



A career military man who did not discover art until age 36 is now making it his life's work. Army Col. (ret.) Jerry Fields enjoys both military and pastoral art work. Meet him on Page 3.



Take a splash in the blue Atlantic from the island of Jamaica. The jungles mix with the resorts to give the Caribbean nation a flair of its own. See Page 7.

The Bloomingdale Gazette

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 4

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

APRIL 1992

Support of ADA law debated

By PAM PULLEY

The Americans with Disabilities Act which became law Jan. 26 is another costly crucible that a rigging real estate industry must bear, commercial experts said.

The federal civil rights legislation calls for alterations that would give the handicapped access to existing public buildings by April 26.

Buildings that are under construction or are planned for construction have until Jan. 26 of next year to comply with the code.

Real estate people disagreed on predicting the dollar value of alterations. Some claimed ignorance of the law. Others cringed at the potential financial blow.

Jerry Hoffman, a commercial and residential contractor and resident of Bloomingdale, said many commercial buildings are now undergoing construction modifications to allow easier access for the handicapped.

"I have barely researched it," Hoffman said. "But some of the building costs are going up relative to the change. Most of the work is done by architects and we bid accordingly."

Doug Rotschild, a vice president with CB Commercial Inc. in Tampa, said the general response of owners and managers is mostly one of puzzlement. "As time goes on, people will understand what the means to them specifically," he said.

The expense of altering existing buildings may be absorbed by the operations budget or passed along to tenants, he said.

"The tenants will be more sophisticated in negotiating new leases so expenses aren't passed on to them," Rotschild said, adding that buildings under construction can absorb alterations without significant cost hikes.

The law allows alternative alterations when specific requirements are not "readily achievable," the document says.

A spokesman with the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board in Washington, D.C., said the architecture and construction of some older buildings that prohibit full compliance can still meet code.

Restaurants placed below ground level in old

brownstone buildings in the nation's capital may be accessed by doorbells for curb service, he said.

"You use steps to get down there," he said. "The buildings are 20- to 25-foot wide and the sidewalk is 10- to 15-foot wide in front of it. There is no way to put in a ramp and the elevator cost is prohibitive."

The law calls for such conveniences as:

- X number of parking spaces for vans and automobiles operated for or by the handicapped
- At least one accessible entranceway to the building
- Visual and audible alarm systems
- Bathrooms, water fountains and telephones in strategic locations
- Braille floor pads in elevators.

Malls and shopping centers, professional office buildings, health-care providers, transportation stations and airport terminals are asked to provide elevator service to each floor. Exempt are buildings under three stories high with less than 3,000 square feet of space on each floor.

The law specifically states that improvements should be made with no "undue (financial) burden."

Ron Rotella, executive director of the West Shore Alliance, said the code is another financial blow to the commercial real estate industry. The Alliance is a group of movers and shakers representing the West Shore Business District and its 9.5 million square feet of office space.

"It is coming at a time when business failures are taking place, and it doesn't distinguish between a struggling business or a successful business, large or small," he said.

"This is coming at a time when there are just all kinds of regulatory fees and increased fees in documentary stamps (based on value of constructed building). We are in a recession."

Claiming that he "concurs with the intent of the act," Rotella said the cost of improving an older building could heighten vacancy which is "dramatically opposed to the needs for economic recovery."

Randy Warner, north Florida regional manager for American Metro/Study Corp. in Tampa, said the



At left, Don Thomas, pastor of the First Christian Church of Brandon, helps his wife, Beth, prepare the Passover fruit salad for congregation. Daughter Sarah looks on.



Father Patrick Irwin, priest of St. Stephen's Catholic Church, prepares for sermon to be given Easter Sunday.

Photo by PAM PULLEY

Easter brings reflections

By PAM PULLEY

The legacy of Easter and Passover is a torch for religious leaders in the Bloomingdale area.

To a one, they would like to see commitment extended beyond three major celebrations.

Easter commemorates Jesus rising from the grave. Passover observes the Lord delivering followers from slavery. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus.

"What I would like to see happen is people coming to church throughout the year—not just Easter and Christmas," said the Rev. Robert Hahn, minister of St. Andrews United Methodist Church.

"Faith is a daily walk, not just two days a week when we get faith."

Hahn's church is sponsoring a musical drama stressing different aspects of Holy Week from Palm Sunday, April 12, through Easter Sunday, April 18.

The theme is "He Is Risen."

"We have taken a cantata and added more to it," Hahn said. "Many (members of the congregation) will be participating" in the presentation scheduled from Palm Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Monday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and Easter at 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Father Patrick Irwin, the new priest at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, welcomes a search for peace—both individually and throughout the

world.

He cites Catholicism as the source.

"One of the more prominent experiences coming from the Catholic tradition is peace," Irwin said.

Bringing peace to world leaders is the mission.

"There is always dissatisfaction among people," he said. "We need to bring it into the hearts of those in leadership roles," he said.

"In the Catholic Church it is part of our obligation and responsibility to support and enhance people to make this a reality in their lives."

The Easter celebration begins with the 40-day observance of Lent and reaches a peak at the Easter Sunday services scheduled for 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. They celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

"It is a joyful message to our people," the priest said. "Jesus is our hope."

Don Thomas, pastor of the First Christian Church of Brandon, said churches "in general" should awaken the need of sharing God with the community.

"And that will make a difference," he said.

The church is planning a Passover meal on Palm Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

That ceremony normally is reserved to Jewish synagogues.

"The Passover meal is talked about in the New Testament," Thomas said. "We want to make it as realistic as possible."

The menu will feature a salad with apples, nuts, raisins and honey; bitter



herbs (horseradish and parsley), vegetables and roast beef.

The beef replaces lamb that was Biblically accurate, Thomas said.

Congregation members contribute to the meal that is open to the community at no charge, he said.

Last year's Passover meal attracted 105 Bloomingdale-area residents—with limited space forcing the church to turn away 10 visitors, Thomas said.

This year a leaf has been turned.

The congregation will celebrate Passover at the Brandon Recreation Center on Sadie St., 105 Sadie St.

