

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

MARGARITAVILLE, MARCH 1987

VOLUME 3, NO. 3

MIKE UTLEY, MAD MUSIC MAN *From a Recent Interview*

1986 was a year of firsts for Coral Reefer Keyboardist Michael Utley. His first son, Mickey, was born and his first album, "Mad Music," was released. The album on which Mike collaborated with fellow Reefer and steel-drum virtuoso Robert Greenidge is a unique blend of Caribbean calypso and jazz-rock fusion. Mike is still surprised and very pleased at the success of the album.

"It has been received real well," Mike said in a recent telephone interview. "In fact, I heard it on 'Days of Our Lives!' Back in November, they played one tune every day. And I've heard it at the Braves baseball games."

The album has been so successful that Robert and Michael are currently working on a second collaboration, this one with a tentative release date early next summer. The new album will feature steel drums and keyboards again; however, fans can expect to hear some new musical twists. "It's a lot more unusual than the last one," Mike explains. "This is a lot more . . . pop-classical influenced. It's a little more spacy. I mean, there's one tune that's completely off the wall that Robert wrote," he chuckles. "I don't



know where it comes from—from space. We're real excited about it. We hope people like it." Michael grew up in the small town of Blytheville, Arkansas, and was in pre-med when he was bitten by the music bug. A high school teacher suggested he audition for the Bill Black Combo, a well-known instrumental group. After playing with the group during his summer breaks from school for several years, Mike was asked to make an album with them. "During Spring Break we did the album and that sold me. I said, 'I gotta try this.' Even if I had to play joints all my life . . . I mean, there is the love for playing music no matter where you do it, if you can just do it . . . that's what made me happy."

After working with the Bill Black Combo for six months in Memphis, he was hired by Atlantic Records — along with Sammy Creason — to be part of their studio band in Miami. This band eventually became the legendary Dixie Flyers, who worked as Rita Coolidge's back-up band. Mike met his wife, a lighting designer and artist who once worked for Rita Coolidge, on the road. "She's the best

thing that ever happened to me," he states simply.

Jimmy Buffett heard The Dixie Flyers on Jerry Jeff Walker's "Being Free" album and asked Sammy and Mike to play on his

first ABC Dunhill album, "A White Sport Coat and a Pink Crustacean." This was only the beginning of Mike's long working relationship with Jimmy. For the next several years, although performing and writing songs with Rita Coolidge and Kris Kristofferson, Mike played with Jimmy whenever possible. In 1982 he became a full-time Coral Reefer.

As well as playing keyboards for Jimmy, Mike is involved in a great deal of songwriting and production work with him. In fact, he is hoping to get more involved in production. Last year he produced a Roy Orbison album in addition to "Mad Music" and "Floridays."

No matter how involved in production work he might get, Mike says, "Really we're all just musicians. No matter how far away from it, it's fun to get out there in front of the people. When they react to your playing, it's a great feeling. It's real exciting. I don't think I'll ever retire completely. In fact, Mike Utley would be happy if his son chose to follow in his footsteps. "I have no qualms about him being a musician. It's given me happiness; it's been very fulfilling for me"

BUSKERS INVADE MARGARITAVILLE!

Visitors to The Margaritaville Store had an unexpected treat last January when buskers Jackie and Rick Davis performed in front of the Store one afternoon. Jackie, a mime, and her husband Rick, a former Ringling Brothers clown, were in town to participate in The First International Buskerfest. The European term "Busker", meaning street performer, originally referred to the floppy hats the performers passed. The First Annual Buskerfest, organized by

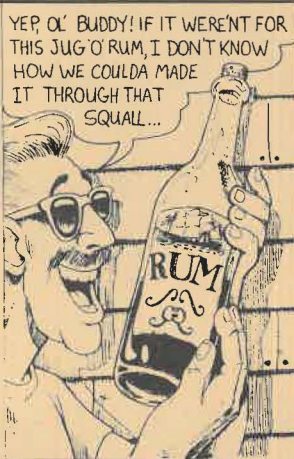
Key West local and wire walker, Will Soto, attracted 55 performers from several different countries. Avner (the Eccentric), a clown, mime, and comedian who portrayed the "Jewel" in

The Jewel of the Nile, was the main attraction for the five day festival.

The Buskerfest is scheduled for twenty more cities this year and will of course return to Key West next January. Until then, this entertaining art form can be enjoyed on a smaller scale every night at Key West's famous Mallory Square Sunset Celebration.



