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August 2006
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Volume IV Issue VI

ORPHANED CAUSEWAY

Blame-Game Leads to Tuttle Neglect

By Christian Cipriani
BBT Editor

As one leaves the Miami mainland traveling eastbound onto the Julia Tuttle Causeway, the ramps converge with I-195 on a long island before the first bridge. Standing bayside is Blue Condominium, near the base of which a long right-of-way extends eastward onto the ramp island. To the north is another right-of-way, and flanking the north and south edges are long strips of waterfront green-space.

Collectively, these four sections of emaciated greenery have been the subject of a complex puzzle over who is responsible for improving and maintaining the landscaping, but the BBT unearthed some answers.

Over the past year, the south right-of-way was subject to damage from hurricanes and construction vehicles. Soares Da Costa USA (SDC), the company contracted by Hyperion Development to work on Blue, parked more than 100 trucks a day in the grass, leaving it very rundown. Further, the banks suffer from aggressive exotic plants, namely Brazilian Peppers and Australian Pines – species prohibited by the County's Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) but allowed to remain, as they existed before the policy went into effect and because DERM only enforces removal from developable lands.

Donald Shockley, an Upper Eastside resident formerly with the Miami Beach Planning Department, has tried for a year to find who is responsible for the site and demand they improve it; as a westbound gateway to Miami it is embarrassing, even more so in comparison to the Miami Beach side, with its trim grass and healthy palms.

Blue's Parking Lot

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) owns the entire island, and according to Ron Steiner, their head of maintenance, FDOT tried all last year to stop SDC from using the area as a staging ground. But even the state-level agency, with all its resources, was somehow unable to deter them. SDC continued parking on using the right-of-way, and

As a westbound gateway to Miami it is embarrassing, even more so in comparison to the Miami Beach side, with its trim grass and healthy palms.

according to Kirk Kenyon, the project manager, they did so with the City of Miami's blessing granted they cut the grass once finished. He couldn't specify when or between whom this agreement was purportedly made.

Kenyon stressed that "this was nine months ago and we haven't parked any vehicles there since."

He's correct: The parking continued unpunished until the end of summer 2005 despite being, as Steiner claims, illegal (and not within the City of Miami's rights to authorize).

Continued on page 58

YOU ARE WHAT YOU FISH!



Photo courtesy of Steve Spring

Forget about sharks, pirates and sea-monsters. This frightening pipe, two miles off the shore of Haulover Beach, spews our human waste 24/7 into the ocean.

By Jim Harper
BBT Columnist

You might want to think twice before ordering the fish. If it was caught nearby, it may have been filling its belly with sewage, and that's not what you want swimming in *your* belly.

This is one of Southeast Florida's dirtiest little secrets: Unlike the rest of the state, we dump most of our wastewater, including sewage, offshore through giant pipes called ocean outfalls. And where there are outfalls,

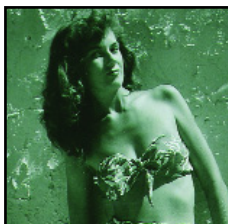
there are fish feeding on a fetid cocktail that I like to call "schmung." Some fishermen simply call it "the stink hole," and it is one of their dirty secrets, too.

The two Miami-Dade pipes originate from the wastewater treatment plants on Virginia Key and in North Miami, the latter located just north of N.E. 151st Street, east of Biscayne Boulevard. From there, imagine a pipe eight feet in diameter running east, toward the beach at Haulover Park,

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Queen of The Bikini

Who's this sultry honey?
It's Bunny!
Page 52



Bust-A-Groove

Neighbors keep ancient Haitian dances alive
Page 20



¡Hay Bendito!

Wynwood shows its Puerto Rican pride
Page 70



Quit Buggin' Out...

...and get schooled with Black Cinema 101
Page 44





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How Many More Must Die Before Leaders Act?

Miami had better get serious about the recent wave of violence that has swept over the Northwest sector of our city. In scenes reminiscent of the early '80s and '90s, innocent children and adults are being killed by bullets intended for others. When the bad guys start shooting at the bad guys they inevitably miss, and playing children seem to be in the way, an inconvenience usually explained away as being in "their" neighborhood, not our own. This head-in-the-sand mentality will inevitably lead to greater violence that will engulf the city if left unchecked.

First and foremost, Miami has to get the guns off of the streets. Children don't get killed by stray knives. Children don't get killed by stray fists. Children should not be going to their playmates' funerals on a monthly basis. We need to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce the firepower now available to any street-thug who wants to be boss of his block.

When I mention this to people, I usually get a roll of the eyes as if to say there is no way to do this. If we believe it is impossible to reduce the number of guns on the street, our bat-

tle is over and the enemy has won. Personally, I believe it can be done with strict enforcement of current gun laws and an effective, weekly gun buy-back that offers more than a \$50 voucher for a weapon. AK-47's go for \$400 on the street, and that is what we are going to need to pay to get them off of the street.

One effective method would be to visit pawnshops on a weekly basis and buy any firearms left there beyond 30 days - ones now eligible to be bought and moved back onto the street. Buy the firearms and crush them under a bulldozer. This may sound expensive, but not nearly as expensive as a front page story documenting an upsurge of violence that might be covered in The New York Times or The Washington Post.

Many municipalities have found it feasible to sue gun manufacturers. And if need be, challenge the federal laws that make it legal to own assault rifles. These are drastic measures, but we are entering drastic times.

The other elephant in the room is how to get witnesses of these horrific crimes to speak out, to say, "Not in my front yard!" This will take a tremendous amount of political will.

Are our elected officials up to it? If the past is any indication, the answer is no, since it will not involve promotion of their own personalities.

When I saw the Miami Heat players celebrating in front of the American Airlines Arena, I saw a missed opportunity for our elected officials to take the bull by the horns. Why not move that celebration to the heart of the city? Why didn't our elected officials ask the Miami Heat players to show up at the Unity for Peace rally held in District 5 to protest the senseless killings of 9-year-old Sherdavia Jenkins and 18-month-old Zykarious Cadillon?

Athletes and celebrities are these children's role models; therefore, why not ask those that profess to love Miami as their hometown to step up to the plate? If they love Miami so much, they should relish the prospect of helping to stop the violence taking our children. Of course, the big question here is if our public officials will take time out of patting each other on the back to ask for the assistance of these ambassadors to the inner-city. This is political will, something which our elected officials seem to lack.

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Dear BBT

It's not only the Miami drivers that are certainly the worst in the United States ... the pedestrians take a close second. Please indulge me in venting, as I'm still shaking from what just happened. While I was driving to work on N.E. 2nd Avenue today at the 35 mph posted speed limit with my dog in the front seat next to me, a woman and child walked into the street in front of me (no, not in a crosswalk) without bothering to look before crossing in rush hour traffic in the middle of the block!

I slammed on the brake and blasted the horn with my dog flying into the dashboard. Fortunately my dog is alright. The most disturbing part of this is the woman simply glanced at me through my windshield and continued walking across the street at her same pace. I don't think her heart even skipped a beat as she and her approximately 4-year-old child were inches from being killed. Of course I put my window down and yelled and screamed at her like every person in Miami does when someone does something so stupid, and of course she turned back at me and smiled like every person in Miami does when they've done something so stupid (although they usually give you the finger too, but her fingers were occupied holding the child's hand).

I've always thought people in Miami for the most part have very little regard for others. Now, 15 years later, I've had an epiphany and figured it out: The reason is because they have very little regard for themselves. People like this certainly shouldn't be allowed to have children.

*Dean Churack
Edgewater/Design District*

~ ~ ~

Biscayne Pet House

Dear BBT

Great article on Biscayne Pet House! I've been a customer for years and it's great to hear all the good news about our neighborhood pet store. Tom and Bonnie are wonderful people and truly make my dog and I feel like family. Thanks for recognizing the mom-and-pop businesses in our community.

*Sincerely,
Kelly Morales
Biscayne Shores*

~ ~ ~

Thanks for the Article

Dear BBT

Thank you, Skip and Ivana, for the wonderful article about our business. We and our customers are enjoying it very much. Great job!

*Tom and Bonnie Klimetz
Biscayne Pet House*

~ ~ ~

Mother Miffed!

Dear Editor

I just discovered that a review I provided of the Brainy Baby DVDs on Amazon.com was used – without my consent – in an article by K. Lee Sohn that appeared in your paper and on your website, slamming parents who use educational DVDs for their children. I am painted in a highly offensive light for a product review that I provided for *other parents*.

My words were taken out of context and used to emphasize how shameful parents are today by using technology to assist them in the early weeks and months of parenting by providing them with a break. The article deals with literacy. I have a B.A. in English Literature and am a professional writer. My family is extremely well-educated, articulate and literate. My father-in-law is the former Associate Chair of Psychiatry at Stanford Medical School, and my husband is a Stanford Alum. According to this article, my daughter's mind is being harmed and she is the victim of a growing trend of negligent parenting in which TVs and DVDs entertain our children for endless hours to the detriment of their minds.

Have you met my daughter? Have you met me? I have read every available study on the effects of television-viewing in infancy; I have absolutely no doubt that I am far more informed than you, and as far as I'm concerned, this falls under the simple edict: All things in moderation. My review of the Brainy Baby DVDs, which the article doesn't even refer to correctly (instead calling them "Baby Genius"), was intended to provide help to overworked, overtired parents who occasionally need a break. For my husband and I, who have no family around to help, being able to eat a 15-minute dinner together in those early months of my daughter's life was important to our marriage.

Letting my daughter work on her shoulder and arm strength while correcting torticollis by spending time on the floor, with my by her side, watching shapes and images on an educational DVD, was helpful for her physical development. She is bright and healthy. This

Continued on page 8

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- Sponsored resolution to preserve Temporary Protective Status for Immigrants
- Co-Sponsored the initiative to develop a plan to assist children impacted by domestic violence
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Letters to the Editor

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.....
 writer has attacked me over the most deeply personal and significant part of my life, without any knowledge of who I am or what I value. Furthermore, she lumped my daughter into some category of negligence and illiteracy that is patently false. The next time you want to use someone's Amazon.com product review in an article, I suggest you ask them first.

*Erinn Agras
 Boulder, CO*

~ ~ ~

Little River Mixed-Use Advocates Sound Off

Dear Editor

I am responding to your story from the July 2006 issue entitled "N.E. 4th Avenue Live-Work, Dead." There are many mistakes with the story, starting with the headline. Live-work or work-live opportunities on N.E. 4th Avenue are not dead. The truth is that one application was denied. There are projects currently in permitting for N.E. 4th Avenue; they are on N.E. 55th and 58th Streets, and N.E. 58th

Terrace.

The extremely well-known and respected consultants working on Miami 21 for the City of Miami see the benefits of mixed-use zoning with in the 80 to 100 acres currently zoned Industrial. (People call this area Little River, Lemon City and Little Haiti.) Goody Clancy, the city's consultants working on the Parks Master Plan for Miami 21, prepared a map with their recommendations for our area. This map is available to the public (and to your reporters) on miami21.org. They recommend mixed-use zoning in our area to support the new \$30 million Little Haiti Park(s), to create a pedestrian friendly community and because of its access to public transportation.

In addition, DPZ, the lead Miami 21 consultant, also sees the benefit of buffering the new park(s) with residential housing to create users and to provide "eyes on the street." Almost everyone knows there is crime in this area, and having eyes on the street helps to deter illegal dumping, crack-addicts and break-ins. Further, DPZ recommends mixed-use zoning on transit corridors such as N.E. 2nd Avenue, N.E. 59th Street and the FEC Corridor, all of which surround the acreage to which I refer.

Your article also misrepresented one of the opponents. Colleen Paul did not claim to be "a rep for the LRID" (Little River Industrial District). You should have pointed out that Ms. Paul lives in North Miami, not the City of Miami. Either Ms. Paul has not driven through the subject area or she is mischaracterizing it: she states, "...the whole complex is vibrant with industrial jobs." The complex is full of \$3-an-hour "workers," many of whom must stop every two hours to smoke crack. Any citizen who cares should be advocating for real jobs that pay legal wages to people who spend their money on legal

goods and legal services.

We are disappointed that Commissioner Spence-Jones dislikes change and does not want to "open a can of worms," but change is inevitable. (After all, Miami 21 is all about change.) Who would have thought the City of Miami would evict jobs to create a \$30 million residential park in the middle of 100 acres zoned Industrial, as they did several years ago? Well, they did. (The City is using 13 to 14 acres for the park, but they originally proposed taking up to 60 acres of our land. Many property-owners are still under threat of eminent domain.)

Most importantly, the article failed to make clear that the property-owner of the subject site was attempting to get permission to do an adaptive reuse of an old warehouse building. His plan might have created up to 70 spaces to house 70 to 140 jobs and/or live-work units. Because Commissioner Spence-Jones killed the application, the property-owner, without going back to the City Commission, can now convert his property to self-storage with no jobs and no residences. How does that help the residents of District 5?

We believe that when the Commissioner learns the benefits of "eyes on the street" and when she learns that you cannot displace residents from an Industrial area, because there aren't any, that she will be happy to recommend mixed-use zoning. The goal should be to bring confidence to District 5 so residents and stakeholders can prosper.

We covet mixed-use zoning and all the benefits it will bring.

*Peter Ehrlich
 Lemon City Taxpayers Association*

~ ~ ~

Continued on page 9

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Letters to the Editor

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Just to Clarify...

Dear Editor

Thank you for quoting me somewhat accurately in your story, "N.E. 4th Ave. Live-Work, Dead" (July 2006). However, many stakeholders in the Little River Industrial District, the area which is the focus of this article, disagree with your statement, "Neighborhood leaders perceived the project as arrogant and alien forces floating in to displace residents." The fact is, there are no residents in the Little River Industrial District, so none can be displaced.

In contrast, many of us advocate some mixed-use, or T5 zoning under Miami 21, for parts of this blighted area of District 5. Some mixed-use zoning in this area would create an all-around win-win situation – more and better jobs, additional needed housing, reduction in commuting time for area workers, safer and cleaner streets, more life and more energy, better sense of community, etc.

In addition, the prominent Miami 21 consultants, Economic Research Associates and Goody Clancy, both recommend residential zoning around the upcoming \$30 million Little Haiti Park. We remember that while planning for this park, city officials had promised more residences around the park.

The park's athletic and cultural components are being built in the southwestern section of the Little River Industrial District, as many of your readers know. We advocate mixed-use zoning around this park, as well as all along the outer borders and the transportation corridors of this area. This includes N.E. 72nd Street (the northern border of this industrial district, where the two properties featured in this story are located) Mixed-use, or T5, zoning is also appropriate along the other borders and transit corridors: N.E. 59th and 61st Streets, N.E. 2nd Avenue, N.E. 4th Avenue and along the FEC Corridor. Transportation experts publicize the FEC Corridor as "the future of public transportation in South Florida." The consultants doing the FEC Corridor study have asked for more density on the corridor so they get more riders.

Thank you for publishing this letter so that your well-informed readers can better understand why so many of us favor some mixed-use, or T5, zoning in Lemon City/Little River/Little Haiti.

*Silvia Wong
Business-Owner,
Little River Industrial District*

~ ~ ~

No Village Rivalry

Dear Editor

Although you quote North Miami Mayor Kevin Burns as having said, "Don't let a power line pit one community against another" ("North Miami Fights the Power," July 2006), your article portrays a considerable inaccuracy in the opening paragraph by stating, "the score stands at Miami Shores 1, North Miami 0."

As one Miami Shores resident who was considerably involved in the opposition to FPL's initial proposal for the power line routes, I can assure you that this was not a game or a sport between two villages, and your sports metaphor was rather inapt. Residents from the areas affected joined together in a "Coalition of the Villages" to oppose the transmission lines being run through any residential area and favored the commercial or industrial corridors.

I witnessed no one at any of the meetings or through the abundance of emails received that advocated running these lines through the residential areas of North Miami.

The overwhelming choice among residents is to bury all lines underground, and FPL's lack of a credible or reasonable response would be a far more worthy subject of an investigation and article. After all, thousands of communities across America work hand-in-hand with their power companies to "go underground." Why can't we?

You might also consider investigating the impact the massive new development, Biscayne Landing, will have on the power grid in North Miami, since this project appeared to be the "sleeping giant" which the FPL officials treated dismissively – and which North Miami will be a major tax beneficiary.

Are the developers of this former waste-dump being asked to contribute toward the burial of underground lines? How about sharing some of the revenue with the surrounding villages that will shoulder some of the burden in increased traffic?

There is indeed far more to the story of the power line routes than ultimately pitting one community against another.

*Sincerely,
David Curry
Miami Shores*

~ ~ ~

Miami's Trolley Folly

Dear Editor

When you ask someone to design a rail system you get a rail system design; you don't get a recommendation for the best method of moving people. I attended the first public hearing on the planned rail system. This hearing was not to get public input; it was to introduce a cooked and decided plan. A cost of several hundred million dollars was tossed out as an estimate.

When I questioned the city official in charge of this folly, I found out that they had not done a study on alternate fuels, nor had they figured in the cost of moving all the underground utilities that are in place on the streets along which they plan to run the rail. Let's look at this system.

The route they have planned was picked to help eliminate traffic gridlock, but the city could do that now by removing their parking meters, which would open more lanes. They say that they are going to do this when they lay down the

rail. Why not do it now?

Further, once they lay down the rail and put a trolley on it, a trolley that will stop at almost every intersection (it is a people-mover concept), that lane will cause more gridlock.

The selection of an electric-run trolley is plain stupid for today's transportation.

It takes fossil fuel burned at a power plant and delivered to a trolley at a loss of at least 80 percent of its BTU value. The burning of fuel at the power plant increases air pollution and puts citizens in competition for the remaining fossil fuel supplies and increases their price.

The fuel oil portion of the fossil fuel, being an imported product, won't be available to make gasoline.

Also, electric trolleys won't run after a hurricane, when they are needed most. And electric trolleys may not be running during the coming brownouts.

The cost of installing electric poles

Continued on page 10

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Letter to the Editor to:

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Miami City Hall: Real Changing of the Guard or Same Old, Same Old?

By Harry Emilio Gottlieb
Coconut Grove

The good news is that the showboating, argumentative, self-aggrandizing, caustic, ill-mannered City Manager Joe Arriola and the arrogant, pugilistic, developer's best friend, zoning variance-approving, Home Depot-supporting, Pontius Pilot of a City Commissioner, Johnny Winton, have finally been replaced.

The bad news is the fear that the slippery slope Miami has been on may not change all that much. Miami deserves and expects more than the "Same Old, Same Old."

It is critical that Mayor Manny Diaz comprehend that the citizens of Miami were not just disappointed with the shenanigans of those guys. We have been and remain very unhappy about the direction he has been leading us into the future.

There are so many things wrong with Mayor Diaz's policies that even the temporary distraction and elation of the Miami Heat battling tooth-and-nail to win the NBA Championship cannot conceal them indefi-

nately. If you recall, even the Roman gladiatorial games at the Coliseum were also a distraction, but eventually the truth was revealed that the empire was in a downward spiral all along. The truth always reveals itself no matter how hard it is spun, concealed or denied.

We are most pleased that Arriola and Winton have been replaced with quality, respectable, down-to-earth, experienced, professionals like Pete Hernandez as City Manager and Linda Haskins as the interim City Commissioner. But let's be honest: This changing of the guard has come about as a result of this city's incompetence, arrogance and inability to comprehend the needs and desires of the electorate. This recent and long-overdue personnel change was not accomplished as a result of Mayor Diaz's wisdom, free will, leadership or love for Miami; it's an attempt to slow down the political hemorrhaging and loss of public confidence caused by the misbehavior of Arriola and Winton. And the change is due in no small part to the efforts of the outraged public and the revelations of the media.

We hope and pray that these events turn out to be a

big wake-up call to Mayor Diaz, our City Commissioners and all government administrators. It is time to address the real issues that concern Miami. It's interesting to note that the perception outside of Miami of Mayor Diaz's policies has resulted in his image being that of the "Green Mayor." But most of us in Miami who have witnessed the frightening results of some of his choices, policies and close ties to developers think of him more as "Cement Manny."

We wish that City Manager Hernandez and the new interim City Commissioner Haskins all the success in the world in their soon-to-be stressful and challenging jobs. We thank them for their love of Miami and desire to make our city a better place. We hope they will listen to the wishes of the citizens and not fall into the same trap, arrogance and egotism as their predecessors.

The changing of the guard must not be just cosmetic, a Band-Aid for show. The changing of the guard must be with the true intention of changing the disastrous course that Miami has been on for far too long. We have been granted one more chance to make things right. Let's not screw it up again.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 9

at substations and wiring over the route of the trolley, as well as the cost of relocating underground utilities and laying rails, will be many hundreds of millions of dollars – a cost that could be totally eliminated if this proposed transportation system were using compressed natural gas for fuel. The system could be in place in a few months at a savings of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Further, if the proposed route is not successful, a non-fixed rail people-mover can quickly adjust to a different route.

Comparing Miami to Portland, Oregon, for usage is wrong. In Portland, you can walk a few blocks without getting soaking wet from sweating. In Miami, a per-

son that walks a block quickly gets wet. A working professional cannot be expected to give up parking in the office building downtown, and instead park outside downtown, take a trolley that stops several blocks from his destination, and turn up at the office in business dress wet with sweat or rain.

Non-rail, rubber-wheeled people-movers using compressed natural gas could run a flexible route, cost less to set up, less to operate and be in use within a few months.

However, it won't be the hard-rail, multimillion-dollar construction project, with its resultant high operating cost and bureaucratic agency with the image cache that some want.

Richard Mason
Miami Shores

In Our Opinion

Continued from page 4

Cadillon could have been the baby that grows up to be a Udonis Haslem, the Miami Heat player, who just so happens to come from the same streets that took the life of Jenkins, a straight-A student and champion chess player who might have become the woman that brokers peace in the Middle East. We'll never know. Two young lives amongst many that have been taken.

I can only imagine Mayor Diaz's reaction to a proposal by the BBT to buy guns back at market rate; it would probably be similar to the quote he had about our proposal to buy the Dupont property for public use, to wit:

"If the Biscayne Boulevard Times

wants to write a check for it...."

Well, the check he wrote to himself for a \$53,000 pay raise a few months back would effectively take 133 AK-47s off of the street. No small amount of firepower in my opinion.

No *Miami Vice* premieres or NBA championships will save Miami if we see a renewal of the violence we experienced in the past. The seeds are there, and they are being pollinated by disenfranchised young people and watered by the proliferation of readily available firearms. It's time for our city and county leaders to get proactive instead of waiting until a tourist gets killed before taking action.

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- ★ Funding for redevelopment of Biscayne Boulevard with new streetlights, sidewalks, landscaping and improved drainage.
- ★ Restoration of Biscayne Shores Park
- ★ Purchase of land for two new parks. The park plans include a tot lot, site furniture, pathways, open green space and landscaping.
- ★ Obtained over \$200,000 in funding from American Airlines for the Miami Music Fest to celebrate community diversity and music education.
- ★ Historic designation of Shorecrest and Lake Belmar neighborhoods.
- ★ Traffic calming and beautification of the Northeast corridor

Disclaimer: Paid political advertising paid for by the campaign to elect Kathy E. Emery for State Representative District 108. Approved and authorized by Kathy E. Emery

Pallot Park Shoreline Mess, be Gone!

Parks Dept. to Sweep Twice Weekly, Discuss Further Work

By Christian Cipriani
BBT Editor

In Magnolia Park, near the Miami entrance to the Julia Tuttle, sits Albert Pallot Park, a small swath of green whose 350 feet of shoreline suffers from debris incessantly washed ashore by the lapping waters of Biscayne Bay. It was here that Raphael Gonzalez, Parks Operations Coordinator for the City of Miami, met with neighbors on July 24 to discuss a solution to the bags, bottles and even medical waste belched onto the concrete-and-kelp 'beach'.

The plan is to double the city's shoreline maintenance contract with Sanchez Arango, a construction company based on N.W. 70th Street, upping efforts to twice a week. The company also performs seaweed removal every two months. Residents plan to organize a Friends of Magnolia Park coalition to aid in the cleanup.

Present at the meeting was Geoffery Bash, a Magnolia Park neighborhood leader, who along with Steven Ruggieri and others took the initiative to approach the City of Miami about numerous park improvements. The two men plus Gonzalez brainstormed methods to reduce debris wash-up altogether; however, a net or porous barrier of some type, or a seawall, could potentially just push trash elsewhere, as in the case of Margaret Pace Park further down the coastline.



Photos by Christian Cipriani

Raphael Gonzalez, left, Parks Operations Coordinator for the City of Miami, and Steven Ruggieri, a Corona Bay resident, survey the shoreline debris.

Continued on page 18

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The Candidates Forum at Legion Park

By: Malika Bierstein
BBT Staff Writer

In a July 25 public forum at Legion Park co-hosted by the Shorecrest Homeowners Association, the Upper Eastside Miami Council and the Urban Environment League, candidates for the District 3 County Commission, District 2 School Board, District 108 State Representative and County Court judicial seats outlined campaign initiatives and answered questions posed by audience members.

Questions were posed by moderator

Leah Simms to a panel that included county commission candidates Bess McElroy, incumbent Audrey Edmonson, and former Miami City Manager Howard Gary for County Commissioner; Gepsie Metellus, incumbent Solomon Stinson and former State Representative Darryl Reaves for School Board Representative; and Hans Laurenceau, Kathy Emery, Ronald Brisé, Peter Walsh and Prospero Herrera II for State Representative, to replace incumbent Phillip Brutus.

Candidates were given two minutes

of response time and one minute of rebuttal time to address a variety of issues including the allocation of funds, future development, the housing crisis, healthcare, tax relief, the restoration of civil rights for felons and gay adoption. Herrero, a Republican, was the only candidate to oppose gay couples being able to adopt.

Simms interjected at one point in opposition to a blanket statement made by Laurenceau in which he declared that judges would not keep felons on a jury even if their civil rights had been restored, a comment that did not sit

well with the judge.

"Excuse me," she said, "some of us did quite a lot, some of us do and continue to, thank you very much." Her response was met with explosive applause from the audience.

The 2006 Miami-Dade County Commission election will be held on September 5.

BBT

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City Extends Single-Family Rehab Program

\$35,000 Forgivable Loans Still Available

By Malika Bierstein
BBT Staff Writer

The Department of Community Development has extended the deadline for \$35,000 rehabilitation loans to eligible single-family homeowners in the City of Miami on a first-come, first-served basis to repair their properties.

Also known as the Residential Code Compliance Program, the rehabilitation assistance plan will provide three percent, non-amortizing, ten-year interest-deferred, forgivable loans to single-family homeowners in the City of Miami. The city's aim is to improve the quality of residents' homes with a maximum assistance amount of \$35,000.

Approved renovations include roofing, structural, electrical and plumbing repairs, in addition to other specified improvements necessary to bring the house up to code and provide safe and sanitary living conditions. All work will be inspected by city employees and contractors, and be paid for upon completion of construction pending approval by the homeowner and the

city inspector. Funding will be provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the Department of Housing and Community Development's State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP).