The building has a capacity of 125 with kitchen privileges, Thomas said.

The Passover meal, traditionally held the evening before Easter Sunday, "will highlight what's coming ahead Easter Week," he said.

Easter services are scheduled at 10:45 a.m.

and 6 p.m.

Dr. Don Reccord, pastor of the Bell Shoals Baptist Church, claimed a surface acceptance of Jesus Christ and a nodding acquaintance with the Bible do not build a "value-based" society.

"Without question the thing I would desire most is for people to come to the realization of who exactly Jesus Christ is and what He did," Reccord said.

Sure, modern civilization has digested Biblical messages, but Reccord said "we need to be in a personal relationship with Him. We need to know and really understand who He is and what He did. That's what will bring this country back to integrity and a value-based society."

The church's 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services will feature a mu-

See EASTER, Page 2

Bloomingtondale community page

Gazette



Bloomingtondale Gazette
 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.
 Suite 101
 The Royal Oaks of Bloomingtondale
 Valrico, FL 33594
 Telephone (813) 681-2051
 Hours of Operation:
 Monday—Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
**Bloomingtondale Homeowners
 Association, Inc.**
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The Bloomingtondale Gazette, Inc., (a for-profit corporation) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc., which is a non-profit 501(c)4 corporation. The sole purpose of The Bloomingtondale Gazette is to serve as a medium of communication for the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc. and the residents of the Bloomingtondale community. The Bloomingtondale Gazette is self-supporting with revenues generated by advertising funds and various fundraisers put in gear by the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc.

The Bloomingtondale Gazette is published monthly and delivered in door-knob bags to every residence within the area governed by the Bloomingtondale Homeowners Association, Inc., plus other selected areas at no charge.

The Bloomingtondale Gazette is also available free of charge at area newsstands (Rainbow Food Mart, Kash 'n Karry, Farm Store in Erin-dale Plaza and Publix in Brandon Centre South and Bloomingtondale Square) and by subscription at the rate of \$15 per year to cover mailing and handling fees.

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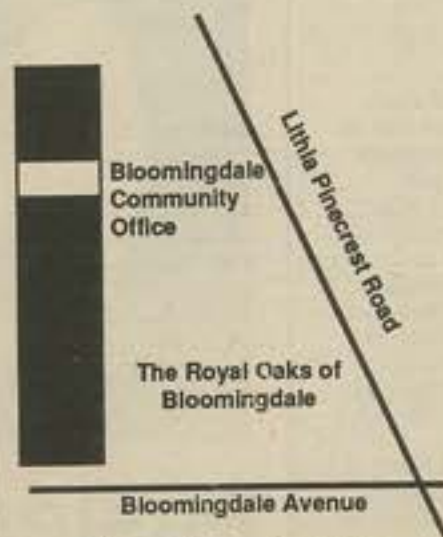
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Community office location

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 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road
 Suite 101, Royal Oaks
 of Bloomingtondale,
 Valrico 33594



The Bloomingtondale Community Office is open Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Meetings

All meetings take place at Bloomingtondale Community Office (see map on left). These are public meetings and all Bloomingtondale residents are invited.

SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT MEETING
 Monthly Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 8 p.m.

BHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Monthly Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

DUES DUE NOW
 \$20 membership dues for one year in the BHA are due now. Send checks to Suite 101, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico 33594.

BLOOMINGDALE OAKS SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT MEETING
 Monthly Meeting: First Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Meetings for Mobile Watch and Neighborhood Watch are on a per basis. Watch this listing for dates and times.

VOTERS REGISTRATIC
 Voters Registration is now available at Barnett Bank located at the corner of Bloomingtondale Ave. and Bell Shoals Rd

Deadlines

News: April 22
 Advertising: April 24

Easter

• From Page 1
 sical drama with vignettes from Jesus' ministry, Reccord said.

"Welcome" centers will offer refreshments and beverages to congregation members and visitors, Reccord added.

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon Inc., celebrating its second birthday, plans a traditional, two-night Passover observance.

Lay leader Mark Goldberg said the 58 families in the congregation are asked to host individual seders in their homes April 17 before joining others the following evening at the Sheraton Tampa East hotel on East Hillsborough Avenue.

The seder is expected

to offer a relaxed atmosphere, the reading of passages from the Haggadah documenting the plight of Jews leaving Egypt and traditional Jewish music, Goldberg said.

The seder is a religious service at the dinner table.

The menu will be simple with unleavened bread, bitter herbs, Matsah ball soup, chicken and potato salad, member Sam Greenberg said.

The congregation is holding services in the Apostles Lutheran Church on North Kingsway Avenue until fund-raising efforts generate the cash to build a synagogue, Goldberg said.

That is part of his goal for Beth Shalom.

"I would love to see the Jews of Brandon come together in the congrega-

tion," the lay leader said. "I would love to building in the future a rabbi in the future."

Reservations for community seder are through Greenberg: 645-0166 pr Gail Ja at 752-2777.

There is no charge Gregory Seltz, a with Immanuel Lutheran Church, wants his congregation to become involved with the Bra community.

"We look for new the community, and to see the attitude a natural extension of Christmas and East

A prayer vigil beginning at 7:30 p.m. April 17, will conclude Sunday morning at Easter services for 1,400-member congregation are held at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

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Art, military hand in hand

By PAM PULLEY

His personality is a size of contrasts.

Jerry Fields is a self-proclaimed dreamer whose life is drenched in pen, ink and watercolor.

And, the retired Army colonel applauds the military's tight grip on discipline.

Field's eyes look into the distance, seeing nothing but everything.

Profile

"I've always been kind of a romantic person," he said. "I could sit at the base of a castle in Germany and just imagine...I've always been kind of a dreamer."

Fields, owner of Fields Art & Framing in Valrico's Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale shopping center,

left a 26-year career with the Army in the autumn of 1989 to pursue the wanderlust--and uncertainty--of a niche in the art world.

He had been involved with medical operations and logistics. Hup, two, three, four.

