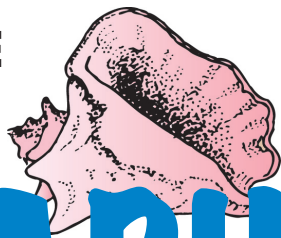


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Happy New Year
2017

Inside:

Attractions

Artist of the Month:

Alberto Rodriguez-Stephenson

Hunk of the Month:

Bernie Kay

What's Hot & What's Not

Key Players' Mid-Life! the Musical

Interview with Big Chill's

Larry Calvano

Pictures from "Around Town"

Maps

Key Largo Locator Map Page

Getting from Here to There

All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies

Conch Characters

Sounds of the Keys

Business in the Keys

Mangrove Galley



Spectacular fireworks herald the new year! Watch them in Key Largo at MM 104 on Blackwater Sound, courtesy of the Key Largo Merchants Association.

BLUESFEST

Highlights

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Saturday, January 28

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Check the calendar at keylargo-baysidegrill.com for all of our live music on the beach.

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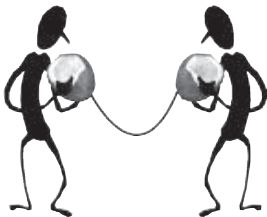
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305-304-2837
theconchtelegraph@gmail.com



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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Editorial: Happy New Year

Change is inevitable. Sometimes it is good and sometimes it is bad. Key Largo is getting a McDonald's even though there is already one in Tavernier just a few miles down the road. We have plenty of fast food restaurants in Key Largo and we don't need another one. Not only are they going to be displacing our farmers market but they plan to demolish the building behind the Dollar Tree, which houses our Island Marketplace, the only indoor air-conditioned flea market in the Keys, open 7 days a week. People come from all over to get some Amish Cheese, teak furniture, patio furniture, hand made items, soaps and jewelry. They do not come to the Keys to eat at McDonalds! All it will do is take business away from the other restaurants. I'll take a fresh fish sandwich over frozen mystery meat any day.

The folks at the Island Market know they are but a small bunch of local vendors and artists who will eventually have to move and we will lose this unique shopping experience all due to a freaking McDonald's! One thing I'm counting on is that it could take months before they get permits to demolish the building so we'll have it through this season. See the ad on page 4, they plan to stay as long as they can. If and when they get demolition permits there are other buildings available for rent. Our New Years resolution should be to keep things local. Support our community and local businesses.

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Karla & Troy Need Your Help!



Karla Perrine runs the Upper Keys Humane Society and is a wonderful member of our community. Her husband Troy was in a horrible motorcycle accident on December 15th and is in the hospital with critical injuries. A donation account has been set up at the Centennial Banks so you can stop in and make a donation to Karla or Troy Perrine.

In addition, a Go Fund Me account has been set up, called "Please Help Support Karla" and can be found on the Go Fund Me website and the Upper Keys Humane Society's Facebook page. We thank you all for your support in this difficult time!

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A Man and a Fork

A young man had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as he was getting his things in order, he contacted his priest and had him come to his house to discuss certain aspects of his final wishes.

He told him which songs he wanted sung at the service, what scriptures he would like read, and what outfit he wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the Priest was preparing to leave when the young man suddenly remembered something very important to him.

"There's one more thing," he said excitedly. "What's that?" came the priest's reply.

"This is very important," the young man continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The priest stood looking at the young man, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young man asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Priest.



The young man explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. She said..."

"In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say,

'Keep your fork.' "It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming... like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!"

"So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?'"

Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come."

The priest teared up as he hugged the young man goodbye. He knew that the young man had a better grasp of heaven than he did. The best is yet to come.

(We thank Trader Dick for this one.)



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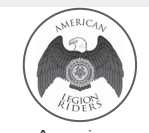
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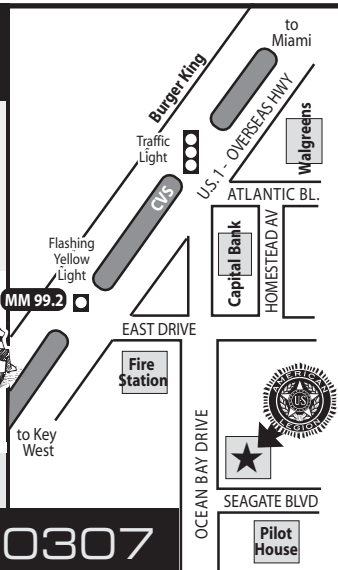
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Key Players' MID-LIFE! The Crisis Musical in February is Sure to be a Hit!

