

# The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH IS PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTHERNMOST TERRITORIES OF THE CONCH REPUBLIC

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*Happy*  
**Mother's**  
*day*



Brittney Novalsky displays an amazing 36-lb. dolphin she caught. Go for your own prize-winning fish in the 2015 Florida Keys Dolphin Championship Tournament, the world's largest! Don't miss the excitement this year, see page 17 for more information.

# BLUESFEST

Highlights

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Look for ad inside or check the calendar at [keylargo-baysidegrill.com](http://keylargo-baysidegrill.com) for all of our live music on the beach.



Coconut Telegraph

May 2016

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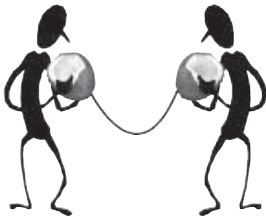
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Contact Denise at

305-304-2837

theconchtelegraph@gmail.com



Cast of Characters:

Editor/Sales/Distribution

Denise Malefyt

305-304-2837

theconchtelegraph@gmail.com

Advertising Production

Sue Beal

305-451-4601

beal\_s@bellsouth.net

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It is available for free online at [www.theconchtelegraph.com](http://www.theconchtelegraph.com).

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Editorial: Best Deal in Town, the Coconut Telegraph!

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Our local newspapers have drastically changed in the last 5 years. They have gone from a tabloid format to a uniform sized broadsheet to save money on printing and have downsized from having separate editions (upper keys, Islamorada, Marathon, Big Pine Key, Key West) to combining all the news of the county in one issue. A brilliant idea that saves a fortune in printing costs but lacks the hometown feel. The Coconut Telegraph is solely devoted to the upper Keys.

Please see our ad on page 9 for the Keys Disease Book Signing Musicians Relief Fund Party. Musicians, this is for you so please show your support.

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**VFW Commander Norm Higgins**




Rest in Peace, John Esslinger.  
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**ROGUE THEORY** Memorial Day  
**Monday May 30th, 1-6pm**  
Cap off your Memorial Day Weekend with a special show by Rogue Theory at Gilbert's. When you think of a violin, you probably think of any of Beethoven's compositions, or Pacabel's Canon in D. But what about Sweet Home Alabama, Superstition, or Folsom Prison Blues? Rogue Theory frontman Harry Bayron has updated and electrified rock and classic rock songs with his electric violin and effects pedals, and the sound is amazing. Since 2012, Rogue Theory has been a staple in the South Florida music scene, playing every weekend in clubs from Orlando to Key Largo. Another show you will not want to miss!



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**11:00AM - 3:00PM**

For information call **305-451-0088**

You Might Have

**KEYS DISEASE**

unique observations on life in the Florida Keys

BOYE HOWSS

If you've ever lived on a boat.... you might have Keys Disease!

Sue Beal started it... with a lot of help from her friends, and apologies to Jeff Foxworthy. John McKinna illustrated it. Prestige Publishing finished it. And the Elms Lodge 1872 made it work.

This 32-page book was created with the idea of poking fun at our life here in the Florida Keys. It was published and made available for sale so that the proceeds could help local musicians and their families.

The book started as a collection of random observations by Sue Beal, on our life here in the Keys. It grew when she shared them with others, as people chimed in with their own observations.

Denise at Prestige Publishing saw the potential to publish the thoughts as a book, and asked John McKinna to make some cartoon illustrations. With John's

recent passing, we were inspired to find funding (thanks to Gilbert's Resort) and a non-profit to handle the funds. (Thanks to Elks Lodge #1872 in Tavernier.)

That left the way clear to actually print and publish the book!

Here in the Keys, we enjoy the music of so many talented and world-class musicians. Even though our community enjoys the fruits of their labors, we know the musicians have little to spare and have no safety net to help when disaster strikes and they cannot work. All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to help musicians in need.

DEDICATED TO **JOHN MCKINNA**

**Teresa McKinna and Sue Beal will also be on hand to sign books!**

John was not only a fine musician, but also a sailor, a commercial diver/welder, oil well firefighter and best-selling author. He was a professional musician for forty years, playing lead guitar, bass guitar, banjo, drums and flute.

He was Operations Manager/Technical Supervisor of the Jules' Undersea Lodge's habitat from 2002 until his death in 2016. A former offshore oilfield commercial diver with a 20-year career in deep-gas diving, focusing on construction and repair of oil rigs, he was ideally suited to the job.

