

## Town Hall Series wraps up with sharp political wit

BY JILL FRALICK  
Special to Florida Weekly

"Is it too early to talk about the failed Obama presidency?"

"His Secretary of State thinks foreign affairs is when her husband is overseas. His Treasury Secretary cheats on his taxes."

"And he buys a Portuguese water dog! He outsourced his kids' puppy! Why not an American breed like a pit bull?"

"Call it, Rahm Emanuel."

Political funnyman and best-selling author P.J. O'Rourke fired off all those quips and more when asked to write some fresh copy to help promote his upcoming lecture. Mr. O'Rourke wraps up the nearly sold-out 26th annual Naples Town Hall Distinguished Speakers series on Monday evening, March 23. His lecture for the 6 p.m. engagement at the Naples Grande Beach Resort is titled "Pirates in Neckties: Government vs. The Free Market... Which is Worse?"

Well-known for his quick and clever lampoons, Mr. O'Rourke served as managing editor of *The National Lampoon* humor magazine. Thought of by some as the 21st century's Will Rogers, he's an equal-opportunity satirical genius for whom no one of prominence is off limits.

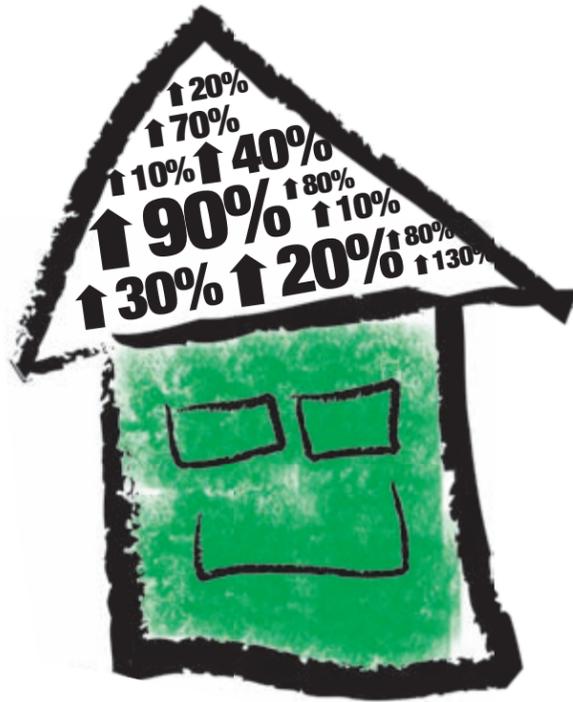
In addition to his sharp wit and tongue, he has shown he's no intellectual lightweight. His most recent book, "On the Wealth of Nations," explores and explains Adam Smith's tome, the definitive treatise on the theories of capitalism famous or its complexity and dry nature.

As the fourth speaker in the 2009 Town Hall series, Mr. O'Rourke follows Mia Farrow, Newt Gingrich and Prince Talal of Jordan. Tickets to his lecture remain available for \$106 and can be purchased by calling 596-6524. Starting with subscriptions and renewals for the 2010 Town Hall season, which go on sale March 23, ticket purchases will be tax deductible. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

P.J. O'Rourke



# BIPOLAR HOUSING



What the pros say about our roller coaster real estate market

BY ROGER WILLIAMS  
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If Collier County were human, doctors might consider diagnosing it as economically bipolar. A deranged real estate market could cause the malady that runs in families — and Collier's closest Sunshine State sibling, Lee County, has careened off the proverbial tracks.

First all the way up and higher than a kite, then all the way down and lower than mud.

What that means for us, roughly 1 million residents of the two coastal counties alone, and how the condition might be remedied could be a matter not just of wild speculation these days, but of well-reasoned opinions and steady actions based on long observation.

This week, Florida Weekly seeks such opinions — call them knowledgeable straight talk — from real estate professionals in both counties.

None dispute that the short happy life of the bipolar market has been vivid.

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>>inside:  
A Q & A with real estate expert Russ Weyer.  
A8

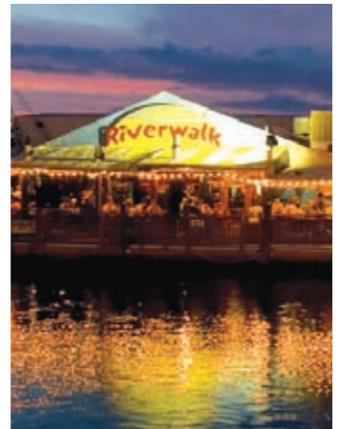
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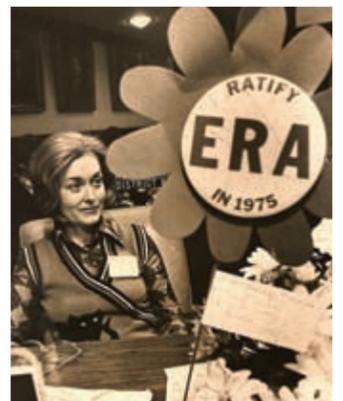
**Mangrove magic**  
Plus more get-togethers where people had fun raising funds for a cause. C23, 24 & 25 ►



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Bank of America exhibition opens this week at The von Liebig Art Center. C1 ►



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