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Vol. 42, No. 14

Week of May 23 - 29, 2003

32 Pages



Photo by Renny Severance

It was a great day for sports on Thursday, May 15 when the Little League coaches took to the field to play their first annual (we hope) softball game using the Little League field and Little League bats. Above, Tom Traucht takes a fierce cut at the ball in the 12 inning game that ended with a 20 - 15 victory of Marty Harritty's Slugs over Dick Meunch's (a/k/a the Commish's) Snails. More pictures on page 2.



**The Home Pages this week
take a look at the latests
works of Ikki Matsumoto.**

See page 17

**The "inspired nonsense" of
The Big Bang, the history
of the world in 12 hours,
opens May 30th at the
Old Schoolhouse Theatre
for a six-week run!**

See page 15



The Slugs v. the Snails - an epic contest and a classic good time



Photos by
Renny Severance

UNIQUE
NEW LISTING

- Gulf to bay property
- 2 separate lots
- Bay property has 3 docks
- Offered fully furnished

\$3,195,000 (103340)
Jim Hall
472-5187 x 215

PRIVATE
ESTATE LOT

- With 2 bedroom, 2 bath guest house
- Build your dream home
- Last of affordable Captiva lots
- Deeded beach access

\$1,495,000 (001210)
Anthony or Kathryn Gaeta
472-5187 x 231

ONLY 1000 FT.
TO BEACH

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath
- New floor, carpet, tile, appliances
- High rental income
- Large lanai, fully furnished

\$460,000 (102127)
Peter Wilkens
472-5187 x 260

PAR VIEW DRIVE

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath
- Eat-in kitchen with wet bar
- Formal dining + living & family rooms
- Pool & home overlooks 5th fairway

\$699,000 (103166)
Susan Andrews
472-5187 x 251

OPPORTUNITY
KNOCKS

- Ground level, 2 bedroom, 2 bath
- Walking distance to theater, shopping, restaurants
- True charm with economy
- Be your own landlord

\$329,500 (102631)
Ruth Hamann or The Gerasins
472-5187 x 235,236,232

NEAR BEACH-
LAKEFRONT

- Beautifully remodeled 3 bedroom, 3 bath
- Spacious floor plan, fully furnished
- Gorgeous lake views, pool
- Granite countertops, tiki bar & many extras

\$739,000 (103162)
Rose Dakos
472-5187 x 233

LAKEFRONT
COCONUT CREEK

- Over 4,000 sq. ft. of living
- All brick patio, walkways and driveway
- Gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry
- Private, fenced in backyard

\$895,000 (103323)
James & Penny Hetmanek
472-5187 x 219/202

BAYFRONT CONDO

- 2 bedroom, 2 bath
- Ground floor
- Corner unit
- Newly renovated

\$459,000 (103115)
Jim Anderson
472-5187 x 214

RARE OFFERING

- It's a 3 bedroom Gulf front condo
- Gorgeous views
- 1st floor corner unit
- Private complex - 8 units

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Jim Hall
472-5187 x 215

GUARANTEED INCOME

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Lynda Traverso
472-5187 x 226

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CONDO

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- New kitchen appliances in 2002
- Covered parking

\$539,900 (103060)
John Buskirk
472-5187 x 253

CANAL FRONT CONDO

- Dock up to a 25' boat here
- 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath
- Townhouse style with enclosed lanai
- Beach access, pool and tennis

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Susan Andrews
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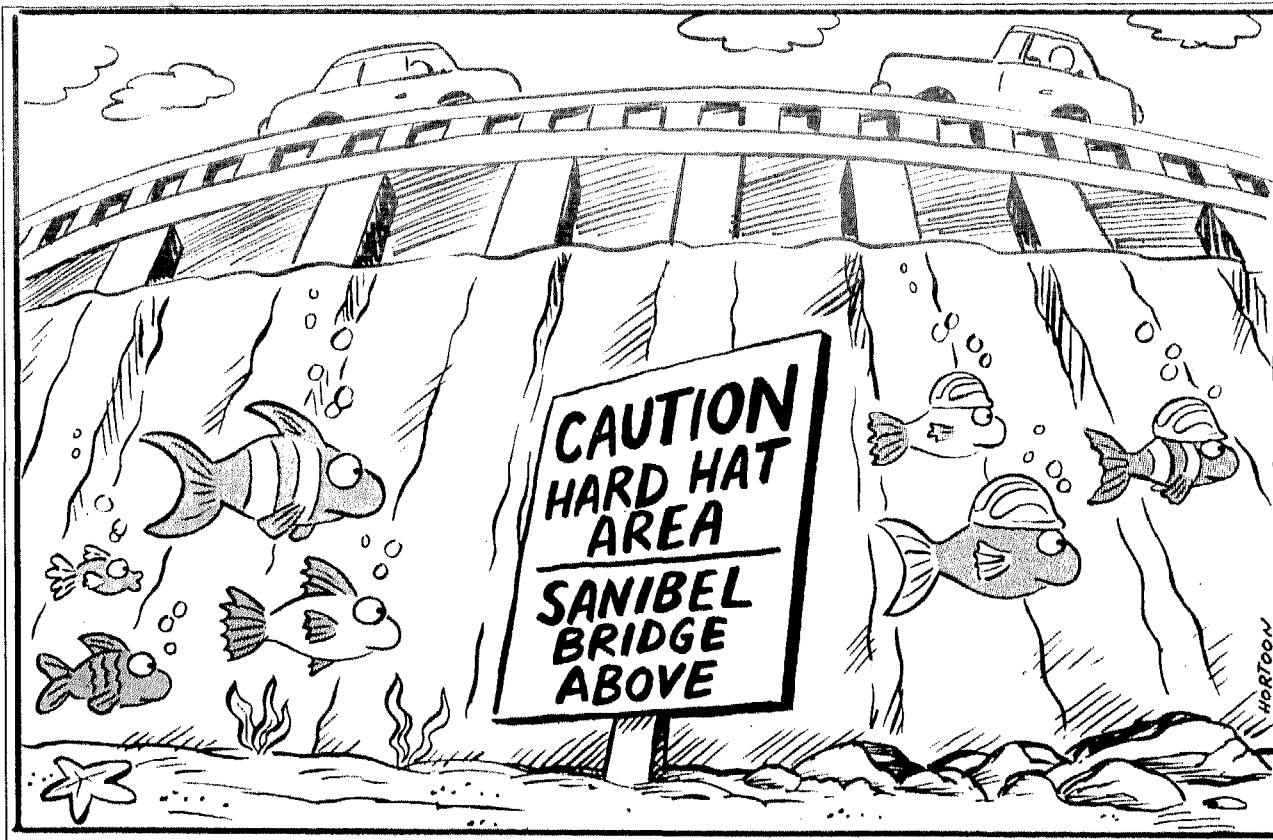
TOO MUCH SUN



Dave Horton



Lee Horton



UP PERISCOPE

There's nothing like a lunar eclipse to make one appreciate one's place in the cosmos. Last Thursday's was a beauty and the weather cooperated perfectly. As the eclipse got started, it didn't look like too much at first — just a little odd, with a bite missing from the bottom of the moon.

But patience... Later on, the bite got much larger until there was just a bright spot at the top of the moon that looked like a polar ice cap. The rest of the disk was dark, but by no means blacked out. Instead, the moon had turned an interesting deep orange color with just enough light to still see craters and contours.

Scientists tell us this is because the Earth's atmosphere bends the red part of the sunlight spectrum into the shadow so that some of it reaches the moon, while the rest of the light goes straight past.



RENNY SEVERANCE
Editor

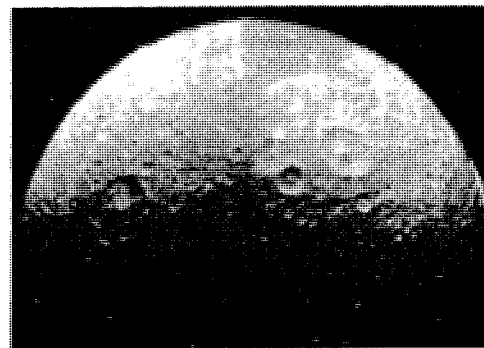
So much for Science 101. The remarkable effect of all of this was that when I viewed the event through some fairly ordinary binoculars, not only were surface details clear, the shading of the moon made it seem much more three-dimensional than usual, somehow making me feel more a part of the process. The moon seemed closer and much more a neighborhood fixture, rather than some distant celestial object. The universe got both a lot larger and a lot smaller at the same time — heady stuff that kept me outside watching the thing for quite a while.

It was a slow show by our high-speed internet access standards, but worth the wait. Along the way, it made this

observer realize how little Nature cares about us and what we do. Yes, we can sure make a mess of our own yard here on our local planet, but the laws of the universe go on unchanged.

It all highlights our responsibilities here as custodians of our own world. If we don't care what happens here, no one else will and the cosmos will go on its own merry way without us.

Some moonshine — eh?



COLUMNISTS

Fishing & Shelling
Capt. Mike Fuery
— page 5



Shell Shocked
Art Stevens
— page 13



Business Profile
Nancy Santeusano
— page 17



Dateline Hollywood
Little Joe Micale
— page 28



Center Stage
Marsha Wagner
— page 16



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HAPPENINGS

Pool Closings

Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 — Pool open from 1-5 p.m.

Tuesday May 27 — Pool open from 1-8 p.m.

The Sanibel School will be using the Pool for their annual end-of-year Pool party from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Tuesday's Water Aerobics class is canceled due to the event.

Bridge reports at City Hall

At the City of Sanibel's request, Lee County has provided copies of the bridge inspection reports covering Feb. 11 through April 25. The reports, which include photographs, are available for review at City Hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

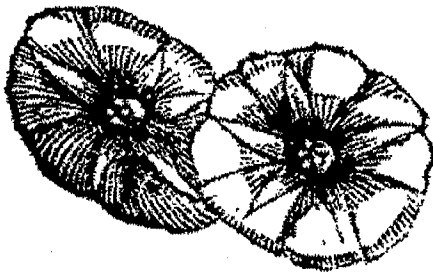
Parade committee to meet

Let Freedom Ring! is the theme for this year's 4th of July parade and parade T-shirts are now available at Bank of the Islands during business hours for \$10 each.

This year's committee — Trish Phillips, Mary Irving, Ginny Bissell, Peggy Hyche, Lisa Cochrane and Ted Tyson — will be meeting next Friday, May 30, at 9 a.m. at BOTI and invites anyone who is interested in helping or who has any creative ideas to attend. In addition, the committee is looking for nominations for the 2003 Parade Marshal. Send

nominations to Lisa Cochrane at 263 Robinwood, Sanibel 33957.

Buddy Poppies for sale



Nothing symbolizes VFW's pledge to "Honor the dead by helping the living" like the Buddy Poppy. The poppy first gained fame as a symbol of hope amid the carnage of war more than 80 years ago when Col. John McCrae, a World War I Canadian veteran, wrote "In Flanders Fields" in 1915. McCrae believed the ideals and causes for which the veterans interred in Flanders fields were fighting and dying must always be remembered.

A few years later a woman named Anna E. Guerin conceived the idea of selling artificial poppies to help orphans and others left destitute in war-ravaged France. In 1922, the Veterans of Foreign Wars adopted the poppy as the official VFW flower and, in 1923, formally adopted a plan to have disabled veterans make the poppies (they had previously been commercially made). The organization's leaders envisioned the men being paid for

their work, thus providing a practical means of assistance while ensuring a steady reliable source of poppies. The first veteran-made poppies were made in Pittsburgh in 1924 and the name "Buddy Poppy" registered with the U.S. Patent Office. "Buddy" was coined by the poppy makers themselves as a tribute to the veterans who didn't come home and those crippled or scarred for life.

Since that time, millions of the blood-red artificial flowers have been made by disabled veterans — many of them disabled on the same battlefields on which their buddies were killed — and distributed for \$1-or-more donation each (year 'round, but with a special emphasis on veteran's days of remembrance like Memorial Day and Veteran's Day). Today, veterans at 15 locations in 12 states assemble the artificial flowers.

On Sanibel, VFW members Larry Lewis and his wife, Joan, along with Dick LeClair, will be at Bailey's tomorrow, May 24, Sunday, May 25, and Memorial Day selling the poppies to remind people of the horrors of war. The Lewises will also have poppies after 10:30 a.m. Mass Sunday at St. Isabel's on Sunday. \$1-or-more donation.

A moving adventure

The Langford-Kingston house will be moved on Saturday (tomorrow) from its original site at the corner of Fowler and First Streets in downtown Fort Myers 220 feet across Fowler to a site across from the Burroughs Home on Palm Beach Boulevard. The prairie-style home — extremely rare in Florida — was built in 1919 by Walter G. Langford, president of First National Bank, sold to George Kingston, inventor of the Kingston carburetor, in 1925 and, in 1953, purchased by the adjacent First Methodist Church for \$75,000. When the church, which had surrounded the house with other buildings, no longer had need for the 5,232-square-foot structure and moved out in 1991. Since then it has been trying to sell the home or somehow get it off the property to make way for a much-needed parking lot. In May 2001 it turned the house over to the City of Fort Myers which, with the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation taking the lead and the help of a \$325,000 state grant, was able to raise the almost \$500,000 necessary for the move. Several fences and a shopping center will be demolished in the moving process.

Fowler will be closed at 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 24, between First and Second Streets and temporary bleachers will be erected. Flint & Doyle will move the house at noon and Fowler should reopen at 3 p.m.

State bonsai convention

The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida is hosting the Florida State Bonsai Convention this weekend at the Ramada Inn Downtown. This is the first time the local chapter has ever hosted this large event and only the second time it has taken place on the west coast of the state in its 30-year history.

Speakers and vendors from across the country will offer workshops and demonstrations. The convention will also host an award-winning bonsai exhibit with trees from all over the state, a bonsai bazaar, raffles and special sessions in which the public may watch bonsai masters create these living jewels.

On Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Ramada's Aqua Dome, a free bonsai workshop for 10 people chosen in a random drawing will provide instruction and a free bonsai to take home. At the same time, a demonstration on creating a bonsai from a bougainvillea will take place, and some lucky audience member will receive this tree free of charge.

And, Chef Martin from the Blue Pepper Gourmet Shop & Restaurant will be conducting a hands-on workshop for convention attendees on the art of making sushi. Ten people will get to work with the chef in learning the basics and each will receive a sushi-making kit and recipes.

Sewing Guild to meet

The next meeting of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the American Sewing Guild will be tomorrow, Saturday, May 24. Held at the Lee County Extension Service in Terry Park on Palm Beach Boulevard, the meeting will feature a workshop/forum on Sewing Room Savvy. It starts at 12:30 pm and ends at 3 p.m.

The American Sewing Guild is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of home sewing. Membership is open to all that would like to learn more about sewing. Chapter meetings are held the fourth Saturday of each month. Dues are \$40 per year, and include the chapter newsletter and special discounts from local merchants. For further information, call the club president, Diane Stramel at 458-2858.

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Lee Memorial Health System needs volunteers

Approximately 30 percent of Lee Memorial's volunteers are seasonal, but the need for them doesn't decrease that much when the season is over.

For example, HealthPark Medical Center Information Desk needs help and volunteers are needed for Clerical/Reception as well as as Transporter/Courier. Lee Memorial needs Greeters and Medical Library Assistants, among other volunteer positions, in addition to Information Desk Specialists.

In addition, blood donations are down. Generally, the System has about 250 more donors each month than it does now and blood is badly needed for the patients of the Lee Memorial Health System.

For islanders the easiest hospital location is, of course, HealthPark. Its blood center is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is closed on Mondays.

Sun Trust to host blood drive

Sun Trust Bank announces its first Sanibel Sun Trust Community Blood Drive to be held Friday, June 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sun Trust on Periwinkle Way.

The public is invited and encouraged to participate by donating blood. Sun Trust will be provided refreshments for those donating and is looking forward to seeing everyone turn out for this worthy cause.

New fund at the Community Foundation

A couple who lived in Fort Myers for more than 50 years has left more than \$1.2 million dollars to establish a fund to assist the needy and poor in Lee County.

Dorothy S. and Ellis A. Galleher Jr. established an endowed fund in their name at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, the fourth largest fund in the 27-year history of the Foundation.

Ellis A. Galleher, a long time resident, businessman, manufacturer and banker died in 2000 at age 98. His wife, Dorothy, 80, died in 2002.

