

BISCAYNE BOULEVARD

November 2006
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Serving the Communities along the Biscayne Boulevard Corridor, including Arch Creek, Baypoint, Bayside, Biscayne Park, Belle Meade, Buena Vista, Davis Harbor, Design District, Edgewater, El Portal, Keystone Point, Magnolia Park, Miami Shores, Morningside, North Miami, Oakland Grove, Omni, Palm Grove, San Souci, Shorecrest and Wynwood

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Volume IV Issue IX

For Better or Worse

Boulevard Motels are Here to Stay

By Ivana J. Robinson
BBT Contributing Writer

In July 2005, 25-year-old Monee Williams shot Mathew Williams to death at the Stephen's International Motel at 6320 Biscayne Blvd. Soon after the incident, the owner closed the motel and put it up for sale. Two months later, police arrested Camelot Inn manager Michael Kelbel for "renting a room for the purposes of prostitution" at the inn at 7126 Biscayne Blvd. In July, 2005, a few blocks north, a shooting was reported in the back of Motel Blu at 7700 Biscayne Blvd. These and many other crimes have earned the Boulevard Corridor motels a murky reputation.

"Most problems that occur in the neighborhood originate in the motels," said Commander

David Magnusson of the Miami Police Department. "They are like a magnet for all the trash that comes here to rob and cheat. But it's gotten better. The majority of the motels have improved a lot."

The condo boom, which doubled real estate prices in the Upper Eastside, is changing the landscape of the area by attracting elegant cafes, tasteful bars

and restaurants, modern boutiques and flower shops. In addition, successful businesspeople are buying and renovating sites like the Vagabond and Sunshine Motel in an attempt to recapture the glory of a more innocent past.

However, one of the main problems faced by new and old owners is keeping illegal activity out of their establishments. Otherwise, they could face the Nuisance Abatement Board (NAB).

The board, comprised of five members, is a quasi-judicial body that determines the existence of public nuisances on properties within the City of Miami used in violation of the law. It typically processes cases for drug possession and sale, gang activity, noise and prostitution. Once a motel is labeled a nuisance, the NAB tells a business how it can improve. If it

doesn't, the NAB can shut that business down for up to a year. During the last year, several motel owners have come before the NAB: Best Value Inn, Camelot Inn, Motel Blu and Biscayne Inn, among others.

The Best Value Inn has been on the NAB list for more than five years, and most recently for drug-related arrests

According to Valledor, Best Value Inn appealed the case and asked for compensation for lost income. However, in 2000 the Florida Supreme Court ruled that the City of Miami doesn't have to compensate the owner if a motel must be shut down because it's overrun with prostitutes and drugs.

Continued on page 30



TAKE BACK THE LAND: Liberty City activists have organized a shantytown on city land to protest the housing crisis, but how long it will last is anyone's guess. See page 65 for the story.

Is Crime Down?

Community Concerns Escalate Despite Declining Crime Rates

By Melissa Cueto
BBT Staff Writer

The crime rate today is the "lowest in years," said Darrell Nichols, an Upper Eastside neighborhood resource officer, yet many residents that have lived in the area for years, even decades, are not seeing the encouraging statistics reflected in their daily lives.

The figures, as provided by Commander David Magnusson of the Miami Police Department (MPD), indicate an overall plunge in both petty and violent criminal activity. Comparing the first nine months of 2006 to the first nine months of 2005, the breakdown is as follows: burglary down 11 percent, larceny down 18 percent, robbery down 25 percent, aggravated bat-

tery and assault down 33 percent, sex offenses down 14 percent, auto thefts down 23 percent – promising indeed.

Why, then, are neighbors increasingly alarmed? A Shorecrest resident of eight years who preferred to withhold her name was the victim of a burglary on August 10 of this year. The following month, she attended a Shorecrest Homeowners Association meeting during which a police officer reported that the crime rate had declined for September. Having heard others in the neighborhood – particularly residents near N.E. 85th Street – express concerns about theft and vandalism, she's been encouraged by a heightened police presence in the area. The woman was equally discouraged, however, by

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Word on the Street

What would you change about N.E. 79th Street?