"Some great laughs and some more poignant moments... it is a funny sitcom.... (The lyrics are) "sharp, witty and funny"
— Eric Scott, AbsoluteTheatre.com

With a balanced look at the 'joys' of growing older, through a cast of three men and three women, **MID-LIFE!** strikes a chord with anyone regardless of age. A series of scenes and sketches poke fun at the frustrations of mammograms, love handles, weekend warriors and proctology exams. The cleverly crafted songs celebrate forgetfulness, reading glasses and menopause, but also touch on the sentimental wisdom that the later years afford us.

MID-LIFE! is a hilarious romp with an honest humor about the trials and tribulations of the unavoidable aging process. Welcome to **MID-LIFE!**



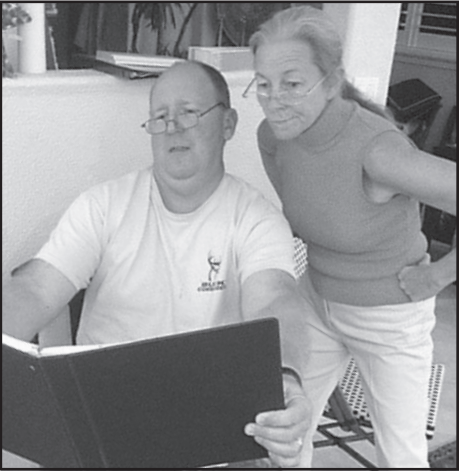
Some of cast and crew that are making this happen!!!



The cast working on each and every note!



Kathy Miller singing her heart out!



Kathy Miller and Graham Garson wishing his arms were longer



John Rudolph and Cristal Yellen working on the details



Exploring characters... sometimes they define themselves.

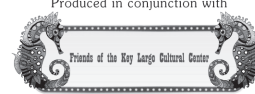
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Since 1978
a 501(c)(3) organization promoting COMMUNITY THEATER in the UPPER KEYS
presents

MID-LIFE!

The Crisis Musical

Book, Music and Lyrics By
BOB WALTON and JIM WALTON

MID-LIFE! THE CRISIS MUSICAL is presented through special arrangement with R&H Theatricals

Produced by Jonelle Kop	Directed by Brad Shank	Asst. Producer Marinka Stuvell			
A Musical Comedy, starring Cristal Yellen, Kathy Miller, Kelly Sutter John Rudolph, Jerry Nussenblatt, Graham Garson					
FEBRUARY 2017					
FRI 3 EVENING 7:30pm	SAT 4 EVENING 7:30pm	SUN 5 MATINEE 3pm	THU 9 EVENING 7:30pm	FRI 10 EVENING 7:30pm	SAT 11 EVENING 7:30pm
Produced in conjunction with  Venue opens one hour prior to curtain; seating starts a half-hour prior.					
Murray E. Nelson Gov. & Cultural Center 102050 Overseas Hwy.					
Admission \$18 at the Ticket Outlets • \$20 at the Door and Online Advance tickets available for specific dates at these locations, or online:					
Key Largo Floral MM 99.5 (next to Bank of America)			Shear Paradise MM 99.3 (Cedar Towers Plaza)		
Key Largo Chocolates & Ice Cream MM 100.5 Bayside			PostNet Store MM 88 Islamorada		
More info/online tickets: www.thekeyplayers.org					



Jerry Nussenblatt and Kelly Sutter ham it up, celebrating midlife



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— Dominic Papatola
Pioneer Press

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You Might Have

KEYS DISEASE

original illustrations by JR & IwaLani



Interview with Big Chill Owner and Operator

Interview with Larry Calvano, Owner and operator of the Big Chill Restaurant Key Largo.