The couple's trust documents directed

SHELLING & FISHING

Hardworking Free Baits

Late May and June are some of the best times to fish, particularly from shore. What is even better is that it's possible to get prime baits free for the fish you want to catch. And, speaking of catch, there is only one — you need a small cast net. Once you can get the net to open in a circle, then all you need to do is look for bait fish activity and your free supply of baits has started.

One of the most overlooked bait fish can be found swimming just a few feet off the beaches — the juvenile whiting. I have fooled many a snook with these silver baits. Whiting grow large enough to be kept for eating with some big ones reaching 15 inches or more. They are not regulated, so you can take what you like. When the fish are in the two-to-five-inch range, perfect for baits, they often will appear in tight schools as they look in the shallows for food.

Whiting have an underslung mouth — typical bottom feeders. However, they only eat the best small shrimp and sand fleas. This bait keeps fairly well, but as with any bait this hot time of the year, the water has to be changed in your beach bait tank. The flow-through models are best; don't crowd in a lot of fish. If you can get a dozen at a time, that is about all the bait bucket will hold without them all dying from lack of oxygen.

Along with the whiting on the beaches comes my all-time favorite bait, the mutton minnow. These are about three inches long, have a light hump back and are

almost blinding silver. A few of the specialty bait shops on Boca Grande sell them as prime tarpon baits, but the cost of a dozen of them would buy you a very good cast net.

The mutton minnow is fragile and easily killed with rough handling. Snook, tarpon, cobia and sea trout all rate this bait as high on the list. Snook, remember, are out-of-season until the first of September, so you can catch them, but they must be released.

Occasionally there will appear small schools of another wonderful bait, but not on the beaches. The killifish likes the calm waters of the bays, particularly around clean bottom along mangrove shorelines. Killifish are about two-to-four inches and hearty individuals. If you're ever targeting big summer sea trout, a killi under a cork over the flats or free-lined in deeper waters is the way to go.

Actually, there are two kinds of killifish and we have both locally; but another kind, sometimes called a finger mullet, is a top fish getter. It looks like a small black mullet fingerling but is a different species. While mullet are popular baits for the east coast of the state, they are far down the list here. One of the few places I have found the false finger mullet is just outside the "Ding" Darling near the end of Wildlife Drive. This killi is hard to find on a consistent basis, but is long living. Keep the bait-well lid on tight because they will flip out if given the chance.

Again, a little practice with a cast net is the secret. Nets under five feet long aren't



Capt. Mike Fuery

of much help, but a six or eight-footer will be a lifetime investment and provide lots of baits for your fishing.

There are two other kinds of bait which usually take a boat to reach, but which can be very productive. Most guides will use either pinfish or

large shiners. There are two varieties of shiners, but either is very good at bringing in strikes. The shiner looks a lot like a four inch tarpon!

Of course, shrimp works all year 'round, but they tend to get smaller as we go into the summer, and they are expensive. Sand fleas caught with a special mesh scoop will often fool those snook which swim just off the beach, along with pompano and the larger whiting.

Strong winds will ruin a chance to cast for bait, but outside of a tropical storm or hurricane, the beach waters can be calm enough to cast net. From Blind Pass on north, the island waters are often very clear this time of the year in the early morning, with an east wind. Sometimes the number of baits in the water just off shore can be eye-popping!

Good fishing this week.

Have a question or comment? You can reach Capt. Mike Fuery at 466-3649 or by e-mail at junonia4@aol.com.

that proceeds from the endowed fund "be used to help the needy, and the poor, especially children, in Lee County — giving a helping hand to those who are down, [helping them] to recover from their present situations, looking toward an end of them becoming self sustaining and productive citizens."

Genealogy Society to meet

The Lee County Genealogy Society Meeting will meet on June 19, at 1 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 4141 DeLeon Street, in Fort Myers.

The program for this month is "Elder Hostel for Genealogy Fun and Personal Enrichment." Members will share their experiences. All are welcome.

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Chamber AfterHours a feast for all



Steve Greenstein

Story and photos
by Renny Severance
Executive Editor

On Monday, May 19, the Sanibel-Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce held its monthly AfterHours, at Kings Crown at South Seas Resort on Captiva.

The resort's trolleys took chamber members on a pleasant jaunt from Chadwick's at the resort entrance to Kings Crown at the other end of the property.

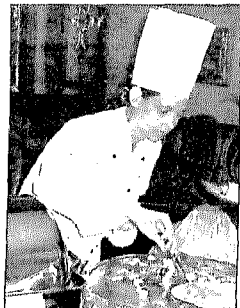
There, the chamber members were treated to a dazzling assortment of culinary delights from steak au poivre to duckling Wellington served by appropriately attired chefs in their finest whites.

The food really was remarkable and everyone nudged each other, nodding and asking, "Did you try the ---?" where you could fill in the blank from a wide range of delicious choices.

The Chamber's executive director, Steve Greenstein, interrupted the happy munching only briefly to welcome the guests and introduce three new members: Edwin Herms of Island Home Service, Paul and Maureen Watson of Big Color Output, and Greg and Creasha Weglarz of Greg Weglarz General Contractor, Inc.



Tropical Explosion



Chef de Cuisine
Amy Visco

Greenstein also announced that local photographer, David Meardon, will have some of his work appearing in the July issue of Oprah Winfrey's "O" magazine.

Greenstein was followed by Chris van der Baars, the host and general manager of South Seas. He welcomed everyone and amused the crowd with an entertaining cautionary tale apparently fabricated for the event and warning about the hazards of fundador, an especially potent libation found in Portugal.

Through out the affair, gentle strains of live Caribbean music by Tropical Explosion wafted over the tables completing a most pleasant atmosphere.



John Baslow, Faye Granberry,
and Paul Reynolds



Chris van der Baars

OBITUARIES

Judith Ann Strunc

Judy Strunc died on May 13, 2003 at Hope Hospice in Fort Myers after a nine-year battle with primary progressive aphasia. She was 58.

Judith "Judy" Strunc was born August 22, 1944 in Macomb, Ill., the daughter of career military man John DeRosa and his wife Dorothy. Judy lived in many locations during her childhood including Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Massachusetts, California and Illinois. She graduated from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb in 1966 with a degree in business education.

She married Richard John Strunc on August 20 the same year in Fort Sheridan, Ill., and worked as a teacher until the birth of her first child.

The couple moved to Owatonna, Minn. in 1980 after purchasing the Owatonna and Waseca McDonald's. They opened a third McDonald's in the nearby town of Medford in 1992 and operated all three until they retired in 1995.

Judy was an active volunteer and contributor to the community. She was on the Board of Directors of the Owatonna School District Foundation and the Associated Nursery School. She was also a major proponent of the Willow Creek Referendum, a member of the Owatonna High School Advisory Committee, organizer of the first After Prom Party as well as a key participant in school PTAs and community initiatives. Judy was very involved in her children's activities and also enjoyed playing bridge and traveling with friends and family.

Upon retirement, Rich and Judy spent their winters on Sanibel and summers in Hackensack, Minn. Rich provided care for his wife during her illness.

Judy was a beautiful person both on the inside and out, and this beauty radiated to everyone who came to know her. She will be remembered as a wonderful wife, mother and friend.

She is survived by her husband, Richard; three daughters — Lisa of New York City, Kathleen Premo and her husband, Michael, of Largo, Fla., and Jennifer of Fargo, N.D.; her mother, Dorothy, of Owatonna; her sister, Deborah Richard of Waseca; and her brother, John DeRosa of West Dundee, Ill. She was preceded in death by her father.

A wake memorializing and celebrating her life is being held on Friday, May 23, in Owatonna. A private funeral service with interment will be held on Saturday.

Contributions in her honor may be made to the Owatonna Independent School District Foundation, Post Office Box 974, Owatonna, Minn. 55060

Kevin P. Maughan

Kevin P. Maughan of Sanibel and Dublin, Ireland, passed away May 9, 2003, peacefully, in his sleep in the loving care of the staff of St. Vincent's Private Hospital, Dublin, Ireland.

He was a graduate of Castleknock College and University College Dublin and a Fellow of the British Institute of Surgical Technologists and the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

Beloved husband of Judith, Maughan was the loving father of Kevin James, Jason and Alan and the darling Papa of Avice and Kevin John; he is deeply mourned by his mother, Avice, and his brothers — Peter, Michael, David and Edward; his daughter-in-laws — Jennifer and Barbara; his brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, and a wide circle of devoted and loyal friends in both Ireland and America.

Removal and funeral mass were held at Church of the Assumption, Dalkey, County Dublin, Ireland.

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www.sanibelcaptivaowners.com
952-361-4107 Chris Berghoff

Play safe on the water

This is the first big outdoor weekend of summer, and both the hardware — boats, motors, ski bindings, and the like — and the software — personal floatation devices, throwable cushions, etc. that no boat should be without should be carefully checked before heading out on the weekend. There will be lots of boats out and about over the three-day Memorial Day weekend which, unfortunately, is also a big weekend for boating injuries and/or fatalities. As many as 40 people regularly die in boating accidents across the US over long holiday weekends, and there are 800 boating-related fatalities each year. Therefore...

- Wear a life jacket. Almost 80 percent of the victims in fatal boating accidents are not wearing any kind of flotation device.
- Don't drink and boat. Up to 50 percent of fatal accidents involve alcohol use by the boat operator or passengers.
- Don't overload the boat with people or equipment. About 30 percent of the people who die in boating accidents are passengers in overloaded boats.
- Know before you go—get a weather forecast and be

aware of changing currents and weather conditions.

- Keep a sharp lookout for other boats, swimmers, skiers or objects in the water while the boat is moving.

In 1996, the Florida Boater Education Law went into effect. The law requires that all persons born after Sept. 30, 1980 must take a state-approved boating safety course if they plan to operate a boat powered by a motor of 10 horse power or more. According to the Florida Marine Patrol, most individuals involved in boating accidents over the years have had no prior instruction on safe boating.

Since there are more than 700,000 motorized watercraft registered in the state of Florida and an estimated 300,000-350,000 boats registered in other states that use Florida's waterways, it makes good sense to take a boating safety class before venturing out with that new boat or jet ski. Classes offer information on weather and water conditions, specific local hazards, navigational rules and operator responsibility, navigation aids, accident prevention, safety regulations and manatee awareness, among other topics. There are many such classes in the area and the Sanibel-Captiva Sail & Power Squadron offers its Boat Smart course frequently.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Helping hand needed



Leslie Anne Godley, 46, an island resident for 8 years, has breast cancer with metastases to the bone and other organs. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments and will be unable to work for the next seven months.

A teacher at Colonial Elementary in Fort Myers, Leslie worked as a reading and math tutor for island children. Before resuming her teaching career, she was employed at the Parrot Nest.

Because of extensive cancer treatments, she will be unable to resume her teaching position. The Bailey Society Good Neighbor Fund is receiving donations. FISH gave \$1000 which was matched by the Good Neighbor Fund.

Donations can be made to the Bailey Society Good Neighbor Fund at Bank of the Islands. Note the check to Leslie Godley. A fund raiser is scheduled for the fall.

Boone honored



The 23rd Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society was held this year in Fort Myers. After three full days of field trips, seminars and

scientific papers, the conference ended with a banquet honoring those individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the knowledge and appreciation of Florida's native plants. Receiving the Society's Green Palmetto Award was Kathy Boone, manager of the Native Plant

Nursery at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation from 1985 until her retirement at the end of 2002.

SCCF opened its native plant nursery in 1979, the first in Southwest Florida. With Kathy's arrival six years later, the program burgeoned and became a template for such operations with Boone freely assisting others in starting similar nurseries.

Despite all the work entailed with propagating, maintaining and retailing that go into running a nursery operation, its manager was very soon reaching out to the whole community as an evangelist for native plants and all their associated benefits. She established a close working relationship with the City of Sanibel that has led to its regular use of natives in city landscaping projects. Her landscape designs are found all over our community and many members of the Conservation Foundation were encouraged to join with the promise of a free home landscaping consultation with Boone.

In 1989, she began a nursery intern program with a new young intern every six months and assumed the responsibility for raising the funds to support the program as well as serving as teacher and mentor. She became the local expert in white elephant sales and art auctions, among other things.

That same year Island Water Association gave the Foundation a one-year grant to educate residents on water conservation. Kathy hired two part-time assistants to target new homeowners and heavy water users.

Xeriscaping materials were produced and workshops held. The grant continued for eight years and earned a Take Pride in Florida award in 1993.

The Florida Native Plant Society was pleased to recognize Kathy for her dedication, hard work and effective education of students, citizens and government officials in the value of Florida's native plants. She plans to display the award at Periwinkle Cottage, her new gift and plant shop, at 16640 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Islander awarded scholarship

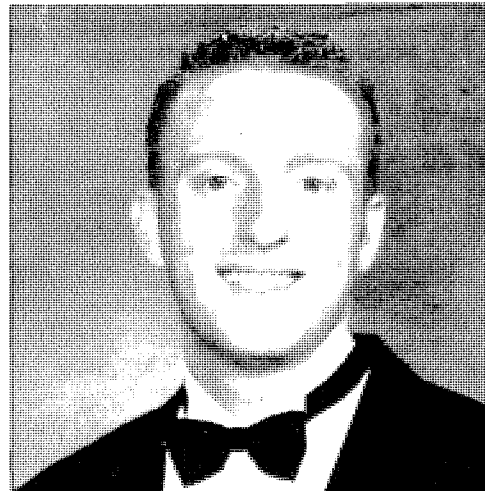
The Lansdowne, Va.-based Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announced last Friday that Sanibel native, Michael Pitt, 21, was one of 43 recipients around the country to receive up to \$300,000 each in graduate school scholarships.

Pitt is a University of Florida graduate who will start med school at Johns Hopkins in September. He attended the Sanibel School, Cypress Lake Middle, graduated from Fort Myers High School, and is the son of Bob and Judy Pitt, formerly of Sanibel.

Well-known locally as a magician (he performed at Hungry Heron from age 13 until he went off to college, and still performs at corporate and charity events), Pitt has planned on pursuing a medical career ever since he was five years old.

"My mom was a nurse and I remember doing magic for the kids on her pediatric floor. I've always said I wanted to be a pediatrician," he said, "but, at the same time, I don't want to go in with a closed mind."

He hopes to use magic to reach his patients on a personal level, understanding that good communication is essential in the practice of good medicine. "I want to



Matt Pitt

treat children, not diseases. That's the primary reason I chose, unlike the vast majority of my pre-med classmates, to major in English as opposed to science."

Among his many other accomplishments, Pitt made headlines in 1998 when he caught Mark McGwire's 57th home run, the one that broke a 68-year-old National League home run record. He caught the ball in Miami's Pro Player Stadium, home of the Florida Marlins and, instead of making a fortune off it, gave it back to McGwire "because that ball belonged to McGwire," he said at the time. As the first fan to return a home-run ball to a player, he is honored among Baseball's Greatest Fans in an exhibit — *Spirit of the Game* — in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Since graduating with Highest Honors—pre-med, and as Outstanding Male Leader of his class, Pitt has been working as a student intern in the public relations office of Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

As president of Theta Chi fraternity at UF, Pitt was a mentor to his fraternity brothers and a liaison between his chapter and national as well as to the Interfraternity Council. He also served as an ambassador for the university in the capacity of the Florida Cicerones administrative vice president and as assistant director of alumni affairs for Florida Blue Key.

While in Gainesville, Pitt worked in various community programs including Meals on Wheels and the Nigerian Textbook Collection Program. He also volunteered as both kindergarten basketball and pre-K soccer coach at the YMCA, assisted with a kindergarten music class, served as a conversation partner for a Korean exchange student and, during the

summers, taught magic at BIG Arts.

Recognized for his many accomplishments and leadership qualities, Pitt was named a J. Wayne Reitz Scholar, a Dale A. Slivinske National Scholar, a Rotary Scholar, Kiwanis Scholar and a Lions Scholar as well as a Florida Bright Futures Scholar. He completed the Honors Program by writing his thesis on the detrimental effects of direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs.

The private Cooke Foundation has the goal of helping young people with high potential to achieve success through education. Cooke was a businessman who, in addition to owning the Chrysler Building in New York City, owned several media outlets and sports teams including the Washington Redskins and the Los Angeles Lakers. He also collected art and race horses. At his death in 1997, he left most of his fortune to establish the foundation.