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Life Imitating Art

On the menu for this month's Screening Room – documentaries

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Wake Up Miami!

And see what all the fuss is about Natasha Tsakos

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Shake it All About

Jenni Person on kiddie music that parents can dig, too.

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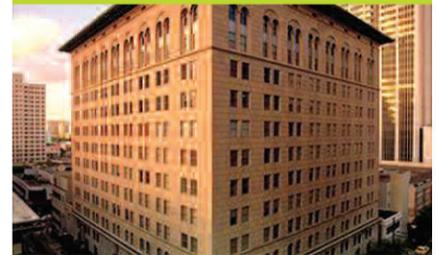


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BBT Endorses Frank Rollason for District 2

Elections are upon us and voters are in a foul mood. We cannot recall a race in which District 2 had so many qualified candidates. What's really frightening, however, are the lengths to which the current administration is going to get Linda Haskins elected. They have bamboozled homeowner associations with promises of building-height restrictions, swooned business-owners by claiming to have helped delay capital improvements projects, and shuffled important development approvals until after the election. If only they had been paying that much attention to us for the past two years, we would probably be more sympathetic to their candidate.

But we smell rotten red herring. To wit: for the past three months we have been placing calls to downtown, uptown, midtown and all around town trying to find out where the affordable housing units that were promised with the Midtown project were going to be built. Lo and behold, we then find out via Frank Rollason's claim at a debate we sponsored along with the County's Ethics Commission that there will not be any affordable housing from the

Midtown developers. Yes, there were barrels of ink wasted on talking about it in the press, but no such provision was ever inked into the final deal. Again, the citizens of Miami have been duped by our elected officials. When will we put a stop to it?

All of the candidates are nice and have stellar resumes. They are all very personable people and quite accomplished. But the nagging question everyone must ask is, "What are we going to vote for?": The same old 'divide and concrete' mentality that has pervaded city hall for the last four years, giving the city away to greed and back office deals? The new-boy network is the same as the old-boy network, just walking around in more expensive shoes. The Diaz camp is desperate to keep Haskins in. We suspect their fear is that any other candidate could align with Tomas Regalado and swing votes, which could balance the power and tip outcomes in favor of citizens instead of the power-brokers who last year put over \$1,000,000 into Diaz's campaign war chest.

The only real threat to the absolute power of this current administration seems to be Frank Rollason. Rollason

is a straight-shooter and has proven himself a person who gets the job done. No matter how deep the opposition digs, they haven't been able to tar him. Even Haskins, who has torn into Mark Sarnoff like a pit-bull losing her puppies, said Rollason is a decent guy. More importantly, he has more than 30 years of public service under his belt. And just as important, he knows the ins-and-outs of City Hall and how to get things accomplished, and not just things the mayor wants accomplished.

We did not make our decision about who to endorse lightly, and waited until after we heard the candidates debate. Frank proved himself to be better informed, more even-tempered and more responsive to residents' concerns than any of the other candidates. Mayor Diaz originally ran on a platform of running the city like a business. That is exactly what we have gotten, but unfortunately it has been a business to benefit only those well-connected to the mayor. It is now time to run the city like a city, for the benefit of all citizens. For these reasons, we endorse Frank Rollason for District 2 Commissioner.

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The School Board and Education

Dear BBT

I listened to the recent (10/11/06) meeting of the Miami-Dade School board on NPR. I have to admit, I didn't catch all of it, just a few comments from the teachers who had also been protesting on the streets of Miami, and from the elected board members. I heard both sides with compassion and an open mind.

