

"At 50, everyone has the face he deserves." George Orwell

# COCONUT TELEGRAPH

MID-LIFE CRISIS ISSUE

VOLUME 13 NO. 1

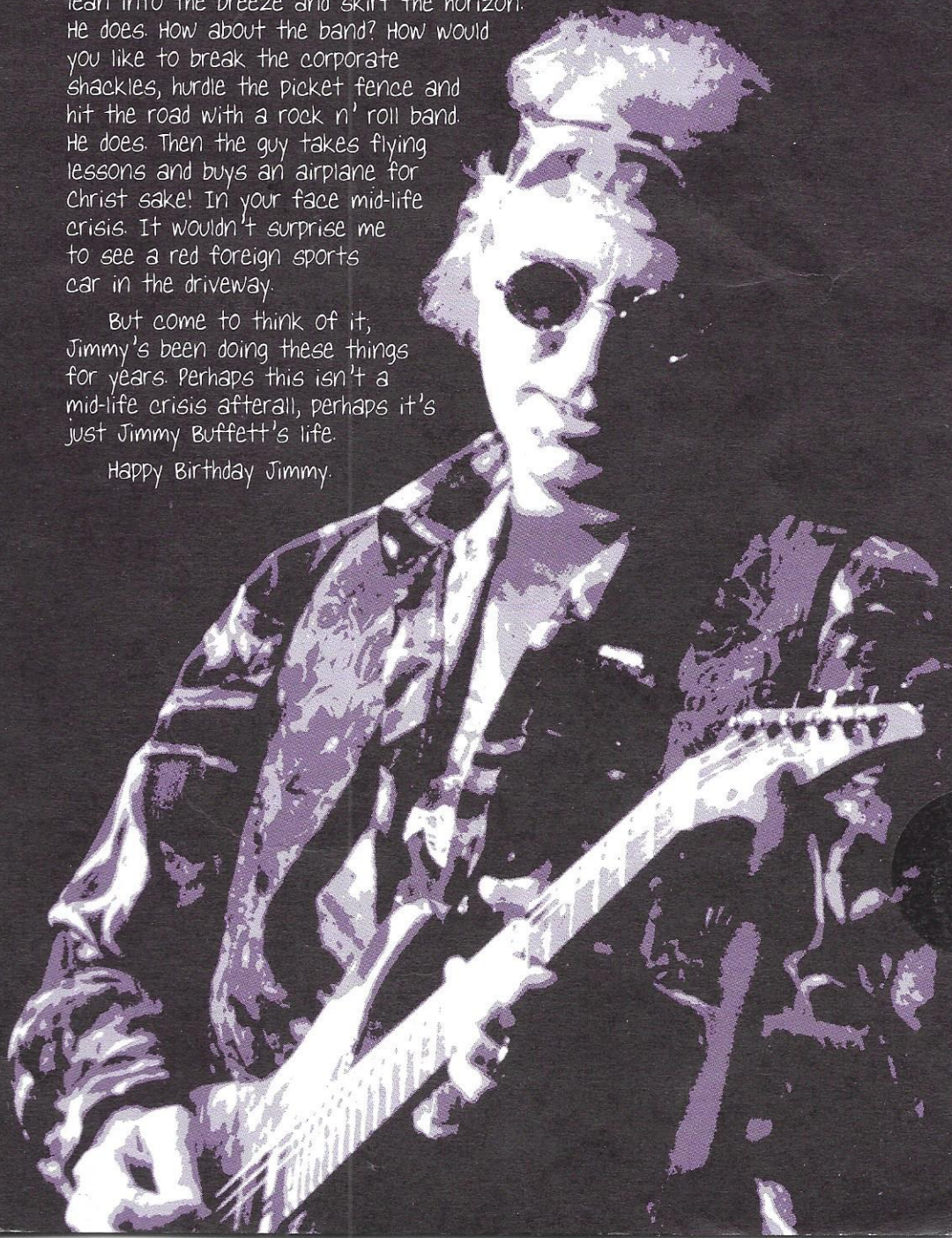
Jimmy Buffett is a man like any other. Although he may pretend surpassing the half century mark is of little significance to him, actions speak louder than words. The signs are there, the classic middle age travel bug, the inability to hold a job; an album, a book, a play, a movie - he can't seem to figure out which direction to go.

And then there's the boat. Every man's fantasy is to sail away, lean into the breeze and skirt the horizon.

He does. How about the band? How would you like to break the corporate shackles, hurdle the picket fence and hit the road with a rock n' roll band. He does. Then the guy takes flying lessons and buys an airplane for Christ sake! In your face mid-life crisis. It wouldn't surprise me to see a red foreign sports car in the driveway.

But come to think of it, Jimmy's been doing these things for years. Perhaps this isn't a mid-life crisis afterall, perhaps it's just Jimmy Buffett's life.

Happy Birthday Jimmy.





*"I woke up this morning feeling absolutely grand. For nearly half a century I've been singing in a band." Jimmy Buffett*



Photo: Merrick Morton

The following message appeared in the Compuserve Parrot Head forum. We thought to reprint it here for those of you who don't abuse office time treading the polluted water of the world wide wave.

Subject: Merry Christmas and Thanks

To: All

First of all thanks again for being such great fans. It has been a great year despite a few setbacks, but hell that's life. I will try to answer a few questions and wish you all the best for '97.

I am going to the jungles of Central America to turn 50 on Christmas day. If I see you in Cartagena or Costa Rica just give me a fin up. Yes, there will be a summer tour in '97. No I have not been back to Jamaica (yet). Yes, there will be a winter run through Florida and the South in February. No, I have not read the #S@\*&% biography. Caution: If you want to see Don't Stop The Carnival in Miami, get your tickets soon. It is selling fast. This is not a hype, but I think all five weeks will be sold out by the end of January. Yes, we have started a video production company and will release our first piece of product in 1997. It will be a one-hour show of the footage compiled from what I think is one of our best shows ever - Buckeye Lake Ohio in 1994. No, I am not acting in the play. Yes, the Joe Merchant Movie is finally about to begin production (yeah, yeah, yeah) No, I did not sell my Albatross. Yes, we are working on Parrot Head beer. No, my mother is not joining the band as a Reeferette. No, I will not be on Regis and Kathy Lee.

