchen operated by Community Cooperative Ministries on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. That should be enough to feed the hungry for about three months next summer, according to event organizers.

The Holiday Carol Sings are sponsored annually by the Galloway Family of Dealerships.

"This is the largest amount of food we receive during the year," said Betsey Murin, executive director of Community Cooperative Ministries. "We are so grateful to the people of Southwest Florida for seeing how important it is to make sure that people in our community are not hungry."

About 3,000 people attended the performance, which featured an old-fashioned sing-along with choirs and orchestras of all ages from local schools and churches, a visit from Santa Claus — even a gentle dusting of snow!

In addition to the food, many of those who attended gave donations to the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, which administers a fund established by Foundation President Sam Galloway, Jr., and his family that benefits Community Cooperative Ministries.

"It is so gratifying to see that so many people feel as I do that no one in our community should go to bed hungry. Many people may not be aware that this is happening in our own backyards. What a wonderful Christmas gift to give someone a full stomach," Galloway said.

The annual Holiday Carol Sing is a major benefit for Community Cooperative Ministries, a small non-profit organization that serves hot meals to more than 150 people per day and operates a child care center for 49 children of low income parents.

Women's Club to meet

The Sanibel-Captiva Christian Women's Club will journey to "Faraway Places" at their luncheon on Jan. 9, at Sundial from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Helen Brooks will speak on "Bars on the Doors, but Not on My Heart — Held in a Communist Prison." Music will be presented by Jim and Glenna Irwin.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15 inclusive. Please call Eva Barbour at 454-6948 or Jean Wilson at 472-2017 for required reservations. Reservations made but not honored must be paid for.

Holiday House extended

This year, Holiday House at the Edison-Ford Winter Estates fills new areas around the Banyan Tree and research gardens as well as the 14 acres of the Estates. There is more room also for the nightly live musical performances, as well as evening hours for the museum, the store and the garden shop. In addition, it was announced last week, Holiday House viewing has been extended an additional six days to Saturday, Jan. 4.

Tickets may be purchased in advance or

Holiday Closings

Sanibel City Hall offices will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. They will re-open Thursday, Jan. 2 at 8 a.m.

All garbage, recycling and vegetation waste collection by Florida Recycling Services scheduled for New Year's Day will be one day later. Therefore, if your normal pickup day is Wednesday, your waste will be picked up on Thursday and one day later the remainder of the week. The normal waste collection schedule will be followed on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

All City of Sanibel Recreation facilities (Civic Center and Recreation Center) will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The facilities will resume normal operating hours Thursday, Jan. 2.

For further information, please call City Hall at 472-3700 or access the city's website at mysanibel.com.

at the door — adults \$6, children \$1. Special rates are available for groups who schedule in advance by calling 334-7419.

Economist to talk at SCA

Nationally recognized economist Ted Jones, Ph.D. will discuss "Oil Prices, Interest Rates, Real Estate and the Economy" at a free seminar to be held on Thursday, Jan. 9, from 3 - 5 p.m. at the Sanibel Community House.

Dr. Jones appears at the invitation of Executive Title Insurance Services on Sanibel. More information on the seminar is from Gilda Suarez at 472-8228.



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THE METASTATIC LIFE

"God Bless the child that's got his own..."

—Billie Holiday

My younger sister, Carrie, came down with her kids last week. They live up in Virginia. Carrie lost her husband and the children their father five years ago this week in a car accident. He was supposed to meet them for pizza and he never made it... It seems impossible that so much time has gone by.

I'm quick to point out that most kids who are between the ages of, say, 12 and 17 are rarely my favorite people to be around. Speaking from my own personal experience with my own personal children, I can honestly say that I would be happy to hibernate during a large portion of their teenage years.

But there is always an exception. And my nephew, Nick, is definitely one of them. Nick was Carrie's firstborn. He started out with colic and later around the age of two developed quite a liking for shoes. Any shoes. He was just as happy parading around in my high heels as his father's loafers. Nick was a very happy kid. I have old videotapes of him dancing on top of the coffee table at the age of 4. A sister and a brother would later join him and, even before his father died, he was protective of his siblings.

Nick's father had diabetes and we discovered when he was nine that Nick also had the disease. He had asthma, too, which

complicated things even more. Any medications he took to control the asthma often caused wild fluctuations in his blood sugar levels. There were countless trips to the emergency room. But he was always a trooper. Like most kids, he also hated needles. And, even though he had to learn to give himself shots in the stomach — sometimes as often as three times a day — he consistently followed a ritual of pinching the skin where he was going to inject himself long enough that it hurt more than the needle going in.

Nick is artistic. He loves reptiles. He's a Lord of the Rings devotee. It was his father's favorite book and now it's his. Last year when the first movie came out, it was coincidentally the anniversary of his father's death. The whole family went that day and Nick would see it many more times, including once with me when they were down for Christmas last year.

I know what the average 15-year old is like. They can be surly and lazy and generally believe they know everything. They don't like to pick up after themselves and often have to be pushed to do their schoolwork. With Nick, it's as though he has always understood that his life is about other people more than himself. He works hard in school and helps out without being asked. I don't think I've ever heard him use foul language. And the thing is, he's not a goody-two-shoes either. He's great to be with —

Life, see page 7



Lisa Pierot

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Housekeeper leaves \$250k for scholarship

A Fort Myers woman who served 40 years as a housekeeper and cook for two Southwest Florida families has left more than a quarter million dollars to establish a scholarship fund for members of her church.

Edna Merita (Broome) Swain, who died June 13 at age 83, left the funds to the Southwest Florida Community Foundation to establish the Edna and Felix Swain Scholarship Fund. The Fund will award scholarships to "deserving individuals who are members of the Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church, to be used for college, vocational, graduate, or professional education." Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church is located on Orange Street in the Dunbar neighborhood of Fort Myers.

According to Suzanne Brinson Clapp of St. James City, whom Swain helped raise, Edna lived simply frugally. She was a widow and had no children of her own. Clapp was Swain's financial advisor along with her brother, Donald Brinson. Clapp was named personal representative for her estate.

"She hated to spend money," Clapp said. "She loved children and her church, and when I suggested the scholarship, it seemed such a relief to her."

"We were astounded when we heard about this Scholarship Fund," said Paul B. Flynn, executive director of the Foundation. "Edna Swain was a modest, hard-working woman who clearly saved all her life to be able to leave a legacy for the future generations of the community she loved."

Flynn said the Fund's proceeds will generate about \$9,000 in its first year, and will grow as the Foundation invests the fund as

an endowment. Scholarship awards will be made by a committee from the church.

Clapp described Edna Swain as "a joyful person. Her smile, laughter, and humor were contagious."

Swain worked for A. Donald and Louise Bass, and later for their daughter and son-in-law, Melville G. and Sidney Ann Brinson, at the Bass ranch located on what is now College Parkway, between McGregor Boulevard and Winkler Avenue. (The property now includes a Publix supermarket and a new apartment complex.)

Suzanne Clapp and her brothers, Donald and Brin Brinson, were close to Swain. "What she really did was to help raise and love all of us," Clapp said.

Edna was born in 1918 in Bartow, Fla. and attended Union Academy High School in Bartow before moving to Fort Myers. She was a licensed cosmetologist and, according to Clapp, often cut and styled hair on her front porch free when people couldn't afford to pay her.

Swain also left her home near the corner of Palm Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Fort Myers to her church. She served as a deaconess and a member of the Sanctuary Choir at Mount Olive A.M.E. Church.

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation is a public foundation that manages more than 230 funds for a variety of charitable purposes. It has assets of more than \$23.5 million and is governed by a board of Trustees.

Further information about the Foundation is available by calling 274-5900.

FISHING & SHELLING

Keep the barnacles under control and your eyes peeled for dolphins

There is no need for me to check the calendar to see which season we are in because one look at the water line of my boat tells me we are approaching the coldest time of year.

What is the key? The various grasses, and particularly the barnacle shells that attach to the sides and bottom of the boat stop growing. Those of us who have our boats in the water all the time can just about hear barnacles growing on the bottom in the height of the summer months, when the water can reach almost 90 degrees. Near the surface of a shallow protected harbor, the top couple of inches or so can even go beyond that.

Occasionally, someone asks about whether there is a growing season for living shells. From what I have seen, cold water and weather significantly slow down growth and that's why the boat bottoms are easier to keep clean in the winter months.

Barnacles just may be the fastest growing of all shells. I try to brush my boat's water line once a week in the warmer months, but just one missed session will find small barnacles the size of a pinhead starting to form.

The bottom paint I use costs about \$150 per gallon and is engineered to release toxins which repel shells and grasses, but it soon leaches out and after about a year, there is little left to fight off the elements. Brushing helps, but only a new coat of paint will really give protection. The more barnacles and growth, the slower the boat goes, and with it goes fuel economy, so keeping the living things off the bottom is a big deal.

I was noticing the fine grass on the hull sides the other day. In the summer, I could brush it off and it a few days, it would be right back on. This time of year, the return is much slower.

The common barnacle certainly isn't much of a collector shell, but in its own way of attaching to boat bottoms, docks,

pillings, and just about anything under the sea, it is the most expensive shell in light of the damage it can cause.

Fishing news

Something that confuses just about all of us is this business of what we see in the water — is it a dolphin or a porpoise? I've never seen a porpoise in our island waters. What we are seeing is the bottle nosed dolphin. There are many varieties of these around the world. They always have a snout, while the thicker bodied porpoise have a more whale-like appearance. Both animals are members of the whale family.

At times, dolphins appear to be a dark gray color, and

at other times, the top is black and the belly a lighter color. They can alter the color when it is to their advantage to be able to blend in with the surroundings while looking for food.

Lots of shell collectors tell me they will see them close to shore in the shallow waters between sand bars off the southern side of Sanibel Island. There are a series of these lower areas where mullet, sea trout, snook and redfish can be caught at the bottom of the tide.

Dolphins work in teams, sometimes driving fish to waiting members. I've seen a particularly lucky dolphin toss an unwanted fish to another dolphin. Also, they will throw fish back and forth in play.

Dolphins are always at the top of the list of things to watch while on the water. They are perfectly safe to be around, and although they don't want to be touched in the wild, they will come within a few yards of swimmers or waders. There is one curious thing, however. When dolphins rise to the surface and take short gulps of air, it is called porpoising!

Good shelling and fishing this week.



Capt. Mike Fuery

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Reaching for the heavenly prize

"Your father is not much of a joiner," my mother used to say. He had a small circle or two of very close friends, and a reputation for integrity, and not much use for flashy clubs.

I'm not much of a joiner either, I've learned. (Was it Groucho Marx who said, "I don't want to belong to any club that will accept me as a member.") I was, for a time, a non-resident member of a yacht club elsewhere in the past, but that didn't make sense since I had no boat and didn't live close enough to enjoy the dining room. More recently, I was a member of the Augusta Country Club, a beautiful facility a couple of blocks from our home with a golf course abutting Augusta National, home of the Masters. The membership came with the job: it belonged to the Rector of Saint Paul's Church. Not being a golfer, I used the club, which had an enlightened membership policy, almost solely to entertain guests of the church. Finally there was a city club, across the street from the church, which had an open membership policy and had figured out it was to their advantage to have the Rector as a member. The church used the Rector's membership for events there.

Lately, I've been flattered to be invited to join a bridge group and a great service organization here; I was sorry to admit I'm not a bridge player, but I'm still tempted by the service club. As a young adult I had been chosen by one of the chapters of that club to go abroad on a goodwill tour, but church commitments prevented me from going.

These days I am a member of one outfit that, at its best, has to do with history and service. Its roots go back to the Revolution. And I belong to one other organization that, at its worst, is likewise centered on merely history and merely doing good for its members and others.

The church, at its worst, is a hide-bound circle that worships its own tradition — or as much of its traditional paraphernalia as it can muster. (Remember, I grew up in the South, in a coastal Episcopal parish founded almost 100 years before the Revolutionary War. I can just hear some of my ancestors spinning in their graves as I try to sort out mere tradition from real appreciation of our heritage of faith.) The

church, at its worst, does a poor job of what some service organizations do well — work for the betterment of the community.

There's nothing wrong with real tradition, and there's nothing wrong with serving the community and its members. But the church without a guiding Spirit, compelling it to deeper love and to combating evil, is "as weak as water" as my Grandfather used to say.

And so, as one who loves the value of real tradition, and as one who honors the service of others, I have to push myself to pray that I have the courage to press on, as Saint Paul says "toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

The quest for the heavenly prize, the upward call, has many human expressions. For Paul, and for me, it is the Christian's longing — not for the past nor even a quest for the future — but for God's eternal presence in the here and now, as well as in his Kingdom in its fullness.

I had the opportunity recently to think about history, and about the human quests for immortality, and the quest of the human spirit for the One for whom we long so deeply.

Last month I got connected with the launch of the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

Endeavour is named after the first ship commanded by the 18th century British explorer, James Cook. On its maiden voyage in 1768, Cook sailed into the South Pacific and around Tahiti to observe the passage of Venus between the Earth and the Sun. During another leg of the journey, Cook discovered New Zealand, surveyed Australia and navigated the Great Barrier Reef.

School children chose the name of this ship for the space shuttle Endeavour which replaced Challenger. It is now 10 years old.

I've been with my children on a replica of the original ship in Charleston Harbor. My wife and I have stood in Captain Cook's house in the harbor of Whitby, England and looked at the site of Fishburne Shipyard. It was that shipyard which built the original Endeavour. And it was a group of the members of that shipbuilding family who built a ship for themselves and left everything familiar behind to sail to the New World, landing at

Charleston, very near the site which would later house that yacht club to which I once belonged.

And so, there is a place in my heart and imagination for this Endeavour, this shuttle to space and adventure, meant to orbit the earth and return.

As I looked heavenward at the launch just before Thanksgiving, I was taken once again by how vast God's creation is and how small we are. The human spirit is not small, however, and we have something in us that reaches beyond ourselves.

As the sky lit up and the ground shook in that night launch, my spirit soared, too. My wife, Sarah, said she experienced emotions she had not felt since the birth of our children, now teenagers, standing beside us at the launch. There are feelings of awe and wonder, of God's presence as the adventurous spirit in us gives birth to another achievement, another reach toward the future, and another reach toward the God of all creation.

I found myself in prayer during the last seconds of the countdown, and in prayerful thanksgiving after the first few

moments of flight, as Endeavour streaked toward a rendezvous with the International Space Station.

We long to connect to God. And we need not wait till life's end for this connection. At different times and in different ways in various stages of our lives, we are privileged to touch the spirit of God as we rendezvous with God's Spirit. For the followers of Jesus Christ, this may be at Christmas, or Easter, or Baptism, or in moments of striving to serve others in His name. I see God most clearly at the birth of a child, and sometimes at the holy death of one of his beloved followers. And sometimes even in the stretch of human achievement, in a heroic reach toward the stars, and toward the God who calls us into eternal love and life.

We strive for the heavenly prize, the call which lifts our hearts and minds and spirits upward, beyond ourselves. Thank God for this.

Donald Fishburne is the rector of Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Sanibel.



REV. DONALD FISHBURNE

Life, from page 5

funny, interesting and a great listener — I never tire of his company. And his brother and sister adore him even when they are fighting or wrestling around on the floor. I think they understand that he has filled his father's shoes in ways that have made a broken life somehow whole again.

It fills me with hope to see how this child has coped with such a tremendous loss. Sometimes I think it's the children who have the most traumas that turn out to be the best people. This is obviously something I need to cling to and I do so even as I am determined not to leave this planet until my girls are grown and on their own.

When he was here, Nick found out that I have always wanted to put up Christmas lights outside on the house and in the trees. I never could quite seem to do it myself. The two of us went shopping for lights and he wouldn't let me peek until that night. I walked outside to the road, turned around and the whole yard was lit up in reds and greens, blues and whites and icicles hanging from the roof. I told him it was the best Christmas present I'd ever received. And it was. For a minute I could almost feel his father looking down on him and smiling.

Until next week...

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SERVICE CLUBS

Rotary at the Wood

The Wood Theatre may have been dark for a few months now but Mother Nature has been completely indifferent to the problem and has continued to spread her vegetation over the stage door steps and in the parking lot.



The Sanibel Community Association appealed for some help and along came the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club to the rescue. Armed with clippers, rakes and a wheelbarrow, Paul Duval, John Carney, Ken Graves, Alan Myers and Don



Schwartz descended on the place Saturday afternoon, Dec. 21 and gathered up at least two large piles of brush that were head-high by noon.