John was also an internationally published author, with six bestselling novels to his credit, including three popular diving thrillers and three WWII historical novels.

John showcased his sense of humor in his cartoons, which were syndicated, and they continue to run monthly in the Coconut Telegraph.

John and his wife Teresa were year-round residents of Key Largo and enjoyed spearfishing, snorkeling, diving, sailing, and kayaking together.

He gave generously of his time and talents to help those in our community, including drawing the illustrations for this book.

# You Might Have KEYS DISEASE

Book Signing and Benefit for the Musician's Relief Fund

**Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**RAFFLES 5-9pm at Gilbert's PRIZES**



Music hosted by Sweetwater, with **Kevin Hurley • Bobbe Brown • Scott Youngberg**  
**The Stingrays (Dale, Nick & John) • and more!**



**A special thank-you to Gilbert's Resort:**  
Not only are they hosting this event, but Gilbert's also funded the first printing of the Keys Disease book! What a wonderful way to support our local musicians... in addition to all the work they provide for them!!



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There will be raffles and a silent auction (donations are still needed).

100% of all monies go to the Musicians Relief Fund, B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge, PO Box 255, Tavernier, FL 33070-0255. You can also donate by check.

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# Growing Up Without a Cell Phone

When I was a kid, adults used to bore me to tears with their tedious diatribes about how hard things were when they were growing up; what with walking 25 miles to school.... up hill... barefoot... BOTH ways...

I remember promising myself that when I grew up, there was no way I was going to lay a bunch of crap like that on my kids.

But now that I'm over the ripe old age of forty, I can't help but look around and notice the youth of today. You've got it so easy! I mean, compared to my childhood, you live in a damn Utopia! You don't know how good you've got it!

When I was a kid we didn't have the Internet. If we wanted to know something, we had to go to the library and look it up ourselves, in the card catalog!!

There was no email!! We had to actually write somebody a letter - with a pen! Then walk all the way across the street and put it in the mailbox, and it would take a week to get there! Stamps were 10 cents!

Child Protective Services didn't care if our parents beat us. Plus, the parents of all my friends also had permission to kick our asses!

There were no MP3s or Napster! If you wanted to steal music, you had to hitch-hike to the record store and shoplift it yourself!

Or wait around all day to tape it off the radio, and the DJ would usually talk over the beginning and @#\*% it all up! There were no CD players. We had a tape deck in our car. We'd play our favorite tape and eject it when finished. The tape would come undone and tangled, rendering it useless.

We didn't have Call Waiting! If someone called, they got a busy signal, that was it!

There weren't any freakin' cell phones either. If you left the house, you just didn't make or receive a call. You actually

had to be out of touch with your friends. And then there's TEXTING. Please! You kids have no idea how annoying you are.

We didn't have Caller ID either! When the phone rang, you had no idea who it was! You had to answer and take your chances.

We didn't have PlayStation or Xbox video games with high-res 3-D graphics! We had the Atari 2600 with games like Space Invaders and Asteroids. There were no multiple levels or screens, it was just one screen, forever! You could never win. It just kept getting harder and faster until you died! Just like LIFE!

You had to use a little book called a TV Guide to find out what was on! You were screwed when it came to channel surfing! You had to get off your ass and walk over to the TV to change the channel!!! NO REMOTE!!!

No Cartoon Network either! You could only get cartoons on Saturday morning. Do you hear what I'm saying? We had to wait ALL WEEK for cartoons, you spoiled little rat-bastards!

And we didn't have microwaves. If we wanted to heat something up, we had to use the stove! Imagine that!

Our parents told us to stay outside and play... all day long. Oh, no, no electronics to soothe and comfort. And if you came back inside... you were doing chores!

And car seats - oh, please! Mom threw you in the back seat and you hung on. If you were lucky, you got the "safety arm" across the chest at the last moment if she had to stop suddenly, and if your head hit the dashboard, well that was your fault for calling shotgun in the first place!

You kids today have got it too easy. You guys wouldn't have lasted five minutes back in 1970 or any time before!

