

# THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE



Vol. 17 #37

September 20, 2007

FREE



## Hurricane Birds

*When we run for cover, what do our feathered friends do in the face of imminent danger? Read about the amazing adaptations birds have to survive Mother Nature's wrath.*

**Plus, the Toucan Trails lead you to the Cayes!**



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# Greetings to my visiting friends

On behalf of the people of San Pedro Town, I extend a warm welcome to all visitors arriving to our shores. I assure you that your trip to "La Isla Bonita" will be no ordinary vacation. Our island is famous for its rich cultural diversity, where Mestizos, Creole and Garinagu blend to form a unique encounter. While here, I encourage you to explore the Caribbean Sea and find Belize's abundant treasures. Hol



Chan Marine Reserve and Shark-Ray Alley are just two of the many spots where you can enjoy our coral reef formation and abundant and breathtaking sea life. San Pedro is also home to world-class fishing and scuba diving.

For the more adventurous, "La Isla Bonita" offers a wide array of water sports and for those looking to get a glimpse of the mystical world of the Maya, these historical ruins are just a short expedition away. You will also be able to discover Belize's vast cave systems

and many natural sanctuaries that are home to our country's unique flora and fauna.

Whether you are spending your honeymoon at an exclusive resort or looking for an adventurous, yet romantic escape, San Pedro is surely the place to be. I invite you to explore our home and see the many wonders it has to offer.

We welcome you with open arms. *Bienvenidos a San Pedro!*

Elsa Paz, Mayor,  
San Pedro Town

# Where did you read your San Pedro Sun?

Where did you take your *San Pedro Sun & Visitor Guide*? Take a photo of you and the paper and send it to us at: [spsun@sanpedrosun.net](mailto:spsun@sanpedrosun.net)



Isabel Goldberg, of Go Graphics in Belize City, recently traveled to **Bangkok, Thailand**, where she took her copy of *The San Pedro Sun* for some reading. She is pictured above at the **Grand Palace**, with her reading material ever at her side!

*Photos taken in unique and unusual places are preferred. Be sure to identify who is in the photo and where the photo was taken. Don't forget to include your names and what you were doing.*

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More foreign subscribers than any newspaper in Belize!

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See Answers on Page 8

# Hurricane Birds

## "Where Do Birds Go During Hurricanes?"

When hurricane winds threaten to tear down palapas and topple docks, do you ever wonder what birds do when a storm invades their territory? Most birds have lightweight bones that are hollow and filled with air. Therefore they can literally 'feel it in their bones' when there is a sharp drop in barometric pressures and know instinctively to take shelter when a big storm is on the way.

It's no coincidence that birds do their chick-raising in the calmer



"Little feet, mighty grip"



Birds' feet work differently than our hands. When birds' feet relax, the muscles tighten around the branch on which they are perched, holding them tightly when they sleep. Therefore, during a storm, the birds do not necessarily need to "hang on" tighter in order to not be blown off their perch, actually they need to relax, not a simple thing to do when waiting out a hurricane!

times of year. By the time hurricane season hits – peaking in September – the baby birds are mostly fully grown and quite capable of flying long distances. When birds detect an approaching storm, especially in the fall when they don't have a nest or babies to protect, they can high-tail it out of the storm's path. Strong-flying birds fly ahead of the storm, carried by the winds at the forefront of the system. Other birds don't go too far, finding any sort of shelter out of the wind, hail and rain. They tend to go low to the ground when heavy storms hit, staying out of the swaying and snapping trees. They duck for cover under rocky overhangs, in caves and other naturally

safe areas. They find large trees likely to survive the winds and settle down into hollow cavities. Woodpeckers and other cavity nesters ride out storms in tree holes, which works unless the tree snaps or is uprooted. Shorebirds leave the beaches and move inland. Songbirds fly for dear life in advance of storms or try to ride them out, clinging to sturdy, sheltered branches. Birds' feet work differ-

Continued on Page 4

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Commercial/Condos/Homes

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**Beach Front Home at Spanish Reef: (W29)** Attractive beach house located only 4 miles north of San Pedro. Home consists of 2 bdrms, 1 bath, wide porch & large storage room. Lot - 50' x 100'. \$450,000.00 US.