This was a typical Rotary operation, done quietly when no one was looking with the participants cracking jokes and having a great time in the process.



Kiwanis gets a choir

Photos and story by Bob Wimbush

Mending Hearts?

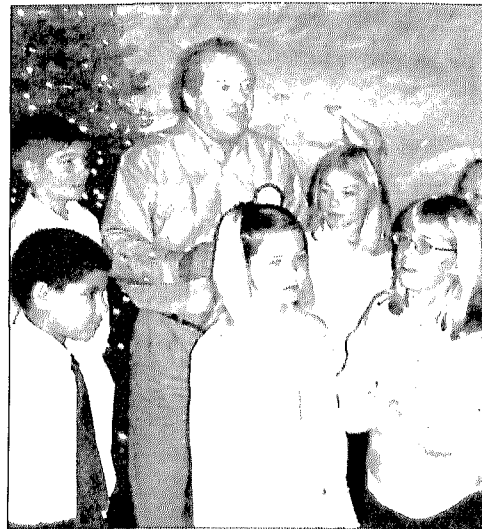
Brown. Steve Brown. Dr. Steve Brown. Mayor Steve Brown. Old Schoolhouse Steve Brown. Community Association Steve Brown. Hospital Foundation Steve Brown. CROW board Steve Brown. Kiwanian Steve Brown. And now (drum roll) speaker chairman for the month, Steve Brown... How about "He's Everywhere" Steve Brown. Paraphrasing Butch and Sundance, "Who is that guy?"

Subjects Steve picks are tough to write about here. First, they're intelligent. That, in itself, poses an obstacle to both writer and group. Secondly, it will be enlightening and, on this island, too much of that can be a bad thing.

Because it's a Brown trademark, you can bet the speaker (or at least the topic) will be relevant, locally beneficial, implacably human, and healthy. Remember, this is the guy who, when he and Lena tragically lost their daughter to cancer, spearheaded the drive for an oncology wing on OUR hospital. HERE! Think of him every time you see one of those precocious pelicans.

We braced ourselves as Brown stood and introduced the speaker, Lex

Kiwanis, see page 18



Kiwanian, Mayor and this month's speaker chairman Steve — "He's Everywhere!" — Brown thanks the performers from Sanibel School's 3rd, 4th and 5th grades and delivers a pitch to support the many, many items — like books and desks — not included as part of the school's coming (and long overdue) expansion and renovation.

In the words of Mayor Steve — "He's Everywhere!" — Brown, "Kiwanis is about kids, and you are all 'our kids.'"

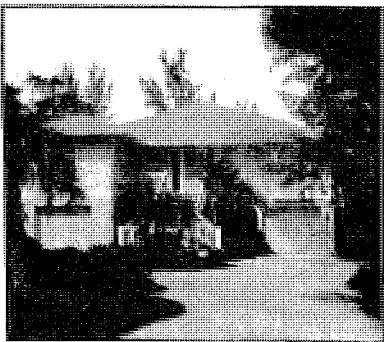


Kiwanis is a club of traditions. Everyone who has lived on the Islands and paid attention knows about the talent show (March 22), the Spaghetti Dinner (Feb. 22), the Santa Run (Dec. 23), and the coupon book, but very few islanders get to share the annual holiday appearance by a group from the Sanibel School. And that's good because, in the words of one tearful Kiwanian, "Of everything we do, this is my favorite." Thanks kids. We're proud that you are ours and that you are great. That standing ovation was deserved, and it was very real.

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Searching for a title

dark brown like the first one, but different enough to tell them apart. Excitement warms our participants. We walk toward the eagles slowly, and they seem totally indifferent to our presence.

Now quite close, we stop and set up the scopes once again. At that moment an adult eagle, head and tail dazzling white in the early morning light, swoops over one of the immatures causing it to lift up momentarily and settle a

short distance away. The adult takes over the feast that had been the immature's. Both young eagles seem a little more wary with the adult around and several times they lift up, fly in tight circles, and settle back on the sand. We clearly see the whitish axillaries and diagonal band on their wings, characteristic of all immature plumages. When they land again we pay close attention to their large, hooked bills. One's bill is quite gray and its eyes are brownish. The other's bill is yellowish, and the eyes are yellow too.

We are ready to move on when a fourth eagle lands near a dead fish. While not an adult, this one's head does show whitish feathers but it has an Osprey-like dark eyeline. It spreads its tail and we can clearly see a pale tail with a dark terminal band. What more can birders want than four different-aged bald eagles spread across sandy mudflats close enough to view with ease.

With the eagles busy eating, a few small flocks of shorebirds settle at the edge of the flats. The adult eagle does take a minute from its meal to fly over the shorebirds adding stress to their lives before flying further down the beach. We walk out toward the shorebirds and enjoy a mixed group of

willets, marbled godwits, and short-billed dowitchers probing actively for food. Beyond them few snowy and semi-palmated plovers run on a sandy flat.

This far from the shoreline, the trees no longer block the north wind and it is really cold. We turn back toward our cars. There are jokes about what Clair and I can provide for an encore to this fabulous morning. Right



BEV POSTMUS

on cue, the adult bald eagle sees an osprey carrying a fish and takes off after it. The eagle quickly overtakes the osprey, dive bombs it from above, and forces the osprey to drop its fish. The eagle isn't fast enough to catch the fish in mid-air, but scoops it up as soon as it hits the water.

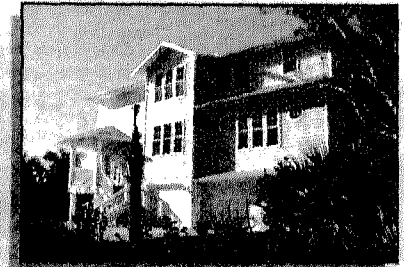
"Wows" echo through the group. What title would you give an experience like this?

Not long ago I wrote an article called "WOW Days," so I don't really know how to title this article without being redundant. Let me tell you the story and you can name it yourself.

It is Saturday, and Clair and I are leaders for the San-Cap Audubon outing this morning. It is cold, 47 degrees at 8 a.m., and we wonder how many people will brave Bunche Beach in this cold, north wind. Amazingly, 24 eager participants show up wearing lots of clothes and either boots or wading shoes. Dale encourages the others by saying he had an adult eagle on the beach when he arrived.

We don't see many birds from the end of the road but head west confident that something interesting will show up. We do see a large group of turkey vultures eating dead fish on the mudflats. "Never assume that every black bird in a group of vultures is really a vulture." That's a cardinal rule of birding in south Florida. How sound that rule is. We put scopes on the vultures and find an immature eagle, dark brown, just like the vultures in the group. Well, not really IN the group; the vultures are giving it plenty of space. We walk toward the eagle for a better look when someone points excitedly to our left - another eagle,

WALK TO THE BEACH



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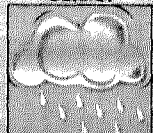


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WEEKEND FORECAST FOR DECEMBER 25 & 26

WEDNESDAY

A.M. P.M.



Christmas Day starts off with a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the morning.

THURSDAY

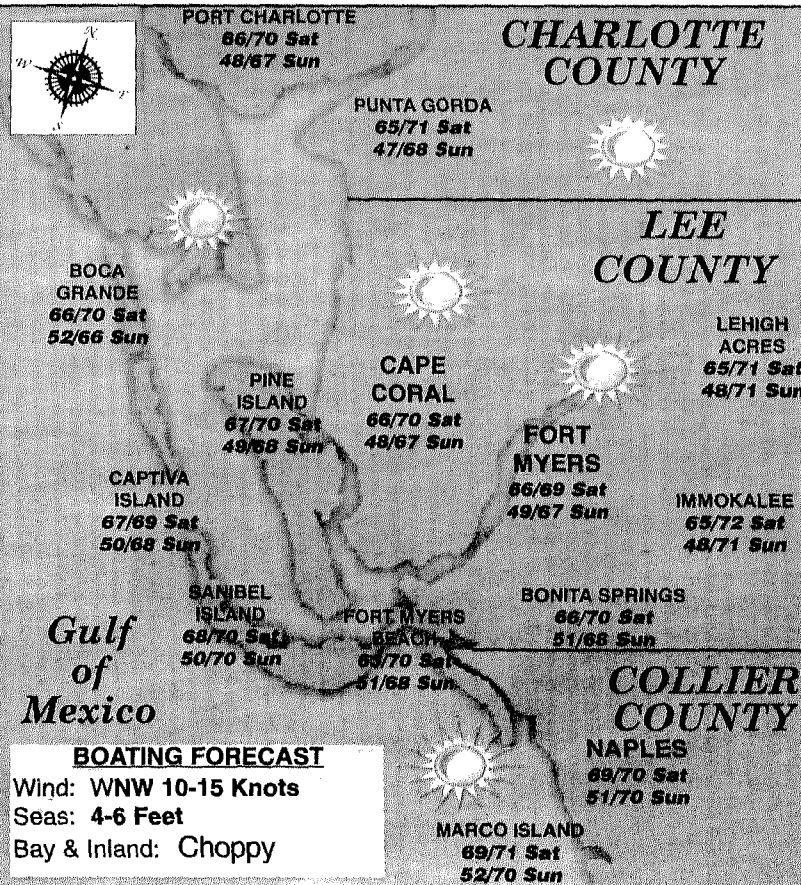
A.M. P.M.



Maybe a little sun, but clouds will increase throughout the day.

LEHIGH TIDES

City	Wed. High	Thur. Low	Wed. High	Thur. Low
Cape Coral	6:08 a.m.	1:08 a.m.	7:27 a.m.	2:38 a.m.
Bridge	8:38 p.m.	2:33 p.m.	9:10 p.m.	3:18 p.m.
Captiva at	3:58 a.m.	11:17 a.m.	5:17 a.m.	-
Redfish Pass	6:28 p.m.	11:22 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	12:02 p.m.
Fort Myers	7:01 a.m.	1:50 a.m.	8:20 a.m.	3:20 a.m.
	9:31 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	10:03 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
Matiacha Pass	5:36 a.m.	12:34 a.m.	6:55 a.m.	2:04 a.m.
	8:06 p.m.	1:59 p.m.	8:38 p.m.	2:44 p.m.
Pineland	4:34 a.m.	-	5:53 a.m.	1:02 a.m.
	7:04 p.m.	12:57 a.m.	7:36 p.m.	1:42 p.m.
Point Ybel	3:03 a.m.	11:19 a.m.	4:22 a.m.	-
	5:33 p.m.	11:24 p.m.	6:05 p.m.	12:04 p.m.
Punta Rassa	3:52 a.m.	11:12 a.m.	5:11 a.m.	11:57 a.m.
	6:22 p.m.	11:17 p.m.	6:54 p.m.	-
St. James City	4:23 a.m.	11:47 a.m.	5:42 a.m.	-
	6:53 p.m.	11:52	7:25 p.m.	7:25 p.m.



FOX 4 CAST

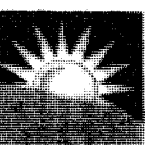


STATE FORECAST-THURSDAY

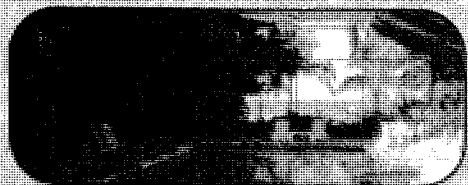
CITY	LOW/HIGH
CAPE CORAL	66/70
DAYTONA BEACH	42/60
FT. LAUDERDALE	45/65
FT. MYERS BEACH	63/70
GAINESVILLE	35/58
JACKSONVILLE	35/55
KEY WEST	45/62
KISSIMMEE	45/62
MIAMI	50/70
ORLANDO	42/58
PANAMA CITY	42/52
PENSACOLA	28/50
SARASOTA	48/65
ST. PETERSBURG	45/62
TALLAHASSEE	30/53
TAMPA	45/62
VERO BEACH	45/62
WEST PALM BEACH	47/65



WEDNESDAY
SUNRISE
7:14 AM

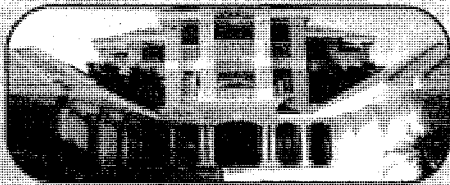


THURSDAY
SUNSET
5:43 PM



CAPTIVA GULF-FRONT ESTATE

This one-acre property consists of a 3BR/3BA main home and a 2BR/1BA guest home. There is a 20'x50' screen enclosed pool with spa. Breathtaking direct Gulf water views! Over \$100,000 gross rentals in 2000.
\$3,900,000.



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What a GREAT price for a beautiful, spacious and quality condo on Sanibel! 2BR/2BA with 10' ceilings, separate laundry room, open kitchen, screened porch and garage. Decorator furnished. Ground-level corner unit. Golf membership available.
\$399,000.



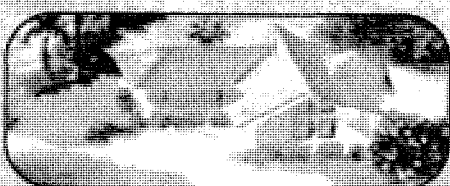
SEA HIBISCUS COURT / CAPTIVA

Wonderful 3BR/3 BA home in Sunset Captiva. Easy stroll to shops, chapel, and library. Nicely appointed décor and furnishings. Community amenities include: pool, docks, tennis and beach access.
\$875,000.



SECLUDED AND PRIVATE ESTATE

Lush, mature vegetation surround this 6BR/5.5 BA main home and guest house with 2BR/2BA. Main home has 2-story atrium foyer entry that leads into great room with beamed ceilings, fireplace, wet bar, and porch with expansive water views of Roosevelt Channel.
\$2,995,000.



BEAUTIFUL BUILDING SITE

Fantastic one-acre "Estate Zoned" lot in the New Osprey Bay Estates subdivision. This subdivision consists of three parcels all having deeded access on Roosevelt Channel and deeded beach access.
\$1,695,000.



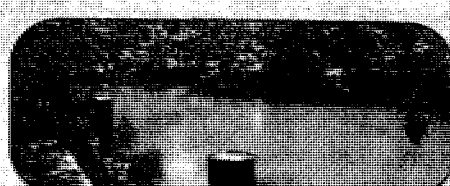
LUXURY GULF TO BAY CONDOMINIUM

Sunrise and sunset from this beautifully appointed 3BR/2.5 BA condo. Lots of built-ins and detail work. Elevator, porches, pool, boat dock with lift and large ground-level storage room. Being offered fully furnished.
\$1,795,000.



CAPTIVA LIFESTYLE

Located in desirable "Village By The Sea". This 4BR/4 BA home was designed for energy efficiency with insulated glass windows, 2-zone air conditioning, premium French doors, hickory pecan hardwood floors, dual master suites with enlarged master bath, un-caged lagoon pool and custom architecture.
\$1,995,000.



CANAL FRONT/NEAR BEACH LOT

Fantastic building site located on a cul-de-sac with dock in place. Walk to beautiful Blind Pass beaches. 238' of waterfront and .43 acre.
\$649,000.



LUXURY NEAR BEACH HOME

Newly constructed and very spacious 5 BR/5BA home in Captiva's Village. Two fireplaces, screened enclosed pool, rooftop deck, elevator, porches, 9' ceilings, two-car garage and fully enclosed lower level. Offered fully furnished with a few personal and office exceptions. You will be ready to live in or rent!
\$2,995,000.



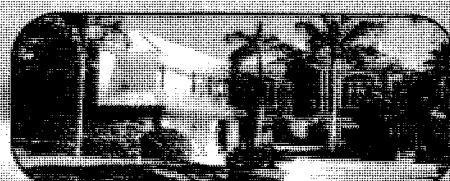
PALM AVENUE VILLA

Construction has just begun on this luxurious 4 bed-room, 4.5 bath villa, in the heart of Captiva's "Village" and only steps to the Gulf of Mexico. This 2-story, quality constructed home has custom mill work throughout, tiled roof, elevator, pool, library, numerous decks and lanais, double garage, vaulted ceilings and a detached guest suite.
\$2,495,000.