Wasted Away



Eddy Houchins



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**JIMMY BUFFETT
T-SHIRTS:**

Crew-neck tees are 100% cotton and come in island pastels like conch shell pink, mango peach, cool white, driftwood grey, ocean aqua, sand, and sunrise yellow. S, M, L, and XL. \$12.95 apiece. Designs available: Get Drunk, Changes in Latitude, Son of a Son of a Sailor, Margaritaville, One Particular Harbour, Fins, Coconut Telegraph, Cheeseburger in Paradise, Mingo Lingo, Parrot Head, Margaritaville Store, Conch Potato, Caribbean Chameleon, Palm Island Parrot, and Volcano.

**THE PARROT HEAD
BASEBALL HAT:**

One size fits all. Choose from white, grey, khaki, or dark blue. \$15.00.

**THE CT TOTE BAG:**

The perfect tote for those weekend getaways! The "Telegraph" logo's on this water resistant sailcloth bag. Handmade in Key West. \$40.00.

**CARIBBEAN SOUL
BUTTON TEES:**

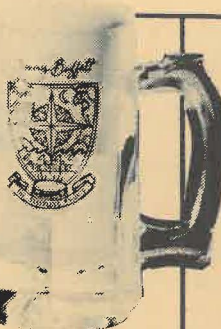
Short-sleeved two-button t-shirts — 100% cotton. Colors are island pastels. S, M, L, XL. \$18.00.

Designs available: Cheeseburger in Paradise, Get Drunk, and Mingo Lingo.

NEW**"SLEEPLESS
KNIGHTS"
BEER STEIN:**

Toast to many "Sleepless Knights." Glass stein is dishwasher safe. \$10.00 each or \$30.00 for set of four.

**SPECIAL —
THE
MARGARITAVILLE
WINDSOCK:**
Fly this bright Buffett banner and show your devotion to the Margaritaville lifestyle! Limited supply only. \$25.00.

**PUNK SHARK TEE:**

The official uniform of those sharks that live on the land! 100% cotton crew-neck tee designed by wildlife artist Wyland. Lemon, white, green, or silver. S, M, L, XL. \$13.75.

**THE MARGARITAVILLE
CARRY-ALL:**

Great alternative to a knapsack — handpainted in sunset colors, featuring Jimmy's signature and the Margaritaville Store logo. \$25.00.

**NEW!****MARGARITAVILLE
MUG-A-PHONE:**

A fun and functional thermal mug that easily converts to a megaphone. Colorful "Sleepless Knights" insignia and Margaritaville Store logo on durable white plastic. Great for concerts, games, and beach gatherings. (Great for concealing liquids too, but we didn't tell you!) \$15.00 each.

"MAD MUSIC":

An island blend of steel drums and keyboards from Coral Reefers Robert Greenidge and Mike Utley. Cassette tape is \$9.98.

"LIVE BY THE BAY":

Jimmy and the Coral Reefers recorded live in Miami. 90 minutes of Buffett at his best. VHS or BETA. \$32.95.

JB POSTCARD PACK:

Send a smiling Jimmy or the Perfect Margarita recipe. 6 assorted oversize cards for \$5.00.

COCONUT CASH:

Margaritaville's \$10.00 gift certificate. Accepted at The Margaritaville Store in Key West or through "The Coconut Telegraph" mail order.

"PARTY"

Time to head south! Sleepless Knights takes their Spring Break seriously! Jimmy's "Order of the Sleepless Knights" Here's some new "must haves" as to your Parrot Head Paraphernalia.

Thanks in part to Compact Discs, MCA record Jimmy's earlier work new Compact Discs, each one earlier albums. They are:

- ☐ Son of a Son of a Sailor
- ☐ Changes In Latitude
- ☐ A1A / Volcano

Also available individually

- ☐ Floridays
- ☐ Songs You Know By
- ☐ Last Mango In Paris

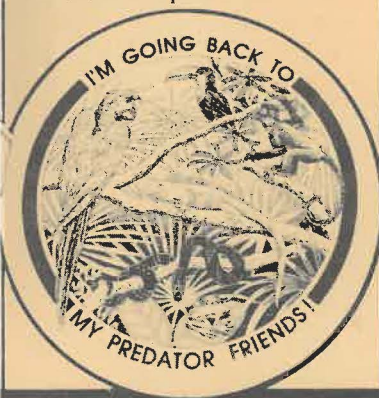
MCA will soon be recording the new ones onto CD if there is a good response. We offer all of the above listed items at The Coconut Telegraph. Prices are \$49.95.

**CARIBBEAN SOUL
CAMP SHIRTS:**

100% cotton button-down shirts with handy front pockets. White, coral, mint green, yellow. S, M, L, XL. \$30.00 each.

Designs available: Caribbean Chameleon, Palm Island Parrot, Cheeseburger in Paradise, Mingo Lingo, Coconut Telegraph, and Get Drunk.