"Individuals had to show not only exceptional academic ability, but also a strong will to succeed and other qualities," said Foundation Executive Director Matthew J. Quinn, "including demonstrated critical thinking, a love of music or art, and an appreciation for literature."

Cooke's charge to scholarship recipients (and to all of us, for that matter) is inspiring: "The goal is clear; and you can reach it. Destiny demands you do better than your supposed best."

The recipients were chosen from a pool of 842 people who applied for the scholarships. The awards are worth \$50,000 per year for up to six years and pay for tuition, room, board, fees and books. Students may use the money to attend any accredited graduate school in the United States or abroad.

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BUSINESS

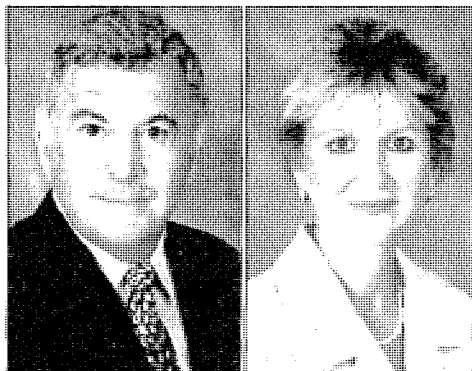
VIP Top Producers

VIP Realty Group, Inc. has announced April's Associates of the Month from the Sanibel office. Robin Humphrey was named Top Sales Associate, James and Penny Hetmanek were named Top Listings Associates and Rose Dakos was named Top Producer.



Robin Humphrey

Humphrey has been a Realtor on Sanibel and Captiva for over 17 years, 16 of them with VIP. A lifelong member of VIP's President's Club, he has chaired the President's



Jim and Penny Hetmanek

Advisory Council since its inception in 1992 and looks forward to discharging his duties during 2003. He is currently a board member of the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Association of Realtors.

Humphrey was selected as Sanibel and Captiva's Top Gun in 2000 to help educate his peers with his real estate expertise and was Top Producer compa-



Rose Dakos

ny-wide in 2002. The Hetmaneks are members of the Sanibel-Captiva Association of Realtors Honor Society and VIP's President's Club and have been consistent performance leaders at VIP. Penny Hetmanek has attained the Accredited Buyers Representative as well as the Signature Property Specialist designations. Jim Hetmanek, as Associate-Broker, has earned the GRI and CRS designations.

Only five per cent of the nation's Realtors hold the CRS designation. The Hetmaneks' professional team approach has been proven successful according to both buyers and sellers.

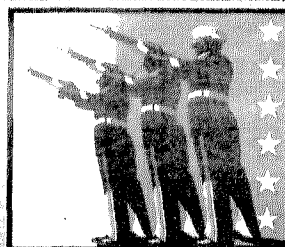
Dakos has been a consistent top pro-

ducer in real estate on Sanibel and Captiva Islands for the past 19 years and is also a member of the President's Club. Dakos is always available to help her customers and clients with all of their real estate needs and takes care of every aspect of selling or buying property on the Islands.

VIP Realty Group, Inc. is the largest locally-owned residential real estate firm in the region. VIP Realty offers services in new home sales, resales, relocation, annual and vacation rentals, and property titles.

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SERVICE CLUBS

Lions

Between the Lions

By Jim Graham

On a cold, windy March morning last year, the local Lions Club began an adventure that none will soon forget. That was the day we started to build a house for Habitat for Humanity, and for a very special client of our own choosing. That year (2002), there were only 20 groups in Lee County that sponsored a complete house. We were one of them.



Lions Clubs International was to be a contributing partner in our undertaking... if we could build the house for a handicapped family that also met the qualifying criteria of Habitat.

Sounds easy enough, but don't tell that to project chairman Karl Johns. He looked everywhere for a qualified family for our house; finally his persistence paid off and he was able to qualify a wheelchair-bound mother and her son. But we had only begun to jump hurdles.

By the time Karl found a client, Lions International had committed all their allocated funds, and the San-Cap Lions were faced with the prospect of going it alone. Although it would mean raising additional money, the local club decided it was a project worth doing. They went for it!

And that's how we wound up that cold March morning in the flatlands of North Cape Coral, standing on a bare

concrete slab and surrounded by lumber... full of ambition, but generally without a clue. Fortunately, Habitat provided a personable supervisor who issued us nails, hammers and aprons and pointed us in the right direction.

Don't think for a moment that you can't teach old dogs new tricks. Once we were shown which end of the hammer to hold and what to do with the other end, our efforts became routine. In addition to Lions volunteers, we also were ably assisted by roaming bands of mostly young people who were on college breaks or just down for the sunshine. Their enthusiasm and dedication were contagious.

After many months, many sore muscles and a few swollen thumbs, the house was complete and ready for occupancy. In addition to their labor, San-Cap Lions had contributed \$40,300 to the project.

Our handicapped family gained a new house and new pride of ownership. We Lions gained a new perspective on home building and a continuing sense of service. Helping out this handicapped family, as we did, was both humbling and rewarding for everyone involved.

One Lion, who had been a consistent volunteer, maintained he had learned something new to place, under "C" in his resume. "Construction?" someone asked. "No," he replied, "Compassion."

Sanibel-Captiva Lions meet for dinner at the Community House on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7. Guests are more than welcome. For further information, please call Hal Theiss at 395-1737.

Kiwanis

Kiwanis does good work off-island, too

By Bob Wimbush

Well, another meeting without a speaker, so we drafted someone from our own ranks... Me. Club members suffered graciously through it, so you can also. I brought them up to date on Kiwanis Project: Schools.

Kiwanis Project: Schools, which began at this club three years ago, set out to bring the same thinking to Lee County Schools — theory taken from Dr. William Glasser's book, *The Quality School: Managing Students Without Coercion* — that created what the NEA in 1995 termed "perhaps the best elementary school in the nation."

Kiwanis sponsored a conference for both public and private schools at Canterbury School that year and, from that conference, one school, Tropic Isles Elementary in North Fort Myers, expressed the desire and commitment to become one of the best.



President Stan Kucaba presents a check which will be used for state-based kids projects to Cathy Lucrezi of the Florida Kiwanis Foundation.

I wish I could say they have achieved that goal, but they haven't... not yet — I estimate another three to four years and a lot more changes — but they are making substantial progress. In fact, the William Glasser Institute has scheduled its international certification week at Tropic Isles this year, and Glasser will recognize the work of nearly 100 individuals from all over the world. Forty-three of them teach at Tropic Isles. For individual teachers to work directly with Glasser is the educational equivalent of having Warren Buffet spend a week with your investment club.

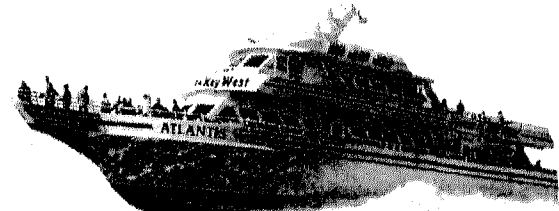
Glasser will appear at a public forum hosted by Superintendent Browder at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, in the auditorium of Edison Park Elementary School. He will explain how and what schools must do so that Every Child Can Succeed from his book of that name. If you'd like to attend, e-mail Cindy McClung at

Kiwanis, see page 10

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Kiwanis, from page 9



"Unaccustomed as I am..."

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Tickets are \$10.

Kiwanis Project: Schools has the enthusiastic support of the current school board and superintendent. It has been backed philosophically and financially by TALC (the teachers union) and has been

joined by Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Canterbury School, Bishop Verot High School, 4H, The Southwest Florida Marine Institute (Juvenile Justice System) and others.

The thrust of what Dr. Glasser counsels is that we must stop trying to change kids and focus on changing schools if education is to work. Curmudgeons — stop pretending that today's schools are the same as the one you went to, or that the good ol' days are coming back. They aren't. Get over it. Subject for another column.

To succeed in creating student competence, today's schools must replace the prevailing (and failing) philosophy of fear, coercion and punishment — Glasser calls it the "Learn this subject or we'll hurt you" approach — with instruction that has relevance in an environment that is safe and caring and fun. He advocates personal responsibility for one's choices in life, respect for teachers, peers and the school, and academic competency expressed as thinking and problem solving — not memorization of useless facts or teaching only to the FCAT.

Glasser is real world. His book, *Reality Therapy*, is used to handle disciplinary problems in reform schools worldwide. For more information, buy *Choice Theory*, *The Quality School*, or *Every Child Can Succeed*, all by Dr. Glasser. The Sanibel Library has some of the books and copies of the 1995 NEA Times article.

Kiwanis Project: Schools has reached beyond the classroom. We expect that Big Brothers & Big Sisters will supply social-



Dr. William Glasser, author, psychiatrist, educator, will appear June 4th.

side wisdom and support by adopting perhaps as many as 100 Tropic Isles students. In keeping with the ideas of personal responsibility, their "Bigs" will be briefed on Reality Therapy.

We expect to integrate mind-broadening 4H club activities into after-school programs and TALC is approaching retired teachers groups to supply mentors, tutors, big brothers and sisters, and 4H leaders. Hopefully they will also contribute their time as substitutes while regular teachers are trained in Quality Schooling. We can do twice as much

Quality School training by creatively covering substitute expense.

Parts of this vision are already in place; others still formative. And, while Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis concentrates most of its resources on the islands, the Club generously stepped forward with a \$2,000 contribution so *Kiwanis Project: Schools* could cover a last-minute shortfall. The club realizes that island kids leave Sanibel School after the eighth grade and is unwilling to abandon them just because they cross the causeway. Our club lives and meets on an island. That doesn't mean we have become one.

Kiwanis breakfasts every Wednesday at the Island House. Drop by. Our focus is on kids. Usually we have simpler projects and better speakers.

Graduates

Send us your photo, tell us your school, your plans for next year, and any awards you have received.

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May 30, 2003

Friday, May 23, 5 pm
 Tuesday, May 27, 10 am
 Tuesday, May 27, 5 pm

ECO EVENTS

Mangrove Madness and story-time

Have your summer camp come experience the beautiful mangrove ecosystem of the JN "Ding" Daring National Wildlife Refuge. Come on a tour of Wildlife Drive led by Refuge rangers to learn about the mangroves, birds, and other wildlife living in this estuary. If you're interested in bringing your summer camp or group to the Refuge for an out-of-the-ordinary experience, call Refuge Ranger Toni Westland at 472-1100 Ext. 239 to make arrangements.

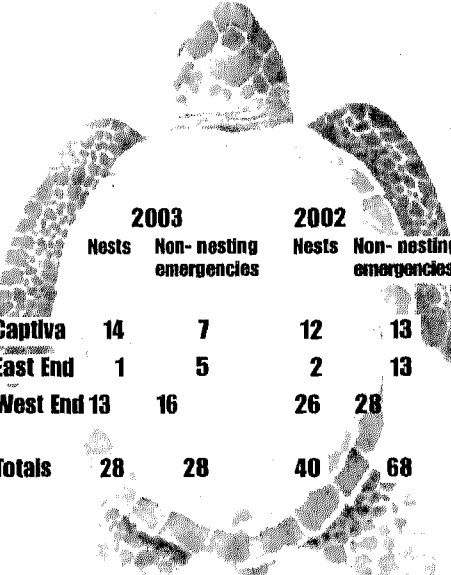
And starting the first week in June, visitors will have the opportunity to discover a new animal found on the refuge at and 11 a.m. story hour at the Refuge!

Beginning Tuesday, June 3rd, every Tuesday morning there will be an exciting story and program highlighting an animal in our estuarine ecosystem. Check in at the front desk.

Annual Weekend Gala

Big Cypress Gallery is now taking reservations for Swamp Walks with Clyde Butcher and the troops on Labor Day weekend, August 30-Sept. 1. There will be eight walks each day and only 15 people per walk... they fill up very fast. These adventures in nature — at eye level, so to speak — are fascinating and great fun. To make reservations or get more information on this event, go to www.clydebutter.com/gala03.htm.

Turtle Totals

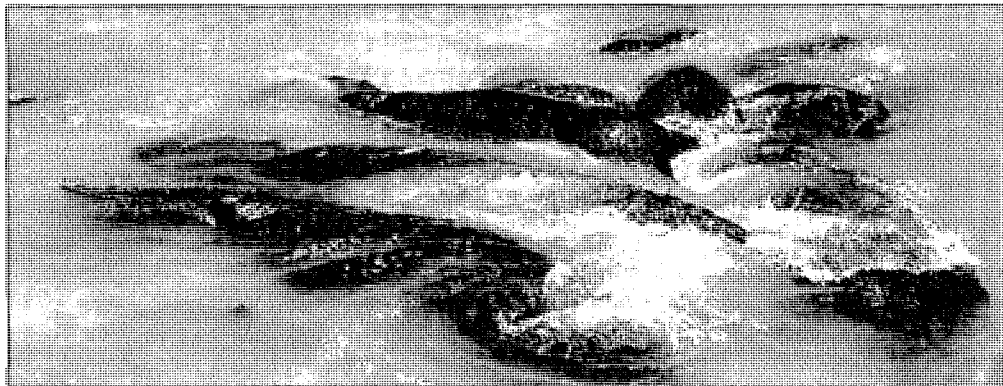


	2003		2002	
	Nests	Non-nesting emergencies	Nests	Non-nesting emergencies
Captiva	14	7	12	13
East End	1	5	2	13
West End	13	16	26	28
Totals	28	28	40	68

PET OF THE WEEK



Manatees sighted in front of Gulf Beach



Story by Karen Nelson
Photos by Richard Goebel

Richard Goebel, visiting Sanibel from St. Peters, Mo. with his wife, Mary, was treated to a rare site on Tuesday, May 20, when he came upon manatees mating just off the beach where they were staying.

As he was returning to his unit at Gulf Beach Condo about 1 p.m. on Tuesday, he saw the manatees moving along the beach as a group and assumed that they were dolphins. When he got up to his condo, he saw that they had stopped right in front of the complex, so he grabbed his camera and headed down to join the group of curious bystanders observing the manatees.

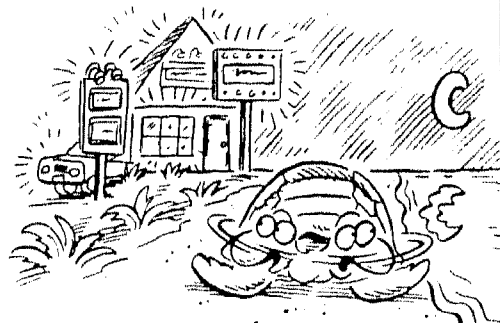
Bystanders initially thought that "one manatee was sick because the others

seemed to be hugging around the one" in the center, with the rest trying to get to that one. There were "at least six, maybe more, maybe six to eight of them." They were just off the beach, in about two feet of water, and people were standing in the water near them.

A police launch arrived but stayed offshore and shortly thereafter, a police officer arrived on an ATV and asked everyone to get out of the water. Goebel said that the officer "said they were mating. There was a lot of activity in the water," but no sound. "I didn't hear a word," Goebel answered when asked.

The group of manatees remained together for at least an hour before some started to leave. Three hours later, there were still a couple in the area.

'TIS THE SEASON...



LIGHTS OUT FOR TURTLES

What's black and brown and white all over? Me, who has wonderful soft brown "panda" eyes. Me, who is desperate for a home — hopefully with kids? Me, I'm not quite a year old and it's been scary out on the streets on my own — a boy could get run over! Please try me. I'm a good boy.

If you can adopt Drew, contact Lee County Animal Services at 432-2083 and ask about animal ID#172645, or you can go to www.leelostpets.com for more information. Lee County Animal Services is located in Six Mile Commercial Park on Six Mile Cypress Parkway.

The Shelter is open every day except Sunday and is open late on Tuesdays until 7 p.m.



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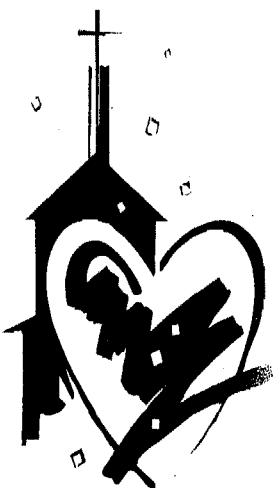
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SPORTS

SWAT in county competition

On Saturday, May 10, nine of the Sanibel Water Attack Team's elite attended the Swim Florida League Jamboree at Cape Coral High School. Seasoned swimmers James Beth, Maura Dowling, Kylie and Kaitlyn Herman, Samia and Sameer Islam, Molly McDole and Katherine and Taylor Strange swam fiercely along with the rest of Lee County's Swim Florida's finest.