ESTATE ZONED-ROOSEVELT CHANNEL

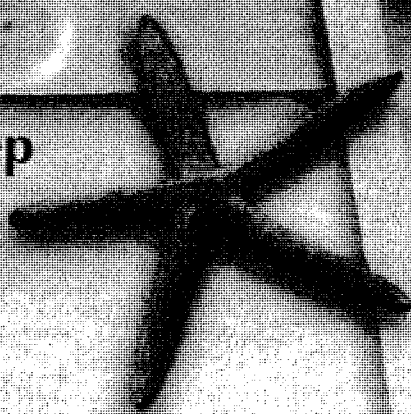
This quality-built 3BR/2BA home was completed in 1999. Features include: 2 docks, spacious great room, dining room, screened porch with expansive water views, fireplace, 3-car garage, open deck, lots of storage and a deeded beach access right across the street. Acre + lot.
\$2,595,000.



DINKINS BAYOU MASTERPIECE

4BR/5 BA gorgeous bayou-front home. Featuring deck w/boat lift, Gulf access, gourmet kitchen, elevator, 3 zone A/C, screen enclosed pool w/spa, outside entertaining area and security system.
\$2,495,000.

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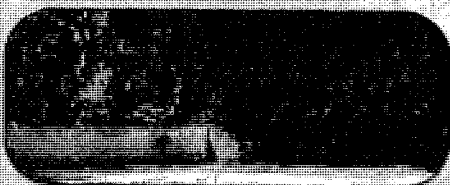
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CAPTIVA COTTAGE/NEAR BEACH

Cozy beach cottage with 3 BR/2 BA with Florida room, Spanish tile, carpet and wood flooring, covered wooden deck and private back yard, just steps to the beach, marina, library, chapel, island shops and restaurants. Enjoy great rental income.

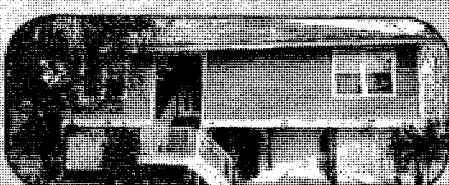
\$959,900.



NEAR BEACH BUILDING SITE/CAPTIVA

Bay views are possible from this rare building lot on Captiva Island. Wonderful location and just a short stroll to beaches, marina, shops and island restaurants. This lot should accommodate a nice-sized house with pool.

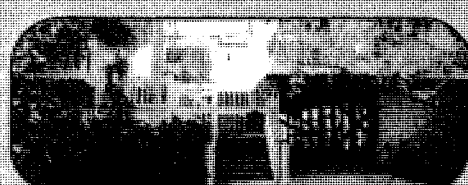
\$829,900.



CUSTOM BUILT/NEAR BEACH

Beautiful 3 BR/2 BA near beach home offering vaulted ceilings, Corian counters in kitchen and baths, spacious screened porch overlooking lake and large screened in pool and spa. Sold furnished with a few exceptions.

\$649,000.



GULF FRONT ON CAPTIVA

Stunning 4BR/4BA gulf front private home in South Seas Resort. Home offers fantastic direct views of the Gulf of Mexico, terracotta tile floors, electric hurricane shutters, screened porch, fully equipped kitchen, lushly landscaped, open sun deck and room to add a private pool.

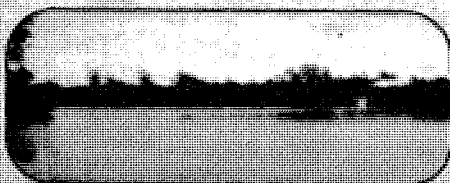
\$4,950,000.



COMPASS POINTE

Beautiful 2 BR/2 BA unit overlooking the pool and just steps to the beach. Well maintained, like new carpet, ceramic tile in entry foyer, kitchen and baths. Complex has been updated with balcony and walkway restorations.

\$599,000.



DINKIN'S BAYOU/GULF ACCESS

Great Dinkin's Bayou home on a private drive in a wonderful neighborhood. 2BR/2 BA with cathedral ceilings in main living area, living/dining combo, breakfast bar, laundry room, screened lanai extends the entire length of home, dock, 8,000 LB boat lift & Gulf Access.

\$996,000.



GULF FRONT BEACH VILLA

Beautiful 1 BR/1 BA Gulf front beach villa located in desirable South Seas Resort. This condo has great views of the Gulf of Mexico and is furnished in island style. The resort offers all the amenities that you want for your island lifestyle.

\$574,900.



NEAR BEACH HOME TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Old Florida, two-story home with 3BR/3BA, den, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, covered patio for entertaining, observation deck, sun decks, and screened enclosed pool. Located across from the deeded beach access and just steps to the beach.

\$2,095,000.



NEW CONSTRUCTION/NEAR BEACH

Located in the heart of Captiva's "Village" this brand new 4BR/4BA home has everything you want and more. Detailed workmanship throughout with hardwood floors, private elevator, gourmet kitchen, pool with spa, built-in Jennie grill, sound system, security alarm and fireplace. Great vacation home with wonderful rental income potential.

\$1,559,900.



STEPS TO THE BEACH/CAPTIVA

This beautiful 4BR/4BA offers custom workmanship throughout with gourmet kitchen, security system, pool with spa, built-in outside jennie grill, outside entertaining area, fireplace, private elevator, open porches, plenty of storage and screened porch. Just a short stroll to island beaches, shops, marina and restaurants.

\$1,559,900.



SPECTACULAR VIEWS

Beautiful custom home with 2 Master Suites and 2.5 baths. Views of Dinkin's Bayou from every room. Property features a screen enclosed lap pool, spiral staircase to sunset deck, open porch, deck, Cypress ceiling, Anderson windows, vaulted ceilings, paddle fans, storm shutters, Corian Counters and elevator.

\$1,795,000.



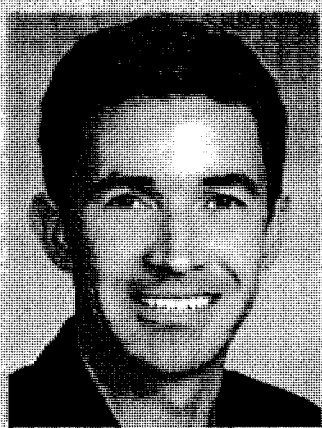
VENTURA CAPTIVA

Beautiful 3 BR/3 BA with a lift. Ventura Captiva is a small complex of only 10 units that share a community pool and boat docks. Property offers a large screened porch with excellent views of Pine Island Sound, private path to beach access, new dock, new exterior stairs, freshly painted exterior and plenty of storage on lower level. Quiet and beautifully maintained unit.

\$995,000.



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TRAVEL

Shades of green: a trip to Ireland (Part 1 of 2)

The Republic of Ireland is so full of charm that you feel as if you are in a Disney theme park instead of a place where people live. The Irish are happy, friendly, fun loving and their love for one another extend to the American tourist. Ask them to find you harpists, step dancers or medieval banquets and they are all too happy to help you.

A visit to a quaint Irish pub will have you mainstreamed into Irish life in no time. The pub is the center of social activity and can come complete with fiddle player, accordionist, and even step dancers. If you don't know the words to the songs, don't worry; song sheets are provided most of time and if they aren't, nobody really knows the difference anyway.

As you venture out from the cities into the countryside, you are apt to see brightly colored buildings, thatched roof cottages and children in school uniforms. You might even see people walking their cows through the narrow streets on the way to or from pasture.

And, I must not forget to mention

sheep, sheep, sheep — and more sheep! All over the hills, in fields, just everywhere. There are 4 million people in Ireland and 8 million sheep. Different colors are painted on the female sheep's (ewe's) backs. This indicates when they were vaccinated. A different color is painted on the male's stomach. So if you see a ewe with two different colored stripes on her back — well, you can figure it out.

The independent country of The Republic of Ireland is an island located adjacent to England, across the Irish Sea. About the size of the state of Maine, the country shares one-sixth of the island with Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom. In the latest census, Ireland's mostly Catholic population exceeded 4 million for the first time in over 100 years. The capital is Dublin and English is the spoken language. Old Irish is a separate and distinct language, still spoken by many, and a mandatory subject taught to all students until 18 years of age. The Republic of Ireland is a Parliamentary Republic whose last two presidents have been women.



BARBARA GANZ



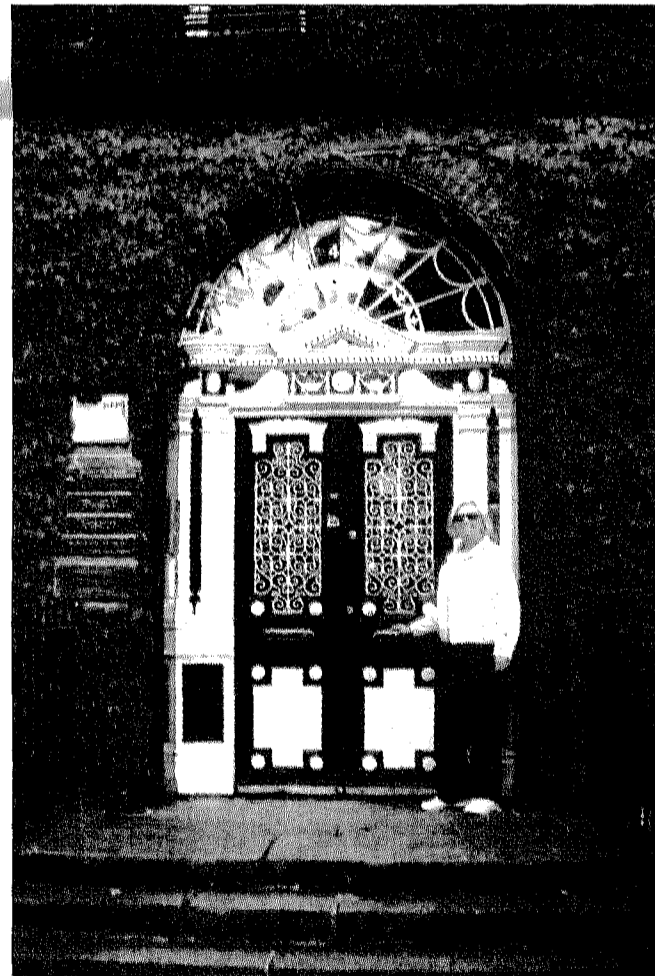
Barbara and David Ganz at Ashford Castle

The Republic of Ireland had been an emigrating country, with millions leaving, mainly to America. Before the middle 1800s, Ireland's population was close to 8 million, but the infamous potato famine in the mid 1800s killed over a million people, while over a million more left the country. As the country's economy floundered, emigration continued. However, in the last few years, all that has changed. The Republic of Ireland is now one of the

leading exporters of computer software and programming in the world. Data processing is also a huge business, along with the manufacturing of computers for such companies as Gateway. Tourism has also flourished and this once agricultural society has become the fourth largest country in gross national product per capita. Today, only Norway, Luxembourg and the United States exceed Ireland.

Regardless of your budget, Ireland is

One of Dublin's wide front doors that has found its way into several movies.



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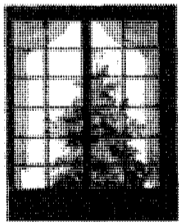
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affordable. There are campgrounds, small bed and breakfasts and, of course, the major hotel chains. For those who want to see what life was like in the 11th and 12th century, a castle and manor tour is ideal. Even the most costly tour was not outrageously expensive compared with others in Europe.

Our first stop was Clontarf Castle, just outside Dublin. On Good Friday in 1014, the battle of Clontarf took place and the castle was built in 1172. One family owned it for over 300 years, then it changed hands repeatedly until private

investors created the castle-hotel concept. Clontarf Castle is luxurious with huge, hanging tapestries decorating the entrance. These tapestries were used as much to keep the warmth inside in winter as they were for decoration. There was also a knight in actual 12th Century armor. I marveled at how they could get around in those days, clunking from one place to another.

As a former antique dealer, I really appreciated the exquisite detail of some of the original furnishings. The rooms were spacious and the downstairs pub and

restaurant were in keeping with the medieval period. We stayed the evening and made the castle a "knightly event."

The next day, it was off to Dublin, with its 18th Century Georgian architecture. Dublin is famous for the entrance doors to its buildings. They were built to accommodate members of high society, who were carried from place to place in chairs. Hence, these entrances were extremely wide and remain so to this day. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman filmed a movie scene in front of the now famous Door #35. The windows of the top floors of

each building were smaller than the other floors to give the structure a look of greater height.

Dublin was the home of the Duke of Wellington, Oscar Wilde and Molly Malone. Molly was the fishmonger who went through streets "broad and narrow" and a very revealing life-sized statue pays homage to her. The locals call the statue, "The Tart with the Cart."

We were especially intrigued to see a store named, "Knobs and Knockers,"

Ireland, see page 14



Restaurant Review

Watch this space the last week of every month for a focus on your favorite area restaurants!



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ISLAND HOUSE

"If you venture just a mile-and-a-half down Sanibel-Captiva Road, you'll find the delightful Island House restaurant, a casual island favorite with pocketbook-friendly prices. General Manager Jeff Conlin notes that the Island House has "a wonderful menu and great prices: our Lunch Specials start at just \$4.99 and our Early Bird Dinner starts at \$8.95." The Island House is family friendly and the children's menu includes Chicken and Grouper Fingers among other favorites.

The Island House is a popular lunch spot and there are lunch specials every day: the tummy-warming Pot Roast is a favorite. The sandwich menu features a full range of tempting favorites and if finger food strikes your fancy, try the tasty Bungalow baskets: your choice of fried oysters, grouper, poppers, shrimp and more, all with a choice of sauces AND French fries for just \$5.95. The Island House also has a "light" menu, including (from 4 to 9 pm) a Salad Bar add-on for smaller-sized servings of some Island House favorites.

Early Bird Dinner choices include crab cakes, crab leg dinner and an Island House specialty, Crab-Stuffed Grouper (baked to perfection and topped with a scallop dill sauce).

After 4 pm, if you order the Salad Bar, you also get soup and the Salad Bar comes with all full dinners. The jambalaya is "an Island House favorite," notes Jeff, with mussels, shrimp, scallops, chicken and andouille sausage in a spicy creole sauce served over rice. Other tempting seafood choices include Barbecue Shrimp (two skewers of oversized grilled shrimp wrapped in bacon and drizzled with "Island House" BBQ Sauce...yum!) or the wonderful Pecan Crusted Grouper or Mahi-Mahi.

If you don't see what you want, just ask and they'll see if they can whip it up for you. Draft, domestic and imported beers are available.

The Bungalow, a fun, friendly place just next door, is open from 11 am to 1 am daily and they have the largest variety of Tap Beer on the Islands (11 taps!) and the menu is available until 12:30 am. Catch all the latest sports action on nine screens plus you'll find pool tables, dart boards, games, a jukebox and the only horseshoe pits on the Islands.

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Ireland, from page 13

which turned out to be a place that sold doorknobs and knockers. There are many art galleries in the city and the National Art Gallery had many fine European paintings. If you are of Irish ancestry, the National Library will be happy to trace your heritage.

We visited Dublin Castle with its beautiful Georgian décor. Each room was more breathtaking than the last. Huge dining rooms, bedrooms, and lounges graced the

inside. In one of the lounges, there were mirrors mounted only slightly above floor level. We learned these were positioned so that the ladies could check to see that their petticoats weren't showing.

Of course, no visit to Dublin is complete without a visit to Trinity Church and Trinity College where the famous Book of Kells is kept. These original four volumes dating back to 800 AD or before are an exquisitely illuminated manuscript containing the four gospels of the Bible and accompanying concordats. The church is simply magnificent and Trinity College is one of the leading schools in all of Europe.

Our tour took us past the city firehouse, which is called, "Fireworks," the College of Physicians, and the eternal flame statue, depicting all injustices in the world. Our guide was proud to say that James Joyce went to school in Dublin. We also saw the police or "Garda," as they are known all over Ireland. They are unarmed, as there is almost no violent crime. If you are speeding, they take a photo of your car, which they send you with the ticket. All street signs are painted high up on buildings, which was unusual. We even had time to meet friends of ours from Dublin, who we first met on trip to Spain.

We next explored the picturesque town of Malahide, where we ate "periwinkles." This delicacy is found in tiny shells, washed up on the beaches and eaten with a straight pin. We purchased them from a lovely little girl, who went to the beach each day with a net, so we knew they were fresh. No, they don't taste like chicken, but were quite good, although it took some doing to remove them from the shell.

Malahide Castle, our next sightseeing venture, was wonderful. The castle is the oldest to be continually owned by the same family, the Talbots, who lived there until 1975. The only exception was when they were briefly evicted by, who else—Cromwell, of course. As you enter the great hall, you are taken with the impressive family portraits. Talk about beautiful grounds, there are over 5,000 different trees, shrubs and plants covering acres and acres. If tea is your thing, as it is mine, there is a quaint tearoom in the castle.