CT- The Fisherman's Cove and the Big Chill took over the old Italian Fisherman property at MM 104 on the bayside that sat vacant for many years. First came the 5 star, 3 bedroom bayview fractional ownership condominiums. Next the Big Chill restaurant opened with 3 bars, exceptional food and entertainment. Then Jimmy Johnson partnered up and hung his trophies in the sports bar and we all thought it just can't get any better than this and now you just put in a pizza parlor and made me the best pizza I've ever had in my life! I understand that your addition of the famous Enrico's New York Style Pizza is a tribute to your father?

LC - My father, Enrico Michael Calvano, was one of the Masters of the Art of making pizza. Starting in New York in the early 60's my parents opened their first pizza restaurant and after many successful years they decided to move with their 3 young children and start a better life in the beautiful state of Florida, which is every New Yorker's dream. We moved to Fort Lauderdale and in 1972 Enrico's New York Style Pizza was born.

CT - I remember Enrico's Pizza when I lived in upstate New York, it was by far the best and they were growing. LC - Yes, after many years and multiple stores later it was a huge success! Then my father became ill and on

May 25th, 2008 he lost his battle with cancer. Overcome with grief we made a decision to close the business and seek other forms of employment. I was already involved with the Big

than by naming it "Enrico's New York Style Pizza".

CT - What is the secret of your success?
LC - First I have to thank God for truly blessing me,

and never lose sight of your dreams! I have surrounded myself with the best staff in all the Keys, fulfilled my passion for people and serving them the best and freshest products available. With the love and support of my beautiful wife and son, success was sure to follow. Thank you Key Largo for helping make my family's dream come true!

CT- I can't rave enough about this pizza! Meatball & Ricotta, White Pizza, Fresh Mozzarella, Broccoli Rabe & Sausage, Arugula, Hawaiian, and Philly Cheesesteak are the Specialty Pies but the Italian Fisherman (Lobster meat, clams, shrimp and crab meat) and The Boss (almost everything) are my favorites. Your prices are low and the flavor is so fresh.

LC - When it comes to pizza it's more than just dollars and cents, it's about pride and passion. In todays hard economic times we all need something to enjoy and let us forget about todays hardships and still enjoy the blessing that we all have. What better way than to share a freshly prepared, reasonably priced pizza with the whole family? Enrico's New York Style Pizza at Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill is committed to only serving the finest, freshest ingredients in our pizza's, nothing is canned or frozen. The other guys might make more money on their pies but they will never take more pride and serve as fresh and delicious a pizza as ours. It is true Italian Pizza the way it should be! And our way of saying Grazie Key Largo!



The Calvano family carries on the tradition.

Chill at the time so I kept my focus here in Key Largo. My thoughts kept returning to the past and all the great memories, I just couldn't let it go, so on May 25th, 2010, the 2nd year anniversary of my fathers passing I decided to go out and buy a pizza oven for the Big Chill and bring back the passion my whole family with over 100 years of combined experience has for making pizza the way it should be, and what better way to honor the Master himself

and my wonderful parents who taught me what it takes to be successful in business and life. One of the early lessons was that you must surround yourself with good people and I was taught from an early age that you are only as good as your help, treat them with the same respect you would your family because they are your family in business. Never ask from anyone what you wouldn't do yourself. Love what you do and do what you love. Work hard

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Sounds of the Keys



The Outer Band entertains at Bayside Grille.



Albert and Koty at the VFW.



Chain Reaction, the incredible Journey tribute band, will return to Gilbert's on Feb 25th.



Paul from the Shane Duncan Band hams it up for the camera. The SDB will be at Gilbert's again on Feb 4th.



El Dub at Sharkeys.



RetroSky rocked the house at Gilbert's with their awesome 80s and 90s songs.

Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet

Meet a few of the animals who are currently available for adoption at the Key Largo Animal Shelter. If you are interested in taking one of these adorable furry friends home, stop by or call. The Shelter is located at mile marker 106 Oceanside; phone 305-451-0088.



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THE FLYERS
1-6 PM



Saturday, Jan. 7
ROGUE THEORY
7-11 PM



Sunday, Jan. 8
3RG MIAMI
1-6 PM



Saturday, Jan. 14
STONE MOJO
7-11 PM



Sunday, Jan. 15
MR. NICE GUY
1-6 PM



Saturday, Jan. 21
THE DROPOUTS
7-11 PM



Sunday, Jan. 22
THE REGS
1-6 PM



Saturday, Jan. 28
STEREOTOMY
7-11 PM



Sunday, Jan. 29
ECLIPSE
1-6 PM



Join Us for New Years Eve!

