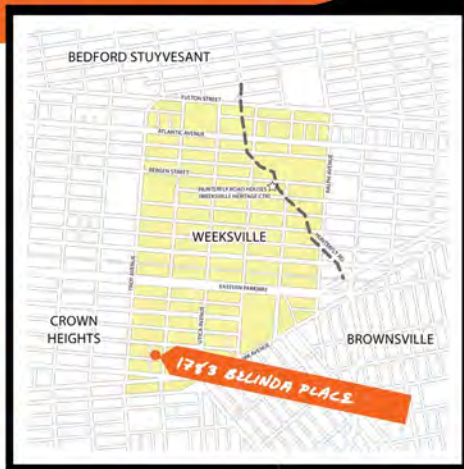


1783 Belinda Place

An Animated ABC

By Ajuan Mance



1783 Belinda Place

Sister, Remember Me

Lost Portraits of African American Women



DAVID WALKER, FREE RADICAL

© 2025



WORLD'S



“They think because they hold us in their infernal chains of slavery, that we wish to be white, or of their color—but they are dreadfully deceived...”

David Walker's Appeal, 1829

The home of David Walker still stands at 81 Joy St, Boston, MA.



“America is more our country, than it is the whites—we have enriched it with our blood and tears. The greatest riches in all America have arisen from our blood and tears—and will they drive us from our property and homes, which we have earned with our blood?”

David Walker's Appeal, 1829



In 1866, Edwin Walker, David's son, became the second African American elected to a state legislature in the U.S., (in Massachusetts).



The United States, untrue to her trust and unfaithful to her professed principles of republican equality, has also pursued a policy of political degradation to a large portion of her native born countrymen, and that class is the Colored People.

—Martin R. Delany
The Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States, 1852

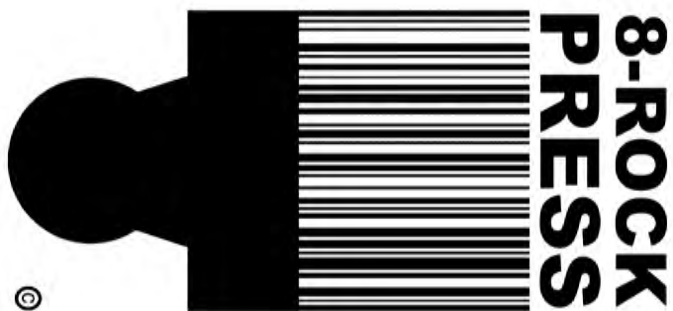
“...and in all due respect and deference to Mrs. Stowe, I beg leave to say, that she knows nothing about us, “the Free Colored people of the United States,” neither does any other white person—and, consequently, can contrive no successful scheme for our elevation; it must be done by ourselves.”

—Martin Delany,
“Letter to Frederick Douglass,”
March 22, 1853.



“I am not in favor of caste, nor separation of the brotherhood of mankind, and would as willingly live among white men as Black, if I had equal possession and enjoyment of privileges, but I shall never be reconciled living among them subservient to their will.”

—Martin Delany,
The Liberator,
May 21, 1852



© 2025

WORDS
MARTIN R.
DELANEY
CIVIL WAR VETERAN,
BLACK NATIONALIST,
NOVELIST, & SCHOLAR

WAKE WORDS

(AND PICTURES)

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

© 2025



“When I was a slave I tried praying for three years. I prayed that God would emancipate me, but it was not till I prayed with my legs that I was emancipated.”

Frederick Douglass, 1876,
“Self-Made Men”



“Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”
--Frederick Douglass,
August 3, 1857





WAKE WORDS

(AND PICTURES)

AUDRE LORDE

© 2025

8-ROCK PRESS



“...those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are Black, who are older—know that survival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. For the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house.

—Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House,” 1979

“Your silence
will not
protect you.”

—Audre Lorde,
“The Transformation
of Silence into
Language and Action,”
1977



“In our work and in our living, we must recognize that difference is a reason for celebration and growth, rather than a reason for destruction.”