REMINDERS:

- **Possession & discharge of fireworks is illegal on Sanibel.**
- **Outdoor holiday lights must be extinguished by January 9.**

In the evening, there was a splendid dinner with spectacular desserts. I had heard that Irish food was bland, but this was not so. The food is wonderful and, although we didn't find corn beef and cabbage or cottage pie, the fresh grilled fish, cured ham, roast beef, mussels, oysters and more kept us quite sated. Of course, nobody can do more with the potato than the Irish can and their potato cakes were superb.

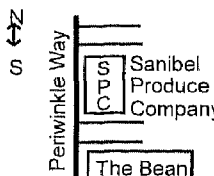
When the Irish say, "Full Irish Breakfast," they're not kidding. After consuming a big bowl of hot cereal, eggs, rashers (bacon), sausages, baskets of scones, bread and tea, we were convinced that we would have to pay a penalty for being overweight on the flight back home. That afternoon, we visited a restaurant, decorated with unrecognizable sea creatures. We only hoped that they were not on the menu.

One of the highlights of the trip was when we went to a typical crowded Irish pub in a nearby small village. We tried Irish step dancing and it was immediately apparent that we were the only Americans in the place. At 8:45 p.m., the band stopped playing an Irish tune and everyone rose from his or her seats. The band then began to play, "God Bless America," and we all saluted and sang along. There wasn't a dry eye in the entire pub. As the only Americans, we asked the bandleader why they did that. He replied that it was in tribute to the United States and the events of 9/11 that occurred at 8:45 A.M. Since the pubs weren't open in the morning, they set aside 8:45 PM every night as the moment of recognition. He went on to say that Ireland was the only country in the world that declared a national day of mourning for 9/11. All government offices were closed, as were the airlines, business, schools, etc. "We love America," he said. "You are our land of life."



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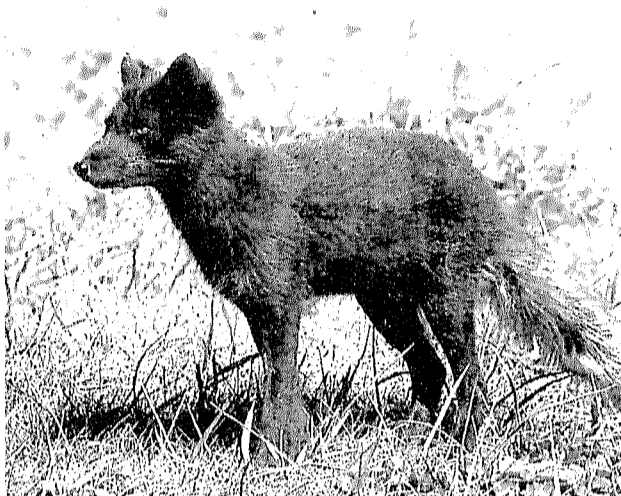


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Moore's to give first Audubon program of '03



The 2003 Sanibel-Captiva Audubon lecture series begins on Thursday evening, Jan. 2, with a fascinating slide program about a little known island. Frank and Sue Moore will present The Natural World of St. Paul Island, Alaska at 8 p.m. at the Sanibel Community House on Periwinkle Way. The suggested donation is \$4.

St. Paul Island is a lonely outpost in the Bering Sea, halfway between Anchorage and Siberia. It offers the possibility of life to a rich variety of

bird, plant, and animal species in its total isolation. The volcanic tundra and the maritime climate are perfect for fostering flowers, lichens, foxes, and a haven for nesting birds; whales, fish and seals abound in the surrounding waters. The Moores' individual skills are equally employed as they explore and display their images and knowledge of this unique and tiny island.

Frank Moore is an award-winning nature photographer who became a serious landscape photographer in 1988.



His wife, Sue, became interested in birds in 1992 and, when they moved to Florida in 1997, Frank's interest focused on bird photography. Sue is now a well-known birder in the Fort Myers area.

This past year Frank received nature photography awards at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, "Ding" Darling NWR and Great Meadows NWR in Sudbury, Mass. In addition, Audubon Magazine published two of his photos recently. The couple has presented slide shows at



several locations in the Fort Myers area and throughout New England.

The public is welcome to attend this program, which is the first of eleven sponsored by the Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society on Thursdays through March 20. There is plenty of parking both at the Sanibel Community House and across the street at the former J. Howard Wood Theater. For further information, contact program chairman David Meardon at 472-2346.

Play golf at SCA — Toni Lapi's one-man fundraiser

By Bob Wimbush

It was Sunday afternoon before Christmas, and for the eighth year in a row Tony Lapi was at the Community Center setting up for miniature golf.

Holiday miniature golf is the SCA's second largest fundraiser most years, and it's pretty much a one-man show. Tony, locally esteemed golf course architect who created the event, also gets the sponsors, the materials, the prizes and sets up. In the earlier years he also took most of the shifts running it. This year, however, service clubs and volunteers will handle daily operations.

One must be impressed. On the surface it's a simple concept, well executed. Underneath it's like Tony. Clean, unadorned and oh so smart. It doesn't rely on admissions to make money for the Community Association — business sponsorships make it successful every year —

even before it opens.

There is very little cost to SCA. Almost everything is donated. Even the lumber is borrowed. "Without yearly support from Raymond Lumber, we couldn't have gotten this started," Tony is quick to add, "Forever Green Ace Hardware and Nursery and the four island golf courses also figure big."

Like most happenings at the Community Center, holiday miniature golf embraces the many constituencies on the island, and every one of their events is a true community experience.

Holiday golf is neighborly. In fact, all contributors have passes. Ask your favorite Island business. And, it's fun. And there are daily prizes for all ages. And snacks. The course is open every year from 10 am to 9 pm, December 26-29 at the Community Center, "the heart of the Island." Taste community like it used to be.

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Theiss campaign committee formed Polar Bears getting ready for 1/1/03



The core of the Nola Theiss re-election campaign: John Friedlund, campaign treasurer, Louise Johnson, co-chair, John Carney, co-chair.

The Nola Theiss Campaign for City Council has announced the appointment of Louise Johnson and John Carney as co-chairs and John Friedlund as campaign treasurer.

Johnson, former mayor of Sanibel and long-time resident, is an active participant in many island activities, including Island Seniors and BIG Arts Current Events. Carney is a board member of the "Dine" Darling Wildlife Society, vice-president of Rotary and member of the Power Squadron as well as many other island groups. His wife, Fay, is president of ABWA.

Friedlund, also a long-time resident

and a mortgage broker at CAC Mortgage, is a former board member of the Chamber of Commerce, board member and former president of Kiwanis, and is married to Debbie, an associate at CROW. He has held many positions on the island, including serving as president of the Children's Center.

Information about Nola, her campaign and her supporters can be found on her website: www.nolasanibel.org. She may also be reached through electnola@yahoo.com. The mailing address is Nola Theiss Campaign for City Council, Post Office Box 361, Sanibel 33957.



Ed Nietzsche photo

Island Polar Bears ready for the first plunge of the year on New Year's Day '02

They're baaaaack...

On Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2003, the Sanibel-Captiva Chapter of the National Polar Bear Club will hold its 3rd annual meeting at the crack of noon at Tarpon Bay Beach (the south/Gulf end of Tarpon Bay Road). Parking for 89 cars is available at the city lot. Don't forget to display a current sticker or pay the parking fee.

The new Polar Bear anthem (see above) will be sung for the first time by the Polar Bear Cubbies (first-timers), Juveniles (one-time previous dippers) and the seasoned Adult bears (those who took the plunge in 2001 and 2002).

This year the bears will be entering the icy Gulf waters BACKWARDS, facing the huge crowd of supporters, on-lookers, tourists, and "mice" (those who wished they had the courage to join in). Massive media coverage is again expected to be on hand to

historically document this annual event.

Following various bear-frolicking activities in the water and the traditional Polar Bear Group Huddle/Hug (a body-warming activity), all participants will

(To the tune of "God Bless America")

*While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance to our club that's free.
Let us all be hopeful for a day with sun
As we raise our glasses and we have some fun!*

God bless the Polar Bears

On New Year's Day.

Stand beside us and join us

To the shore with a roar as we play.

From the uplands,

To the marshes,

To the Gulf shore filled with ice...

God bless the polar bears, it sure feels nice!

God bless the Polar Bears, we're bears not mice!

receive a membership card and a certificate suitable for framing. There will also be an opportunity to sip from the giant Polar Bear champagne glass and to engage in story-telling about your heroic experience. Children will be awarded a patch to take home and show their friends.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME and encouraged to attend. Remember to wear your bathing suit and bring a towel. Chairs and coolers are optional.

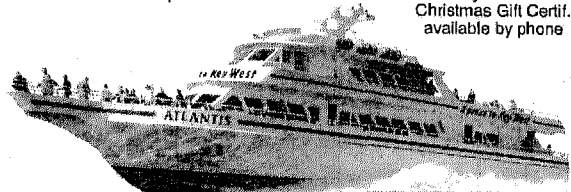
The Polar Bear Club is a free, non-discriminating organization that accepts members of all ages, races, religions, sizes, shapes, sexes, hair/fur (or lack thereof), eye color, etc. For more information about this chilling event, contact Papa Bear John Carney at 395-1767.

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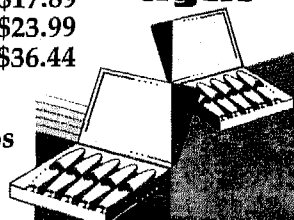
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Realtors assoc. installs officers

The Sanibel & Captiva Islands Association of Realtors, Inc. recently held its installation and awards banquet at Sundial.

Association member and District V 2001 Vice President Barbara Amon Chapin installed incoming President, Art Corace of RE/MAX of the Islands. Florida Association of Realtors (FAR) 2003 President, Tom Salomone, installed the following officers and directors for 2003: President-Elect: David Schuldenfrei, (VIP Realty Group);



Art Corace,
incoming
association
president

Secretary/Treasurer:
Cathy Gerasin, (VIP);

Immediate Past
President:
Margie Davison,
(Priscilla Murphy
Realty)

Directors:
Jay Branyon, (PMR);
Steve Harrell,
(Coldwell Banker
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International);
Robin Humphrey,
(VIP);
Barbara Lawson,
(PMR);
Marcel Ventura,
(Karen Bell Realty).

Special guests at the banquet were Maurice Veissi, 2002 FAR president; Liz Paul, District V 2002 vice president; Maury Dailey, District V 2003 vice president; Maggie Morris, NAR Director; and Jim Woodard, 2003 president-elect of the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Myers and the Beach.

This annual event gives the Association the opportunity to honor those individuals who deserve special recognition for their outstanding achievements and service to the organization and to the community. These awards and the recipients include: Realtor of the Year — Margie Davison; Community Service Award — Ada Shissler (VIP); Affiliate of the Year — Mike Gadaleta (Oswald Trippe & Co.); Rookie of the Year — Eric Pfeifer (VIP); and Support Person of the Year — Aida Hoffman (PMR).

Special Presidential Recognition Awards went to FAR President Veissi for Outstanding Leadership and to Harrell (Coldwell Banker) for Outstanding Service.

Pfeifer and Ventura received special recognition for completing the Association's Symphony of Skills Leadership Program.

Twenty-four Realtors received Honor Society Awards in recognition of their community service activities and professionalism through education, participation and service.

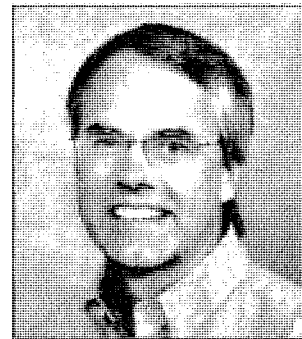


David Schuldenfrei, Barbara Lawson, Robin Humphrey, Cathy Gerasin, Margie Davison, Jay Branyon, and Steve Harrell. Marcel Ventura was absent and Tom Salomone is shown at the podium.

In the news at San-Cap Trust



Susan Fersner has
been promoted to
Senior Vice President.



Donald (Chip) A. Lesch has joined the
company's Board of
Directors.



Sylvia Hutchisoon has
joined the bank as
Assistant Vice
President.

Friedlund graduates with honors

Megan Friedlund, daughter of long-time island residents Debbie and John Friedlund, recently was honored at the University of Central Florida (UCF) Fall 2002 Commencement ceremony in Orlando. Megan had been studying at UCF for three and a half years and recently received a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration in Marketing. Megan graduated summa cum laude, as she maintained a 4.0

grade point average throughout her college education (in truth, since grade school). She was awarded the Honor Medallion to recognize her outstanding academic achievement for having the highest GPA in her graduating class. Megan plans to stay in Orlando, as she has already started a new job as a marketing specialist with Foley & Lardner, the 11th largest law firm in the country, in its Orlando Office.



John Gee & Company hosted their annual holiday party on Friday, Dec. 20. It is a Gee family tradition to invite clients, friends and fellow Realtors to join in the sharing of fine food and libations during this giving time of year. Not only are the associates good Realtors, they are good cooks and hosts as well.

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Kiwanis, from page 8

Raulston, from something called Mending Hearts. Mending Hearts!? Massive groans. A few members left. The rest prayed it would be medical and boring (or scary) rather than gushy and romantic. It didn't sound good. No one wanted to see open chest photos so soon after breakfast.

Well, although it isn't his brainchild (or Raulston's), Mending Hearts and Raulston are typically Brown. Mending Hearts is a national organization, but for Raulston, himself a heart surgery participant (Victim? Patient? Survivor? Dilettante? What is the right word here?), Mending Hearts has become a passionate, personal cause. And he's starting a Southwest Florida chapter. Here. To help you. Raulston is like Brown, but maybe smarter since he's not in Kiwanis.

The Mending Hearts concept is simple. Mending Hearts is a support group of people who have had heart surgery — surgery can range from a simple stent to total replacement — who will sit down and talk with folks who are about to have

or who have recently undergone work on their own ticker. Call it support, call it reassurance, call it "Ask the person who owns one." Heart surgery, despite its frequency these days, is still a serious proposition. More so when it's your heart.

Victims (sorry, patients) often have questions or misgivings before and after surgery and sometimes don't like or understand or are afraid to explore the answers given by the medical community. Fear, rumors and urban myths figure big. It helps to talk with someone experienced. That's what Mending Hearts provides — a practical idea of what to expect from someone who's been there — even if they just show you their scar.

While several Kiwanians remarked (perhaps unfairly to some of our wonderful speakers) that it was great to have a speaker who didn't also ask for money, Raulston did ask for volunteers — no, not for hearts (if we needed hearts the majority on the City Council would pass an ordinance making such an extraction



Suzanne Skinner of the Sanibel School is the group's leader



Don Feiner presents a check in support of Rock Camp to Rebecca Scheffler of the American Cancer Society. Rock On!

mandatory because it was in the world's best interest). Lex is recruiting people who have experienced heart surgery and would enjoy mentoring others before and after surgery. If you qualify as victim or mentor, call Lex Raulston at 395-9482. You can even leave your wallet at home.

Yep, typical... generous, human, caring, feeling, big-hearted, "He's Everywhere" Brown had struck again and left us with this sentiment, "Only a tiny percentage ever face heart surgery but, when it's your heart, it's nice to know people support you."

Sale opens for ABC 2003 T-Shirts

The first T-shirts for the 2003 ABC Sale and Auction went on sale at the Captiva Post Office, offered by ABC Co-Chairs Doris Holzheimer and Rob Gibson. Part of the proceeds of the 2003 ABC Sale will go to SCCF's Marine Laboratory Fund.

Early in January the T-shirts may be obtained from the Captiva Civic Association offices on Chapin Lane on Captiva. For information, call the Association at 472-2111, or after the first week in January, call Ron Gibson at 472-

6179. The front of the periwinkle blue T-shirt features a fish taken from the Marine Laboratory logo of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. The back of the shirt displays the entire Marine Lab logo.

Co-chair Holzheimer says, "We are pleased to support the SCCF Marine Lab and its new director Dr. Steven Bortone. This is the third time that the ABC Sale has donated to an SCCF program, and we urge the community to buy the shirts and support the Sale and Auction in February."



WE LOVE OUR ISLANDS



Toni Primeaux, second from left, was the winner in Bank of the Islands' We Love Our Islands promotion the week of Nov. 18. She presented a check for \$200 to the Rev. Daryl Donovan of Sanibel Community Church. Also pictured are Rob Lisenbee and Brenda Wendt of the bank.