Regards, The Over 40 Crowd

JON & JOANNA DREAYER

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# Featured Artist of The Month: Brooke Spaulding



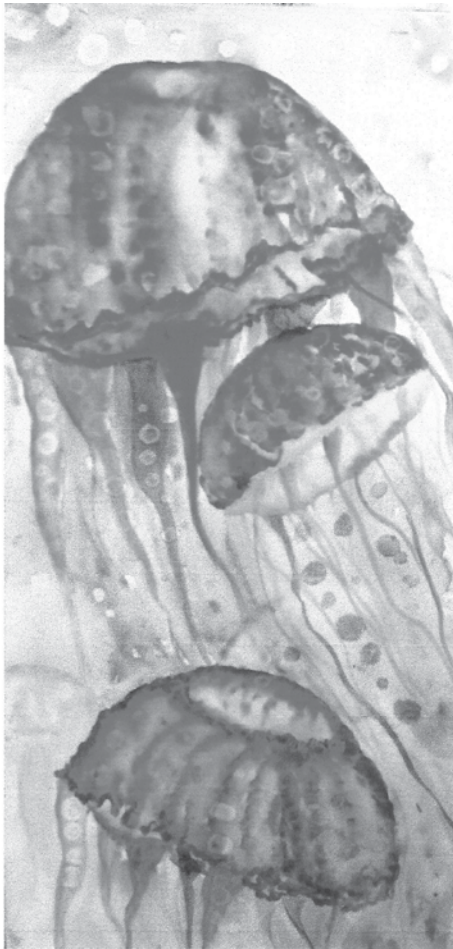
Brooke Spaulding acted on her passion and talent in fine art later in life. Reflecting on the reason, she realized a teacher unintentionally influenced her at a young age and discouraged her pursuit. It took 20 years to build the confidence to share her talent in several mediums; coloring, painting and drawing.

Brooke's innate, creative desire led to exploration in many areas. She learned to sew at the age of twelve. She studied different creative arts, and arts and crafts projects. She spent quite a bit of time writing poetry, exploring many aspects of talent and always in the spiritual pursuit. Her creativity was blooming in many areas.

Brooke progressed in parallel avenues, with a business career as a Personal Director sharing an apartment with two young business women, both fine artists. Brooke watched and admired their work. One day Brooke decided to sign up for night classes in beginning drawing. The professor started the first class with a blind contour lesson. Brooke felt safe doing that since she would not be judged for

drawing doing a blind contour. She was surprised that hers was just as good—or even better—than some of the others. She was elated and thought "If I can do this well without even looking, I should be able to do anything I want if I just look at my subject that closely." That evening she did her first still life at home at age 29.

Brooke moved to Texas with her husband and decided to go to art school full time. This was the



beginning of her new-found passion. She was hired by two of her art professors to help with their side art business and loved every art class she took. For the next few years, projects and opportunities came her way continually. She learned drawing, painting, sculpting, stained glass, etching, mosaic and more.

Brooke moved to Key Largo in 1998 to be close to a diving community. The inspiration was overwhelming and her

style of painting changed from abstract to having a distinct tropical flair. She was asked to teach children at the Academy at Ocean Reef. This was something she had never considered. She took the offer and felt inspired by the children.



She learned from them and loved the interaction and connection she had with them.

Today Brooke has had over 40 young artist come through her home studio. She has a special connection with each of them. Her goal is to make sure they feel accomplished with their pieces, to build self-esteem, to listen to problems and give positive advice, and to teach art to each individual by choosing styles and mediums that works with that child's abilities and style. The important thing is that they walk out with a smile on their face.

Her passion became the children and art was her medium.



Brooke's art can be found at Wear With All Boutique in Tradewinds Plaza next to Publix, where you can also find her mermaid-etched wine glasses which were featured on the Today Show with Kathy Lee Gifford.

She also has a web site where you can find her poetry and past works. [www.Brookeandco.com](http://www.Brookeandco.com).



Some of Brooke's students displaying their work









# Conch Characters



Talented bagpiper Graeme Massie played Amazing Grace, and was encouraged to return for a solo medley at John McKinna's Celebration of Life.



The Florida Keys Elks Lodge 1872 held an installation of officers for the year 2016-2017 on April 9. From left to right: Larry McNamara, Dan Ferguson, Glenn Hedges, Steve Randal, John Mavis, Terry Bouquenoy, Sherill Tarbell, Ray Eubanks, Patricia Burke, Jody Randal, Patricia Eubanks, Brian Taylor, Roberta Buckheit, and Jane Ferguson. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a nationwide charitable organization. The lodge is located in Tavernier at mile marker 96.2



The Hooters Girls stopped by Gilbert's to take some photos. They are in the process of creating their 2017 Calendar.



