

MARGARITAVILLE MARCH-APRIL 1994

# NOW ON SALE! FRUITCAKES

TELEGRAPH

VOLUME 10,NO.2

Tom Claytor's Expedition Continues

1994 Summer Tour Dates

Parrot Head Club Update

Jimmy Buffett's first studio album to be released in 5 years, Fruitcakes, is expected to be in stores May '94.



# ndless Summer

By M. Howell The Boston Phoenix

Trying to place Buffett in the music scene is both impossible and pointless; he don't play by those rules.

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Jimmy Buffett and the cult of the comfortable.

For orget Club Med and Carnival Cruises. The ultimate summer getaway [came to Great Woods] in it's purest, most potent form: Jimmy Buffett.

Jimmy Buffett, you say. Wasn't he the geezer with the songs about margaritas that was kinda catchy until it got overplayed on the radio? [Editor note: Where is Jimmy Buffett played, much less overplayed?] Who would go to see him? Well, roughly 45,000 people over three sold-out nights signed on to Captain Jimmy's party boat, and Id be willing to wager that Buffett could have docked at [Great Woods] for another few days before folks got seasick.

One of the great enduring myths of rock and roll is the notion of "community" - the idea that people who are fans of this performer or that band have something deep in common because they like the same songs. How this Woodstock Nation fallacy survived Altamont - never mind how it continues to loiter in the minds of musicians, rock writers, and other social deviants - is a mystery, because it's so patently untrue, demonstrably untrue. Except in two cases: The Grateful Dead and Jimmy Buffett.

Both Dead Heads and Parrot Heads are ordinary folks who just like to get crazy once in a while - to take part in something that doesn't have any rules or make any judgements but simply asks that you share good spirits (in more ways than one). As Buffett writes in "The Parrot Head Handbook, I'm sure they all have day jobs, and do them willingly, but when Jimmy Buffett and The Coral Reefer Band come to town, these folks are there. They transform into Parrot Heads and become an essential part of the show."

A quick glance around reveals that Parrot

Heads come in all ages and sizes. There are portly graybeards with their arms raised swaying to "Volcano," junior-high kids wearing balloon-art headgear bopping along with "Grapefruit -Juicyfruit," entire families - including Grandma - proudly wearing baseball caps with their concert stubs stapled to them. "There is no Parrot Head outfit," writes Buffett. "I don't want them to have uniforms because I don't want my show to feel like Catholic school."

Well, he has certainly succeeded. Buffett's show resembles nothing so much as a PG-rated, intergenerational Spring Break, with Jimmy more MC than musician. In the Pavilion seats, the older fans party hearty, greeting each familiar song and old joke with a boisterous cheer and an upraised

> beer. But the real action is up on the lawn, which appears to be the turf of the college set. There, Buffett is less of a focus. Oh, sure, the new c o l o r videoscreens bring his

> > 1111

face into the darkness, but this crowd are entertaining themselves; he's just helping things along. The lawn is packed with people line dancing,

Photo: David DeNoma



square dancing, and free-form dancing. The Coral Reefer Band splash both the slow songs and the mid-tempo ones with heady dollops of Caribbean tang, so even if you don't know the words (and everyone here definitely does), the most ungainly person can easily get into the swing.

That's the charm and the limitations of Jimmy Buffett's music. It goes down so easy - no sudden tempo changes, no sudden confrontation of angry emotions - that after a while you feel you've been lolling around on a sailboat too long. As the 72-songs Boats, Beaches, Bars & Ballads amply demonstrates, Jimmy Buffett is a happygo-lucky guy who basically thinks that life is good, and that people who are uptight should just relax. He probably has a strong, wistful, romantic streak, but that doesn't pop up much. Mostly, Buffett is devoted to having a good time all the time.

Which is nothing to sneeze at. There's a reason the Beach Boys still provide much of the soundtrack to America's summer - and why that soundtrack is "Help Me Rhonda," not "In My Room." As Buffett puts it, "In today's world of fax machines, cellular phones, and 'call waiting,' we need to spend a little time with the fun part of ourselves, and that is what a Jimmy Buffett concert is all about." Swaying, swilling, and singalongs pretty much define an ideal summer. That's what Buffett brings to town.

Trying to place Buffett in the music scene is both impossible and pointless; he don't play by those rules. "They don't play my music on the radio anymore, and the way I look at it, that's something to wear around as a badge of honor these days." This son of a son of a sailor isn't descended from Elvis, the Beatles, or the Stones. Rather, he's the spiritual heir to another Jimmy -Jimmy Dodd, the avuncular, guitar-strumming host of The Mickey Mouse Club. As with that Jimmy, what Buffett plays is nowhere near as important as how comfortable he makes you feel. And everyone's invited to sing along.