A couple of weeks later, winner Paula St. John (below), executive director of the Sanibel Community Association, presented Ann Arnoff, association president, with a check for \$200, as well.



Sanibel Bicycle Club makes clean sweep

On Dec. 19, the Sanibel Bicycle Club, in support of the "Keep Sanibel Litter-Free" campaign, sponsored the island's first clean-up day of Sanibel's bike paths. Approximately 26 members of the club turned out to make the clean-up a big success.

If you were driving around Sanibel Thursday morning, you couldn't help but notice the bike paths dotted with people in orange vests, many sporting Sanibel Bicycle Club yellow T-shirts, stooping over to pick up litter or reaching up to trim back overgrowth on the path. Much of the litter on the bike path was small in size, with plenty of cigarette packaging and butts, candy wrappers, fast food containers, plastic ice bags, bottles, cans, etc.

Club team leaders for the clean-up day were Max and Jan Koletzke, Doug and Kate Dietrich, Tom and Carol McCarthy, Barry Litofsky and Darla

Letourneau. The four teams covering the island's 23 miles of bike paths

picked up about 22 garbage bags of litter, including seven bags of recyclables, for a total estimated 112 pounds of litter. Billy's Rentals picked up the mess at the end of the event and disposed of it. Participants also stopped by Billy's when they were through for doughnuts and cookies provided by Bailey's.

Club president, Tom McCarthy, said, "The Sanibel Bicycle Club is happy

to provide this community service in support of the bike paths. The bike paths are one of the great treasures of this island, and we need to demonstrate our pride by keeping them litter-free for all to enjoy. I'd like to thank



Some of the members of the East End Clean-up Day team, as they get ready to start. Left to right: Jan Koletzke, Jean & Doug Lowe.

all the volunteers and the businesses that participated, especially Billy's, for their assistance and support."

If you want to help keep the bike paths litter-free, Sanibel's Adopt-A-Road program is looking for people to adopt sections of the bike path (as well as roads, streets, beaches, parks, etc.) to pick-up on an ongoing basis. For more information, see www.sanibelvision.org/road.htm or call the president of Keep Sanibel Litter-Free, Marie Gargano, at 395-3089. If you are interested in becoming



Bill and Pat Kelly with examples of some of the litter picked up during the Bike Path Clean-up Day.

a member of the Sanibel Bicycle Club or want to find out more information about the club's activities, call McCarthy at 472-1090 or visit the club's website: www.sanibelbicycleclub.org.

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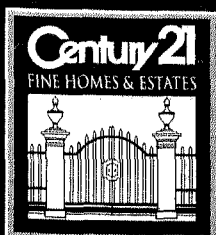


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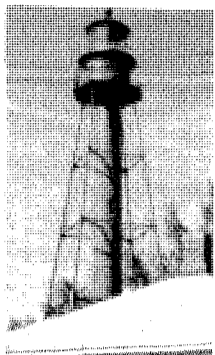
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Arts & Leisure

What are you doin' New Year's, New Year's Eve?



Really Cool Midnite Party

Two impeccably dressed penguins in their traditional formal wear will welcome party-goers to an unrivaled New Year's Eve event at Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa on Tuesday evening. Sponsored by the John Scanlon Automotive Group, the last Really Cool Midnite Party of the year hangs on the theme of "a black tie affair."

Designed by event decor-meister-suprême, Phil Johnson, the evening's colors are black and white, silver and gold — black tablecloths, accents of snow, waiters in their most formal black and white, complete with the white gloves... men in black tie and dazzling, sparkling ladies. The 14-piece band, Alter Ego, will be playing for dancing all evening at this, another of Victor Mayeron's annual extravaganzas that benefits the American Cancer Society. (Victor's parties been going on now, in one form or another, since 1989, when his dad succumbed to the disease. Mayeron is currently the president of the ACS board.)

Over just the past three years Victor and "Friends" have raised well over \$200,000 to fight the disease.)

There are several levels of sponsorships —

Cristal, Dom Perignon, Moët & Chandon and Horn Blower. Reservations for these may be made through Heidi Clegg at the American Cancer Society — 936-1113, Ext. 115.

The gala is open to everyone with single tickets set at \$125.

MEN IN BLACK



NEW YEARS EVE AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE

New Year's Eve is Coming!

Join the Old Schoolhouse Theater Gang for a Gala Celebration.

The festivities begin at 9 p.m. with the final performance of

HO!HO!HO! The Christmas Show

followed by a bountiful buffet and free flowing champagne.

Hats, noisemakers and streamers are next as we count down to 2003.

After we bring the New Year in, you'll enjoy a fun-filled cabaret show presented by the cast plus a few surprise performers.

All this for only \$125 per person.

Please call 472-6862 to reserve your tickets.

There is limited seating and they are going fast!

At the Florida Rep

The Florida Repertory Theatre and Producing Artistic Director, Robert Cacioppo, are proud to present

Carol Provonosha in her one-woman musical show, *Fat Lady Sings*.

The bes of cabaret theatre that sings and dances its way through the familiar songs of those popular performers who would never again fit into a size 8.

The New Year's Eve show starts at 8 p.m., and tickets range from \$15 to \$20.

Call 332-4488 for reservations.



Ring in the New Year on Captiva Cruise's New Year's Moonlight Cruise

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2002 from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The \$35 per person passage includes and open bar, live entertainment, party favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

Reservations are required. Phone 472-5300 for additional information & reservations.

New Year's Eve with Danny Morgan

The Danny Morgan Band returns to Chadwick's for New Year's Eve.

Ring in 2003 with this long-running Captiva tradition. It's a great party, with lots of laughing, dancing, singing along and impromptu acts of wildness.

Danny always brings in special out-of-town musicians — Bob "Sugar Lips" Lotz, the Cincinnati harmonica wizard, will be here with his collection of over 70 harmonicas from all over the world, and Tod Edmondson from Miami will be playing vibra-

phone, alto, soprano and tenor saxophones, flute and keyboard. Filling out the group are the smooth-voiced

Kelly Pohler and the world's best beat drummer, Kenny Cox, and — of course — Danny on guitars and vocals. The band plays a wide variety of music so there is always something for everyone.

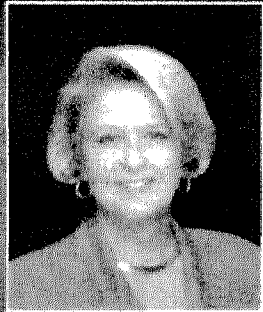
The party starts at 9 and lasts until 1 a.m. There'll be free party favors and midnight champagne.

Chadwick's is located just inside South Seas Resort and the public is invited. No reservations are required.

\$10 cash cover charge.



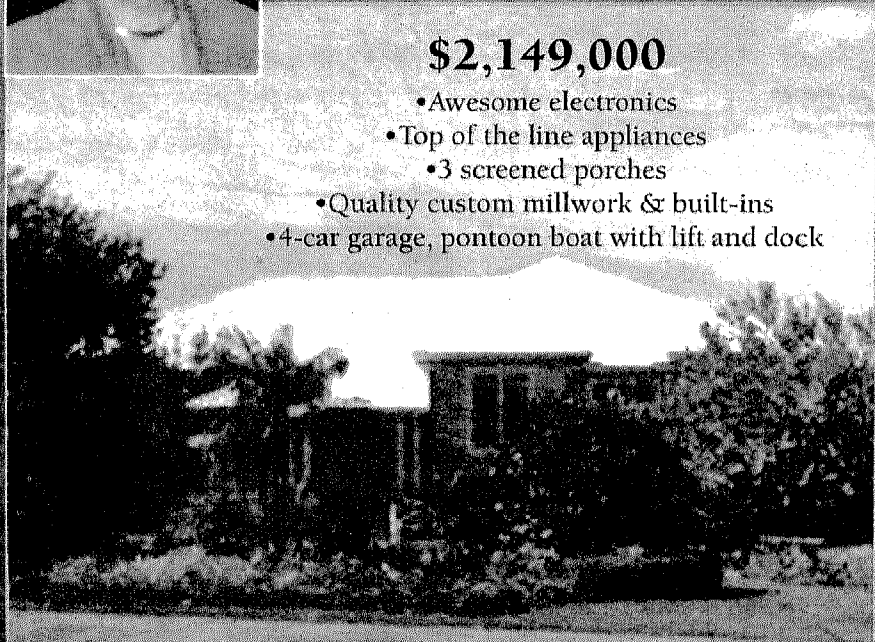
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The Nutcracker
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Florida Rep raises over \$3,500



The cast of Florida Rep's *The Mousetrap* set itself a goal of raising \$3,500 for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS during the play's first nine performances, and its audiences really came through.

BC/EF AIDS is one of the leading supporters of AIDS service organizations across the United States. Its funds support seven social service programs at the Actors' Fund of America. It's an organization benefiting not only AIDS patients, but also breast cancer and women's health organizations, health insurance for artists, and other initiatives. Theatres across the nation raised money and awareness for programs including food banks, housing and transportation programs, AIDS research, and emergency funds to artists onstage, backstage, behind the scenes, front of house, and in management positions.

Florida Repertory Theatre, the only theatre south of Sarasota to employ Equity actors, is pleased to announce that the cast of Florida Rep's 50th Anniversary production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* raised \$3,544.21 for the cause. Producing Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo says, "I love Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS because it shows how much actors, directors, managers, and administration care for their fellow workers. This opportunity we've had to raise the money also shows us how much our audiences want to give back. It's really wonderful to know we have an audience with such heart; it makes the long hours and hard work worth it when we see people who care so much."

Participation in the fundraiser is voluntary, but Florida Rep's *Mousetrap* ensemble was more than willing to step up to the challenge; many of them made donations as

well! John Felix, a long-time Florida Rep Equity ensemble member, took center stage each night after the cast took their bows and spoke candidly to audiences about the importance and necessity of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. The rest of *The Mousetrap* cast took off their hats and collected donations as audience members exited the house. Felix joked with audiences as he shielded his eyes from the stage lights and peered into the darkened house, "I can see some of you taking out your wallets now and those of you who are not, I can see you too," he informed them. Felix explained to each night's audience that the cast had set \$3,500 as their donation goal and near the end of the drive, Felix added audience incentive by proclaiming, "If you donate \$20, the actors at the doors will even speak to you!"

So far this year, the theatre community nationwide has raised over 2.7 million dollars through BC/EFA for the Actors' Fund of America, and over 48 million dollars since it's start in 1987.

In addition to the cast's BC/EFA fundraising efforts, Cacioppo and Florida Rep are donating the entire theatre to Island Coast AIDS Network for the special preview performance on Thursday, Jan. 9, of Terrance McNally's *Master Class*, winner of the 1996 Tony Award for Best Play. This peek into the life of opera legend Maria Callas takes the woman who created the definition of 'diva' from her early days as an ugly duckling to her tumultuous affair with Aristotle Onassis. Indeed, Maria Callas' own life had the epic proportions of an opera.

Tickets to this important fund-raiser are \$30 and include a VIP reception catered by Ellington's before the show at 7 p.m. Curtain is at 8. For more information, call 337-2391.

More sponsors get on board

Captiva's Key Lime Bistro and Sanibel's Island Cow have joined a growing list of sponsors for the Jan. 5th Ya Gotta Regatta. The event will benefit the Florida Repertory Theatre.

"It looks like we're going to have good-spirited competition on the starting line," says Olympic and America's Cup sailor Steve Colgate, founder and co-owner of Offshore Sailing School which is donating the use of six Colgate 26 sailboats for the event.

Each boat will have a team name and sponsor logo on the hull. Already on board are the South Seas Mariners sponsored by South Seas Resort, The Moosy/Payson Team of Merrill Lynch, the Notorious Navigators sponsored by Bruce Strayhorn and Joe Fisher, the Keylime Cows co-sponsored by Rob DeGennaro's Island Cow and Sandy Stilwell's Key Lime Bistro. Sponsorships start at \$1,500 for the boat and one crew position aboard; \$1,950 for the boat and all four crew positions. An expert racing coach will be aboard each boat, provided by Offshore. Crew positions not used by sponsors will be sold to individuals at \$150 per spot.

The first of two races in the regatta starts off South Seas Resort in Pine Island Sound at 11 a.m. The final finish gun of the second race will fire no later than 1 p.m. A practice session for racing crews will be held earlier on the morning of the regatta. The awards ceremony with each of the first three win-

ning crew members receiving a silver trophy, takes place immediately following return of the boats to the dock around 1:30 p.m.

Spectators can view the races from the decks of the Lady Chadwick which is being provided by Captiva Cruises. Tickets are \$35 per person and include a box lunch, cash bar, and betting on your favorite team. The bets are actually purchases of raffle tickets at \$5 per ticket or 6 for \$25, with all proceeds going to the Theatre. Prizes, which are still coming in, include a three-day stay at South Seas, a Learn to Sail course for two donated by Offshore Sailing School; nautical jewelry from Congress Jewelers; sailboat-engraved wine glasses from Luc Century; tickets for two to *Les Misérables*, *Swing* and *The Ten Tenors* from the Barbara B. Mann Theater; dinners from Bistro Café, Le Brasserie, Veranda and other fine area restaurants; and a nautical deck chair from Boat U.S.

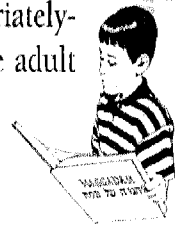
Sanibel-Captiva's H₂O Outfitters is providing uniforms and hats free of charge and regatta tees and hats will be available for purchase by spectators. South Seas Resort is donating box lunches for all those aboard the regatta boats and the Lady Chadwick.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a boat should call Carrie Lund at 432-9714 or Doris Colgate at 985-7511. Spectator and raffle tickets are available at the Florida Repertory Theatre box office — 332-4488.

Sanibel Library

Children's World

To enter the library's magical realm of childhood, turn right at the top of the stairs, or as you leave the elevator. There, at the east end of the building, is a charming spot where the furniture and the book shelves are appropriately-sized and the atmosphere is happy and relaxed. Distanced from the adult areas, the youngsters participate in reading programs, storytelling sessions and puppet plays, as they learn to love and appreciate the world of books. For more information, call 472-2483



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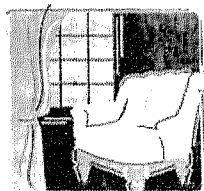
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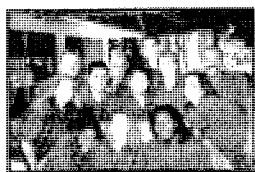


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BIG ARTS presents Pianist Derek Wieland



Prize in the International Competition in Senigallia, Italy.

In 2000, Wieland performed in a Billy Joel Tribute Concert as part of the International Concert Series at Hofstra Cultural Center in New York, toured as a featured soloist with Capitol Chamber Artists performing chamber works on the fortepiano, and performed Prokofiev's Sonata No. 2 live on radio. Since its founding in 1991, Wieland has been president of Uptime Studios, a recording facility in New York City. In addition to teaching private students, Wieland also assists in composition classes at Juilliard.

BIG ARTS is delighted to add to this already brilliant evening a short performance by concert

Twelve years ago, an 18-year-old virtuoso pianist, Derek Wieland, delighted his BIG ARTS audience with a stunning performance. Now, with many awards, prizes and glowing reviews to his credit, the acclaimed pianist returns to BIG ARTS Saturday, Jan. 4, at 8 p.m. for an encore performance in the Sidney Frank Sinow and Donald Walker Memorial

pianist Ethel Sinow in memory of her late husband, Sidney Frank Sinow who died New Year's Eve one year ago, and her longtime teacher, Donald Walker.

Tickets are available for \$25 at BIG ARTS, 900 Dunlop Road. Box office hours are 9-4 Monday through Friday (395-0900).

A native of New York, Wieland entered the pre-college division of the Juilliard School of Music on a full scholarship at the age of eleven, receiving his Bachelor of Arts in 1992 and his Master's in 1994 in piano performance. He gained national recognition in 1987 after being the first pianist to win the grand prize in the 17th General Motors National Concerto Competition. Wieland has performed in recitals throughout the United States, Europe, South America, South Africa and Taiwan and appeared as soloist with many orchestras, including the Slovak Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra and the Long Island Philharmonic. In 1999 he was awarded first prize in the International Johann Nepomuk Hummel Piano Competition held in the Slovak Republic and Third



Donald Walker, originally scheduled for this concert passed away on Sept. 12, 2002. We are saddened by the loss of this remarkable man, but are grateful for hav-

ing known him — for being touched by his artistry, amused by his sense of humor, challenged by his intellect, and transformed by his sensitive, caring nature. We will miss him.