This got me to think: One of the underlying problems with education here in Miami-Dade, and I suspect in many other counties in Florida, is that we don't pay our teachers enough. Listening to the board members – Evelyn Greer in particular – I started to realize that the problem isn't the school board. One of the culprits I'm leaning towards is the actual teacher's union. That's one problem I saw. In a union, all members are classified as a group, and in particular with the teacher's union, they go through 'steps', and you become eligible for a pay increase when you make it to the next step, or something like that.

Well, the fundamental problem with this union and unions in general is it doesn't pay attention to the individual teacher. You can have an educator who has been teach-

ing for more than 30 years who doesn't relate to his/her students and hands out passing grades just because. Then you have those teachers who cause you to think and react and develop a passion. Teachers like that, like Lemroy Lawrence, get overlooked until something tragic happens. Another area where I noticed a problem is in the State of Florida. It pains me to see that after 70 percent of Floridians voted for smaller class sizes, Governor Jeb Bush said it wouldn't be possible to fund it. It hasn't been implemented as yet, and as of this fiscal year we will have a nice-sized budget surplus. But I'll bet you Bush, or Charlie Crist (the likely candidate to win this year's election) surely won't send that extra money to pay to reduce the class size, give teachers more money and build new schools.

It's not even a question of raising taxes. If we have a surplus, let's put it to good use. Let's not follow in the steps of the federal government and spend if off and create a record deficit. The answer: If Republicans are so fond of how well private schools are doing (they don't get tested like the public schools do) and are so willing to take money out of the public schools that are failing to put them into the private school system, then why don't we go to the best performing school in each

grade level and use their successes as a guide for what to do. I'm assuming that in a private school, you have smaller classes. Well, if this is the case, we need smaller classes, more schools in the suburbs, more teachers and higher wages for teachers who teach well.

With students attending schools that are much closer to where they live, they can walk to school, or their parents can drop them off much more conveniently. This way we cut the number of school busses that have to travel long distances (wasting gas) to get the kids to school. I think the key here is to have more attention for each student. Teachers cannot pay attention to those students who fall behind because they have to take care of 40 other students. Let's get our children prepared for the future. We're sending kids out into the college system who can't speak English properly. This county is developing at a record pace and we need new schools, new teachers and more subjects to keep up with the growing population.

The government spends more time trying to find money and a venue to fund a baseball field than it does trying to find the money to spend on new textbooks. Let's knock down the future governor's door and demand that the voters be heard – more money per student; more money for teachers; and more money for classes like physical education, art, music and creative writing. Florida state bigwigs spend so much time insisting students read and write that they're not going to have anything to write or read about when they remove the other subjects from the curriculum. Where will the future of the new Performing Arts Center be if we release a bunch of ignoramus students who don't know anything about culture into the future of Miami-Dade? Safeguarding the future of Miami-Dade means instilling a sense of culture in our students.

Thanks,
Cris Asuncion
Miami Shores

Not Quite Right

Dear Editor

My name is Tracy Kerscher, and I was quoted in two articles that appeared in the Biscayne Blvd. Times. The most recent article was posted in the Devil's Advocate section on Jan. 2, 2006, and entitled "Can't Make Money in Real Estate? Porn May Be the Answer..."

Both articles contained the same quote and misinformation about myself: "Many young, female professionals resort to working promotions jobs in order to supplement their measly paychecks," said Tracy Kerscher, 25, president of Lockehouse Publishing Company. Despite her college education and various work experiences in the publishing industry, taking a two-hour promotional gig that pays \$50-\$75 per hour serving Heinekens at an art show or sampling food at a tasting table, is a way to make ends meet."

The part that reads "...taking a two-hour promotional gig that pays \$50-\$75 per hour serving Heinekens at an art show or sampling food at a tasting table, is a way to make ends meet," is incorrect. I've never taken any of those types of jobs. When it was printed the first time, I didn't mention it. But because it was printed a second time, it is important that a retraction be printed in your publication. Many professional associates of mine have come across the article through Google, and I don't want people to continue to read incorrect info about my professional life.

