

## Coconut Telegraph

March 2008  
Volume 17 Issue #17

Prestige Publishing, Inc  
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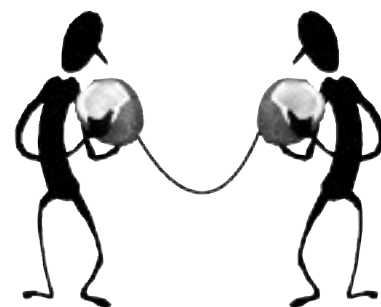
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## Deadline

for the  
Coconut Telegraph's  
April issue is  
Friday  
February 21, 2008



Call Denise at  
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## Editorial:

# Tipping is NOT a City in China

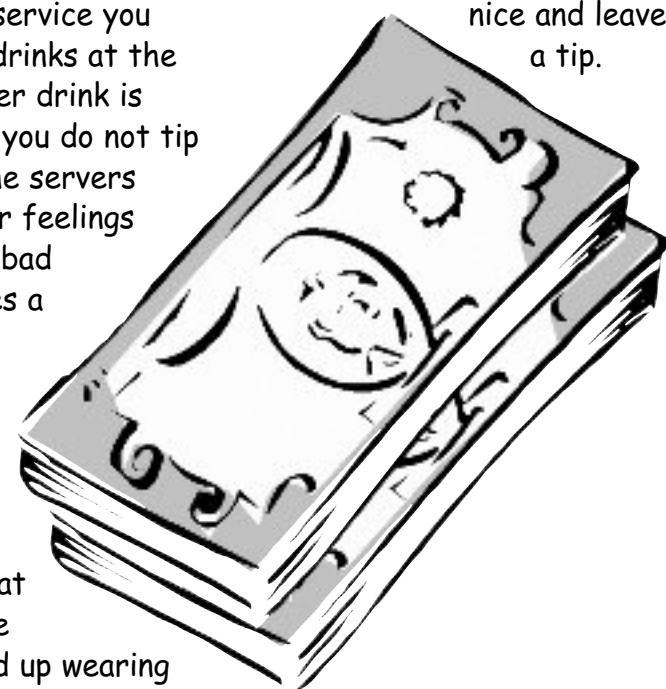
The season is upon us and our international friends are flocking to the Florida Keys to capture some sunshine, great food and our laid back atmosphere. We that live here know that our food service people are paid very little. Minimum wage is \$5.15 per hour but a waitress gets paid less than \$3.00 per hour because they are expected to make tips, or gratuity, and they are taxed on their sales. In other parts of the world these employees are paid a much higher wage and they do not rely on the gratuities, but here

in the good old U.S. of A., they do. That is why it is especially important here in the Florida Keys where it is becoming more and more difficult to afford to live here. Condos are sprouting up all over and there is an affordable housing shortage. When the middle-income people are forced to move out of the Keys we will be left with a workforce of millionaires. Just imagine the cost of a beer and chicken wings then!

A gratuity should be 15 to 20% of your check. A simple way to calculate it is to take your taxed (7.5%) amount and

double it, add more according to the quality of service you received. Having drinks at the bar? One dollar per drink is customary. When you do not tip it literally cost the servers money, hurts their feelings or puts them in a bad mood. This creates a chain reaction. If you leave your server a quarter you could get it thrown at you, or the next person occupying your seat could get a hostile server. Don't wind up wearing

your lunch or dinner. Just be nice and leave a tip.



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# Entertainer of the Month Luke Sommer Glenn



Story and photos by Rachel R. Peine

It's a mellow Saturday afternoon at Gilbert's, and there's a crowd around the tiki bar. People are filling the tables in front of the stage to hear Luke singing some of their favorites. When he took a break, we had a chance to chat.

He told me he's been around the guitar all his life. "My dad was quite a picker - he played like Chet Atkins - ten fingers going all the time. My two older brothers also play. My brother Mark was playing professionally when he was 14. Me and my brothers never learned to read a lick of music, and my sister always gave us a hard time about it. She had perfect pitch, and was an excellent teacher. She could play a little trumpet, violin, sax, and piano. My mom said if I touched the guitar she'd break both my arms, because she wanted me to play piano. But you can't carry a piano to a party and have fun."

Luke grew up in Titusville, Florida. He was born in Huntington, West Virginia, but the family moved to Titusville when he was a year old. "My dad was a combat veteran - he

was in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, and he swore if he survived he was going to live somewhere warm." There was a community of ex-West Virginia folks in Titusville, so there was always a lot of music, and Luke's dad and brothers were part of it.

Luke did a little playing while he was in Titusville. "I was always around the music and always had the desire, but I really got into playing when I went to technical college in Tampa. I had a grip on chords when I was in tech school, but that was about it. When I left to go away to school, my first love broke up with me, so to handle the heartache, I sat in my room, drank whiskey and played guitar nonstop for two years. I'd sit there and listen to everything from Hank Williams to the Allman Brothers to Pink Floyd."

Luke describes himself as a "Southern guitar player", but he's much more than that. You can tell he's listened to a lot of different kinds of music, because he plays everything from "I Was Born to Be a

Continued on page 5

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