—Audre Lorde, *Black Women Writers at Work*, 1985





“I leave you love. I leave you hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. I leave you a thirst for education. I leave you a respect for the use of power. I leave you faith. I leave you racial dignity. I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow men. I leave you finally, a responsibility to our young people.”

—Mary McLeod Bethune, 1954

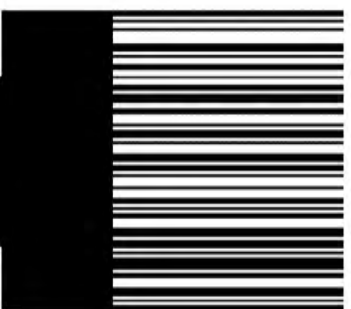


“Despite many crushing burdens and handicaps, I have risen from the cotton fields of South Carolina to found a college, administer it during its years of growth, become a public servant in the government of our country and a leader of women. I would not exchange my color for all the wealth in the world, for had I been born white I might not have been able to do all that I have done or yet hope to do.”

—Mary McLeod Bethune, 1954



**8-ROCK
PRESS**



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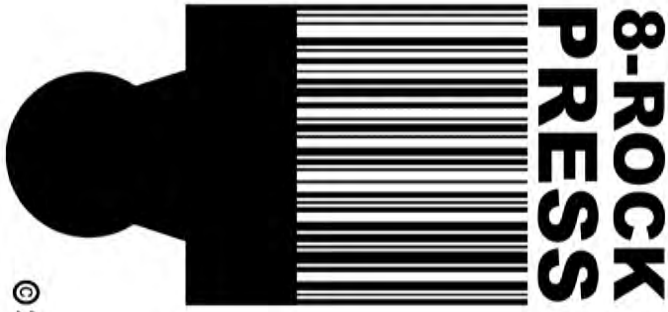
WORDS

(AND PICTURES)

**DR. MARY
MCLEOD
BETHUNE**

INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST
WELLS,
IDA B.

© 2025



WORDS
WOKRE



“I’d rather go down in history as one lone Negro who dared to tell the government that it had done a dastardly thing than to save my skin by taking back what I have said.”

—*Crusade for Justice: The Autobiography of Ida B. Wells* (published in 1970)



When the white man who is always the aggressor knows he runs as great a risk of biting the dust every time his Afro-American victim does, he will have greater respect for Afro-American life.”

—Ida B. Wells on self-defense, in *Lynch Law in All It's Phases*, 1892



The very frequent inquiry made after my lectures by interested friends is "What can I do to help the cause?" The answer always is: "Tell the world the facts."

—Ida B. Wells, *The Red Record*, 1895



WAKE WORDS

**ANNA JULIA
COOPER**
SCHOLAR-ACTIVIST

© 2025

**8-ROCK
PRESS**



“Only the **BLACK**
WOMAN can say when
and where I enter in the
quiet undisputed
dignity of my
womanhood, without
violence or special
patronage; then and
there the whole Negro
race enters with me.”

— Anna Julia Cooper,
A Voice from the South, 1892



“The cause of
freedom is not the
cause of a race or a
sect, a party or a
class-it is the cause of
human kind, the very
birthright of
humanity.”

—Anna Julia Cooper,
“Woman Versus the Indian,”
1892



“If women were once
permitted to read
Sophocles and work
with logarithms, or to
nibble at any side of the
apple of knowledge,
there would be an end
forever to their sewing
on buttons and
embroidering slippers.”

—Anna Julia Cooper,
A Voice From the South, 1892

Images from my upcoming zine,
Masquerades, Scoundrels, and Rogues

PRISONER WAS A GIRL

Was Dressed In A Man's Suit and Arrested For Being Drunk On The Street.

A colored girl dressed in a man's suit of clothes was not discovered from the time she was arrested Saturday night on a charge of being drunk until compelled to take a bath at the city jail about noon yesterday.

[The prisoner gave the name Richard Riley and the age seventeen years.

[S]he said her name was Winnie Riley, but would not tell anything about where she belongs and why she assumed the disguise.

Justice Grannan and the station officers thought they were dealing with a colored youth.



