



GETTY IMAGES BY GAB ARCHIVE/REDFERNS

Michael Jackson with Bubbles in 1984

## Jackson's chimp living the good life in SWFL

Pop icon said goodbye when Bubbles got too big

BY E.I. ROTTERSMAN  
news@floridaweekly.com

Bubbles, the chimpanzee who was Michael Jackson's constant companion for years, has been living at the Center for Great Apes, a sanctuary for chimpanzees and orangutans in Wauchula, since 2005.

The 26-year-old chimp was born at a biomedical research facility in Austin, Texas, in 1983. While still an infant, he was purchased for Mr. Jackson by animal trainer Bob Dunn, center officials said.

Bubbles reportedly lived with the pop star at his Neverland compound, sat in on the recording of the "Bad" album and accompanied Mr. Jackson on the "Bad" world tour in 1988.

The singer's relationship with Bubbles was mocked in the press, however, and became the first in a series of bizarre, eccentric behaviors that followed the pop icon the rest of his career.

When Bubbles grew too large, he was removed to Mr. Dunn's California compound. In 2005, Mr. Dunn retired from the business of working chimpanzees and orangutans and sent all his apes, including Bubbles, to the Center for Great Apes. Wauchula is about 100 miles northeast of Naples.

Mr. Jackson never visited Bubbles in Florida, center officials said. There is also a question of whether Mr. Jackson's estate will provide funds for Bubbles' care.

Today, the Center for Great Apes houses 42 chimpanzees and orangutans on 120 rural acres. They roam the property through an aboveground

SEE BUBBLES, A16 ▶

# OUR YOUNG WORKFORCE

COMPETES FOR LIMITED, AND AT TIMES, VOLUNTEER JOBS



"Things have gotten really competitive. I've never had a hard time finding a summer job before, but this year it's been impossible."

— Michael Serge, 16

BY PAM V. KROL  
pkrol@floridaweekly.com

**N**OT LONG AGO, FINDING a job was a fairly simple matter for teens interested in earning some extra spending money over the summer. The whole enterprise typically took place the week after school let out, and required little more than a trip to the mall or a couple of local restaurants. After filling out a few applications, a kid could pretty much count on being employed by the following weekend.

Few things are that simple for anyone in today's job market, but especially for teens.

For one thing, competition for the limited

SEE WORKFORCE, A8 ▶

>>inside:  
Job-hunting tips  
and Web sites  
to turn to  
**A8**



**Thoroughly enjoyable**  
Nancy Stetson says Naples Players' summer show is a hit. **C8** ▶



**No place like home**  
SeniorBridge helps older people stay where they prefer. **B1** ▶



**Making waves**  
County drops the first load for another offshore reef. **A14** ▶



**Brotherly love**  
Two Brothers Baci knows how to do Italian. **C23** ▶

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FORT MYERS, FL  
PERMIT NO. 715

ROGER WILLIAMS	A2	BUSINESS	B1	EVENTS	C6
OPINION	A4	NETWORKING	B7 & 8	MOVIE REVIEW	C12
15 MINUTES	A6	REAL ESTATE	B9	SOCIETY	C20
NAPLES HISTORY	A10	ARTS	C1	CUISINE	C23



DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH  
POSTMASTER - REQUESTED IN-HOME DELIVERY DATE: JULY 2, 2009