Thank you very much for your attention to the matter.

Sincerely,
Tracy Kerscher
Executive Editor
Success South Florida Magazine

Editor's Note: The BBT extends its apologies to Ms. Kerscher for any incorrect information that was printed about her, and wholly retracts the statements in question.

More Letters on page 8

Roger Shields

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PLACIDO DIAZ, a newcomer to politics, but not to our community or to public service, has entered the race for Miami City Commissioner to represent us, the residents of District 2.

PUBLIC SERVANT

Placido Diaz was born and raised in the City of Miami where he graduated from Miami High in 1985. By the

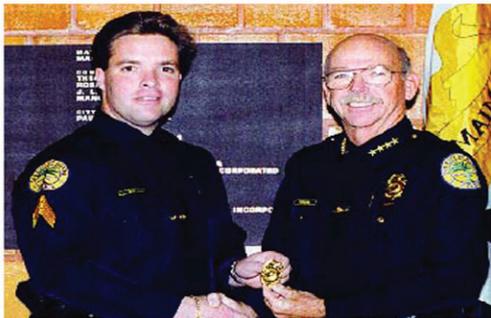
age of 20, Placido had graduated from the Police Academy and joined the City of Miami Police Department.

He earned a Bachelor of Professional Studies degree from Barry University in 1992. During his fifteen years of public service with the Miami Police Department, Placido performed in the various capacities of Police Officer, Robbery Detective, and Sergeant of the Coconut Grove Problem Solving Team. He retired in 2003 and is currently a volunteer Reserve Police Officer.



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During his tenure, Placido served with honor and integrity. His record is marked by over 40



commendations for his many accomplishments, his commitment to improving quality of life, and the professionalism and respect he displayed while conducting himself as a police officer.

Today, Placido is a successful and respected businessman in our community. He is involved in real estate investments and the rehabilitation of distressed properties for low income housing. He is married to his wife, Alicia, and together they are raising their four daughters, Michelle 19, Stephanie 17, Nicole 6 and Isabella 3. Placido enjoys spending his free time with his family.

PLACIDO DIAZ' PLAN FOR MIAMI

In response to the needs and concerns of the citizens of our community, Placido has decided to expand his role in public service. A capable and experienced leader, he rises to the challenges facing our community. His plans include reviewing our government and system of service delivery in order to improve quality while consolidating and maximizing resources. He plans to focus on urban planning and affordable housing, in particular, promoting home ownership programs for residents. Placido wants to provide much needed tax relief to property owners already choked by the rising cost, by lowering property taxes. He supports responsible redevelopment that will be beneficial to all residents and not just a few outside investors.

At a time when citizens demand accountability from their leaders, Placido Diaz pledges to serve our community with integrity and professionalism. With no past or present ties to any special interest group, his only priority is, and will be—the interests of the citizens of the City of Miami.

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Hagen on Housing, etc.

Dear Editor

In regards to your story "One Brick at Time," on affordable housing being constructed, please be aware that up to this point most affordable housing built in Miami has been in the two-to-six-story category, the standard height we find in most cities outside downtown areas. But on N.E. 79th Street we have a new breed of affordable housing, totally out of scale to the one and two-story neighborhood.

The Villa Patricia project on 79th Street just east of Miami Avenue, and another project immediately west of the library on 79th will be 20 stories or more, right up against single family homes! These two projects slipped under radar of those of us who live in the Upper Eastside, and those who live closer threw up their hands in disgust as they said they could not fight City Hall.

Months ago, I wrote a three-page complaint to HUD and requested that they look into the matter and they did. All they could say was that if the city approved it, they would finance it. Thanks Commissioners and HUD for raising land values and rents in the area so you will have a constant need to build more housing as rents rise.

