

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) Monthly Report -- Key West Bureau				
FROM: Chief, Operations Group		EXTENSION	NO.	
			DATE December 1987	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. C/Ops	16 Jan		B	<p>STAT</p> <p>AS in Cookhouse, 1/21</p> <p>Do we have soup</p> <p>Logs <i>[Signature]</i></p>
2.				
3. C/E&PS	20 Jan		J	
4. DD/FBIS	1/21		G	
5. D/FBIS				
6.				
7. PO/RA	1/21		Om	
8. SA/CD	1/22		Ent	
9.				
10. C/AS	1/25		O	
11. SA/CD				
12. C/AG			21 Jan	
13. Admin Staff C/LOGS	3 FEB		AM	
14. C/PERS C/B&F			AM	
15. D/FBIS Exec. Reg.				

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU**



MAIN P.O. BOX 1056
KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33041-1056

NAVAL AIR STATION
TRUMAN ANNEX BLDG. 1355
OFFICE: (305) 296-5444
(305) 294-4338
(305) 292-5291
TELEX: 803046

FBIS-4202-88
6 January 1988

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--December 1987

I. GENERAL

Our production figures soared this month to 214,350 words--our highest count ever, surpassing July's previous all-time peak of 202,600 words. Out of this number, Haiti continues to represent over twenty percent of our output.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. A Cuban Central Committee Party plenum, the National Assembly session, reaction to the prison riots in the United States, and the ever talkative Fidel helped heap the work load on our monitors. On the lighter side, Fidel seemed to show up about every other day at the dedication of another child care center, one time even posing on a teeter-totter with some bewildered looking local official.

2. Although events in Haiti were not as dramatic this month as in November, our contractor continued to closely listen to what the various factions were saying as the country remained at loggerheads over the next stage in the presidential elections. She also found time to keep us up to date on the radio behavior of the various stations that were temporarily knocked off the air following attacks on the eve of the elections in late November. Through her own initiative, she also provided a complete rundown of TV operations in Port-au-Prince.

B. Communications

The bureau chief and chief engineer visited the [redacted] Radio Relay Facility in Miami on 17 December to discuss problems that surfaced during our ASCII "Alpha Tests" in October. A memo on the trip was sent to Chief/Operations Group, Chief/FED, and Chief/ADD.

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C. Technical

1. [redacted] our intrepid PC problem buster, overcame some initial memory problems--computer, not human--and installed our BACH 2.0 on 30 December. Thanks to some tips from [redacted] and Logicon contractor [redacted] we were able to start the new year off right with the latest automated system.

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2. Our high-rope antenna troubleshooters defied some of south Florida's exciting winds this month to complete almost all of our current round of maintenance. In the process, they reoriented our 6.0 dipole on Managua, repaired the cruising monitor's rotary antenna, and relocated an experimental Yagi antenna to what we hope will be a better position to bring in Cuba's Channel 5.

3. We received four Comscribe III C printers this month and were so impressed with their versatility that we would like to substitute them on our commo lines for the Okidata printers, which we would then reserve for our PC work stations.

D. Cruising

1. As part of our effort to provide backstop coverage to Panama, we discovered we have good reception of the Mexican Morelos 1 satellite. A local dealer arranged for a demo at a favorite Polynesian restaurant where he had installed some of his equipment. Because of the low price and good picture, headquarters gave us the go-ahead to buy the dish for \$1.2K.

2. Bureau Broadcast Monitor [redacted] received an unexpected gift this month when FED sent him a CUBIC 3030 (V) receiver for evaluation. The fancy receiver can be preset for up to 100 frequencies that can be recalled by pressing two digits. It is also capable of scanning a group of channels or sweeping a band of frequencies. Our report is due in mid-February.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Our lengthy monitorial TDY program with Panama Bureau ended this month with the departure of [redacted] on the 18th. Much of our month's enormous word count can be traced to [redacted] who indefatigably churned out take after take of Fidel's utterances. Despite her long hours, [redacted] left Key West dragging and kicking since she enjoyed her stay and had become an honorary Conch. We also said good-bye to [redacted] who passed the communications responsibilities on to [redacted], who arrived mid-month with

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her husband [redacted]. If we get [redacted], our teleops in waiting, aboard soon, we will be out of the woods and will reluctantly consent to let [redacted] go home again.

