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LIFESTYLE

SECTION E

## THE NEWS HERALD UNDER CURRENTS

# SIT RIGHT BACK AND YOU'LL READ A TALE....

BY: TONY SIMMONS

Everybody knows who Gilligan loves (and it isn't Ginger). Gilligan Loves MaryAnn — at least, so says the singing duo Walt and Amy Fletcher, that perform under that name to coffee-sipping customers in the courtyard of Panama Java every Wednesday evening.

In between songs on a recent humpday night, MaryAnn asked about the fish-seen-through-a-port-hole design on a listener's T-shirt. It was nothing original — just some MTV logo and not a Minnow at all — but still, the sort of nautical detail a former island castaway might notice.

"I was thinking. 'You know, an artist drew that and now it's on your shirt,'" she said. Silence filled the courtyard as each audience member came to a personal conclusion about how serious she was.

My wife was reminded of Phoebe Buffay, another coffee shop singer (albeit a fictional one) given to bouts of seemingly non sequitor philosophical meandering. (Laugh track not included.) Then Gilligan hit the drum and cymbal buttons on his keyboard, badoom-crash!" I ate supper earlier and now it's on my shirt," he said. Ba-doom-crash!

Giggles spread through the audience and they went back to

their songs- covers of Sheryl Crow, Fleetwood Mac, Bob Dylan and more. One song in particular caught our attention. I suggested it was a Jewel tune, or maybe a Natalie Merchant. It had the lyrical quality of the former and the sound of the latter. It was by neither of them.

" That one's from our new CD," MaryAnn said after the last note had faded and the applause subsided. The duo's first collection of originals will be released on CD under the name of STERLING FLETCHER in or around September. Sample the new tunes at [www.sterlingfletcher.com](http://www.sterlingfletcher.com).

The CD contains a hidden bonus track featuring Gilligan's Uncle Jack, recorded on a boom-box many moons ago when Jack was confined by failing health to a nursing home. He sings Amazing Grace — some — thing the duo displayed throughout their one-hour set, their one-hour set. So join them there each week my friends, you're sure to get a smile, from two singing castaways — more fun by far than "Gilligan's Isle."



**GLM press archive**

**[www.gilliganlovesmaryann.com](http://www.gilliganlovesmaryann.com)**