Eligibility requirements include households with income less than or equal to 80 percent of the median, based on household size. Any rehabilitation services covered by SHIP funds will increase the maximum allowable income to 120 percent. Eligible owners must have the ability to afford a monthly payment based on their income and debt, and must be current in their mortgage payment, insurance and taxes.

Only single-family homes are eligible, which discounts properties with more than one living unit. The loan will be secured by a second mortgage on the property. Residents who stay in their homes for a period of ten years following receipt of the rehabilitation services will not be expected to repay the loan.

All principal and accrued interest will be due upon the sale or transfer of the property if it is on or before the loan's maturity date. Applications are being accepted for consideration through August 17. For further information or questions call 305-416-2012.

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Politicians, Athletes Rally for Peace

Liberty City Residents Outraged over Recent Gun Violence

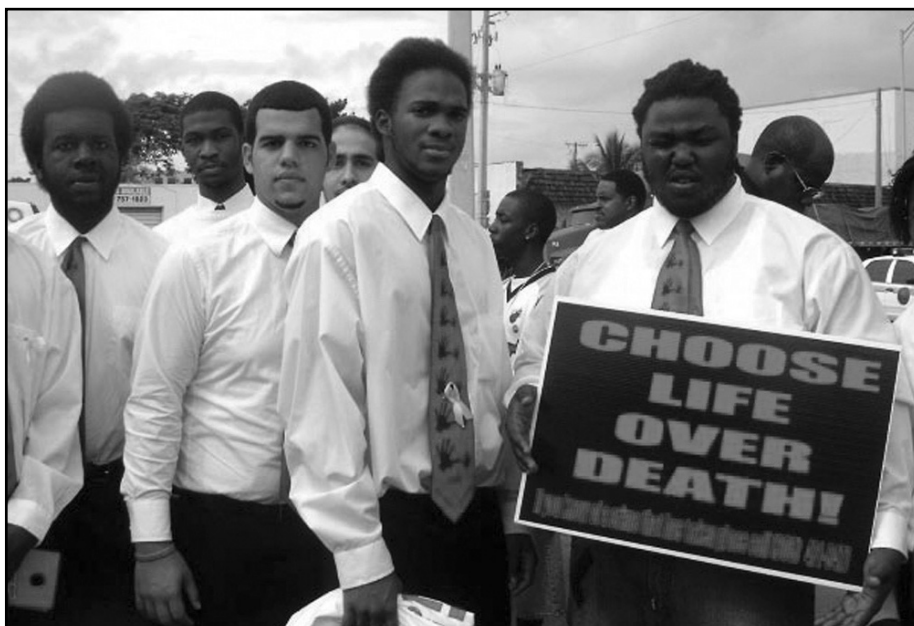
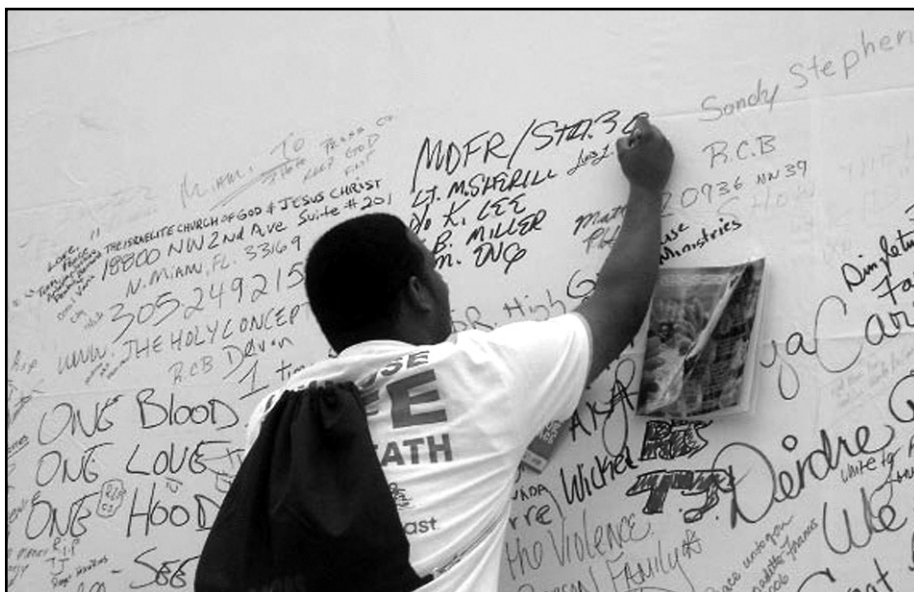


On Wednesday, July 13, at a McDonald's on N.W. 62nd Street in Liberty City, District 5 Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones joined WEDR 99 Jamz and the Hot 105 family for the Unity for Peace Rally.

Radio broadcasts from the site started at 6 a.m., as community members signed a giant "Unity for Peace" petition. At 9 a.m., community leaders, representatives from McDonalds, and local athletes such as former Miami Dolphin Orande Gadsden and Patrick Surtain, of the Kansas City Chiefs, spoke out against recent gun violence in the community and encouraged solidarity.

The rally was part of the Unite for Peace Campaign, a public awareness initiative driven by youth to address nonviolence and peace in the community. Drawing on local influences, from artists to athletes, the campaign's aim is to deter gun violence by reaching out to youth and their families.

All photos courtesy of the office of District 5 Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones



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Pallot Park

Continued from page 12

In addition, an offshore project raises jurisdictional questions, and physically would have to be carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation or the County's Department of Environmental Resource Management.

Recent park improvements include the addition of a doggie-bag dispenser near the entrance, but Bash and company are trying to organize neighbors to ensure more enhancements follow. District 2 Commissioner Linda Haskins recently met with locals to discuss several issues, Pallot Park included, and the winds of change are picking up.

Important meetings about the shoreline and the future of the park's landscape will be held soon; Magnolia Park residents should email magnolia-park33137@yahoo.com to receive updates.



Left: Geoffery Bash spearheaded efforts to up Pallot Park cleanup to twice weekly.

Above: An asthma inhaler, among other debris washed ashore.

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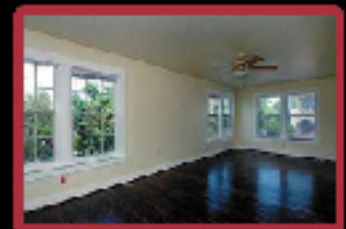
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Ayizan Kreyol Brings Ancient Folkloric Dance to Little Haiti

By Malika Bierstein
BBT Staff Writer

You don't have to travel to Haiti to take part in the beauty of its ancient folkloric dances to the beat of a live drum. Three times a month, in a room at St. Paul Episcopal Church, located at 6744 N. Miami Ave. in Little Haiti, members of the Ayizan Kreyol Folkloric Organization (AKFO) come together with adults and children alike to take part in these sacred dances.

"Right now we have classes only three times a month," said Ingrid Llera, president of the AKFO. "It's not easy to have something like this. We have controllers, the teachers, and it's very difficult. We cannot pay everybody. All of the classes for the month are \$50, which averages out to only like \$5 to \$10 a class."

Instructors Ovida Alva and Emmanuel Merisier, who teach the monthly classes, specialize in traditional folkloric dances the Yanvalou, the Ibo, the Mahi, the Petwo, the Banda, the Contradance and the Dahomen. Alva, originally from Haiti, has more than 15 years of dance experience from Haiti, Santo Domingo and Miami. Live drummers provide music to the choreographed dances that date back thousands of years.

AKFO, which previously held classes at the University Park Campus of Florida International University and the University Center for the Performing Arts, has been using the church in Little Haiti for the past month. Difficulty with parents and children finding transporta-



Class instructor and professional choreographer Ovida Alva leads students in a Haitian dance class at St. Paul Episcopal Church.

photos by Malika Bierstein & AKFO

tion to the Kendall campus motivated them to find a new location in their own backyard. Classes are currently a mix of adults and children, but Llera and

Jacques Medard, AKFO's vice-president, hope to raise enough money through the church to sponsor a separate class for kids.

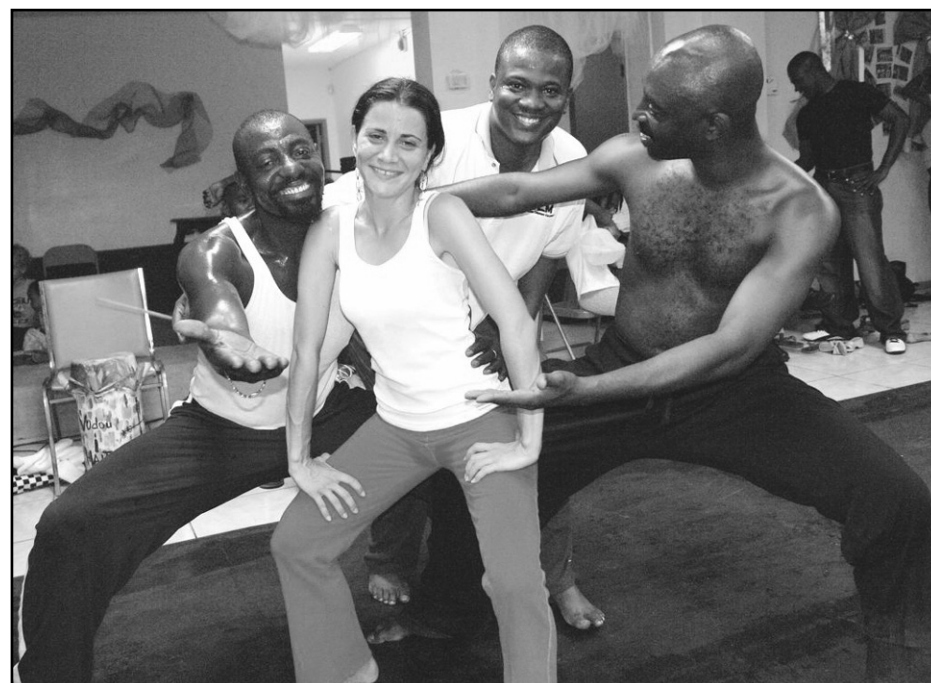
"It's a family thing on Saturday, but during the week it's hard," said Llera. "That's why we're trying to put together separate

"We're learning as we go – so far, so good. Everybody likes the workout."

*Ingrid Llera
President of the AKFO*

classes for the children. It would be much more organized, but the parents cannot pay for them. We're hoping to be able to do that soon. But it's a start, we're learning as we go – so far, so good. Everybody likes the workout."

Continued on page 49



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Say Goodbye to My Little Friend

MPD Gun Buy-Back in Wynwood Nets Seven Firearms

By Christian Cipriani
BBT Editor

On Saturday, July 22, outside the Wynwood Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) office on N.W. 2nd Avenue at 29th Street, the Miami Police Department (MPD) held a gun buy-back as part of their "Do the Right Thing Program." In a parking lot adjacent to Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, officers from the MPD Department of Community Affairs (DoCA) teamed up with City of Miami Community Relations employees, as well as staff from the Wynwood NET and the office of State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, to offer \$50 vouchers in exchange for weapons and pass out a bevy of information on community initiatives.

Lieutenant Joe Schillaci, a DoCA spokesman, donned sunglasses in the face of intense morning heat as he optimistically explained the goal of this event, which was advertised to neighbors via community announcements and hand-delivered flyers:

"Even if we get just one gun, that's one more gun off the street."

Once in police hands, a gun is logged, tagged, cross-referenced with unsolved crime files and then destroyed.

The event began at 10 a.m., but as the 1 p.m. cut-off approached and volunteers moved quickly to dismantle tables in the face of an approaching storm, it was in this sort of idealism that everyone was forced to find satisfaction, as the final collection numbers read: two BB guns and five handguns, one of which was an antique revolver, which Lt. Schillaci noted, "Probably hasn't been used in God knows how long... but may be used next week in a drive-by shooting."

According to Lt. Schillaci and his colleague, Officer



Lt. Joe Schillaci explains to a news crew how they destroy guns collected at the buy-back.

Photos by Christian Cipriani

Amos Pierre, 30-some weapons are normally acquired during buy-backs, held roughly every three months in roving locations. One of their highest counts came from Liberty City, where a recent spike in gun violence caused the death of 9-year-old Sherdavia Jenkins and widespread community outrage. One 2004 buy-back netted 83 guns, and according to Ofc. Pierre:

"When we did this in Overtown, we had a lot of handguns, 45s, several shotguns, some old collector

guns and even AK-47s."

Most of these guns they said are legal weapons, so the BBT asked why someone with a legal, presumably expensive gun wouldn't obtain its real value via standard buy/sell channels. Lt. Schillaci responded:

"The money is not the key here, it's making a statement like, 'Although I have a \$1,000 AK-47, I don't want this gun to be responsible for killing a 9-year-old

Continued on page 23



Left: Volunteers and employees from various community organizations were on hand to inform residents about child protection programs, the National Night Out and other initiatives beyond the "Do The Right Thing" Gun Buy-Back.





The day's first catch: An antique pistol

MPD Gun Buy-Back in Wynwood

Continued from page 22

girl playing in her front yard.' So the statement is, 'Sure, my gun is worth \$1,000, but that girl's life is worth a hell of a lot more'."

While those who turn up to sell their guns may be legitimate owners, the 'no questions asked' policy encourages gang members and such to, well, do the right thing, even (or perhaps especially) if their weapon was used in a crime.

"When we did this in the Little Haiti/Buena Vista area, I noticed that one fellow scoped the area out to see if it was legit, saw that his buddies turned in their guns, so he came with his," said Ofc. Pierre.

Lt. Schillaci added: "The whole idea is for people to not think about the money value, but the price of human life. That's what this is all about."

Among those present to dispense information was Lynda Roberts, a community involvement specialist and native of Liberty City, where she's observed a concentration of firearms. Roberts was on hand to advertise, among other things, the MPD's 23rd Annual National Night Out. The Miami chapter of this August 1 nationwide anti-crime rally will begin at 6 p.m. at the Orange Bowl and culminate downtown, with Mayor Diaz expected to address the crowd.



Staff from the State Attorney's office was there to push an initiative aimed at stopping crimes against children, whereby fingerprints and DNA (collected on a Band-Aid provided in the signup package) are collected and stored as reference in the event of a crime.

While not expressly organized in response to the Jenkins murder, the incident – which rode the tip of everyone's tongue that morning – informed the buy-back with a certain vigilante undertone, a sign that police and community

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City Commission Notes

Out with the Bold, In with the New

The City Commission unanimously approved Mayor Manny Diaz's appointment of Pedro "Pete" Hernandez to replace Joe Arriola as City Manager. In his previous role as Deputy County Manager under George Burgess, Hernandez oversaw numerous departments and brings with him 33 years of public sector experience and a calm demeanor. Arriola's departure closes an interesting chapter in Miami politics, and he leaves behind a legacy of professional effectiveness dressed in outbursts of colorful language and machismo.

Brainstorms on the Vacant Lot Problem

In a discussion item led by District 2 Commissioner Linda Haskins, she outlined a program that would require the registration of vacant or abandoned properties. Among the various ideas in her plan, code enforcers would be deployed to ensure a vacant or abandoned façade is not covered in plywood and looks presentable from street. She explained:

"The vision for this is that once we have registered the property... we can bring in [Community Development Block Grant] and affordable housing people and either rehabilitate these lots or sell them... to create more affordable housing."

In support, Commissioner Regalado cited a County study, which noted that out of 600 such lots, 400 were in bad shape, and recommended providing Façade Program workers with community development funds for improvement efforts.

"We could set aside taxes incrementally from these properties to contribute [to their rehabilitation]," Haskins added.

Notification Radius Should Not Include Fish

District 4 Commissioner Tomas Regalado led a discussion to address the perennial issue of which citizens are notified of impending development. In what commissioners hope will turn into an amendment drafted by City Attorney Jorge Fernandez for the Planning and Zoning Department, highways, bodies of water, parks, public spaces and the like will not be considered part of the standard 500-foot notification radius.

"I think that's a big issue," said Commissioner Spence-Jones. "Whether it's 500 feet or not, people may still be affected by development in their neighborhood."

This comment, as with the entire discussion, was a direct response to growing public frustration over feeling uninformed – or informed in such small numbers – to the point of paralyzing their capacity to affect change.

But as Atty. Fernandez advised with his usual dose of measured caution: "This [radius] has been on the books for a long time and it's just a policy decision... At the end of the day this becomes a cost to the applicant, because you have to notify more people... [and] depending on the geography, there will no longer be a simple radius."

District 3 Commissioner Joe Sanchez, looking bored, called the discussion to and end.

Lotus House Gets \$50K Boost

The City Commission transferred \$50,000 from the community-based nonprofit Better Way of Miami, Inc., which provides shelter and treatment to homeless and drug-addicted persons, to the Sundari Foundation, for emergency shelter and transitional operating costs at the Lotus House, a holistic women's shelter in Overtown.

The BBT paid a visit there over the winter to meet Constance Collins, the head of both Sundari and Lotus House, who explained the high cost of running a nonprofit shelter. Various grants, like the \$10,000 they received this year from the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, help cover the bills, and this most recent gift is surely welcome. To make a donation in support of Sundari endeavors, or to learn more information, visit www.sundarifoundation.com or call 305-438-0556.

Leader of District 2, is it Me or is it You?

Elections for the City of Miami District 2 Commission seat will be held on November 7, with a qualifying window open between September 8 and September 23 at 6 p.m. If need be, a run-off election will be held November 21. Commissioner Haskins in the meantime promises to hold down the fort.

Continued on page 25



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City Commission Notes

Continued from page 24

My What a Large Gorilla, I Never Noticed It

After representatives of the Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) department approached the podium seeking a 50 percent increase in funds for supervisors/inspectors of the Flagler Street Marketplace (FSM) project, Commissioner Haskins asked the pink elephant question: Why at every commission meeting does CIP request large contract increases, and why does the city grant them without any real public explanation as to why?

According to CIP Director Mary Conway, these are no-bid contracts given to the best-qualified company and estimated based on an hourly rate and projected time frame. It's not, she added, an issue of additional costs but of unforeseen delays that draw proportionate spending increases (which, in the case of FSM, were caused by last year's hurricanes).

Commissioner Sanchez delivered a gruff, to-the-point lecture outlining the consequences of this sort of behavior in the private sector:

"There you're expected to get the job done in a certain time frame for a certain amount of money, and ... you can't just go asking for more of either... We need to put down some rules...that say you cannot come back revising your contract... I want to back away from this pattern of constantly coming before the commission for more money."

The newly minted City Manager, Pete Hernandez, proffered firm but respectful advice, a sound not heard from that corner of the dais since time immemorial:

"We have to be vigilant on the contract and construction period, and hold to those limits as closely as possible."

But speaking from personal experience, he explained the reality of public projects: They require extensive inspections, which can be costly.

CIP currently maintains several hundred million dollars in projects all over city, and while total regulation and accountability are difficult to enforce, one glaring problem is the tendency for private companies to delay fulfilling city contracts in favor of private ones, as penalties only exist for neglecting the latter.

The barrage of comments continued with Commissioner Spence-Jones – "I've got two County projects in [District 5] that have changed contractors three or four times over the past several years" – and Commissioner Regalado – "If we pay people to make other people work, why do we have to pay more money to fix what they should have been doing from the beginning?"

But City Atty. Jorge Fernandez breathed a sigh of balance to the debate: "The consequences of voting against this [contract increase] would be further financial setbacks for the whole project [and a] prolonged termination date."

Commission Chair Gonzalez concurred, but agreed with his colleagues' overall sentiment and echoed widespread concerns about this government's reliance on high-priced consultants:

"There is a problem with these consultants we're paying...millions of dollars... If the situation with these consultants doesn't change today, this commission will vote against spending more money on them in the future."

New Camillus House Site May (Finally) Take Flight

Camillus House leaders came before the City Commission on July 27 for the final thumbs-up on plans for a rescue mission and 340-bed shelter at 1603-27 N.W. 7th Ave. and 662 N.W. 20th St. The commission unanimously passed the item.

The former property is owned by the University of Miami, on which they plan to build a 1,000-employee biomedical research facility; the latter is currently owned by the Seaboard Coastline Railroad Company.

Numerous residents and business-owners lined up to voice opinions on the project, the loudest of which came from fierce opponents concerned about sexual predators and drug addicts lingering within a few hundred feet of schools and parks.

René Walker, a resident of N.W. 7th Avenue, claimed this will violate Florida State Statute 893, which requires a 1000-foot drug-free radius around schools. One local business-woman is terrified the shelter will

compromise the safety of her daughter, employees and customers, and another man, who has lived in the neighborhood for 32 of his 34 years, complained that every time someone builds a shelter or halfway house, they drop it in Overtown or Allapattah, and locals are tired of bearing the brunt of the city's downtrodden.

Dr. Paul Ahr, president of Camillus House, said: "We have agreed to a no-loitering, drug-free zone... We are converting the parking lot into a plaza area for people that normally hang out in front... We have agreed to the conditions of many community groups... and will operate perimeter security at our own expense."

As far as enforcement, he continued: "The ultimate control is actually through law enforcement... we have no authority other than to notify the Homeless Assistance Program and the police."

The debate weathered on for more

Continued on page 65

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Boulevard Corridor News & Notes

By Malika Bierstein
BBT Staff Writer

Buena Vista Heights Breaks Ground on Improvements Project

Mayor Manny Diaz and District 5 Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones joined city administrators, civic leaders and local residents at the intersection of

N.W. 39th Street and N.W. 1st Avenue on July 18 to announce phase one of the Buena Vista Heights Road Improvements Project.

The groundbreaking ceremony, which included a community tree-planting of a Golden Shower Cassia along the southeast corner of N.W. 1st Avenue and 39th Street, announced plans to revamp the area bounded by N.W. 38th Street, from N. Miami Avenue to N.W. 2nd Avenue;

N.W. 39th Street, from N. Miami Avenue to N.E. 2nd Avenue; N.W. 40th Street, from N. Miami Avenue to N.E. 2nd Avenue; and N.W. 1st Avenue, between N.W. 30th and 48th Streets.

The roadway improvement project, at an estimated cost of \$695,357, will include street milling and resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, ADA ramps, re-sodding of swale areas, reconstruction of curbs and gutters, pavement markings, limited landscaping and storm drainage, as needed. Funding was secured by the Local Option Gas Tax and Homeland Defense Neighborhood Improvement Bond dollars.

Phase two will cost \$5.5 million and begin next year. For additional information, please contact the Department of Capital Improvements at (305) 416-1284.

Morningside Civic Association: Not Going Down Without a Fight

On June 10, members of the Morningside Civic Association (MCA)

filed a petition for *writ of certiorari* against the Miami City Commission, developers Kubik LLC and Biscayne Premier Investments, Inc.

The petition aims to overturn the City Commission's granting of a Major Use Special Permit (MUSP) for Kubik, a 151-foot condominium planned for the vacant lot north of 55th Street Station. Concessions in regard to height, parking and retail space have already been made, a move that many neighborhood representatives have met with compliance, but members of the MCA maintain the project's inconsistency with Miami Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan guidelines and hope to see the City Commission's ruling overturned.

The MCA believes Kubik is in violation of Section 1305.2 of the Miami Zoning Code Ordinance by providing what they've described as inadequate open space for convenient public access from the sidewalk. The MCA also calls the design inconsistent with local height and density patterns.

The plaintiffs, who include MCA

Continued on page 27

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Blvd. News & Notes

Continued from page 26

members Cesar Hernandez-Canton, Elvis Cruz, William Hopper, Jack Wolfe and Al Sasiadek, advocate that upper Biscayne Boulevard, between N.E. 48th and 87th Streets, should remain low/medium density, and that mixed-use high rise projects should remain downtown, where adequate infrastructure and compatible uses exist.

A previous loophole in the city's zoning ordinance allowed developers to evade the public hearing process and go directly to the city's Planning and Zoning Board for building approval. The MUSP was originally approved by the Miami City Commission June 10, 2004. An appeal made by the MCA was unanimously rejected by Commission members.

Biscayne Blvd. Reconstruction Projects Nearing Completion

Two of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Biscayne Boulevard Reconstruction Projects, ranging from N.E. 87th Street to N.E. 104th Street and N.E. 104th Street to N.E. 123rd Street, are nearing completion after almost two years of ongoing construction.

According to Herbert Ammons, FDOT's public information officer, the two projects should be completed in about two weeks, providing no major unknowns arise. The projects, estimated at an average individual cost of \$7.9 million, will conclude total reconstruction of the drainage system, roadway, sidewalks, decorative lighting, landscaping, signing and pavement markings.

Remaining tasks include final signal and lighting inspections, reapplication of pavement markings, minor irrigation repairs, mowing and landscaping, and a project-wide miscellaneous cleanup. For further information and project updates, visit www.biscaynereconstruction.com.

Nirvana to Receive Long-Awaited Upgrades

Residents of Nirvana Condominiums, located on N.E. 6th Avenue, at 64th Street, may soon find a pool and gym on the property. Following a lengthy permitting process that has delayed construction and frustrated residents, the development is now awaiting the city's delivery of a water meter in order to complete the project.

"We have completed everything we possibly can up to the installation of the

water meter," said Brett Cary, with the Midtown Group. "Once the city delivers the water meter it should only be about two weeks until it is completed."

Nirvana was built by Casam Developers, a partnership between East Coast real estate developers Samuel & Co. and Midtown Equities, LLC.

City of Miami Emergency Website Live

The City of Miami has launched its Emergency Management Information (EMI) webpage. The page provides tips and contact information to help residents prepare for and deal with emergencies both natural and manmade. The EMI page can be accessed through www.miamigov.com.

Within EMI, residents can find safety tips and contact information for local agencies such as City of Miami Fire Rescue, FEMA, the American Red Cross and the Humane Society. Visitors can also find helpful information such as phone numbers to local consulates and airports.

Shell Station to be Converted

Owners of the Shell gas station located at 8690 Biscayne Blvd. have plans in the works to convert the now defunct property into a business that will better suit the surrounding area. Possible uses include enlarging the adjacent antiques plaza or a mixed-use condominium/retail project, though no final decision has been made.

"Right now we are doing some market research and feasibility studies to determine which use would best fit the area," said Danny Reyes, a representative for the owner. "We should have something more concrete in the next 30 days or so."

Though the site's use is as yet unconfirmed, Reyes said it will not be reopening as a gas station.

Miami Streetcar Open House Forum

The City of Miami, in conjunction with Metro 1 Properties, hosted a Miami Streetcar Open House/Happy Hour at the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation on July 21. Members of the project team were available for questioning following a presentation by Project Manager Winsome Bowen.

Local residents voiced concern over the electrically run system in a city where power is often lost in the wake of hurricanes and tropical storms. Questions were raised as to why, in 2006, a better

method had yet to be established. Comparisons were made by Bowen to Portland's current streetcar system, one that some attendees called inefficient.

"There is no other system tested and certified in this country," said Bowen. "We are using technology that is being used here, not using something that is technologically innovative and could wind up being more costly in the long run."