SWAT placed as follows:

In the 11 & 12-year age group — Maura Dowling finished 8th in breast-

stroke.

In the 9 & 10-year age group — Sameer Islam finished 8th in freestyle.

In the 8 and-under age group — Samia Islam finished 6th in breaststroke; Taylor Strange finished 3rd in freestyle, 3rd in breaststroke, 6th in backstroke, and 3rd in butterfly.

In the 6-and-under age group — Katherine Strange finished 1st in freestyle, 3rd in breaststroke, 3rd in butterfly, and 6th in backstroke.

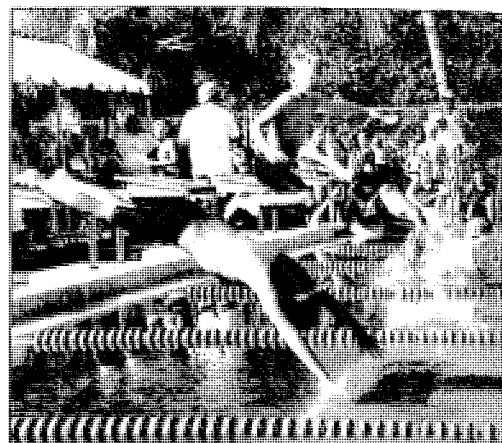
Medals were awarded to First, Second and Third Place; ribbons were awarded to 4th through 8th place. All swimmers

were awarded participation ribbons.

A special CONGRATULATIONS to Katherine and Taylor Strange for top honors! Congratulations also, to all that participated! We are all looking forward to an exciting swim season!

SWAT (Sanibel Water Attack Team) registration has begun! May 23rd registration deadline! First swim meet is June 7th!

Join today!! Practice times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:30-4:30. Call or see Coach Coby at the Recreation office for details 472-0345.



CORRECTION

Last week in our story announcing the appointment of Sandi Brim as the new senior program coordinator, we mistakenly reported Helene Phillips as retiring from the Senior Center rather than Jane Klasing. We apologize for the error and reprint the corrected article in its entirety here.

City appoints new coordinator for Senior Program

By Renny Severance
Executive Editor

Sandi Brim has been appointed by the City of Sanibel as the new senior program coordinator for the city's recreation department to replace the retiring Jane Klasing.

When making the announcement, City Manager Judie Zimomra said, "Through a competitive selection process, Ms. Brim was identified as the applicant with the best experience with seniors as well as excellent administrative skills. We look forward to her joining our team."

Recreation Director Helene Phillips added, "The appointment of Sandi Brim allows us to maintain program continuity and continue to strive for excellence in the area of senior programming as we have in the past."

Brim is certainly no stranger to the Sanibel Senior Center as she has been teaching fitness at the center since 1996 and respiratory therapy since 1997.

"I love older people," she said, "and these people treat me like a daughter."

She is a certified fitness teacher specializing in fitness for seniors. A native of North Dakota, she studied at Northwestern Technical College and also holds a license as a Respiratory Therapy Technician. She has been teaching aerobics for 22 years and regards fitness as a way of life. Her

accomplishments also include researching and designing chair aerobics for those unable to stand for aerobic workouts.

Brim seems a natural fit for this position since seniors have been an important part of Sandi Brim's life all along. Growing up in rural North Dakota, she knew three pairs of great grandparents and was always close to the older generations in a large and close family.

Jane Klasing is a tough act to follow and Brim was understandably concerned. "It's a big challenge," she said, "she was dearly loved by everyone here." But her reception has been warm and enthusiastic. "I love older people," she said, "and these people treat me like a daughter." In reflecting on the general reaction to the announcement of her appointment she said, "They hug you 'til you can't breathe."

A cancer survivor herself, Brim will be leaving her present position as Executive Director of Partners for Breast Cancer Care to assume her new duties on Sanibel on May 19.

She is looking forward to continuing the programs as set up by Jane Klasing and possibly expanding some. She would like to bring additional focus to the subjects of nutrition, health and fitness, all in an effort to enhance the lives of island seniors both socially and physically. In this regard, Brim will continue to teach aerobics and would like to add some kayaking trips to the mix as well. There will also be summer activities for



Photo by Renny Severance
Sandi Brim

the center, some of which will go off-island, such as theater trip to the Florida Rep and the Barbara B. Mann.

Brim is clearly excited about her new job and looks forward to working with seniors here.

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'Making it on Purpose' comes to Sanibel

Making it on Purpose is a new program, sponsored by Big Brother/Big Sisters, that is seeking to identify at least some of the 133 teenage girls currently in foster care in our area who are approaching independent living status, in order to match them with women in the community who can provide them with some coaching and mentoring.

Current statistics show that one in four will re-enter the "system" through incarceration, and yet another will become drug- or alcohol- dependent.

Something needs to be done about these statistics... hence, Making It On Purpose, whose mission is to inspire and encourage young women to transform the dysfunction in their lives into personal power. Making It On Purpose wants to provide the tools necessary to achieve that goal by supplying people willing to confront the needs and desires of these young women.

The vision is huge.

For starters, MIOP is hosting two fundraisers at the Periwinkle Playhouse featuring Out of the Box Productions staging of Disasterpiece Theatre (a spoof of you-know-what on PBS) starring Jimmy Labriola, aka Benny Barony, of Home Improvement. The first event is a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception on Friday, July 18, and the second, on July 19, is an evening of dinner theatre preceded by a gourmet cocktail hour, silent auction and raffle. Tickets are a \$65 donation for Friday night, \$100 donation for Saturday, and are fully tax deductible.

Take note, islanders — the Periwinkle Playhouse is open again and MIOP is looking for all kinds of community sponsors and partnerships, as program coordinator Judi Woods put it, "from A to Z..." Actually we already have Z," she inter-

rupted herself. "Zonta has 'adopted' us; and we have an S, the Sanibel Community



Photo by Renny Severance

Judi Woods

Association, hosting us for dinner and helping us with the theatre. We also have an I — Island Cow is catering the dinner on Saturday and the gourmet hors d'oeuvres both nights. Then there is L for Lions and J for the Junior League of Fort Myers... but we've still got 21 letters to go!"

The publicity is being put together now, so any business or individual interested in becoming a community partner/sponsor for this extremely worthwhile program is urged to contact Judi Woods at either 275-5834, her work number... or 463-4127, her home number. Or, she can be reached by e-mail at judiwoods2@earthlink.net.

Stay tuned to keep up with how the alphabet progresses!

SHELL SHOCKED

How to play annoying but winning tennis

As we all know, the whole point of playing tennis is to win. Disregard what your friends tell you. They tell you that the joy of tennis is in the exercise, the camaraderie, the gossip that's shared at the net between games.

Forget it. Behind every smiling face on the other side of the net lurks a serial killer. A tennis court killer who wants to humiliate you, hit the ball as hard as he can into your gut and when it's all over to bury your face in the clay court and stomp on your head.

At least that's what he's thinking when the two of you approach the net after the match to shake hands.

Tennis personifies the mid-life crisis we all go through. Except in tennis parlance it's known as the "mid-court crisis."

"Damn," you say to yourself as your opponent's crosscourt forehand whips by you as you make a feeble attempt to run it down. "I could have run down that ball 10 years ago. I wish I still had the legs of a 20-year-old. No way I would have missed that shot then."

Out loud you say, "great shot, John."

Inwardly you say, "that slimy son of a bitch. Why does he hit balls to my forehand when he knows I can't run them down anymore? Why doesn't he just hit the ball back to me so that I could hit it back and run it down his throat?"

And that's when your pop psychology kicks in to thwart his serial killer mentality.

"Great shot, John, but just out," you exclaim as his ball lands two feet inside the court. Of course, you pretend not to



Satire by
ART STEVENS

see the astonished look on his face and the agony he goes through to decide if he should call you a liar and a pervert or pretend he's a good sport.

Then you realize that his counter-punch is not to lift the quality of his game but to counter your bad

calls with his own. So for the rest of the match the following calls are made at the end of almost every crucial point by each of you. "Oh, just out. Tough luck. Good idea, though." "I'm afraid that's a foot fault."

"Let's do that point over. That bird overhead threw me off."

"Good serve, but let's play a let. That nuclear explosion got me to take my eye off the ball."

"Can we play that point over? There's some lint on the ball that threw my timing off." "Let's play a let on that point, I think the net is an eighth of an inch too high."

The tennis racquet in your hand begins to feel like a banzai sword. And your tennis shoes have the feel of Marine combat boots.

Somehow the match is over and you and your opponent approach the net, as is the custom, to shake hands. Your first thought is to wish you had a semi-automatic assault weapon in your hand so that you could spray him with as many bullets as it would take to render him into a shapeless mass.

Instead, you smile and say, "good match, John. Want to try it again, say Thursday at two?"

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The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps.

It is advisable for the homeowner to pour a gallon of water into each floor drain prior to our testing. If smoke enters your home there is good reason to assume that **dangerous sewer gases** may also be entering your home or business. You should evacuate immediately and notify our work crews. If you are not home and discover smoke when you return, please call us at **472-1008 or 472-3179**.

IMPORTANT! If there is any individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems and is immobile, please notify us at **472-1008** prior to testing.

Taste of the Islands coming to Gulfside City Park

The time has come to satisfy hungry appetites at the popular epicurean event, Taste of the Islands to be held Sunday, June 1 at Gulfside City Park on Sanibel. The beachside bash is the largest fundraiser for CROW, the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife.

Sanibel's finest restaurants have menus ready to sizzle that are cooked the day of the happening and judged by a select panel of hungry experts. The delicious food categories and their winners from last year were: The Seafood Factory for Best Appetizer; Gramma Dot's for Best Salad; The Island House for Best Meat; The Seafood Factory for Best Fish/Seafood; Johnny's Pizza for Best Pizza and Best Pasta; RC Otters for Best Vegetarian; Key Lime Bistro for Best Dessert; The Seafood Factory for Best Booth presentation. Two major awards are given: the "Taste of the Taste" overall award, which is the determination from the judges on the best overall food served and the second award is the highly coveted People's Choice award, which was presented to Gramma Dot's — a two-year-in-a-row winner.

Restaurants competing this year are American Legion Post 123, Dunes, East End Deli, Gramma Dot's, Island House, Johnny's Pizza, Jacaranda, Key Lime Bistro, Latté Da, Matzaluna, RC Otters, Sanibel Grill, Sanibel Produce Co., Schnapper's Hots, The Seafood Factory, Thistle Lodge, and Timbers.

Other highlights of the event are non-stop music starting at noon 'til 6 p.m. by the Trouble Starters, Tanqueray Bay and the Mambo Brothers. Raffle tickets, Taste hats and T-shirts will be sold. And now CROW has a new beach towel, with the beloved raccoon logo, which

will also be for sale at the Taste. Plus... don't forget beer, wine, margaritas, soft drinks and water to whet your whistle.

Taste of the Islands would not be possible without all the elements that make up the flavor of this special annual event. Major event sponsor for this year's Taste is Michelob Ultra and much appreciated are this year's Gold Sponsors: Bank of the Islands, Barrier Island Title, Coldwell Banker Previews International, Coral Veterinary Clinic, Islander Newspaper, Lifeline Designs, Molnar Electric, NBC 2, North Trail RV Centers and On The Marc Entertainment. Craig Wolf and Kellie Burns from NBC 2 will be on hand at the event, returning as the popular masters of the ceremony. Thanks also to all the Silver Sponsors for the 2003 Taste: Captiva Cruises, Greenwood Consulting Group, Inc, Marilyn White and Sanibel Island Fishing Club.

Event Chairman, Anita Pinder, encourages everyone to have a fabulous fun day and join in. Parking will not be available at Gulfside City Park — there will be signs to direct attendees to the ten parking lots that will be accessible for parking and continuous vans and trolleys will take you from the parking lots to the site. Remember, Gulfside City Park is beachside, so bring your bathing suit, towels and chairs. The cost at the gate is \$5 per person with children 6 and under free. Food and beverage tickets (CROW Bucks) will be available for purchase in increments of \$1. So, come out between noon and 6 p.m. and have a fun time while you are helping the wildlife on-and-off the Islands at this all-important fundraiser for CROW.

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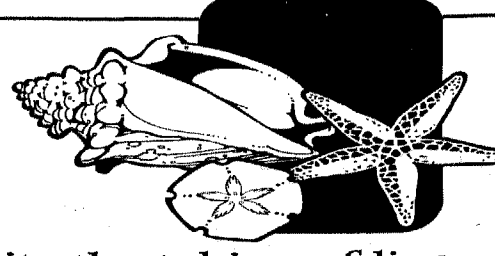
When you feed an alligator you are training it to approach humans and are creating a life threatening situation...especially for our children. Feeding alligators is a criminal act punishable by fines.



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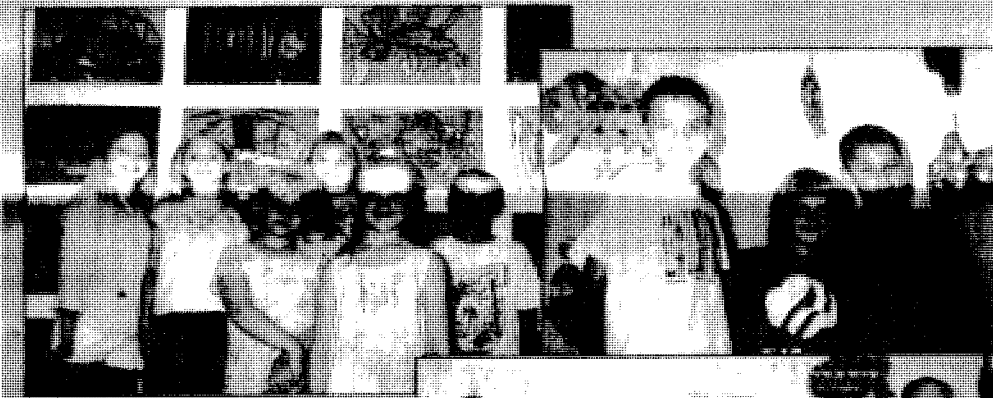
Florida law prohibits the taking of live shells on Sanibel Island to conserve this precious marine resource.

Arts & Leisure

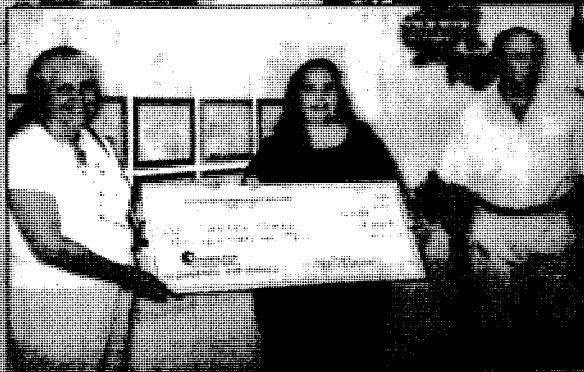
Right: Maura Dowling, a 5th Grader, with the *FishWorks* mosaic that will be installed in the new school building



Above: Kelsey and Alizé Luft
Right: Second Grader Willie Bogen



Right, L-R: Barbara Luck, Southwest Florida Craft Guild and Jerry Churchill, president of the Guild, present Sanibel School art teacher Suzanne Skinner with a check at the *FishWorks* reception — a grant for next year's *BugWorks* exhibit



Above left—back, L-R: Shlan Kremer, Allison Kridle, Amber Falde, Michael Damico; and front, L-R: Crystal Falde, Christianna Messinger

Above right: Landon, Elena & Campbell Allen

Suzanne Skinner, art teacher at Sanibel Elementary School, was presented a check from Jerry Churchill and Barbara Luck of Southwest Florida Craft Guild at last Friday's reception for *FishWorks*. This donation will be used for art materials for next year's exhibition, *BugWorks*, by the artists of Sanibel School. This year's *FishWorks* art projects, which included 350 pieces of art, were very successful and 100 pieces will remain on view all summer in Phillips Gallery. The large fish mosaic will be installed permanently on one wall of the new school that is now under construction.

Members of Sanibel-Captiva Art League will share the walls of Phillips Gallery with the elementary school artists this summer. President Betty Weise and Vice President Carolyn Johns, both retired school teachers, were delighted to have this opportunity to show the League's artwork with the younger artists. Opening June 2, the League show will remain on view through Oct. 3. While picking up the fish theme in some of the works, there will be a variety of subjects in media that include oils, watercolors, collages and drawings. All of the framed work will be for sale.

