



Epidermal arts are on display at the Green Parrot

The Epidermal Arts and Torso Tapestries Contest is just a highbrow name for a painted body contest. But lovers of Key West art will gather for the "cultural" event on Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Green Parrot Bar. It's just steps off Duval Street where the parade passes later that same evening.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. The contest of the emblazoned bods starts at 2 p.m. From eyeliner to toenail polish, creativity counts toward prizes and Green

Parrot-style recognition. Right after the contest and continuing later in the evening the reggae and funk horn party known as Sol Driven Train brings its hard-driving, seamless mix of Southern rock, swampy funk and languid world beat to the Parrot stage. The band has shared stages and bills with the likes of Michael Franti, Richie Havens, Keller Williams, Arlo Guthrie and Blues Traveler.

The event will be hosted by Miss Loretta whom locals recognize as their own personal radio celebrity, cabbie and dominatrix.

EPIDERMAL ARTS AND TORSO TAPESTRIES CONTEST

Saturday, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m.
Green Parrot Bar - 601 Whitehead St. - Free



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World-famous anthropologists to be parade grand marshals

Indiana Jones might not know about Fantasy Fest and its ancient apocalypse-based theme, but two internationally renowned real-world anthropologists do — and they're eager to join the celebration.

Drs. Arlen and Diane Chase, who have spent more than 25 years exploring, mapping and excavating the ancient Maya city of Caracol, will be the grand marshals of the 2012 Captain Morgan Fantasy Fest Parade.

The work of the famed specialists in anthropological archaeology has made them experts on the intriguing culture of the Maya. That, of course, makes them the perfect grand marshals — since the festival's "A-Conch-Alypse" theme was inspired by a supposed "doomsday prophecy," popularly credited to the Maya, predicting the world will end in December 2012.

Professors at the University of Central Florida, the Drs. Chase have been co-directors of the Caracol Archaeological Project in Belize since 1985. Each year since then, they have investigated, excavated and studied the fascinating Maya site.

Caracol was one of the largest Maya cities in Central America. The explorations of the Drs. Chase, and particularly their airborne laser terrain mapping of the site, revealed an 80-square-mile settlement with palaces and plazas, industrial zones and suburbs, and even terraced fields and reservoirs — helping earn Caracol its place among the great cities of the Maya lowlands.

The Drs. Chase are co-authors of more than 100 articles on Caracol and the world of the Maya, as well as books including "Investigations at the Classic Maya City of Caracol, Belize" and the upcoming "Maya Archaeology: Reconstructing an Ancient Civilization."

According to Fantasy Fest director Linda O'Brien, festival organizers chose the Drs. Chase as parade grand marshals not only because of their unparalleled knowledge of Caracol and the civilization of the Maya.

"We're very excited that the Drs. Chase will be sharing their knowledge of the Maya with us," O'Brien stated. "We also believe that such world-renowned anthropologists will be fascinated by the unique, and occasionally peculiar, civilization of Fantasy Fest!"



Contributed photos

Dr. Arlen Chase, above, and Dr. Diane Chase, below, are photographed in Belize.

