

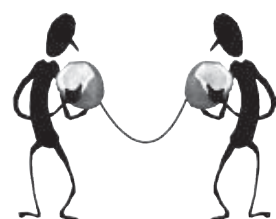
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"I don't think I get enough credit for the fact that I do all of this unmedicated."

Editorial: Snowbirds!

Because of hurricane Irma, 2017 was a rough year for us all. Dive shops and water-sports folks suffered, many people were too busy fixing up their homes to be able to go out and enjoy our fabulous shops, restaurants and bars, and only the snowbirds that owned property came last season. This season is different and they are all here. Every damn one of them!

We LOVE our snowbirds and greatly enjoy seeing our old friends every year. They help our local economy by keeping everyone busy. But sometimes it's a love/hate relationship for us locals who live here year 'round.

For instance, during the season we have to park in outer Mongolia at the grocery store. The snowbirds buy out

all the prune juice and other goodies too. They bring with them the dreaded flu and common cold and then they share it with everyone. They turn us into alcoholics! Try explaining to your parents (who may also be snowbirds) that you have to start drinking early in the day because you are no longer able to get a seat at the tiki bar at happy hour because they are all taken by... you guessed it, snowbirds!

They cause us to drive offensively and we curse them as they pull out in front of us on US 1. But let's face it, they make the Keys a better place for all of us because their northern dollars help fund our paradise and keep it going for all to enjoy. So, thanks!

The Conch Republic
COCONUT TELEGRAPH
Independently Owned Local Newspaper

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A CHRISTMAS TRADITION

A little story to start your season in the right spirit.

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the pre-Christmas pressure.

Then, Mrs. Claus told Santa her mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa more.

He went to harness the reindeer and found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where.

When he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a glass of cider and a shot of rum. He went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the rum.

In his frustration, he dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of glass pieces all over the kitchen floor.

He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of it.

Just then the doorbell rang, and an irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?"

And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

Not a lot of people know this!



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