Fields' shop is nearly wallpapered with framing materials and work by local artists.

Several examples of his pen and ink drawings with watercolor overlays are hung near a corner.

One is of Fat Willie's Fish Camp; the other, the Bloomingdale Produce Barn.

The military discipline is reflected in Fields' work.

"The lines do not merge or slide. Instead, they are realistic, as if drawn with a ruler."

"I have tried to loosen up, but it's just not me," he said.

Fields, 51, had never lifted pen or brush until he attended a watercolor demonstration at an Army crafts store while recuperating from shoulder surgery in a tour of duty of Panama.

"Two years later I was making more money drawing and painting than as an Army major," Fields said.

He later picked up expertise in framing and matting while on a tour of duty of Alaska.

Fields' specialties include carving designs into matting with a hobby knife and borrowing colors from prints to make panels and shadow boxes.

Fields breathes relief that the business he

opened is surviving the recession.

"For 20 years I had been in charge," he said. "When you consider the responsibility I had in the service, it is tough to work for someone else."

Fields was born in Monroel, La., grew up in Philadelphia and served three years in the Army before returning to Lincoln University and graduating with a bachelor of science degree in biology.

Fields said that several colleges and pre-med schools offered him the opportunity for graduate work "but I was offered a commission as a second lieutenant to join thousands of others in Vietnam. Guess which I chose?"

Fields, whose tours of duty included Germany, Panama, Alaska and assorted state assignments, is highly decorated.

Honors include the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Honor Medal First Class, Bronze Star, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Award and Combat Medical Star, Fields said.

A humanitarian service award was pinned to his uniform after he became the first active duty serviceman to organize a rescue-mission into the fiery hills of Mt. St. Helen following a volcanic explosion in the late 1970s in Washington State. He was then stationed at Ft. Lewis.

Fields said he appreciates the rural offerings of Bloomingdale and Valrico.



Photo by PAM PULLEY

"Where else do you find pictures of Fat Willie's and a fruit stand around the corner?" he asks.

Fields said wife Eva is his "best critic." Daughter Lea attends California Western School of Law. Daughter Steffani is an anthropology student at the University of Alaska.

His laid-back scenarios are balanced by attention to contemporary military history.

Some 30 paintings are on display at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Sabal Park through April 15.

You feel the hostility of war, cat-like military maneuvers, the shower of bullets.

"My work is not loose," Fields said. "It is very military, very structured."

Jerry Fields, above, poses outside his art and framing store in Valrico. In hand is one of his paintings.

Calling scholars!

The wraps are off the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association's annual scholarship competition for outstanding high-school seniors.

Seniors attending any school but who are residents of Bloomingdale East, West, South, Bloomingdale Estates and Bloomingdale Oaks may pick up applications at:

- Guidance office of Bloomingdale High School on Bloomingdale Avenue in Valrico.

- Bloomingdale Community Office, Suite 101, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Valrico 33594.

Requirements include a grade transcript, breakdown of student life including extracurricular activities and jobs, two letters of recommendation and an autobiographical essay.

The value of the scholarship has not been determined.

All paperwork must be returned to the Bloomingdale Community Office by 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 4.

A committee of five BHA members will judge the competition and the top candidates will be interviewed.

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BSHS ranks high

By LIZ FOX

What do most young people consider when deciding if a high school is great?

When 10 students in the Brandon area were asked, eight responded, "Their sports teams!"

But how does Bloomingdale Senior High School really rate?

Test scores, number of students going on to college, the faculty, the staff, the curriculum and atmosphere are all important, say officials.

Donna Reed, public information specialist with the Hillsborough County School Board, said BSHS tops the county, state and nation in two critical test areas-- the Standard Achievement Test and High School Competency Test which all 10th graders must pass before graduation.

Another indicator the county uses to determine a school's rating is attendance.

The school board takes a "snapshot" of the attendance rate of all public schools on one day in the

AVERAGE SAT SCORES FOR 1991

	BSHS	District	State	Nation
Communications	441	422	416	422
Mathematics	485	474	466	474
Taken by	62%	43%	48&	41&

Almost two-thirds of the seniors at BSHS scored higher in the SAT than smaller groups percentage-wise in district, state and nation.

10th-GRADE COMPETENCY TEST

	BSHS	State
Communications	92%	86%
Mathematics	84%	75%

second month of school and another in the fifth month, Reed said.

BSHS boasted a 95.20 percent attendance rate in the second month of the 1991 school year compared with an overall district rating of 91.94 percent, she said.

BSHS recorded attendance of 93.87 percent in the fifth month; the district total was 90.48 percent.

But numbers do not make up a school.

Charley Harris, principal of BSHS since its doors were opened in 1987, said the school's faculty is the cream of the crop because he filled 80 positions from a field of 650 applicants.

He said the curriculum offers a wide range of ac-

ademic programs--from Russia to honors courses.

"I wanted this school to be unique," Harris said.

Seventy-five percent to 80 percent of BSHS seniors go onto four-year or junior colleges.

Listen to the students.

"Faculty and staff do not make up a school," said Eric Swygart, senior and president of the student body. "Students do."

But Teri Bauer, also a senior and president of the Key Club, said staff and faculty bend over backwards to assist students.

The seniors said three leadership classes provided at BSHS gave students in government and club hierarchies the skills to lead and work within an organizational structure.

Another mark of a good

school, they said, is the willingness of staff and faculty to consider student input when making decisions.

The high level of parental involvement--in sports, academic and problem areas--contributes to the school's performance level.

Juan Saye Harris, guidance counselor and head of the guidance club, appears impressed that parents care about their children, how they are doing, what they can do to help.

What about sports and other activities? There is a broad range of extracurricular opportunities. Last year, the school's athletic program ranked first in the county.



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Road widening a reality?

By KATHY DOTSON

Motorists who travel Bloomingdale Avenue as an escape route from State Road 60 may find themselves facing additional traffic congestion at the end of the month.

The long-delayed construction project to widen Bloomingdale's major east-west thoroughfare is slated to begin at that time.