**Beach front property on the west coast (R40)** 1.5 acres with more than 400' of water frontage on the western coast of Ambergris Caye. Two concrete buildings; 2bed/1bath and a 1bed/1 bath caretaker building. Beautifully filled and with plenty of newly planted palm trees. \$650,000.00 US

**San Pablo Rentals (G10)** Prime rental property offering six fully equipped units. Beautiful, spacious first class owners quarters. *A deal at \$165,000.00 US.*

Raw Land

**Palmero Point (G43)** Nice lot located several rows off the beach in the beautiful Palmero Point Beach Club subdivision, located 9 miles north of town. Measuring approximately 107' x 164'. Only \$30,000.00 US.

**Paradise Coves (C49)** Good sized lot 3.5 miles north of San Pedro – great location and great price at \$25,000.00 US

**San Pablo (G40)** Great Canal & Corner lot located in the nice San Pablo subdivision. Excellent investment and opportunity for a home or business. \$60,000.00 U.S.

**Ambergris Bay (A25)** Beachfront Lot # 446, approx. 66' x 110'. \$66,000.00 US. Can be bought together with lot 447 for a combined beach frontage of 148'

**Ambergris Bay (A26)** Beachfront Lot # 447, approx. 82' x 110'. \$82,500.00 US. Can be bought together with lot 446 for a combined beach frontage of 148'

**Ambergris Bay (G36)** Lot # 33. Measuring approx. 58' x 155'. \$70,000.00 US.

**Ambergris Bay (E13)** Beachfront parcel approx. 50' x 95' depth. \$65,000.00 US.

**Flying Fisherman (D16)** lot 300' off the beach, measures 50' x 78'. Only \$22,000.00 US

**Santa Rita (H32)** Lot 18 – 50' x 110' - 3<sup>rd</sup> row - \$24,500.00 US

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# Hurricane Birds Continued from Page 3



When you only weigh a tenth of an ounce, like this resident Cinnamon Hummingbird, facing the force of hurricane winds can be a daunting challenge. Mother Nature has provided birds with some amazing built-in survival features that help them weather any storm.

ently than our hands. When birds' feet relax, the muscles tighten around the branch on which they are perched, holding them tightly when they sleep. Therefore, during a storm, the birds do not necessarily need to "hang on" tighter in order to not be blown off their perch, actually they need to relax!

Some birds are picked up by the storm system and carried long distances. They become trapped in the calm eye by the towering, fierce storms. The eye of the storm, in effect, becomes a bird cage until the hurricane begins to fizzle and birds can escape. It is the eye of the storm

that displaces birds, not the strong winds. These displaced birds, known as "Hurricane Birds," can get blown 200-300 miles from their native habitat and present rare opportunities for birders to see birds they normally wouldn't see, such as ocean-going birds blown ashore.

Each year, migratory birds cross the Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season. Birds wait for favorable winds and weather before taking flight, so they won't try to fly during a hurricane. If a migrant bird lands at a spot that has been devastated by storms, it will continue

**Continued on Page 8**

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# Land of the Free

## The National Anthem of Belize

*O, land of the free by the carib sea,  
our manhood we pledge to thy liberty!  
No tyrants here linger, despots must flee  
This tranquil haven of democracy  
The blood of our sires which hallows the sod,  
Brought freedom from slavery oppression's rod,  
By the might of truth and the grace of God.  
No longer shall we be hewers of wood.*

*Arise! ye sons of the Baymen's clan,  
put on your armour, clear the land!  
Drive back the tyrants, let despots flee-  
Land of the Free by the Carib Sea!*

*Nature has blessed thee with wealth untold,  
O'er mountains and valleys where praries roll;  
Our fathers, the Baymen, valiant and bold  
Drove back the invader; this heritage hold  
From proud Rio Hondo to old Sarstoon'  
Through coral isle, over blue lagoon;  
Keep watch with the angels, the stars, and moon;  
For freedom comes tomorrow's noon.*