That about does it for another year. Thanks again to everyone, and especially all of you who donated your time and money to the Alzheimer's drive in my dad's name. He is hanging in there, almost an angel, but still cusses and still knows who I am.

Jimmy



# DON'T STOP THE CARNIVAL

Believe it and it will come true...

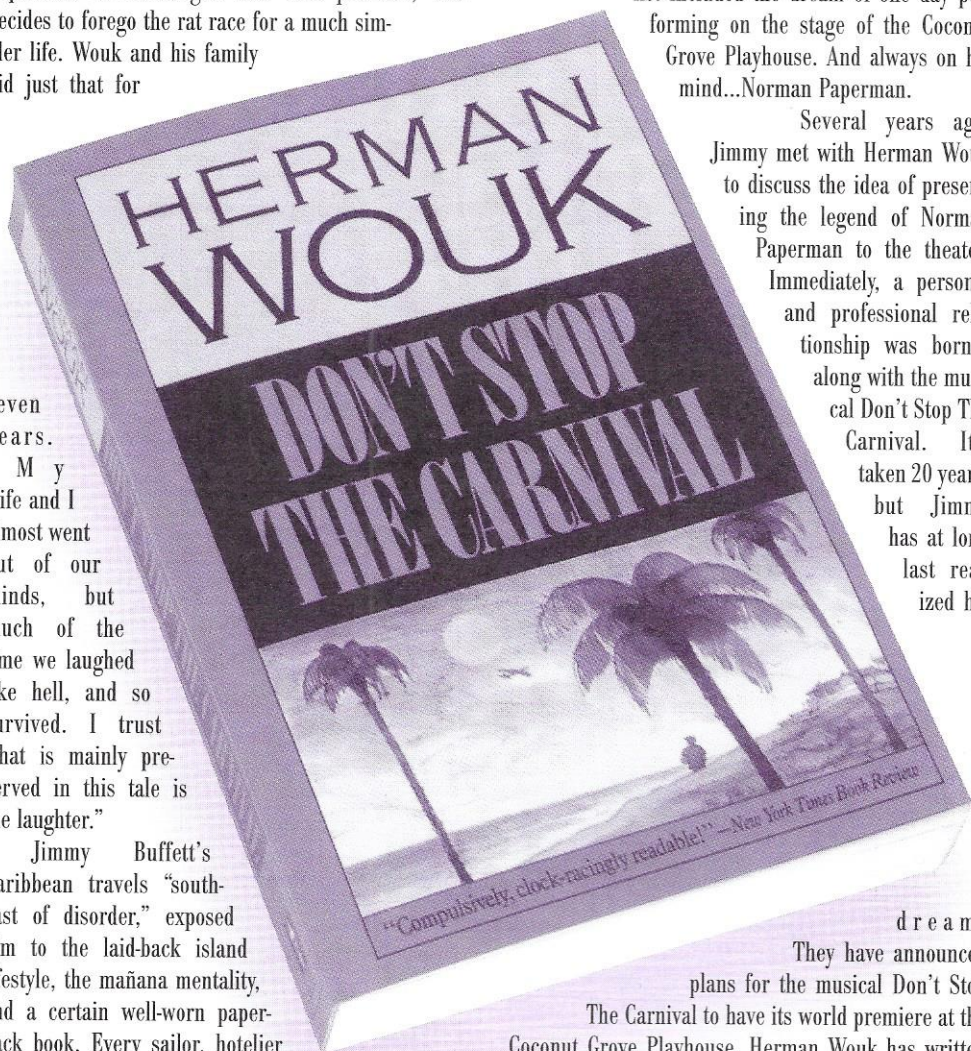
Don't Stop The Carnival is the title of Pulitzer Prize winning author Herman Wouk's farce about oncoming middle age, and the desperate, doomed attempt of one man to arrest the sands of time. It is the humorous and often touching story of Norman Paperman, a middle-aged New York publicist, who decides to forego the rat race for a much simpler life. Wouk and his family did just that for

Jimmy spent many evenings honing his troubadour talents in Coconut Grove in the early 70's. His early story-telling, folk history insured him a spot in the hip clubs and coffee houses in Miami's answer to Greenwich Village. Jimmy's pre-Margaritaville to-do list included the dream of one day performing on the stage of the Coconut Grove Playhouse. And always on his mind...Norman Paperman.

Several years ago, Jimmy met with Herman Wouk to discuss the idea of presenting the legend of Norman Paperman to the theater. Immediately, a personal and professional relationship was born - along with the musical Don't Stop The Carnival. It's taken 20 years, but Jimmy has at long last realized his

seven years. "My wife and I almost went out of our minds, but much of the time we laughed like hell, and so survived. I trust what is mainly preserved in this tale is the laughter."

Jimmy Buffett's Caribbean travels "south-east of disorder," exposed him to the laid-back island lifestyle, the *mañana* mentality, and a certain well-worn paperback book. Every sailor, hotelier and bartender seemed to have a copy of Herman Wouk's novel sitting around. The moment he read it, he understood why Don't Stop The Carnival was, and still is, the sailors' Bible to understanding life in the islands. The salty souls peppered through Jimmy Buffett songs and short stories could have very well shared Norman's fate, were it not for their newly acquired mon-soon-come disposition. His characters quickly adopt the attitudinally required changes, while Norman Paperman's feeble attempts at northern normalcy prove to be his downfall.