This year for our party we are lucky to have
"The Flyers" performing, voted 2016's BEST BAND
in Broward and Palm Beach Counties by NewTimes.

- We will be doing our hourly giveaways again:
- 9pm Dolphins Cooler filled with Beer
 - 10pm Corona Cooler filled with Beer
 - 11pm Basket of Booze & 12am Basket of Booze



And of course a great view of
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toast at midnight.

It's all FREE for Gilberts patrons!

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RECOMMENDED

Key Largo MM 99.8 Southbound Lane Behind Traffic Light

The map illustrates the Florida Keys archipelago, stretching from Key West in the southwest to Key Largo in the northeast. It is divided into three distinct regions: the Lower Keys, Middle Keys, and Upper Keys. Key locations include Key West, Marathon, Islamorada, and Key Largo. The map also shows the Gulf of Mexico, Florida Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean. A pirate ship icon is in the top left corner, and a 'Worx 104.3 FM' logo is in the top right corner.



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The Mangrove Galley by Sandi Mieszczenski

Sandi's recipes are featured here monthly.
For previous issues go to <http://www.theconchtelegraph.com>.



The month of January usually brings us some brisk weather. But, sadly, as we all know, this Winter has been warm. I like to make soup this time of the year, so I will continue the tradition. This is a great onion soup recipe created by my husband. It is really delicious. Be sure to prepare it a day ahead. Enjoy!

PAUL'S FRENCH ONION SOUP

- 3 to 5 finely chopped garlic cloves
- 1 large diced onion
- 48 oz of beef broth
- 3 cans consume
- 1/4 stick of butter
- 5 large sliced onions (3 yellow - 2 sweet)
- 2 tablespoons catsup
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- sprinkle of salt
- sprinkle of cayenne pepper
- fresh ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup of sherry (optional)

Melt the butter in a stockpot. Sautee the garlic and diced onion until translucent. Add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil then simmer until the onions are tender. Serve with the French bread and cheese recipe below.

Cut French bread into 1/2 inch slices. Heat extra virgin olive oil in a sauce pan. Add garlic powder. Brown the bread on both sides. Spoon the soup in an oven proof bowl or crock. Place one slice of the browned French bread on top. Add slices of mozzarella, cheese, grated parmesan cheese, and a dash of paprika. Place under the broiler until the cheese melts.

Artist of the Month: Alberto Rodriguez-Stephenson



A native of Cuba and a newcomer to the Florida Keys, Alberto just arrived in the Keys this past November 27th. In Cuba, Alberto was able to greatly impress those fortunate enough to admire his work.

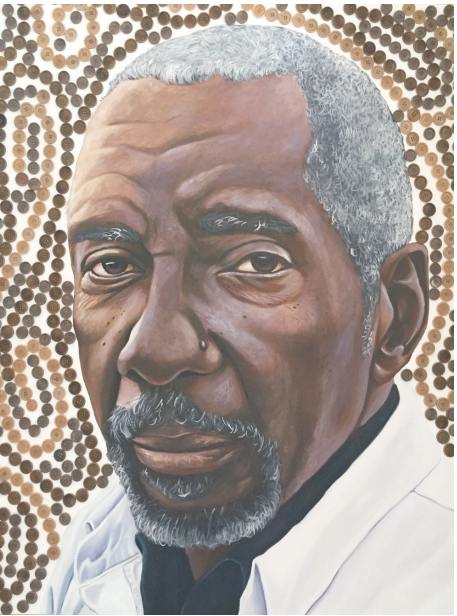
Since a very early age he was inclined toward the arts in general, and as a young boy his favorite toys were color pencils. He enjoyed the support and encouragement

of his parents, who guided him through different activities related to his art. During this early stage, when he participated in exhibitions, murals and concourses, he began to be seen as an artist.