McGeeney... a colored... doorway... and Saratoga... To the leut... At the hearing yea... Grannan and the... eney... lored... way ne... and... char... soner... age s... d ch... time... yest... he s... ng w... s fin... aid falling to p...

DRESSED AS A MAN.

Negro Girl, While
Masquerading in
Male Attire,
Got Arrested.

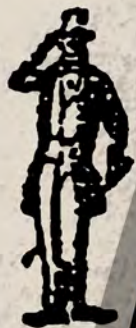
The girl was sent to the
Penitentiary
for ten days.

The girl went to
the Penitentiary
still clad as a man.

He was such a
dainty little object.
He wore a frock coat,
creased trousers
of checked pattern,
and carried a cane.

"There's a
woman
in there in
man's clothes,"
was the
information
conveyed to
Sergt.
Mostberger.

"I am
named
Henry
Schmitt,
and I'm a
blacksmith,"
said the
girl.



Henry Schmitt
said the girl
finally learned
Lucy Lewis
was Tom Robinson
up and yesterday
the Penitentiary for
charge of vagrancy and
at down for five days.



Girl Who Posed As Man for 7 Years

Discovered When She Takes "Bride"

She refused to discard her overalls in jail when offered women's apparel.

The final chapter of the sensational case of Ruth ("Walter") Bundy, who posed as a man for seven years and married another woman, was written [...] when Judge B.O. Tankersley

dismissed

the charges against her after a brief hearing.

"My 'wife' did not know I was not a man," she declared.

The most puzzling feature of the case, however, is furnished by Miss Bundy's marriage to Miss Elizabeth West, who is 23 years old. The ceremony was performed at Newton, I.A., in October, 1921, and the women have lived together since.

Even a physician who attended her during an illness failed to discover that his patient was not a man.

"I never liked to wear women's clothes, even when I was a child," she said.



PRETTY GIRL GARBED AS MAN WOOS AND WEDS

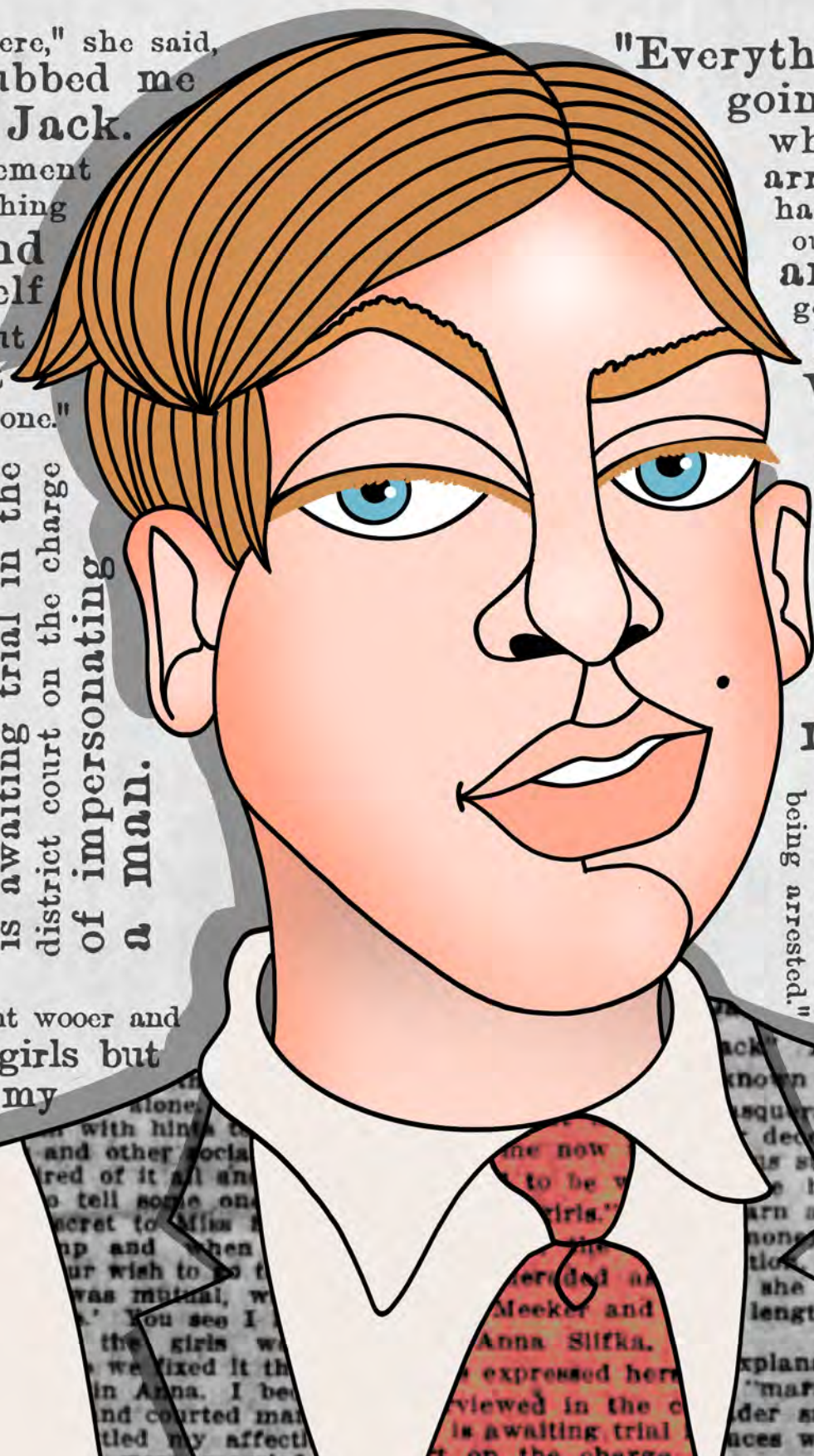
As "Handsome Jack" Hill, She for Two Years Played Fast and Loose with the Hearts of Females.