**Reservations: 226-2012**

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## IMPORTANT #s

**Emergency** 911  
**Medical Emergency:** 226-3231  
**Crimestoppers** 800 922-TIPS  
**Police** 226-2022  
**Fire** 226-2372  
**Wings of Hope** - Medical emergency air ambulance. Phone: 223-3292.  
**Lions Health Clinic** - 226-4052; emergencies 600-9071 or Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8am to 8pm; Sat., 8am - noon.  
**Los Pinos Clinic** 602-6383 and 226-2686.  
**Dr. Lerida Rodriguez:** 226-2197 or cell 620-1974.  
**San Pedro Chiropractic Clinic** 226-4695  
**Hyperbaric Chamber** - 226-2851, Dr. Otto Rodriguez - 600-0287 or 226-2854. Antonia Guerrero - 600-5475 or 206-2152. Eleazar Portillo - 610-4560 or 226-3195.  
**San Pedro Polyclinic II** - 226-2536. 8-12 and 2-5, Mon. to Fri. Emergencies 226-2555/2918 or 606-3864.  
**Ambergris Hopes Clinic** - 226-2660, Emergencies: 606-2316  
**US Embassy** - 822-4011  
**Labour Office** - 226-2700 (Open 8am - 5pm, Mon. - Fri.)  
**Canadian Consulate** - 223-1060  
**Mexican Embassy** - 223-0193  
**Guatemalan Embassy** - 223-3150  
**Honduran Embassy** - 224-5889  
**San Carlos Medical (MD & Dentist Services)** - 7:30am - 9:00pm, 226-2918

## Church Services

**San Pedro Roman Catholic Church**  
 Sun. Mass: 9 a.m. English; 11 a.m. Children's; 7:30 p.m. Spanish; Sat. Confessions 5-7 p.m; Mass or Communion Service every night at 7:30 p.m.  
**Living Word Church** Service Sun. 10:45 a.m. Bible study Mon. 7:30 p.m. We do Christian charity work. 226-2950.  
**Assembly of God Church** on Angel Coral St. T-W-St.-Sn. at 7:30 p.m.  
**Lighthouse Christian Radio** - 101.3 FM. 226-4673, Cor. Buccaneer & Pescador Drive.  
**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** - Sunday Service: 9:30 am, Wednesday Scripture Study 7:00 pm. 17 Lagoon St. (between the bakery and the bridge).  
**San Pedro Community Church** - meets Sundays at 10a.m. at the Ambergris Elementary School. All Are Welcome.

## Miscellaneous

**The Lions Club of San Pedro** relies on income from its Friday and Saturday Night BBQ to support the needy community. Help a great cause - have dinner with us!  
**Green Reef** A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of Belize's marine and coastal resources. greenreef@btl.net /226-2833  
**San Pedro AA** - 226-4464, 600-9061  
**Saga Society** A non-profit "humane society" to address the stray cat and dog population in San Pedro. Phone 226-3266.  
**CARE BELIZE** - Children's Specialist, San Pedro. 622-8200  
**SP Town Library** - 206-2028

## Guide to Isla Bonita



## Tourist Information

**Belize Tourism Board** - 223-1910.  
**Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA)** - 227-5717.  
**San Pedro Tourist Guide Association** 226-2391.

## Water, Sports & Tours

**SAILSPORTS BELIZE** - Windsurfing, kite sailing and sailing. The latest equipment and expert instruction makes it easy to learn. 226-4488 [info@sailsportsbelize.com](mailto:info@sailsportsbelize.com).

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## Real Estate...

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**SOUTHWIND PROPERTIES** - For all your Real Estate needs. Call 226-2005 or 226-2060 for information or E-mail: [southwind@btl.net](mailto:southwind@btl.net) for current listings.

**SUEÑO DEL MAR** - Paradise has a new address! Located on Barrier Reef Drive (Front Street), across from Fido's Restaurant. 8:30AM to 5PM, [www.dreambelize.com](http://www.dreambelize.com), Phone: (US #) 719-302-5398, (Belize #) 011-501-226-4001.

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## Transportation...

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**THE TACKLE BOX** - come rock da box out over the water! Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday (starting @ 9:00PM) we have amazing live bands ranging from Reggae to Punta to old school Rock-n-Roll. Located off the San Pedro Water Taxi Pier at the end of Black Coral St. 226-4313.

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# THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE



## Dining Out...



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11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Beach barbeque every Wednesday night with live music.