He added: "One of the statistical elements of the study in Portland shows that 20 percent of the people who moved to the downtown area moved there because they did not have to buy a car. We are trying to draw people to the area by creating a pedestrian-oriented environment where they can live and work."

Bowen declared the electronic system more cost-efficient than compressed natural gas, though exact cost-per-ride figures were unavailable upon request.

The \$200 million proposed streetcar project, which consists of two loops, will run from the Government Center in downtown Miami through Park West, the Entertainment District, Wynwood/Edgewater, Midtown Miami to the Design District and Buena Vista East. The City of Miami expects to receive commission approval by October.

Balans to Open Biscayne Location

Balans, a British company with headquarters in London, plans to expand their Miami base with the opening of a new location on Biscayne Boulevard at N.E. 68th Street.

Balans Miami will be situated in a brand new, two-story mixed-use facility, which will house the "urban Zen" restaurant, a coffee shop and a convenience store on the ground floor, with residential units on the first floor. While the restaurant's aesthetic design will differ from the Lincoln Road location, the menu and hours of operation will be similar.

Balans Miami, which will sit in close proximity to the Design District, Wynwood and the soon-to-be completed Carnival Performing Arts Center, is scheduled to open in the last quarter of 2007. Visit www.balans.co.uk for additional information and menu items.

County Previews Hybrid Buses

As part of continuing efforts by Miami-Dade County to cut back in fuel

Continued on page 28



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Boulevard News & Notes

Continued from page 27

consumption for county vehicles and provide residents with the latest in bus technology, Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) introduced residents and officials to the hybrid passenger bus in a July 20 gathering at the South Miami-Dade Busway.

The buses, one model 42 feet long and one model 60 feet in length, will operate routes with heavy passenger usage and in Bus Rapid Transit corridors (BRTs) such as Kendall Drive, Biscayne Boulevard and Flagler Street.

The hybrid buses typically save 25 percent in fuel costs, are quieter, run smoother and have lower emissions.

A 60-foot bus seats 55 to 60 passengers, while the 42-foot bus carries 39 to 46. MDT plans to purchase 39 of the 60-foot model by 2008, and 180 of the 42-foot models between 2009 and 2012.

County Among Top 100 Places for IT Jobs

Computerworld magazine rated Miami-Dade County among the best 100 places to work in the Information Technology (IT) field. The honor is part of the weekly publication's "13th Annual Best Places to Work in IT" survey, published in print and online at www.ComputerWorld.com.

"This year's Best Places to Work rankings represent companies across the industry that recognize how a strong commitment to and investment in employees is synonymous with creating a great IT work environment," said Don Tennant, editor-in-chief of *Computerworld*. "Our Best Places companies not only offer these benefits, but do so in a manner that goes well above industry norms."

More than 600 employees work in the IT field for Miami-Dade. During the last four years, Miami-Dade has focused efforts to use technology to deliver services to residents in an efficient way.

"We've been making great strides in improving the way we assist our residents," said Judi Zito, director of the Miami-Dade Government Information Center. "Adding new technologies that enhance the way we do business has opened up new jobs in the IT field and we are honored to be selected as one of the best places to work in this area."

Recent IT projects include the development of a system supporting the computer-aided dispatch of 911 calls, a new web portal – www.miamidade.gov – and the county's 311 Answer Center, which provides a single point of contact for information about county services.

VERBATIM:

"I wouldn't be a good public servant if I didn't tell you the truth."

—District 5 Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, at the July 27 City Commission meeting

"FDOT is notorious for being evasive and trying to push maintenance responsibilities onto local municipalities."

—City of Miami engineer, speaking anonymously

"I have to ask, am I causing you any pain today?"

—Spence-Jones, after Santiago Echemendia, attorney for Camillus House, called her "Spence-Paine" twice at the July 27 City Commission meeting

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Zoning Board Updates

Oakland Grove Decision Rescheduled for Ominous Date

On Monday, July 10, members of the City of Miami Zoning Board slowly trickled into the commission chambers to face a grueling agenda, which could have been worse had several high-stakes items not sought continuances to the September 11 meeting. As it went, a re-zoning bid for 399 N.E. 82nd Terrace in Oakland Grove was rescheduled to that date, along with two other items. The Oakland Grove property was the subject of last month's BBT cover story, which detailed the Planning Advisory Board's unanimous recommendation to deny owner Katia Traikos's plan to rezone the R-1 site to R-3 Medium-Density Multifamily, for the purpose of constructing more than 100 townhomes.

Her re-zoning effort tabled until September, Traikos was looking at nine weeks to negotiate with residents, some of whom worried that increased density would prove both a communal loss of green-space and a boon to the aging neighborhood of single-family dwellings; the waterfront land fronts the only natural bend in the Little River. Oakland Grove neighborhood leader Gus Newell was present at the chambers to speak on behalf of homeowners.

Neighbors Feel Hotdog Man's Got Tunnell-Vision

Bob Powers, president of the Palm Grove Neighborhood Association, and Eileen Bottari, an ex-Association president and fellow activist, opposed a bid by David Tunnell, owner of Karma, at 7000 Biscayne Blvd., and

Wilbert Roman, owner of the N.E. 71st Street property directly behind Dogma, for an SD-12 Buffer Overlay. Collectively, the Dogma/Karma site is owned by Todd Leoni and his company TNA Palms.

The overlay, explained Atty. Ben Fernandez, will allow commercial parking on Roman's property with continued residential use. At the moment, Dogma patrons park on the Karma site, a less viable now that it's open for business.

"We do not want developers encroaching on residential lands and turning them into parking lots," said Powers. "The issue is that our neighborhood is two blocks wide and is being assaulted by Boulevard [expansion]."

Fernandez rebutted, addressing Powers as "Mr. Flanders," an amusing blunder upstaged only by Atty. Lucia Dougherty, who previously stood with hand raised while the Zoning Board swore in "everyone who isn't a lawyer."

"This business and its owner work favorably with the neighborhood," said Board member Joseph Ganguzza.

Despite the Planning Advisory Board's denial recommendation, they

voted in favor of the overlay. Powers and Bottari vowed to continue the fight before the City Commission. Tunnell, for his part, had a long talk with the pair outside the commission chambers.

You Could Hear a Pin Drop

In decidedly stark contrast to nearly every other item, a bid to rezone the last portion of N. Bayshore Drive, across from Margaret Pace Park, from R-4 to SD-6 Central Commercial-Residential went through without a word from either the Board or the public.

Atty. A. Vicky Garcia-Toledo, on behalf of On the Park Properties, LLC, nabbed unanimous Board support for the rezone, bringing the properties at 1770 & 1778 N. Bayshore Dr., 1799 N.E. 4th Ave. and 430 N.E. 18th St., into a zoning classification consistent with the neighborhood.

The project, she said, will also allow Public Works to raise the street, which should end common flooding problems. On a more humorous note, the N. Bayshore properties are registered to a Cervera Realty LLC called "B.A.D. Ass," whatever that implies.



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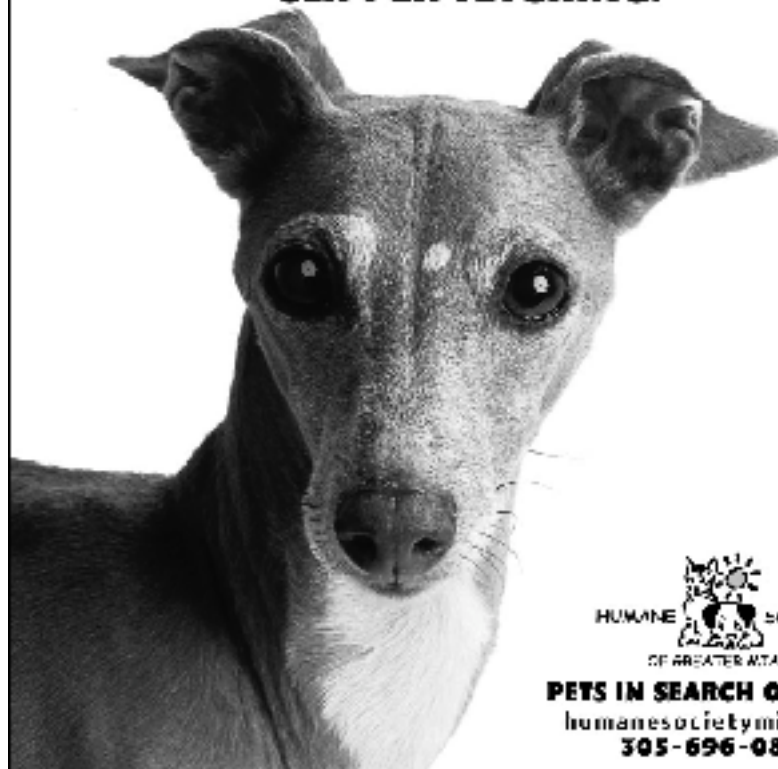


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Charles Torrey Simpson

Unsung Miami Naturalist

By Victor Barrenechea
BBT Contributing Writer

Charles Torrey Simpson may be a South Florida historical figure, but he is hardly remembered today.

“Most people don’t have the foggiest idea who Simpson was,” said Rick Ferrer, of the Miami-Dade County Office of Historic Preservation. “He’s sort of an unsung hero.”

From the turn of the century until his death in 1932, Simpson was an important naturalist. But drive down N.E. 69th Street today and you’ll find no trace of Simpson’s spectacular spread, which once extended all the way out to Biscayne Bay. You won’t see the magnificent two-story homestead or the acres of rare and beautiful subtropical plant life that comprised his estate.

By the time Simpson moved to Florida, he had been all over the Caribbean, from Cuba to Haiti, Jamaica and the Bahamas. But the beauty of South Florida attracted him most. He wanted to explore and protect its wildlife, so he moved to Lemon City, a few miles north of downtown Miami.

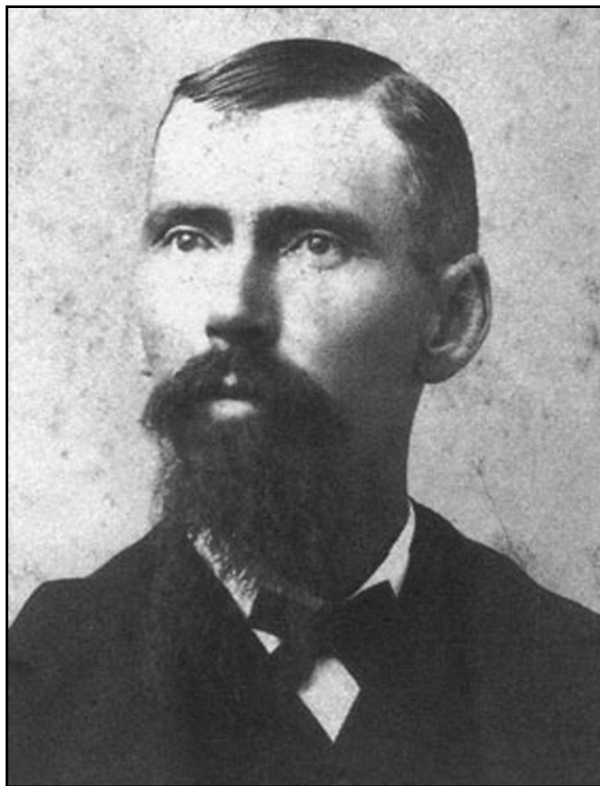
“He settled in South Florida in 1902, a time when the vast expanse of islands and marshes that comprise the Everglades still teemed with panthers, crocodiles, and great flocks of flamingos, egrets, ibis, herons and wood storks,” said Simpson biographer Elizabeth Rothra. “Simpson devoted his last 30 years to interpreting the subtropical plants and animals he found, becoming the environmental spokesman to the droves of settlers and tourists who invaded and developed the Sunshine State in the 1920s.”

Born in 1846, Simpson started out obsessively collecting shells as a child. He continued this practice well into adulthood and by the 1880s was a well-known conchologist – an expert on various species of shelled animals. He didn’t operate from a stiff academic perspective, but was self-taught. He could identify some 10,000 shells by sight, and give their Latin names. By 1889, with barely a high school education, he was hired by the Smithsonian.

In 1881, Simpson made his first trip to Florida with friends, and fell instantly in love with the beautiful and exotic terrain. At age 56, he retired to Lemon City, but little did he know a whole new second career was about to unfold for him.

“It was truly a golden age for naturalists,” said Rothra. “They were enamored with the newly discovered ‘tropics’ on the American continent, more properly called the ‘subtropics’ of course. They were absolutely wild about the possibility of growing tropical plants in America.”

Simpson wrote four important books about nature in South Florida (*Ornamental Gardening in Florida*, *In Lower Florida Wilds*, *Out Doors in Florida*, and *Florida Wild Life*) as well as various articles for magazines and



newspapers. He had such affection for plant-life in his writings that he often personified them as inventors.

He built his lushly landscaped estate surrounded by acres of rare foliage. The building, propped up on stilts with verandas, was unusual looking even back then. Two tall Caribbean pine trees stood guard on his front lawn, and so he dubbed his property the Sentinels.

And through the years he had visitors to the Sentinels. David Fairchild and Marjory Stoneman Douglas were among his friends and contemporaries.

“You could say the whole environmentalist movement in South Florida began with him,” said Antolin G. Carbonell, who worked for the aviation department in Dade County and studied Simpson extensively.

At the Sentinels, Simpson held the first meetings to preserve the Everglades. He consulted with Charles Deering on the landscaping for what today makes up the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens.

In his garden, Simpson had some 3,000 different types of plants, including several different species

of palms, orchids and fruits. He was a proponent of local vegetation, but also brought in plants from other countries that would thrive here, many of which are now extinct from the Florida landscape.

“He was really a recorder of what was here,” said Ferrer. “He was able to see things that today we can only image and dream about.”

Simpson was so passionate about diverse plant life that for every new plant he bought, he’d go without a meal in order to pay for it.

Personally, he was something of an eccentric in his time. He would go on days-long excursions to explore the wilds. Even in his late 50s, old age at the time, he’d go for long periods without food and shelter. As a result, some locals regarded him a dangerous semi-lunatic. Sometimes he was mistaken as homeless, and was even once almost arrested for vagrancy.

On one outing, Simpson approached a man who refused to give him a drink of water or let him spend the night sleeping on his floor. He shooed Simpson away, thinking he was either homeless or “a bad man.” Simpson pulled out his gold watch and showed it to him, and asked if bad men carried such things, and then pulled out a \$10 bill as further proof. The man smiled, and let Simpson sleep on his floor.

In 1923, at the age of 77, he received the Meyer Medal, a great honor in the world of botany. The University of Miami gave him an honorary doctorate of science degree in 1927, the first one ever awarded by the university.

In December of 1932, Simpson suffered a heart attack working at his desk and died, but not before writing *Florida Wild Life* in his final year. The book contains a warning about the destruction of nature at the hands of man, as he feared technology and civilization would ruin the natural world.

If Simpson were to ever see Miami today, Carbonell believes: “He’d be appalled by all these condominiums. I think he would’ve wanted friendlier and less dense development, because he *was* for growth and progress.”

“He would’ve been shocked to see what happened, obviously,” said Ferrer. “It would be like someone arriving from another planet.”

From 1932 to 1944, talks took place about making the Simpson estate a public park, like what became of Fairchild Park in Coconut Grove, but the idea never passed.

The property was ultimately left to his daughter Marion, who sold the land that made up the Sentinels, save for the one acre on which the house stood. She died in 1963, and there was a push to tear the house down, deemed an eyesore by many in the community.

A lengthy court battle ensued regarding how the house was to be disposed of, during which time thieves broke in several times and stole important documents and photographs. The UM degree and Meyer Medal were also taken. They broke windows, and on more than one occasion the house caught fire.

Today, along N.E. 69th Street, one can see what stands today on the Sentinels: The Palm Bay Club and Marina, a 26-story condominium and waterfront. On a green lawn immediately behind a white wall, nothing remains but an acre’s worth of empty space. That empty space is where Simpson’s house once stood.

Simpson Park, at 55 S.W. 17th Rd., is the only memorial left in his honor. There he hangs, immortalized in an oil painting.

“I think it’s unfortunate that people have forgotten about him,” said Carbonell. “One of the things he was trying to do is make people comfortable with the tropics.”

“Simpson devoted his last 30 years to interpreting the subtropical plants and animals he found, becoming the environmental spokesman to the droves of settlers and tourists who invaded and developed the Sunshine State in the 1920s.”

*Elizabeth Rothra,
Simpson biographer*

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Andreas Diehl/Archi_Brooklyn_Etc. 2006 — 21 and ink on canvas. Collection of Craig Roofers. On view at Sabella Arts.

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On Thursday, August 10, 2006 at 8 p.m., the Luna Star Café presents "Nature, Nukes and Nationalism." A bevy of off-center performers promise a fun and reflective evening of poetry, prose and music. Scheduled around the 61st anniversaries of the atomic bombings of both **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki**, the night will be given to exploration of these powerful forces in our world. There will be free giveaways, special themed refreshments and opportunities for (sanctioned) audience participation. **Hippies** will also be passing information about environmental, alternative energy and anti-nuclear groups, as well

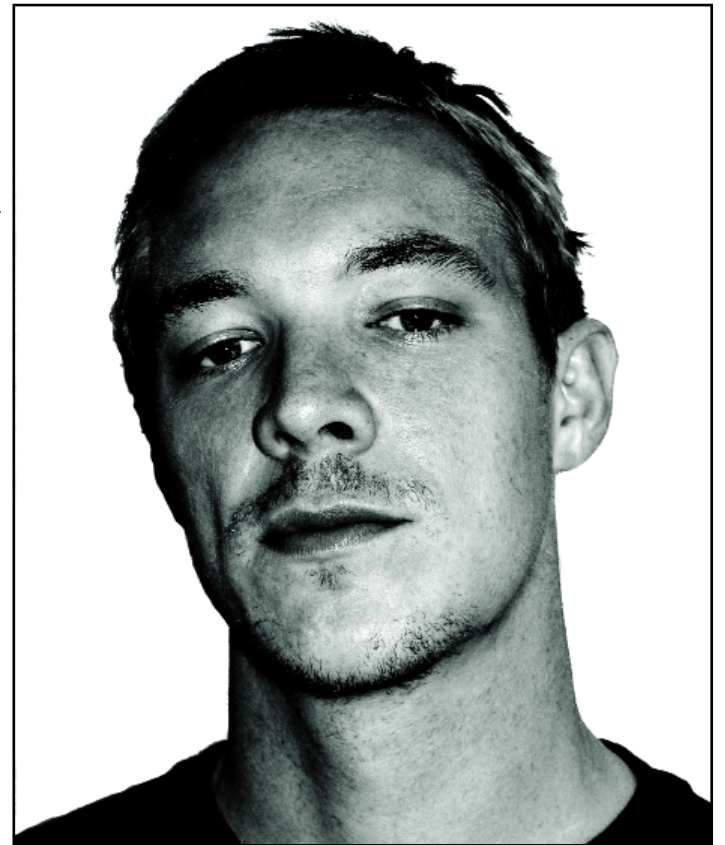
as other places one can score drugs. Be there or be square: 8 p.m., 775 N.E. 125th St., North Miami. Visit www.LiterarySalon-Miami.com or call 305-799-7123 for more info. It will be a blast!

Dip it Low, Girl

On August 14, The District Lounge presents Big Dada recording artist **Diplo**. The Tupelo, Mississippi, native spent his formative years here in the Sunshine State, talking **gators** with an uncle and dreaming of **swamp monsters**. Somehow those dreams turned into a nice little producer/DJ career, and since his debut album *Florida* hit the shelves in 2004, Diplo's collaborator list has grown to include top-shelf names like **M.I.A.**, **DJ Shadow**, **Prefuse 73**, **RJD2**, **Roots Manuva** and **Le Tigre**. Keep your eye on www.epoplife.com for ticket information or call The District, 35 N.E. 40th St., at 305-576-7242.

Single-Serving Friends

The **Single Gourmet** holds Friday night gatherings at upscale restaurants all over Miami, but they don't advertise locations because once capacity is reached, people tend to **stampede**. Sounds intriguing! Call 305-371-8717 for info on booking reservations and locations for upcoming events. Secret locations, an info-line? It's like an old-school rave without all the **pacifiers and narcotics**.



Diplo plays The District Lounge August 14.

Bullfrog Beatz

August Events

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Aug. 18: **Suenalo Sound System**

Aug. 19: **Bacon Bits Live**

Aug. 25: **Fitzroy Live**

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Grimey Timey

Get down with one of the longest-running players in **drum n' bass**: It's **DJ Rap** on the ones-and-twos, everyone's favorite **pretty good** and **pretty hot** female DJ. The bass drops **August 11, 10 p.m.** at the **Pawn Shop Lounge**, 1222 N.E. 2nd Ave. Call 305-373-3511 or visit www.thepawnshoplounge.com for more info.

The Dingo Ate Your Camera

Three cheers for this **ridiculously named** event. The **Second Dixie Dingo Super-8 Invitational Film**

Festival has invited eight strangers to make eight **super-8** films: Super! When I invite strangers to make low-budget films it often results in a **restraining order**, but one man's misery is another man's film festival. Participants range from a genuine **Rastafarian** to a **UM hunger-striker** (a sensible pair, if you think about it). Animated trailers by Miami's **TM Sisters** and **DJ Le Spam** on the after-party beats. **August 8, at 8 p.m.** **Dorsch Gallery**, 151 N.W. 24th St., Wynwood, 305-775-6417.

Continued on page 33

Design District

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DJ Rap plays the Pawnshop Lounge August 11 at 10 p.m.

3701 N.E. 2nd Ave. in the Design District; \$10 to attend, free if you're willing to get onstage and recite **perverse limericks**; 305-576-1336 for info.

MAC Attack

Africa isn't all Discovery Channel fodder and **water you probably shouldn't drink**; apparently a number of people on the continent **now have cameras**. Come see the cradle of humanity in all its present glory, through the lenses of 35 African photographers. Miami Art Central presents **Snap Judgments: New Positions**

in **Contemporary African Photography** curated but Okwui Enwezor (get a discount for saying that 10 times fast). The first major U.S. exhibition of its kind in a decade, SJ encompasses a range of African culture from the Northern Muslims to the sub-Saharan. MAC is located at **5960 S.W. 57th Ave.**; www.miamiartcentral.org or 305-455-3333 for more info, Clickity-clack!

Around Town

Continued from page 32

Ten-Buck Tease

Tired of pushing society forward and trying to **solve the problems of humanity**? You and me both! Relax and **get gross** at **Cunnilinguistics**, a tasteful, monthly event for **erotic poetry**. Join your fellow laureates for an evening of tongue gymnastics at **Power Studios**,

NoMi Caffe Does the Gallery Thang

Michele European Bakery, Gelateria & Caffe, owned by pastry chef Michele Pompei, has started **Gallery Nights** to display and sell works by local artists. Come also for the **live jazz** and **chocolate fountain**.

The North Miami spot opened in December of last year to strong reviews, offering European pastries & desserts as well as breakfast, lunch and dinner; pastas, gourmet pizzas,

salads, paninis, wraps, and 22 flavors of **authentic Italian Gelato** are on hand to tempt your **heart condition**. Free wireless access is also available for **unemployed graphic designers**. Happy hour every Friday from 6 to 8 p.m., live jazz Fridays & Saturdays, 6 to 9 p.m. and **Sunday Jazz Brunch**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **16121 Biscayne Blvd. (Avanti Plaza) North Miami**. Call 305-948-0224 for info.

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ART LISTINGS

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August 10, 7 to 10 p.m., Opening
 for "Brave New World"

STEVE MARTIN STUDIO

66 NE 40 St.
August 12, 6 to 10 p.m., Opening
 for work by Alan Gerson.

MOCA NORTH MIAMI

770 NE 125 St.
August 18, 7 to 10 p.m., Opening
 for "Optic Nerve VIII"

MOCA AT GOLDMAN WAREHOUSE

404 W. Flagler St.
August 26, 7 to 8 p.m., Opening
 for "Optic Nerve VIII"

~ ~ ~

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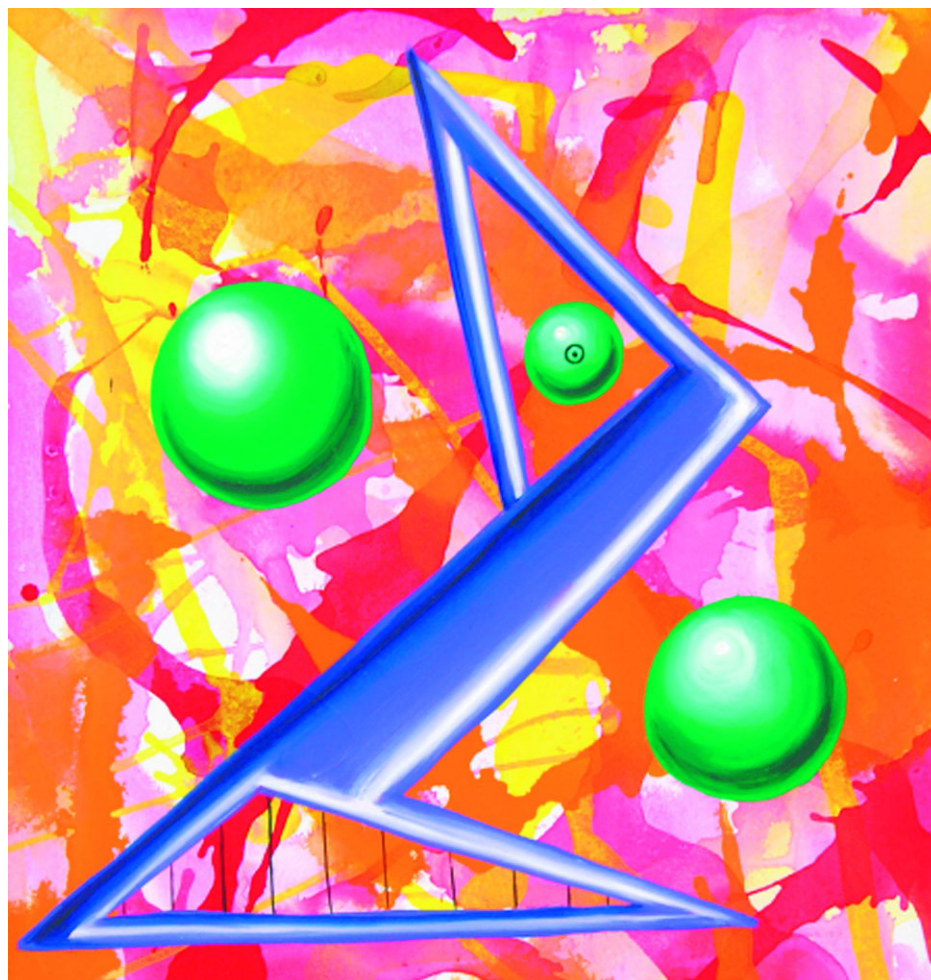
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**Kenny Scharf, Z Man, 1986 Acrylic and oil on canvas
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*Continued on page ******

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Art Listings

Continued from page 34

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305-573-1920
www.artnet.com/bgillman.html

BERNICE STEINBAUM GALLERY

3550 N. Miami Ave.
305-573-2700
www.bernicesteinbaumgallery.com
"Influenced Identity = I," through September 2

BAS FISHER INVITATIONAL

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teamwaif@yahoo.com

BETTCHER GALLERY

5582 N.E. 4th Ct.
305-758-7556
www.bettchergallery.com

CHELSEA GALLERIA

2441 N.W. 2nd Ave.
305-576-2950
www.chelseagalleria.com

DAMIEN B. CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

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305-573-4949
www.damienb.com
July 8 through September 17:
"Woman of the World," featuring work by Max Narbero and Elyane Biscayn.