"When I came here," she said, "the girls dubbed me **Handsome Jack.**

I liked the excitement and fun of the thing at **First** and enjoyed myself thoroughly. But the girls just wouldn't let me alone."

Helen Hillsher, the pretty girl of 22, who masqueraded as a man for two years [...] even "married" Miss Anna Slifka, the town's Beauty [...] is awaiting trial in the district court on the charge of impersonating a man.

"I became an ardent wooer and courted many girls but finally settled my affections on **Anna.**"



"Everything was going lovely when I was arrested. We had moved to our homestead and were getting along happily. We were not doing anything wrong or bothering anybody and both of us were **saving money.**"

"I cannot yet see what I have done to **deserve** being arrested."

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... Anna Slifka...
... expressed her...
... viewed in the c...
... is awaiting trial...
... on the charge...

Sample pages from my new zine,
***Saltwater Soul: Black Portraits
from Key West.*** All of the pages
are complete. I simply haven't yet
decided on a cover image.

**JUNE 6
2024**

"THE BEACHES ARE THE BEST THING ABOUT KEY WEST, FOR SURE. ANYTHING ABOUT THE WATER IS THE BEST FEELING. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT HEALS ME."

"AT ONE POINT, WATER WAS MY HIGHER POWER. IT JUST CALMS ME DOWN. I COULD JUST GO SIT AT THE BEACH, AND WHATEVER'S GOING ON JUST DOESN'T MATTER."

"I WANTED TO BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR. I KNEW THAT THIS WAS HEMINGWAY COUNTRY, AND I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN HERE FOR ME."



"SO FAR, I HAVE TWO BOOKS AND MORE ON THE WAY. THAT'S WHAT KEEPS ME HERE."

**ARIDA
KEY
WEST
SINCE
1998**

"IT IS HARD TO JUST [BUY] GROCERIES, GAS, RENT, CLOTHES. EVERYTHING IS BUDGETED TOWARDS LIVING, AND IT'S HARD."



"THE BEST THING ABOUT KEY WEST IS THE LADIES. THE HARDEST THING ABOUT KEY WEST IS RENT."

"MY FAMILY'S OF BAHAMIAN DESCENT. WE'RE STILL IN THE HOOD. BAHAMA VILLAGE, BAHAMA HOOD."

D.D.
KEY WEST SINCE 1990

"I CAME TO KEY WEST WHEN I WAS 7 YEARS OLD, FROM GERMANY. INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL BROTHER."