This experience in his youth helped him to gain admission into the renowned **Academia de Bellas Artes San Alejandro** of international fame, where he graduated with honors after four



Alberto's work shows a wide range of subjects and techniques.



years (in 2005), with a specialty in painting. After his graduation, Alberto taught drawing for three years in the **Jose Fowler Art Shop**. At the same time, he was able to learn wood sculpting, becoming a master in this area. After this teaching-learning stage, Alberto opened his own art shop in Havana, where he became well known as a brilliant artist in both painting and sculpture. Now in Key Largo, he has opened a modest shop at the U-Haul Storage facility, allowing him to continue his creative activities. Alberto's work will be on display in January at The Art Box, MM 100.6 and he will also be available for a meet and greet at The Morada Way Art Walk on January 19th, at MM 82 in Islamorada.

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Coco‘Nut’ Funnies



Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Dorothy and Edna, two senior-aged widows, are talking...

Dorothy said, “That nice George Johnson asked me out for a date. I know you went out with him last week, and I wanted to talk with you about him before I give him my answer.”

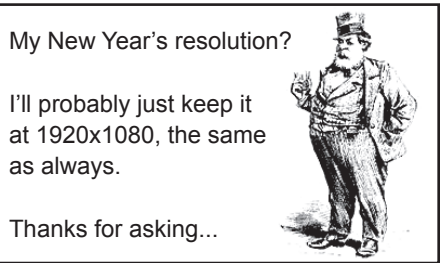
Edna says, “Well, I’ll tell you. He shows up at my apartment punctually at 7 pm, dressed like such a gentleman in a fine suit and he brings me such beautiful flowers! Then he takes me downstairs. And what’s there? A limousine, uni-formed chauffeur and all. Then he takes me out for dinner... a marvelous dinner - lobster, champagne, dessert, and after-dinner drinks. Then we go see a show. Let me tell you Dorothy, I enjoyed it so much I could have just died from pleasure! So then we are coming back to my apartment and he turns into an ANIMAL! Completely crazy! He tears off my expensive new dress and has his way with me --- THREE times!”

Dorothy is shocked! “Goodness gracious! So you are telling me I shouldn’t go?”

“No, no, no!” says Edna. “I’m just saying, wear an old dress!

Thank you Thad Bowling!

OF ALL THE POOP IN THE WORLD, who decided batshit was the craziest?



Not to get too technical, but according to chemistry alcohol is a solution.



Thank you Thad Bowling



Gotta Love An Old Fighter Pilot!

A ragged, old derelict shuffled into a down-and-dirty bar. Stinking of whiskey and cigarettes, his hands shook as he took the “Piano Player Wanted” sign from the window and handed it to the bartender.

“I’d like to apply for the job,” he said. “I was an F-4F driver, flying off carriers back in ‘Nam , but when they retired the Phantom, all the thrill was gone, and soon they cashed me in as well. I learned to play the piano at O-Club happy hours, so here I am.”

The barkeep wasn’t too sure about this doubtful looking old guy, but it had been quite a while since he had a piano player, and business was falling off. So, why not give him a try? The seedy pilot staggered his way over to the piano while several patrons snickered. By the time he was into his third bar of music, every voice was silenced.

What followed was a rhapsody of soaring music unlike anything heard in the bar before. When he finished there wasn’t a dry eye in the place.

The bartender took the old fighter pilot a beer and asked him the name of the song he had just played.

I’t’s called ‘Drop your Skivvies, Baby, I’m Going Balls To The Wall For You’,” he said. After a long pull from the beer, leaving it empty, he said “I wrote it myself.” The bartender and the crowd winced at the title, but the piano player just went on into a knee-slapping, hand-clapping bit of ragtime that had the place jumping. After he finished, the fighter pilot acknowledged the applause, downed a second proffered mug, and told the crowd the song was called, “Big Boobs Make My Afterburner Light.”

He then launched into another mesmerizing song and everyone in the room was enthralled. He announced that it was the latest rendition of his song, “Spread ‘em Baby, It’s Foggy Out Tonight and I Need To See The Centerline.” He excused himself and headed for the john.

When he came out, the bartender went over to him and said, “Hey fly boy, the job is yours, but do you know your fly is open and your pecker is hanging out?”

“Know it?” the old fighter pilot replied, “Hell, I wrote it!”

Thank you Trader Dick



She was standing in the kitchen, preparing our usual soft-boiled eggs and toast for breakfast, wearing only the ‘T’ shirt that she normally slept in.

As I walked in, almost awake, she turned to me and said softly, “You’ve got to make love to me this very moment!”