This original Wyland towel is absorbant cotton velour. 34" by 64". \$27.00.

Another vivid Wyland wildlife design in cotton velour. 34" by 64". \$27.00.

The coolest dolphin ever to ride the waves, created by Wyland. White or pink. S, M, L, XL. 100% cotton. \$13.75.

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"THE
KEY WEST PICTURE
SHOW"

Satire of Fifties travelogs
featuring Key West locals
and locales. VHS only
\$32.95.

MAIL ORDERS:

Send check or money order to
T-SHIRTS, "The Coconut
Telegraph," P.O. Box 1459,
Key West, Florida 33041.

PHONE ORDERS:

Call 1-800-COCOTEL.
(Florida residents call
1-305-296-8981.)

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Call 1-305-296-8981.

Orders will be taken between
9 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST
Monday through Friday.

**SHIPPING AND
HANDLING CHARGES:**

3 items or less \$3.00
4 to 6 items \$5.00
7 or more items \$7.50

We ship via UPS. Florida residents, please include sales tax. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

"The Coconut Telegraph" is proud to stand behind every product we offer. If for some reason you are not satisfied with an item, please return it within 30 days for a refund or exchange.

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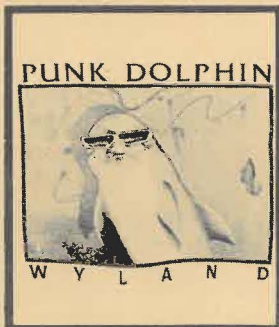
A direct line to Margaritaville and inside info on Jimmy and the Coral Reefers. Includes mail order catalogue.
12 issues for \$3.00.



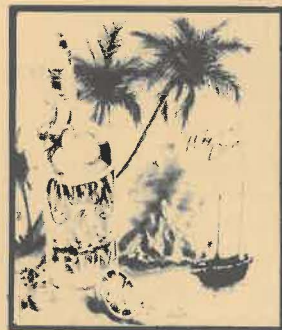
Chameleon



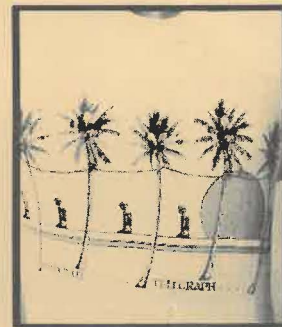
Changes In Latitude - back



Punk Dolphin



Get Drunk And . . .



Coconut Telegraph



Official Parrot Head

QTY	ITEM	SIZE	COLOR (3)	PRICE
			SUB TOTAL	
We Accept VISA.			TAX	
MasterCard & American Express			SHIPPING	
			TOTAL	
NAME				
ADDRESS				
CITY				
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CREDIT CARD NO.			EXP	
CHECK NO.		SIGNATURE		

SALT PONDS UPDATE

Dear Friends, I never thought that I'd write a check for Swamp land in Florida, but; Here it is . . . My friend George Goggans told me that Jimmy needs help in savin' the Salt Ponds. This rates #1 priority on this Parrot Head's list. Tell Jimmy to contact me if he needs me to chain myself to a canoe or something.

Sincerely,

Grady Black, Parrot Head

Thanks to Grady Black and a lot of Parrot Heads like him, Jimmy Buffett's plan to save Key West's last wilderness area is off to a great start. The Salt Ponds, home and breeding grounds for many fish and wading birds, were recently threatened by development. Jimmy has pledged to raise a million dollars toward the purchase and preservation of the property through the Friends of Florida.

". . . LEARNING NATIVE CUSTOMS WHILE DOWN UNDER

Anyone donating \$10.00 or more to the Friends of Florida Fund will receive a Margaritaville certificate of citizenship. Notable new citizens include; a baby whose parents want to make sure Key West's Salt Ponds will be around when their son grows up, and a serviceman who's donating part of his paycheck every month for a year.

If you'd like to help Jimmy preserve a bit of Key West in it's natural state, send your donation to:

SALT PONDS,
c/o Friends of Florida
P.O. Box 1938,
Key West, Florida
33041.



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The MARGARITAVILLE STORE
P.O. BOX 1459, KEY WEST, FL 33041

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LIVE IN CONCERT

JIMMY
BUFFETT
AND THE
KING KONG TRIO-
MICHAEL UTLEY, SAM CLAYTON
ROBERT GREENRIDGE

DATE	LOCATION
APRIL 2	East Kentucky Univ. Richmond, KY.
APRIL 3	Smith Center Chapel Hill, N C
APRIL 4	Patriot Center Fairfax, VA
APRIL 5	James Madison Univ Harrisonburg VA

MELISSA THOMPSON
228 JOHN ST.
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060