"ANOTHER THING IS LATE-NIGHT RACISM. YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING? DAYTIME, THEY KNOW BETTER. NIGHTTIME, **THEY DON'T GIVE A @!#."**

"WHAT KEEPS ME HERE IS MONEY, **EASY MONEY.** I GET THE BEST JOBS ON THE ISLAND. I AIN'T NEVER BEEN TO JAIL."

JUNE 10 2024

AJUAN MANCE



GENEVIEVE

KEY WEST SINCE 2016

"MY FEET KEEP ME HERE, **BECAUSE** I DON'T HAVE A CAR. ALSO, I'VE LIVED HERE FOR A LONG TIME **BY MYSELF,** SO THIS IS JUST WHERE I'M AT. IT'S FUN."

"IF SOMEONE WAS GOING TO MOVE DOWN HERE, MY ADVICE WOULD BE, "DO YOUR BEST."



JUNE 4 2024

"THE BEST THING ABOUT KEY WEST IS THE MANGOES. I DON'T REALLY **PICK THEM.** SOME PEOPLE WILL JUST LAY THEM ON THE FENCE. THEY'LL LAY IT ON A LEDGE OR THEY'LL PUT THEM IN A BAG AND PUT THEM AT THE PARK BECAUSE THEY HAVE A TREE THAT'S JUST TOO BIG—TOO MANY MANGOES. THAT'S HOW I'LL **USUALLY FIND THEM.**"

"STRANGELY, HONESTLY, THE HARDEST THING ABOUT KEY WEST IN THE SUN RIGHT NOW, IT'S SO HOT. THE HEAT IS CRAZY. IT'S NOT FUN. THE HEAT IS NOT COOL."



**"THERE'S NOTHING
HARD ABOUT
KEY WEST."**

**"THE BEST
THING
ABOUT
KEY WEST IS
IT'S REWARDING FOR
ME TO BE HERE,
AS A MUSICIAN"**

**HOWARD
EUGENE
BELL**

**KEY
WEST
SINCE
2005**

**JUNE 3
2024**



"THE BEST THINGS ABOUT KEY WEST ARE THE BEACH AND THE MOVEMENT IN THE TOWN. IT'S SMALL, BUT IT'S STILL FAST-GOING. I LOVE KEY WEST."

"THE PEOPLE AND THE CITY KEEP ME HERE. IT'S NOT TOO MUCH CRIME, IT'S EASYGOING, AND IT LOOK LIKE KINGSTON."

"I'M FROM OCHO RIOS, JAMAICA. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN KINGSTON, TRENCHTOWN, BUT I LIVED IN OCHO FOR A LONG TIME. MY KIDS WERE BORN IN OCHO, SO I ALWAYS TELL PEOPLE I'M FROM OCHO RIOS."