My eyes lit up and I thought, “I am either still dreaming or this is going to be my lucky day!” Not wanting to lose the moment, I embraced her and then gave it my all, right there on the kitchen table.

Afterwards she said, “Thanks,” and returned to the stove, her T-shirt still around her neck.

Happy, but a little puzzled, I asked, “What was that all about?”

She said, “The egg timer’s broken.”

The Beer Prayer
Our lager,
Which art in barrels,
Hallowed be thy drink.
Thy will be drunk, (I will be drunk),
At home as in the tavern.
Give us this day our foamy head,
And forgive us our spillages,
As we forgive those who spill against us.
And lead us not to incarceration,
But deliver us from hangovers.
For thine is the beer,
The bitter and The lager.
Forever and ever,
Barmen

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LIFE ALERT
BRACELET SO IF I EVER
GET A LIFE, I’LL BE
NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.

FROZEN CARBURETOR

People often complain about the police, but you rarely hear about the positive things they do, such as this incident involving a biker and a frozen carburetor.

Last January on a bitterly cold winter’s day, a North Dakota State Trooper on patrol came upon a motorcyclist who was stalled by the roadside. The biker was swathed in warm, heavy, protective clothing and wearing a full-face helmet to protect from the cold weather.

“What’s the matter? asked the Trooper.

“Carburetor’s frozen,” was the terse reply.

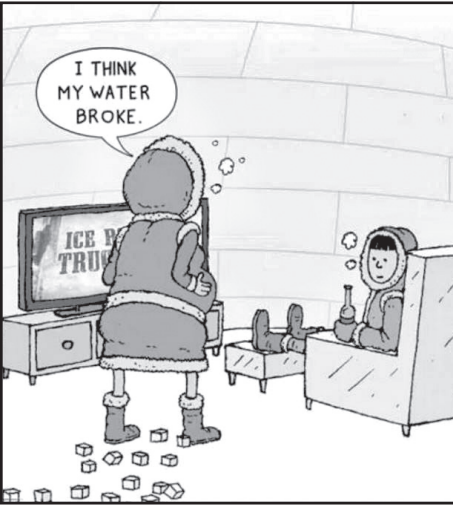
“Pee on it. That’ll thaw it out.”

“I can’t,” said the biker.

“OK, watch me closely and I’ll show you.” The Trooper unzipped and promptly warmed the carburetor as promised.

Moments later the bike started and the rider drove off, waving.

A few days later, the local State Troopers’ office eceived a note of thanks from the father of the motorcyclist. It began: “On behalf of my daughter Jill...”



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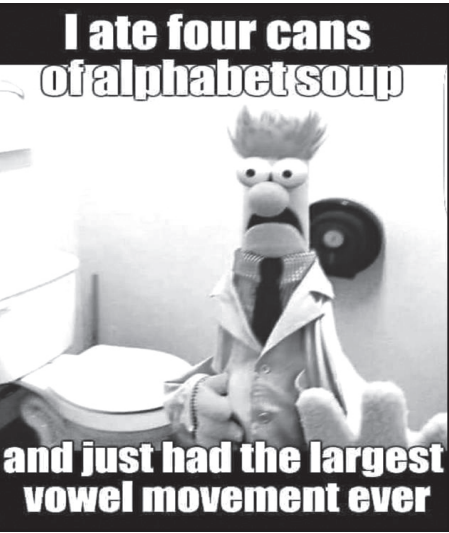
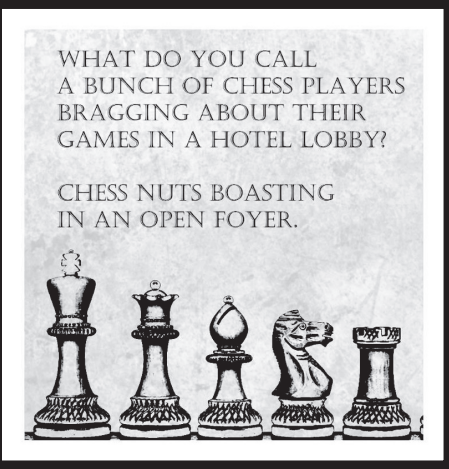
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During a visit to the mental asylum, I asked the director how do you determine whether or not a patient should be institutionalized. “Well,” said the director, “we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub.”