DAVID CASTILLO GALLERY

2234 N.W. 2nd Ave.
305-573-8110
www.castilloart.com

DIASPORA VIBE GALLERY

3938 N.E. 39th St.
305-573-4046
www.diasporavibe.net
August 10 through September 23:
"Brave New World," featuring work by Caroline Holder

DIANA LOWENSTEIN FINE ARTS

2043 N. Miami Ave.
305-576-1804
www.dlfinearts.com



Steve Martin, *Homme*, Wood block, cut 8.5 by 11 inches
Courtesy of Steve Martin Gallery

DORSCH GALLERY

151 N.W. 24th St.
305-576-1278
www.dorschgallery.com
Through September 2:
"Amoeba," by William Keddell.

DOT FIFTYONE ART SPACE

51 N.W. 36th St.
305-573-9994
www.dotfiftyone.com

EDGE ZONES

World Arts Building
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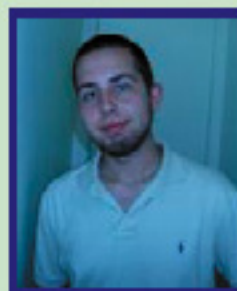
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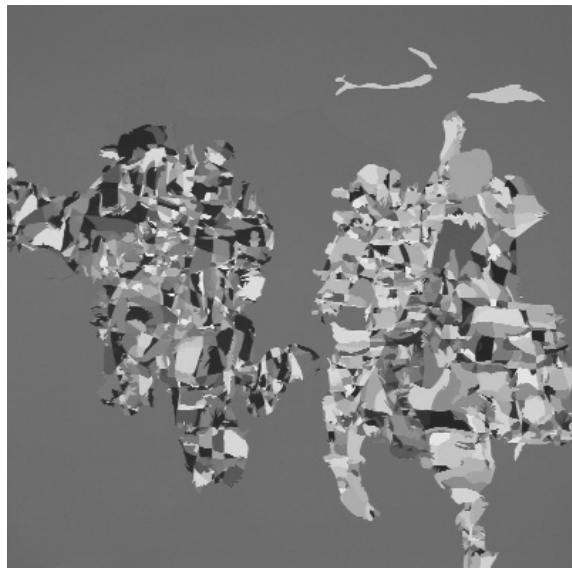
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GALLERY PEEK

A Snapshot of Local Gallery Offerings

Beth Reisman, *Skyscape (Sisters)*, 60 by 60 inches, 2006, \$9,500

Beth Reisman is a Brooklyn-based artist represented by the David Castillo Gallery in Miami. Her work began years ago with painting the individual female silhouette from fashion magazines, generally on newspaper print. That evolved into works of silhouettes forming landscapes painted on aluminum. The latest body of work, which will be shown for the first time anywhere at the David Castillo Gallery in the Wynwood Arts District in Miami, with an opening reception on September 9, from 7 to 10 p.m., Reisman takes the work one step further with silhouettes morphed into completely abstract, vibrantly painted landscapes. Reisman has had shows in Chicago, New York, Paris, Miami and many other venues.



David Castillo Gallery
2234 N.W. 2nd Ave.
305-573-8110

**Carlos Gonzalez
Solar Storm, Cor-ten steel sculpture, 8 by 8 by 6 feet, 2005, \$25,000**

Part of the younger "Cuban Renaissance" artists who migrated to Miami in the 1990s, Carlos Gonzalez's work is distinguished for its bravura, balance and breathtaking beauty. In the words of essayist Carlos de la Fuente, "the technical purity and impeccable finish" of a Gonzalez sculpture compliments its "graceful composition and movement of the forms," which resemble "primal faunas, galactic animals, ancestral monuments or simply... forms dialoging with space." For inquiries and commissioned works please contact the gallery.



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Art Listings

Continued from page 35

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THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA)

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305-893-6211
www.mocanomi.org
\$5 adults, \$3 seniors/students, free children under 12/North Miami residents, Tues. admission is by donation

"Metro Picture Part 2," through Sept. 17.
Work by Shimon Attie, though October 8.

MOCA AT GOLDMAN WAREHOUSE

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305-893-6211
www.mocanomi.org
Thurs. to Sun., 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for MOCA members, North Miami residents, City of North Miami employees and children under 12; general admission is \$2

Send art listings/events to Times@biscayneboulevard.com OR visit BiscayneBoulevard.com to post your events in between issues.

NOTE:

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THE MARGULIES COLLECTION
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Barbara Gillman Gallery Moves

The Barbara Gillman Gallery has moved back to the Design District. The gallery's new home is at 4141 N.E. 2nd Avenue 200B

The current exhibit is *Moved, Unpacked Unwrapped*, and has artwork on the floor and on the wall.

The gallery will be open as of Friday August 4, 2006. Ms. Gillman invites all to come by and help her make room for the new season opening in September.

August hours are as follows:
Friday, August 4th from 12 until 7 p.m.
Saturday, August 5th from 12 until 6 p.m.
Wednesday – Friday 12 to 6 p.m.
and Saturday, August 12, Design District Gallery Walk 6 to 10 p.m.
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Miami in Transition

MAM Exhibit Explores Our Evolving Metropolis

By Victor Barrenechea
BBT Contributing Writer

Real estate development and speculation have drastically changed the landscape of Miami within the last few years. At the Miami Art Museum's *Miami in Transition* exhibition, local artists tackle the complicated issues that arise when a city experiences an urban building boom.

Wandering into the exhibit, one expects to find art that makes black-and-white judgments about whether or not Miami's current development craze is good or bad. But really what's presented is a collection of complex analyses that capture the gray nuances of a city in the midst of transition. The Miami high rises surrounded by clouds in Vicenta Casañ's beautifully shot *Castles in the Air* are dreamy and mysterious, but at the same time her message is not a clear-cut yes/no, black/white.

Miami's elegant condos are modern day castles, and those who can afford to live there are something of a modern-day aristocracy. Glitz, glamour and decadence are part of the illusion of living down here, the same currency in which Casañ's photos trade. Shrouded in clouds, the viewer is shown a dream, a fantasy. But where's the everyday reality? Where's the addict hounding you for spare change? They're far below the floating castles and by default, not addressed in these photos. Are you in for a rude awakening once you take the elevator from your penthouse down to ground level? Casañ lets that question linger.

Two looping videos from Natalia Benedetti, meanwhile, splash against the museum's walls; the first of which, *Atom #3*, shows a mesmerizing view of water reflecting off a condo window. The intent, according to the artist, is to convey the

lazy idyllic lifestyle of condo living, and the way in which water moves across the glass is indeed mesmerizing, but ultimately boring.

But her second video, *Dream Bond*, of birds hovering around a crane is a much more haunting portrayal of technology and progress invading the natural sphere, and nature's persistence in spite of it.

Mark Handforth mixes the representative and abstract, toeing the line between the two. One piece, *White Lightning*, is an instillation made of fully functioning office light-fixtures, but shaped in a lightning bolt pattern. Some are bright white, but the ones in the center are of an off-white shade. The lightning-bolt pattern in the middle is more pronounced, with a subtle effect achieved through different colored light bulbs.

They evoke movement – a jolt of electricity. The cool light bulbs give off an essence of cleanliness, and remind one of the mundane rat-race feel of downtown office buildings. But the winding and angular shape and placement of the light fixtures evokes the energy of the city – technology, urbanization, modernity, also, excitement, action, adventure, and of course, power.

In Handforth's second unnamed piece, the viewer confronts bright yellow pipe fixtures, winding and curving – fluid movement once again reflecting the city's manic energy. The colors draw attention, and evoke a sense of mirth and playfulness.

The medium of aluminum pipes is unusual, especially when tangled into these odd winding shapes, like a twisted paper clip. The curves, while fluid, also produce tension. They remind one of the urban maze of one-way streets that make up downtown Miami, with I-95 cutting

through. We've all been there before, driving through the city late at night, the stop lights all flashing red and yellow, unsure where you're headed, nervous confusion in the air.

Congestion, traffic and overcrowding are becoming big issues in Miami, and the *24-Inch House* addresses these. In this piece, Patricia Cuello offers a design for a multiple-story building that would fit within the space of a narrow (24-inch) alleyway. The piece plays with the idea of functionality in modern day architecture. How can you possibly get anymore functional? There are neither frills nor space-to-spare in this design; the surfaces are flat, stairs unfurl from the ceilings. The whiteness and cleanliness of the building's model convey a sense of sleek efficiency. You can build – twice, thrice, quadruple even – the number of apartments in the space of one complex, but you pay a price for efficiency and functionality: The inside of the building is uncomfortable and unlivable.

Nearby are Purvis Young's paintings. There is something primal about this self-taught artists' work, something instinctive

and visceral. He works with paint on discarded scraps of wood, mixing childlike naivete with the harshness of German expressionism.

The most prominently placed "canvas" features what appears to be a fire burning through a city, Liberty City. The fire seems to represent I-95's symbolic path of destruction, wreaking havoc right down the center of his landscape, and in its wake buildings melting, figurine splotches writhing in agony. The medium of beat up scraps of wood helps add to the grittiness of the piece.

Some statements are more obvious than others, like Xavier Cortada's wall of photographs of Miami locales, underneath all of which a memory is scrawled about what used to stand there, pre-development. Or the work of Michael Loveland, who puts objects on display, such as old mom and pop store signs, and advertisements that have become extinct due to Miami's ongoing development. Nevertheless, the overall response to a growing and changing Miami is varied and interesting.



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ART & CULTURE ON THE BOULEVARD: THE LOCAL BEAT

Fábrica: Sounds from the Latin Underground

By Matt Gajewski
BBT Contributing Writer

Quick, name your favorite Latin alternative band. If you're stumped, don't feel bad – even in Miami, the “Capital of Latin America,” Latin alternative music is a well-kept secret, ignored by commercial radio stations and the mainstream press. However, there is more to Latin music than salsa, reggaeton, and J. Lo, and a local multimedia company called Fábrica is doing its darndest to let the secret out.

Born in 2001 as a party at Two Last Shoes, a now-defunct Wynwood bar, Fábrica is the brainchild of photographer Claudia Calle and Toto Gonzalez, a graphic designer and drummer. Needing rehearsal space for his group Sóniko, Toto hosted a weekly Latin underground night to pay for use of the building's empty second floor for band practice. Showcasing local acts Locos Por Juana and Estación Local, as well as Sóniko, Fábrica gave eager crowds a taste of the eclectic sounds bubbling beneath the surface of saccharine Latin pop.

Like American alternative music, a label used to describe artists as disparate



as Sonic Youth and Matchbox Twenty, Latin alternative is a nebulous category that encompasses everything from the rock en Español of Colombia's Aterciopelados, to the electro-pop of Kinky and the cosmopolitan experimentation of Parisian-born Manu Chao. In simplistic terms, Latin alternative is too alternative for Latin stations and too Latin for alternative stations.

According to Toto, the foundation of Latin alternative, or “world indie music” as he prefers to call it, is Anglo rock: The Beatles, Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones. Many kids throughout the Spanish-speaking world, particularly Mexico, Spain, and Argentina, grow up worshipping John Lennon and Jimmy Page, while at the same time subconsciously absorbing the traditional music of their native countries. Throw in the

latest styles from the U.S. and Great Britain and you get punk mixed with Norteño, hip-hop blended with cumbia, and metal married to tango.

In Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, Gonzalez's hometown, there was an active Goth scene inspired by The Cure, and Gonzalez played drums for bands influenced by Alice in Chains, Pearl Jam and Jesus Jones. In the '80s, Venezuela's foremost underground rock band was Sentimiento Muerto, and their use of self-made cassette tapes, graffiti and free concerts to promote their music introduced Gonzalez to the concept of guerilla marketing, a valuable tool for his later forays into the music industry.

In the early '90s he moved to Miami to study graphic design at the International Fine Art College (now the Art Institute), and worked for music magazines and websites. He met Calle through mutual friends, and the two immediately began living and working together, pooling their talents and dreaming of success in the entertainment industry.

“We started at the bottom,” said Gonzalez, “moving from Kendall to South Beach with nothing in our hands. We were hippies, then everything started blending.”

Spurred by the success of the Two Last Shoes parties, Calle and Gonzalez decided to expand Fábrica into a full-fledged company, devoted to promoting Miami's Latin alternative artists. Having recently done web design for www.LaMusica.com, a national Latin music portal, he built a similar website for Fábrica, with event listings, band interviews and CD reviews written mostly by interns from Miami-Dade College, FIU and the University of Miami.

At the same time, Sóniko had completed an album and was shopping it around to major labels with no success. Remembering the DIY aesthetic of Sentimiento Muerto, Gonzalez formed his own label to release Sóniko's recordings, Fábrica Music, and slowly built contacts within the industry. Three years later, his band had a distribution deal with Sony BMG, three videos on MTV Español, and an invitation to the South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas. Still, Sóniko faced the same hurdles as any Latin alternative band, such as getting radio play and booking tours in a country mostly unfamiliar with Latin rock.

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Fábrica

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said Gonzalez. "With Latin you get immediately related to salsa, maracas and congas."

As for the radio, Latin alternative is relegated to specialty shows on college stations and a handful of public and commercial stations like L.A.'s KCRW and Indie 103.1. Internet radio has the potential to reach a wider audience (the recently launched Fábrica Radio broadcasts a free stream of "world indie music"), but most Latin alternative artists gain exposure through music videos on cable stations like Mun2 (MunDos) and MTV Español (soon to be MTV Tr3s). These stations are aimed at U.S. Hispanics and non-video content is mostly in English.

In Miami, Fábrica is spreading the Latin indie gospel with a pair of weekly parties: Saturday's Noches de Fábrica at La Covacha in Doral, and Thursday's Noches Indie/gentes at PS14 in the Design District. Noches Indie/gentes features a cast of rotating DJs, everyone from musicians to fashion designers to celebrities, spinning a variety of American and Latin indie music (The Strokes alongside Café Tacuba), while Noches de Fábrica has more of a tropical vibe.

Fábrica's website, www.fabrikalink.com, has expanded to cover films and literature as well as music, and recently switched to English after four years of Spanish content. It contains links to Fábrica's many permu-

tations (Fábrica Radio, Fábrica Store, Fábrikarte, Fábrica Music) and employs writers from California, New York, Mexico, South America and Spain.



Toto Gonzalez and Claudia Calle

Fábrica Music now represents six artists, three of whom (Minimal, Monte*Rosa and Sacha Nairobi) will play at this year's Latin Alternative Music Conference in New York.

The website is funded through Fábrica Media, with Gonzalez doing graphic design for clients like Sony, EMI and Univision, and

Calle photographing artists such as Ricky Martin and Robi Draco Rosa. Future plans include hosting special parties for movie releases and bringing Latin music to local art gallery openings. With 40,000 subscribers to its regular newsletter and a steady supply of curious scenesters catching onto their thriving parties, Fábrica is doing its part to unite the worlds of Latin culture and indie cool.

"The most rewarding part was to see how all the bands and the people got together to fight for the same purpose and to actually become friends," said Calle. "Share instruments, shows, and contacts. This was not happening before and does not happen that often in other cities."

BBT

Noches de Fábrica is every Saturday evening at La Covacha, 10730 N.W. 25th St., and Noches Indie/gentes is every Thursday evening at PS14, 28 N.E. 14th St. For more info visit www.fabrikalink.com.

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The Measure of a City's Beat

Metro Pictures (Part II) at the MOCA

By Vanessa Garcia
BBT Columnist

The street beats differently depending on where you live. But every city beats, that much is certain – whether rhythmically like a hip-hop '80s New York sidewalk, or hard like a rainy day in Overtown.

Sometimes, when you're lucky, the beat is gentle and bright, and it shows you some sort of light; the slight tap and gesture of a stranger-cum-friend; a

joint sigh. All of these beats are heard through the Museum of Contemporary Art's (MOCA) current show, appropriately called, "Metro Pictures."

For as long as urban life has existed, artists have been living through the city and recording it, as voyeurs, friends and critics alike of the urban landscape. And

it is The City that takes center stage in Metro Pictures, a two-part exhibition of mixed-media approaches from artists around the globe. The exhibit brings together two of Miami's most respected

contemporary art venues: The Moore Space, on N.E. 2nd Avenue at 40th Street in the Design District, and the MOCA, on N.E. 125th Street in North Miami.

At this point, you've missed part one at The Moore Space, but still have a chance to catch the second-half of the

show at the MOCA, which runs through September 17. And don't worry, it's just like in the movies: It helps to have seen the first part, but it's not necessary for your understanding of the second.

Part Two, shining with gems throughout, has two artists particularly worthy of mention. The first is almost-native-son

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George Sanchez-Calderon's *After Dürer*

George Sanchez-Calderon (raised in Miami after arriving from New York at the age of five). The second is Kianga Ford, who lives and works in L.A., but developed her project for the show as an artist-in-residence at the MOCA. Ford's piece, called *The Complex*, is an exploration of the stories shared and overheard in an urban neighborhood, and murmurs with depth and cocoon-shell beauty.

For want of space, however, we'll focus on Sanchez-Calderon, arguably the show's standout artist.

For the MOCA, Sanchez-Calderon created three pieces: The one titled *Niche* is just that, an empty, spot-lit, wooden niche carved into a wall. The second piece is entitled *After Dürer*, and consists of a metal pedestal – spare and cold – with a

gold-plated man made of plaster and paint way up at the top of it, close to the ceiling. A knife sticks into/out of the man's back. Behind this scene is a photomural of Downtown Miami, specifically Overtown, where the artist has his studio.

The last work, a digital photograph titled *The Artist's Father: Luis Sanchez-Lopez*, is a picture of the artist's father standing in the niche. Quiet and moving, the artist's sad-eyed dad takes center-stage, if only for a moment, within the life of his son's work.

The three pieces take up an entire gallery in the museum and are worth more than their weight in "gold," so to speak. Here, before even delving too deeply into what this piece makes you

Continued on page 43

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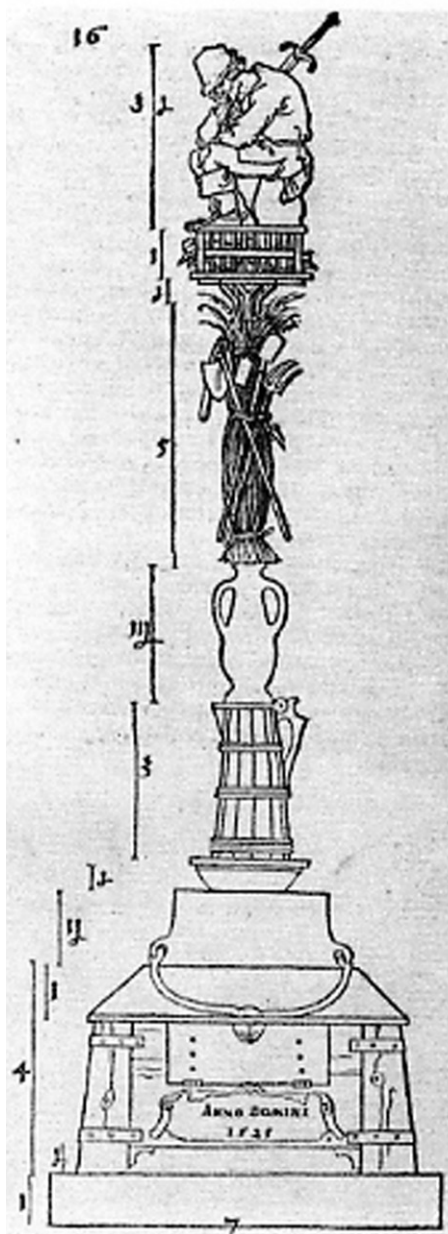
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Merto Pictures

Continued from page 42

feel (which is quite a bit), the curators rightly point out the following (on a long label on the wall – which I usually stray from, but in this case find some worth):

“Sanchez-Calderon borrows [the] Warholian concept of “15 minutes of fame” as he relates this work to Miami as a site of constant flux, both architectural-ly and socially, in which new protagon-ists rise and fall continually.”

It is evident that Sanchez-Calderon, who has an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, and who is currently undertaking another master’s degree in architecture at FIU, responds to his sur-roundings. The act of responding to the city that surrounds him is a “conscious choice,” says the artist. And hence, he is an exemplary choice for the exhibition. “Architecture,” he added, “isn’t just building, it says a lot about who we are...our culture.”

Sanchez-Calderon’s studio is near to the

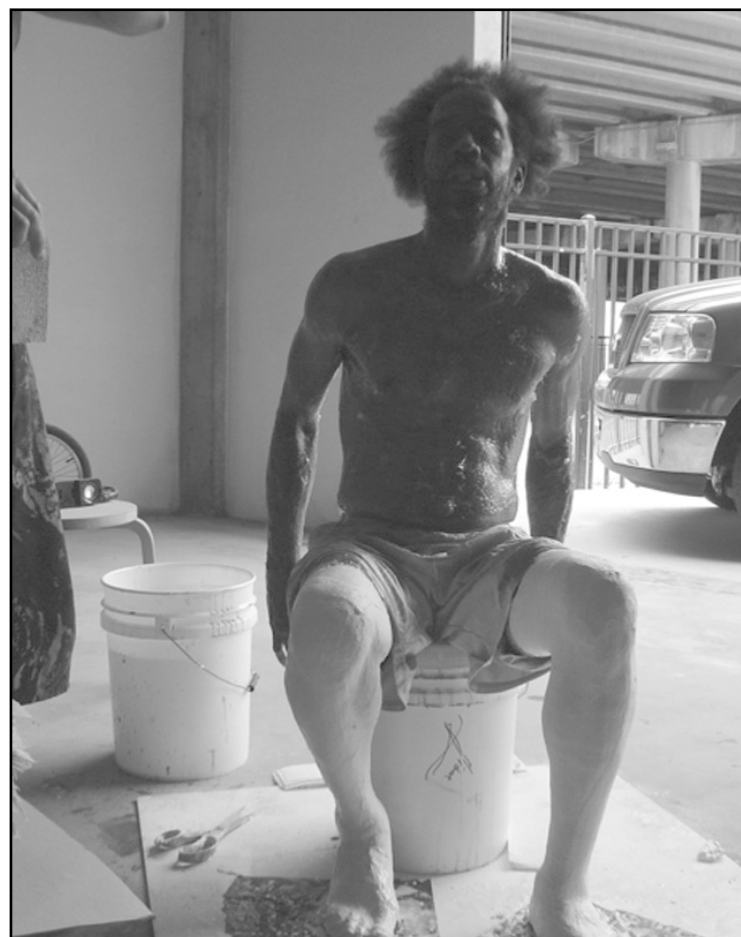
new Performing Arts Center, and his pieces, which he sometimes places out-side in his neighborhood, are often replaced by the palm trees of gentrifica-tion. “But it’s still the ghetto,” he said, with everything the “ghetto” entails.

For Metro Pictures (Part I), at The Moore Space, Sanchez-Calderon created *Plinth/Monument/Stoop*, which, as the title suggests, served many purposes. When he finished the stoop, he placed it around his neighborhood, and people stood, sat and rested on it. Sanchez-Calderon would pass by, at odd hours of the night, and catch people venturing onto the plank of wood, and would pho-tograph them. A book of the pictures he took – evidence of the life of *Plinth/Monument/Stoop* – sat atop the stoop in The Moore Space. Some of the pictures show a longing for rest; a man simply sitting down in a spot, quieting his bones. Others stand tall and proud, longing for something else, perhaps a soapbox on which to voice their woes. And still others stand timid with trepida-tions of what this temporary power might hold.

“All the work relates to monumentali-ty,” said the artist, which leads straight from *Plinth* to *After Dürer*, the previously mentioned pedestal with gold-cast man above, knife in back. Many things cross one’s mind at the sight of this man, high above a cube of metal stilts. Consider the death of those “15 minutes of fame,” and then think of a piece of art, long forgot-ten, and gathering dust in a museum, des-tined for a storage bin.

In the end, both are viable, considering that the piece is a replica of sorts of one conceptualized by the 16th-century artist Albrecht Dürer, intended as a monument to a peasant revolt but never realized. Here, Sanchez-Calderon, centuries later, brings the design to life, using it as a model for the cast, “a guy who’s been around [the artist’s] studio for five years,” he said. It’s a cast of someone from the neighborhood, a resident of his city’s beat.

George Sanchez-Calderon was raised by and lives through Miami. Today he finds himself, with what he calls a “responsibility, as an artist,” to record and interpret what he sees. He talks about not working for the money, but for the sake of the work itself. At 38, Sanchez-Calderon is way past his teenage years, where such platitudes run rampant, evi-dence of his dedication to this city. He’s here in Miami creating not for the love of money or the riches Art Basel has brought, but for the rhythm that runs through her, pulse by pulse and beat by beat.



Far left: The Original Dürer plan never realized. Above: An unidentified artist’s model used for Sanchez-Calderon’s *After Dürer*.