Luke Sommer Gleen stands in support as Teresa McKinna struggles for composure during her remarks at John McKinna's Celebration of Life.



Dale Henderson helps with John McKinna's Celebration of Life, April 18th. The night was a who's who of Upper Keys musicians.



County Commisioner Sylvia Murphy takes the "20 Points of Interest" Islamorada Trolley Tour. For more info call Barbara Edgar 305-393-0940.



Donna, Gilbert's official greeter, welcomes all to the first and last stop in the Florida Keys!!



Big Chill Exeucive Chef Dominic Congemi and his catch, a snook, 34" long and 20+ lbs.



Nice job, Coach! See you at the Big Chill!!



Larry Calvano, one of the owners of the Big Chill and his awesome 32" redfish catch.



The first beach in the Keys... at Gilbert's Resort.

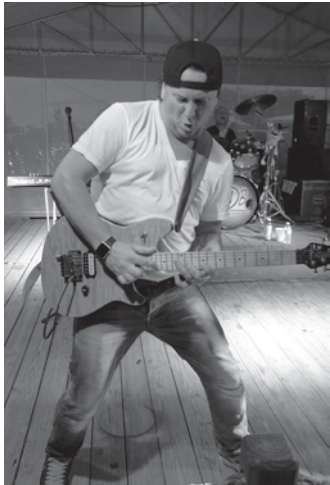


Gilbert's GM Rob LeBrun presents a \$3,000 check to Julie Cuneo of the American Cancer Society. Gilbert's donates \$1 from every "Boobie" drink sold, and in a years' time, has donated over \$6,000!



Larry of Tuxedo Jesus sings to a very special young lady in the audience at Gilbert's.

# Sounds of the Keys



David Scully of the Shane Duncan Band shows you how it's done, SDB style! Photo by Rob LeBrun.



Chris Lute, Steve Venini, Luke Ptomey and Chris Stuffs at Bayside Grille. Photo by Susan Ptomey.



Mr Nice Guy never puts on a dull show! Kids don't try this at home. Photo by Rob LeBrun.



Leah and the Aviators, local kids all grown up, rocked at Bajam! In this photo, Leah has just spotted photographer Frazier Nivens' drone!



Miami singer Kevin Hurley performs at Gilbert's Resort. Photo by Rob LeBrun.



The Stone Crabs at Gilberts. Photo by Susan Ptomey.

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## FEATURED BANDS



Sunday, May 1  
ECLIPSE 1-6 PM



Sunday, May 15  
LUKE SOMMER  
GLENN BAND  
1-6 PM



Sunday, May 8  
COLBERT 1-6 PM

Sunday, May 29  
THE REGS 12-5 PM  
MOJO SCOUNDRELS  
6-10 PM



Sunday, May 22  
IGOR &  
RED ELVISES  
1-6 PM



Monday, May 30  
Memorial Day  
ROGUE THEORY  
1-6 PM



## HAPPY HOUR MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

\$2 Bud Light & Miller Lite Drafts  
1/2 off Well Drinks and  
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JOIN US AT THE  
BIGGEST TIKI BAR  
IN THE KEYS!



Country Night!  
First Friday of the Month  
Friday, May 6, 7-11 pm  
Featuring RICKY VALIDO  
See page 7 for more info



## Living Dockside

by Ginny Jones

### "The Holding Tank"

There are few things on my boat that can take away my smile and make me think fondly of being a landlubber again. The holding tank does it for me, or should I say, it's when there is a problem with the holding tank. Is there a more insidious contraption that we could possibly be saddled with?

Don't get me wrong, I believe it is a necessary evil; I will not pump overboard unless I am out cruising and the regulated number of miles from land. I swim and dive at my dock, and MOST of my neighbors feel the same way.

There are a few hold-outs that piss (oops, pun alert!) off all of us with their remarks, such as, "I've been



here for years and I've always dumped in the marina, it won't hurt a thing." Now these are the people who give liveaboards a bad name. These are also the people who pay others to change the zincs or clean their hulls, because you sure as hell aren't going to get them to go in the water.

Ok, so my plumbing went on the fritz, how did I know? The county pump-out boat pulled up along my starboard side to pump out the holding tank, and it wouldn't pump. Come on, I begged try it again, nothing. Ahhh, crap, actually that's not what I said, although it seemed appropriate at the time. Humor, that's how I'm going to get through this.