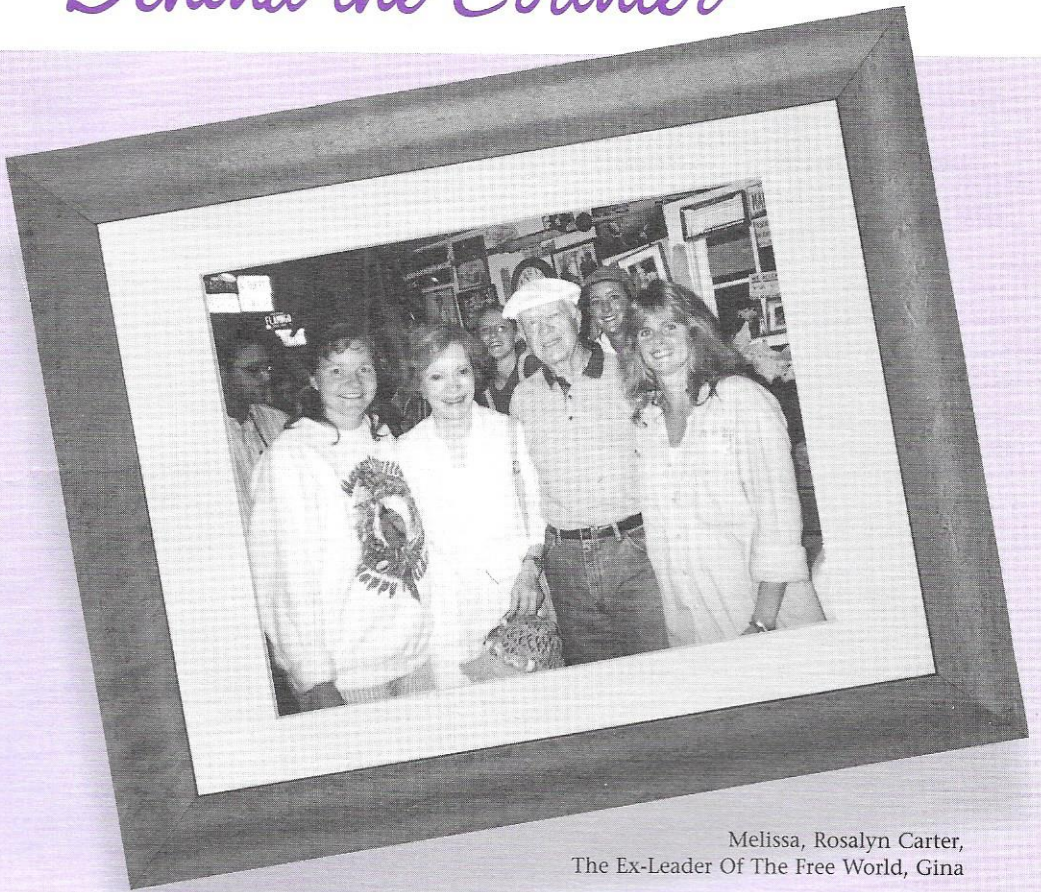
d r e a m .  
They have announced plans for the musical Don't Stop The Carnival to have its world premiere at the Coconut Grove Playhouse. Herman Wouk has written the libretto for the musical and Jimmy has composed the music and lyrics.

The mainstay of the Grove for the last four decades, the Coconut Grove Playhouse has presented many of the theatre's most celebrated artists. Long regarded as Miami's own "Broadway by the Bay," the Playhouse provides a sense of continuity in the ever-changing face of Coconut Grove.

**DON'T STOP THE CARNIVAL**  
#BKCARN \$15.95



# Behind the Counter



Melissa, Rosalyn Carter,  
The Ex-Leader Of The Free World, Gina

Photo: Wendy Yule

The holiday season was busy at Margaritaville. Three women in Jimmy's life; his mother, his sister and his daughter were in town. They spent the week in Key West and came into the store for some post-Christmas shopping. They also spent New Year's eve at the Margaritaville Cafe, bringing in 1997 with Todd Snider and The Nervous Wrecks. While he was here Todd also did a promotional spot for a radio station that has the good sense to play Jimmy Buffett music.

On December 24th, we had a birthday party for Jimmy. We hung up one of the many posters and banners people had sent, ordered a huge cake, and invited all the customers to toast our boss. We had to have the party on the 24th because the store is, of course, closed on his birthday...oh yeah, and that other holiday too.

The low point of the week had to be the release of the unauthorized biography. Sharon: "I don't really care what the guy wrote about Jimmy, but he said I started working here when I was 35. That would make me 47 - NOT! - , and that's a bold-faced lie. Who knows what else he made up."

The uncontested high point of the week was the VIP visitor. Gina: "I always knew if I hung around here long enough I'd get to meet Jimmy...Carter that is." The

