

JIMMY BUFFETT STILL WORKING, STILL NOT HAPPY WITH INDUSTRY

By Paul Lomartire Cox News Service

Key West, FL.-A black November night covers Key West as quickly as a magician's silk scarf. Jimmy Buffett, with a live, greatest hit tape-CD just released sits in the warm night and talks about his future.

This backyard barnstorming begins at the Big House. "They have a creative writing course at the federal pen

in Tallahassee," he says, finishing his dinner. "I wanna go and teach the cons creative writing."

It seemed only minutes earlier, in sunlight, he was basting chicken on the grill and waving to the occasional boater passing his thin strip of back yard facing the marshy Key West salt ponds.

But now Buffett, in a white Adirondack chair under a growing moon, is talking about obligations. "Doing the live album bought me some time," he says of his MCA contract that calls for three more albums.

Buffett's happy with "Feeding Frenzy" because no one was worked into a live recording frenzy.

"I felt if the weather's good, if the tape machine doesn't blow up, the point of making this live album is to turn it on and CATCH IT and not do anything different. And we got it. We were lucky enough to get it."

But being happy with the new album isn't solving his eternal problems with his industry.

"I cannot get into the mentality of what makes a record executive work because probably I'm old enough to be their father. That's my first problem."

On the [just released] "Feeding Frenzy" Buffett introduces "Come Monday" by saying, "I have never ever won an award for any music that I've written but I don't care when I have fans like Parrot Heads."

In the liner notes he writes, "I have threatened to retire a number of times, but like the line from the end of the 'Wizard of Oz,' remember 'pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.'"

This man behind the curtain has very real options. When it comes to big-league careers Bo knows baseball and football but Jimbo knows singing and writing.

The man who has earned three platinum and two gold albums also wrote a book of short stories, "Tales From Margaritaville," that rode "The New York Times" hardcover best-seller list for 27 weeks last year. (The paperback is just released.)

But the heart of his success is the music industry, which remains a mistress he can't seem to desert or satisfy. Is his public unhappiness the final SOS from a man whose career is becalmed?

"I was just blown away," said Paul Page, a "Billboard" magazine researcher who recently evaluated a Buffett sales history for a management firm. "There's 11 singles on the Hot 100 singles charts between 1974 and '81, plus 17 albums on the Billboard pop albums charts since 1974."



Photo: Ray Stanyard

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THE MUSIC INDUSTRY, A MISTRESS HE CAN'T DESERT OR SATISFY

Jane Cohen, associate editor of "Performance," a Fort Worth, Texas-based music industry magazine that charts concert ticket sales, says Buffett may have a bad night here or there but "he's a revenue-producing act that doesn't lose money for promoters. He's always been a very popular summer draw."

Buffett, who [will be] 44 on Christmas Day, says he won't quit playing live until he's dragged off the stage, but he is cutting back. He'll tour in '91 but won't book a '92 summer tour.

He won't begin a studio album until late '91 at the earliest.

HEARD ON THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH



(From the Columbia, SC. State paper)

...Specialist Clay Coleman leaned on a cot in Sgt. David Brown's "Holiday Hooch," known on other days as the supply tent.

Coleman was one of many soldiers who drifted in and out of Brown's tent during the afternoon. They listened to a tape of Jimmy Buffett's *Living & Dying in 3/4 Time* replaying endlessly, drank fresh coffee and watched Brown labor to fit a gas mask on a new army belt.

"Tell everyone Happy Thanksgiving, we're OK, and that Jimmy Buffett sounds fine even in the desert," Brown said. "But just let them know this ain't Margaritaville!"

Miracles do indeed happen. Just ask Walter Hedge in Nashville, TN. His son, Walter Hedge II was seriously injured in an automobile accident; serious pronounced lapsed into a coma.

A coma has been described in many ways, yet medical science has little if any knowledge of how one lapses into, or comes out of, a comatose state. The common belief, however, is that sensory stimulation can be very beneficial to the patient. Walter Hedges' obviously distraught family spoke with him constantly, all the while playing Jimmy Buffett music in the background.

Yes, Walter Hedge II is back among the conscious, suffering no permanent damage. In fact, his first request upon his "arrival" was to go to a Jimmy Buffett concert.

Manatees are plant eating, slow moving, air breathing mammals. They were once plentiful in Florida waters, but through hunting, their numbers were seriously depleted. Although state laws enacted at the turn of the century stopped most of these killings, there are only about 1200 manatees remaining in the U.S. today, concentrated year-round in Florida.

Despite the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, man is still their number one enemy. Careless boaters, canal locks, barges, crab traps and fishing lines regularly injure and kill these defenseless animals as they graze along shallow grass beds. A major threat to the manatee is habitat destruction and the subsequent loss of feeding and breeding grounds. Since more manatees may be dying each year than are being reproduced, we must act now to save the manatee.

Become a member of the Save the Manatee Club. The SMC was established in 1981 by former Governor Bob Graham and singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett to promote public awareness and education about the highly endangered manatee. Your support will help inform people about the manatee's plight and what they can do to ensure its survival in the wild. Our newsletter will keep you informed on the latest manatee research and other important information.