How hard can it be, all I have to do is find the blockage, right? Take off a line here, what the heck is this Y shaped thingamajig? And what is that god-awful smell, ooh, ok where's the Vicks (a trick I saw on a CSI episode). You just can't ask someone else to work on something as personal as your holding tank, I mean its your, ah, stuff!

Now, I can ask questions and advice from my neighbor who has seen it all and done it all when it comes to boats. I just refuse to let him near the smelly thing. I also found the macerator pump hooked up to this confusing array of hoses. There also was a line going to a manual pump which I had never used. Somewhere in this mess was a plugged line, I just had to disconnect hoses and see which one was the culprit.

My other task was to put this system back together in

a way I could understand it. That is why buying a used boat is always a learning project. My dream would be to build my own boat. Just think of it, getting to lay every electrical wire and every plumbing line and labeling each one so you would know where everything is. Enough dreaming, back to the nightmare of my plugged plumbing.

So here's what I did, I figured it's in the U shaped thing, somewhere I absolutely cannot reach. I have a shop vac on my boat and I figured I could back blow the obstruction back into the holding tank. I put the hose into the deck opening and turned it on, Holy mother of God!!! I found the vent up on the starboard side of my cockpit.

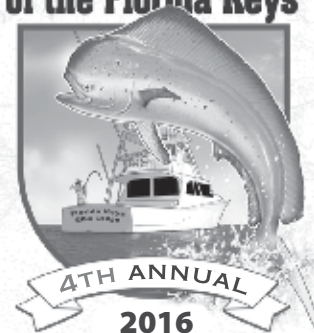
Once the brown mist settled all over the deck and myself, I ran for the bleach bottle and hoped nobody was filming this, or it would be YouTube viral before I quit cussing and screaming...

By the way, it worked!



My hard-earned pumpout sticker!

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June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2016**

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MM 99.5 Bayside, behind Cafe Largo



A blonde walks into a bar...

A man entered the country club bar with both of his front pockets full of golf balls and sat down next to a beautiful blonde.

The puzzled blonde kept looking at him and his bulging pockets.

Finally, after many such glances from her, he said: "It's golf balls."

Nevertheless, the blonde continued to study him for a very long time, deeply thinking about what he had said.

After several minutes, not being able to contain her curiosity any longer, she asked; "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"



And then she drove home...

A young woman had a flat tire on the interstate.

She eased her car over to the shoulder of the road carefully, got out of the car and opened the trunk.

She took out two cardboard women, unfolded them and stood them at the rear of her car facing oncoming traffic. They looked so lifelike you wouldn't believe it! They were in trench coats exposing their nude bodies to the approaching drivers.

As she expected, cars started slowing down looking at her lifelike ladies. And of course, traffic started backing up. Everybody was tooting horns and waving like crazy.

It wasn't long before a state trooper pulled up behind her. He got out of his car and started walking toward her. He was definitely not happy.

"What's going on here?" he asked.

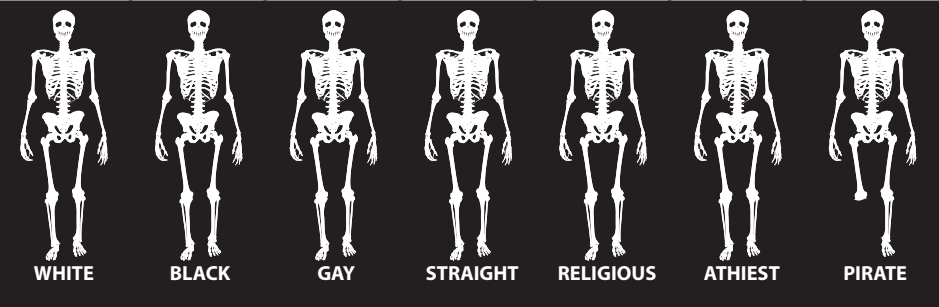
"My car has a flat tire," the woman said calmly.

"Well, what the hell are those obscene cardboard women doing here by the road?"

The lady looked flabbergasted that he didn't know.

"Hellooooo, those are my emergency flashers!"

Coco'Nut' Funnies



GOLF ACCIDENT

Many years ago during my married days, just prior to my divorce, I accidentally overturned my golf cart.

Elizabeth, a very attractive and keen golfer, who lived in a villa on the golf course, heard the noise and called out: "Are you okay, what's your name?"