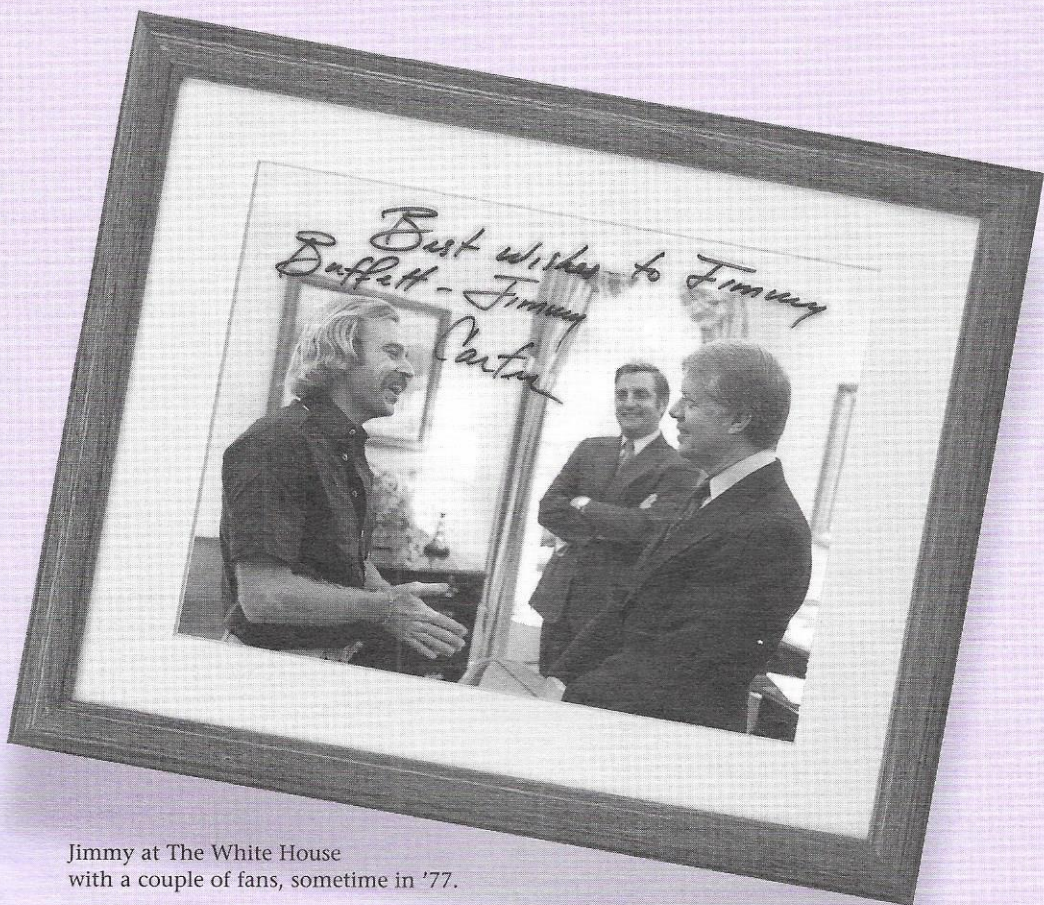


*"Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you." Satchel Page*

President was staying in town, and was planning to spend New Year's Eve at The Little White House. Margaritaville store employee Melissa Addison knew he would be touring the Hemingway House, and tried to arrange for him to sign a couple of photos taken with Jimmy Buffett years ago. The President said he'd just as soon come to the store and sign them. Gina: "I came out of the back room and asked a couple of gentleman if they wouldn't mind lining up with everyone else. They looked at me kind of puzzled, and I realized they were Secret Service Agents, and Jimmy Carter was standing at the counter."

The President and Mrs. Carter were very polite, signing autographs and posing for pictures, all the while trying to keep an eye out for their grandchildren.

So let's see, a party for Jimmy B., shopping with Jimmy C., partying with Todd on New Year's...and we can't legally discuss the Margaritaville employee Christmas party. Needless to say, we may not be invited back next year. Oh yeah, it's January 6th, and it's 80 degrees!



Jimmy at The White House  
with a couple of fans, sometime in '77.

*Your comments and questions are welcome.*

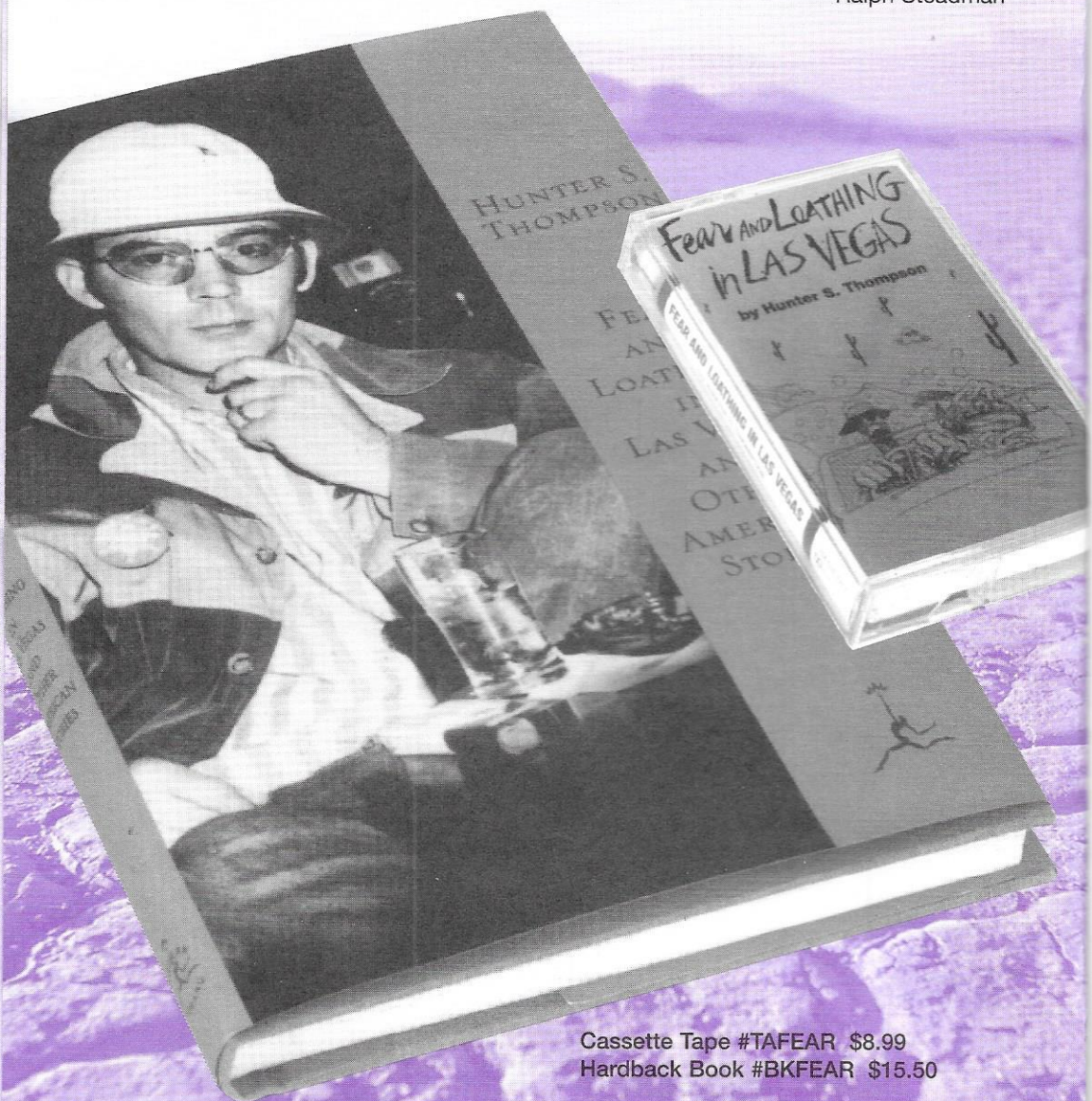
*Write to Behind The Counter, 500 Duval Street, Key West, FL 33040*