The first phase of con-

struction is scheduled to begin at Kings Avenue and Bloomingdale and travel east to John Moore Road, said Steve Valdez, community relations coordinator for Hillsborough County's Capital Projects Department.

All routes will remain open to traffic, he said.

Kings is currently being widened from State Road 60 south to Bloomingdale.

"There are underground waste-water lines (from

Bloomingdale) directly connected to Kings," Valdez said. "Instead of piece-mealing on Bloomingdale, it was decided to do it at the same time with the Kings expansion."

Hillsborough County first announced plans to widen Bloomingdale Avenue in 1989 as part of its six-year comprehensive plan.

Bloomingdale Avenue is scheduled to be wid-

ened from two to five lanes from U.S. Highway 301 five miles to Lithia Pinecrest Road by 1998, Valdez said.

Cost of the proposed project is estimated at \$20.6 million.

The timetable for phasing in construction has not been determined, Valdez added.

The winning construction bid was expected to be awarded earlier this month.

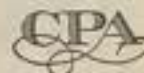


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Jungles, resorts key Jamaica's appeal

By PAM PULLEY

OCHO RIOS--You can almost hear the approach of nature at Montego Bay Airport. The air is heavy until a breeze from the Atlantic pierces the humidity, then flirts with a flock of birds and the melodic beat of palm fronds brushing one against the other.

The narrow roads race over flatlands and climb across forested hillsides banked by villages of wood and plaster. In the early evening, natives seated on porch rails silently watch traffic navigating an uneven path to the neighboring village that is a picture postcard of unchanging scenery.

It is a throwback to rural Georgia. Crops grow higher than natives. The sun is gobbled up by the ocean. Only bright lights from pool halls and recreation centers--and churches that seem to propagate themselves--suggest there is life at all in the Caribbean island nation of Jamaica.

But there is. Ocho Rios is a 1-1/2-hour drive east of Montego Bay. It is a mixture of cultures, with tin and wood-shack shops of Pineapple Village contrasting with near-highrise office buildings, quaint arcades and resorts for visitors seeking their place in the sun.

Sunday morning is calm. Most Jamaicans are in church. Straw markets bulge with native sculpture, shirts and all things touristy. Untrimmed trees shield the few visitors from the blast of sunshine that clings and simmers but does not disappear.

Two teenage girls are on the hunt. Their weapons are a pocketbook and a comb.

"Braid your hair, please, braid your hair. Only three minutes," one of the girls pleads.

No, time and money are short.

"Bo Derek braids. Bo Derek braids, only one minute," she counters.

Sorry, the bus won't wait.

Activity revs up during the week. Wheelbarrows brimming with sugar cane, the island's chief crop, are moved to market while office buildings and one-story plazas teem with the business of making an island democracy workable.

Jamaica's 4,232 square miles has a population of 2.4 million. Seventy percent are African Protestants. In addition to sugar cane, other crops typical of tropical conditions such as citrus, bananas, coconuts and yams also are grown.

With a per capita income under \$1,500, a government official concedes, food is limited and much must be imported.

Prices--for foreigners--are low. Seven Jamaican dollars give more value than the equivalent \$1.

But, it is the diversity of terrain that charges like fireworks from soft oceanside retreats to

mountaintops basking in the sun that give Jamaica its charm.

A jungle of coconut palms and banana plants sides an uneven pathway climbing to Firefly, the winter retreat of the late British author-actor-artist Noel Coward.

Coward, knighted by Queen Elizabeth of England, died at age 73 19 years ago. He is buried on the four acres of property that he commanded for 17 years. The estate now is owned and operated by the National Heritage Trust of Jamaica.

The island was his adopted home.

"Jamaicans loved him," said his long-time housekeeper Imogene Fraser. She shyly welcomes some 1,500 tourists yearly to the estate that lies some 15 miles east of Ocho Rios.

The white, concrete-block house overlooks the town of Port Maria and Blue Mountains, the latter cradling the Atlantic on the east coast of the island. Its tallest peak, Blue Mountain Peak, just outside Kingston, towers to 7,401 feet.

Coward's open-air writing room is much as he left it: hardwood floors, wood desk, old rattan furniture, a painting of a banana plant that he executed on boards.

Starkness may balance genius.

The bedroom is even more telling: four-poster bed, side table with eye glasses, ashtray and water pitcher. The walls are white.

Record albums line the entry to the first-floor living room. The vaulted ceiling and steep hearth flank the double piano where Coward spent many hours.

"Sometimes when he was in a good mood, he

would play all day," Fraser said. A brandy with gingerale and slice of lime was usually at his side.

The estate's name came easily.

"He gave the name because of 'lighted flies' at night," she said.

Wood-plank and tin shops that seem suspended in jungle thickness line roadways spinning east and west. Pink and blue facades mark concrete and frame homes sitting on stilts in villages along jungle paths.

In Ocho Rios, a tour guide points to rocker Mick Jagger's hideaway nearly buried in the hills.

"No one goes there without invigilation," he said.

The history of the island--third largest in the Caribbean and a province of Great Britain until 1962--has not been phased out by progress.

Sturdy buildings from the turn of the century are not razed in favor of parking lots or cotton-candy skyscrapers and fast-food restaurants carrying torches of big-city brightness.

Harmony Hall, a late 19th-century pimiento plantation a few miles east of Ocho Rios, is now a gallery for impressionist and modern Jamaican art. Paintings reflect the storms and tranquility of native life.

The skies are black with strips of light. Palms bend to the wind; only house lanterns lend stability.

Banana trees glisten from a courtyard jungle. Women wearing bandanas balance baskets on their shoulders for the known routes home.

The gallery, working with 50 artists yearly, was acquired somewhat fearlessly in 1980.

"We bought it on a wing and a prayer and no



Jamaica's resorts offer the beach, Atlantic and, at left, a dramatic waterfall at Sandals Dunn's River.

Brandon suggests a leisurely cruise to Ocho Rios aboard such lines as Carnival, Commodore, Crown, Fantasy, Holland America, Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line (RCCL). Celebrity, Dolphin, Princess and Regency sail to Montego Bay.