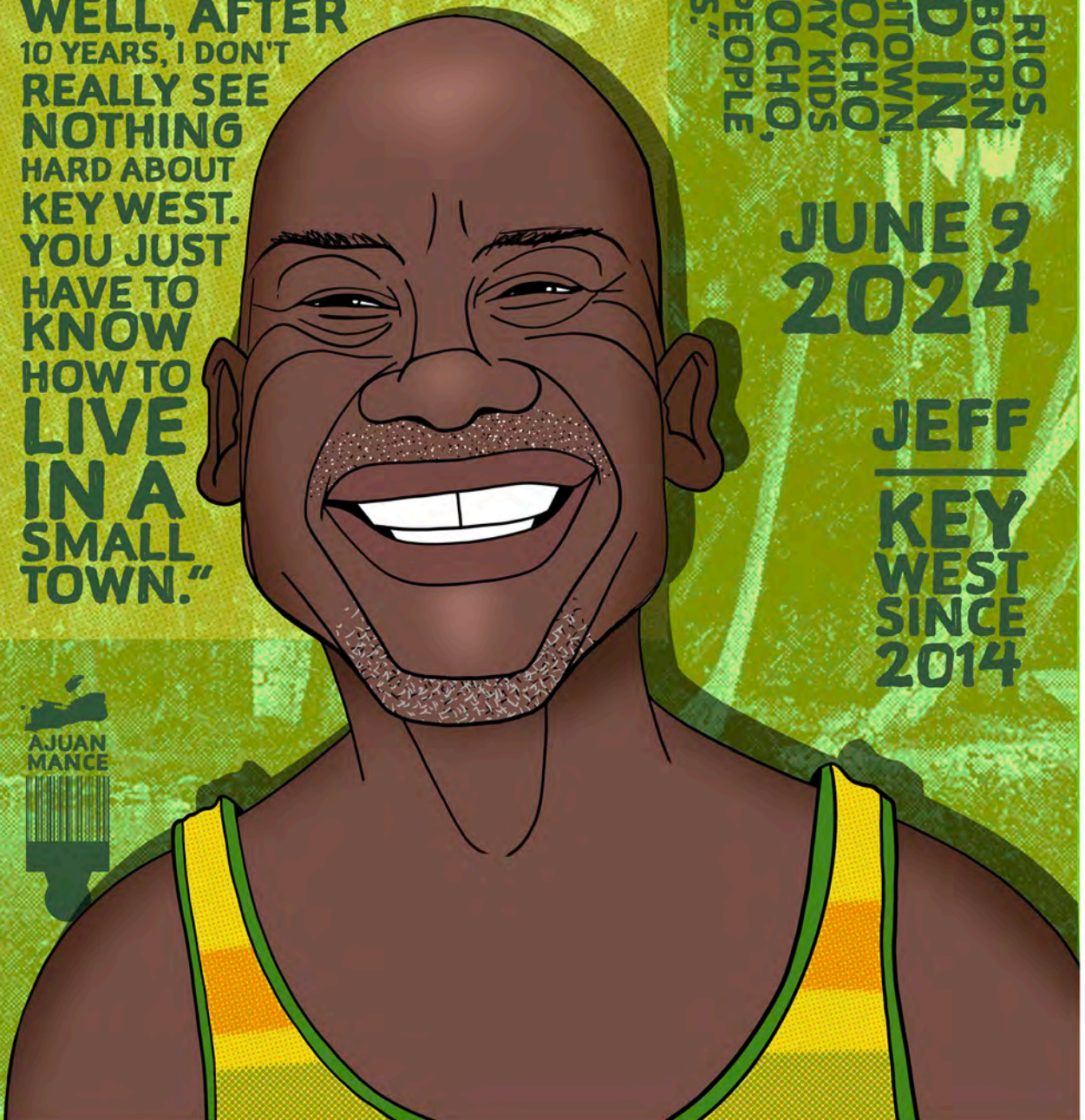
"WHAT'S THE HARDEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN KEY WEST? WELL, AFTER

10 YEARS, I DON'T REALLY SEE NOTHING HARD ABOUT KEY WEST. YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN."

**JUNE 9
2024**

**JEFF
KEY
WEST
SINCE
2014**

**AJUAN
MANCE**



"I'M FROM KEY WEST. I WAS BORN THREE BLOCKS OVER ON WHITEHEAD AND AMELIA--IN A BATHTUB. FOR REAL. WHEN I SAY I'M FROM KEY WEST, I WAS LITERALLY BORN IN KEY WEST."

HONESTLY, IT'S THE PEOPLE THAT KEEP ME HERE. NOBODY'S PISSED OFF. NOBODY'S ANGRY AT THEIR LIFE. THEY'RE HERE. THEY'RE TRYING TO HAVE THE BEST TIME THAT THEY COULD POSSIBLY HAVE. IT'S PART OF THE REASON WHY I'M HERE. YOU GO ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD AND PEOPLE ARE PISSED OFF. EVERYBODY THAT COMES DOWN HERE IS ESCAPING THAT.

"I'M A BLACKSMITH. MY NAME'S JEREMY. I'M BLACK, AND MY LAST NAME'S SMITH."

"THE HARDEST THING ABOUT KEY WEST IS THE RENT."

JUNE 1
2024

JEREMY
KEY
WEST
FOR
LIFE



"IT SOUNDS REALLY CHEESY, BUT I STAYED IN KEY WEST BECAUSE OF A GIRL."