It is because of ill-placed high rise

projects like these, which artificially drive up land values all over our city, that Commissioner Sanchez trotted off to the County Commission recently to lobby them to have the County Appraiser use an income basis to appraise property instead of market priced method. Thanks Joe for watching out for us, but if he had only listened to his constituents months ago, he would have not been voting to put high rises on every block like gas stations, which have had much to do with raising land values, taxes and the number of people who have been driven from their apartments! Thanks to all the Commissioners for making our problem worse before they try to fix it. I guess it is good for the construction business, campaign contributions and HUD stays busy financing affordable housing for even more and more people as high rises penetrate our neighborhoods.

I urge District 2 voters to support the candidate they believe who will dedicate themselves to keeping high rises downtown, adding park space commensurate with added population and above all else, assuring that residents all over the city will have every opportunity to fully participate in the process called Democracy, as for the past several years resident input has been seriously stifled by most

chairs most of the time and input has not been taken seriously. Commissioner Winton once said, "Projects never get worse with resident input." Too bad he and others at city and county hall do not follow that, as Citizen Participation just happens to be an important element in the Miami Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan, of which our elected leaders are to follow.

And in a separate letter, Mr. Hagen wrote:

I really enjoyed your weapons story – great prose, entertaining ("Yankee Holiday"). You do make me question my long-held attitude and ability to still hate, at least feel uncomfortable, around guns.

In my early years, our family would travel from lower Michigan to the great north woods just south of Mighty Mac (that's Mackinaw Bridge, linking the upper and lower peninsulas) for a long Thanksgiving weekend with dozens of cousins. This went on from about age 8 till I was 15. At eight I was too young to tromp into the woods (and I never graduated to the woods for hunting) and sit for deer, so I got to stay where it was warm, with all the women and girls, and observe baking and all the preparations for the big dinner. (Thanksgiving dinner is really one of the easiest meals to prepare, unless you get hung up on how the table is to look.)

To this day, my older brother who was so proud of strapping his first buck onto the front fender of our '54 black Ford eats little red meat that he does not drop with a rifle or bow and arrow. I appreciate that. Myself, I go between being a vegetarian and buying meat occasionally, as the thought of death brought to an animal by bullets or other means is unnatural, but I am glad there are others willing to do it so I have my occasional fix of flesh.

*Steve Hagen
Belle Meade/Citizens Against
Everything Bad*

Legion Post Says Thanks

Dear Editor

Your timely article on our American Legion Post 29 Veteran's Open House/Ribbon Cutting/911 Memorial Ceremony was a poignant and insightful portrait of what we attempted to accomplish on September 9th.

I can't wait to scan it and email it to Phil Johnson, our post commander who is currently in Michigan. You managed to capture the spirit of the day and you know, last week I got to tell Police John Timoney almost exactly what you stated about Police Commander David Mangusson, that he was the right man for the job.

Please accept our gratitude for a great piece of journalism, and terrific pictures, too. Thanks to the BBT for being the valuable Upper Eastside community asset you are!

*Best regards,
Robert A. Flanders*

Enough Dogs Already

Dear BBT

I get your paper every month, and I love all the different subjects you cover, from neighborhood news to art and culture – you do a great job. You get the word out to residents about important issues that are going to affect our lives, and even let us know about interesting events that are coming to the area. Even though I don't like to leave my house often, it's nice to read about what I might do.

One thing I would like to mention, however, is the pets column by Lisa Hartman. She calls her column "Pawsitively Pets," but all she ever writes about are dogs. I know the name of her business is Pawsitively Pets, as I see in her contact information. So I can

Continued on page 9



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SH  

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 8

understand the title, no matter how unfitting. I must say, there *are* other pets than just dogs.

Why don't you write something about them?

Maybe it's because people don't have to waste their money on having someone teach their cat, fish or parakeet to behave... They just *do*. I would suggest changing the column name to Pawstitutively Dogs or, even better, writing about other animals as well.

Margo Santucci
Wynwood

~ ~ ~

**Messy Neighbor
Causing Grief**



"The city or county should force the developers to demolish this property ASAP, as it looks like a crack house..."