New musical comedy, scholarships at Old Schoolhouse



"World history as a camp musical... A Bang Up Send Up!... inspired nonsense" are just a few of the raves *The Big Bang* received in its original off Broadway run.

The Big Bang, a frenetic musical entertainment, long on shtick and historical hilarity opens at the Old Schoolhouse Theater next Friday, May 30, at 8 p.m. and runs through August 16. It is staged as a backers' audition for an \$83.5 million, 12-hour history of the world from creation to the present. Eighteen sidesplitting musical numbers portraying Adam and Eve, Attila the Hun, the building of the pyramids, Julius Caesar and Columbus, among many others, give potential investors a taste of the impending extravaganza. In the process, the opulent Park Avenue apartment "borrowed" for the occasion is trashed as the two actors snatch its furnishings to create makeshift costumes while singing and clowning their way through inventive recreations of the past, stopping occasionally for a little supplanting show biz patter.

The Big Bang features music by Jed Feuer with book and lyrics by Boyd Graham. The production stars Island favorites John Vessels, last seen in *JT Smith & Friends* and *Forever Plaid*, and newcomer, Billy Breed. Breed has extensive theatrical credits and has performed all over the country. Smith will direct this evening of hilarity with assistance from Peter Michael Merino. Marino has appeared in *Stomp* off Broadway and is probably best-remembered on-island as Snoopy in Smith's production of *Charlie Brown*. Marino has also designed the set. Miguel Cintron will act as Production Stage Manager.

Performances are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$20 and may be ordered by calling 472-6862 or stopping by the theater at 1905 periwinkle



Eric Hogan (above) and JT Smith, John Vessels and Jack Weston, OST Foundation Treasurer



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The Old Schoolhouse Theater Foundation recently awarded two Chris Nicholson Scholarships to Old Schoolhouse Theater actors John Vessels and Erik Hogan were each awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to help subsidize the large bank roll needed for them to move to New York City to actively pursue a career in musical theater. The moneys are to be used for dance class, acting classes, singing lessons and voice coaching.

Past recipients of the Foundation's Chris Nicholson scholarships have included Pamela Stivers, Seth Abrahams, Victoria Lauture and Zach Dobbins.

Vessels and Hogan have appeared in a multitude of Schoolhouse Productions, most recently in the "heavenly" musical hit, *Forever Plaid*. Both have spent well over a year performing under the leadership of the theater's artistic director, J.T. Smith, and have had the opportunity to work on performing styles, character study, comic timing, movement, and singing styles on the Schoolhouse stage. Both young men are moving to New York City to pursue their performing dreams and will receive half the scholarship now and the second half after six months of active professional private study.

Their scholarships will surely be put to good use... The Foundation wishes them the very best of luck and hopes to see them both on stage again very soon.

As does the Islander!

CENTER STAGE

From the Lyric Theatre, London...

danceofdeath

IAN
MCKELLEN

FRANCES
DE LA TOUR

OWEN TEALE





Marsha Wagner

My theatre viewing in London this week took me to see *Dance Of Death*, currently playing at the Lyric Theatre, and starring Ian McKellen. You probably remember him, since he just won an Oscar last year for the film *Gods and Monsters*, and this year I saw him in the film, *Lord of the Rings*.

Written by August Strindberg around 1900, this version of *Dance Of Death* was originally produced by the Shubert Organization on Broadway earlier this year and is still a viable classic about family relationships — probably just as spell-binding as it must have been for the audiences at the beginning of the last century, when it premiered.

Members of the audience are immediately drawn into the play when they enter the theatre. The actors are already on stage silently going about their business — Edgar (Sir Ian McKellen) sits reading in a chair; Alice, his wife (Frances De La Tour), is dressing for dinner, fixing her hair and makeup.

When the lights start coming up on the starkly atmospheric set by Robert Jones, feelings of foreboding and hostile coldness fill the air, perfect for the action of the play which takes place in the tower of an island fortress near Stockholm about 100 years ago. This was an ideal opening — these very quiet, non-dramatic moments — prior to plunging us into the searing drama of a strange, loveless marriage. The surprise is that there are many witty humorous moments in this tense, well-crafted, well-acted, well-directed, and well-produced play.

Ian McKellen is at his performing best in this drama about a marriage from hell. McKellen's Edgar is an ailing, high-strung disciplinarian — a man trapped in his failure to be a success in the turn-of-the-century Swedish Army. In McKellen's deft playing, this monster is funny as well sympathetic. His wife, exquisitely played by De La Tour, is a battered, beaten wreck of a woman, cowering under his word blows, longing for his death (or is she?). When her cousin Kurt (memorably portrayed by Owen Teale) stumbles into this scene after a 15-year absence, he discovers the truth that lies beneath every relationship: only the people involved really know the whys and wherefores of a marriage.

This play deserves the term classic, for it grows deeper with time. It is the kind of play that each generation can identify with, either for themselves or others. Bottom line, the play is viciously funny. I'd be inclined to agree with a London critic who said that "Dance Of Death is like watching Noel Coward with all the nastiness played for real... laughter on the dark side." Director Sean Mathias has mined every bit of scorching wit there is to be found in this script and the new translation by American Richard Greenberg contributes fine crackling lines to act as well as direct. The performances I witnessed in this production are seared in my memory for me to treasure. This is the kind of theatre that is not easily forgotten and why I simply love going to the great dramas that play on the stage in London's West End. More next week when I go to the Donmar Warehouse to see the critically acclaimed production of Camus' classic — termed as a myth of the absurd — *Caligula*.

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HOMELIFE

Matsumoto's going 3-D!

by Nancy Santeusano
Special to The Islander

"My style changes all the time. I can't pinpoint it. I get a little bored doing the same drawings so I decide to change media and this time I'm experimenting with 3-D.

"A long time ago I designed a book on 3-D pieces for kids, and when I was in the advertising business, I designed a few three-dimensional display pieces." Matsumoto adds, "The basics were there."

This time he has created a 5 x 5-foot prototype cut out of plywood which he painted white to emphasize the 3-D effect. At the same time he has made an accurate drawing on paper which he plans to give to a professional who will use a computer to cut the finished piece out of polished aluminum in many different sizes.

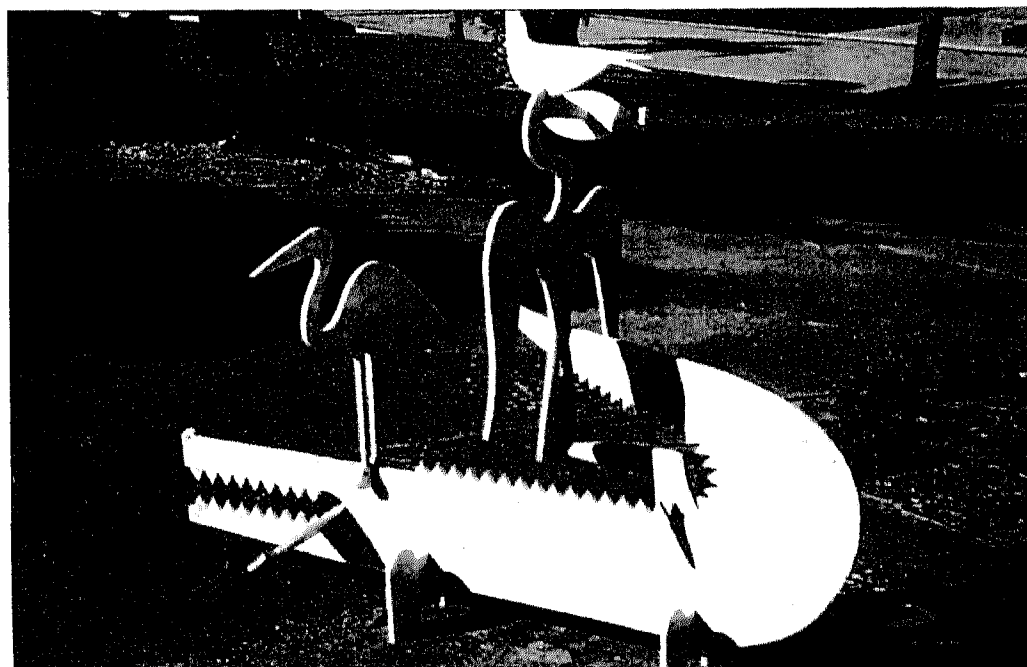
Right now the piece is unnamed, but as the artist points out, "It should have a Florida theme, maybe 'Florida Fantasy.' Eventually, I want to make a whole circus out of these pieces, maybe 'Florida Circus.'"

Matsumoto admits, and many people concur, that the most salient feature of his work is humor. His imagination brings him many ideas and, as he says, "They just pop up at some of the most unexpected times."



Recently, he was watching his new German Affenpinscher or "monkey terrier" named Cooper playing with Chico, the Matsumotos' well-established household cat. Right then was born his most recent "human cat series." The first of these new pen and inks, which are accented with colored pencil, is "Catree" with the dog chasing lots of cats up a tree. Fat black Chico accompanied by many other cats sitting in startled positions and waiting to make the next move.

The second in this series is "Cat Nap Dream." This time the cat is napping and all the colored leaves are blowing in one



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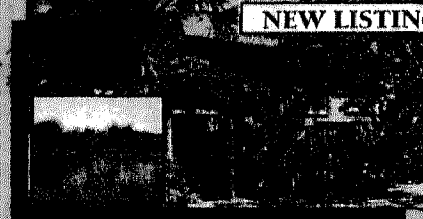


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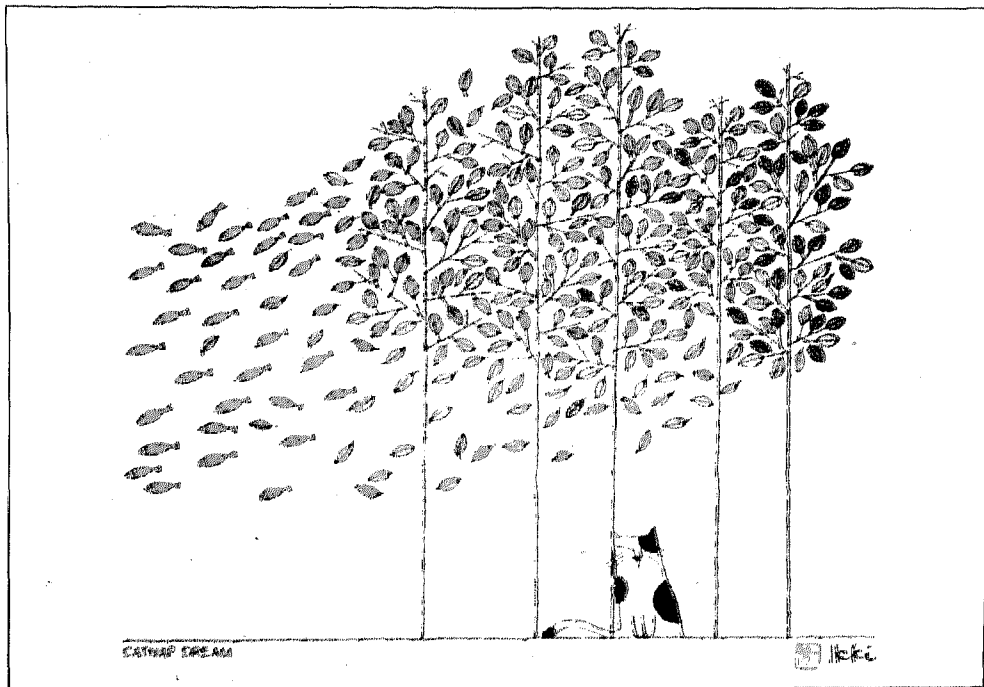
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"Cat Nap Dream," part of a new Matsumoto series.

direction in the shape of a fish. The third in the series is "It's Raining..." (maybe cats and dogs, but Matsumoto is not quite sure.) He doesn't have yet an image in his head for the fourth painting, but he's planning to call it "Cats 22."

Hanging on one of the gallery walls is another of Matsumoto's new 4 foot x 4 foot works called "The Moon Garden." It is sketched on black canvas with pen and ink and accented with colored pencil in a linear and geometric style. Matsumoto confesses that he had lots of old "goofed up" canvases to which he's applied some black gesso paint, thereby creating a new surface.

"I am not a disciplined artist. I just paint when I feel like it. Usually I do my errands in the morning and paint in the afternoon." Teasingly, he adds, "Polly chains me to my drawing board so I have to work all day until she comes home from the gallery. We've been married for 43 years, moved 40 times and Polly is thinking about moving again."

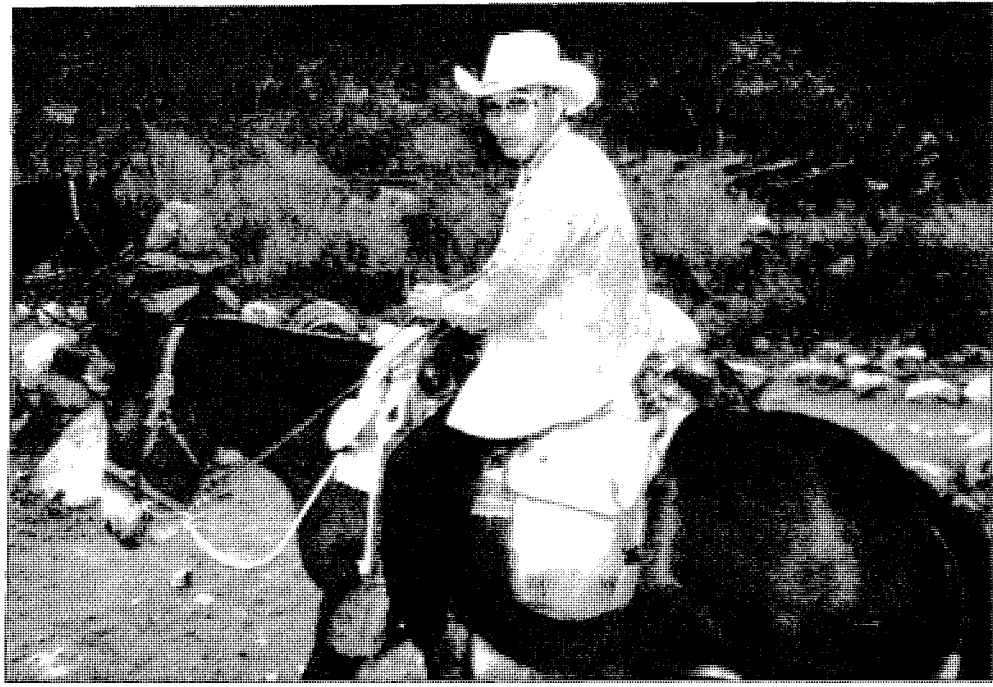
Last year Ikki and Polly Matsumoto leased their present site in the Village at 2340 Periwinkle Way. They introduced other artists at the gallery while maintaining

the wall space for Matsumoto's work.

With a successful year in 2002, they increased their original space and almost doubled its size by purchasing the vacated space next door, opening the wall between the two stores to create an even more spacious gallery. They also changed the name from Matsumoto Gallery to Matsumoto Gallery & Frame Shop. "We wanted to increase the wall space because we needed more room to display Ikki's work and to offer the on-site convenience of framing."

Not only did the Matsumotos need the space, they wanted to hire an experienced professional framer who would have the knowledge and versatility to do all kinds of framing. Linda Rodino is just that kind of framer — 21 years of experience and Ikki's only framer for the past three years.

In her light-hearted way Rodino explains, "We frame everything from commercial art to mementos to paintings. The purpose of framing is to enhance, not detract from the art, and everybody has a different concept of what Ikki's work should look like. It makes it convenient to have the two shops together."



Ikki Matsumoto fulfills a dream riding in the Grand Canyon.

Of course, they frame, reframe and offer consultation on the best way to enhance the work of other artists as well.

Polly Matsumoto is largely responsible for the daily operation of the gallery. She is introducing a line of cross-stitch designs by putting some of Matsumoto's work into cross stitch patterns to create Do-It-Yourself-Kits. Sometimes people come to the island and want something different to do. That's where the kits will be fun.

This year she and Rodino are planning a series of workshops including one on "needlework stretching" in preparation for framing, and another on the art of making shadow boxes. The idea is to make the gallery not only a place to display and appreciate fine works, but also a place for hands-on activity and instruction.