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American Black Cinema 101

Missed July's Black Film Festival? Here's Some Homework for Next Year's



fold

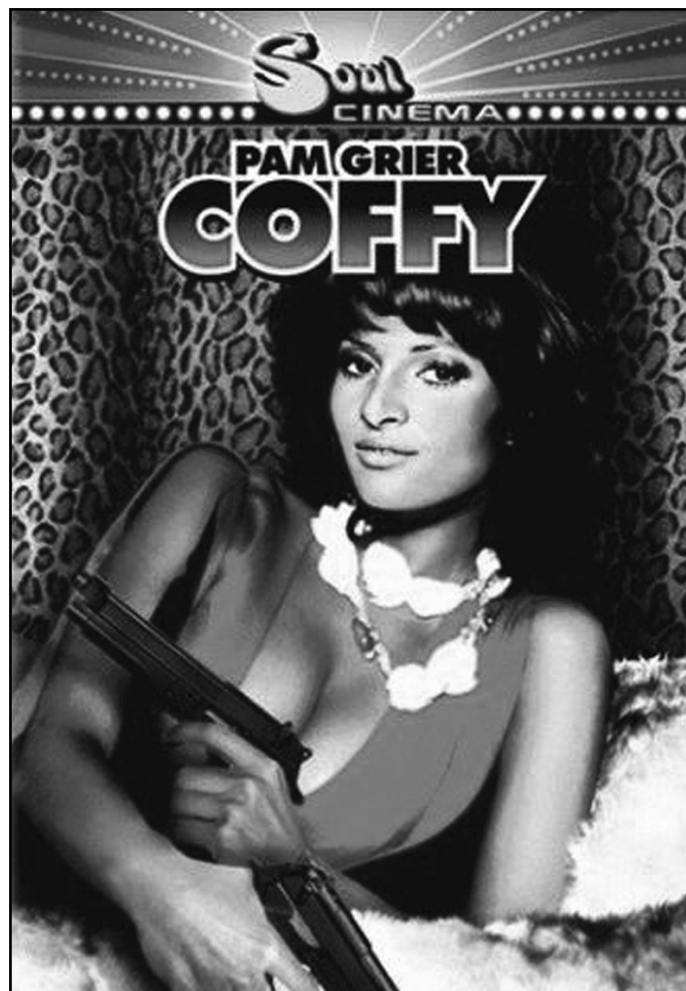
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Coffy

(1973)
Written & Directed by Jack Hill
Starring: Pam Grier, Booker Bradshaw, Sid Haig
91 minutes



Blaxploitation: Where would cinema be without? Probably in much the same place, but darn if it wouldn't be sorely missed. Beginning in the early 1970s, studios churned out a winning Afrocentric formula of superfly slang, outrageous costumes, formulaic street personalities, Black Panther vitriol and funky soundtracks, films that made up for thin plots by packing an entertaining wallop. The genre's strength was in being by, for and about black people.

But the bulk of films made capitalized on stereotypes, glorified the Violent Pimp, marginalized women, and exaggerated sex and violence; they compensated by doing whity a worse turn, with crooked cops and government officials lumped together as the proverbial Man – a force bent on holding bruthas down.

What made *Coffy* so refreshing an addition to the genre was a strong sense of self-knowing and subverted gender roles: Here we have Grier as the title character, a nurse by day and shotgun-wielding vigilante by night, taking on the L.A. underworld that got her baby sister hooked on the Big H, and with tremendous cleavage at that.

Quentin Tarantino may have redeemed her career as a strong

actress with 1997's *Jackie Brown*, but 30 years prior Grier was stripping down and kicking ass all over the women-in-prison subgenre in such classics as *Black Mama*, *White Mama* (1972). As *Coffy*, she's just as sexed-up and violent, but exploits herself for a just cause and comes out a hero.

Many things make this film worthy of repeat viewings beyond the fact that I've never seen a roomful of people not love it. A young Sid Haig, recently back in action as the patriarch of a murderous family in Rob Zombie's two films, does a great job as a sadistic thug; Roy Ayers' soundtrack is snappy-as-hell; and Grier's unmatched screen presence and palpable sexuality bode well with her tough-mama dialogue.

I also like watching how no one ever catches one of my favorite onscreen throwaway jokes, when Grier mutters, "You shouldn't have made me laugh," an easily missed adults-only punchline (watch it, you'll see).

Coffy isn't going to net any retrospective Academy nods, but for film-lovers curious as to why so many people (besides stoners and hipsters) still enjoy blaxploitation, it's a great place to start.

— By Christian Cipriani, BBT Editor

~ ~ ~



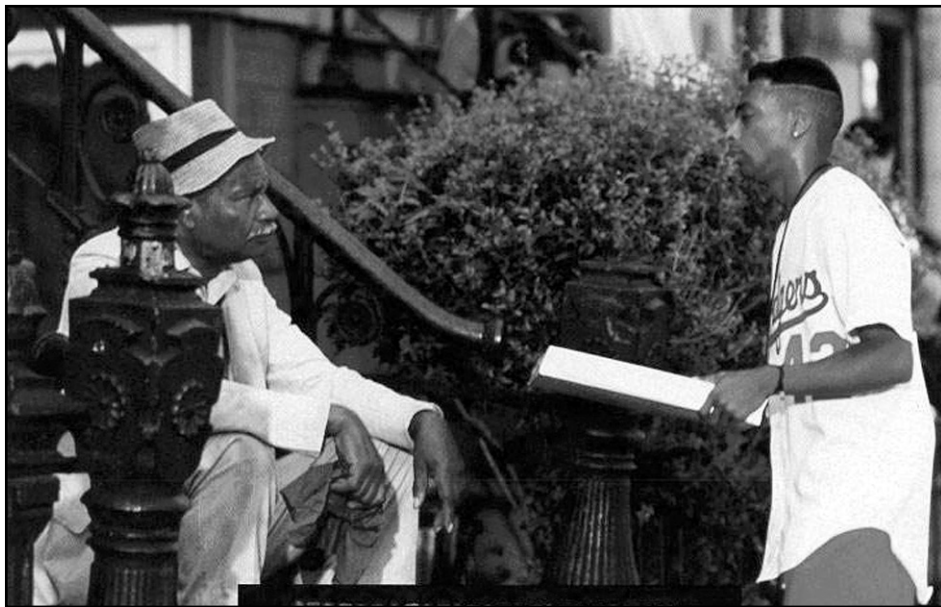
Do the Right Thing

(1989)
Written & Directed by Spike Lee
Starring: Spike Lee, Danny Aiello, Rosie Perez
120 minutes



I've seen *Do the Right Thing* five times now, and continue to find it fresh and rank it among my all-time favorites. The photography and lighting, story, characters and atmosphere are fan-

Continued on page 45



Screening Room

Continued from page 44

tastic – more so considering it was Lee’s debut effort – and as a film it’s lost none of its impact. It is a time capsule of a bygone Brooklyn era of ghetto blasters, stoop-lounging and fresh Air Jordans, a time when hip-hop had just started to unite black youths as a generation distinct from their parents, and in terms beyond music.

If blaxploitation was escapism and hyperbole, Lee and his contemporaries, like John Singleton, whose stellar debut *Boyz N the Hood* was nearly reviewed in place of this, brought inner-city Reality, warts and all, to mainstream audiences.

This is the story of a sweltering summer day in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, on a block where everyone knows one another and at least gets along. Racial tensions exist between black locals and the Italian family that runs Sal’s Famous Pizzeria, but the heat puts everyone’s nerves so on edge that pedestrian cultural tensions take an unexpected turn for the worse.

DTRT met enormous controversy for

Lee’s ambiguous message about race and violence. Many called the film an incitement, its director irresponsible, but more measured critics heralded not only its cinematic merits – which are numerous, from explosive colors to great use of sound, from natural performances to interesting directorial solutions in a one-block set – but as the most honest portrayal of urban America yet seen on film.

In this ambiguity – in that there are no clear heroes and villains, in that certain actions look senseless while other beg to happen but never do, in that no higher message can be derived other than “People are complex, and when life heats up the bubbles will fly” – there is power. Lee captures that black limbo between MLK Jr. and Malcolm X with startling honesty.

If you haven’t seen this film it’s a must, a great viewing (and learning) experience that will leave you mulling over the details the next day. By the end you’ll feel like part of the neighborhood, which makes trying to decipher their motivations and morality that much more interesting.




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In The Trenches: Today's Corporate Networks

This month we're pleased to have Mark Borrow of Citrix Systems with us to discuss the latest in corporate network infrastructure. Mark prowls the data-centers of some of the nation's largest Fortune 500 companies, with hardcore knowledge of today's hardware and security challenges. If there's a hardware 'front line' in the world of Information Technology, he's on it.

Who are you, and what do you do?

I'm a senior systems engineer for the Citrix Systems Application Networking group. Our hardware group was formed by Citrix when they purchased Netscaler and Teros. I do mainly pre-sales and initial implementation/support for enterprise customers. Rather than strategy or planning, we tend to be the solution to a problem, and were brought in to make network infrastructure more efficient.

What's hot in datacenter/network management right now? What are the benefits?

The 'application front-end' appliance market is exploding. After Netscaler installed their performance-enhancement appliances in the largest service/content providers (Google, Amazon, eBay, etc.), Citrix bought Netscaler and created the Application Networking Group. Since then, other companies have followed suit and created internal groups that are focused specifically on increasing performance and application efficiency for corporations and content providers. The benefits of these types of appliances are many – consolidation of many network products (load-balancing, compression, proxy servers), better transaction performance for clients and servers, and more efficient use of server infrastructure. The Citrix Netscaler, for instance, can allow a customer to host an application on fewer servers, or grow the application using existing infrastructure, all by offloading much of the processing overhead a server normally has to deal with.

What's the latest word in network threats and data security? Are most of these threats web-related? How involved are you in the effort to protect your clients' resources?

The biggest threats now are application-layer attacks such as SQL-injection, forced-browsing, session hijacking and cross-site scripting.

These are application requests that resemble 'good' traffic to a normal network firewall, and even to most intrusion-prevention systems. The goal of most of these attacks is to compromise network data (i.e. identity theft, bank account numbers, social security numbers). The Citrix Application Firewall examines each network request, response and packet-load using what is called a 'positive security model'. This means no signatures are required to protect the application. Basically, we train the firewall to recognize what 'good' network traffic should look like and reject everything else. The firewall also has built-in features to recognize certain commands and data patterns, such as social security numbers, that should be restricted.

Would you say IT spending in your area has gone up, down or stayed the same in the past two or three years?

Definitely up. Companies are consolidating their datacenters, moving more of them in-house. Now that the fallout from the dot-com crash has shaken out a bit, customers are once again trying to maximize their Return on Investment (ROI) for technology. In our particular

market, corporate investment can generate ROI very quickly, leading customers to spend more money faster.

How have Sarbanes-Oxley, internal QA paperwork, or other compliance/auditing schemes affected your line of work? Is such oversight worthwhile or overblown?

Since we deal extensively with financial institutions, Sarbanes-Oxley comes up often. The rules have actually been good for our company, as we accelerate and optimize encrypted transactions as well as plaintext. Sarbanes-Oxley has also been a boon to application and data security sales. Personally, I think it's a good idea to raise data-security awareness, though I also believe the law overreaches in spots and can be virtually unenforceable if you follow it to the letter.

How would you rate corporate America's networks, data architecture and business efforts? Are established companies like your clients taking full advantage of information technology?

I deal with a lot of educational institutions (colleges and universities), which are generally fairly cutting edge. Businesses for their part are still very much bottom-line driven, which can cause them to move either very slow or very fast. Our products are designed to make business processes faster and more efficient, meaning that businesses are often willing to invest in the latest technology to wring more productivity from workers while saving money on overall infrastructure. The content/service providers I work with are still a few years ahead of most enterprise customers, and are also willing to employ the hottest bleeding-edge technology. Our big enterprise customers (E-Trade, Bank of America, Tyco) are typically a year or two behind when it comes to firmware/software upgrades, because they're more cautious about deploying them to production.

What do the next five years hold for your tech segment of American business?

I think that when it comes to hot technology, the application-layer security market is about to explode. Too many incidents of mass identity theft have occurred for people not to notice these types of application exploits. Banks have adopted this technology already (the 'positive security model' described above, which scrutinizes application data patterns), and I suspect many companies will follow suit to protect their data.

Have a tech question? Email it to Marc Stephens at tectalk@bellsouth.net.



Tech Talk

By Marc Stephens

"The application-layer security market is about to explode."

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Tech Talk Q&A

Dear Tech Talk,

I did not understand your statement about switching off the read-only regarding CD/DVDs. If it is read-only, what would switching it off do? I am rather a novice so I did not understand what I am supposed to do in both cases. Appreciate your help.

Hubert Harriman

Hubert,

Thanks for writing. The read-only issue arises when restoring files from backup CDs or DVDs to your hard drive. When you back-up data files to a CD or DVD, they automatically become "read-only" files. This means that the read-only file attribute is set to ON. If you restore these files from CD/DVD back to your hard drive, this attribute is retained as ON. Such files may be opened but can only be saved under a different name; the original restored file usually cannot be written over as is. You must turn off the read-only attribute after restoring the file in order to use and save it under the same name, as you would with any other normal data file on your hard drive.

Hope this answers your question!

Marc Stephens
Tech Talk

The Environmental Lawn

By Jeff Shimonski
Tropical Designs of Florida

To most people, a lawn is an open area that surrounds a home planted as a monoculture with a single species of grass. Often these lawns are maintained at great cost and with much effort. Nationwide, the cost of irrigation, fertilizer, pesticides and mowing runs into an astronomical amount of money. A very lucrative industry has grown up around the myth of creating and maintaining the "perfect" green lawn.

The term "Industrial Lawn" was coined in the first edition of *Redesigning the American Lawn*, published in 1993 by Yale University Press. It was a primer toward sustainable lawn management and very applicable to our situation here in South Florida.

Because of our climate and soil conditions, most lawns down here consist of one of the following exotic species of grass – the very common lawn grass "St. Augustine" *Stenotaphrum secundatum*, Bermuda grass *Cynodon spp.*, the tough expressway grass *Bahia*, or one of the *Zoysia* species. Some of these grasses can be very difficult to grow and keep as a perfect monoculture. Fungal problems, chinch bugs or army worms are always ready to take advantage of the lush grass, or a fast-growing "weed" is always there to outgrow and take over the lawn.

Did you know that the fatal palm disease Lethal Yellowing (LY) is vectored by an insect called a Planthopper, *Myndus crudus*, and that the immature stages of this insect develop on all common turf grasses popular in Florida? They feed upon palms and transmit LY as adults. Dicotyledonous (dicots) groundcovers that have been tested do not support the development of this

insect. Dicots are considered the woody plants and grasses are considered monocots (monocotyledonous).

Add up the cost of maintaining your lawn for an entire year: Do you pay a service to come and cut, spray and fertilize, or do you own your own lawn mower and fight the battle of the Industrial Lawn yourself?

There is another option to growing and financing this Industrial Lawn. That option is the Environmental Lawn. This is a garden that requires no input of fertilizers or pesticides. It can be home to many species of grasses, sedges or

even tiny dicots. One of the functions of an Environmental Lawn (aside from the aesthetic) is a place where beneficial insects can gather pollen and nectar from the tiny dicot flowers that abound in this habitat. Many of the tiny parasitic wasps that prey upon scale insects, caterpillars and other plant pests take nectar from plants with tiny flowers that present small, open nectaries. Many species of



Above: A Cernanus Blue butterfly on the picnic lawn, Parrot Jungle Island. One of dozens of butterflies that day
Below: The Environmental Lawn at Flamingo Lake, Parrot Jungle Island.



wasps are very dependent upon food plants to realize their high reproductive potential, thereby enabling them to control a greater percentage of our plant pests.

The Environmental Lawn also functions as a butterfly garden.

The plants found in this habitat are very attractive for nectar-gathering and egg-laying. Throughout the year when there is a profusion of tiny flowers in bloom, dozens of butterflies can be seen feeding from the flowers.

The lawns at Parrot Jungle Island (PJI)

were all grown as Environmental Lawns. The area that is called Flamingo Lake is approximately one acre, with half of the area lawn. This exhibit was designed as a basin with the lake at the bottom to protect the flamingoes from hurricanes. The wind will blow above them as they seek refuge in the lake during a storm. With the lawn on a slope, any chemicals or fertilizers that are put onto the lawn will eventually

runoff into the lake potentially harming the fish and other animals that live in the water. The picnic area next to the children's playground is another half acre of lawn. This is an area the public has constant access to, and any pesticides or fertilizers put down can possibly expose them to harmful chemicals. These lawn areas are also only eight feet or so above the water table. Many fertilizers can leach out of the root-zone quite rapidly and enter the water table; this causes pollution and is not very eco-efficient (eco-efficiency is fundamentally a ratio of some measure of economic value added to some measure of environmental impact). The Environmental Lawn uses less water, less or no chemicals, and less labor; this is eco-efficient.

A decision was made when PJI opened three years ago to grow lawns (actually the entire landscape) that would not use pesticides, fungicides, nematicides or commercial fertilizers. These lawns are now very attractive and green, and while not what some would consider perfect by conventional standards, they are perfect when considered from an environmental and ecological point of view.

Establishing an Environmental Lawn in South Florida can be easily done with patience and common sense. Stop or slow down your fertilizing and spraying; see what will grow in your garden.

Jeff Shimonski is an ISA Certified Municipal Arborist, license #FL-1052AM, with many years of tree experience as principal of his company, Tropical Designs of Florida. If you have any concerns about the plant life on your property, Jeff is a great resource. Contact him by email at jeff@tropicaldesigns.com or log onto his website, www.tropicaldesigns.com, for more info.

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Boulevard Corridor Business News

Local Attorney in Italy for Equity Roundtable

Arthur Furia, and Italian-American law partner at Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A., in Miami, vice-president of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) and a resident of the Grand Condominium on Bayshore Drive, recently participated in the NIAF delegation in Rome for a major roundtable hosted by Ronald Spogli, the U.S. Ambassador to Italy.

Furia traveled to Italy to meet with Italian public officials, including Italy's new President Giorgio Napolitano and the president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, at a roundtable on private equity held at Ambassador Spogli's residence, Villa Taverna.

Through the course of several meetings during their stay in Italy, Furia and Italian officials discussed the heightened importance of private equity in Italy.

"Better communication of the purpose of private equity investment, along with the generational shift and adaptation of cultural influences has now brought Italian businesses to the cusp of



increased private equity interest from multi-national private equity firms," Furia said.

Italy has the world's sixth largest

GNP, at 1.7 trillion Euro. Other participants included executives from Sinergetica, MedioBanca, Baker Capital, Templeton International, J.P. Morgan, Advent, and Telecom Italia.

Furia has a long history of promoting trade between Italy and Florida. In addition to being a member of the NIAF board of directors, he is a board member of the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce. He is also the Florida representative of the American Chamber of Commerce in Italy and founding chairman of the board of the Primo Carnera Foundation. In 2000, the President of Italy designated him "cavaliere," the highest distinction awarded by the Italian government.

BGT Partners Receives Multiple Design Honors

BGT Partners, a full-service interactive marketing and technology consultancy with offices at 3800 N.E. 2nd Ave., is proud to announce several awards for excellence and industry leadership, among them: A top ranking by *South Florida Business Journal* in the Large IT Consulting category; a Best in Class Public Relations Site award from the Interactive Media Council; three top honors at the Web Marketing Association's 2006 Internet Advertising Competition (IAC) Awards; three awards at the 5th Annual Horizon Interactive Awards Competition; and two "Stevies" at the American Business Awards.

Left to Right: Arthur Furia with Dean Mark Sargent, of Villanova Law School, and Prof. Gianfranco Mossetto, former CEO of Telecom Italia.

"Our work goes beyond great strategy, technology and creative design," said David Clarke, managing partner and SVP for BGT Partners. "These awards, however, are a great honor, and serve as the icing on the cake. We look forward to continued success and industry leadership."

For more information on BGT Partners visit www.bgtpartners.com.

Forkosh Group Brings Rental Community to Boulevard



Aja on the Bay

Aja on the Bay, a 12-story residential community located at 700 N.E. 26th Ter., is now operational, with 58 units available for rental by August. Previously named Electra on the Bay, Aja on the Bay was bought and is being rented by New York-based Forkosh Development Group.

From 800 square feet to 1,300 square feet, each residential unit has a view of Biscayne Bay, private balcony, intercom system, brand new appliances and free internet. The pet-friendly building contains covered parking, a pool, sauna,

Continued on page 49

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Business Briefs

Continued from page 48

gym, on-site management office and 24-hour security.

Aja on the Bay is being exclusively leased by Capital Holdings Group Inc., a Miami-based brokerage firm located at 2413 Biscayne Blvd. For more information visit www.caphol.com or call 305-576-3221

Passionately Pink for the Cure

The inaugural campaign for Passionately Pink for the Cure, a breast cancer fundraiser endorsed by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation that will involve local businesses, schools, religious and/or social organizations and individual residents in a month-long campaign to raise money for breast cancer research, kicks off this October.

Participants pick a day in October, National Breast Cancer Awareness month, and make a \$5 or more personal contribution to the Komen Foundation as they wear pink as a sign of sharing in Komen's promise of finding a cure for breast cancer.

To participate in the initiative, interested parties must register online at www.komen.org. Following registration, participants will receive a Passionately Pink kit that includes ideas to help plan and encourage participant support, pink Komen Share the Promise wristbands for participants, and educational materials about breast cancer.

For more information call the local Komen chapter at 305-383-7116 or send an email to komenmiami@earthlink.net.

Kubik Broker Open House



L to R: Camilo Alvarado Boshell, design principal for Kubik; Miriam Varela, Fortune House; Jose Camilo Lega, principal of Lab Group Developers; Sheila Bokstein, Fortune House.

Lab Group Developers (LAB) hosted an open house at Kubik's onsite sales center to celebrate the official launch of the condominium project, to be situated at 5700 Biscayne Blvd. just north of 55th Street Station. At the all-day event, LAB presented Kubik's design and outlined to brokers a generous incentive program.

"This event is a great opportunity for us to... cement their grass-root support, which is vital to [our] success," said Jose Camilo Lega, principal of LAB.

Throughout the day, many brokers visited the sales center at 5582 N.E. 4th Ct. to meet LAB's sales staff; the event also attracted many first-time visitors. Guests

enjoyed complimentary wine, cheese and dessert.

The twin-tower, 16-story design will comprise a 183-unit south tower, and one to the north containing 116 units. There will also be 41,745 square feet of commercial space for sale. Pricing for the residential units range from the high \$300s to \$2.5 million. Construction is slated to begin October 2006, with completion scheduled for spring 2008.

Haitian Dance

Continued from page 20

In addition to traditional Haitian dances offered throughout the month, Corina Fitch also teaches a Belly Dancing for Birthing class on Wednesday nights. The class focuses on belly dancing techniques and encourages women to explore the fertility of their bodies through the slow, circular movements of the pelvis and hips and the undulation of the torso. This dance is intended to loosen a woman's body and prepare it for labor as they "dance" their babies out of their bodies. Fitch is a licensed midwife, as well as a professional dancer and percussionist. A Drum Aerobics class is also available by reservation.

A nonrefundable fee of \$20 is required annually to register for classes. For more information on details and schedules, or to donate money for the children's class, please contact the St. Paul Episcopal Church at 305-756-5363.

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Credit Bureaus Unveil New Credit Scoring System

By **Gilda Iriarte**
BBT Columnist

Something good has come from the epidemic of identity theft that has plagued many people in recent years: We have finally caught on to the important truth that credit counts. As a result, we have learned how important it is to monitor our credit reports.

Last year the federal government required the three credit bureaus to provide one free credit report each year to anyone who requests it at www.annualcreditreport.com. Credit scores, generally called FICO scores, are not included in the free reports, but FICO sells the scores and each bureau will provide them for a nominal fee. Fair, Isaac & Company provides the formula and software for determining FICO scores.

These scores are widely used by credit grantors – banks, mortgage lenders, credit card companies and auto dealers – but the three credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, have utilized and marketed their own credit scores. Thus a borrower will often find that he or she has three scores that can be quite different. That's because each bureau

uses a different formula to generate the score. To reconcile the three scores, a mortgage lender will typically use the middle score. FICO scores use a scale from roughly 300 to 900, with a score less than 620 considered sub-prime.

Last March, the three credit bureaus released a jointly developed credit-scoring system called VantageScore. They claim it will provide more consistency, as all three bureaus will use the same formula to compute the VantageScore. However, your score with each of the bureaus will probably vary due to data differences among each consumer credit file.

The new credit scoring system uses a different numerical scale. The VantageScore ranges from 501 to 990. Like FICO, the higher the score, the less risk you represent to a lender and the more likely you are to be approved for the best rate. The system also assigns a letter grade to consumers within certain ranges:

901-990: A
801-900: B
701-800: C
601-700: D
501-600: F

So what's so great about the new system? Well, it's easier to understand, because it breaks down like an elementary school report card. However, it does not solve many of the major problems consumers have with credit reports, such as:

Dissimilar databases: The information in the credit bureau databases differs due to the fact that creditors may report to one bureau and not to the others. Or, you may have successfully disputed an error at two of the bureaus only to have a third refuse to erase the bad entry.

Incorrect or missing information: This is not just from data entry errors but from creditors not reporting paid bills, closed accounts or transferred accounts.

Credit card companies refusing to report credit limits: Why is this important? In the credit scoring formula, your balance is measured against your credit limit to determine your credit utilization rate, which accounts for 30 percent of your score in the FICO model. A balance of 30 percent or more of your credit limit lowers your score.

tell the bureaus that an old debt is, in fact, a new one in order to extend the seven-year limit on reporting negative items.

So will VantageScore replace FICO? Right now, it doesn't look like it but we'll have to wait and see. FICO scores are entrenched in the financial world and it seems the bureaus have ignored the major players in developing this new scoring system. It's not just lenders with their automated underwriting systems that rely on FICO. Most loans are bundled and sold on Wall Street to institutional investors who depend on the scoring system to determine how much risk they're taking with these investments.

So is the new VantageScore a benefit to the consumer? Maybe. VantageScores can be purchased by creditors but will not be available to consumers until late this year. The bureaus have promised to provide clearer guidance about what goes into the scores and how consumers can better their numbers. If the new scoring system serves to educate the public, that will be a benefit. Only time will tell.

Gilda Iriarte is a real estate and mortgage consultant in Miami with a Harvard MBA and 25 years experience. She can be reached at giriarte@bell-south.net or 305-984-1101.

Collection agencies' practice of reporting inaccurate information to credit bureaus and of illegally "re-aging" debts on credit reports: The collectors

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Why Are We So Trashy?

By Priscilla Arias
BBT Contributing Writer

Every Saturday morning I walk onto my balcony and stretch. I look to the west and see cozy homes hugged by tall, beautiful green trees; I look to the east and am pleased to see a small glimpse of the bay; then I look down and see large piles of garbage strewn about. It's really quite discouraging. Sometimes it seems like I can't turn a corner around my neighborhood in my unincorporated Miami-Dade community of Biscayne Shores without running into a pile of trash along the sidewalk. There are old pieces of wood, computer monitors, broken strollers and chairs, ratty couches, tree branches, old refrigerators and so on. True, my neighborhood isn't an affluent one, but is that a good enough excuse for us to use sidewalks and vacant lots as our own personal landfills?

These eyesores aren't exclusive to Biscayne Shores, mind you. I've noticed them all along the Corridor, and some of them were there for *months* before finally being removed. I believe the reason we are relinquishing responsibility of our unwanted litter is because we don't know what else to do with it. Well, ladies and

gentleman, that ends today. Below is information that may be useful should you ever need to get rid of bulk trash:

Miami Shores Village Sanitation Division – 305-795-2207

- You do not have to schedule a pickup. Sanitation Division has bulk trash collection every 2 to 3 weeks, depending on the season.

- They collect up to three cubic yards of debris, including wood, branches, white goods (stoves, refrigerators, etc), furniture, and other bulk items except hazardous materials or building materials (see website for more info)

- Leave your items in a pile on a designated corner or curb in your area

- To find out exactly where to leave your items or for more information, go to www.miamishoresvillage.com/Public_Works/sanitation_division.htm

City of Miami Solid Waste Department – 305-575-5106 ext. 100

- You cannot schedule a pickup
- The city established the Solid Waste Mini-Dump, specifically for the disposal of bulk trash:

- Location: 1290 N.W. 20th St. 305-575-5107; open Mon-Sun, 7 a.m. to

5:30 p.m.