"A man is only as old as the woman he feels." Groucho Marks

*"I know this man. He was wrong but I love him. 26 years I have known him, 26 summers with the length of 26 bitter winters. I doubt if I will ever meet his like again. His presence cauterizes my nerve ends and leaves me sickened with a joy of abject misery and downright wretchedness. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas was never a book. It was and is one man's attempt to come to terms with the loneliness of pure perception, unutterable fatigue with, and flight from America's dysfunctional over-indulgence. The fright of confronting America's sickness inside his own skin drove the poor bastard on a trip to his own destruction bringing him face to face with a mirror image of himself. In his heroic attempt to escape the dark morass of America's screaming lifestyle he sold his soul to the devil for one moment of happiness. Like Faust he lives in mortal torment, but unlike Faust he quite enjoys it actually...but the sonofabitch would, wouldn't he?"*

Ralph Steadman



Cassette Tape #TAFEAR \$8.99  
Hardback Book #BKFEAR \$15.50

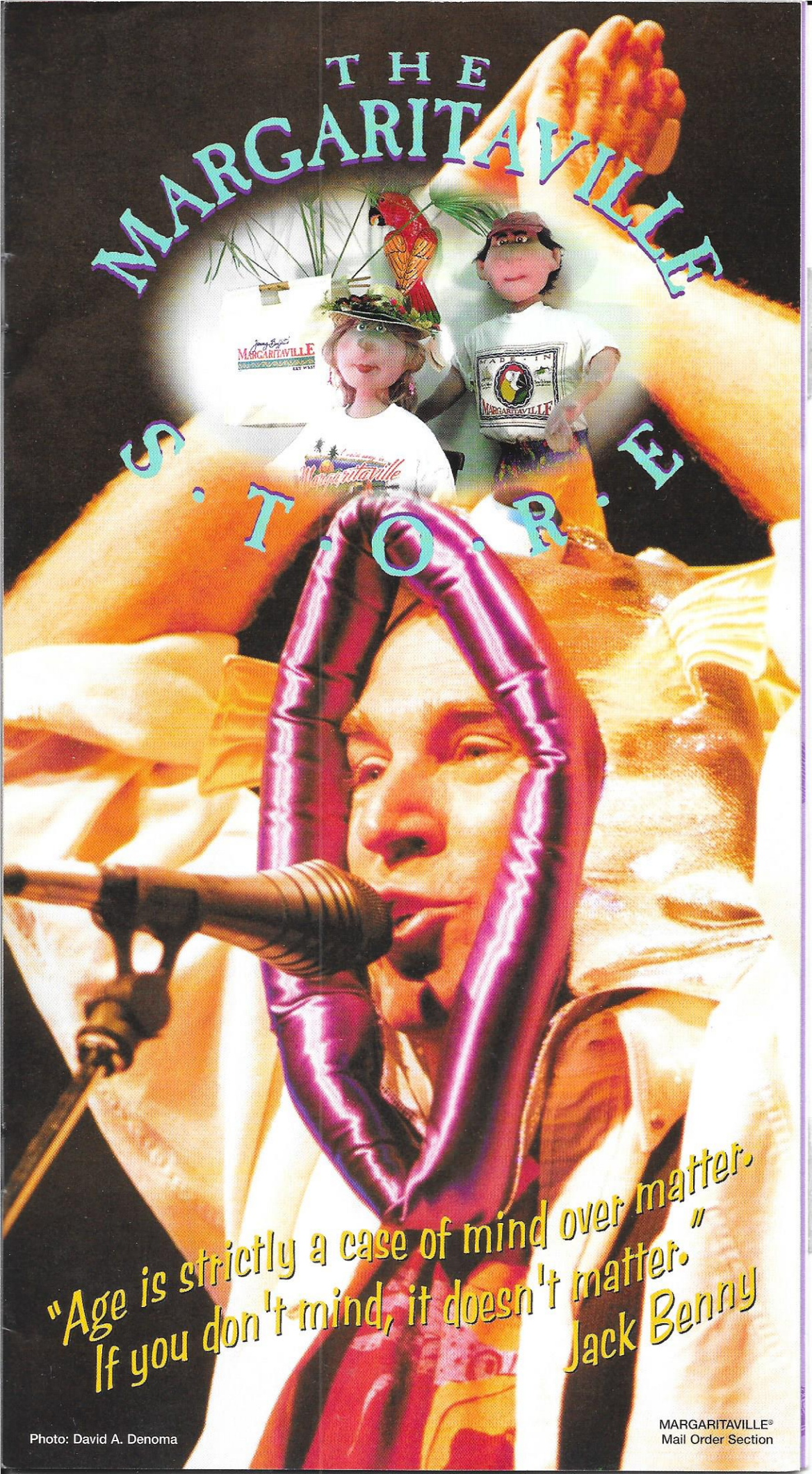
First published in Rolling Stone magazine in 1971, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* is Hunter S. Thompson's savagely comic account of what happened to the country in the 1960's. The book stands as the final word on the highs and lows of the decade, one of the defining works of our time, and a stylistic and journalistic tour de force.

Margaritaville Record's audio adaption to the American Dream, narrated by Harry Dean Stanton with Maury Chaykin as Gonzo and Jim Jarmusch as Duke, is available on cassette tape.

The twenty-fifth anniversary Modern Library edition features Ralph Steadman's original drawings and three companion pieces selected by Dr. Thompson: "Jacket Copy for Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," "Strange Rumbblings in Aztlan," and "The Kentucky Derby Is Decadent and Depraved."

