

Coconut Telegraph

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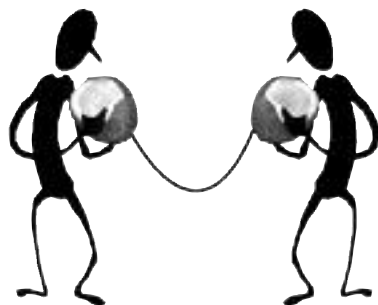
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Editorial: Ocean Reef Kicks Out Coconut Telegraph

The Ocean Reef Director of Communications, Bill Hackleton has insulted the intelligence of the ORC members by kicking out the Coconut Telegraph that had been distributed there at the Gardener's Market for the last year and a half! Mr. Hackleton's reasoning was that the advertising representative for the Ocean Reef Press had complained about us being there, yet when contacted by the Coconut Telegraph Representative Todd Milligan denied the accusation. Mr. Hackleton also complained that the Coconut Telegraph has been taking business away from the restaurants at Ocean Reef, and threatened to have our delivery person kicked out as well.

Does Mr. Hackleton think that the residents of the ORC are just a bunch of *zombies* that will not seek out fine dining establishments outside of Ocean Reef just because, thanks to him, the members there no longer have the luxury of picking up the Coconut Telegraph at the Gardener's Market? Does Mr. Hackleton think that the ORC members will not seek out the Coconut Telegraph online or pick one up at the many fine restaurants, grocery stores, etc. in the Upper Keys? The management at the Free Press did not return our call. The Coconut Telegraph would like to thank the Gardener's Market for their hospitality all these

months. The Gardener's Market has got to be the most beautiful of all the grocery stores in the Keys.

We think the ORC residents would benefit by hiring a new Communications Director. Till the Ocean Reef Press monopoly is straightened out the ORC residents can find the Coconut Telegraph newspaper at coconuttelegraphonline.com, pick them up at any of our advertisers locations, or just call us and we'll mail them to you.



Ocean Reef without the Coconut Telegraph.

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Entertainers of the Month Drein and Mike



Story and photos by Rachel R. Peine

Friday night brings a big crowd to Sharkey's to hear Drein and Mike, who have been building their fan base since the last millennium. With a repertoire that runs from classic rock to blues to jazz standards, and a voice often compared to Janis Joplin's, Drein has the place hoppin'.

Drein and Mike met 11 years ago, while they were each performing locally. If you believe in cosmic forces, Drein and Mike were destined to get together. Drein has a good friend who's a psychic. She had said, "I see you with this guy, and he's all in black. So Drein kept looking for this "guy in black". At the time, she was singing at Anthony's restaurant, which is now the American Legion.

"I got done singing, and went out with some friends. There was a place called Kenny's (where Upper Crust Pizza is now) that used to have music, and there was a guy playing guitar, and I sang a little with him. He asked me to come down and hear his band, which played at Hog Channel, (now the Island Grill).

"So I walked in, and there

was a 'guy in black' - black jeans, black t-shirt, and I thought, 'hmm, that's weird', and he was pretty cute, so it was almost instantaneous. As soon as my friend met him, she said, 'Yup; he's the one I've been seeing". Mike stayed with that band for a while, and Drein continued on her own until they started singing together, debuting at the 1999 Bay Jam.

Drein grew up in the midst of music. "My parents did musical theatre, and my dad sang in all the shows. His claim to fame is 'Man of La Mancha'. He had a beautiful operatic tenor, as good as Pavarotti. I always, always knew I wanted to sing. I remember making up songs all the time, like, 'Mommy la la, put me to bed', just anything - I have a jukebox in my head. Music is definitely my life."

Both Mike and Drein have been local since they were kids. Drein's family moved down here in 1978 and bought the

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