

# Hogfish: New Center of the Universe



Hogfish Bar and Grill: One-stop paradise.

by Al Sachs

According to Charles Kuralt, the late CBS correspondent who roamed the U.S.A. in search of Americana, the Schooner Wharf Bar was the center of the universe.

But of late that center has shifted a few kilometers to Stock Island, to the Hogfish Bar and Grill. The reason is that the Schooner Wharf Bar has become a side pocket to a new condo complex built by developers who knew how to game the system. It is conceivable the condo owners may one day complain about the late night noise of their small neighbor. Condos are popping up in the most desirable parts of this burg. (Just look at the new fortress formerly known as "Atlantic Shores" that has taken a huge chunk of ocean view away from us.)

Fortunately the Hogfish, which is by the water, is not totally surrounded by land that can hold multi-storied condos. The hope is that the Hogfish will endure for a long time to come. It is in an historic place where rough-edged shrimpers in their char-

acteristic white boots mix with the general public to eat, drink, play pool and enjoy music. The large-scale condos still being proposed for Stock Island, to be erected on the site of a former junkyard, are quite a distance away.

Meanwhile what we have, and hopefully will continue to have, is a place with good food, great bar and fine weekend music along with a free-for-all open-mic night every Wednesday evening.

It is not a tourist destination, as cruise-ship folk will never abandon Duval Street for a place they cannot find. For now and the foreseeable future, the Hogfish is a place where the spirit of Mr. Kuralt can quaff a few brews. The center of the universe may have shifted a bit but it does remain in the same zip code.