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2. Key West artist [redacted] and erstwhile bureau cleaner-upper, [redacted], returned to work on the 22nd. We were kept neat and tidy during [redacted] maternity leave by another local artist, [redacted]

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B. Buildings and Grounds

We purchased and set up two metal sheds this month--one at the bureau and one at the housing site--to help stow some of the storage room spillover and to get our lawnmowers/garden tools out of the weather.

IV. VISITS

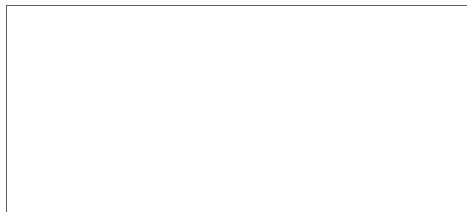
From the bureau:

Bureau Chief and Chief Technician [redacted], to Miami, 17 Dec.

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V. COMMUNITY EVENTS

The bureau entertained its many Navy friends at a champagne and canape Christmas party on 11 December. The occasion also provided us the opportunity to show the many wives who attended that we really are not the villains responsible for the occasional lousy TV reception here in Key West.



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Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachments: Newspaper article on Florida
Nonexpendable Property Report
Production Report

Idyllic Palmy Florida Has a Few Surprises For Winter Visitors

* * *

Flying Cockroaches, for One,
Termites That Eat Metal
And Toads That Kill Dogs

By KEN SLOCUM

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

MIAMI—This is a story for those of you who can't afford a Florida vacation this winter. It is about why you wouldn't have had a good time here anyway.

As most people know, much of Florida is a balmy, palmy subtropical land that long has offered a soothing escape from Northern winters. What people sometimes overlook, however, is that human beings aren't the only things that are attracted to balmy, palmy subtropical lands.

So are exploding trees, walking catfish, poisonous toads the size of footballs and termites that penetrate metal. Those and other dubious Florida arrivals have been joined recently by the Asian cockroach, which made its Western Hemisphere debut in central Florida two years ago. It flies, travels in herds, doesn't shy from people—and, at the rate it is spreading, may well be in your neighborhood before long.

"This," warns University of Florida entomologist Philip Koehler, "could be the end of the outdoor barbecue."

Such news doesn't change the fact that Florida is an exceedingly nice place in winter. Most tourists don't meet the weirder wildlife except on trips to such places as the Everglades, and natives have grown accustomed to life with snakes and alligators and grasshoppers the size of Tampa cigars.

But this story isn't intended to be fair. It's supposed to make you feel good about spending your winter shoveling snow. So let's move on.

To killer toads.

They are known as *Bufo marinus*. They come from South America, but many now call Florida home. A Bufo (Latin for toad) is normally about the size of a softball, but it can approach football dimensions if it has regular access to back-yard pet feed bowls, a favorite source of food.

Bufo Threat to Fido

When threatened, a Bufo secretes a toxic substance from glands on its neck. Among the creatures that regularly threaten it are small dogs. A lot of small dogs have died that way. Lt. John West, wildlife inspector for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, says the victims include a valued pair of Yorkshire terriers owned by his friend.

Next, termites.

The good news in Hallandale, Fla., just south of Fort Lauderdale, is that the local termites are being run off. The bad news is they are being pushed out by something meaner: the Formosan termite.

Like domestic varieties that confine themselves mostly to untreated deadwood, Formosan termites eat 15 varieties of live trees as well as utility poles and railroad ties. They even penetrate soft metals like copper and lead. The average colony contains up to three million termites, 10 times the number in an average native colony.

The extra-strength bugs are found in other parts of Florida, as well as in Texas and Louisiana, but they have taken a special liking to Hallandale. Nan-Yao Su, assistant professor of entomology at the University of Florida, estimates that they have moved into 75% of the high-rises in Hallandale and says that in a one-acre area, a single colony of termites has encircled four high-rises. Though buildings can be treated against the pests, before or after infestations, chemicals to destroy a colony would contaminate the water supply, Mr. Su says. "With present technology, they'll be there forever," he concludes.

Which brings us to trees.

The biggest plant pest in Florida may be the Melaleuca, an Australian tree that crowds out everything in its path and thrives on fire. "The Melaleuca forms a canopy so thick there's nothing but Melaleuca, no native plants and very little wildlife," says Mark Robson, a Florida Game biologist. The flowers are described as "rotten, nauseating," and many people are allergic to the tree, biologists say. It is a constant battle to keep the tree from taking over parks and the Everglades.

Eerily, when ignited, the tree literally explodes, feeding the flames with a volatile fuel in its leaves, biologists say. Fire doesn't kill the tree, but it provokes release of millions of seeds, which remain viable for 10 years and spread the tree over nearby areas where the fire has destroyed other varieties.