Last September Ikki fulfilled one of his most memorable goals and experienced the thrill and trepidation of a riding a mule to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Polly notes, "Mules are very calm and sure-footed, and even crossing the Colorado River on a rope bridge didn't challenge the mule."

The Matsumotos remember vividly the five miles down and four miles up with an overnight cabin stay at the bottom. Of course, Ikki had purchased his own cowboy hat and took Japanese hikers by surprise when he greeted them in their native language.

But, to this day, what continues to make him the happiest is working at home without talking to anyone! He is a true artist with subtle humor and many styles that never go out of style.

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Often the prospects are on a whirlwind house-hunting trip. They don't have the luxury of time on their side, but they have money, and an urgent need for a house--right now. The busy prospect is more likely to make an immediate offer than the buyer who has all the time in the world. If you really want to sell your house in a hurry, treat last-minute appointments as an opportunity--not an inconvenience.

Margie has specialized in Sanibel, Captiva and Ft. Myers real estate since 1991. She was named Realtor of the Year by the Sanibel & Captiva Assn. of Realtors in 2000 and 2002, and she 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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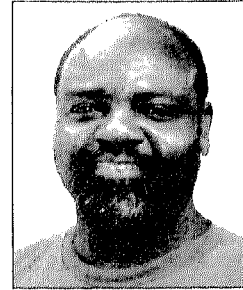
In my business I constantly deal with customers who want to remodel their homes or businesses. These jobs range from the very simple to the nearly impossible. Some people prefer to do it themselves and, for some small simple projects this may work. When confronted with the do-it-yourself situation I will remind you of a couple of quotes I've heard over the years.... "The person who hires himself for a lawyer has a fool for a client," for example. Or "You wouldn't hire a foot doctor to operate on your brain,

would you?" I think you get the message as it relates to plumbing remodeling jobs. Leave it to the professional; in the long run you're much better off.

Now that I have hopefully convinced you that do-it-yourself plumbing may not be such a good idea, I'll steer you in the right direction for the help you will need. After you've determined the scope of the job, you may realize you need to hire a general contractor. The great thing about having a general contractor is that they do all the work for you. They handle all the

subcontractors and deal with any of the problems that arise before, during and after construction is completed.

For the smaller jobs you can deal directly with a subcontractor who will detail in his contract the scope of the work he will perform and the cost. It's a good idea to get at least two estimates. Don't base your decision on cost alone, however. Be sure you are comparing apples to apples. Lower cost materials can sometimes keep an estimate low but cost in the long run. Also, be sure to check references



RON GAVIN

and, if the subcontractor cannot supply you with any, you can call the county or city and see if there have been complaints made against his or her license. Remember, a home or business is a big investment and you should do everything to protect it including not being beat by a full house because you've hired a brain surgeon to work on your plumbing.

Earthworks Design takes award

Earthworks Design won second place in the Custom Earthworks, a landscaping nursery, was up for consideration in the residential/professional category for designers and landscape architects in the Design with Natives 2003 competition sponsored by the Florida Native Plant Society. Their project, the Hopkins-Green residence features a Japanese garden with a 15 by 30-foot waterfall pond and a 30-foot stream which circulates water from an adjoining man-made lake. The project is 95 percent native including the turf, Seashore Paspalum, a salt resistant species.

Projects for consideration must show a positive relationship to the local plant community including on-site preservation, enhancement of the habitat, maintenance and management planning, water conservation and resource protection, creative

solutions to significant obstacles and an educational component. The aesthetics are judged but are not of primary consideration.

Earlier this year the Lee County Building Industry Association awarded Custom Earthworks Best Landscaping merit awards for The Barcelona model by Welch Custom Homes and The Montebello model by Florida Lifestyle Homes.

"We support the use of native plants in our landscape and frequently introduce little-known species which are often underutilized," company vice-president Pat McCarley said. "These species provide a native substitution for a more commonly used non-native. In this way homeowners can do their part in the conservation of water and also minimize their maintenance requirements."

Custom Earthworks has designed and installed residential landscapes on Sanibel,

Captiva, Estero Island, Fort Myers and Cape Coral.

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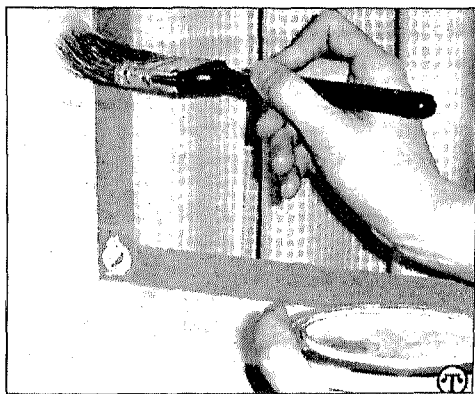
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Paint like a pro

(NAPSA)-Many homeowners find home decorating and remodeling projects more cost-effective when done on their own. These tips from professionals may get your painting projects up and running:

Choose your brush. The right brush makes all the difference. Natural bristles, often made of hog hair, are appropriate for oil-based paints. Synthetic brushes of polyester, nylon or both are good for latex, acrylic and water-based paints. Paintbrushes come in various sizes and shapes depending on the type of surface that you are painting. Rollers are ideal for large surface areas such as walls and ceilings.

Prime up to paint. Primer is the base coat necessary for paint to adhere to the surface. Next, determine whether to use oil-based or latex paint. Oil-based paints are well-suited for high traffic areas such as kitchens and bathrooms because they can hold up after frequent cleaning. Latex paints are good for decorative painting. Check with your paint supplier to ensure that you choose the right



paint for your project.

Techniques. When painting around corners, it's tough to tape off areas to protect floors, baseboards or glass. Duck(r) brand Quick Corners (800-321-0253) are pre-shaped corners for windows and delicate surfaces that make it easier and faster to mask off 90-degree angles. After the edge is taped off with a painter's tape, the painting can begin. Start with the ceiling, then work your way down the walls. Finish by painting the trim. Large surfaces can pose the problem of uneven paint application. When rolling paint along a wall or ceiling, roll in the shape of a 'W' and then go back and forth over the 'W' to spread the paint evenly.

Dispose properly. When you're finished, dispose of the extra paint according to type. Latex paint should be dried out and then thrown in the garbage. Oil-based paint should never be placed in the trash. Instead, call the environmental protection office for advice on where to properly dispose of it. If there is a substantial amount of leftover paint, you may want to donate it to a school or charity.

Initially, painting a room can be intimidating, but with some planning ahead, time-saving tips and the proper tools, professional results are just a few steps away. You'll be amazed how a new paint job can change the look and mood of an entire room.

For additional painting tips, visit www.duckproducts.com or a home center or paint store.

Oops, I did it again!

(NUI) - Every home has its share of stains and "stainmakers." You know, the aunt that always spills her merlot, the muddy soccer player and the aspiring artist.

Red wine, chocolate, mud and ink are among the biggest culprits and carpets and upholstery are the victims. These battle scars show the world all the "Oops" and "Oh No's" we've had, and although they are not always avoidable they are often treatable.

"Stains can ruin an otherwise perfect cleaning day if you don't use the right products and right techniques to remove them," said Mary Ellen Pinkham, TV personality, helpful hints expert and bestselling author.

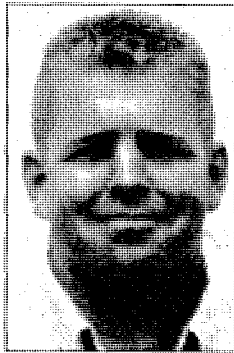
Here are a few tried and true tips from Pinkham to help bring new life to your carpet and upholstery:

- * Get rid of stubborn furniture marks in your carpet by rubbing an ice cube on the affected spot.
 - * To eliminate tough stains like coffee, wine, ink and lipstick, blot any excess with a white cloth or diaper, then apply a powerful spot remover like Woolite Power Shot Carpet Cleaner. Power Shot penetrates tough stains to remove them instantly without the need for abrasive scrubbing.
 - * Got a hairy situation? Grab your Playtex gloves. The textured, anti-slip grip gives you the control and security needed to pick up pet hair with ease.
 - * Don't burn up over spilled candle wax. Just put an unprinted paper bag on the spot, then run a warm iron over it. As soon as the paper absorbs the wax, move a fresh area of paper on the spot and iron again.
 - * To banish heel marks from wood floors, rub in a small amount of wax with fine steel wool and hand-buff to a shine.
- "Life is full of surprises," Pinkham said. "You can't follow your friends and family around with a sponge, but you can be prepared to handle any stain that comes your way."

The cleansing power of the sun

We have started using a type of air purification system with great success. The theory behind these systems is to mimic the cleansing effects of the sun on air.

Scientists have known for years that ultra-violet rays inhibit the growth and reproduction of germs, bacteria, viruses, fungi and mold. The application of this knowledge is to introduce artificial sunlight into our air conditioning air stream to take advantage of that property of ultra-violet light.



BRYAN HAYES

Biological contaminants in indoor air accounts for over 50 percent of home allergies according to the World Health Organization. Indoor air quality is up to 70 times more polluted than outdoor air.

Air purification systems work by breaking down molecular bonds causing damage to the unwanted organisms. The little nasties are killed or sterilized, leaving them unable to reproduce, thereby breaking the cycle.

We have found that when coupling these systems with enhanced filtration, the outcome is very successful. With tighter homes being built every day, the opportunity for clean air to get in is less and less. As a result, a significant build up of these allergy irritants takes place.

In conclusion ultra-violet purification is a safe, cost-effective way of cleansing indoor air.

As always thanks for reading.

Bryan Hayes is the owner/operator of Sanibel Air Conditioning

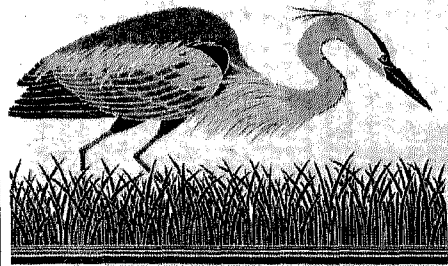
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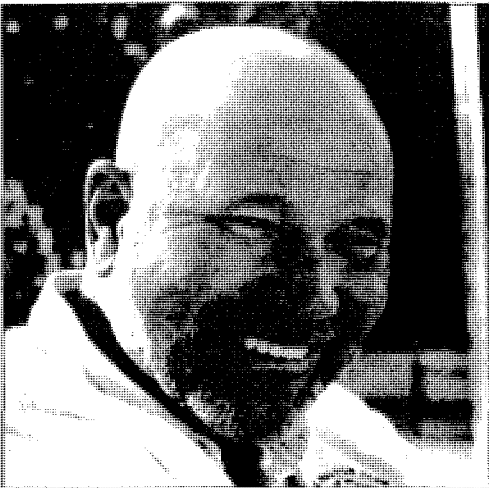
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POTPOURRI



White to sign new book

The Sanibel Island Bookshop will present Randy Wayne White at a book-signing for his latest book, *Everglades*, on May 30 from 3-6 p.m. at the Jacaranda.

Everglades is White's most thrilling and complex novel to date, one that shows Doc Ford undergoing a transformation that promises to send the entire series in a stunning new direction. At the start of the novel, Ford has hit rock bottom. Emotionally and physically ravaged by all the violence and loss he has suffered, he is mired in depression and self-loathing. Drinking excessively, prone to fits of uncontrollable fury and sadly out of shape, he is a mere shadow of the strong-willed, charismatic figure we have seen before. But, when a friend in dire need shows up

on his doorstep, he knows he must reclaim his courage, strength and resolve... if he can't, people close to him are certain to suffer.

Drawing on his experience as an outdoorsman, his own knowledge of Florida's history and his meticulous research, White skillfully interweaves little known facts about Florida's indigenous tribes, about the earthquakes that have occasionally shaken the peninsula, even about the mysterious Swamp Ape that is rumored to walk the marshes into this tale.

With gripping suspense, beautifully rendered setting and engaging characters, *Everglades* strikes a new high-note for White — a worthy milestone with which to celebrate one of the best action series going today. Don't miss this exciting event! No reservations needed for the book signing, all 472-5223 with questions; if you cannot make the signing, the bookshop will send you a signed copy!

Those wishing to stay for dinner should call the Jac for reservations at 472-1771.

Bluegrass moves to Civic Center

Beginning Sunday, June 1, the monthly Basically Bluegrass Concert & Pick-In will be located in the Tinsley Pavilion on the grounds of the Lee Civic Center on Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers. This concert will feature four local bluegrass bands performing from 2 to 5 p.m.

Admission is still \$5 per adult, free for members of the Acoustic Music Society of Southwest Florida and for students under age 18.

Scheduled to play on June 1 are: the Peace River Band, the Opporknockamees, the Moonshiners, and Mahogany Hammock. Acoustic musicians are invited to bring their instruments and join in various jam sessions. The Tinsley Pavilion is a large outdoor facility, open on the sides with a roof, so the concert will go on rain or shine. Attendees should bring lawn chairs for seating.

These bluegrass concerts and pick-ins take place the first Sunday of each month (except holidays) year 'round. They are sponsored by the Acoustic Music Society of Southwest Florida, for which the annual membership fee is \$20 per family.

Directions to the Lee Civic Center: Take I-75 to exit 143 (Bayshore). Go east approximately three miles to Old Bayshore Road. Turn north and go 1/4 mile to Bluegrass Concert entrance. Or, go north on US 41 across the river to Bayshore; turn right and proceed beyond I-75 three miles to Old Bayshore and turn north for 1/4 mile.

Beach Art Association

This Wednesday, May 28, will find the Outdoor Painters of the Fort Myers Beach Art Association at the home of Sue and Nelson Pink at 23 Fairview Boulevard on the Beach. This group of friendly artists

gathers every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. for an informal sketching and painting session, breaking at noon for a brown-bag lunch over a critique. They invite visiting artists of all levels to join them at these sessions.

Next Wednesday the group will kick off June on the fourth back at Times Square on the Beach. For further information, call Lisa Grinter at 463-2980.

The Art Association gallery opens its doors every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9 a.m. until 1 for visitors to browse the All Member Summer Show, where many works of art are for sale.

These two mornings will also find the Indoor Painters in an informal session either working from still life setups or doing their "own thing." They invite visiting and beginning artists to join them in the well-lit, air-conditioned gallery which is at the corner of Donora & Shell Mound just behind the fire station. For further information, one can call 463-3909 either day or check out the association's web page at www.fortmyersbeachart.com.

Reception at ACT Gallery

Stop by Arts for ACT Gallery at 2265 First Street on Friday, May 23, from 7-11 p.m. for the opening reception for Events, Opinions, Memories, an exhibit of drawings, paintings and sculpture from the

POTPOURRI, SEE PAGE 22

Sobczak's Bestseller's!

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POTPOURRI, FROM PAGE 21

artist Vyd. Live music will be performed by MOAB.

From current affairs to childhood nostalgia, local artist Vyd looks at it all via a myriad of perspectives. His work utilizes a variety of materials including: comic books, baseball cards, native plants and famous trash.

Proceeds from the reception will benefit Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc. a non-profit agency established to provide shelter, a 24-hour hotline, counseling and education to victims of domestic violence and their families, and survivors of sexual assault.

For additional information, contact Claudia at Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc. at 939-2553.

BIG Arts Summer Camp

It's time to sign up for Summer Camp at BIG Arts — eight weeks of camp for children and youth, pre-K through 5th grade, beginning June 10, Tuesdays through Fridays.

The cost is \$60 per week for four days, \$35 for two days — either Tuesday and Thursday or Wednesday and Friday. For those attending four or more weeks, the cost is \$50 per week. There are limited volunteer opportunities for middle and high school students.

Activities will include painting, drawing, crafts, martial arts, pottery, music, sculpture, dance, acrobatics and more. Drinks and snacks are included in the fee, but children need to bring their own lunches.

For a complete schedule or to register, call 395-0900.

Writers to meet

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, Gulf Coast Writers Association is presenting a workshop with noted author Carmen Lael — Writing, Researching and Marketing Your Writing by Using the Internet.

The workshop will be held in the Beacon Executive Suites, 8359 Beacon Boulevard. To get there go north of College on Cleveland, turn right on Crystal to Beacon, then left to Beacon Executive Suites on the left. Doors open at 9:30. All are welcome. No reservations are required.