Dear BBT

I am sending this message to forward my comments and complaints in the hope that a change may result to bring dignity to the residents of Biscayne Shores. I am complaining about a property that was purchased in October 2005, 10845 Biscayne Blvd., owned by Biscayne Shores Star, LLC. The property is actually located east of Biscayne on N.E. 109th Street, near LaPaloma Restaurant.

The owners are not maintaining the property to a satisfactory level. It has

become a haven for illegal activity at night as well as a de facto place for homeless squatters. It simply looks like a derelict estate. According to code enforcement, a permit for demolition was received or applied for in February 2006, which has since expired. The property is an eyesore. It was better kept when inhabited by the previous owner/tenants. One or two shacks are burnt black; the other shacks have open doors, refuse and overgrown grass.

The owners have acquired a few other properties on the next street, N.E. 108th, since purchasing 10845 Biscayne last October. The city or county should force the developers to demolish this property ASAP, as it looks like a crack house – an eyesore in a residential neighborhood near expensive properties. Residents have been suffering for a year by the continued neglect and no demolition.

Neighbors want the shacks to go, as they are a tumbling down. We don't want to live near a dump that encourages illicit activities to take place. Biscayne Shores, LLC should receive code violations from the county for minimum housing maintenance/structure maintenance/upkeep. The only violations Biscayne Shores Star LLC has acquired for 10845 Biscayne Blvd thus far since purchasing the property a year ago are junk/trash/overgrowth on unimproved/improved property. Friends and neighbors have called 311's Team Metro for code violations and the Office of Unsafe Structures downtown, and still nothing has been done.

It appears the property is being resold as of July 2006. Code violations are closed and are in the process of change, yet still nothing is being done.

Krystyna Iuliano
Biscayne Shores

~ ~ ~

Petrol Paranoia

Dear BBT

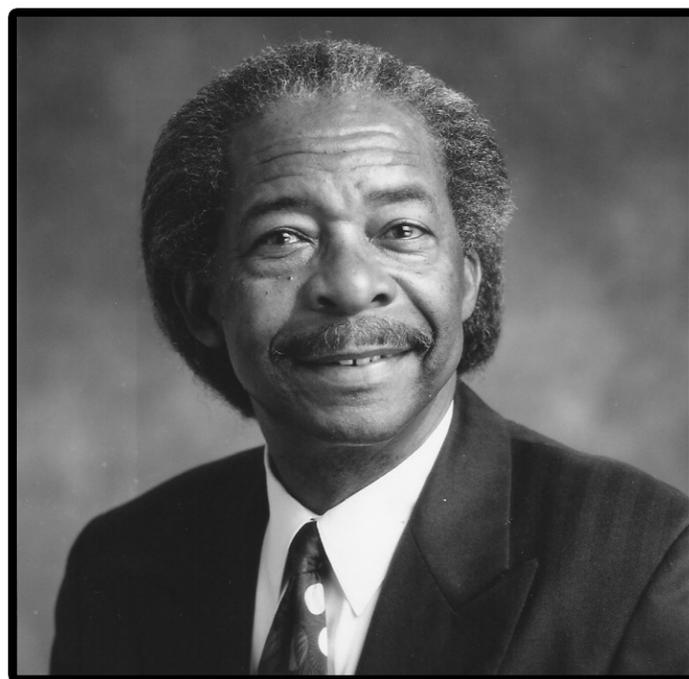
How many grades of gasoline are there usually available at gas stations, not counting diesel? Three, right? Octanes of 93, 89 and 87. So why, when the 7-11 store on Biscayne Boulevard at Sans Souci recently overhauled their petroleum delivery systems, were there only *two* hoses running from the main tank to the pump islands? Further, not lost to me, these two hoses were installed and promptly buried on the same day: Saturday (when onlookers would be at a minimum). I intend to find out. P.S. That ramshackle mattress is still there!