"I could not imagine how I would change the design of this tree to make it worse for us," complains Ronald Hofstetter, a University of Miami biologist.

The Catfish Menace

One way would be to adapt it to attract walking catfish.

Walking catfish, as every tabloid reader knows, have been making their way up the Florida peninsula for some time. That upsets the state's important ornamental, or tropical, fish industry, as walking catfish eat ornamental fish. At Thomas Kitts's fish farm near Palm Beach, a 16-inch-high fence encircles 50 pools to keep out the marauders.

"They're carnivorous and voracious eaters, and they're so prolific they crowd out everything," Mr. Kitts says.

When the catfish decide to change territory, they simply heave themselves out of the water, supported by their fins and propelled by their tails. They can cover considerable territory that way. Although they are vulnerable to sun and cold, a walking catfish lived 80 days out of water in an experiment at the state's Non-Native Fish Research Lab in Boca Raton, says director Paul Shafland.

"Americans have a real stigma about cockroaches," says a University of Florida extension agent, Jemy Hinton. "It's like asking them if they have the mange."

Id Spread

No one is sure how South Florida's newest exotic, the Asian cockroach, got here, but it was first reported in a six-square-mile area near Lakeland in 1985. The infestation now is put at 5,000 square miles, having been confirmed as far away as Fort Myers on the west coast. And it is spreading fast.

"We assume it's already in Miami and will be reported within a year when numbers are built up," says Richard Patterson, research leader at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Insects Affecting Man and Animals Laboratory at Gainesville, Fla. Researchers expect it eventually to spread beyond Florida, with potential distribution in all of the South, the West Coast from Mexico through Washington state, and the East Coast into Long Island.

The new cockroach isn't a significant health or agricultural hazard. However, Mr. Patterson says, it "aesthetically is more of a nuisance" than the old variety "because instead of hiding in a crack it flies and is visible—it lands on walls, lampshades and people."

Researchers report populations of 250,000 per acre, or about six per square foot. At rest during the day, the cockroaches become explosively active at dusk and move around all night, making camping, among other things, almost impossible. They adapt nicely to indoor living. They cross-breed easily with the common German cockroach, a variety that is immune to most pesticides—yielding an "offspring that flies and is resistant to pesticides," Mr. Koehler notes. "We have the worst of everything," he adds.

Well, not everything. Despite the wildness of its wildlife, there is reason to tough it out in Florida. Today, for instance, while much of the country is covered with snow and ice, Florida will be balmy as usual, and the forecast in Miami is for sunny skies and high temperatures in the 70s.

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 214,350

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 42,500

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 613

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK	BROADCAST 2,575 MIN	PRESS AGENCIES 14,700 MIN	PUBLICATIONS 21 ISSUES
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III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>-0-</u>		
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Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA in English		<u>34,610</u>	
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Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service in English or Spanish	<u>-0-</u>		
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Belize Times in English			<u>-0-</u>
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CUBA

Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish	<u>3,450</u>		
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Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish	<u>13,000</u>		
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Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>19,320</u>		
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Havana Radio Periodico Del Aire in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>		
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KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1987

CUBA

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	<u> -0-</u>
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Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u> 19,290</u>
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Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish	<u> 15,310</u>
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Havana Television Service in Spanish	<u> 45,170</u>
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish	<u> 150</u>
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Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish	<u> 2,250</u>
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Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish	<u> -0-</u>
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HAITI

Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole	<u> 12,570</u>
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Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French	<u> 2,190</u>
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Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French	<u> 660</u>
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Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole	<u> -0-</u>
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Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French	<u> -0-</u>
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Port-au-Prince Radio Lumiere Network in Creole	<u> -0-</u>
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Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole	<u> 4,690</u>
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KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1987

Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French	<u>15,390</u>	
Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole	<u>13,000</u>	
Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French		<u>440</u>
JAMAICA		
Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>1,830</u>	
Kingston DAILY BLEANER in English		<u>-0-</u>
Kingston SUNDAY BLEANER in English		<u>-0-</u>
MEXICO		
Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish		<u>2,810</u>
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		
Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>1,500</u>	
THE NETHERLANDS		
Hilversum International Service in English	<u>-0-</u>	
SURINAME		
Paramaribo International Service in English	<u>5,960</u>	
OTHER SOURCES:		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
Santo Domingo Radio Popular in Spanish	<u>760</u>	