WHERE TO STAY: Five Sandals resorts--Sandals Montego Bay, Sandals Royal Caribbean, Sandals Ocho Rios, Sandals Negril and Sandals Dunn's River--offer all-inclusive, couples-only packages for tourists. At Sandals Dunn's River near Ocho Rios, the cost ranges from \$1,160 for two people in a standard double room for three nights, four days to \$1,520 for a one-bedroom, oceanfront suite. Prices include all meals and snacks, unlimited beverages, use of the fitness center, beach, pools and supervised instruction in a variety of sports. Call toll-free 1-800-SANDALS for further information.

Dee Foster of Treasure Travels offers a variety of packages to not only Sandals, but other resorts in Jamaica. Several honeymoon packages also are available.

house lanterns lend stability.

Banana trees glisten from a courtyard jungle. Women wearing bandanas balance baskets on their shoulders for the route home.

The gallery, working with 50 artists yearly, was acquired somewhat fearlessly in 1980.

"We bought it on a wing and a prayer and no money whatsoever," said Annabella Proudlock, one of the owners. "A Methodist minister lived here, and a lady ghost we haven't seen lately."

One year and \$120,000 later, the home was a gallery, she said. Harmony Hall is open 365 days a year from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Jamaican language is a lilting mixture of African and British. The lifestyle is easygoing.

Foreigners don't easily acclimate to such peace.

"Don't worry, no problem," is the usual response to questions.

Pointers:
• Don't drink tap water unless vacationing at a top-star hotel or resort.

• Tour operators man booths in the public area of Montego Bay Airport. So do representatives of car-rental agencies. Remember to drive on the left.

• Don't expect the finest in bathroom hygiene at Montego Bay Airport. Also, beware the plump frankfurters that seem so appealing.

GETTING THERE: Air Jamaica and American Airlines offer regular service between Miami International Airport and Montego Bay and Kingston in Jamaica.

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Many of you in our Bloomingdale Community have expressed to us that you would like a "Cook's Corner" where recipes could be shared and printed. If you like this, or dislike the idea, please let us at the Gazette know. Bon Appetite!

HONEY of a BUNNY

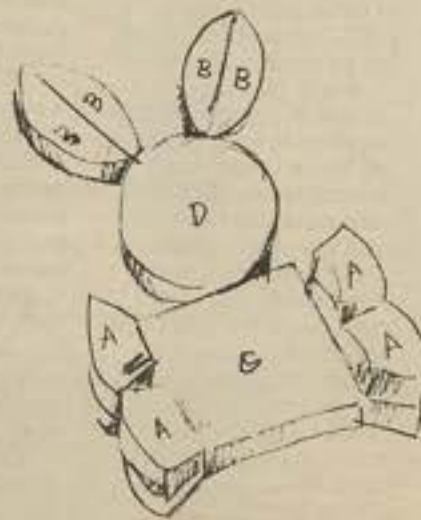
Let's get hopping and make this bunny.
 He's all dressed up-really a honey!
 A licorice grin and floppy tie
 Prove that he's a smart, delightful guy.



WHAT YOU WILL NEED

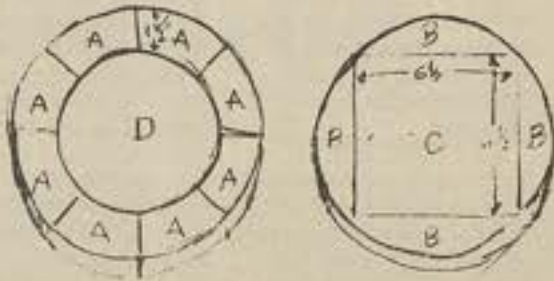
- 2 baked 9-inch round cake layers, cooled.
- 5 1/3 cups Seven Minute Frosting (or your favorite frosting)
- 2 2/3 cups (about) Baker's Angel Flake Coconut
- Red food coloring
- 2 Black licorice laces
- 1 red, 1 pink, 2 black jellybeans
- red bow

1. Cut round edges off one layer as shown, making a 6 inch square. Edges become ears. Cut ring 1-1/2 inches wide around second layer; divide into 8 equal pieces for the paws.



2. Arrange pieces as diagramed. Frost cake. Tint 1/3 coconut pink; sprinkle on ears, nose, and lower paws. Sprinkle plain coconut on rest of bunny.

3. Decorate with licorice, jelly beans, red bow.



Easter in Bloomingdale



Sean The Leprechaun Says...
THANK YOU!

To all the Boys & Girls
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BRIAN BATSON, age 8

&

DANA VIRTUE, age 5



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Businesses active in Bloomingdale

Tate's Athletics, celebrating its grand opening in the Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale April 11, boasts lofty community ambitions.

Owner Robert Tate, a five-year resident of Valrico, said his sporting goods store will offer scholarships based on extracurricular activities to one male and one female graduate in the BSHS class of 1993.

Tate's Athletics features a full line of sporting goods for both team and retail sales.

Grand opening hours are 11 a.m.-til, Tate said. Chicken wings and hot dogs will be served, along with a 10 percent discount on license materials and apparel.

Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday

Biz Notes

through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

"If you come, we will stay open," Tate said.

KARATE SEMINAR

Bloomingdale children Michael and Kyle Whelan and John Gess were among karate students attending a recent seminar hosted by #1-rate World Forms Champion John Chung at the Jhoon Rhee Institute.

Chung is the nephew of school founder Jhoon Rhee.

Several students then tested for higher belt levels in front of Chung.

Chung tied the belts on

the Whelan boys and Gess for scoring As and A-pluses in the testing.

KID KOUNTRY

Kid Kountry, in business for six years on Lithia Pinecrest Road, is showing off its new bundle of joy—a second child-care and preschool center at Bloomingdale Avenue and Christy Lane in Riverview. Kid Kountry bought the former Days of Joy in December and had the name legally changed to Kid Kountry-Bloomingdale three weeks ago.