# Geal

ivic minded Parrot Heads in cities across the country have voluntarily gathered under the Buffett banner to promote peace, justice and the American way.

The Atlanta club paved the way volunteering for events sponsored by The Red Cross, UNICEF, Children's Wish Foundation...the list goes on and on. Inspired by these "random acts of kindness" other clubs were formed to assist in local community and environmental concerns.

In St. Louis, Parrot Heads, joined by several local businesses, raised funds to help victims of the Mother of A11 Floods. The Mississippi's length and lack of geographical prejudice also prompted the Des Moines, IA. group to give a hand to flood victims. The Dallas members maintain close ties with Ronald McDonald House. The Big Apple has a few less bruises thanks to the efforts of Heads determined to maintain their mile of highway.

Other clubs from Texas to Wisconsin adopt highways, clean lakes and rivers, and in general make their communities a better place to live.

It's important to note that these people do this of their own volition, with no prompting from Jimmy Buffett or Margaritaville. They should serve as an inspiration to others; Parrot Heads or not. Allow me this one high-minded digression: **One of the deep secrets of life is that all that is** really worth doing is what we do for others. Lewis Carroll.

For club listings and info, please send a selfaddressed stamped envelope to Scott Nickerson, 4255 Nora Ln, Duluth, GA 30136.

Parrot

Head

Clubs



The Third Annual Meeting of the Minds will be held this fall in New Orleans, Thursday, November 3rd through Saturday, November 5th. Voodoo tours, zoo trips, dinner/jazz cruises are all options supplementing the actual meeting. The Doubletree Hotel on Canal Street

is the site of this year's mind meld. The number of rooms is limited, and with the increased interest in this annual event you are advised to reserve your room soon. For more information please call Pamela Garges at 214-23-DALLAS (214-233-2552). "I've lost 40 pounds walking with Jimmy Buffett tapes in my walkman." Judi Baker, Snellville, GA.

You can hear it on the Coconut Telegraph, By now everybody knows. You can hear it on the Coconut Telegraph, Just who comes and goes.

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# A compendium of information and insights designed to test your senses and amaze your friends.

uffett

S ara Venis from Miami sent us the results of a recent poll conducted by Scuba Diving magazine to determine divers favorite places and things. The Florida Keys and Key West dominate the categories too numerous to mention here. Of note, however, is the spot chosen for best cheeseburgers - Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Cafe in Key West.

**Dr. J. Blaine John** has, for the past few years, been a medical missionary in the bush of Zambia, Africa. "I want you to know your tunes have gotten me through many tough times over there, and I leave behind a few thousand new Buffett fans. The Silozi tribe of Mwandi loves your music!" Thanks for the postcard Doc. As you can see in the photo Jimmy, shown with several of his African Friends, has also made a personal appearance in the dark continent.

The Gambier Experimental College in Gambier, OH offers a course that we feel should be a prerequisite on all college campuses. **Margaritaville 11-12: How to be a Parrot Head**. "This workshop will disseminate knowledge of Jimmy Buffett and his music, and talk about the state of mind of being a Parrot Head in The Kenyon community."



Norm Moudry, Principal Parrot Head, from the Pacific Northwest sent an article concerning the Bellevue [WA] Downtown Association. "We have a reputation for being boring, and we're actually not," protested Caroline Robertson, president of the BDA. To celebrate it's 20th anniversary the Bellevue Bidness Bunch had a Jimmy Buffett-style buffet with Caribbean food, rum drinks, calypso music and casual, tropical clothing. We submit that the BDA be admitted to the Order of the Sleepless Knights.

Another president has also exhibited a penchant for Jimmy Buffett. **Kathy Lewis** of the **Dallas Morning News** writes, "What John Kennedy did for sailing...Bill Clinton may just do for reading. Every author in America would like to show up on the president's latest book list." A recent presidential purchase included "Time and the Art of Living" by Robert Grudin, "Culture of Disbelief" by Stephen Carter, and **"Where is Joe Merchant?"** by Jimmy Buffett.

Speaking of Joe Merchant...they know where he is - in jail! According to a recent **Stars & Stripes** he's an Airman (!) busted in Aviano, Italy for possession - 10 hits of LSD. Gives new meaning to Air Margaritaville. Funny, I assumed Joe was a roll-your-own kinda guy.

From the Miami Herald. Jimmy Buffett returned from a sailing/songwriting trip to the Bahamas early last week and delivered this message about speculation he might take on Republican Connie Mack for the U.S. Senate: "This is all very amusing and flattering. But no way in hell."