YOUR SUPPORT WILL:

- augment state and federal research programs
- provide manatee warning signs in our waterways
- inform others through education and public awareness
- help to acquire critical manatee habitat
- provide inservice programs for Florida's teachers

AS A MEMBER YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- a manatee adoption with adoption certificate, photo and biography of individual manatee, and general information about manatees
- Save the Manatee Club newsletter 5 times a year
- our catalog of gift items for sale
- invitations to special events

For more information write,
Save the Manatee Club
500 N Maitland Av
Maitland, FL 32751
or call 1-800-432-JOIN

It has been said that "each species is the spoke in a magic wheel; to lose one is to diminish the whole." With your support, future generations will be able to enjoy the manatee, so much a part of Florida's unique and beautiful scene.
Jimmy Buffett, Chairman





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FINS TO THE LEFT



FINS TO THE RIGHT



THIS ISSUE OF THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH IS DEDICATED TO MAJOR BARRY KEITH ANDERSON AND OTHERS WHO HAVE DIED OR ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THE PERSIAN GULF.



Dear Jimmy Buffett,

I would like permission to have the words of your song "Bigger Than The Both Of Us" engraved on my husband's tombstone.

My husband, Major Barry Keith Anderson, was serving in the Persian Gulf when his RF-4C Phantom crashed on October 8, 1990. He was with the 106th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron out of Birmingham, AL. We are both great fans of yours and Barry loved all your songs. We saw you in concert in Birmingham in 1989.

We spent a lot of time in Key West while Barry was on active duty there. He took me with him most places that his unit took him. I feel a special closeness to you and your songs because Barry thought so much of you. He had every one of your albums and referred to your songs often.

I chose this song because the words are appropriate for all Barry and I shared and because it says that things are bigger than all of us. It would be an honor to Barry and me if these words were on his tombstone.

I am enclosing a picture of Barry in front of his jet. Thank you for your consideration.

Myra Henderson

(It goes without saying, permission was granted.)

Under ordinary circumstances one would not expect to find an editorial concerning current events in a newsletter devoted to a singer/songwriter with a small, but intensely loyal following. But these are not ordinary times, and Jimmy Buffett is not, at least as far as the following letters attest, an ordinary guy. Men and women thousands of miles from their families, find time to write a letter to Jimmy thanking him for a variety of reasons.

This is not the platform to debate the pros and cons of the Middle East situation. The media, both print and television, has lustfully embraced this latest conflict; Dan Rather, Bryant Gumble, and Ted Koppel fighting over

who will televise the tearful soldier hoping to get a message back home. Daily newspaper editorials swinging wildly from right to left insisting U.S. forces are there either to preserve world order, or keep the gas prices down at the local Circle K.

However, the intent of this article is not to join the fracas. The intent is to point out that people just like you and I are in the desert, in a foreign country, hoping to survive and return home. I would like to add, however, that the probability of an American role in resolving the 2000 year old Middle East situation seems remote.

DEAR JIMMY BUFFETT...

I am over here in Saudi Arabia. I've been spending a lot of time thinking of home in Daytona Beach. Everytime I get these spells of homesickness, I pop in a tape of Changes In Latitudes, and I drift off to Margaritaville. I really find peace when I am listening to your music, which is why I'm writing you. I wish to thank you for making life more enjoyable with your music.

Mike Agostinis

My name is Joan Izzo. I am a soldier stationed in Saudi Arabia. This letter is to tell you thanks for helping one lonely soldier to make it thru the days here. It's really rotten here. My unit is in some real desert, soon we are going to serious desert. There is a difference, now we are near towns and some Bedouin shepherds. In the serious desert there is nothing.

This past summer my husband and I went to your concert at Starlake Amphitheater near Pittsburgh. I had a blast. I have never seen people act like that at a concert before.

The next thing I know, my reserve unit gets called to active duty. Not long after that, we are landing at Dhahran International Airport. Now I'm wading around in sand that gets halfway up to my knees sometimes, fighting off the most persistent flies in the world, and freezing to death nearly every night. I also listen to the 5 cassettes of yours that I have every day.

Some of the songs you sing make me feel good, some make me laugh...but most just make me want to go home to my husband and sons.

I want to thank you for your time. The only sad part of this letter is that it may get read by some staffer, and you will not see it. If you do, thanks for doing what you do. Take care, and I'll see you around Pittsburgh again.

Joan Izzo

(Jimmy saw your letter--a staffer)

COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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JAMAICAN FAREWELL

There continues to be much speculation regarding a new Jimmy Buffett concert video. Well, you heard it here first; there is no new concert video. The confusion arose following the filming of concert footage last summer in Boston.

The concert footage has been incorporated into Jimmy's new song video, "Jamaican Farewell." Arguably the best individual song video Jimmy has done, "Jamaican Farewell" presents Jimmy at his best; live in concert.

Calls have come in from around the country, all with favorable comments. The video is being broadcast on VH1 and The Nashville Network. Invariably a second Buffett video is shown, reinforcing the fact that Jimmy's earlier releases continue to rise in popularity.



Photo: Jean Pagliuso

COMPLETE YOUR ALBUM COLLECTION

MCA was kind enough to list Margaritaville's address and 800 line in the liner notes of "Feeding Frenzy," Jimmy's latest release, however "completing your album collection" has opened a Pandora's Box of inquiries.

Coconut Telegraph readers are familiar with the availability of Jimmy's earlier releases. [CT Vol.6#1] Virgin Parrot Heads, however, are in uncharted waters. It is worth noting that Jimmy Buffett catalog sales increase following each summer tour.

With this in mind, we have provided the following list of albums/cassettes/CD's. All are distributed by MCA, and can be obtained at your local record store or through the Coconut Telegraph. (Cassettes or CD's only)

- WHITE SPORT COAT AND A PINK CRUSTACEAN
- LIVING & DYING IN 3/4 TIME
- AIA
- HAVANA DAYDREAMING
- CHANGES IN LATITUDES, CHANGES IN ATTITUDES
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