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**RAMON'S VILLAGE** - Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner in a Mayan atmosphere or on the veranda overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Coconut Drive. Phone 226-2071.

**LUNA** at Journey's End Resort - Experience fine dining on the beach north of San Pedro. Visit our tropical bar featuring karaoke, dance and fun music. Phone 226-2173.

**PAPI'S DINER** - The place for fine food at diner prices. Taste the Caribbean. Call 664-9491.

**MICKEY'S PLACE** - Open daily 6:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. for breakfast, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for lunch and 6 - 10 p.m. for dinner. Burritos on Wednesdays. Pescador Drive. Call 226-2223.

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The San Pedro Sun  
**Visitor Guide**

EVERY WEEK we print a new edition covering the "good news" about San Pedro and Belize!

Contact *The San Pedro Sun* for more information.  
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# Hurricane Birds

Continued from Page 4



Cavity dwelling birds, like this Golden-fronted Woodpecker, often seek shelter inside a hollow tree, which works well unless the tree is blown over. Should that happen, finding an alternate shelter may not be possible during a fierce hurricane.

onward in search of better stopover areas. Unfortunately, sometimes migratory birds get caught in bad weather while crossing open water. Although migrants have enough fat (fuel reserves) to make the 600-mile Gulf crossing in favorable winds, they may not have enough energy to survive if they have to fight against headwinds.

A major storm will undoubtedly kill some birds; anything that can rip apart a house isn't going to be very gentle to a bird that weighs one tenth of an ounce. Many times, inland birds right along the coast are blown out to sea, where they drown unless they come across something to settle on. On the other hand, storms sometimes blow birds into areas they would not normally visit, opening their eyes to fresh, new territories with plenty of food and nesting space. Resident birds in hurricane areas also suffer when their food supplies, such as fruits and berries, are stripped from trees and shrubs.

Even when local populations of birds are decreased by storms, the birds that remain now have an abundance of food and nesting locations compared to before. The relative lack of competition means that more chicks next year will survive

to adulthood, repopulating the area to its previous levels. Nature is used to the cycle of storm and renewal, and birding is just one part of that large cycle.

Birds and hurricanes have coexisted for millennia, and given the chance, healthy bird populations can rebound from the effects of natural disasters. Unfortunately, this can be difficult for some birds because much of their original habitat has been destroyed by human development. With fewer birds and fewer places where they can live, hurricanes pose greater threats to vulnerable bird populations. For this reason, one of the best things we can do to protect birds from hurricanes is work to ensure that there are enough birds and places for them so they have the opportunity to rebound. Preserving critical habitats is important for birds in order to recover from natural disasters and rebound from population impacts sustained from the storm.

## SuDoku Answers

Check out the puzzle on Page 2!

1	3	4	6	5	7	8	2	9
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6	5	7	8	2	9	3	4	1
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9	7	5	2	4	1	6	8	3
4	6	1	3	9	8	2	7	5
3	2	8	5	7	6	1	9	4

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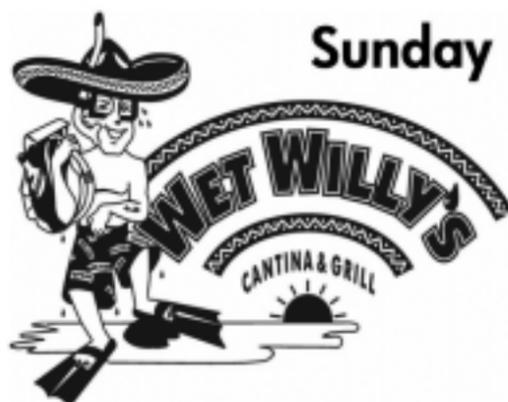
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## Toucan Trails - The Cayes!

Known for its marine environment, Belize is well publicized for possessing the second longest barrier reef in the world, as well as three major offshore atolls. In addition to the aforementioned, Belize possesses numerous mangrove systems both offshore and along the coast, thus creating a tremendous wetlands environment in which birds, fish, mammals, and reptiles can propagate. With such a significant marine ecosystem, scuba divers, marine biologists, and sport fishermen have long recognized the importance of Belize, and it has become a favorite destination for them.