The Key West troubadour said that despite his concerns over the environment, the future of Florida and the success of such Democratic friends as Lawton Chiles, Bob Graham and Bill Clinton, he would be ill-suited to politics.

"I really like this job," he said. "Plus, I would fail the drug test miserably, and every other moral test that they would throw at me. At least in rock and roll we are honest about who we are."

# **Key West Conchs**

ecent events in Key West have prompted Margaritaville to offer Key West High School T-shirts for sale across the country. Community-conscious Principal Bobby Menendez announced grand plans for the high school field and facilities; track, softball field, exercise course, racquetball courts and swimming pool. The opportunity for the public to access these facilities did not exist until recently. Principal Menendez has stated that lights and security will be added in the near future allowing Key Westers' the good fortune to take advantage of the excellent facilities. Jimmy was gracious enough to wear a high school shirt for the local press, demonstrating support on both a personal and professional level. Margaritaville has agreed to offer Key West High shirts and cap for sale, donating \$2.00 from each item to the high schools' athletic program. This money is for the high school to use in conjunction with their athletic programs only, and is not related to the above mentioned public access project.

100% cotton crew neck T-shirts. Available in White or Grey only. Size S,M,L& XL. Please indicate Baseball or Phys. Ed. design. **\$14.95** Adjustable Ball Cap. **\$15.00** 

Key West

BASEBALL

# Round the Rock Race

The 20th Annual Around the Island Race is scheduled to be held in April 1994. The sailboat race, featuring the sleek and easily maneuverable Sunfish, has been sponsored by the **Key West Sailing Club** since 1974.

The race begins in the shallow waters at the end of White Street Pier adjacent to Higgs Beach, and follows the shoreline of Key West for a distance of approximately 15 miles. What makes this race unique is that a competing sailor may choose to sail in either direction, depending on wind speed, wind direction, tidal current, possible obstructions and water depth. In other words the sailor must decide whether to begin by sailing east; through the Caribbean along the public beach, around the top of the island into the somewhat calmer Gulf of Mexico, through the choppy waters of picturesque Key West Harbour, or setting off west; rounding the point off historic Fort Zachary early in the race. Either way, the sailor must deal with the Cow Key Channel Bridge. Key West's first two-lane link to the mainland is the major hurdle in the round the island race. Since this bridge is too low to sail under, the sailor must devise other means. Taking the mast down, dragging the boat while you swim through, or tugging the boat while you scramble along the slippery, rocky bank are all time tested methods of surpassing the Cow Key.

The winner is the first sailor to circle Key West, in either direction, and return to White Street Pier. Additional prizes are awarded, of course, for 2nd

and 3rd place, and, in keeping with the spirit of the race, other prizes are presented for the youngest, oldest and last place seaman. The halffast trophy is presented to the sailor who finishes in the middle of the fleet.

All entrants receive a commemorative T-shirt donated by **Margaritaville** and will be guests for dinner

at the Key West Sailing Club. The Round the Island Race is open to anyone with a Sunfish and the will to compete.



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## **NEW PARROT CAP**

#### FOR THE SERIOUS PARROT HEAD

Margaritaville's new ballcap is a colorful addition to your Parrot Head supplies. Handmade in El Salvador by Handmade Creations. Features solid, soft, stuffed parrot head, bright wings and foot-long tail. Handcrafted product made with high quality materials, non-toxic color fast paints and 100% shredded cotton and/or polyester fibers **\$19.95**. Actual cap will include Parrot Head silk-screened across front panel.

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## The Key West Reader

Over the past century, the island of Key West has become home or haven to many of the country's most esteemed authors including Nobel Prize winner Ernest Hemingway and Pulitzer Prize winners Elizabeth Bishop, Philip Caputo, John Hersey, Alison Lurie, James Merrill, Wallace Stevens, Richard Wilbur, and Tennessee Williams. Here, for the first time, is the literary heritage of the Island City: Key West as seen through the eyes of twenty-five of our most renowned and esteemed writers. "We have here a significant achievement..a moving tribute to the power of language and to a rare place in the geography of the American Consciousness - a very special confluence of geography, climate, and culture coalesced into language working at the highest levels."

- Les Standiford, Florida International University Paperback book is \$12.95

#### **Key West Writers & Their Houses**

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## New Margaritaville Long Sleeve T-Shirt Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Sportsman - Key West

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In twenty year

oat was revived afte to encounter and so we to the ocean."

Back design

Left front chest design.