“Oh, I understand,” I said. “A normal person would use the bucket because it’s bigger than the spoon or the teacup.” “No.” said the director, “A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?”

Left Field

by J.S. McKinna

“– Whatever you do, Sid, stay away from that crazy woman on the tuffet!...”

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

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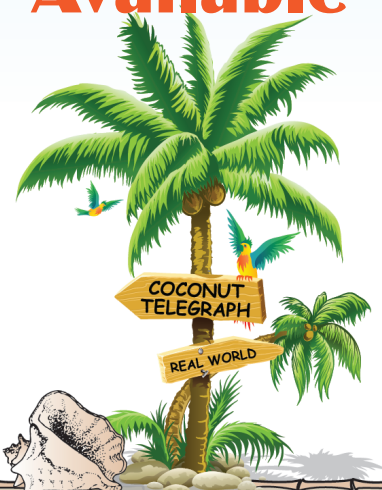
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Conch Characters



Laurie at the Mindful Mermaid.



Cindi at the Legion.



Jim Ninehauser celebrating his 80th birthday with son Jim and VFW Quartermaster Kristi Walter.



Panama Canal (the Pedro Miguel Locks) snapped by Laura Dreaver as she passed through on Dec. 15.



Tisa Del Valle, Gene & Sharon Graham and friends at the VFW.



Alison and Jamie from South Carolina enjoy breakfast before going jetskiing and swimming at Gilbert's Resort. Photo by Ron LeBrun.



Bartender Kim at Bayside Grille has plenty of holiday cheer.



Jimmy Rae party at the Pilot House.



Elvez at the Big Chill.



Happy birthday Ted Dreaver!



Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony at Murray Nelson Park - VFW Post 10211 ceremony. Also participating: VFW Post 10212, American Legion Post 346, Amvets, American Legion Post 145 and many more.

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The Gift of a Positive Image
It is important that we all find people that believe in us
just as we believe in others.

There are times in our lives when we may find ourselves facing challenges that can seem overwhelming. The situation or task we are struggling with seems hopeless, and it is easy to stop believing in ourselves, our goals, and our dreams. It is during these moments that it can be reassuring and reaffirming to turn to the people in our lives who do believe in us, especially when we are finding it hard to believe in ourselves. An encouraging word, a reassuring look, or hearing the words "I believe in you" from someone who matters can help us turn our situations around in an instant.

Everybody has someone who believes in them, whether this person is a teacher, parent, friend, loved one, or an employer. Often their belief can wrap us in warmth, bolster us, and offer us a supportive hand to grab onto until we can regain our own support. Having that special person who believes in our abilities and our worth is a wonderful gift. But when we are feeling unworthy, it may be difficult to take in something so precious. We may even feel like we need to do it

all on our own and that we shouldn't be asking for help. However, in letting their belief and support impact you, you are acknowledging the part of yourself that knows you are worthy of trust and esteem. By allowing them to believe in you, your own belief in yourself and your abilities will start to emerge again. Borrow their vision, and you can make it your own.

If your special someone is not there to spur you on, you also can lift yourself up with the gift of a positive image. When you feel uncertain, you can create a vision of the future you desire that will serve as a beacon of light. To do so, simply imagine a future that is exactly as you'd like it to be. Imagine in detail how you feel, what you are doing, and how others are responding to you. Make your vision as real as possible, and allow your doubts to recede so you can focus solely on the goal you seek. The more intently you focus on the image of what you want, your belief in yourself will step to the forefront, making it easier for the universe to open up a path and guide you.



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Take the Shuttle!
For those arriving to the Gilbert's party fashionably late, you can park on the main access road and take the FREE air-conditioned shuttle to and from Gilbert's on Saturdays and Sundays from noon-8pm.

TOYS for TOTS in the Upper Keys
Our little community had a great outpouring of generosity for underprivileged kids in December. Look at all these toys!



Photo by Charles Fountain

Islamorada collection point, above and below, for Toys for Tots... and this was before the big Poker Run and day-long benefit!



Photo by Charles Fountain




Photo by Rob LeBrun

The Toys for Tots Poker Run stopped at Gilbert's Resort and collected FIVE carloads of unwrapped toys! Many thanks to the 300+ bikers, volunteers, and Marines that helped the success of this worthy event.



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