### Gallow's Point

Gallows Point Private Caye, is just east of Belize City and a few yards from the world's second largest barrier reef. Travel back in time and consider it a great adventures odyssey to walk on this unique Caye which history tells was once the home of pirates in the early 1600's.

The island sits on approximately 300 acres, consisting mainly of mangroves, which provides food and shelter to the abundant diversity of marine life. You can have a close up view of crabs and iguanas that can be seen moving about, while also being entertained by colorful butterflies and melodious sound of birds. An abundance of tropical flowers and fruit trees add an extra touch to this enchanting caye. Needless to mention are the many coconut trees that offer a cool shelter during those hot sunny days.

### Half-Moon Caye Natural Monument



*Come visit Half-Moon Caye in all it's glory!*

Half Moon Caye, located at the southeast corner of Lighthouse Reef Atoll, was the first reserve to be established by the Natural Parks System Act of 1981. One of the main reasons that the natural monument was created was to protect the Red-footed Booby bird and its rookery. The Magnificent Frigatebird shares the rookery with the Red-footed Booby, and both species coexist in apparent harmony. Some ninety-eight species of birds have been recorded on the Caye, of which some seventy-seven are migrants. Regular winter migrants include Ospreys, Mangrove Warblers, and White-crowned Pigeons.

The Iguana, the Wish Willy, and the Lizard are permanent residents on the island, while the Loggerhead Turtle and the Hawksbill Turtle come ashore annually to lay their eggs.

The waters surrounding Half Moon Caye are abundant with life, and snorkeling and scuba diving opportunities are excellent.

### Tobacco Caye

Taking its name from the main crop cultivated by the puritans that once



Continued on Page 10

## WHITE SANDS DIVE SHOP

specializing in daily full-service diving, SCUBA instruction and snorkeling from its home base at White Sands Cove Resort, just north of San Pedro Town.

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# Toucan Trails

Continued from Page 9

settled the island, the first thing you'll notice about this caye is that it's tiny. Five acres of sand and stately coconut palms sitting right in the middle of the reef, and occupied entirely by an assortment of lodges and small wooden houses.

The reef doesn't play hard to get on Tobacco Caye, barely giving you a chance to wade into the water before presenting her treasure. Snorkeling is almost too easy with such ready access to the reef. You can spend hours swimming in the festival of coral splendor and marine life, including the eagle ray and an occasional manatee, without even going a hundred feet from the island.



The caye is also a haven for scuba divers with excellent wall diving just 300 feet from shore. Technicolor mountains of coral and countless varieties of marine flora and fauna will leave you blissfully exhilarated. Two tanks recommended.

On land you can expect to get a true taste of island life without the frills of the fancier cayes. The people that live here are very friendly and take their relaxing as seriously as they take their work. A thatch roof bar just a few feet from the waves is an ideal spot for sipping on cool Caribbean rum concoctions and chatting with the residents. Less than an hour from Dangriga, Tobacco Caye is a delight that proves good things do indeed come in small packages.

For further information about the Toucan Trail in Belize, kindly visit [www.toucantrail.com](http://www.toucantrail.com)

[www.sanpedrosun.net](http://www.sanpedrosun.net)  
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# BTIA announces AIG travel insurance partnership

Press Release - Belize Tourism Industry Association, Belize City, BZ - September 17th, 2007 - The Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA), an organization committed to develop, promote, and secure Belize tourism, is excited to launch its partnership with AIG Travel Guard. United States residents booking travel to Belize through BTIA are now able to purchase travel insurance plans through AIG Travel Guard, the nation's leading provider of travel insurance and assistance plans.

With natural disaster and hurricane coverage, travel insurance can be a wise investment for those traveling to hurricane-prone regions such as Belize. When travel plans collide with unexpected weather, those with travel insurance coverage have a means to obtain reimbursement for covered pre-paid non-refundable trip expenses in the event their travel must be canceled or delayed.

AIG Travel Guard's Travel insurance plans include coverage for emergency medical treatment, medical evacuation, lost or delayed baggage, and travel cancellations or delays caused by covered unforeseen circumstances. Each Travel Guard plan also includes 24-hour travel emergency service for emergency medical assistance, last-minute or emergency travel changes, lost luggage tracking, pre-trip travel advice, and more.