"It's John, and I'm okay thanks," I replied as I pulled myself out of the twisted cart.

"John, she said, (firm loose breasts undulating beneath her white silky robe) "forget your troubles. Come to my villa, rest a while and I'll help you get the cart up later."

"That's mighty nice of you," I answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it."

"Oh, come on now" Elizabeth insisted.

She was so very pretty, very very sexy and very persuasive... I was weak. "Well okay," I finally agreed but thought to myself, "My wife won't like it."

After a couple of restorative scotch and waters, I thanked Elizabeth. "I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be really upset. So I'd best go now."

"Don't be silly!" Elizabeth said with a smile, letting her robe fall open slightly. "She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?"

"Still under the cart, I guess."

Thank you Trader Dick!

The Irish 911 Call

An Irish woman was cleaning her husband's rifle and accidently shot him. She calls 911.

Irish woman: "It's my fooken husband, I've accidently shot him, I've fooken killed him."

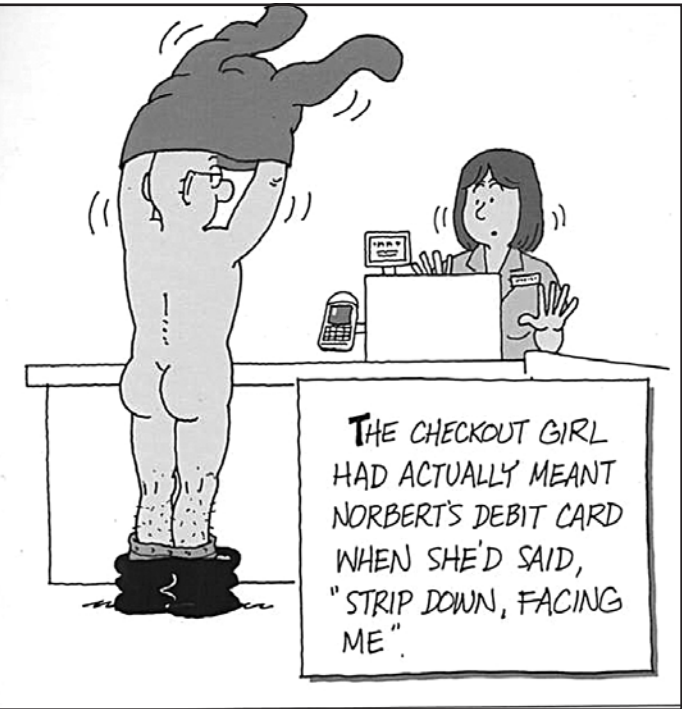
Operator: "Please, calm down ma'am. Can you first make sure he is actually dead?"

Click. Bang.  
Irish woman: "OK, I've done that. What now?"



SOME PEOPLE JUST NEED A HIGH-FIVE.

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With a chair.



Music

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Ask your Doctor if music is right for you. Common side effects include but are not limited to uncontrolled head bobbing, toe tapping, finger snapping, selective hearing impairment and persistent melody flashbacks.

If you're going to be a smart ass- first you have to be smart...

otherwise you're just an ass.

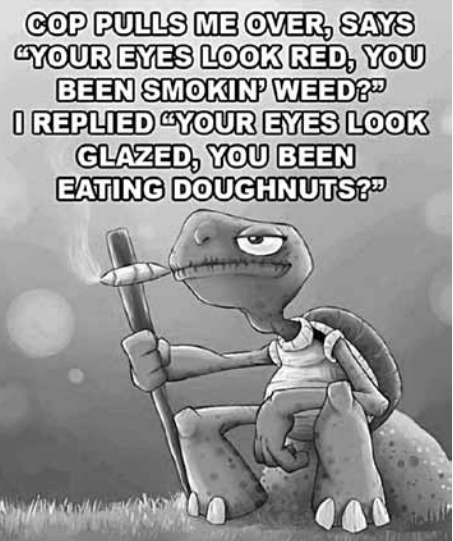
Overheard at a local bar:

"Key Largo is too small to have a town drunk, so we all take turns."



These are stronger than most relationships, these days.

I never make the same mistake twice. I make it five or six times, just to be sure.



A Trip to the Dentist

A dentist found something wrong with one of his patients. The upper plate that the dentist had put in earlier was corroding.

"What have you been eating?" the dentist asked the man.