Helen Cooke, an owner of Kid Kountry Inc., said the name was changed to reflect the ownership.

"Because of the good response we've gotten at this end of Bloomingdale, we decided just to use our reputation," Cooke said.



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Teens suspected in setting fires at golf club

By LaWAYNE WYATT

We finished February with a total of 30 events being logged.

Only four incidents were recorded during the last four days of that month.

The 20 events recorded through March 25 included a car, people and motorcycle in the parks after dark; autos with teenagers entering the Bloomington Golfers Club late at night; speeders and reckless driving; and teens parking their cars in partially developed areas.

Also, a prowler; cars parked at Alafia Elementary School at night; suspicious car cruising several streets; a theft, several abandoned cars, eggs thrown at vehicles; and activity at The Spot.

On March 28, Mobile Watch received a report

Mobile Watch

the golfers club had suffered a brush fire on the grounds the previous day.

Further discussion with club personnel indicated that several similar events had occurred over the past two to three months.

Apparently, teenagers were having parties and building bonfires at several locations along the cart paths and near wooded areas along fairway 11 and green 11.

The situation could be potentially dangerous.

Residents living along the golfers club, especially those along fairway 11 and the 3900 block of Bell Grande, should be alert for such activity and immediately report it to the Sheriff's Office in Brandon.

Of course, we would like to be notified after the Sheriff's Office is informed.

Residents indicate they never see deputies in our community. Over the past month, Mobile Watch patrols have repeatedly seen deputies throughout Bloomington.

In many cases, they are checking areas where the most problems have reportedly occurred. We have also talked to several deputies via radio.

Our thanks to the following Bloomington residents who have volunteered for patrol duty:

Ron and Diane Maxfield, Oakcrest; Kerry Myers, East; and Cary Reeves, Oakcrest.

Vehicular burglaries drop with increased patrol duty

By PAM PULLEY

Bloomington's vehicle burglary rate dropped a dramatic 355 percent March 1 through March 26 from the previous month, a Sheriff's Office detective said.

The total for this time period fell to nine after cresting at 32 Feb. 1

Crime report

though Feb. 28.

Det. Ivan Hernandez of the district 2 Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Brandon said the return to near normalcy reflects the incarceration of a suspect charged with six vehicular burglaries in February and beefed-up patrols.

The 18-year-old suspect's accomplice remains at large, Hernandez said.

The suspect, arrested for the first time and awaiting trial, lives in Riverview, Hernandez said.

Additional patrol that was on duty while Bloomington was under siege has been reduced.

But, the detective said, "That could change. I may periodically ask that extra units be sent in from time to time."

Radar detectors, stereos and cassette disks were taken after the burglars smashed car windows to gain access, Hernandez said.

"There are no arrests as of yet," he added at press

time. "We have a couple of suspects in mind. Where that will turn up we don't know."

Vehicle burglaries are felonies.

In other criminal activity in Bloomington, four homes were burglarized, Hernandez said. Unmarked jewelry and electronics equipment were taken, he said.

The vast majority of property crimes are committed by teenagers, Hernandez said, while vehicle burglaries are the targets of 16-year-olds to young adults.

Hernandez advises motorists to remove pocketbooks, packages and pull-out radios when leaving their cars.

"Or put them in the trunk," he said.

Some potential vehicle burglars walk from home to home in search of unlocked cars, he said.

"Maybe they will take sunglasses, change or cassette tape," he said. "Owners might think they used it up, consider it very minor since there is no damage and write it off. They don't report it."

Troop seeks new Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 665 meets each Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. at the South Brandon Community Church, 3221 Bryan Rd. Area boys are welcome to join. Call Scoutmaster Ed Kellner at 685-9819.

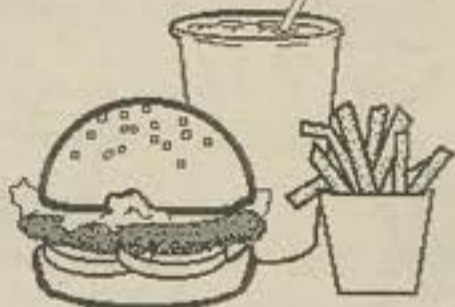
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From Burns...

Track team running to healthy season

By DOROTHY BRODEUR

BURNS--The football and basketball seasons have ended and now it's track season at Burns Junior High School.

The Burns Bruins, as the team is known, sports an optimistic outlook for the 1992 season.

The track team is on a schedule that includes hurdles, prints, the mile run, shotput and discus throwing.

The Bruins beat the Turkey Creek Gobbler in late March at the Bloomington High School

track field.

Some winning times were 2:08 for the 880 medley relay and 1:56 for the 880 relay.

TOP TEACHER

Marge Nelson, a ninth-grade English teacher, was named Burns' educator of the year for March.

Nelson, a faculty member since the school opened in 1986, is known for excellence, giving her best and inspiring students toward high goals.



Important Dates at Bloomingdale High... Senior Prom will be held on May 16th at the Tampa Convention Center in downtown Tampa. We hope that everyone has a memorable time! Baccalaureate ceremonies will be held on May 31st at Bloomingdale Senior High School Gymnasium. Graduation Day is June 4, 1992; ceremonies will take place at 4:00 pm at the U.S.F. Sundome. June 5th is the last day of school for underclassmen!!

....Have a great summer!



Brooker Elementary is celebrating "Media Month" with a Reading 'Egg-Straveganza'!! All this month, Brookers Media Center will be "hopping" with activities such as incubating eggs, learning about poultry with help and demonstrations from the Poultry Commission, reading "eggs-pressive" poetry, even cooking classes showing different ways to prepare that culinary masterpiece, The Egg!! We're sure that the Easter Bunny will be hopping by to take in the fun and festivities!

Dear Buckhorn Neighbors, We at the Bloomingdale Gazette would love to include you in our community paper...please let us know if you like receiving the paper. Please let your Homeowners Association know if you would like to see your own Buckhorn Section. Contact Rachel Dutch at 689-1164 or The Gazette at 681-2051.