Admission: \$15 members/\$25 non-members (includes breakfast, coffee, soft drinks). Bring a brown-bag lunch. For more information, call 489-1673 or visit the organization's website at www.gulfwriters.org.

Baby coming to Dinner Theatre

Is there anything more exciting, frightening and utterly transformational than impending parenthood? Come see for yourself as Broadway Palm presents the musical comedy, *Baby*, playing June 5 through July 5.

The June 5th opening night performance is a benefit for the Adonis Autism Center of Southwest Florida. Since 1985, the Adonis Autism Center has had the goal of creating a facility where those with autism can live, work and play. A portion of the evening's proceeds will go toward the center. For more information about the Adonis Autism Center, call 332-5395.

Baby tells the story of three couples on a university campus as they deal with the painful, rewarding and agonizingly funny consequences of this universal experience. There are the college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives; the 30-somethings, having trouble conceiving but determined to try; and the middle-aged parents, looking forward to seeing

their last child graduate from college when a night of unexpected passion lands them back where they started.

In the first scene, the lights dim and we hear the sound of an embryo's heartbeat. All three women are astonished. The young college couple is stunned. The jocks are joyous. The oldest pair is dubious. The rest is hilarious entertainment for the whole family!

The score includes "We Start Today," "I Want It All," "The Fatherhood Blues" and "Two People in Love." It's a perfect show for anyone who's ever had a baby... or been one!

Performances during the month-long run are Wednesday through Sunday evenings with selected matinees. Tickets are \$21 to \$42. For reservations and show information, call 278-4422. Tickets can also be purchased at the theatre box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers or online at www.BroadwayPalm.com

Dora swims into Mann Hall

Nickelodeon and Clear Channel Entertainment have teamed up to create *Dora The Explorer Live!* — *Search for the City of Lost Toys*, the first ever family-staged show starring a Latina heroine. *Dora...* is slated to perform in 32 cities across the United States during its first national tour.

The show is based on the number one pre-school show on commercial television, *Dora the Explorer*. The popular Dora is a seven-year-old Latina heroine, whose adventures take place in an imaginative, tropical world filled with jungles, beaches and rainforests. Dora explores her world just as pre-schoolers do every day, and both the TV and stage shows are designed to actively engage their audiences using a variety of learning techniques.

Dora and her best friend, Boots, invite the audience to join them in an exciting adventure. Each step of their journey consists of a problem or puzzle that Dora and the audience must solve in order to move on the next challenge. The heroine is proudly bilingual and uses her knowledge of English and Spanish to communicate with her friends, overcome obstacles and reach her goals. She teaches Spanish words or phrases to the audience and then asks them to use them to solve a problem and forge ahead.

"Dora has quickly captured the imagination of the pre-school audience and has become the number-one show on commercial television for kids this age since its debut on Nick Jr.," said Stuart Rosenstein, a vice president, of Nickelodeon. "*Dora the Explorer Live!* is a culturally rich, interactive show for preschoolers and their families that helps Dora's fans experience this wonderful character in a whole new way."

Featuring familiar songs, a captivating storyline and all the characters children have come to love, the show showcases Dora's friends, special helper Backpack, and best friend Boots, Map, Swiper the Fox, Tico and Benny.

Dora the Explorer Live! is directed by Gip Hoppe, who first worked with Nickelodeon and Clear Channel on *Blues Clues Live!* and *Blues Clues Live! Blue's Birthday Party*. Title sponsors for *Dora The Explorer Live!* are Crest and Teddy Grahams. Pampers, Mervyns and Bounty are associated sponsors.

The June 17th performance is at 7 p.m. and the two on June 18th are at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and \$26 and available at the box office by calling 481-4849 or through Ticketmaster at 334-3309.

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DATELINE HOLLYWOOD

"Ladies And Gentlemen... The Man, Mister Frank Sinatra!"

~ Part 2 of 2 ~

Memory jogging is not necessary this time. While writing this story on paper for the first time, I've replayed the incident in my mind and relied on that more than my ability to accurately remember. I'm really enjoying telling how my relatively life-long, good-buddy Sam Russo and I got comp'd at the Sands. Frank Sinatra and Joe E. Lewis put on a show that will always be considered vintage Ring-a-Ding-Ding.

When Sam and I arrived with our wives for Show-time after dinner at The Sands that evening, I didn't notice the maitre d' had given Sam a note as we were seated. After Sinatra's final curtain call, Sam said the note was from Tony. Sam's interior decorator client, who had arranged our fabulous on-the-house holiday.

Tony wanted us to meet him in the lounge immediately following the show,

again telling us to go to the front of the line or we would never get in. Yep, more snake-eyes. I still remember a harsh, rude female voice loudly proclaiming, "Who the #\$\$%*! do these #\$\$%*! people think they are?" Or words to that affect. Anyhow, right up to the reception desk we nudged, bumped and 'scused us.

When we gave our names, the host sent for Tony and asked us to step aside and wait. A moment later Tony came from inside the lounge. "How would you guys like to meet Sinatra?" he asked, all smiles, knowing his question was ridiculous and a complete shock. "Frank's in the best mood I've ever seen since I've known him." Tony went on to caution that

we would probably be in for a simple hello with a handshake, to just follow Sinatra's lead. Tony asked us to be patient, that he'd come get us when "things are right."

Talk about four excited people! Nobody wanted to go to the john for fear of missing "the moment." There were only two times in all the years in Hollywood when I was most anxious while waiting to meet a legendary star. This was one; the other was the first time I met Red Skelton. (Yes, another column; another day.)

Tony was back almost immediately. He was nervous, even expressed surprise, said Sinatra wanted to see us now. He lead us through the unbelievably crowded lounge



to a booth along the far wall. Seated at a small square table, just a bit larger than the small round cocktail tables throughout most of the room, was The Man, Mister Frank Sinatra. Next to Sinatra on his right was a man whom I at first mistakenly thought was Akim Timiroff. At the closest table off to the right sat two big guys, bulges in their armpits. Behind us and to our left, two more — really ugly. I felt very safe.

Somehow, I was the person next to Tony, so I was introduced first. "Frank, this is Little Joe," I remember Tony saying. For the life of me, Sinatra's first words to me are a blur, but he was warm, friendly and his handshake firm. He looked each of us in the eye when speaking and he most politely kissed the girls' hands. Sinatra looked to the man on his right and said "Don't my friends get to sit down?" That

HOLLYWOOD, SEE PAGE 25

C.R.O.W.

Sanibel Island, FL
941-472-3644

C.R.O.W.'s

23rd Annual

TASTE OF THE ISLANDS

Sunday June 1, 2003 Noon to 6p.m.
Gulfside Park (Algiers Beach), Sanibel
Volunteer Sign-upYou Can Help CROW by being a volunteer at
"Taste of The Island"

SATURDAY, MAY 31st--

9:00 AM:

- ☐ Set fencing around sea oats and dunes
- ☐ Assist with tent set-up
- ☐ Assist with restaurant table set-up
- ☐ Pick-up plants/canopies on island as needed (trucks helpful)

2:00 PM :

- ☐ Open, bag and distribute garbage boxes; Butt buckets
- ☐ Prepare raffle ticket packets
- ☐ Distribute wine cases and supplies to beverage tent
- ☐ Hang Signs (Gates and Tents)

SUNDAY, JUNE 1-- Day of the Event (3 1/2 hour shifts)

9:00 AM:

- ☐ Assist with Sponsor Arena set-up and decorating
- ☐ Assist with Tee Shirt folding and set-up

11:00 AM:

- ☐ Sell Tee Shirts
- ☐ Entrance Gate Ticket Takers
- ☐ Main Beverage Tent
- ☐ Remote Beverage Tent
- ☐ Food and Beverage Ticket Sales
- ☐ C.R.O.W. Information Table
- ☐ Raffle Ticket Sales Table

6:00 PM:

- ☐ Fold and stack tables and chairs
- ☐ Remove Signs
- ☐ Clean up gate areas & Butt Buckets

AVAILABLE SHIFT TIMES

11:00AM-3:00PM

3:00PM 6:00PM

Please fax form back to C.R.O.W. at 472-8544 by May 16th

A packet will arrive by mail with your assignment letter, parking pass and a coupon for a DISCOUNT on an event shirt. Entry wristbands will be given to you at the volunteer check-in tent when you arrive at the event

NAME _____

DAY PHONE# _____

ADDRESS _____

FAX _____

CITY, STATE _____

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C.R.O.W.

Sanibel Island, FL
941-472-3644Taste Of The Islands Sponsors
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For inquiries on sponsorship please call Anita Pinder Event Chairman at 472-3644 Watch the Islander weekly for the latest updates on this exciting event!

Sponsorship Confirmation

YES! We want to be a sponsor for the 23rd Annual Taste Of The Islands.
Our tax deductible contribution of \$1,000 is enclosed (please make your check payable to CROW).
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Address: _____

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Contact Person: _____

Guest # (max 6): _____

Additional sponsor guest passes may be purchased by calling CROW at 472-3644, Ext. 4.

Please return this form with your check by May 16th to:

Taste of the Islands

C.R.O.W. Inc.

PO Box 150

Sanibel FL 33957-0150

ART EXHIBITS

Out and about

Up the West Coast

- **Tutankhamun—Wonderful Things from the Pharaoh's Tomb.** Through August 15. Southwest Florida Museum of History, 2300 Peck Street, Fort Myers. 332-5955.
- **Eye Contact.** Through May 23. **Corealism: Modern Art & Architectural Design; Song of Life: The Gow Collection of Ancient Chinese Art; Gilbert Lesser Theatre Posters; Flor Garduño, Inner Light: Still Life & Nudes; and Masters of Miniature.** Through July 31. Naples Museum of Art, 5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard (800) 597-1900.
- **Sacred Treasures: Early Italian Paintings from the Southern Collection.** May 31-August 10. Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota (941) 359-5700.
- **Barbara Sorenson: Monumental Ceramics.** Through June 29. Gulf Coast Museum of Art, Largo (727) 518-6833.
- **Booker Windows Exhibit.** June 3-30. Selby Gardens, Sarasota (941) 366-5731
- **The Photographs of D.W. Mellor.** Through June 8. **The Power and Passion of Dance: The Carol Halsted Dance Photography Collection.** Through June 15. Museum of Fine Arts, St. Pete (727) 896-2667.
- **Florida Craftsmen's 50th Anniversary Exhibition.** May 23-August 11. Santa Fe Gallery, Santa Fe Community College, St. Pete (727) 821-7391.
- **A Wealth of Women: Contemporary Perspectives on the Human Form.** June 13-August 2. Florida Craftsmen Gallery, St. Pete (727) 821-7391.
- **Modern Art in Florida.** Through July 6. Tampa Museum of Art (813) 274-8130.
- **Sumptuous Silver.** Through Oct. 31. Henry B. Plant Museum, Tampa (813) 254-1891.

Central Florida

- **Ancestors of the Incas: The Majesty of Ancient Peru.** Through July 20. **Decade of Growth: Selections from the Permanent Collection.** May 31-August 17. Orlando Museum of Art (407) 896-4231.
- **1776.** June 4-July 11. Mark Two Dinner Theater, Orlando (407) 843-6275.
- **Three Women of Taste & Style: Their Hats from the 1870s through the 1940s.** Through Sept. 28. **The Illuminated Vision—Lamps of Tiffany Studios.** Through Jan. 4, 2004. Morse Museum of American Art, Winter Park (407) 645-5311.

PERFORMING ARTS

ON THE ISLANDS

Island Cinema

Bailey's Shopping Center ~ 472-1701

- *The Matrix Reloaded* (R)
 - *Bruce Almighty* (PG13)
- Call for times & prices and ask about the Frequent Movie-goer Program

Old Schoolhouse Theater

1908 Periwinkle ~ 472-6862

- *The Big Bang*
- May 30th-August 16th

BIG ARTS

900 Dunlop Road ~ 395-0900

Kids Conspiracy

- *Lucky Hightops and the Cosmic Cat Patrol Episode One: Captives of the Dog Star*
- May 24th, 11 a.m., \$5



Theatre Conspiracy raised the curtain on the World Premiere of Catherine Bush's *The Frankenstein Summer* last night at the Foulds Theatre.

IN FORT MYERS

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre

1380 Colonial Boulevard ~ 278-4422

- *Buddy—The Buddy Holly Story*
- Through May 31st, \$21-\$42

Florida Repertory Theatre

Bay Street between Jackson & Hendry 332-4488

- *Brighton Beach Memoirs*
- June 6th-29th

Subscriptions for the three-play summer season range from \$52-\$64; Flex Pass, \$70

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall

8099 College Parkway ~ 481-4849

- *Sinbad*—Up front & personal! May 30th, 8 p.m., \$32-\$42
- *Olivia Newton-John* June 13th, 8 p.m., call for prices
- *Dora, the Explorer, Live!* June 17th, 7 p.m. June 18th, 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m., \$16-\$26

Alliance for the Arts

10061 McGregor Boulevard ~ 939-2787

Foulds Theatre ~ Theatre Conspiracy

- World Premiere *The Frankenstein Summer* by Catherine Bush
- Winner of New Play contest
Thursday-Sunday, Through June 7th
\$16/\$7

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- *Bluegrass Concert & Jam* Peace River Band, the Moonshiners, Mahogany Hammock and the Oppoknockamees June 1st, 2-5 p.m., \$5 (Acoustic Music Society members FREE) Covered pavilion; bring lawn chairs and acoustic instruments for jammin'

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4:30 - 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

THE MATRIX RELOADED (R)

4:00 - 6:45 - 9:30 P.M.

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472-1701

Miami & Up the Gold Coast

- **Shirin Neshat.** Through June 3. Roberto Behar & Rosario Marquardt. Through June 22. *Selections from the Permanent Collection.* Through Nov. 16. Miami Art Museum (305) 375-3000.
- **Florida Remembers World War II.** Through June 1. Historical Museum of Southern Florida, Miami (305) 375-1492.

- **Close Up in Black: African American Film Posters.** Through July 17. The Wolfsonian, Miami Beach (305) 531-1001.
- **Manhattan Stories: Enduring Legacy.** Through May 27. Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables (305) 284-3503.
- **Hollywood All-Media Juried Biennial.** Through June 29. Art & Culture Center of Hollywood (954) 921-3274.
- **Tumultuous Fifties: Photography from the New York Times.** Through July 13.

Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art (954) 525-5500.

- **Reality & Figuration: The Contemporary Latin American Presence; and Passages: The Paintings of Arturo Rodriguez.** Through Nov. 3. Boca Raton Museum of Art (561) 392-2500.
- **Inspirations 2003.** Through June 14. *The Art of Hatred: Images of Intolerance in Florida Culture and Fine Focus 2.* June 26-Sept. 13. Cornell Museum of Art & History, Delray Beach (561) 243-7922.

HOLLYWOOD, FROM PAGE 23

remember distinctly. The man snapped his fingers. Twice. Four chairs came floating through the air and were placed at the table.

As we sat, Sinatra surprised me by asking, "What are you drinking?" I said, "Scotch, neat." He said, "Bring him Haig 'n Haig." Emis.

As he moved on, the girls were both a bit tongue-tied, so Sinatra recommended a different drink for each, saying they'd love it. Sam said, "A scotch, like Joe."

Sinatra kept the patter going like we were old friends whom he hadn't seen in awhile. He told Sam and me he was aware that we each had clients who were dear friends of his and he even named a couple. He told us he drove by our place "almost

every day." Of course, we invited him to drop by for a cup of coffee. He said thanks, he'd do that and patted the back of his head, adding that he was happy with the guy who was cutting his hair. We replied that Eddie Carroll was a close friend still is and that Eddie and a few select others would occasionally come by our place for a hair-cutting jam session, and usually a drink or two. "I know," Sinatra said. "Eddie says he'd like to hire you guys," he kidded.

I sat there savoring the moment, slowly sipping my drink, when a waiter approached, bent down and whispered in Sinatra's ear. Looking up, shrugging his shoulders with palms up and open, The Man used a lot of apologetic words. "Some people who've been chasing me around the country..." to talk some business had arrived early, so would we please not think him ill-mannered, and please stay, enjoy. "You're my guests tonight."

Turning to 'Akim,' he said, "Get my

friends a table." 'Akim' had a look of horror in his eyes that he did a lousy job of hiding. "Put the table right there," Sinatra said as he pointed to a spot just behind our chairs. "That way I can still see these lovely ladies!"