"All I can think of is that about three months ago my wife made some asparagus and put Hollandaise sauce on it. I loved it so much, I put it on everything now."

"That's the problem," the dentist said, frowning. "Hollandaise sauce contains lemon juice, which is highly corrosive. I'll make you a new plate, and this time I'll use chrome."

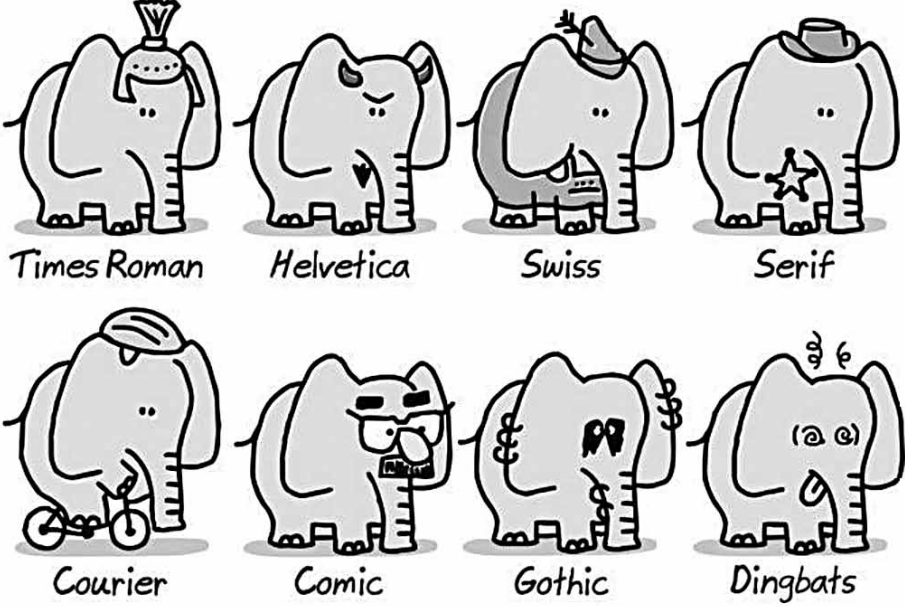
"Why chrome?"

"It's simple. Everyone knows there's no plate like chrome for the Hollandaise."

Thank you Thad Bowling!



elefont



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Overlooking the Water



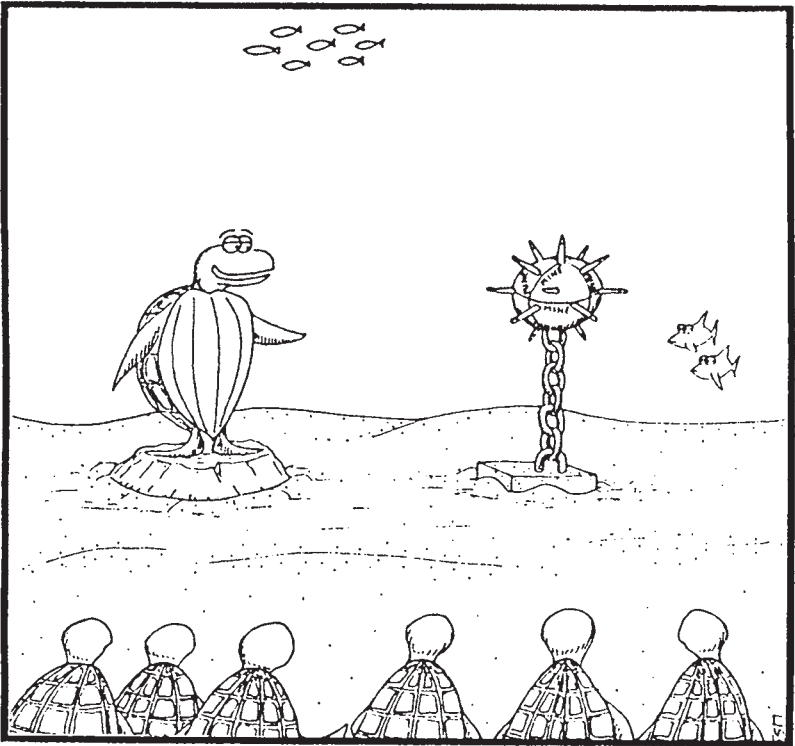
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Left Field by J.S. McKinna



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JOHN McKINNA was a local musician, a best-selling author, and a published, syndicated cartoonist. We feature his cartoons monthly.