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In our next issue, look for the names of the entire Graduation Class of 1992!!



The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association

The Bloomingdale Special Taxing District

and

The Bloomingdale Gazette

Join in wishing all of our readers

a

Blessed Passover

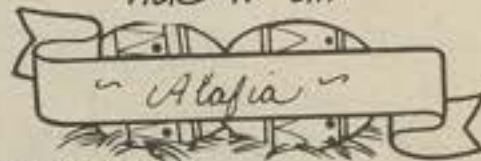
and

Happy Easter Season



Can you guess the name of this Bloomingdale High School junior???

For your shopping needs from A to Z Royal Oaks Plaza of Bloomingdale has it all!



Alafia Elementary School is scheduled to open its new Outdoor Classroom Building, which is presently under construction by Jerry Hoffman Construction, Inc. It is a 30 x 30 metal roof structure supported by steel column posts. All four sides are open and exposed to the outdoors. The purpose of the building is to facilitate the study of nature, the environment and Florida's flora and fauna. The building is adjacent to the school playground area, and is scheduled to be completed by April 21, 1992.

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From Brooker ...

Students get 'scoop'

By GINNY WONG
BROOKER--WFLA-TV reporter Steve Andrews, the winner of a national investigative reporting award, gave Brooker Elementary School insight into journalism ethics in March.

Andrews and his partner, cameraman Bruce Brewslow, spoke at the school's general PTA meeting.

Widcotapes and clips illustrated positive and negative approaches to interviewing and documenting information.

Andrews, known for investigative reporting, said he and Brewslow stood outside a Tampa Health and Rehabilitative Services facility in Tampa to document on film allegations

The labels, including the gift certificate, have been redeemed for a computer software package for the school's computer lab.

The package was chosen from a Campbell's Soup shopping catalog.

COUNTING RIGHT
The number is 152 and kindergarteners and first-graders are still counting.

But, 100 was the magic number. Students in the classes of Amy Zilbar and Melinda Willman began counting the first day of school and, when they reached 100, celebrated with a cake, juice and candy.

Learning was fun. Zilbar added a section to Katie Caterpillar daily

while Willman made a simultaneous contribution to her class' winding caterpillar, Curly.

The children reviewed the groups of color-coded number and learned to count by ones, twos, fives and tens.

While enjoying the celebration, the youngsters brought in beans, pennies, candy, toothpicks and raisins to reach the 100 figure while walking an equal number of steps or over an equal number of lines. They also made chains with 100 loops to decorate the classrooms.

SCHOOL STORE
Students don't have to fret if it's chilly or rainy. The "school store" opens daily in Potable #5 at the

corner of Brooker Place and Buffalo Way at 7:30 a.m.

PTA chairwoman Suzanne Stevens said she solicited lists from the faculty that provides materials for projects.

For instance, students and parents no longer have to search for a science board.

Brooker's store carries a variety of items such as protractors, compasses, crayons, pencils, paper and much more, Stevens said.

The goods are sold at cost. The store is open for 30 minutes.



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From Alafia...

There's a sound of music in air

By DOROTHY CUTLER
ALAFIA--Alafia Elementary School celebrated March's Music in our Schools month on a high note.

Principal Grace Ippolito inaugurated the annual program with an appearance on the WAOK morning show that is transmitted to classrooms on closed-circuit television.

School celebrations included music trivia contests and a make-your-own-musical instrument show, the latter featuring a display of homemade instruments created by 500 students.

Norma Marsh's third-through sixth-grade homeroom wrote essays on music enjoyment, while Dolores Perry's third-grade homeroom listened to classical music during the month.

The State Fair Ensemble, a select group of

fifth-grade musicians, entertained residents of The Village of Brandon nursing home March 17 with turn-of-the-century American folk songs.

The entire studentbody joined 8 million other school children across the nation when they participated in what was labeled the world's largest concert by singing along with a nationwide telecast from Walt Disney World in Orlando.

The celebration began as a one-day tribute in 1973 and expanded to an entire week in 1977, then to a month in 1985. The time period allows increased flexibility in scheduling activities.

Dorothy Cutler, a music specialist at Alafia, was 1991-1992 chairman of the program for the Hillsborough County School District.

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From BSHS...

DCT students pile up 38 county awards

By BARBARA LING

BSHS--The Bloomingdale Diversified Cooperative Training (DCT) Bulls recently garnered 38 awards in annual competition with seven other Hillsborough County schools.

The 38--including nine first-place winners--ranked first in the county, said DCT teacher Peggy Barr.

The March competition was held at the University of South Florida.

DCT students attend school part time and work at community businesses in afternoon hours.

Winners were:

Automotive, fourth place, Derek Yates; business communications, first place, Kristina Andersen; cashier, fourth place, Dianna Tennant.

Also, child care, fifth place, Lisa Shears; sixth place, Lori Moore; clerk-typist, fifth place, Marisa Rodriguez; sixth place, Jenny Zeender.

Also, construction, first place, Jeff Brumbelee; fifth place, Tom Freebourn; sixth place, Shelby Tanner.

Also, dental, first place, Heather Salomon; second place, Dashia Mackinnon; sixth place, Michelle Demanche; extemporaneous speaking, fifth place, Michelle Demanche.

Also, food service, second place, Brandy Ercolina; fourth place, Colin Bryant.

Also, free enterprise, first place, Russ Buzbee; high-tech display, first place, Derek Yates; second place, David Bailey; third place, Mike Dean.

Also, job interview, fifth place, Tracy Helms; medical, fourth place, Sharolyn Sikes; Occupational interest manual, second place, Tina Shiflett; third place, Sharolyn Sykes; fifth place, Felicia Biddles.

Also, parliamentary procedure, third place, Michelle Perry; fifth place, Michael Plato; photography, black and white, first place, Heather Alfonso; fifth place, Jennifer Deese; 6th place, Heather

Salomon.

Also, photography, color, first place, Felicia Biddles; second place, Brandy Ercolina; third place, Amy Baker; fourth place, Joey Swoope; fifth place, Amy Smallwood; sixth place, Richard Diaz.