- They will take your bulk items, including construction or demolition debris and up to four automobile tires, at no charge

- Do not take household garbage, hazardous waste, chemicals, paint containers, or automobile parts, such as batteries, gas tanks, cylinders or drums

- The service is available to residents serviced by the Solid Waste Department, and must provide proof of residency

- If items are left abandoned on sidewalk, the City of Miami will schedule a "special pickup" and send an inspector to investigate. The person or people found guilty will be fined

- If items are left abandoned on vacant property, the property-owner is responsible for removal and will be fined

- For more information, go to www.miamigov.com/solidwaste/pages

Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management – 305-594-1500

- You can schedule a bulky waste pickup before placing your items curbside by calling 305-594-1500. Expect to wait

about two weeks on average for a pickup

- Services residents of Unincorporated Dade and residents of the cities of Aventura, Doral, Miami Gardens, Miami Lakes, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest and Sunny Isles Beach

- They collect up to 25 cubic yards of bulky waste per household, twice each fiscal year, free of charge

- There is a minimum charge of \$105 for excess bulky waste

- Trash should be placed curbside within 10 feet of the street and at least 3 feet from mailboxes, parked cars, trees and other obstructions

- They pick up furniture, white goods, tree-cuttings, and construction materials limited to 1 cubic yard or less

- They will not pick up garbage, tires, free liquids, oil-based paint or chemicals

- If waste is located on a property, a Property Damage Release form must be signed prior to removal

- You can also dispose of your bulky trash at any one of the 13 Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers (see website for address info)

For more information, go to www.miamidade.gov/dswm

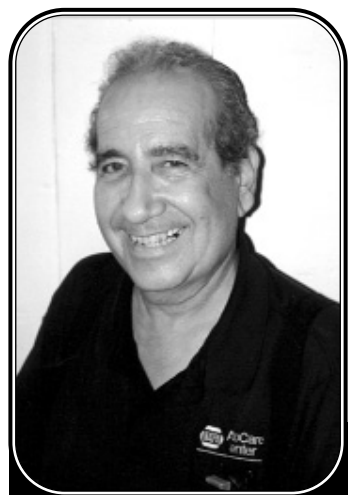
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To wring the most mileage out of a gallon of gasoline, fill your tank in the morning when

the outside temperature is the coldest. Fuel is measured by volume, not the density, and fuel is densest when it is cold. Beyond that, check for clogged air and fuel filters that can restrict air and fuel flow to the engine, reducing fuel economy. Make sure that your tires are properly inflated, as they can lose up to a pound per square inch of pressure monthly. Also check for tire wear, which may indicate it is time for a

wheel alignment. A properly aligned suspension and balanced tires help a vehicle move straighter and smoother.

This also helps fuel economy by reducing rolling resistance and tire wear.



You Auto Know

By Gabe Cortez

With gas prices being what they are, we are all interested in doing what we can to improve gas mileage. A properly maintained vehicle is safer and more dependable, lasts longer and is more fuel-efficient. Remember, install a new air filter every 10,000 miles, a new fuel filter every 20,000 miles, check tire pressure at least once a month and rotate tires and check alignment every 6,000 miles.

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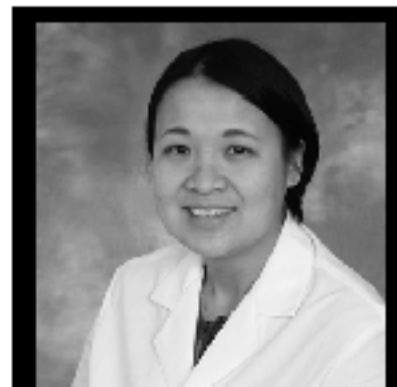
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Bunny Yeager, Queen of the Bikini

As the Two-Piece Turns 60, the Renowned Photographer in Her Own Words

I was doing test shots for the City of Miami Beach with photographer Don Duffy in 1949, and he asked me if I had a two-piece bathing suit. All I brought was my store-bought, regular one-piece suit, the only one I owned (most girls at that time only had one). I didn't realize that it might be more useful to a photographer to have several suits on hand.

"No, but I will try to make one," I told Don. "I sew a lot of my clothes because I am tall [5' 10"] and it's hard for me to find clothes that fit. Most skirts and dresses are too short, and even bathing suits are not long enough. They pull down at the top and ride up at the bottom. What color is good for you?"

"Red is always good," he replied. "Don't give me white or black."

So I went to the store and picked out two yards of red cloth printed with white seagulls. I had no idea what I needed but thought that was more than enough, then I took a strapless bra for the top and sewed the material on by hand.

I didn't have a pattern for the bottom,

so I cut two triangular pieces of material and made it like a diaper. After I sewed them together, the point at the top of the triangle became the crotch. The long end of the triangle, which would be the front, I tied at my back, and then I pulled the other part through my legs and brought the two points together into a bow up front. I put the top on and looked in the mirror and the suit looked cute to me. It fit okay and was a two-piece suit, so I just hoped the photographer would be pleased.

Don took a few photos and then said, "Could you untie that big bow in the front and hold out each side, pulling it straight?"

"Sure," I said. I was still perfectly covered and didn't think it would be bad

or unwise to do this. But after some more shots he said, "That's good, but there's too much material. Could you untie the back and tie the two ends on each to make a pair of bows?"

"That's good, but there's too much material. Could you untie the back and tie the two ends on each to make a pair of bows?"

Afraid the suit was going to fall off altogether, I sat down on a log and adjusted it like he instructed.

Then Don said, "Roll the edges under to get rid of some of the material, both in the front and back."

I did this and then stood up to

see how it felt to me and to get his approval. "That's perfect," he said. I could tell he was pleased. I had no mirror and didn't really know how brief it looked, but I was comfortable and he seemed very happy. We shot a lot of photos.

The City of Miami Beach would later send these photos to the wire services to be printed in countries all over the world, and the Miami Beach Publicity Department sent them to newspapers all over the U.S.

In a July 7 interview for the bikini's 60th anniversary with Jim Bitterman of CNN and Kelly Killoren Bensimon, author of The Bikini Book, Bunny recalled her mother's reaction when she saw her on the front of the Miami Hurricane. She gasped, "How could you do that! You're nude!"

This was not only my first bikini, but also probably Miami and Miami Beach's first bikini, besides the original French one designed in 1946, three years before mine. My bikini design wasn't about rebellion or sexiness, or even comfort, and I have no idea how other girls felt about me. I knew men admired me, but I also knew I had done nothing wrong and my suit covered me decently.

I found that by designing and making my own bikini suits, I was in demand at the publicity departments in both Miami and Miami Beach. They always called me to model a new design, as it made for a good variety of news/publicity photos. They used me more than anyone else and I became the most photographed model in Florida.

When I graduated from Miami Edison High School (at N.W. 5th Court and 62nd Street), I spent the summer at the beach working on my tan and meeting guys. I met Chuck Schwind, a handsome blue-eyed, blonde body-builder, and we made a striking couple walking along the water's edge together. He was a photography student at Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center on N.W. 20th Street and asked me to pose for him during one of his classes. I saw how photos were developed and printed and wanted to know more about it, perhaps even take a course.

But my father suggested I look for a job instead of going to the beach everyday. I looked in the classified section of The Miami Herald and starting going on interviews, but nobody wanted me because I had no experience in anything. One day, though, I interviewed at General Acceptance Corp., at the Seybold Building in downtown Miami. It was a simple job – filing, taking loan applications, checking credit – but for me it was a big deal. They gave me my own desk and telephone, and unlike my high school and home the office was air-conditioned, at that time an altogether new thing. I came on board fulltime at \$30 a week and immediately tried to learn other jobs around the office so I could ask for a raise regularly.

Even though I held a steady job I still modeled when I could. One photographer who liked to work with me was Roy Pinney of New York. He flew down once a year and called for me at the modeling agency, asking, "What's new in your life?"

I told him I'd enrolled in photography classes at Lindsey Hopkins and, very excited, he got this idea to make a story about me as a girl photographer. I told Roy I wasn't one yet and didn't plan on making it my career, but he promised it would make an interesting story and to leave it to him.

So in August 1952 Roy put me on the cover of *U.S. Camera Magazine* wearing a bikini. On year later and I was back on the cover, this time with the headline "World's Prettiest Photographer." Inside were several pages of photos showing me working with a model, sewing my bikinis, etc. The tagline stuck and I was instantly a celebrity.

I was modeling and doing photogra-

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Bunny Yeager in the 1950s, wearing a bikini she designed.

Bunny Yeager

Continued from page 52

phy at the same time, plus my regular job. One day the boss called me into his office and asked me to decide whether I wanted to stay working at my job or give up modeling. When I won beauty contests, sometimes as a prize there was a trip here or there. My boss had been kind enough to let me take off to collect my trips to New York and Mexico, but now felt I was missing too many days.

I thought about it. Could I support myself just modeling and maybe some photography? I decided to take that chance and quit my job. Fortunately I was a success.

I was able to find models to pose for pinup work that I could sell to men's magazines, most of which didn't feature nudes, only bikini shots and pinups. I came along when there were more men's magazines than at any other time in history, and they bought nearly everything I shot. They didn't give assignments and I took my chances when selecting models and how I posed them. It didn't matter that I was a woman in a man's world – it never crossed my mind. I knew what the magazines wanted and I gave it to them. I developed a reputation for shooting glamour with good taste, nothing raunchy. My photos were clean and wholesome without any real overt sexu-

I still shoot models today, but for a long time I put my camera down because the pinup market became too clinically explicit. I didn't feel comfortable shooting the kinds of photos they were publishing in the late '70s and for all of the '80s.

Magazines didn't want to buy my work anymore, so I stopped and for 12 years published an entertainment newspaper called *Florida Stage and Screen News*.

But then something happened: People once again started seeking me out for photos. I realized I could shoot my old-fashioned way and still enjoy public

embrace. So today when I shoot, I shoot how I want and when I want – old becomes new. I'm always on the lookout for attractive girl subjects, and a number of professional pinup models have contacted me on the internet and come to Miami at their own expense just to pose for me so they can put it on their resumes. Making pretty women/girls

look even more beautiful by my posing them, using my knowledge of lighting – both existing light and that in a studio or home location – is what I do best and I enjoy it.

I don't miss the good old days

because I am doing much the same thing, and I love finding a girl who has never thought about posing before and developing her beauty in front of the camera.

I've always worked more or less alone, with no assistants except on large assignments. I like it that way. In the old

days I even did the hair and the makeup because many of my models were inexperienced young girls who didn't know how to make the most of themselves. Of course I made most of the outfits, both bikinis and lingerie, but I don't have to do that today, although once in awhile I still like to. Today's clothing is very

Continued on page 55



Bunny this July on her way to an interview with Jim Bitterman of CNN.

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Gen Art & Perrier Present Shop Miami

Fashion Show and Design Unveiling at Moore Building

By Malika Bierstein
BBT Staff Writer

More than 40 emerging designers and boutiques, fashionistas and consumers alike gathered at the Design District's Moore Building Thursday, July 27 for a New York style sample sale and the debut of Zoe Hong's winning design for the Perrier Bubbling Under Award.

"Shop Miami is a program that we have done in every other market, and this is the first time that we've brought it to Miami," said Julia Brown, director of Gen Art Miami. "Sample sales are really a way of life for New Yorkers and other major metropolitan areas, and it's something that hasn't really hit here yet. We're excited to be the first to present this in a dynamic way with such an incredible roster of designers."

Hong, the designer who flew in from San Francisco to unveil her design, was awarded \$10,000 by Perrier for winning their "Sparkle"-themed competition. Based on submissions of sketches from designers and fashion students all over the U.S. and Canada, the decision was made by a panel of judges including Nicole Miller and Diane Von Furstenberg. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and browsed clothes, shoes and jewelry available for sale in each designer's booth before taking in a 30 minute fashion show. The show unveiled Hong's winning design and a sneak preview of what we can expect to see in select designer's new lines. Music was provided by DJ Induce.

Hong, who lives and works in San Francisco as the head designer of a men's and women's outerwear company, finds her inspiration in "mismatched layers, photos of old-school redneck truckers, Dvorak, Camus, tangled wires and opaque nude hose." She maintains a witty blog



Left: Julia Brown, Director of Gen Art Miami, talks BBT Staff Writer Malika Bierstein.

Below: Miami's golden boy, Red Carter.

Photos courtesy of Devious Elements Photography, www.deviouselementsphotography.com

about life as a non-famous fashion designer at verbalcroquis.wordpress.com. Samples of her work are also showcased there.

Gen Art, an arts and entertainment organization dedicated to showcasing emerging fashion designers, filmmakers, musicians and visual artists, has offices in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami and Chicago. They produce more than 100 events annually, ranging from a week-long film festival to fashion shows, DJ competitions, art exhibitions and multimedia events. And they've helped launch the careers of many current prominent designers, including Zac Posen, Rebecca Taylor and Shoshanna.

A myriad of local designers were present, including local golden-boy Red Carter, Karelle Levy and former model Raiza, in addition to some 35 other nationally known names in fashion who offered advice to novices and admitted that although their influences range from the vintage to the trendy, much of their per-



sonal style is usually defined by jeans and a T-shirt.

"It takes a lot of work to make it happen and it takes a lot of money and a lot of guts," said Levy, who was born in Paris and raised in Miami. "You have to really want to do it because it's very difficult." She received a BFA in Textile Design from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Levy's line, KRELwear, was recognized by Gen Art's "Fresh Faces of Fashion" and has been worn by Alanis Morissette, Christina Ricci, Carmen Electra, Pink, Cameron Diaz and Natasha Lyonne. The line is available in boutiques around the U.S. and Japan.

Carter, who in 2003 relocated to Miami from San Francisco, has since made quite a name for himself with a swimwear line inspired by his grandmother's antique gar-

ments. His dream is to bring Miami to the forefront, as he believes it's "a place where all culture meets, [a place that] has been very influential to me as a designer."

His words of advice for fledgling designers: "Pay your dues. Learn from someone else. I spent 12 or 15 years behind someone else's name – Oscar de la Renta, Victoria's Secret, Sports Illustrated, you name it. I never wanted to take the spotlight, but when I finally stood out I had experience. Take a deep breath. It's okay to be patient with your talent."

For a full list of participating designers or more information about Gen Art competitions and programs, visit www.genart.org.

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Tending to Asthma

By **Richard Nixon, L.P.N.**

Nurse Manager - Miami Beach Community Health Center, Beverly Press Site

Asthma is a chronic disease that affects your airways, which are the tubes that carry air in and out of the lungs. If someone has asthma, the inside walls of the airways become swollen or inflamed. This inflammation makes the airways very sensitive; they react strongly to things to which they are allergic or find irritating. When the airways react, they get smaller or narrower, and less air is able to flow through them to the lung tissue. This will cause symptoms like wheezing (a whistling sound when someone breathes), coughing, chest tightness, and trouble breathing. This can occur especially at night and in the early morning.

In the United States, about 20 million people have been diagnosed with asthma; nearly 9 million of them are children. Although asthma affects people of all ages, it often starts in childhood. More boys have asthma than girls, but in adulthood more women have asthma than men. Nearly one in five of all pedi-

atric emergency room visits is asthma-related, and asthma attacks contribute to parents making nearly a million emergency room visits every year in the U.S. In 2002 alone, more than 25,000 hospitalizations in Florida were due to asthma. During that school-year, a total of 97,386 children were diagnosed asthmatics. Although it's an incurable condition, most people with asthma can control their symptoms and live normal, active lives.

If you have asthma you should see your doctor regularly. You will need to learn what causes your asthma symptoms and how to avoid them. Taking care of your asthma is an important part of your life, and involves working closely with your doctor to learn what to do, staying away from things that bother your airways and monitoring your asthma so that you can respond quickly to signs of an attack.

There are many things in our environment that can bring on asthma symptoms and lead to asthma attacks. Some of the more common triggers include exercise, allergens, irritants, and viral infections. Other triggers of asthma

attacks could be: allergens, animal dander (from the skin, hair, or feathers of animals), dust mites (contained in house dust), cockroaches, pollen from trees and grass, and mold (indoor and outdoor). Irritants like cigarette smoke, air pollution, cold air or changes in weather, strong odors from painting or cooking, scented products, strong emotional expression (including crying or laughing hard) and stress are also factors. Other potential triggers include medicines such as aspirin and beta-blockers; sulfites in food (dried fruit) or beverages (wine); a condition called gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD) that causes heartburn and can worsen asthma symptoms, especially at night; irritants or allergens that you may be exposed to at your work, such as special chemicals or dust; and infections.

It is not known how to prevent asthma, but there are some things that can lower the chances of having an asthma attack. Learn about your asthma and how to control it. Use medicines as directed by your doctor to prevent or stop attacks and avoid things as much as possible that can worsen your asthma.

Regular checkups with your doctor are also key.

At the Miami Beach Community Health Center, asthma patients are directly involved in their own care. The office visit changed from one of being reactive to one that is proactive; patients are taught how to manage their asthma. This means that they take ownership of their disease and learn to identify their triggers. Once a patient can identify what causes an asthma attack, he or she can take the necessary steps to avoid and/or reduce exposure to these things. The goal of the best practice model is to reduce the number of asthma episodes a patient has, thus improving his or her overall health. Proper management of the disease will reduce the number of emergency room visits, reduce the number of missed work or school days, and increase the number of symptom-free days.

Miami Beach Community Health Center has sites at 710 Alton Road and 1221 71st Street in Miami Beach, and at the NANAY Health Center, 12340 N.E. 6th Court in North Miami. The contact number for all sites is 305-538-8835.

Bunny Yeager

Continued from page 53

brief in itself, and sexual. Girls are more aware of their bodies today and want to look glamorous and sexy. Unlike in 1949 when I went to pose for Don Duffy with one bathing suit, these days I tell my models to bring all of their bikinis and they turn up with a bagful. Nobody had bikinis in the 1950s and they only started to show up in stores over the next decade.

Bettie Page was my first centerfold Playmate. I originally took photos of her thinking I could sell them to a calendar company, but I didn't know of any. In the meantime, I saw a copy of the new magazine called *Playboy* on a newsstand and bought it. It looked like the kind of magazine that might be interested in my pho-

tography, so I sent in the shots of Bettie Page.

I was unknown as a photographer then, but they were new too and Hugh Hefner liked my work. He didn't answer with a letter, but instead called me from Chicago and told me he wanted to buy one of my photos of Bettie for \$100 for their holiday issue. That sounded good to me! Hef and I are still friends all these years later, and last month he told me he has never been happier in his life.

I've published more than 25 books about glamour photography and am currently finishing my latest, *Flirty Females of the Fifties*, which will come out near the end of this year. I have a home and a studio, both in Miami Shores, and I am single now, having twice been widowed. They were both very happy marriages – the first lasted 27 years and the second 22, and I have two grown daughters from my first husband.

What does the future hold for me? No slowing down: My big project is working on my autobiography and I am also working on ideas for more glamour photography books.

For more information about Bunny and examples of her work, visit www.BunnyYeager.com. Her books and photos are also widely available on eBay, but be prepared for an investment: Last month one autographed book was up for sale by a London auctioneer for nearly \$1,200.

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More Dollars Down the Drain...

By Jack King
BBT Columnist

Cruising through the Grove on one of my morning walks, I wandered under the marquee of the now-shuttered Coconut Grove Playhouse and thought to myself, "How did this happen?" After all, local, county and state governments, along with hundreds of private donors, tossed millions of dollars at the Playhouse over the past 50 years. Why wasn't it a success? Of course the obvious answer is bad management and zero board oversight.

But there has to be more to it than that. Is this type of behavior so endemic to Miami that it can never be changed? I'm beginning to think so. As the Playhouse was crashing under the weight of its own debt, Arnold Mittelman, the guru of bad theater, was taking a \$125,000 grant that was earmarked to do repairs to the building and paying his own salary. Of course the contractor who was doing the work outside was diligently working away, fully expecting to get paid. He didn't and the work has not been finished.

But all these nails in the Playhouse coffin do not stop the same people who put the nails there from plotting even more insanity. The operators and owners are now planning, along with the City of Miami's Department of Off-Street Parking (DOSP), to erect a parking garage on part of the property. Now that's just what the Grove needs is another parking garage to sit empty. We already have two of them, even though the reason they are empty is that they are in the wrong places. But never fear, DOSP says they will do a study to make sure the garage

is needed. Love those studies: You tell them what you want it to say and that's the way it comes back.

And not to be left out of study business, the county has now thrown their hat into the ring, promising \$150,000 to the Playhouse for legal assistance in the debt mess and to do another study as to how best to operate the facility. Of course, this study will cost \$250,000. No word on where the rest of the money will come from.

The legal issue is one of life and death for the Playhouse. The State of Florida gave the property to the Playhouse and the agreement has a reverter clause that returns the property to the state if certain requirements are not met. Right now they are not being met, and the ability of the Playhouse to fulfill these tenets is being seriously jeopardized by the \$4 million debt and its associated lawsuits.

I think the best solution to this mess would be for the state to step in, take the property and give it the University of Miami or FIU to operate as a regional, educational theater. This area deserves good theater, but not the kind that happens behind the closed doors of the Playhouse board, the Miami City Commission or the County Commission.

~ ~ ~

I got a couple of phone calls after my last column about Jason Walker and Linda Haskins. She is the appointed replacement for suspended commissioner Johnny Winton, and he works in the commissioner's office. He called first, taking exception to my comments about him that included "... given his past history. . ." He then began to lecture and question me simultaneously

without ever letting me say anything, not that I really wanted to. Experience has taught me that when public officials call you about something they don't like, it is best to just listen and let them hang themselves. The conversation with Walker ended abruptly with his comment that he just wanted to understand what I was saying before turning the information over to his attorney. Govern yourself accordingly.

And then not minutes later, Haskins called. She took exception to my comment that she had been fired from the city manager's office in 2000. She emphatically denied that she had ever been fired from any job, saying "I have a reputation to uphold."

A little background here: When you get to a certain level in both the public and private sector, few people get "fired." They are given a chance to resign and "pursue other interests." And that's what happened to her. She was no longer wanted in the city manager's office so they offered her the chance to resign. She did. The little people get fired and the big ones resign to pursue other interests.

Regardless of how you look at this situation one thing is certain: Like others who sat in the District 2 chair, Haskins can turn a phrase that will stick around. Her "I have a reputation to uphold" is way over the top for a politician, even a rookie. Her predecessor Johnny Winton was also golden with "Do you know who I am?" And years ago I wrote something about former Commissioner J.L. Plummer that he did not appreciate. He grabbed me aside and said, "Listen, I don't care what you say about me. Just spell my name right!"

YOUR WELLNESS: YOGA

Stress, Insomnia, Anxiety?

Stop Thinking About it and Get off the Couch!

By Hernan Pisano
BBT Columnist

Let's assume you weren't born rich and famous... and that you have a boss. Likely, that's reason enough for you to be stressed. Add a husband/wife, a couple of kids, and other responsibilities and you get the perfect combo: stressed, restless, sleepless, anxious...

When stress becomes unbearable, we might develop one of what modern psychologists name "anxiety disorders," among others, generalized anxiety disorder, different types of panic disorders, various phobias and post-traumatic stress disorder. The latest research indicates that the tendency to be anxious runs in families, and different genes contribute to make people vulnerable to anxiety. Psycho-social factors do the rest - marriage difficulties, work challenges and so on. As you might imagine, anxiety usually teams up with depression, and it's particularly pervasive in

America, affecting men and women, young and old alike. Some hallmarks of anxiety are muscle tension, restlessness, flight of ideas and apprehension about the future. Sound familiar?

Psychotherapy claims to be effective in the treatment of anxiety and certain drugs seem to provide significant relief. If you are not so inclined to drug-related solutions, several alternatives are available:

Along the lines of re-establishing some chemical balance, Chamomile (an herb sold at almost any grocery store) has been effective for centuries. Swap your coffee for Chamomile! At night, try the old-time warm milk and honey before bed (combined in the human body, they create a powerful anxiety reducing chemical).

Other answers come from the nutrition arena: It is well-known that stimulants like caffeine increase anxiety. Research suggests that excessive sugar consumption (including soda) may increase anxi-

ety, as might white bread, pasta and similar foods.

The third big set of answers comes from the exercise psychology field. The results in this field are incredible. According to current scientific research, a single exercise session reduces circumstantial anxiety significantly. Moreover, trait anxiety is also reduced if the exercise is continued. For best results, 12 weeks of three 90-minute sessions is recommended. It is interesting to note that one consequence of being stressed is that you don't have time for anything... even for exercise. This creates a vicious cycle, so keep this in mind when you are anxious. Exercise can be as effective as any other stress reduction method or therapy, including drugs and psychotherapy. Considering the relative ease and low cost of exercise, it should be the treatment of choice.

Meditation can also release both neurotransmitters and stress-reducing hormones, significantly decreasing anxiety.

Currently, diverse meditation techniques are taught in 60 percent of American medical schools.

Yoga, a form of moving meditation, combines all the above "active ingredients" in a beautiful recipe against anxiety: It is strong exercise with a meditative dimension into it, and it tends to help people shift their minds from a reactive to a preventive mode of life, affecting their nutrition and other life choices, *before* problems arise. Its careful, choreographic routine incorporates a strong aerobic exercise at the beginning - the 'sun salutations' - then moves through the standing (triangle) poses, increasing body awareness (the awareness necessary to be able to relax specific muscles).

These are followed by balancing poses, where the mind must focus 'here-and-now' in order to balance in a tree

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How to Deal with a Board You Don't Trust

The condo lifestyle is carefree, as shared maintenance can lead to less burdensome responsibilities than a single-family homeowner must shoulder.

Amenities are often available to you that you just cannot find or afford when not part of a cooperative living arrangement. The affairs of the Association, from the maintenance to the procuring of insurance and bill-paying, are governed by a board of directors, made up of several fellow condo-owners who volunteer their considerable time and talents to oversee your home, as well as theirs.

This can be quite a thankless job, and we trust that the folks we elect to the board will keep the best interests of the association in mind and keep things running as smoothly and cost-effectively as possible. But what if, what if...

You can always register a complaint with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Florida Land Sales, Condominiums and Mobile Homes. The complaint form is located on the web at <http://www.state.fl.us/dbpr/lsc/condominiums/forms/complaint.pdf>. You will be asked to provide basic information about your association and reference the provisions of the statute that governs condominium and cooperative life that you believe has been violated. The state will investigate, not on your behalf but on behalf of the State of Florida, which has a vested interest in keeping you safe and happy in this cooperative living environment.

However, the best proactive tool condo-owners have to protect their investment is to participate in activities that govern the association. Barring that, one should exercise their right to choose their leaders through the annual election process; that means reading the ballot information when it arrives, learning about the candidates' backgrounds and viewpoints, and voting for whoever you feel most aligned with. But what if, what if...