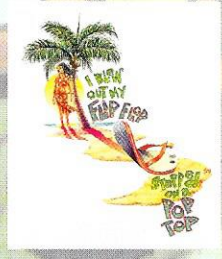


# THE MARGARITAVILLE STORY



*"Age is strictly a case of mind over matter.  
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."  
Jack Benny*





"WASTIN' AWAY"  
FRONT





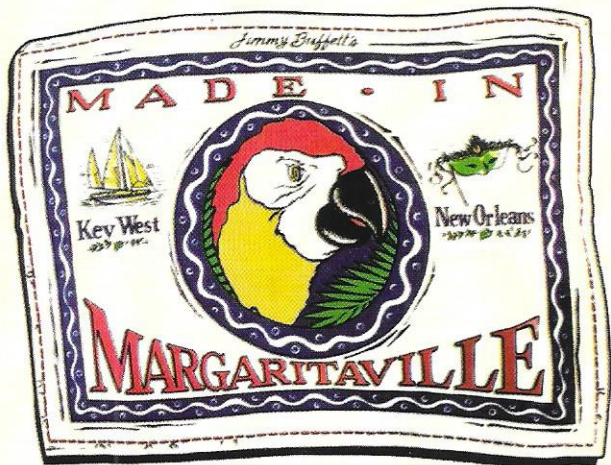


Margaritaville Cord Caps  
100% corduroy cotton ball caps.  
Features tone-on-tone embroidered  
Fin on front, and Margaritaville on  
back, adjustable buckle, Margaritaville  
label stitched inside.  
Available in Blue #CP2CORDFINBL,  
Green #CP2CORDFINGN, or  
Burgundy #CP2CORDFINRD \$21.00



New Margaritaville Rugby Shirt  
Heavy cotton jersey features white  
woven stitched down banded collar,  
three button hidden fly front twill placket  
with true rugby buttons. 2 1/2" Lycra rib  
cuffs, white twill tape in neck and side  
vents, triangle back neck yoke.  
Margaritaville Cafe logo embroidered on  
left front chest. Size: M,L& XL  
#GL2RUGBY \$48.00





Made In Margaritaville Label Design  
Label design available on Natural Cream color, 100%  
cotton T'. Size: M,L,XL& XXL #CRS1LABEL \$15.95



Cheeseburger Mouse  
Serial mouse for PC/XT/AT & compatible.  
3-button cheeseburger mouse and system  
diskette. Comes with two year warranty.  
#NVCHBMOUSE \$29.95

**1-800-COCOTEL**



# 1-800-COCOTEL

Breezy Palm Polo  
Margaritaville Merchandise 100% cotton pique polo shirt. Natural, cream shirt with off-color accent placket, wood-tone buttons, reinforced shoulder and sleeve stitching, banded sleeves and split extended tail. Margaritaville Key West - New Orleans surround embroidered tone-on-tone breezy palm. Natural color only.  
Size: M,L,XL& XXL #GS2PALM \$36.00



Margaritaville T-shirts  
Designs available exclusively through The Margaritaville Store I Wasted Away in Margaritaville. Hot, tropical colors dominate this bamboo framed scene from Margaritaville. 100% cotton T' available in White or Grey. Size: M,L,XL& XXL #CRS1WSTD \$15.95

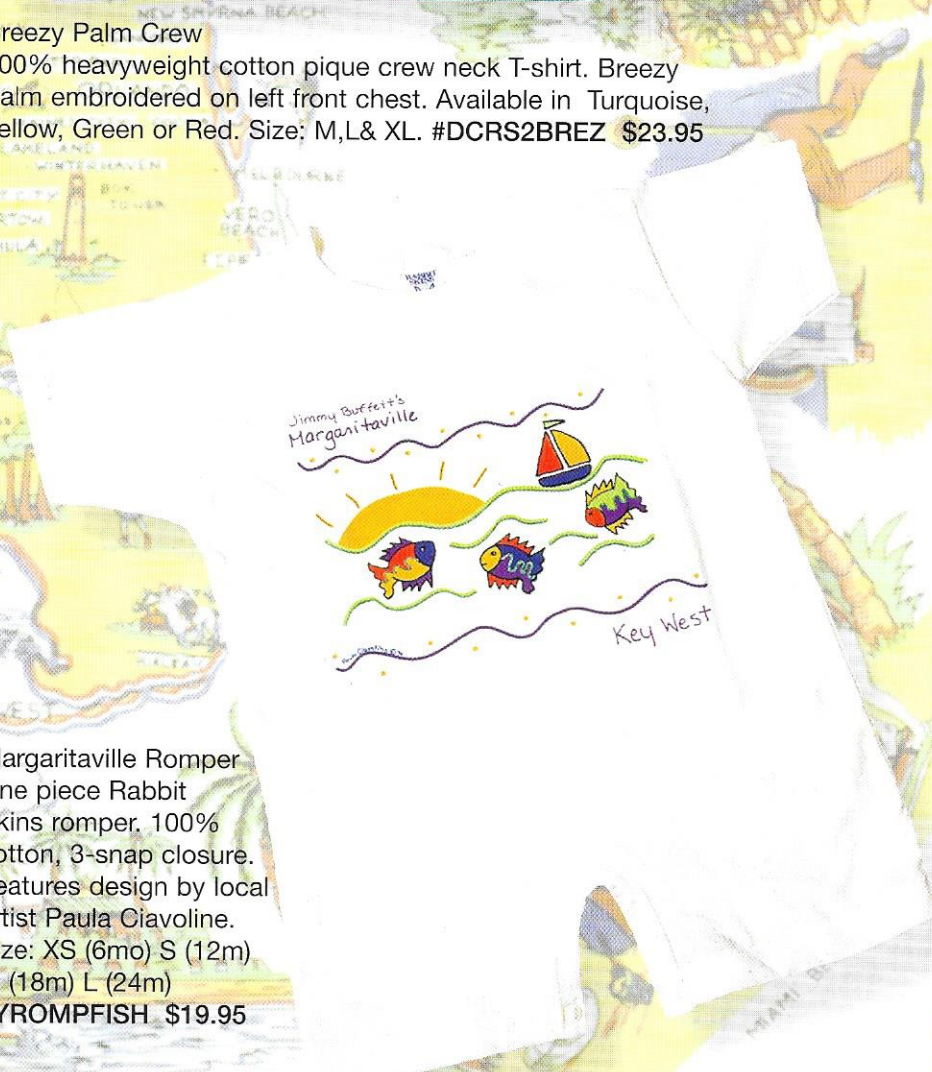






**Breezy Palm Crew**

100% heavyweight cotton pique crew neck T-shirt. Breezy Palm embroidered on left front chest. Available in Turquoise, Yellow, Green or Red. Size: M,L& XL. #DCRS2BREZ \$23.95



**Margaritaville Romper**  
 One piece Rabbit Skins romper. 100% cotton, 3-snap closure. Features design by local artist Paula Ciavoline. Size: XS (6mo) S (12m) M (18m) L (24m) #YROMPFISH \$19.95





*'Nobody loves life like him that's growing old.'*  
Sophocles

New Margaritaville Ice Scraper.  
Warm, sheepskin lined canvas mitt with  
attached ice scraper. Keeps your hand  
warm and provides a lyrical diversion to the  
terrible task at hand. *The Weather is Here,  
Wish You Were Beautiful* printed on mitt.  
#NVICESCRAP \$9.95



1996 Christmas design available  
on 80/20 sweatshirt. White only.  
Size: M,L,X,& XXL #SW1XMAS  
NOW \$19.95



Social activities for  
people with similar  
tastes and interests.