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## A Different Approach to Anger Revenge

Thoughts of revenge create an energy of imbalance  
and is best dealt with by releasing your anger.

There can be times when we get so angry with someone that we find ourselves imagining ways to seek revenge for the hurt they've caused us. Remember, however, that the thoughts you've just had are energetic creations.

In order to keep yourself from having to take part in the rebalancing of energy, it is important to release the person and the thoughts into the care of the universe with forgiveness.

Before we allow ourselves to invest our energy into negative thought or action, we can remind ourselves that everything has a purpose. We can then consider that perhaps the actions of the other person or people may have had nothing to do with us. If we don't take their actions personally, it may be easier to release them.

Remembering that every interaction is an opportunity to make a better choice, we can take a deep breath before responding, allowing

us just enough time to connect to center and make the choice to respond from our higher self. We can never know all the circumstances that may have led anyone to do anything.

By not passing judgment on anyone, and instead sending hope for their healing, we may create something positive out of a difficult situation. We can then release it, since dwelling on it can cause an energetic drain in our system, causing us to really only hurt ourselves.

When we can release our hold on negative events and interactions, we leave it in the ! hands of a wise universe to work out the best solution for all involved.

In every moment we have a chance to make a choice to bring light into the world.

When we bless others with the gift of our positive energy, instead of letting circumstances affect us negatively, we bring a little peace to the world every day.

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## Florida Keys... Top Reasons to Drink

- Work sucked.
- You just realized half the Heat players are younger than you.
- Happy hour prices make you happy.
- Hair of the dog.
- Your parents are visiting tomorrow.
- Your girlfriend went back to her ex and you lost your turn.
- It's raining.
- It's not raining.
- Air conditioner broke.
- Boat broke.
- Car broke.
- Bicycle was stolen.
- The drunk guy is buying.
- The hottest girl in the bar is a lesbian.
- It's your birthday.
- It's your friend's birthday.
- It's some guy at the bar's birthday.
- It's probably somebody somewhere's birthday.
- It's only Wednesday.
- You're not going to make it to work tomorrow, so you might as well keep going.
- Pizza just doesn't taste right without beer.
- The music is great.
- The music is horrible.
- Free drinks at the funeral.
- Your team won.
- Your team lost.
- You just got a new job.
- You just got fired.
- Someone put a beer in your hand.
- You have money in your pocket.
- There are sober people in Africa.
- It's what Hemingway would have wanted.



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8 Mother's Day <b>COLBERT</b> 1-6 (LOCALS FAVORITE)	9 <b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 4-7PM MON-FRI \$2 BUD LIGHT & MILLER LITE DRAFTS, 1/2 OFF WELL DRINKS \$2.50 FIREBALL	10 <b>CAPN JOSH</b> 5-9	11 <b>SCOTTY MEYER</b> 5-9	12 <b>DJ REGGAE RONNIE</b> 5-9	13 <b>BOBBE BROWN</b> 12-4 <b>RIBS &amp; BEER</b> 5-9PM \$9.99 MOJO SCOUNDRELS 7-11	14 <b>3M-MIGOS</b> 1-5 <b>Michael Trixx</b> 8pm <b>DANA COLLINS BAND</b> 7-11
15 <b>LUKE SOMMER GLENN BAND</b> 1-6 (STAFF FAVORITE)	16 <b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 4-7PM MON-FRI \$2 BUD LIGHT & MILLER LITE DRAFTS, 1/2 OFF WELL DRINKS \$2.50 FIREBALL	17 <b>CAPN JOSH</b> 5-9	18 <b>SCOTTY MEYER</b> 5-9	19 <b>DJ REGGAE RONNIE</b> 5-9	20 <b>BOBBE BROWN</b> 12-4 <b>RIBS &amp; BEER</b> 5-9PM \$9.99 RETROSKY 7-11	21 <b>CAT DADDIES</b> 1-5 <b>JIMMY STOWE &amp; STOWAWAYS</b> 7-11
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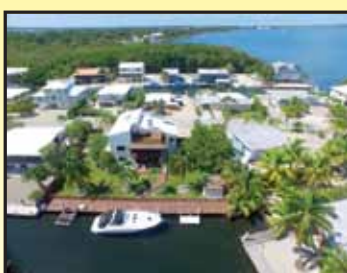
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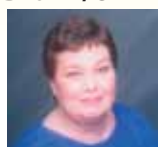
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