Walker, professor of piano, held B.S. and M.S. degrees from Juilliard. His teachers included Adele Marcus, Carl Broman, Sidney Foster and Florence Kirsch. Walker filmed three television recitals for RCA Victor and Steinway & Sons which were featured at the RCA Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

He made his New York debut in 1972 at Alice Tully Hall where his playing was acclaimed by the New York Times as "having shape, coherency, warmth, personality, and a spacious rhetorical manner." Having concertized extensively throughout the U.S., Europe and the Middle East, Germany's Die Welt hailed Walker's playing as "self-willed and powerful ... his virtuosity permits him an effortless mastery ... One could almost speak of a Walker style."

Professor Walker collaborated with such artists as the Vermeer Quartet, Raya Garbousova, Paula Robison, Julian Patrick and Walter Carringer and, as a soloist, appeared with numerous major orchestras including the National Symphony, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Virginia Symphony and the Chicago Strings. The Chicago Tribune called Walker's playing "fleet-fingered pianism which kept the music spinning in an exhilarating whirl that also knew when to sigh, when to sing."

Formerly on the piano faculties of the University of Wisconsin and the University of Southern California, he had recently been invited by the government of the People's Republic of China to perform with the Shanghai Philharmonic and to present master classes and solo recitals. In 1997, Mr. Walker was invited to teach at Mahidol University in Thailand and, while there presented recitals in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Phuket. Most recently, Walker was included in Benjamin Saver's book, *The Most Wanted Piano Teachers in America*.

Ethel Sinow studied with Walker whenever she was in Illinois and, over the years, they became good friends. "He was my coach, my mentor and a very dear friend to both Sidney and me," she said. "It was a privilege and a pleasure to work with him." Walker came to Sanibel several times for concerts at BIG ARTS.

Classic rock group to appear at Mann Hall

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall will be rockin' on Wednesday, Jan. 8!

Huey Lewis and the News have been defying the rock odds makers for two decades, with 1999 marking the occasion of their 20th Anniversary. Formed from two rival Bay Area bands 1979, their contagious brand of straight-ahead rock 'n' roll has outlasted countless trends, selling over 20 million albums worldwide in the process. The group has carried the banner as the quintessential American Rock band, endearing the group to millions of fans and earning them the right to mark their own place on the pop history map.

These Grammy Award winners have written and performed such classics as "Heart of Rock & Roll," "Stuck With You," "I Want A New Drug," "If This Is It" and "Workin' For A Livin'." The group also wrote and performed two songs for the hit movie *Back to the Future*. "The Power of Love" from that film was a #1 hit and was also nominated for an Oscar.

As great a recording career as the band has had, their live performances remain the stuff of legend. Huey Lewis and the News have incorporated a variety of musical influences, including R&B and soul, to create their own unique sound. One highlight of their show is their a cappella renditions of early rock 'n' roll classics such as "Sixty Minute Man," "So In Love" and "It's All Right." The band consists of Huey Lewis (vocals and harmonica), Johnny Colla (saxophone, guitar and vocals), Bill Gibson (drums, percussion and vocals), Sean Hopper (keyboard and vocals), Stef Burns (guitars and vocals) and John Pierce (bass). For eight years the band has been touring with a hand-picked horn section of Bay Area luminaries — Marvin McFadden on trumpet, Ron Stallings on tenor sax, and Rob Sudduth on baritone sax. The band, with the release of their ninth album, *Plan B*, has been delighting their fans by performing some of their soon-to-be-classic "News" tunes.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$42.50 and can be purchased at the Mann Hall box office, by phone at 481-4849 or from Ticketmaster at 334-3309. Groups should call Lana Waltzer at 489-3033, Ext. 3122 for reservations.

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J.T. does it again!

Oh, joy to the world! *Ho! Ho! Ho! The Christmas Show* is here... with little changes here, a wee tweak there, a cast of friendly and familiar as well as talented new faces, there's a new twist to the Old Schoolhouse's beloved yearly, seasonal, holiday offering. When I lived and worked in New York the Radio City Music Hall *Christmas Spectacular* heralded the beginning of the Christmas celebration; now that I live and work on Sanibel, *Ho! Ho! Ho!* ushers in this joyous season for me.

The dear little gem known as The Old Schoolhouse Theater is dressed to the nines in her best Christmas finery — multi-colored twinkle lights, loads of poinsettias outside, red and green painted walls, a gaily decorated Christmas tree, and a fireplace on the in. Add to this cornucopia of holiday delights J.T. and the gang singing many of our Christmas favorites while making merry with the audience, and you end up with the best little Christmas show ever.

Each year J.T., with the help of each new cast, comes up with a different number or two to enliven the proceedings. This year we got a really far out version of *The Wizard of Oz* or *Santa and the Computerized Workshop*... watch out as Mike Hedges steals the scene as Toto. How the song "Rich, Famous and Powerful," brilliantly sung by Samantha Rotella, fits into the Christmas stocking, I can't begin to guess, but be assured it's one of the high points of this Christmas grab bag. The

same goes for Miguel Cintron's delightful Latino rendition of "The Hanukkah Song"... and there's masochistic magic in his version of "The Elf Song."

That mellow fellow, Jeff March, weaves his own brand of enchantment with "I'll Be Home For Christmas" and Kristen Regan not only hits the high notes effortlessly but rocks the joint with her performance of "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree" while dazzling us with her 100 mega-watt smile. Hedges gives award-winning performances in both of his animal take-offs — the aforementioned Toto and also Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer. Hedges' singing is every bit as good as his comedy which makes this guy a real winner. As usual J.T. is at the 88s snapping the whip, setting the tempos, and keeping things whirling along at a merry pace, with enough energy to light up the theater all by himself.

Gosh it's good to have J.T. back where he belongs and radiating so much vim and vigor. He even leads the high jinks in what must be the world's maddest rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" — the highlight of



Marsha Wagner



which is audience participation for each day. It's probably fortunate that we cannot see ourselves as others see us — during "The Twelve Days of Christmas," that's a blessing, I'm sure. We'd likely be blown away by what we beheld, as some members of the audience (myself included) gave rather astounding and unusual physical as well as vocal interpretations.

All in all this year's cast has an outstanding vocal blend, lots of high energy and just loves to entertain you in the *Ho! Ho! Ho! Ha! Ha! Ha! Tee! Hee! Hee!* Holiday Hilarity titled *Ho! Ho! Ho! The Christmas Show*. There's a special New Year's Eve gala that includes a bountiful buffet and champagne at midnight for \$125. Phone 472-6862 for your bit of Holiday Cheer. Don't forget to tell 'em Marsha sent you.

And now, all that's left is to say is this: May 2003 bring you peace, joy and all good things...

**Happy New Year from me,
Marsha!**

World premiere of *Dobdinob*

What happens when you mix a homework assignment, sixteen children who sing and dance, three adults, a stuffed shaggy dog and a dragon?

You get a musical, of course!

Nabbie's Productions, Inc. and Cultural Park Theatre Company are presenting the world premiere of *Dobdinob: the Musical*. The show opens tonight, Friday, Dec. 27, and runs through Jan. 5, at Cultural Park Theatre. Producers Carol and David Nabatoff hope to generate long-term interest in the show by holding a special invitation-only performance on Thursday, Jan. 2, for local and out of state theatrical producers.

Dobdinob is helmed by Washington, D. C. actor-director Leo Wolfe, whose distinguished local work includes Cultural Park's productions of *Into the Woods*, *The Fantasticks* and *Sweeney Todd*. The show features book and lyrics by Cape Coral resident, Carmine Lombardo, and original music by Rio Clemente, a popular jazz pianist in the New York area.

The show hopes to inspire the child in each of us through a mix of whimsy, drama, music, dance and fantastical sights and sounds. Exploring what happens when a 13-year-old boy gets a difficult school assignment, the story takes us through

a fantasy adventure, as Billy (Sean David Bos) confronts his self-imposed obstacles to success.

Other featured child performers in the cast include Trevor Jack and Viva Mina, playing Billy's best friends and mystical companions on the trip to Dobdinob. Local voice teacher and performer, Carol A. Nabatoff, plays Billy's grandmother. She is making her second appearance under the direction of Wolfe, who is her son, having played the Witch in his production of *Into the Woods*. Veteran singer-actor (and real-world podiatrist) Dr. John Mina plays Billy's father and Andrew Tremelling rounds out the principal cast as Billy's annoyingly lovable pet, Goliath.

Featured in the ensemble are Britni Ball, Annabelle Barkley, Felicia Bethea, Heather Carpenter, Danny Fucci, Bobby Gibson, Brittni Kersey, Erin McBride, Sean Mina, Roman Mina, Sabrina Prabakaran, Arlington St. Clair-Babb, Kelsey Swope and Caitlyn Wilson. The show's sets and costumes were designed by Dorayne Lombardo and Tara Pescatore is the choreographer.

In a time when too many people are filled with fear, alienation and pressures surrounded by violence and cynicism,

Dobdinob's inspirational message promises to be one of the most popular and beloved contemporary musicals for children of all ages since *The Wizard of Oz*.

Tickets for this live theatrical event are \$10 for students, \$15 for adults, and \$14 for seniors. They can be purchased through the Cultural Park Theatre Box Office at 772-5862.

Show times are as follows:

Previews — Dec. 27th, 28th, and Jan. 1st at 8 p.m., Dec. 29th and Jan. 1st at 3;

World premiere performances — Jan. 2nd (by invitation only), 3rd and 4th at 8 p.m., Jan 4th and 5th at 3.

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SMALL THINGS ARE WONDERFUL

There's no time like the holiday season. Sooner or later we all get swept up in its warm embrace. The season is commercialized, expensive and a lot of hard work, but it can also be a magical time of happy gatherings with family and friends.

The holidays represent the intimate sharing of honest sentiment among friends and sometimes strangers, the strength and continuity of family and cultural traditions, the natural yearning for the comfort of a close group—in a word—community. It is that happy spirit of community, the very essence of small town life, that we celebrate with you in this weekly column.

At this time of year, simple pleasures abound and have become time-honored rituals. For example: Gathering as a family to watch A Christmas Carol or It's A Wonderful Life, baking holiday cookies or a gingerbread house together, or sharing religious traditions.

We are also reminded that small is wonderful and a simple "thank you" can mean so much. To all our clients, readers and associates, we say "thank you" and wish you a Joyous Holiday Season and Prosperous New Year.

Specializing in Sanibel and Captiva real estate since 1991, Margie is currently serving a second term as President of the Sanibel & Captiva Association of Realtors. She was named Realtor Of The Year in 2000 and is a continuous award winner with Priscilla Murphy Realty, Inc. Call Margie at PMR, 472-1511, or e-mail her at Margie@MargieDavison.com

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Provonsha in her element with one-woman show



Made plans for New Year's Eve, yet? Need something to do with the family as the holiday ham is settling? Have we got a hot tip for you...

Hie thee to the Arcade Theatre where Florida Rep and its Producing Artistic Director, Robert Cacioppo, proudly present Carol Provonsha in her one-woman musical show, *Fat Lady Sings*.

She was a scream as the plus-size, hypochondriac cooking-show host, Cookie, in Florida Rep's recent hit, *Rumors*. Now she graces the stage once more in a riotously original show, which celebrates the boldest and most beautiful singers of size. *Fat Lady Sings* received was acclaimed by the Wall Street Journal, which wrote that her "full-throttle voice explored the entire cannon of female vocalists, past and present, who wouldn't likely fit into a size-eight dress!" *Fat Lady Sings* plays the Arcade four days only, Dec. 27-31.

Fat Lady Sings is a confessional cabaret that sings and dances its way through the familiar songs of Mama

Cass, Mae West, Kate Smith, Nell Carter, Sophie Tucker, and even Liza Minnelli (who has recently joined the ranks of the fat ladies). Provonsha goes beyond impersonation as she conjures up these dynamic divas and literally incarnates them.

"Be prepared to roll down the aisles as you howl with laughter! *Fat Lady Sings* is a winner!"

The two-act show was conceived, written, and arranged by Provonsha and her long-time accompanist, Arthur Barnes. The laughs, tears, and emotion never stop — Provonsha is masterful in relating to audiences with personal stories taken from her own life as an overweight woman.

Cacioppo says, "Be prepared to roll down the aisles as you howl with laughter! *Fat Lady Sings* is a



winner! Carol Provonsha is a life force who thrives in front of an audience, and whom audiences just can't seem to get enough of."

Provonsha is a Florida celebrity, receiving critical acclaim and critics choice for Best of the Year in her other works — *Blown Sideways Through Life*, in Tampa, and both *Too Big to Be a Waitress* and *Search for Signs*, in Palm Beach.

Don't miss out on this musical journey that celebrates singers of size! *Fat Lady Sings* plays only four performances, Dec. 27th, 28th & 31st at 8 p.m. and Dec. 29th at 2. Get your tickets now — \$15 - \$20. Call the Box Office at 332-4488.

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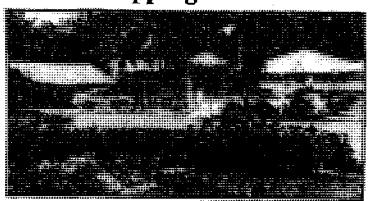
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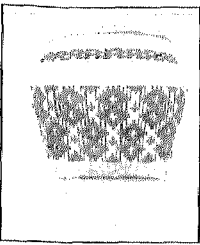
The Arts... Out and about

10th anniversary art exhibit

Five area artists will show their work in the 10th anniversary art exhibit at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre Gallery from Jan. 6 through Feb. 24.

The artists are basket maker Helen Baller, metal sculptor Ralph Bigletti, cartoonist Bill Monroe and painters William North and Carl Schwartz.

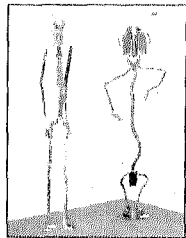
The exhibit is being held in conjunction with the theatre's 2003 10th anniversary season and will take place during the run of *Annie Get Your Gun*.



Baller of Sanibel will show traditional reed and Nantucket baskets. Her exquisite craftsmanship is the result of nearly 20 years of basket-making experience. Her work is sold in galleries and shops on Sanibel and Captiva. She also

teaches basket making at BIG ARTS on Sanibel and in her home studio.

Sculptor **Bigletti** is known as "the man of steel" for his 3-D creations made from metal, glass and other more exotic materials. During his 39-year career, his goal has been to achieve originality with each piece. The art that he cuts, hammers and welds together in his Fort Myers Terminally Ill Metal Works always brings high bids at the Arts for ACT Auction.



North of Fort Myers, has been painting in oil for more than 50 years. His impressionist landscapes, painted largely outdoors, portray Florida's mangroves, beaches and other natural beauty. He is also known for his still lifes of Florida oranges. He is represented by Sanibel and

Pine Island galleries and teaches oil painting at BIG ARTS.

Also of Fort Myers, artist **Schwartz** has a lifetime of painting and teaching experience. His recent paintings capture on canvas his lush, walled, water garden.

Some portray water plants, others are lively pond scenes of Koi feeding or "dancing" in swirling water. His work has been exhibited nationally and is in hundreds of corporate and private collections. He is a professor of art at Florida Gulf Coast University.



Monroe, a resident of Alva, is a nationally published cartoonist whose drawings appear in national magazines and in advertising for many Fortune 500 companies. His cartoons often portray the humor found in many office and workday situations. Originals and prints of his work are often used in office decor.

BIG ARTS Film Society

The BIG ARTS Monday Evening Film Series will begin Jan. 6 in Schein Hall at 7 p.m. The Monday Evening Series will take place the first and third Monday of each month. Showing Jan. 6 is *Shower*, a Chinese film with English subtitles. *Shower* is about the customers of a Beijing bathhouse and the everyday people who lead ordinary lives, sharing dreams and fears similar to everyone. It's a delightful, good-hearted comedy that shows the rhythms of the days and the customs of the bathhouse.

Tickets are \$4.50 per person and are available at BIG ARTS prior to the film. This marks the seventh year for the BIG ARTS Film Society to bring together a selective series of films for viewing and discussion. The evening starts with a brief introduction to the film and ends with a wine and cheese party for the audience at which they can discuss the film.