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Expedition

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mention

# **Bush Pilot Wins Rolex Award For Enterprise**

Relation of the end of the study of the stud

flying around the world in his own bush plane and interviewing bush pilots in their remote outposts on seven continents. His journey began in December 1990 when he flew from Philadelphia, PA. to Greenland. During the past two years, his airborne trek has taken him to Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Europe and Africa.

Rolex said the award

recognizes Claytor's outstanding ingenuity and commitment to studying the unique contributions of bush pilots, and that his work embodies the true spirit of enterprise Rolex seeks to honor and encourage with this program.

"I am very pleased to have been named an Honorable Mention recipient of a Rolex Award for Enterprise," Claytor said. "The award draws world attention to the unique role bush pilots play in maintaining fragile and endangered ecosystems. The award also symbolizes Rolex' visionary support for their vital effort on nature's outposts."

nature's outposts." According to Claytor, the steady encroachment of industrialization and urbanization in the Third World has produced significant damage to the natural environment. Increasingly, bush pilots and their aircraft have served as guardians of endangered wildlife and indigenous peoples. To evaluate the effectiveness of these airborne conservationists, Claytor is

"All our film crew members will have in their possession valid passports, round-trip airline tickets, and adequate funds to support themselves while in production. They are known by us to be of exemplary character, may be trusted to respect all laws and regulations. and will not concern themselves with any political, religious or controversial matters." From a National Geographic Society letter carried by the film crew documenting Tom Claytor's on-

going flight

the

around

world.

Tom Claytor and Brown Hyena, Cape Cross, Namibia

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The Explorers Club in New York has given Tom Claytor's expedition its highest level of sponsorship. Taxdeductible contributions to the project are essential. They can be made to:

The Explorers Club (reference: Bush Pilot Expedition) 46 East 70th Street New York, NY 10021, USA

#### Dear Jimmy,

I really would like to thank you. Your kindness in mentioning my trip in your **Coconut Telegraph** has helped me very much. Not only have some people assisted with donations, I even got a few Christmas cards. I have been away from home for over 3 years now, and little things like that help a lot.

I now have some good news for your readers. National Geographic has finished making a film on my trip. It is their premier film for the season and will air on TBS "Explorer" cable television on August 21st, 1994.

It will be nice to share this world with others especially those who have helped to make this journey possible. Thank you - all of you.

Sincerely, Tom

Tom Claytor (far left) with "N!HAI !UH" (Bushmen Trackers) Leopard Research Project. Tsumkwe, Namibia. (Aerial tracking for their project.)



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ruitcakes in Miami

"I have threatened to retire a number of times, but like the line from the end of the Wizard of Oz, 'Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain." Jimmy Buffett, August 1990

"I plan to tour this summer, take 1992 off and go sailing, flying, fishing, write a book, etc. So this will be my last tour for a while." Jimmy Buffett, April 1991

"A lot of people don't believe it, but this will be the last summer for a while. It has been a busy 25 years and I must confess I could use some rest." Jimmy Buffett, April 1992

*"Blah, blah blah, Chameleon Caravan, blah blah, blah blah.* Jimmy Buffett, Anytime 1993

\*5-DIGIT

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THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH

KEY WEST, FL 33041

Jimmy Buffett & The Coral Reefer Band's 1994 summer tour, Fruitcakes On Tour hits the road. Dates and locations listed as of press time March 1, 1994. Thanks to HK Management for arranging this year's quick release.

April 10 Knoxville, TN April 12 Ft Lauderdale, FL April 13 Ft Lauderdale, FL April 15 Tallahassee, FL April 16 Orlando, FL Thompson Boling Arena Sunrise Musical Theatre Sunrise Musical Theatre Leon County Civic Center Arena

June 1 Wantaugh, NY June 3-5 Raleigh, NC June 7,8 Atlanta, GA June 10,11 Pittsburgh, PA June 12 Indianapolis, IN June 14-16 Cincinnati, OH June 18,19 Chicago, IL Jones Beach Walnut Creek Lakewood Amphitheatre Starlake Amphitheatre Deer Creek Amphitheatre Riverbend Amphitheatre Poplar Creek Music Theatre

July 15 Nashville, TN			
July 16 Columbus, OH			
July 18 TBA			
July 19,20 Clarkston, MI			
July 22 Charlotte, NC			
July 23,24 Columbia, MD			
July 26 Columbia, MD			
July 28-30 Mansfield, MA			
August 1 Montauk, NY			

Buckeye lake TBA Pine Knob Music Theatre Blockbuster Merriweather Post Pavillion Merriweather Post Pavillion Great Woods Amphitheatre Deep Hollow Ranch (Benefit)

Starwood