What if year after year, you feel that things are just not right, that the same folks get reelected with no opposition,

or opposition that is unable to achieve a majority? What if assessments keep increasing due to costs not associated with insurance or utilities, budgets are mismanaged and repairs not effected? What if elections are months away and

you and your neighbors begin to fear for the future of your homes?

If your documents do not make provisions for removing board members, also known as a 'recall', the state statute section 718.112 (2) (j) lays out steps for changing one or all members of the board before or even the day after an election. Any board member may be removed from office with or without cause by the vote or agree-

ment in writing by a majority of all the voting interests. It takes only ten percent of owners to call a special meeting of the association for the purpose of a recall.

The first step is to identify who the owners are so you can reach out to them with your concerns. You can do this out by looking at the recorded deeds held by the clerk of your county court, records generally available online. This provides the most accurate list of homeowners, so you're not relying on records maintained by a board you find suspect. The meeting must be properly noticed, mailed to each homeowner at least 14 days in advance, and must state the reason for meeting. The statute also clearly states that you may not use email for the notice!

You can also circulate a written recall agreement; rule 61B-23.0028 of the Florida Administrative Code governs recall by written agreement, versus calling a special meeting. The same written recall ballot may be used in successive recall efforts, and revocation of signed and submitted recall agreements by owners must be done in writing prior to the delivery of the petition to the board.

The written agreement should list any and all of the current board members you wish to remove from office; you're basically asking others to vote on removing or retaining them. The written agreement should also include the proposed names of individuals

willing to serve in the place of recalled board members. You cannot vote for more replacements than you recall, and write-in candidates are allowed.

You can also appoint a third-party "Homeowners Representative," to whom agreements can be sent and who will present the current board with the verdict. This person can also act as a clearinghouse for homeowners' questions about this painful process, and help the issue remain focused so it doesn't become a matter of personal disagreements.

When the recall is approved by a majority of all voting interests, the board must hold another meeting within five business days, at which time they can either certify the recall, effective immediately with five days to turn over all records and property of the

association, or protest the recall by filing a petition for arbitration, as also set out in the Florida Statutes.

If the recall is being sought in writing through the majority of voting interests, the agreements must be

delivered to the board either by certified mail or personal service. The board must then notice and hold a meeting within five business days, where again, they must either agree with the written recall and or file their protest.

Although the process is straightforward, it is fraught with hurt and suspicion. It should only be used as a last resort, and not in lieu of a proper elections cycle. The most important thing is that you, as a condo-owner, feel confident that your association is being managed as best as it can.



CONDO COUNSEL
By Gabrielle Redfern

The best proactive tool condo-owners have to protect their investment is to participate in activities that govern the association.


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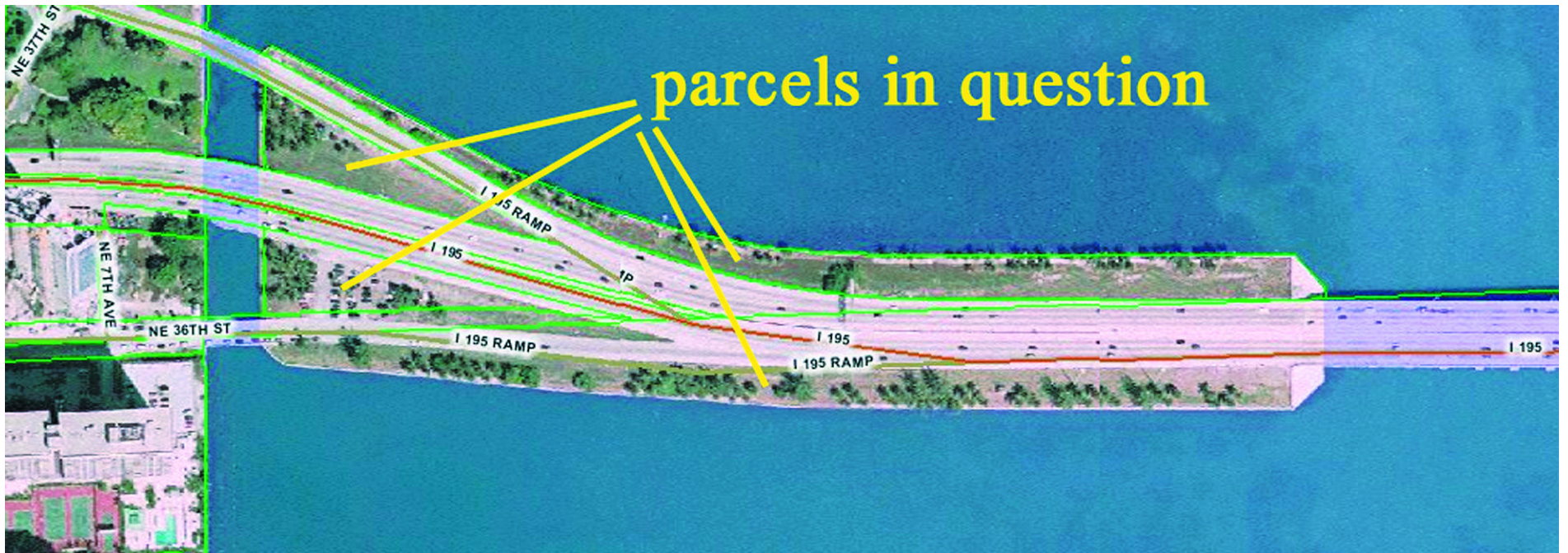
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Tuttle Causeway

Continued from page 1

Eventually FDOT erected “No Parking on Right of Way” signs, but by then construction on Blue was all but complete and the area pretty well trashed. After unsuccessful attempts to force Hyperion into re-landscaping, FDOT went in after SDC cut the lawn and planted coconut trees and Sea Grapes, which were soon ravaged by Hurricane Wilma.

In July of this year, FDOT laid down sod and braced the trees, all at their own expense, with the hope of recovering costs from Hyperion at a later date. It is in this state – overgrown banks flanking rights-of-way littered with sparse and feeble palms – that the site remains.

The Responsibility Spider-Web

What made this situation unique was that it suffered from an unusually intense bout of round-the-table finger-pointing. When the BBT went looking for information, FDOT, the City of Miami, the County and the City of Miami Beach all had conflicting ideas about who was responsible for the island.

After months of inquiring, Donald Shockey had only a bare-bones explanation spliced together by various government agencies, and his frustration brewed to the familiar rage of a citizen paralyzed by public-sector sluggishness.

Once the BBT started asking, it took FDOT a week to determine their actual ownership of the land, during which time they suggested it was the vanguard of every local municipality within sight. Then they had it: City of Miami Beach Public Works is responsible, to which MB officials responded:

“[The City of Miami Beach] is not responsible for maintaining the landscaping on the western side of the Julia Tuttle [Causeway].”

—Fred Beckmann, director, MB Public Works

“The parcels in question fall on the west side of the City of Miami Beach – city limits. Therefore, it is FDOT’s responsibility to maintain the landscaping.”

—Mike Alvarez, assistant director, MB Public Works

The City of Miami had a similar response, and one engineer from the Public Works Department, speaking anonymously, commented that, “FDOT is notorious for being evasive and trying to push maintenance responsibilities onto local municipalities.”

The reality of that sentiment notwithstanding, to Ron Steiner’s credit, he worked vigorously with the BBT to educate himself on the issue, and eventually cut through the confusion to provide solid answers.

Unraveling the Knot

The confusion arose in part because FDOT generally landscapes as part of a construction project, and paid to landscape the central and eastern portions of the Tuttle Causeway as part of a 1995 City of Miami Beach Capital Improvements project. They continue to pay Miami Beach to maintain these sites, but city limits fall right in the middle of the Causeway, so the western portion is not theirs to maintain, as FDOT believed. It is within this type of state/local partnership that FDOT

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Left & Right: Overgrowth on the west-side banks.

The Anatomy of Chicken

Where's the Best Bird in the Corridor?

By J.P. Chops

BBT Contributing Writer

Steroid injected vs. free range. Perdue vs. Bell & Evans. Bird flu. Salmonella. Organic. No hormones. These are all subjects which have a profound effect on poultry. These are also issues that we will leave to food scientists to discuss.

The meat of the matter is this: Where do we prefer a tasty bird? In our fair city the answer is easy – stick with the ethnic eateries. It must be something about having to eat the same thing day in day out that makes them so good at making chicken taste yummy. Let's venture to say that 90 percent of Third World countries eat chicken at least 10 percent more than all other meats, what with the lack of necessary sprawling ranches in which to raise big bovines and the roosters just roaming about the streets of these foreign lands. Take for example my homeland, Wynwood; on any given Sunday, one awakes to crows from nearby alleys.

A Jamaican once said, "Man, you cook chicken better than my momma."

This is further proof that foreign hands, and foreign lands, prepare better pollo.

Chez Rosie is an excellent starting point. Deep in



Lil Hades (5961 N.W. 2nd Ave.) lies the link to luscious libations. Go for the fried chicken plate – no

batter, just crisp, bone-in bird seasoned to succulence. Also of mentionable honors is the stew chicken.

The islands in general are reliable producers of fine poultry. **Clive's** (the Jamaican joint at 2818 N. Miami Ave.) is a surefire bet. Must be Monday's that the grill is fired out back for the jerk chicken special; unctuous crust of spice and heat and goodness surrounds spoon-tender meat. Once again, we find stew chicken, the staple brown stew.

Wash it down with ginger beer.

Last, and most likely at the top of the chicken chain, don't peck at Peruvian pollo.

Sure *ceviche* is the national *plato del dia*, but fear not – when cured fish becomes mundane the *pio pio* emerges.

On Woodhaven Boulevard in Flushing, Queens, you can obtain the world's greatest chickens hot off the rotis for less than \$10. Closer to home, in the prospering ghetto, is **Delicias del Mar Peruano** at 2937 Biscayne Blvd. Here you will find chicken on a stick, rubbed with aji chilies, and copious amounts of salt, cooked to juicy perfection with a delectable crust.

The bottom line? Forget gourmet: poor people make the best chicken.

Tuttle Causeway

Continued from page 58

..... does their gardening.

Although FDOT planted coconut trees and such along western right-of-way, no one – neither Steiner's people nor any local municipality – actively maintained them because no partnership existed. Hurricane Wilma left the palms broken and bent, and by springtime fronds were starting to wither from dehydration while the grass remained burnt-out from vehicle abuse, and still no state or municipal department stepped in.

FDOT did the re-sod essentially because no one else would. That work finished on July 20. The island's banks, once a popular fishing destination and 'Lover's Lane' of sorts, remain a tangled mess.

FDOT's final word on the matter is this: They own the land but have a maintenance contract with Infrastructure Corporation of America (ICA), an asset management firm that maintains limited-access expressways across the county, including I-395. ICA is contracted to maintain (not improve) the existing landscape in accordance with FDOT department standards, which Steiner says they have done. Problematically, however, under the routine maintenance provisions ICA has no obligation to actually

enhance the site.

Alyce Robertson was an assistant director at DERM for ten years and now staffs the Miami-Dade Image Advisory Board, a body which builds partnerships between municipalities and FDOT, with a focus on gateways. As she explained: "Ultimately this is FDOT's roadway, but they have this policy that says if you want this road to look better than it looks, you [the municipality] have to come up with the initiative and the money."

According to Jose Gonzalez, an FDOT liaison from the City of Miami's Transportation Department, to properly transform the area into a stunning gateway, the City of Miami Public Works department must petition FDOT to pay for and execute improvements, which the city will then be responsible to maintain. But he said no such petition is either pending or planned for the near future.

Local residents, either individually, as an informal group or through their homeowners association, who wish to see the area improved can act through District 2 Commissioner Linda Haskins, available by phone at 305-250-5333, by email at lhaskins@ci.miami.fl.us or by writing to the Office of Commission Haskins, 3500 Pan American Dr., Coconut Grove, FL 33133.

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You Are What You Fish

Continued from page 1

and then two miles out to sea (hopefully without too many leaks). Upon resurfacing, it leaves a fresh, chlorinated scent in the air.

It's ironic that a place built on the good fortune of its coastline would treat it like a cesspool, but that has been the practice for the last few decades in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, which have two ocean outfalls apiece. Every day these six pipes send close to 400 million gallons of partially treated wastewater into the sea.

Partially or secondarily treated wastewater contains high levels of nitrogen and does not filter out the parasites *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia*, which cause severe diarrhea and deadly infections in immuno-compromised individuals. In marine fish, this type of effluent causes boy fish to become girly-fish, according to a study published last year by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.

You know something is wrong when your flounder with lemon turns out to be a sweet transvestite.

Still, the outfalls' effects are mainly invisible, especially in Miami-Dade County, where the pipes' endpoints are located two miles offshore in 100-foot-deep water. But the other four pipes are closer to shore and are major suspects in the sharp decline of our reefs.

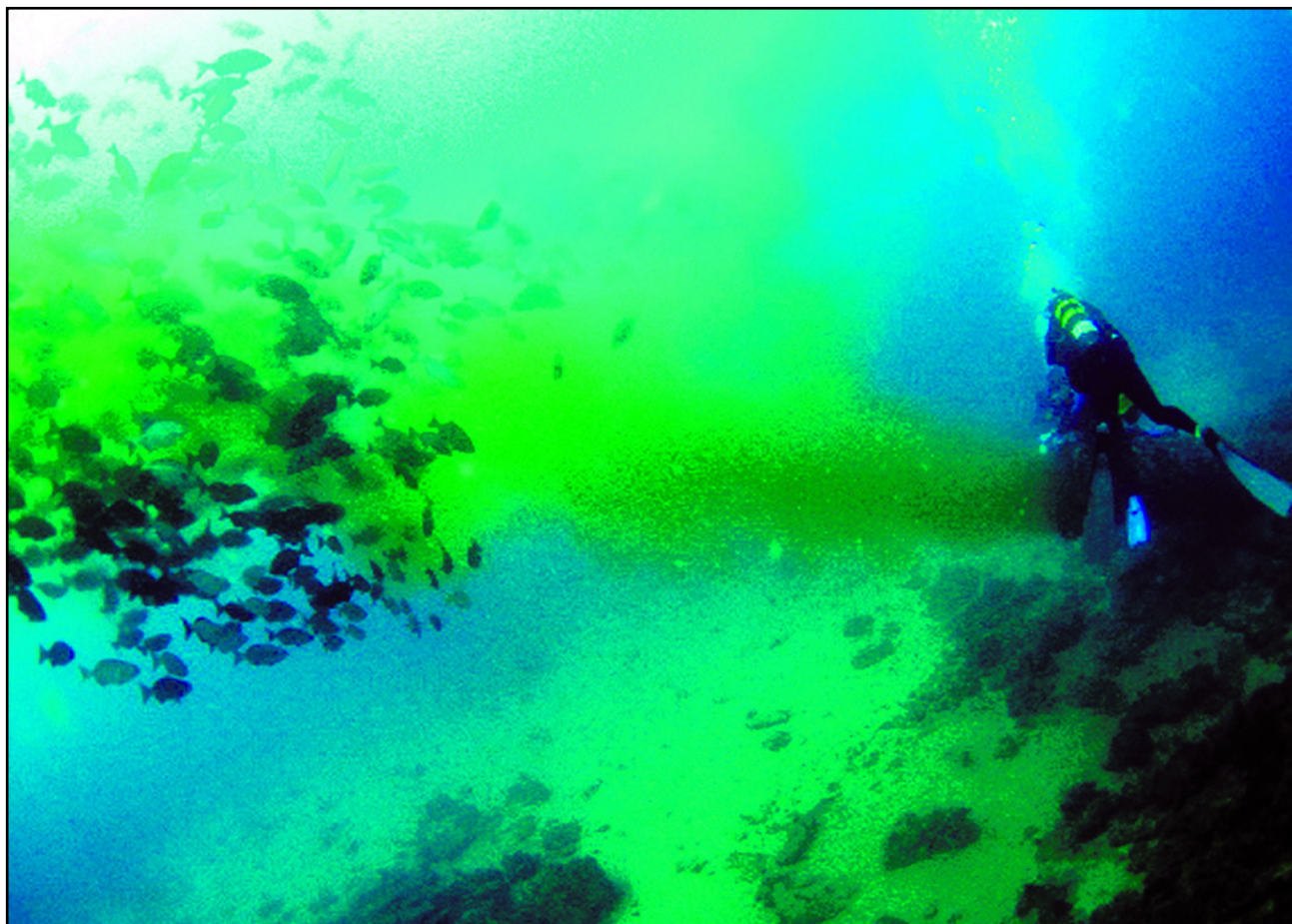
This potential threat has earned greater scrutiny this year, particularly now that two species of coral in South Florida's waters have been listed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act. Preliminary scientific studies point toward the obvious: These outfalls are coral assassins, not to mention a serious kink in our local seafood supply.

A new report by the University of Florida on South Florida's six outfalls lays out their current status and sounds the call for alternatives. (Google "Ocean Outfall Study" to get the full 241-page report, which was funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.) The leading alternative is to reuse as much water as possible (see last month's column on this topic). It is both environmentally responsible and relatively affordable for our counties, according to the report's projections.

Other alternatives to reduce the impact of ocean outfalls include the diversion of wastewater to deep-injection wells or additional cleansing prior to release. But these options compare poorly with the state's priority, which is reuse.

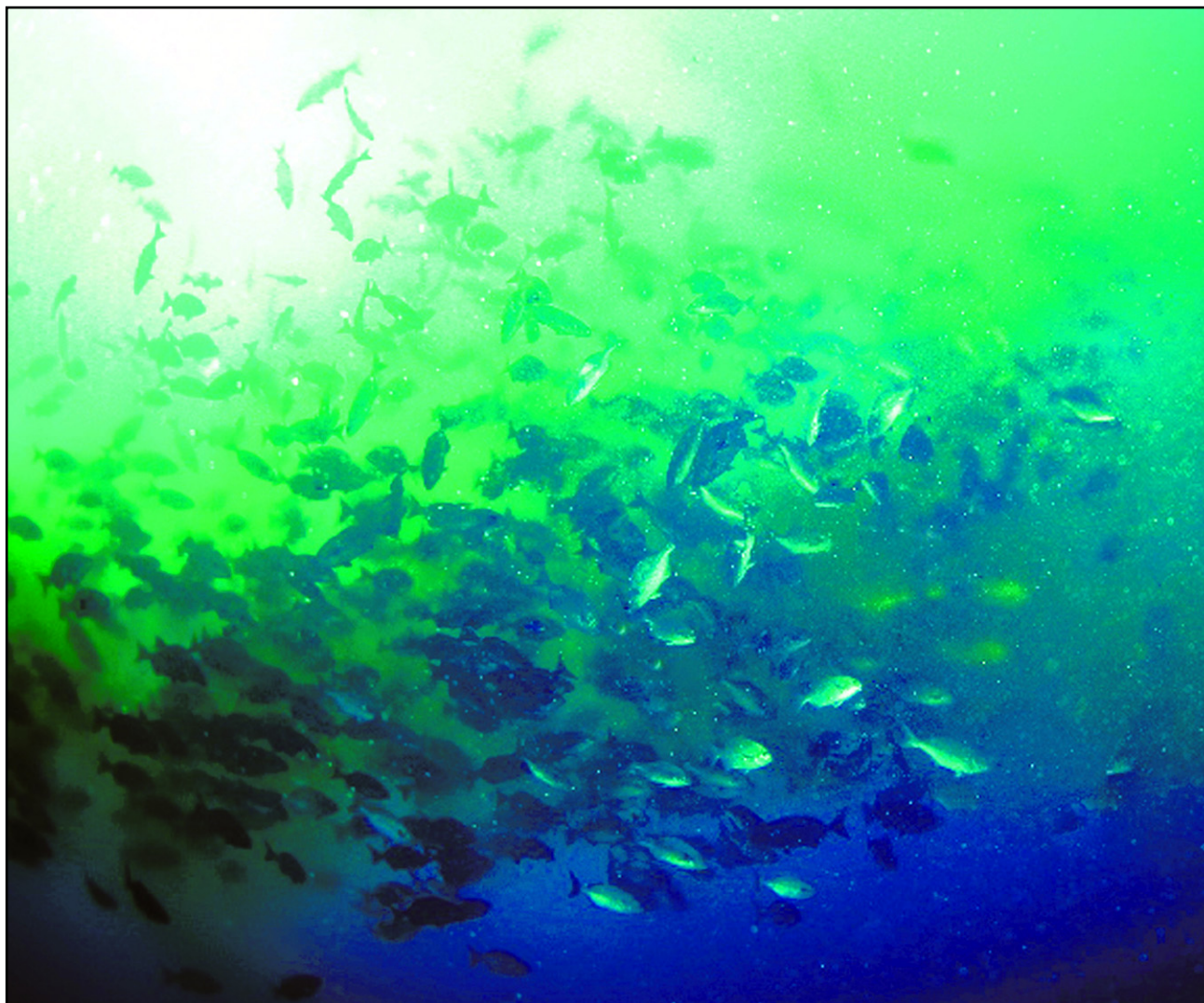
It seems that Miami-Dade County would rather wait until a tourist gets run over by a mutant fish before making any responsible changes. Instead, the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department has plans to open up two new ocean outfalls, according to the report. Such plans should not even be on the table.

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Photos courtesy of Steve Spring

"This is one of Southeast Florida's dirtiest little secrets: Unlike the rest of the state, we dump most of our wastewater, including sewage, offshore through giant pipes called ocean outfalls."





Ocean Outfalls
Continued from page 60

In fact, the state wants us to shift into reverse. Instead of pouring wastewater out, we should be finding ways to pour it back onto the earth as irrigation, for example. The new require-

ments are spelled out in last year's law based on Senate Bill 444.

This law demands responsible water management by making it a prerequisite for all new development. Already nine construction projects in Miami-Dade have been rejected due their inability to demonstrate responsible

water management, and more are going to be canned until the county gets serious about large-scale water conservation.

This is a serious dilemma for construction-crazed Miami. It's as if the state is looking us in the eye and saying: "Read my lips. No new condos." Want to keep on building, Miami? Then reduce, reuse, and recycle your water, and decrease or cease dumping it at sea.

Broward County has plans to shut down its ocean outfalls and move toward 100 percent reuse of its wastewater within ten years, that according to the South Florida Water Management District. Palm Beach already leads the three counties in reuse, and its outfalls are under constant attack by the Palm Beach County Reef Rescue, a group which monitors sewer outfalls' impact on the reef sys-

tem and reviews the discharge monitoring reports from sewer plants. Sounds like a plan that could work here, too.

What's a conscientious Miamian to do? After contacting the County Commission, pause for a moment before fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizers spread during the wet season are more likely to wash away into our already-stressed waterways and out to sea. Save it for the dry season, and even then, tread lightly by using a low-nitrogen fertilizer.

Also, the next time you do eat fish, find out where it comes from and try to get an idea of what it has been eating. The same principle applies all across the food chain: You are what you eat.

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BISCAYNE CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Derek McCann from Actual City of Miami Police Reports

Bad Management Leads to Theft

700-Block of N.E. 23rd Street

Victim secured his door and went to visit a friend. Upon his return, the door was wide open and several items, including a beige ottoman, had been taken. Investigation by police determined that the lock to the door was faulty at best and the criminal made little effort in opening it. Victim later stated that most of the locks of this apartment building are faulty and can easily be opened by merely pushing the door; he had complained to the building manager to no avail. New locks were installed, but the lock replacement, unfortunately, was a classic case of too little too late.

Witness's Vivid Description Apparently Not Unique Enough for Boulevard's Scum

Omni

Tipster notified police of a possible break-in at a local business. A loot of \$30,000 was pilfered, including cash, jewelry and electronics equipment. The tipster stated that two suspicious homeless people (man and a woman) were seen in the area shortly before the crime. The suspected homeless man wore a fashionable goatee and was dressed all in white. The woman had blonde hair and "pimples." She also had a "go funny, tricky" eye which blinked uncontrollably. Police canvassed the area, yet found quite a few people along the corridor matched the tipster's descriptions. As of press time, no one has been arrested.

Sweaty Man In Need of a Salon

N.E. First Court at 54th Street

Dispatched to the scene of a suspected robbery, police found a panting man, sweating profusely and wearing a fanny-pack. The sweating man was ordered at gunpoint to lay face down on the pavement. The fanny-pack revealed a sharpened screw driver and a bottle of *Got2B Shagged Out Hair Gel*. A makeshift crowbar was found by the door with accompanying pry marks by the door's lock. The doorknob of the business was broken. The man stated he had an appointment but neglected to write the correct time in his PDA. Man was arrested on suspicion of burglary.

What Nicotine Addiction Can Lead To

Palm Grove

Man was observed running from the area of a local establishment, carrying a white pail. He stopped traffic on Biscayne and ran west of the Boulevard. The man had stolen 12 cartons of Marlboro Light 100s valued at \$385. He was eventually arrested but not before he was seen lighting up.

Getaway Garbage Pails

N.E. 5th Avenue at 62nd Street

Home was broken into and many electronics items were removed. A neighbor had witnessed a suspicious man with a goatee and afro pushing a City of Miami green garbage container down the



block. He followed the man around the corner and saw two more of the green canisters. When police arrived, the suspect hid behind the canisters and was quickly apprehended by police. All of the missing electronics items were discovered inside the bins drenched in garbage (including kitty litter). Suspect was arrested.

Television Banking Not a Good Idea

5600-Block of N.E. Miami Ave.

Couple arrived home disenchanted to find their recently purchased 32-inch Sony television had been taken. The suspect gained entry through a Florida room and had broken the lock on the doorknob. If this wasn't enough, \$1500 was also stolen as the money was located under the television. No arrests have been made.

Non-Participation in Conversation Leads to Violence

100-Block of N.E. 68th Terrace

Victim was sitting on patio, enjoying the night, when a young hoodlum aggressively started a conversation with him. Unwilling to contribute to the discussion, victim walked back to his front door. The conversationalist then hit him from behind, causing a laceration on his face, and entered the home. The perp hid out for several minutes before exiting through the front window. The suspect, who was already running from the law, was caught a block away as the result of a perimeter search.

Caveat Emptor, You Fool

Palm Grove

Victim was strolling down Biscayne Boulevard when he was stopped by an enterprising salesman carrying a small cardboard box containing a digital video camera. Apparently, the salesman claimed, the retail value of the camera was \$1,000, but he was willing to cut the potential customer a break and sell it for \$400. Inexplicably, the so-called victim ventured to a nearby ATM machine

and gave the man the loot. Upon later inspection, the video camera was found to be non-operational. This victim called police, but police determined no crime was committed and he should have been more vigilant because there is no legal guarantee on merchandise purchased on the street.

Expensive Protein Diets Can Lead to Thievery

4800-Block of Biscayne Blvd.

Well-built defendant wearing a muscle shirt was observed placing two Myoplex protein bars inside his waist as well as a canister of Soy Protein Mix inside of a carry-on bag. Store personnel trailed him to the frozen section where the suspect found more protein – a package of mozzarella sticks. He made no attempt to pay, exited the store, and much to his dismay found his 18-inch arms handcuffed in the parking lot.