BIG ARTS Film Society will also sponsor a Wednesday Matinee Series starting Jan. 15, in cooperation with the Island Cinema. These will be Academy Award Nominated films including *Frida*, *Mostly Martha*, *Real Women Have Curves*, and others. The cost is \$4.50 and tickets will be available the day of the show at Island Cinema. Following these films a discussion will be held at one of

the local restaurants where one can order either light refreshments or a full meal.

In addition, the Film Society will sponsor the first Island Film Festival March 13-16 in cooperation with Island Cinema. Film screenings for this four-day festival will be at both BIG ARTS and the movie theatre. For more information call BIG ARTS at 395-0900.

Art Association Calls for Artists

Ridge Art Association will accept entries for "The 53rd Anniversary Fine Arts Exhibition" on Friday, Jan. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 4 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. sharp. (Judging begins immediately at 11, so no entries will be accepted after that.)

This is Ridge Art Association's annual national show. Artists will be competing for \$4,000 in total prizes including a top prize of \$1,500 for Best of Show. Other awards are \$1,000 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place. Five artists will each receive \$200 for an "Award of Excellence."

Original drawings, paintings, graphics, fiber works, photography, sculptures and mixed media pieces created in the past two years are eligible for submission. To enter the show, all artists must be 18 years of age or older. A prospectus with the full specifications, procedures and fees is available by contacting the office at Ridge Art at (863) 291-5661.

Sam W. Kates is this year's judge. Kates has judged numerous shows throughout the southeast. From 1988 to 2002 he was the executive director of the Wiregrass Museum of Art in Dothan, Alabama. Kates will select the works to be

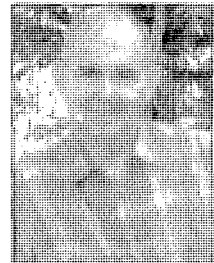
exhibited, and choose the awards. A gallery talk and critique will be given by the judge at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4.

This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of several sponsors including SunTrust, sponsor of the Best of Show Award. The exhibition opens to the public on Wednesday, Jan. 8, with a reception for the artists on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend and meet some of the artists. Many of the works presented will be available for sale. The show will remain on view in the gallery through Jan. 26.

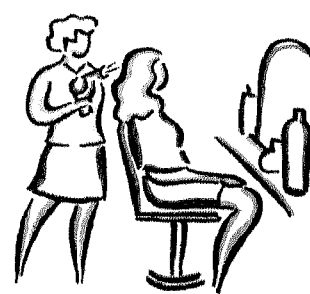
Ridge Art Association is located at the Chain of Lakes Complex, 210 Cypress Gardens Boulevard, Winter Haven. The office and gallery hours are from 12:30 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The gallery also is open to coincide with Theatre Winter Haven productions. For more information, visit the association's website at www.ridgeart.org.

In print

Island Writers Group I member Bill Hallstead has a story in the December issue of *Cricket*, a prominent magazine for young readers. His suspense story, "Tototo," appears in the February issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, now on the stands. A third story by Hallstead will appear in a coming issue of the national inspirational magazine, *The Liguorian*.



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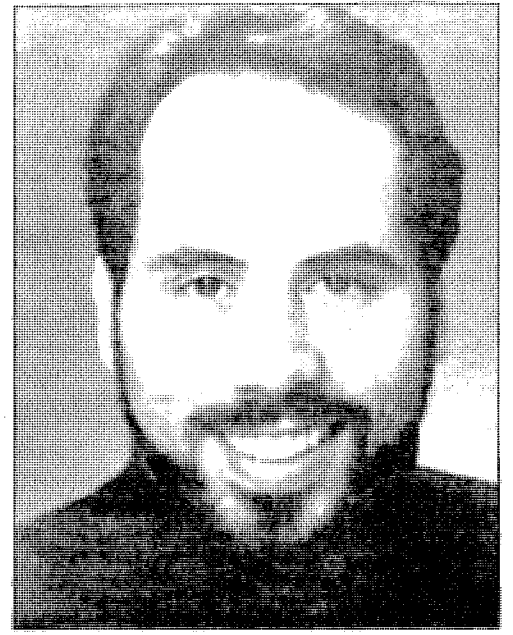
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Blockbusters opens season

Gulf Coast Symphony Announces 2002-2003 Season



Shira Lissek



Ravil Atlas

The Gulf Coast Symphony opens its 2002-2003 Symphonic Sensations season at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers tonight at 8 p.m. with *Broadway Blockbusters!* featuring Ravil Atlas, Broadway touring star of *Les Miserables* and *Phantom of the Opera*. *Broadway Blockbusters!* features music from the hottest current Broadway shows, including *The Producers*, winner of a record-breaking 12 Tony Awards, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *RENT*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*,

Phantom of the Opera and *The Secret Garden*! Joining Mr. Atlas will be soprano Shira Lissek, Erikka Walsh, a Fort Myers native, and the Fort Myers Chorus. This is a evening of intense drama and great fun for the entire family. Ticket prices start at only \$15!

The Symphonic Sensation series continues on Saturday, Feb. 22, with *A Night at the Oscars!* Share in the Gulf Coast Symphony's celebration of Hollywood's

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proudest moments with music and movies that have won film's most famous statue — the Oscar! The night's festivities will be hosted by a special Hollywood guest. Afterward, join the Symphony in a post-concert Oscar Night celebration sponsored by Blue Pepper Gourmet Foods & Bakery. The Oscar Night Party requires a separate reservation and donation of \$25, all which benefits the symphony education and outreach programs.

Then on Sunday, March 23rd the Symphonic Sensation series ends with *A Viennese Ball*. Dance the night away at Count Orlovsky's magical Viennese Masked Ball at the famous Fledermaus party. Enjoy some of the greatest music ever written by Johann Strauss, Jr. The evening will be filled with Strauss waltzes and surprise guests! This semi-staged production will be directed by Henry McCarthy of the Baltimore Opera, with professional singers from New York, Chicago, Baltimore & Philadelphia.

Season subscriptions for Symphonic Sensations range from \$38-\$75, with single tickets from \$15-\$15. Season subscribers benefit from priority seating, discounts, a special reception after opening night with the stars of *Broadway Blockbusters* and members of the Symphony.

Tickets can be purchased in person at the Mann Hall box office. Or, call 481-4849 or (800) 440-7469. For more information about Symphonic Sensations or any other of the Symphony's music and education programs call the Gulf Coast Symphony office at 472-6197.



Erikka Walsh

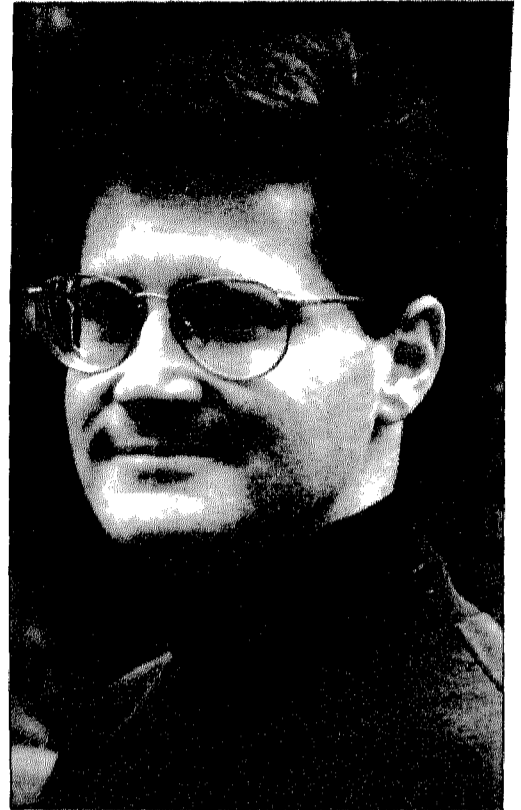
Magic Carpet Family Concerts

The Gulf Coast Symphony's Galloway Magic Carpet Family Concert Series is a partnership with the Galloway Family, the oldest and most respected automotive organization in Southwest Florida since 1927. The Galloway Magic Carpet Family concerts are held on three Saturday afternoons Jan. 25, March 8 and April 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the Galloway Ford showroom — 1800 Boy Scout Drive in Fort Myers. Designed for children of all ages, these free one-hour concerts are the perfect introduction to the symphony orchestra. Sit on your individual "magic carpet" and take a journey through the sights and sound unique to the symphony. Interactive demonstrations, explanations,

and one-on-one interaction with orchestra members are all elements of these exciting and captivating concerts. *Around the World* is the theme of this season's concerts. Each concert also features soloists who are part of the Gulf Coast Symphony's Musical Gateways: Artist Residency program. An instrument petting zoo will be on display before and after each concert. Also, a children's art exhibition, featuring the works of area students and members of the *Vision & Strength through the Arts* program, will be on display in the showroom. No tickets or advance reservations required. For more information e-mail MagicCarpetConcerts@gulfcostsymphony.org

The Symphony's 2003 season of concerts ends with *CLASSIC SANIBEL: A Concert & Conversation Program* on Saturday, May 3, at Schein Hall. The Gulf Coast Symphony returns to its home on Sanibel for a classical celebration with a new Concert & Conversation program! Maestro Kurtz and the orchestra will discuss and demonstrate with musical examples before each piece of music. The program will feature some of classical music's Top 100 Hits! The symphony will be joined by violin soloist Reiko Niiya, concertmaster of the Southwest Florida Symphony who is celebrating her 20th year as a member of our arts community. A pre-concert preparation booklet and CD will be available to ticket buyers by request only. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at BIG ARTS or by calling the Gulf Coast Symphony office at 472-6197.

The Gulf Coast Symphony's *Musical Gateways Education Program* is sponsoring three artist residencies this season.



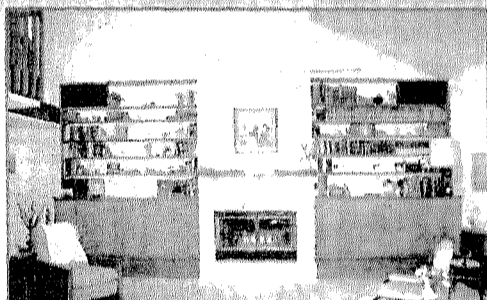
Maestro Kurtz

Featured artists will be 16-year-old violinist Gareth Johnson, winner of the 2002 Sphinx Competition; Laura Vicari, soprano; and Myrna Meeroff, French horn. Johnson has recently made his debuts with the Atlanta, Detroit, and Boston Symphonies and will be featured in the Jan. 25 Galloway Magic Carpet Family Concert. He can also be heard in recital on

See Symphony, page 12B



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American Ballet Studio Company at BIG ARTS



Symphony No. 23 by John Eason.

Photo by Nan Melville

ment of close contact with a professional company into communities around the country.

The dancers (ages 16-21) are hand-picked from around the world by the artistic staff of American Ballet Theatre. Studio Company dancers will train in the program for one or two years before joining American Ballet Theatre's main company or other leading national and international professional companies.

Participation in outreach programs for children and other selected groups is an important part of the Studio Company's mission. Studio Company dancers perform in schools around the New York City area and throughout the United States. Last year alone the company performed for over 20,000 school children from New York to California.

The New York Times has said The Studio Company dancers "perform with an appealing blend of freshness and individual presence." The Newark Star-LEDGER was glowing: "The American Ballet Theatre Studio Company delights audiences with its youthful vigor and panache. These dancers are firecrackers!" And, according to the Cape Cod Times, "They are splendid! A dozen dancers, young, full of excitement, accomplished, well trained."

The outreach program also extends to colleges and universities, where dance students experience the rare opportunity of collaborating with the company during a three-week residency. "It was absolutely inspiring to take classes with the ABT dancers," said one Indiana University dance student.

In addition, the Studio Company dancers enhance their experience through performance opportunities with ABT's main company, in such large-scale ballets

John Meehan

Director, ABT Studio Company

Australian-born John Meehan worked for 20 years as a professional dancer. He was Principal Dancer with the Australian Ballet from 1974 to 1977 before joining American Ballet Theatre, first as a Guest Artist in 1977 and then as a Principal Dancer in the fall of that same year. He has appeared in many classical ballets, including *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *Firebird*, *Etudes*, *Les Sylphides*, and *Theme and Variations*.

Meehan has performed as a guest artist with companies around the world including New York City Ballet and the National Ballet of Canada and has appeared in Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Song and Dance* in London, on Broadway, and in the Australian production.

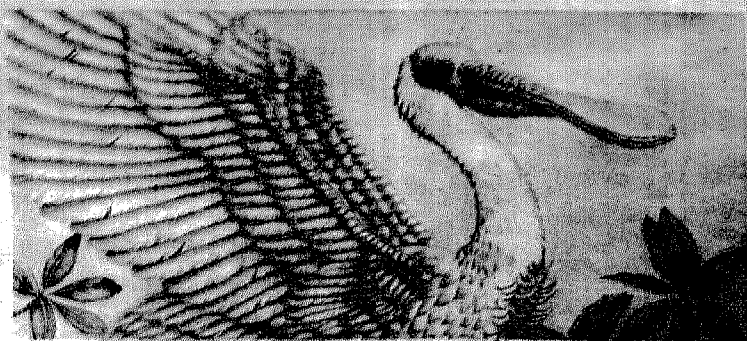
As the artistic director of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Mr. Meehan staged his original production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. He also choreographed the Metropolitan Opera's productions *The Queen of Spades* and *Hansel and Gretel*. Mr. Meehan is a company teacher for American Ballet Theatre and is the director of ABT's Studio Company.

as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

This performance is generously sponsored by the Ferguson Foundation. Tickets are available for \$30 at BIG ARTS, 900 Dunlop Road. Box office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. (395-0900)

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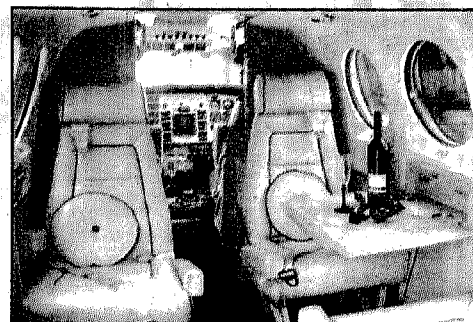
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Symphony, from page 9B

Sunday, Jan. 26, in Naples. Vicari will be participating in *That's Showbiz!* with Anthony Lombardo, pianist, on Sunday, March 30. The duo will be teaming up to present an afternoon of jewels and gems from Broadway to Billy Joel.

Lombardo has accompanied such stars as Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis, Jr., Victor Borge, Sonny & Cher, among others. Meeroff will be featured in the April 12 Galloway Magic Carpet Family concert. All these artists will be working in area

schools presenting master classes, workshops and performances. For more information e-mail MusicalGateways@gulfcoastsymphony.org.

Dr. Kurtz will be teaching his highly regarded *Beginners Guide to Classical Music* once again this season. Designed to introduce and enhance your knowledge of classical music, these classes help develop tools to better understand the basic elements of musical composition and make us better listeners. Classes are one and half

hours in length and are four consecutive Tuesdays starting Feb. 4 at the Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center's auditorium. Topics are "Just What is Classical Music Anyway?" "The Composer's Toolbox" "The Shape of Music," "The Human Equation: Conductor & Performers, Interpretation & Emotion." Registration is \$60 per person for all four classes. For more information email BGCM@gulfcoastsymphony.org.