I know the whole experience was like magic, like out of Hollywood's script mill, but I swear this table came floating, hand-to-hand, and somehow the waiters fit it into a spot that didn't exist, along with a fresh tablecloth, lighted candle and ashtray.

We thanked Sinatra, everyone talking at once (him too), and he kissed the girls' hands again. As Sam and I shook hands with him, he said, "Now don't be bashful. Order anything you want. You're on me tonight."

The four of us sat there reveling in the events of that past 10 to 15 minutes, recapping for each other the words and unspoken thoughts that just marked our lives forever. The girls joked — at least I think they were joking — that they would never wash their hands again. Talking things over, we agreed it would be too nervy to order even another drink, so we got up to leave. We discussed saying good night to Sinatra, but he was engrossed in conversation, so we decided to not disturb him. Sinatra saw us, stood, waved and blew kisses.

I don't recall much of the rest of that trip, or even if we flew to Vegas or drove. I'm not sure which of the gambling memories occurred on that trip. But I am absolutely certain that I will always cherish the time we sat in the lounge of the fabulous Sands Hotel and enjoyed some very friendly conversation and a drink with the extraordinary entertainer I've admired all my life, The Man, Mister Frank Sinatra.



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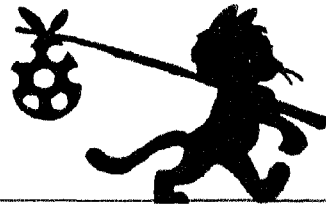
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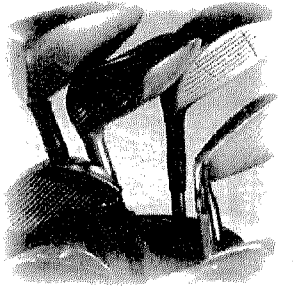
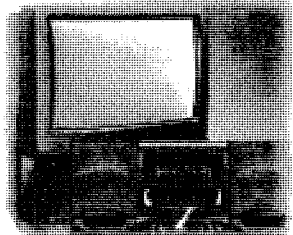
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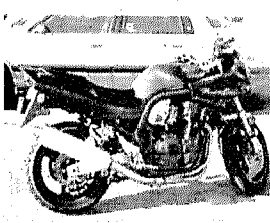
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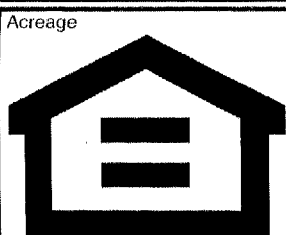
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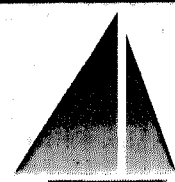
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ACROSS

1 Applies lightly
5 Helicopter sound
9 Swedish rockers
13 "Whole — Love" ('69 hit)
18 Guinness or Baldwin
19 Actress Skye
20 Chrysler competitor
21 Toils
22 "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" star?
25 O'Neill's "The — Cometh"
26 New Hampshire city
27 Postpone
28 Leaf part
30 Married Mlle.
31 Tarbell or Lupino
33 Theft
36 Spring mo.
37 "Duelo at Diablo" star?
43 Punjabi prince
46 Ornamental vine
47 It may be bitter

48 Blue hue
50 The very bottom
52 Tijuana title
55 "Star Wars" Skywalker
57 Fawn's father
59 Pride of lions?
61 Be a pest
63 Actress Helgenberger
65 Alaric, for one
67 Easily read
71 Kodrova of "Torn Curtain"
73 Unwell
74 Gulf ruler
75 Part of EEC
76 "The Tin Stella" star?
79 Wrath
80 Fateful 15th
82 Demolished
83 Rain hard?
84 Incorporated, as territory
87 Smith or Jones, e.g.
89 Junket
91 Petite pooch
92 Forster's "— With a View"
93 Evaluate
96 Level
98 Account entry

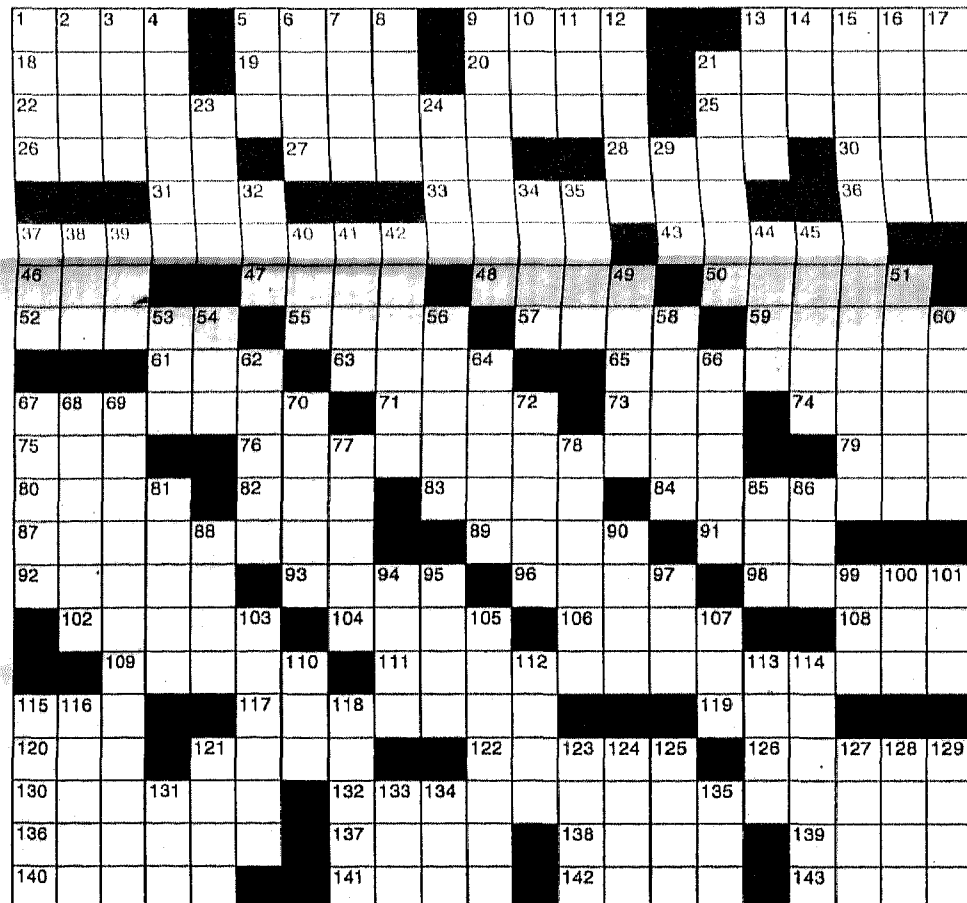
102 Have — over one's head
104 "My Sweet —" ('70 smash)
106 Debtors' letters
108 Indefinite pronoun
109 Baal and Elvis
111 "Rosso River" star?
115 Funnymen Phillips
117 Hailing from Haifa
119 Paw part
120 Once around the track
121 "Peter Pan" pirate
122 Pound the podium
126 Stallone role
130 Puts up
132 "How the Ovest Was Won" star?
136 Actress Tyson
137 Poker stake
138 Peter and Gordon song, e.g.
139 Small combo
140 Asian capital
141 Tavern staples
142 District

DOWN

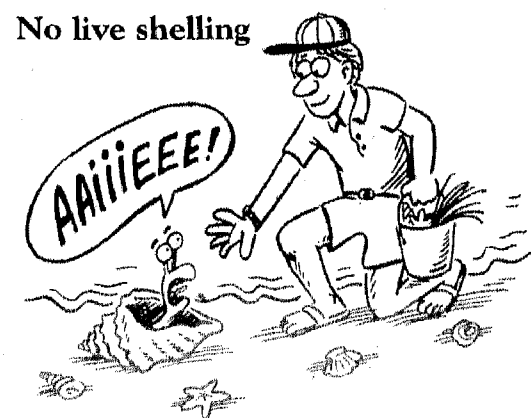
1 TV's "— Shadows"
2 Bum remedy
3 Neuwirth or Daniels
4 Picturesque
5 Humor
6 Car part
7 Memo start
8 Scuba site
9 Insult
10 Derisive cry
11 "It's freezing!"
12 Confuse
13 Tablecloth fabric
14 UK honor
15 "Riders of the Purple Sage" star?
16 Vagabond
17 Ed of "Lou Grant"
21 Tripoli native
23 Change the decor
24 Earl — Beggars
29 Hockey's Bobby
32 Current unit
34 Honey bunch?
35 Wild child
37 "M*A*S*H" extras
38 "— been had!"
39 Writer Rand

SPAGHETTI WESTERNS

40 Vinegar's partner
41 Dejected
42 Detergent ingredient
44 Actress Gertz
45 Saying
49 Linda of "Alice"
51 Join the leisure class?
53 Kimono closer
54 Massage
56 Fromm or Segal
58 Comic Radner
60 Start the slaw
62 Shimmer
64 Rub it in
66 Distort
67 Camera company
68 Writer Welty
69 "The Grande Country" star?
70 Go in
72 Blazing
77 Kidney-related
78 De Havilland or Hussey
81 Hair net
85 Start to snooze
86 Spud bud
88 Melville novel
90 Menial laborer
94 Tiberius' threads?
95 A Great Lake
97 Sister
99 Lad
100 Bed and breakfast
101 Pigskin prop
103 Poorly made
105 Costello or Del Rio
107 Use a straw
110 Compass pt.
112 Neighbor of Tenn.
113 Well's opposite
114 Modifies
115 Vole in
116 Lanza or Lemieux
118 "King Lear" role
121 WWII site
123 Verdi opera
124 — de force
125 Fencing weapon
127 Full-grown filly
128 Soft cheese
129 Scent
131 Dodger Ron
133 Shiba — (Japanese dog)
134 Giant legend
135 Greek vowel



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THE MATRIX RELOADED...

The Matrix Reloaded was just released this week. The original movie was a brilliant piece of science fiction, in which each question the movie raised flowed to the answer with mind-bending logic.

It gave us "bullet-time," where bullets froze in mid-flight and dropped harmlessly to the ground. It

offered a vision of the future in which machines had taken over and were harnessing humans as batteries, kept docile by a "dream world" — the Matrix itself.

It offered us hope in the form of Neo, played by Keanu Reeves. Was he "The One?" The first movie led us inexorably to the conclusion that he was. When it ended, he told viewers that people were about to

A Review by Kate Thompson

start waking up — having their minds, like his, freed.

In *The Matrix Reloaded*, we now have the first half of the sequel. The other half, *The Matrix Revolutions*, is set for release this November. If you see one, you'll almost have to see them both because *The Matrix Reloaded* doesn't provide many answers. While some reviewers have

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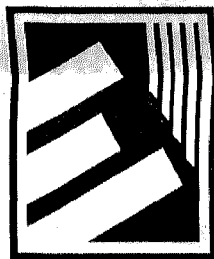
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described that as unfair, perhaps it isn't. After all, you know going in that there's another one coming... and we don't have to wait years.

My first reaction was disappointment in the sequel but, on second thought, I don't think that's fair. It does raise new questions about reality and offers new insights. And it leaves us with great hopes for the final piece of the trilogy. If it doesn't quite generate the same "Wows" as the first, it's still a brilliant piece of work by Larry and Andy Wachowski.

(If you haven't seen the original, go rent it before you see its sequel. Otherwise, you won't know a lot of what's going on.)

The plot revolves around Neo's need to return to the Matrix to locate the keymaker, a man who knows the source of the Matrix itself. Zion, the last remaining human city, is in danger from the machines. Plus there are new villains to battle in the form of The Merovingian (Lambert Wilson and twins, Neil and Adrian Rayment) who move through walls and floors as easily as Neo soars through the air like Superman.

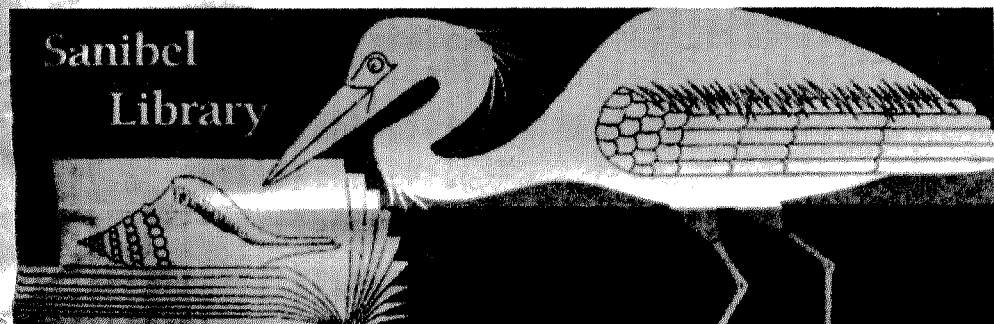
The fight scenes in the first movie were brilliant. We'd never seen anything like them before — slow motion kick-boxing, choreographed to perfection. This time, it almost looks as though a computer created the scenes — and in some cases, it did. Still, they're very entertaining... even the 15 minute car/motorcycle chase.

The first *Matrix* was never heavy-handed. With the choices of blue pills or red, with the pronouncement that what seemed to be reality was only a dream, the Matrix offered a new way of looking at the world — as if it were a computer-generated program. At least part of the time, *The Matrix Reloaded* feels less real than a computer program. Without any explanation, Agent Smith from the first movie is back. Since he was "deleted" and now, suddenly, is a free agent, I was left wondering how. I didn't get an explanation.

Zion, the home city of the freed humans, looks like a cold steel ant farm. I would have expected something less machine and more human, somehow. The scenes shot there were a bit flat but maybe that's because with a host of new characters to introduce, we don't get to spend much time with any of them.

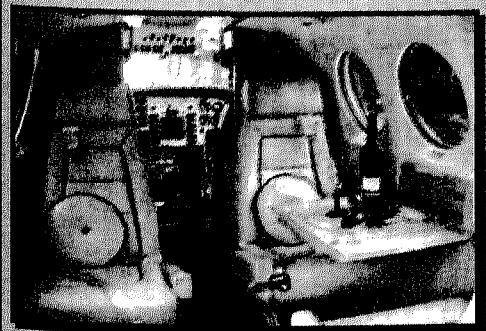
Sci-fi fans will spot nods to William Gibson's *Neuromancer* series, to Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* and Phillip Dick's *Blade Runner*. There are historical references — the Merovingians were a family that ruled France from the fifth to the eighth century. The film does remain original. And I, for one, am eager to see what's next for Neo, Trinity, Morpheus and the Matrix.

The Matrix Reloaded is rated R for violence and some sexual content. I wouldn't take a young teen to it, but perhaps I'm being overly conservative.



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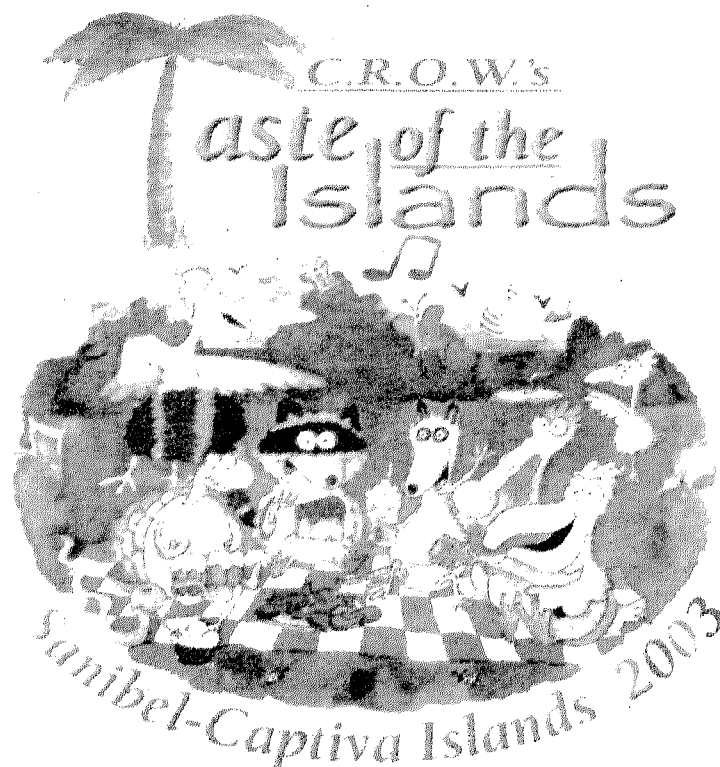
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