For more information, please contact AIG Travel Guard representative David McGowan at 1-800-826-7791 extension 13335 or [david.mcgowan@aig.com](mailto:david.mcgowan@aig.com).

## The San Pedro Fitness Club

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### A Truly Divine Experience

This elegantly appointed restaurant features both outdoor seating and indoor air-conditioned split level dining with high ceilings, local artwork and more. Our wonderfully decorated lounge invites you to enjoy the island's largest selection of drinks, cool tropical cocktails and martinis.



**El Divino**  
 CARIBBEAN STEAKHOUSE & MARTINI LOUNGE

*Start the Day with...*

- Eggs Benedict with Smoked Ham - Belizean Banana Pancakes - Apple Cinnamon French Toast

*Ask for Daily Breakfast Specials...*

*For Lunch, enjoy...*

- Chilled Shrimp Gazpacho Soup - Jalapeño & Cheddar Burger - Cheddar Shrimp Sandwich - Caesar Salad - Chicken Breast Sandwich

*Also offering Daily Lunch Specials...*

*Dinner entrees include...*

- Filet Mignon in Cabernet Wine Sauce - Pan Seared Grouper with Grapefruit Beurre Blanc Sauce - Steamed Reef Lobster Tail with drawn butter

- House Specialty: Brazilian Style Rotisserie (Churrasco)

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Restaurant Open till 10  
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*Daily Drink Specials:*  
 Martini Monday, Tequila Tuesday, Wine & Dine Wednesday



Wolfe's  
Woofers  
by  
Dennis Wolfe

*In your  
Dreams*

"Hey, Dennis; how's it going?" Mark asked me.

The rest of the band was unloading equipment for the Sunday jam session at BC's while I was sneaking off loafing at the bar.

"It's really been going good this week," I said. "My wife hasn't spoken to me for two days, now."

"Is she mad at you?"

"I don't know," I told him. "I never can tell. I just thought I was lucky."

"If she hasn't spoken to you for two days, that's probably a good cue that she's mad," Mark said. "My experiences with women say that it's a lot worse when they don't speak than when they do."

That evening I made the mistake of saying, "Are you mad about something?"

"You'd better believe I'm mad," Dulce said.

"What did I do?"

She said, "I saw you looking at that blonde who was dancing at Crazy Canuck's last Saturday."

"Was she really tall with a tattoo of a killer whale on her ankle and wearing a red blouse with white shorts?"

"That's the one."

"I really don't remember much about what she looked like," I said. "Why would you be mad at me about her?"

"I think you were dreaming about her that night. All night long you kept saying 'Free the whales! Free the whales!!' Anyway, I dreamed I caught you dancing with her. That's why I'm so mad."

"But, Dulce," I said. "I wasn't really dancing with her. That was just something you dreamed."

"That's true," she said. "But if you'll act like that with her in my dreams I can just imagine what you'd be doing to her in your dreams."

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# Trivia Tidbits...

- \*The palms of the hands and soles of the feet contain more sweat glands than any other part of the body.
- \*Fireflies like to light up together. Two fireflies found near each other will eventually start lighting up at the same time.
- \*When baby opossum are born, they are so small that an entire litter can fit in a tablespoon. They live inside their mother's pouch for three months before climbing out and riding on her back.
- \*A type of lizard, the chuckwalla, escapes pursuers by crawling into a crack in a rock and inflating its body with air so that it is wedged tightly into the crack and can't be pulled out.
- \*Spider silk is an extremely strong material and its on-weight basis has been proven to be stronger than steel. Experts suggest that a pencil-thick strand of silk could stop a Boeing 747 in flight.
- \*The blubber of a male elephant seal is considered superior to that of the sperm whale for lubricating machinery.
- \*A dog's nose has over 200 scent receiving cells.
- \*Biologists have discovered that cockroaches can change course as many as 25 times in one second, making them the most nimble animals known.



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- ❖ Caye Casa - Three beachfront condos under construction, quiet, in town, pool, pier, thatch porches, furnished, with on site property management. Living the dream. Inquire!
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CORAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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