The Power of the Knock-Off Rolex

5400-Block of N. Miami Avenue

Door was open when victim arrived home. Several pieces of furniture were moved from their original location and bathroom items were strewn upon the floor. Laptop and other valuable items were still in their place. Strangely enough, the only item missing was a phony, imitation Rolex watch worth about \$15 on the street.

Dial S for Stolen

2500-Block of Biscayne Boulevard

Female victim noticed her cell phone was missing; she had left it on the counter of a popular local eatery. She asked several people if they had seen it but there were no witnesses. She called her cell phone from another line and a husky, male voice answered. The agitated male voice asked the victim not to call him again.

Crack Whore's Agony

Omni

Woman called police pertaining to a man attacking and robbing her. The suspect had dragged her by her silver necklace until the chain broke from her neck. The victim said she was smoking crack and agreed to have sex with the man on certain conditions (these conditions were not elaborated on in the police report). According to police, woman was clearly under the influence and was told to leave the area.

Bad Place to Stop for a Fix

Morningside Area

Police were doing routine rounds when they saw a man curled up in the fetal position behind the gate of a construction site. When they approached, they noticed the man was smoking crack; he immediately tossed his glass crack pipe on the ground when he saw the officers. Two baggies of crack were found in his sock.

Parent to Parent, Neighbor to Neighbor

I first met fellow Biscayne corridor mom Sandy Smith-Moise almost two years ago on the playground at Morningside Park. We ran into each other there a few times back then and eventually got to talking about things like our kids, the neighborhoods and of course education. I learned back then that Sandy has two kids, Emma, who is now four, and Julien, who is now two-and-a-half. I also learned that her interesting hyphenated last name is the result of being married to Ary Moise, a realtor and medical clinic owner, who brings his Haitian heritage to her otherwise very normal American moniker (Smith) – also marking theirs as a truly Miami family, as culturally diverse as the city herself.

Together they own four houses and a couple of empty lots in the Corridor, all of which they smartly purchased years ago for next to nothing as people told them they were crazy – but they loved the area and its diversity, and its proximity to downtown while still offering family neighborhoods. As Upper Eastside parents, we did the usual playground chat comparing notes about pre-school programs and examining our respective families' longer-term needs for, and expectations of, elementary school and beyond. I learned that Sandy was an educator and a vice-principal at the time at William H. Turner Technical Arts High School.

One day I ran into Sandy in Publix, her youngest in her arms. I had my youngest gestating. After congratulating me on my pregnancy, she excitedly told me that she had a new job and would soon be starting as the Dean of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (MDCPS) Parent Academy, a new initiative focused on training parents to capably and self-assuredly participate in their kids' learning. It sounded pretty cool, so I asked her to keep me updated about the initiative's work.

Before I knew it I was at a huge event at Parrot Jungle featuring Leonard Pitts, whose inspiring words marked the first public event of the Parent Academy, two days after Sandy first reported to her new job. Pitts' words made me feel proud to be a parent and eager to confi-



Kids and parents work together at the Parent Academy.

dently soar in every responsibility associated with that job. This feeling, I determined, was the goal of the Parent Academy.

Now, a year later, I was having breakfast with Sandy at The Daily and got caught up on the first year of this important program that she, with her extensive professional background in adult and community education, has brought to life from a proposal originally put forth

by MDCPS Superintendent Rudy Crew. In addition to her years running adult education and family literacy programs, Sandy has also taught parenting and child development in high schools, using her degree in family and consumer sciences. So it is no wonder that she fit so smoothly into her role at the Parent Academy. She is passionate about the work of the Academy and connects on a core level to Crew's ideas.

"Rudy Crew has a great vision," she said, and went on to discuss what he's done, especially in zone schools. "We are very lucky to have a leader who believes in parents and truly practices what he believes – that parents are their child's first and most important teachers."

FOR MORE INFO

For more information about the Parent Academy go to www.theparentacademy.net

reason."

In addition to offering ongoing classes for parents, the Parent Academy also partners with local bookstores for storytelling programs, parks for weekend and evening family programs, and many institutions throughout Dade County, like Parrot Jungle and Fairchild Tropical Gardens, to provide special informational programs to foster extraordinary family outings year-round.

One thing that Sandy is really clear about is that the Parent Academy is for every single parent in Miami-Dade, because all parents – regardless of demographics, regardless of whether their kids are in public or private school – want what's best for their children, and all parents struggle every day with

Continued on page 66



Hot Kids in the City

By Jenni Person

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NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS & EVENTS

For weekly email updates about community meetings with agenda links and other information, email newsletter@biscayneboulevard.com and put 'subscribe' in the subject.

All info subject to change; contact parties to ensure time and place

City of Miami
August meetings
Not available at press time; See www.miamigov.com for updates

AUGUST 2

6 p.m.
Buena Vista Heights Association
Coral Rock Church
N.W. First Ave. at N.W. 46th Street

AUGUST 7

7 p.m.
Greater North Miami Historical Society
N. Miami Chamber of Commerce
13100 W. Dixie Hwy.

6:30 p.m.
San Souci Homeowners
1800 N.E. 118th Rd., North Miami
haldds1@bellsouth.net, 305-893-8599

AUGUST 8

7 p.m.
Biscayne Park Commission Meeting
(Budget workshops, Aug. 15

& 29, 6 p.m.)
Village Hall, 640 N.E. 114th St.
www.biscayneparkfl.gov

AUGUST 9

7 p.m.
Bayside Residents Association
Legion Park, 6447 N.E. 7th Ave.
www.homestead.com/bayside residents/index.html

AUGUST 10

7 p.m.
Alhambra Heights Homeowners
12250 N.W. 2nd Ave.
alhambraheights@aol.com, 786-553-8555

AUGUST 12

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
5th Annual Randy Burgess Health Fair
Immunizations, screenings, school supplies
Dental care supplies, all FREE
Marianne, 305-685-5461, for info
Sunkist Grove Community Center
12500 N.W. 13th Ave.

AUGUST 15

7:30 p.m.
Biscayne Gardens Civic

Association
15000 N. Miami Ave.
www.biscaynegardenscivicas-sociation.org

7 p.m.
Central NoMi Homeowners Griffing Senior Center
12290 Griffing Blvd.
mike@actiontitlerealty.com, 305-893-0566

AUGUST 17

7:30 p.m.
Keystone Point Homeowners
12555 Biscayne Blvd.
www.keystonepoint.org
secretarykpha@juno.com

7 p.m.
Sunkist Grove Homeowners Sunkist Grove Community Center
12500 N.W. 13th Ave.
305-687-0860

AUGUST 18 & 26

7 to 9 p.m.
Optic Nerve @ MOCA
Local short-film festival
305-893-6211 to reserve
770 N.E. 125th St., North Miami
www.mocanomi.org

AUGUST 22

7 p.m.
North Miami Council Meeting
776 N.E. 125th St.
www.northmiamifl.gov

7 p.m.
El Portal Council Meeting
Village Hall, 500 N.E. 87th St.
www.villageofelportal.org

AUGUST 31

Palm Grove Neighborhood Association
Email
palmgroveboard@aol.com for time and place

Yoga

Continued from page 56

pose, for instance. The inversions help shift one's blood patterns, irrigating the top part of our brain where the cognitive capabilities reside. The spine-twisting massages internal organs such as the liver, the pancreas and the kidneys, and the back-bending stimulates our nervous system. The fish pose helps stimulate our thyroid gland, and some versions of it also stimulate the pituitary gland, both neuro-hormone generators associated with stress-release.

If at this point you are still reading and getting anxious, why don't you check the rates at your closest gym or yoga studio and get off the couch?

BBT

Hernan Pisano is an MBA and yoga teacher at Miami Shores Yoga. You can reach him by email at Hernan@next-logicala.com.

Upper Eastside Miami Council Town Hall Meeting

www.uppereastsidemiami.org

The next board meeting will feature representatives from the City of Miami, and the Police and Fire Depts., to address emergency management, particularly in the case of a hurricane. The UEMC is coordinating disaster preparedness with the various homeowners associations and are looking for volunteers for the disaster preparedness committee. The meeting is on Monday, August 28 at 7 p.m. at the Legion Park Community Center.

For more info or to get involved call David Treece at 305-751-8855

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Much Ado About Eggplant

By Chef Jeremiah
Bullfrog Eatz

The BBT welcomes back Chef Jeremiah as the resident chef. Visit him at his café/bistro, Bullfrog Eatz, located at 2344 N.E. 2nd Ave.

Often viewed as the most versatile fruit in an arsenal, eagerly awaiting its chance to be featured on *Iron Chef*, is the eggplant. Here we have an excerpt from the as-yet-unwritten tome *1001 Ways to Deal with Eggplant*, and a surefire veggie-friendly favorite. The main component to this meal is the meaty eggplant, fried crisp, served as one with a salad and vinaigrette.

Slice a large eggplant into thick slabs. You'll want to grab some dark purple ones with no soft spots or dark patches. (Also good advice when seeking new friends in unfamiliar places.)

Place the eggplant in a huge bowl and coat with copious amounts of salt, preferably kosher. Nothing to do with religion here, just that the sodium helps bring bitterness to the surface (sorry, does not work the same with exes). Allow this to macerate for as long as it takes to get a few glasses of wine in your system, then thoroughly rinse in cold water and pat dry.

Prepare three separate bowls big enough to fit the slabs into easily; this technique of breading is essential to a perfect finished product. The first bowl is sea-



soned flour, the next is seasoned eggs beaten lightly and the last is seasoned bread crumbs. Douse your eggplant in each, one by one. It is important to season your ingredients, as it's often asked why a particular dish tastes like cardboard: It's because it wasn't seasoned (i.e. use your salt n' peppa). You aren't mortaring cement blocks, just enough to coat, and shake off the excess.

Place a large sauté (frying) pan on low heat, and when ready to cook (*mis en place*), coat the pan with an inch or so of olive oil. A nice mixture of oils works

Olive oil

Coat the bottom of a sauce pan with olive oil, then quickly sauté first the onion and then the garlic. Add your peppers and tomatoes and allow everything to cook down, then season with salt to help release their natural juices. Keep the heat fairly high and everything moving around. Deglaze with a big splash of vinegar, and balance with sugar. Toss nice salad greens in the warm vinaigrette, and serve over crispy eggplant.

Mangia!

well to ensure a higher smoking point, so try a 50-50 mix of olive and canola. The proper temperature for frying here is hot. (When you flick a drop of water in, it should crackle and pop like Rice Crispies on steroids.) Now the easy part: Gently place the breaded eggplant slices into the hot oil.

If the grease is not hot enough, the eggplant can't swim happily. Be patient. Once they reach a golden brown hue on the edges, turn over carefully. Remove and drain on paper towels and dust evenly with fine salt.

Vinaigrette

Fresh Tomatoes, rough chop
Red Bell Peppers, dice
Onion, dice
Garlic, mince
Balsamic vinegar
Sugar
Salt & pepper

Hot Kids in The City

Continued from page 63

what they can do to help them.

The Academy offers an incredibly broad range of classes and programs for all parents, ranging from early childhood programs including sessions on early literacy strategies; to developing financial, language and technology skills; to parenting skills like active communication; to helping your child learn by offering support in test preparation as well as an intimate exploration of county schools and all their offerings; to personal growth topics like workforce preparation and GED preparation; to health and wellness topics, including one topic inherently and universally necessary in parenting: Stress management.

And speaking of parental stress, as she enthusiastically enlightened me on the mass spectrum of parent education available through the Academy, Sandy stopped, smiled, and got real for a minute: "Do I feel pressure?"

You bet she does! She is constantly faced with examining what kind of

parent she is as a result of her work – through both designing and implementing the Academy's program – but also while fielding the constant influx of inquiry directed at her office, which has become a clearinghouse of parenting skills and resources. Sandy spends a lot of her time in the office addressing calls, emails, and walk-ins – parents seeking help – especially during the school year when random calls come in about such things as where to get tutoring for students or how to navigate the MDCPS systems.

But Sandy, even when faced with the "perfect parent" expectations associated with her role as Professional Mom, is, thank God, human.

"I am just trying to do the best I can, but I've had my moments when I question my parenting," she said. "All we can do is always let our kids know that we love them and we're there for them."

And that is exactly what she is helping thousands of Miami parents do.

To comment on this article, send an email to kids@biscayneboulevard.com.

Camillus House

Continued from page 25

than an hour, a drop-in-the-bucket compared with how long the issue has endured as a political and social lightning rod.

"[Arguments over Camillus] have been going on for 20 years, and this particular issue has been going on for seven years," said District 3 Commissioner Joe Sanchez. "God knows how many meetings there have been."

Sanchez cut what were often personal and long-winded pleas from the public, demanding order and nudging along protocol, which threatened to deteriorate at the hands of energized citizens.

"Where the homeless' rights end, the residents' and homeowners' rights begin," was his definitive position. "The one thing this commission has emphasized is that Camillus House work with [the community]... If we don't act now, 20 years on we'll still be feeling the effects of homelessness in this city."

Other commissioners weighed in at length. District 5's Michelle Spence-Jones, who remained quiet through

much of the debate, made her position known with force:

"I live and eat and breathe my district... Reality is that this [project] will have an effect... The long-term issue is yes, we have to address homelessness... [but] they have to go somewhere... I'm a strong supporter of Camillus House because they do great work."

Camillus previously agreed to her insistence on a city-sanctioned Community Advisory Board, through which residents and business-owners could help provide oversight. She also asked that leaders aggressively educate locals about plans:

"There might be seven people here from Overtown against the project, but there are 7,000 more who don't know the project is coming."

Among the agreed to stipulations: Drugs, alcohol and weapons will be strictly prohibited; security will involve off-duty Miami police officers; priority will be given to street-dwellers within a mile and a half of the facility, which will be maintained in pristine condition; and a good-faith effort will be made to see that it's operational within 36 months.

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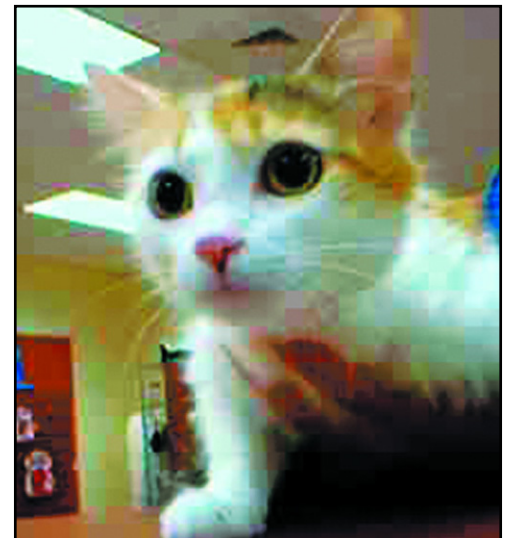
PET PERSONALS



Please help us find a home for Greywall! This 5 year old Shepherd mix has been waiting for 2 years to find his forever home. Greywall is very well behaved and he is absolutely obsessed with playing fetch with tennis balls. He is a loveable teddy bear and he would love to cuddle with you on the sofa. Greywall is at our Soffer and Fine Adoption Center, 16101 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach, 305-696-0800.



Please help us find a home for Johnnie! This 11 year old Labrador mix has been waiting patiently for 7 years to find his forever home. Johnnie is very well behaved and walks very well on a leash. He is picky about his doggie friends so he would do best in a home with out other dogs. Johnnie is at our Soffer and Fine Adoption Center, 16101 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach, 305-696-0800.



Sayuri is a sweet and loving 8 month old spayed female! She is very affectionate and she will steal your heart if you give her a chance. Please adopt Sayuri from our Soffer and fine adoption center at 16101 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach, 305-696-0800.

These pets can be found at our brand new shelter, the Soffer and Fine Adoption Center, located at 16101 West Dixie Highway in North Miami Beach. The center is open for adoptions Mondays and Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. (closed Tuesdays). Thank you!

The adoption fee for a dog or a puppy is now \$90 (and still includes: spay/neuter, up-to-date vaccinations including rabies if dog is four months or older, de-worming, microchip identification, Miami-Dade County dog license or puppy tag, dogs six months and older are tested for heartworm disease and Ehrlichiosis, free puppy training or low-cost dog obedience classes, and new parent support)

The adoption fee for a cat or a kitten is now \$60 (and still includes: spay/neuter, up-to-date vaccinations including rabies if cat is four months or older, de-worming, microchip identification, FeLV and FIV tests, cardboard cat carrier, and new parent support).



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Who Will Watch My Pet?

Choosing a Pet-Care Provider

Ah, summer! It is the season of vacations, family reunions, and unfortunately for us, hurricanes. Choosing someone you can trust to take care of your pets can be quite a challenge. There are many choices – friends, relatives, doggy daycares, night-cares, pet-sitters, kennels and veterinarians' offices. In this month's column we will explore a few of the options and what you need to know to make an informed decision.

For some people, picking the right person to watch their pet while on vacation is harder than finding their human child a babysitter. There is no perfect way to go about it, but referrals are a great place to start. Ask close friends with whom do they trust their pets. Then, you will need to consider the temperament of your dog. Is he friendly with strangers and other dogs? Will your pet allow a stranger into your home? Also, the overall health and mobility of your pets will play a roll in what kind of facility you choose.

The Professional Pet-Sitter

One of the most popular options today is the professional pet-sitter. For those of you who don't want to rely on family, or are afraid the person you ask will not be around as much you like, paying a professional to do the job is a great way to go. Many pet-sitters have flexible services and will either take your pet to their house, visit your pet at your house, or even sleep in at your home. Sitters are generally paid for the amount of time and animals involved, and tend to be pet-lovers who decided to work fulltime with animals.

First, make sure they belong to a professional affiliation such as Pet Sitters International, and that they are bonded and insured. Next, set up a few interviews. Look for someone who seems to have a good rapport with your pet, or at least someone Pet Sitters International whom the pet seems comfortable. You must be at ease with them as well, as this person might be looking after both your home and your best friend. A good pet-sitter will ask many questions and seem to have your pets' best interest at heart. If your pet is shy, you may want to check that the same person will be caring for your pet and home everyday, as some big companies act as agencies for pet-sitters.

Doggy Daycare

and Night-Care

For those of you with dogs who love dogs, doggy daycare is a wonderful option. Dogs play with each other all day and return to a kennel at night (or in the case of Phoebe and Friends, on South Beach, to individual beds with nannies). Some daycares have indoor/outdoor play areas, either with or without pools, and some inside facilities take dogs for long walks several times a day. Dogs must pass an evaluation first, and show proof they are up to date (UTD) on shots. As far as I know, none will take a dog that isn't spayed or neutered. Cleanliness of the daycare and constant supervision are crucial as well.

If you decide to leave your pet at a kennel or vets office, it is very important to visit the area where your pet will be kenneled, as services vary. Ask what the office hours are, which can be limited, especially on Sundays. At most vets, your dog will be in a crate with two to five walks per day. A few vets offer large kennels or a choice thereof, usually on a first come, first serve basis. Be sure that your pet will not be near sick animals. You should also ask whether you're expected to pay if your pet does get sick while in their care.

Don't Get Caught in the Storm

As soon as that hurricane is seen on the radar, pet-care providers are inundated with calls and spots reserved. We are in-season, so you must be prepared *before* the storm comes. Your flight might be delayed or cancelled, your pet-sitter swamped by regular customers, or your vet's office will lose power. It is important to be prepared *now*. Here are a few tips:

1. Make sure your pet is up to date on shots and healthy and have recent paper copies of all documentation. Remember, if you lose power, you cannot print or email and no daycare and most pet-sitters will not take your pet without proof of good health.

2. Meet with pet-care professionals now. You will not get an interview in the advent of a storm.

3. Keep collars on pets at all times, which is especially important during our

bad weather season. Many pets were lost, disoriented by fallen trees and wires, and scared off by noise from heavy winds, broken glass and generators. If your pet is found and the roadways blocked, the

person will not be running to a shelter to scan your pet for a microchip.

4. Speaking of, microchip or tattoo your pet as backup in case the collar comes off.

5. Make copies of recent photos of your pet, including its most recent haircut. You can post them or show people

if necessary.

6. Prepare an emergency bag with several days' food, water, dishes, leash, records, photo and any medicine. If a friend must evacuate your pet for you, they can quickly grab "the green bag by the door."

7. Have numbers on hand to healthcare providers and everyone who has keys to

your home.

8. Spay and neuter your animals! No daycare and most people will not take another animal that will drive their animals crazy (yet another good reason to spay and neuter).

Do Not Leave Your Pet Behind

Do not tie him to anything either. The best option is to take him with you. Ask friends if it's okay to take your pets to their house. If you will be driving to a hotel, Loews, Motel 6 and 8, La Quinta and some other chains welcome pets. Find out what their specific policies are and always supervise and clean up after your pet!

Think ahead. Do not wait for an emergency. With a little careful planning and a trustworthy person to look after your pet, you will both sleep better at night!

Lisa Hartman is head Dog Trainer and Pet Sitter for Pawsitively Pets! For additional information you can contact her at pawsitivelypetsonline@yahoo.com or visit www.pawsitivelypetsonline.com.



Pawsitively Pets

By Lisa Hartman

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¡Hay Bendito!

Wynwood Celebrates Puerto Rican Day at DeHostos Center



Photos by Christian Cipriani
BBT Editor

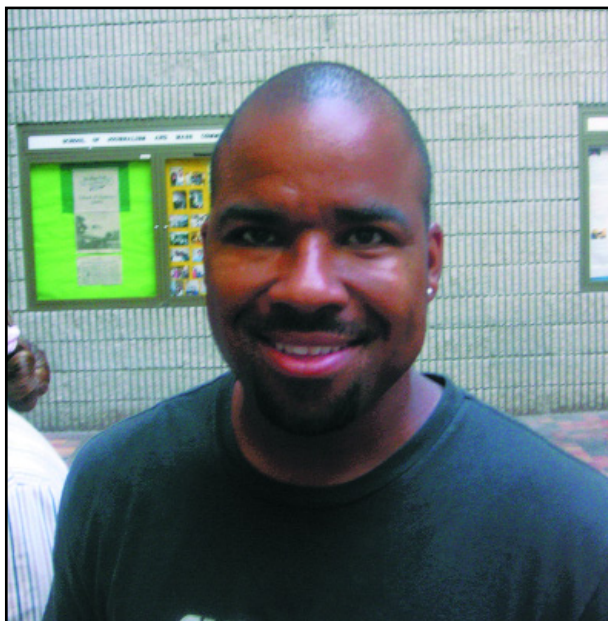
On Tuesday, July 25, Miami-Dade County's Department of Human Services welcomed the community and local leaders in a celebration of Puerto Rican Day at the De Hostos Neighborhood Center in Wynwood. Former City of Miami Mayor Maurice Ferré and District 2 Commissioner Linda Haskins were among those who took to the podium to express appreciation for the impact of many Puerto Rican-Miamians on Wynwood and the city at large.

In addition to these speeches, Skip Chavez, president of the PR Chamber of Commerce, challenged County Mayor Carlos Alvarez and current Miami Mayor Manny Diaz to a game of dominos. The traditional Little Havana vs. Wynwood Domino Championship was played out amidst other festivities, like the dance competition, music, prizes and traditional food.



Weren't You a Little Sad to see Miami City Manager Joe Arriola Resign?

By Victor Barrenechea — BBT Contributing Writer



Cordell Willis

"I hadn't realized he resigned yet. I'm not really into politics."



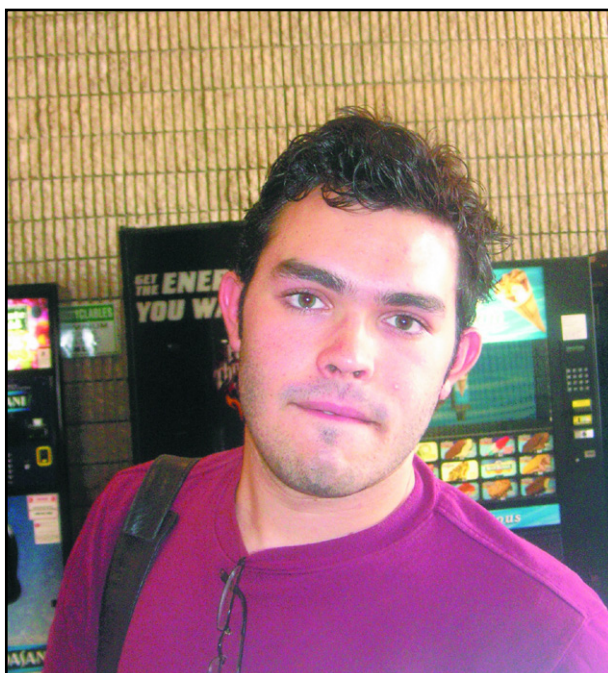
Kandra Velez

"No, I'm not sad because I didn't really follow him."



Alissa Levin

"If he was a Republican then I'm not sad, and if he was a Democrat then I'm very sad. I am very, very liberal."



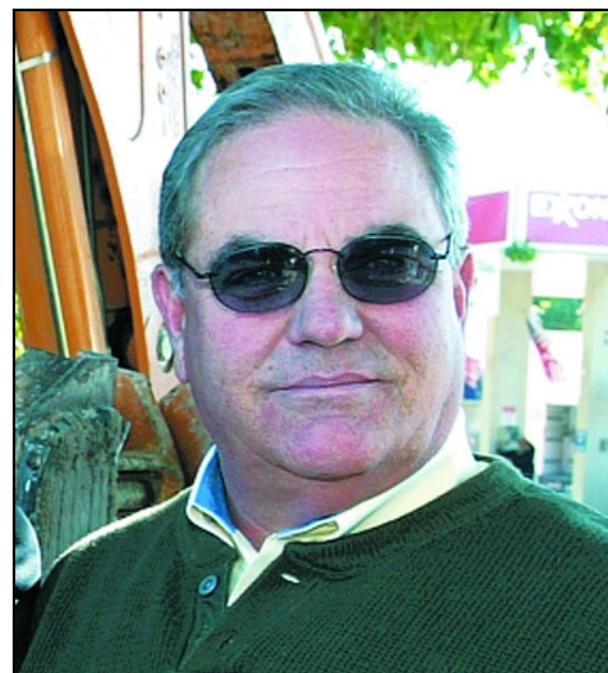
J.D. Lorenzo

"If I had known him I probably would've felt worse."



Bill Lacey

"No. I just retired from working for the City of Miami, so I know all the B.S. that goes on."



Gio Riolla

"Yeah, and one day you'll say that fat guy and that funny-looking mayor really knew what they were doing."

BE HEARD!

Do you have a question for "Word on the Street?"
Send us an email: editorial@BiscayneBoulevard.com

Biscayne Corridor: 5046 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33137
 Design District: 35 NE 40 St, Miami, FL 33137
 Hollywood: 2732 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, FL 33020
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 Great, reduced to 279,000

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Isaac Ortman
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