"THEN I DID END UP FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE TOWN, TOO."

"A COUPLE OF OTHER MUSICIANS IN TOWN SAW ME WITH MY BACKPACK AND MY DOG AND MY INSTRUMENT, SAW THAT I WAS ONE OF THEM, AND TOOK ME UNDER THEIR WING AND STARTED INTRODUCING ME TO A BUNCH OF OTHER ARTISTS AND TO THE MUSIC SCENE."

"I USED TO BUSK FOR A LIVING, I WAS A STREET PERFORMER. IT'S REALLY STRICT HERE IN TOWN, THOUGH. FOR A TRAVELING MUSICIAN, IT'S HARD TO GET STARTED."

**MAY 29
2024**

"I DISCOVERED KEY WEST FOR WHAT IT TRULY IS, THIS HAVEN FOR ARTISTS AND CREATIVE PEOPLE."

**JOEY
KEY
WEST
SINCE
2020**



**AJUAN
MANCE**



DEANDREA

KEY WEST FOR LIFE

"AT 43, I HAD A BIG PARTY, WITH THE JUNKANOOS. THEY CAME DOWN THE STREET WITH THE MUSIC AND EVERYTHING. I KNEW ABOUT THE PARTY, BUT THE JUNKANOO WAS A SURPRISE FOR ME. YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE BAHAMIAN JUNKANOOS? MY MOM HAS A LOT OF FAMILY FROM NASSAU IN THE BAHAMAS. A LOT OF THE KEY WESTERS, YOU'LL FIND THEIR BACKGROUND IS BAHAMIAN."

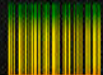
"MY UNCLE WAS THE FIRST BLACK FIRE CHIEF IN KEY WEST."

"I ACTUALLY LEFT HOME WHEN I WAS 17. I LEFT HOME TO GO TO SCHOOL IN DAYTONA. BUT MY MOM IS HERE, MY BROTHER IS HERE. (HE'S A FIREFIGHTER, TOO.) HOME IS WHERE IT IS."