# PHLOOCKINGS

## THE 5TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINDS IN NEW ORLEANS

The 5th Annual Meeting Of The Minds  
held in New Orleans was an enormous success.

Every year Parrot Heads from across the country migrate to the Big Easy to participate in the Meeting Of The Minds. This yearly convergence in New Orleans may not be geographically practical for many, but serves a purpose emotionally and, perhaps more importantly, gastronomically; you can't beat shrimp gumbo and a Bloody Mary for breakfast.

Conscientious Parrot Heads participate in local events and community efforts donating time, money and a positive attitude.

Ronald McDonald House, Adopt-a-Pet, Humane Societies, Community Art Centers, Parks and Recreation Departments, food banks, libraries, blood drives have all felt the effects of Parrot Head generosity. "We do this because we enjoy it, feel good about it and also it brings us closer together as a 'family.'"

This group of do-gooders gather every year in New Orleans in a self-congratulatory orgy of benevolence. An auction held in the Margaritaville Cafe raised over \$13,000 - almost enough to cover their bar tab. These guys can't even go to the French Quarter without volunteering for something, "the other special project was for 'My House' a transitional house for homeless children and their mothers, where over 50 of us worked taking up carpet and cleaning the floors, and working with them on their computers."

Mary Alice Rice, Associate Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations at the Alzheimer's Association made a special presentation. "I appreciated the opportunity to personally thank you for all your generous support. It's especially encouraging to see such an enthusiastic younger group joining in the crusade against this dreaded disease. You're doing a fantastic job and we are grateful."

In honor of Jimmy's 50th birthday, Parrot Heads contributed to a group present, a huge quilt with a variety of designs on one side, and a parrot lounging under a palm tree on the other. It sounds simple, but this thing really is a work of art. Linda Schutz had never heard of Jimmy Buffett, but after being approached to design and create an original quilt, she now considers herself a Parrot Head as well.

The rest of the "convention" was spent participating in parades, conga lines and other, perhaps less charitable, activities New Orleans is famous for.

"What happens when you put over 600 Parrot Heads in New Orleans for a long weekend? Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler ... and a whole lot more !!"

For information on how to participate in next years convention, contact Marcy Fawcett, 653 Davis Rd, League City, TX 77573, or e-mail [marcy@phoenix.net](mailto:marcy@phoenix.net).



Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Cafe & Storyville Tavern has been offering good food, good music and the finest "booze in the blender" in the Crescent City since February 1993. Since it's inception, the New Orleans Cafe has attracted throngs of Parrot Heads, partiers and music fans during the carnival excess of Mardi Gras, the Jazz & Heritage Festival, and the annual Parrot Head Meeting Of The Minds. In the past year however, Margaritaville has truly come into it's own as a year-round, day-in day-out destination for premier live New Orleans music and satisfying fresh Southern Coastal cooking.

Jimmy Buffett's wish to establish a Margaritaville Cafe in the Big Easy is a tribute to the city that gave him his first paying gigs. In the spirit of developing and showcasing local talent, Margaritaville hosts three bands everyday in the intimacy of the Storyville Tavern from 2pm daily. On weekends, premier New Orleans artists such as Marva Wright & The BMWs', Charmaine Neville and others perform on the cafe mainstage. There is no cover charge for any of these shows.

With three bars and separate seating areas, every visitor is sure to find a comfortable spot in Margaritaville Cafe. Whether it's the old style warmth of Storyville Tavern - a room filled with artifacts gathered from the antique and collectible dealers of lower Decatur Street, or the festive, concert-evoking mainroom dominated by the main stage, floor to ceiling banana trees, Caribbean-mapped tabletops, and walls of Jimmy Buffett photos. And lastly, there's the camaraderie found in the VIP Parrot's Nest, a small semi-private seating area overlooking the mainroom, featuring a bamboo bar and a collection of JB memorabilia.

Where ever you land, you'll get in the Margaritaville state of mind after sampling the specialty margaritas, boat drinks and our extensive menu featuring Deep South, Caribbean and classic New Orleans dishes - and of course, Cheeseburgers In Paradise. Margaritaville Cafe serves daily from 11am, and is also available for private functions. For further information call (504) 592-2565. Music info hotline (504) 592-2552.

Remember, you can still live like a pirate in New Orleans (at least for the weekend), so come on down, watch the French Market Fruitcakes and get wasted away again in Margaritaville. But please don't steal the salt shakers.