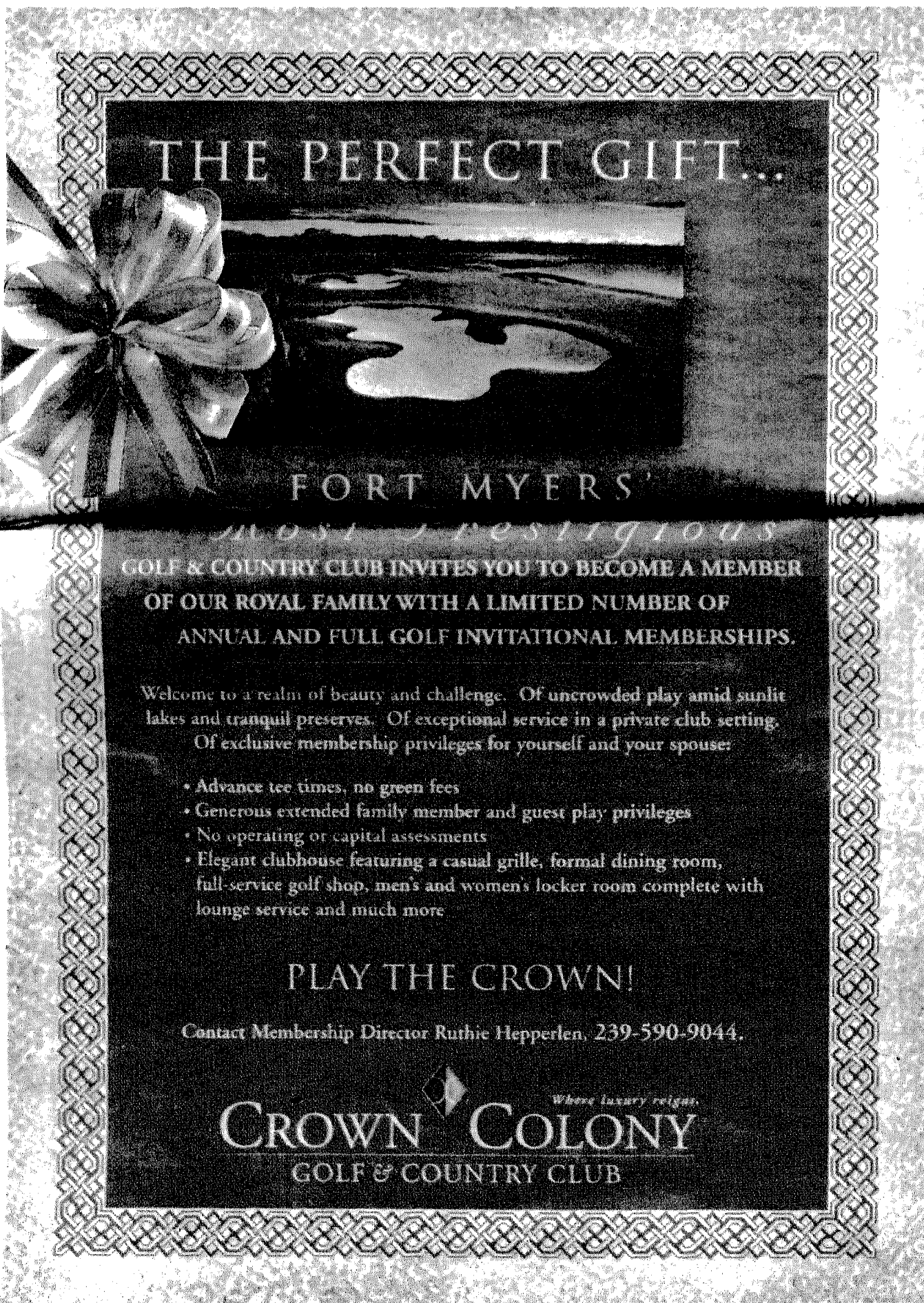
Gulf Coast Symphony's Music Director and founder is Andrew Kurtz, who is also the artistic director of the Opera Theater of Philadelphia.

Kurtz won the First Prize in the Accademia Dell'Arte

International Conducting Competition and made his European debut in Florence, Italy. His International operatic conducting debut took place August 1995 in Tel Aviv, and he was recently named artistic director of a new summer opera institute in Arezzo, Italy. Past conducting posts to his credit include work with The Pennsylvania Opera Theater, The Pennsylvania Ballet, and the Ocean City Pops Orchestra. Kurtz is also a respected and talented arts educator and serves as a conductor and teacher at the Luzerne Music Festival. He received his Doctorate from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore.

The Gulf Coast Symphony's 2002-2003 sponsors include Galloway Family of Dealerships, American Eagle/American Airlines, Times of the Islands, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, the Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center, Country Inn & Suites, Designers' Rug Center, and Island Pursuit.

For more information on orchestra membership, or our current concert season, please call the Gulf Coast Symphony office at 472-6197 or e-mail us at GCSymphony@aol.com.



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Jan 4th, 8 p.m., \$25
- *Ballet Theatre Studio Company*
Jan. 11th, 8 p.m., \$30

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Jan. 6th, 7 p.m., \$4.50

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Crab Races—two shows Monday
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Tropical Breeze—Friday-Saturday
Bohemian Rhapsody w/Marci G.
Sunday & Tuesday-Thursday
- *Thistle Lodge* ~ 2255 West Gulf
Chuck Coughlin, piano & vocals
Thursday-Sunday
- *Beaches* ~ Sundial Resort
Richie Bartolo, keyboards & vocal
Thursday-Saturday
Danny Morgan @ the Pool Bar
Saturdays, 12-3 p.m.
- *Dolce Vita* ~ 1244 Periwinkle
Skip Haynes Black Tie Band—Sunday
McCormick & Ventura—Monday
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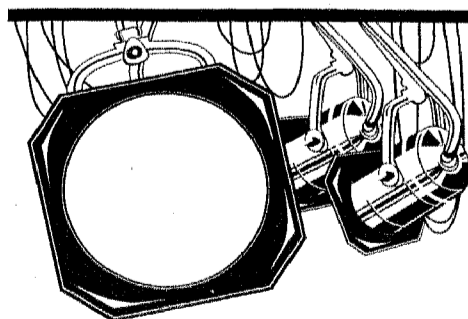
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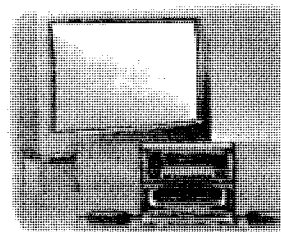
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ACROSS

- 1 Blood fluid
6 "A bit of talcum/Is always walcum" poet
10 Ward of "Once and Again"
14 Petty quarrel
18 GE competitor
19 Start of Idaho's motto
20 Enclosed in
21 Algebraic theory pioneer
22 Frankenstein creation
24 "The Swedish Nightingale"
25 Van Gogh setting
26 Snobs
27 Bowery bum
30 "Kinda" suffix
31 Strengthen
32 contendere
33 Socks
36 Alamo rival
40 Dole's running mate
42 Landscape painter Ernest
46 Aardvark's dinner
47 Bridge blunder
49 Map entry
51 Cold quaff
52 Hot or cold quaff
53 Raconteur
56 Through
57 Civic engineer
59 Half of Mork's sign-off
60 Seep
61 Visibility reducer
62 Gung-ho
64 "Honor Thy Father" author
66 City in southern Italy
69 Vocalize
71 Adverb ending
72 Like some reporters
73 Superiority
75 Mad's genre
77 Tough nut to crack
80 Upper hand
81 Kind of a drag?
83 1800s Harper's Weekly cartoonist
85 Leftovers covering
86 Grammys category
87 Dancer Phillips?

- 91 Braz. neighbor
92 Place for losers?
93 Many a Kuwaiti
94 Sharp
95 Biol. and chem.
96 Fifth century invader
98 Unwanted e-mail
101 Per unit
102 Shut in
103 Mugger's comeuppance
105 Ornamental jug
107 glance
109 Ambitious Kennedy?
113 Excellent
116 Paula of pop
119 To-do list item
120 Angler
122 Blackmore heroine
123 Canal completed in 1825
124 Cornerstone abbr.

- 125 Prince Valiant's wife
126 In . . . in actuality
127 Meg of "French Kiss"
128 Antarctica's Sea
129 Sinatra classic

DOWN

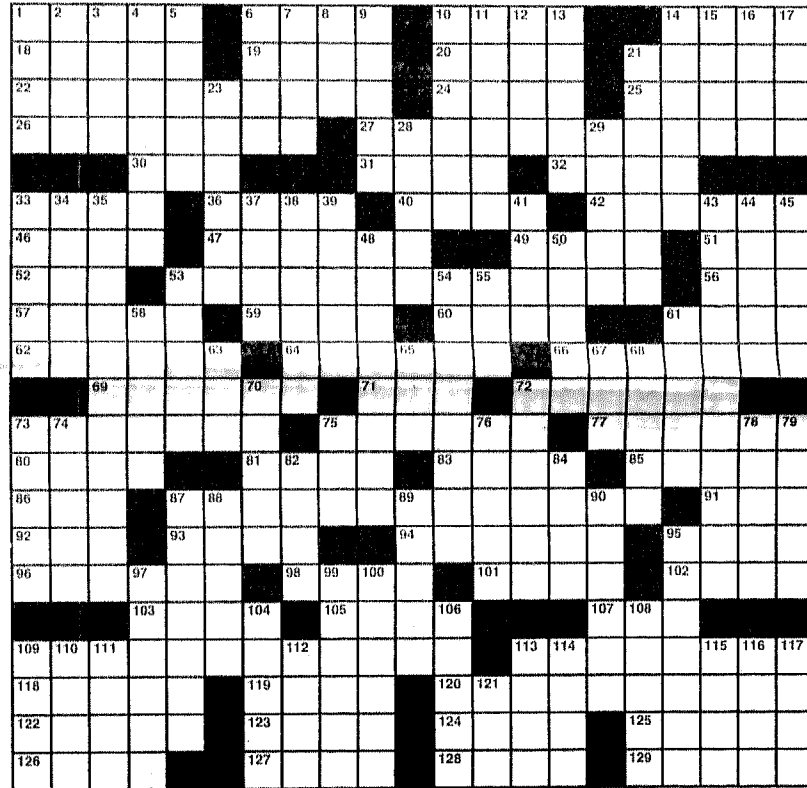
- 1 Red tag event
2 Silents star
3 Beatle George's sitarist friend
4 Concorde
5 "Nature's sole mistake!"
6 Speaker of the House before Dennis
7 Closeout caveat
8 Arch city: Abbr.
9 Composer Gustav
10 Hospital solution
11 "8 Mile" star
12 Breakfast option

- 13 Contribute
14 Blueness?
15 . . . sci: college major
16 Obi-Wan
17 New Ager John
21 Associate of 27-
23 Note in the A-major scale
28 Bus coin
29 Actor Lloyd
33 . . . yoga
34 "It's the other!"
35 Straphanger
37 Ore deposit
38 Present at birth
39 Medicinal plant
41 Chief exec
43 Thrifty Kelly?
44 Keats, e.g.
45 "Great!"
48 9/11 notable
50 a customer
53 Year-end temp
54 Baby honkers
55 Java

- 58 Al . . . pasta order
61 Rage
63 Dress fancily, with "out"
65 Nosh on
67 Greeting to Galba
68 Dentist's request
70 Where Hercules slew a lion
72 Gather one's strength
73 Vice
74 Be flexible
75 Mere taste
76 Haile Selassie worshiper
78 Sausalito's county
79 Woody Allen theme
82 NYPD calls
84 Yellow Brick Road traveler
87 Like some attic junk
88 Bingham of "Baywatch"

- 89 Specifies
90 Kathmandu native
95 Glittering
97 Exempt
99 Iran, once
100 Roused
104 Important key
106 Send for consultation
108 Coffee break hr.
109 Motor attachment
110 Wall St. deals
111 They're exchanged before a minister
112 Indiana city of song
113 Concorde
114 Third degrees?
115 Attracted
116 Smidgen
117 1944 turning point
121 Prefix with tonic

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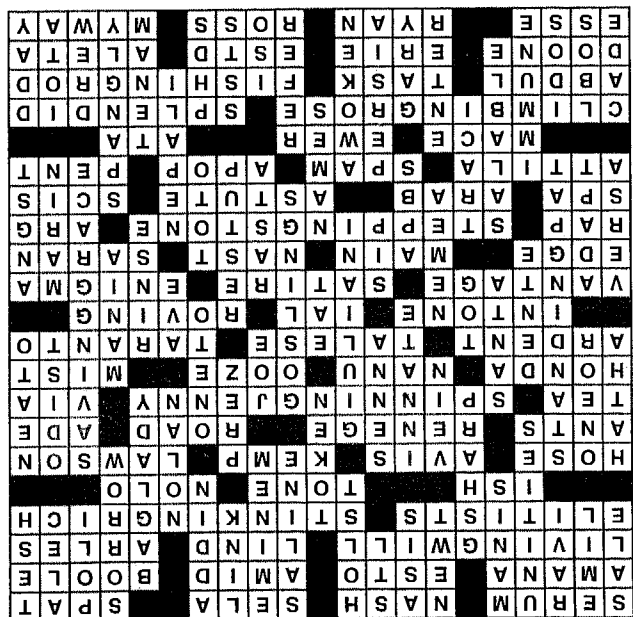


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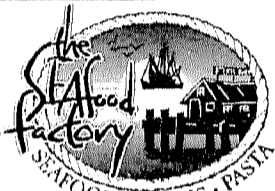
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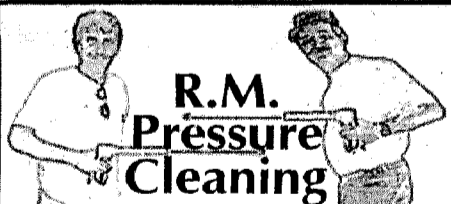
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AT THE PHIL



Miami City Ballet stages Balanchine

The Miami City Ballet will team up with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra to bring Some Balanchine Heroes: From Samurai Prince to Broadway Hooper to the stage on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 14 & 15, at 8 p.m.

The first program in the Miami City Ballet's 14th season in Naples features four diverse works by famed choreographer George Balanchine: Bugaku is a beautiful Japanese court dance; the groundbreaking Apollo is set to a score by Stravinsky; Glinka's captivating Pas de Trois is a dance for a summer evening; and the evening ends with the choreographer's first Broadway collaboration, Richard Rodgers' famous Slaughter On Tenth Avenue. There will be a Dance Preview one hour before each performance, featuring Miami City Ballet Artistic Director Edward Villella.

Tickets for the Miami City Ballet's program Some Balanchine Heroes: From

Samurai Prince to Broadway Hooper are \$46 for adults and \$22 for students.

Three Mo' Tenors to perform

The acclaimed Three Mo' Tenors, starring Victor Trent Cook, Rodrick Dixon and Thomas Young, will showcase the versatility of the African-American tenor voice in concert on Monday, Jan. 6, at 8 p.m.

Spanning four centuries and seven musical forms, the program will range from Duke Ellington to Puccini to Sondheim to soul. The musical backgrounds of the three tenors include Broadway, television, opera and concert appearances. Cook received a Tony Award nomination for his role in Smokey Joe's Cafe and is a former \$100,000 winner on television's Star Search. Dixon has performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and appeared as concert soloist with symphony orchestras around the country. Young has been principal soloist in the major art centers of over 20 countries and has extensive theater, jazz and recording credits. The program was conceived and directed by Marion J. Caffey.

Tickets for Three Mo' Tenors are \$60.

Hyman & Friends come to town

Dick Hyman & Friends: An Evening of Mainstream Jazz will present great songs of Dixieland, swing and the blues on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m.

Jazz pianist Hyman will be joined by an all-star band that includes Howard Alden on guitar, Jay Leonhart on bass,



Kenny Davern on clarinet, Randy Sandke on trumpet, Wycliffe Gordon on trombone, Herlin Riley on drums and Peter Appleyard on vibraphone.

Tickets for Dick Hyman & Friends: An Evening of Mainstream Jazz are \$35 for adults and \$20 for students.

And, last but not least... The Countdown has started!

Five-time Grammy Award-winner Sandi Patty and the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra led by Erich Kunzel will ring in the New Year in style with a spectacular gala concert event on New Year's Eve starting at 10 p.m.

This year's Gala, The Great American Songbook, will feature big band selections, love songs, Disney favorites, inspirational songs and a special rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." A champagne and buffet reception will be held after midnight. Single tickets are \$150.

For more information or to order tickets, contact Customer Service at (239) 597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900. Tickets are also available at the Philharmonic Ticket Outlet at Coastland Center Mall. The Philharmonic Center for the Arts is at 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd. in Naples.



Happy New Year!
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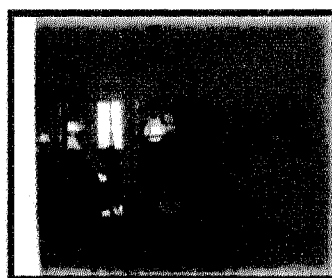
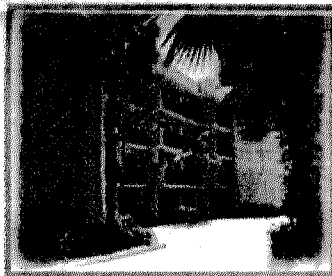


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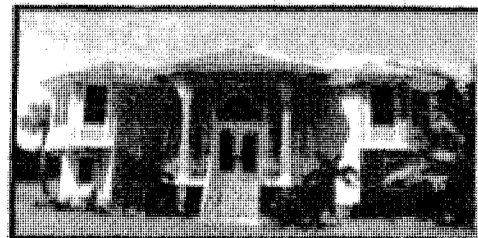
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