Kenneth Gramer
North Miami

More Letters on page 11

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Nov. 7 ~ Touch #104

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BE HEARD

Send your

Letter to the Editor to:

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Miami: My Kind of Zeitgeist

When I tell people in Miami that I'm from San Francisco, it's often met with a contorted facial expression and something along the lines of "What are you doing here?," as if I came from paradise and willingly chose a fetid dump in which to inhabit. I have many reasons for coming here, some pedestrian, such as the weather, and others a bit odd, like my childhood obsession with Miami Vice. Still others have to do with what San Francisco has become. It is that verb, to become, that shall be the focus of this piece, for in this word I have found the allure of Miami.

I arrived a little over a month ago and was amazed to find a city seemingly under construction. From the endless line of cranes gracing the skyline to the mess of the Midtown Miami project to the chaos on Biscayne Boulevard., I had never seen so much new construction, except possibly in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I was instantly charmed. Allow me to explain: I'm a little different than most Americans. Instead of dreaming about Paris, London and Rome, I dream of Mexico City, Bangkok and New Delhi. I hate the controlled, monitored, museum-like quality of Western Europe. It absolutely suffocates me with boredom. Give me un-tethered humanity, smog, pollution, horrendous traffic,

corruption and high crime. These things make a survivor out of you – life becomes more exciting and mysterious, the senses come alive.

In my travels around the city, I became enamored with its character and look, somewhere along the lines

of Los Angeles meets South American metropolis with a dash of tropical splendor. It displays some of the qualities of the aforementioned cities I so adore, albeit on a much tamer scale. Aside from some profoundly uninteresting new high rises, the increasing

proliferation of big box outlets (how in the heck did they let Home Depot into Coconut Grove?) and the new Carnival Center which looks like an office park in Boca on acid, it became clear to me that Miami is not in the least a generic city.

Before I moved here, my uncle advised me that Ft. Lauderdale would be a much better choice: "It's better managed, more livable and doesn't suffer from the problems that plague Miami."

What he meant was that it is 1) whiter 2) more gener-

ic and 3) less corrupt. I've quickly found that he was absolutely right. For this author however, the negative qualities described by my uncle comprise some of the intrinsic appeal of Miami. I would die of boredom living in Ft. Lauderdale. What would we have to write and

talk about if there wasn't high crime and the City Commissioners weren't awash in shady deals?

Let us peruse some examples: What other city located so close to the tropics would install unsheltered bus stops with derriere-scorching aluminum benches? And it's a shame that Miami has so few bike lanes, but I must confess: I don't own a bike. I do, however, own a 1991 BMW that has the power of a thousand bicycles. It is also a shame that Miami has a pal-

try tree canopy and the lowest percentage of green-space of any major city in the U.S. I'd bet that thought didn't cross the collective mind of the City Planning Commission when they approved the Brickell City Centre project on the huge lot at the 700-block of S. Miami Ave. Here, developers are poised to annihilate one of the last green-spaces downtown, including a small grove of nearly 100-year-old oaks, in order to construct the tallest buildings in Miami. What other

Continued on page 62



By Andrew Dunlop

Instead of dreaming about Paris, London and Rome, I dream of Mexico City, Bangkok and New Delhi.

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More of Bunny's Honeys...



Bunny's honeys keep rolling in: Here are two glamour shots sent in by Joe Stone of his mother Inez, taken by Bunny Yeager in the 1960s.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 9

Crime Worries in El Portal

Dear BBT,
Soon it will be time for all El Portal residents to exercise their citizen rights and vote on November 7. As a resident for the past five years, I would like to make my neighbors aware of the situation of our public safety and where our tax dollars are going.

I attended the last budget meeting in the Village Hall and was outraged at the discussion over hiring another code enforcement officer (one is not enough for our Village), buying real estate and beautification projects. The Sherwood Forest area is the jewel of this Village. It is also plagued by theft and vandalism. Both my cars and my home have been robbed. Most of my neighbors leave their car doors open so thieves won't smash their windows, since many of them have also been robbed.