## *Smoking Blues Holiday*

**3 nights at selected hotel**

**Tickets to Smoking Blues Show at famous Snug Harbor Club**

**Round-trip airport transfers**

**Lunch or dinner at the Margaritaville Cafe**

**Enjoy Smoking Blues and Jazz daily at Margaritaville Cafe**

**Call 504-592-2565 for entertainment schedule**

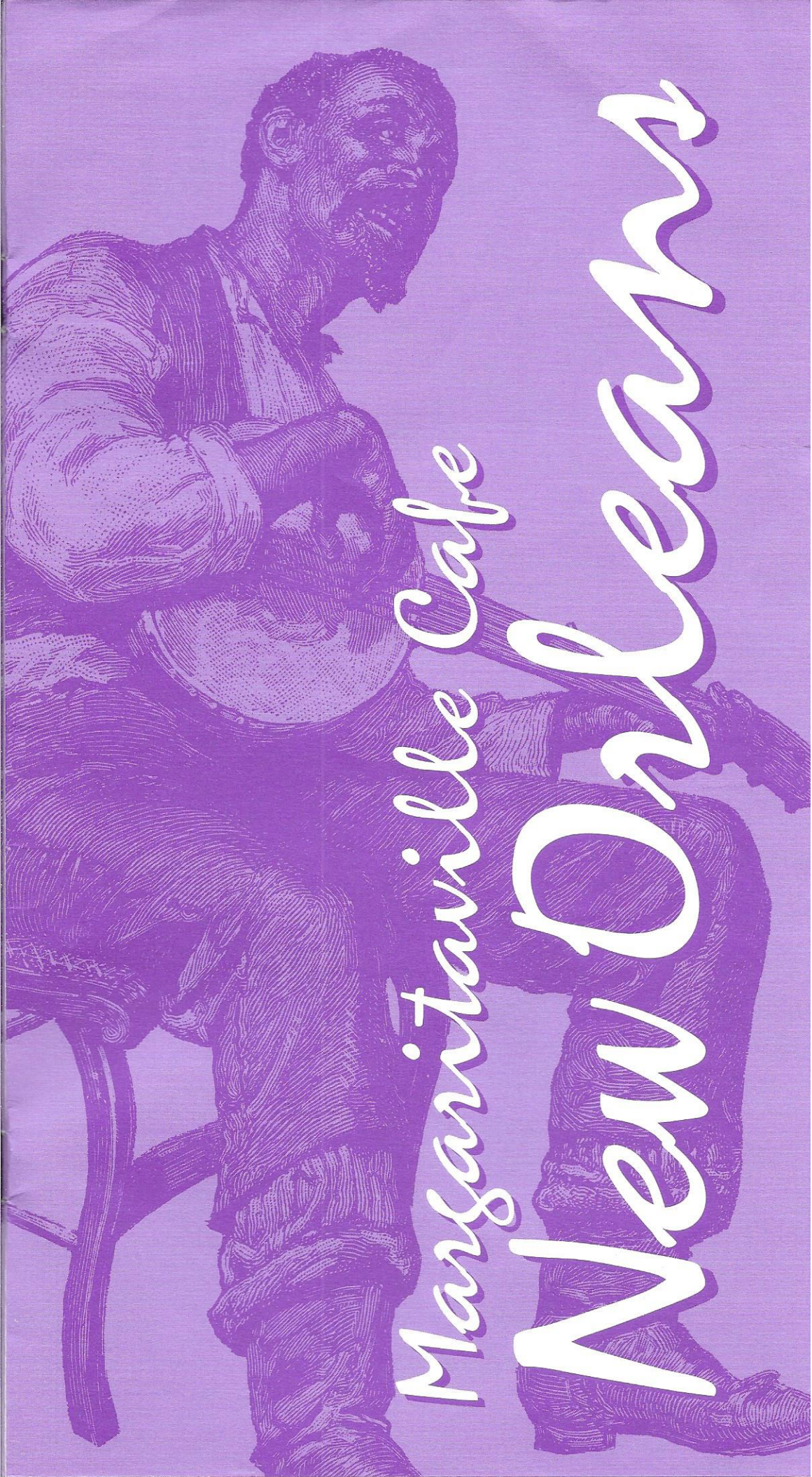
**3 nights and 4 days in the city that never sleeps as low as  
\$464 per couple / \$405 per person**

**Rate change according to seasonal events and availability**

**Call Island Outpost Travel at 1-800-644-6544.**







*Margaritaville Cafe*

**New Orleans**



"Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative." Maurice Chevalier

# COCONUT COMEBACKS

Comments, suggestions and wisecracks  
from our literate legion of readers.

Enjoyed the latest issue and the new format is OK. On-time delivery?!? Highly overrated. I get magazines every month that religiously arrive on time, and are never touched. Yours is always a delicious surprise when it shows up, and quickly devoured. Keep us guessing. < :-)

Oyster Cracker

Dear Jimmy,

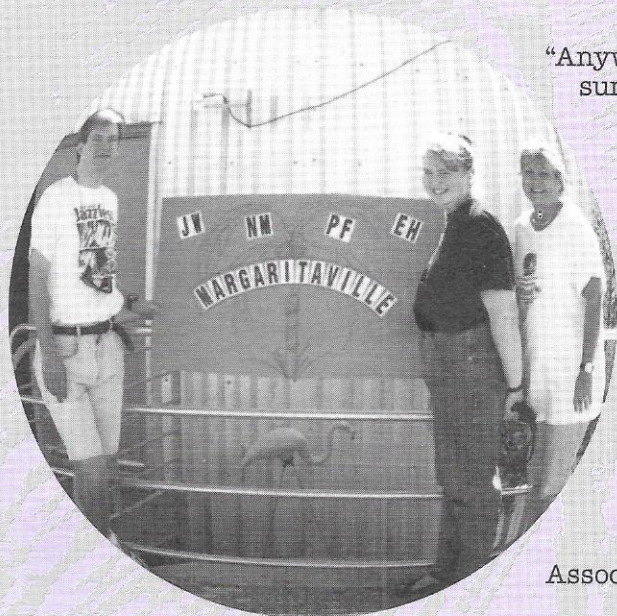
The most recent issue of the Coconut Telegraph printed your letter to the individual who is writing a biography on you. In that letter, you mentioned that you intend to write your autobiography when you get to age 86. That means I can't read it until I'm 90 which presents a bit of a problem for me. I will probably be in a nursing home...

William Wilson

*Your situation is one shared by a great many of Jimmy's admirers. Assuming you live to 90, and stranger still that Jimmy lives to 86, we'll have Nurse Ratchet wheel him to your room, strap the old geezer in a chair and he'll tell you the whole sordid tale in person.*

## ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEI!!!

Jim Webb recently hosted a conference on Active Galactic Nuclei. Scientists from 12 countries including Russia, Finland and Japan attended. The food was okay, and lots of beer and wine. The Finns, as usual, got out of hand. Talk about people who can really drink!" [PHinns?]



"Anyway, I recently took three summer students out to our observatory at Kitt Peak, Arizona for an observing run. We always have music going in the dome, and I made a few Parrot Heads out of the students. We have a pink flamingo planted outside the dome, nicknamed Margaritaville. Thought you'd be interested in seeing where another incarnation of Margaritaville lies."

Dr. James R. Webb  
Associate Professor of Physics