Also, public speaking, sixth place, Kristina Gambill; recruiting poster, second place, Rudy Casey; sales demonstration, fourth place, Brandt Wheelton.

All told, 120 BSHS students competed.

BLITHE SPIRIT

Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" directed by Marilyn Duclos-Balliet of the BSHS drama department, will feature two separate casts performing May 7 and May 8.

The modern-day version is set in Boston instead of London and depicts the mishaps of Charles Condomine, played by Brian White, Steve Austin and Aaron Malo.

The deceased wife (Heidi Slovacek, Candace Danley) is summoned from the spirit world to gather information for the struggling writer's new book.

Ruth, his current wife (Kelly Rhodes, Debra Markley), is unprepared to deal with the reappearance of Elvira.

Other students appearing are Ginni Collom and Kim Moresco as psychic medium Madame Arcati; Laura Nichols and Stefanie Wuckovich as Edith; Jon Wilson and Sean McDowell as Dr. Bradman; and, Melissa Messman and Angel Tindell as Mrs. Bradman.

Stage managers are Amy Waldron and Tara Donovan.

Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performance in BSHS's auditorium are available through drama students or at the door. Prices are \$4 per ticket in advance, \$5 at the door.

GOLF

The Bulls Boys Golf team is undefeated and "may very well finish without a blemish in the

loss column," said coach Dominic Moresco.

"Seventeen and zero is not out of reach for this extremely talented team. We are in search of the perfect season, and it may just come true."

The top golfers and their stroke averages are Sean Burns, senior, 36.52; Chris Colli, senior, 37.07; Craig Rush, senior, 38.24; Ray Charlton, senior, 38.32; Kevin McGuinness, senior, 38.72; Trevor Harris, sophomore, 38.97.

TRACK

The Bulls Boys Track team won its first meet of the season with 108 points, leaving in the dust competitors Hillsborough High School and Tampa Bay Vocational Tech Center.

The two schools lagged behind with 42 points and 34 points respectively. First-place winners were:

Stevie Grant, 151.5 feet in discus (school record); Christ Lewis, 6-foot-6 high jump; Kevin Reed and Piya Saropala, 11-foot pole vault.

Also, Travis Sherman, 52.5 feet shotput; David Ochenrider, 51.6 feet in the mile run; Brad Olson, 15.05 feet in the 120 high hurdles; Jess Billmeyer, 10:43.9, two-mile run.

The mile relay team of Scott Miller, Brian Perkins and Tim Focht finished at 3:43.22.

The team continues to excel.

Ochenrider broke the school record with 2:02.21 in the 880.

Rob Fallon set the record in 1991 with 2:03.

The Girls Track team coached by Addie Singfield placed first in recent meets with Plant City High School and East Bay High School, then placed second and fifth at the Griffin Manuel meet at Hillsborough High School and the Nash Higgins competition at Levo High School.

Natalie Jones broke the school record in discus throwing with 106.1 feet. Amber Ling topped her own school record of 2:30 with a 2:29 in the 880.

ADA

• From Page 1

dollar value of refitting a building and adding widened parking spaces won't be determined until the law is enforced "but it will create additional costs which the consumer will bear."

The fears may be unwarranted.

The legislation is not intended to "put some onerous financial burden on businesses," said the spokesman for the Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board. "We are saying, 'Make the building as accessible as you can.'"

Tampa landscape architect Dave Conner recently worked with the requirements while completing a site design for an office building that is not yet under construction.

He said there must be a

direct route from the building to the right of way for the handicapped while the code calls for a "detectable warning surface" on top of sidewalk ramps.

The "detectable warning surface" is a circular piece of concrete .9 inch in diameter capped by a .2-inch-high bump. The span between each bump is 2.3 inches, Conner said.

"In the past, someone tapping with a cane did not feel the surface," Conner said. The installed surfaces also are required to have contrasting colors.

His fee was not "substantially" affected by the code requirements, Conner said.

The 36-story Landmarks Centre that should come on line in downtown Tampa by May needs one refitting to comply with the code, said vice president of property management for The Land-

marks Group, Franny Banks.

The office tower, built in partnership with Collier Enterprises Inc., needs only signage on office doors to comply, she said.

Brice said Landmarks applauds the law.

"It's a good thing, but it could be very expensive for old buildings to comply," she said. "But there is no undue burden. If you are disabled, you will appreciate these things."

The code, if ignored, opens doors for the handicapped and the attorney general to file law suits.

The U.S. Department of Justice is charged with administering the code on a "case by case basis," said David Monemi, chief plant examiner of the Tampa city building department. "The cases are going to be like class-action suits. There will be no punitive damages."



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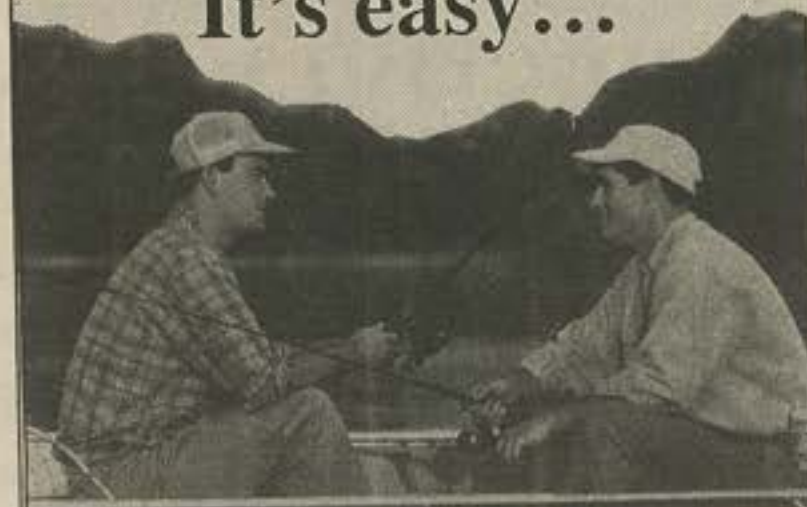
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