JUNE 9
2024



AJUAN
MANCE



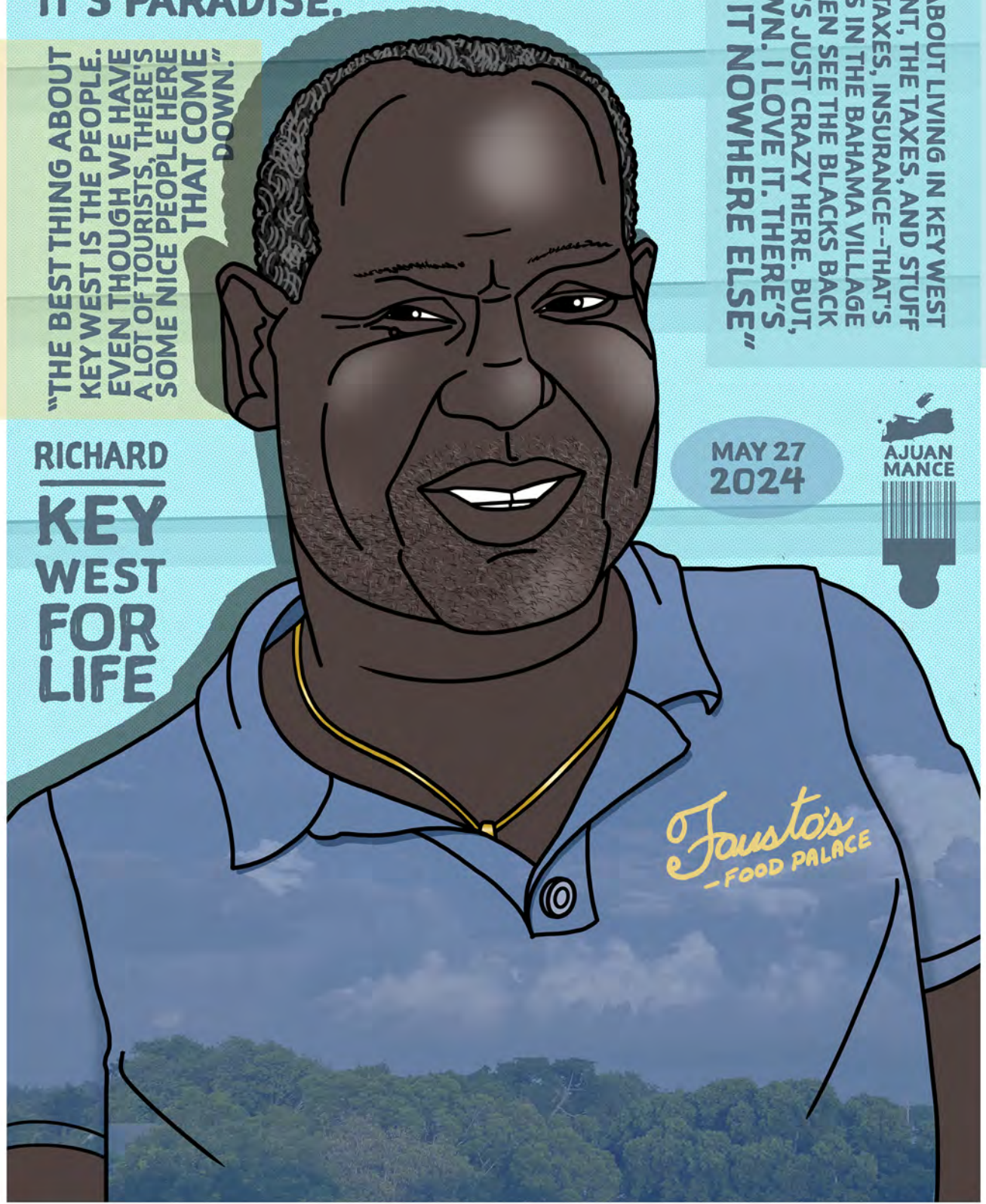
"WHAT KEEPS ME HERE IS THAT IT'S MY HOMETOWN. BESIDES, KEY WEST IS NOT LIKE MIAMI, NEW YORK, OR WHATEVER, WITH A HIGH CRIME RATE. IT'S JUST BEAUTIFUL HERE IT'S PARADISE."

"THE HARDEST PART ABOUT LIVING IN KEY WEST IS THE PRICE, THE RENT, THE TAXES, AND STUFF LIKE THAT. PROPERTY TAXES, INSURANCE--THAT'S WHAT'S KILLING US IS IN THE BAHAMA VILLAGE NOW. YOU DON'T EVEN SEE THE BLACKS BACK THERE NO MORE. IT'S JUST CRAZY HERE. BUT, IT'S MY HOMETOWN. I LOVE IT. THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT NOWHERE ELSE"

"THE BEST THING ABOUT KEY WEST IS THE PEOPLE. EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE A LOT OF TOURISTS, THERE'S SOME NICE PEOPLE HERE THAT COME DOWN."

**RICHARD
KEY
WEST
FOR
LIFE**

**MAY 27
2024**



**"I LOVE IT HERE. IT'S THE BEST.
KEY WEST IS THE ONLY."**

**"I'VE BEEN HERE ALL MY LIFE.
I'M A SALTWATER CONCH."**

**"WE ARE FROM FLORIDA-KEY WEST, FLORIDA,
BUT WE ARE MONROE COUNTY LOCALS.
WHEN YOU ASK THE LOCAL WHERE YOU FROM,
WE FROM MONROE COUNTY.
JUST LIKE IN MIAMI, YOU SAY, "WHERE YOU FROM?"
THEY SAY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.
WE FROM MONROE COUNTY."**

**"WE THE BOTTOM
OF THE BOTTOM,
THE DIRTY,
OF THE DIRTY,
MILE ZERO
IS RIGHT HERE.
CAN'T GO NO
FURTHER
THAN
THIS."**

**"90 MILES TO CUBA.
THAT'S IT. IT'S A LONG SWIM."**

**SPRITE
KEY
WEST
FOR
LIFE**

**JUNE 9
2024**