Homes are broken into during the day

and at night. In a three month period, nine robberies were committed on only two streets (N.E. 85th and 86th Streets, between Biscayne Boulevard and N.E. 2nd Avenue). Now, where are the police you might ask? Did you know that there is only one policeman on duty for every eight hour shift? Apparently we don't have money in the budget for more police but we do have over \$200,000 to buy real estate, the Mayor can find \$75,000 for beautification and there is money to hire another code enforcement officer to make sure the grass is no longer than eight inches.

Wouldn't that money to purchase real estate be put to better use in salaries for a proper police force? What will it take – the death of a policeman in El Portal because he has no backup? Or better yet, someone in the Village being robbed and killed in their home because one policeman for each shift cannot be everywhere.

*Donna Stavel
El Portal*

CORRECTIONS

In last month's story about the North Miami budget talks, it was incorrectly stated that Ellen Abramson lives in Magnolia Park. She lives on Magnolia Drive in Keystone Point. Our apologies.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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Upper East Side NET305-795-2330
Little Haiti/Edison/Little River NET305-795-2337
Wynwood/Edgewater NET305-579-6931

NORTH MIAMI

For Emergency Information305-891-4636
City Hall305-893-6511

BISCAYNE PARK

Village Hall/Police Department – Log Cabin.....305-899-8000
Mayor Ted A. Walker305-899-8000 x81

MIAMI SHORES

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Boulevard Work from N.E. 67th to 78th Delayed

FDOT Capitulates in Lieu of the Busy Season

By Christian Cipriani
BBT Editor

Exhaustion was evident in Herbert Ammons's face as he absorbed the frustrations of Upper Eastside residents and business-owners at an Oct. 16 meeting on the Biscayne Boulevard Reconstruction Project at Legion Park. It wasn't the fatigue of a long day, but wear from more than a year as FDOT's proverbial whipping boy, continually sent to bear complaints that are now edging on taunts and jeers. Indeed, citizens are at wits end with the seemingly endless parade of dust and Caterpillars stretching from downtown to North Miami.

"My name is Herbert Ammons and I'm here to help," said the public information officer. He went on to remind those present that multiple meetings were held for public input into the design/planning phase, which stopped exactly no one from offering ideas for bike lanes and pullovers for busses (there will, in fact, be no bus lanes).

Improvements to this 11-block stretch

of Biscayne (just over half a mile), from N.E. 67th to 78th Streets, was set to begin Oct. 23 and include \$7.25 million worth of improvements to the roadway, drainage systems, sidewalks, street lighting, traffic signals and landscaping. But after pressure from owners of the many businesses crowded into this small but commerce-heavy strip – UVA 69, Casa Toscana, Dogma Grill, Michy's, etc. – FDOT has delayed the work until April 2007.

The problem was timing: N.E. 5th Avenue – a major alternate thoroughfare – is torn up, and the City of Miami is performing drainage work in nearby Bayside, from N.E. 69th to 71st Streets. Local businesses, many of whom are just getting back to speed financially after a nasty 2005 hurricane season, have been looking forward to what they hope will be a profitable winter.

Dogma and Casa Toscana are among those restaurants with outdoor seating that would suffer greatly from the dust and noise; seating for the former, in fact, is entirely al fresco.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the

Visit www.biscaynereconstruction.com for further info, or contact Herbert Ammons, the project's Public Information Manager, to submit suggestions or complaints: hammons_biscayneblvd@yahoo.com or 305-333-3347.

Boulevard getting to where it's supposed to be, but there was a certain selfishness in its planning," said Sandra Stefani, an Oakland Grove neighborhood leader and owner of Casa Toscana.

Further, no one at the meeting could understand why 11 blocks were scheduled to take 480 days – the same length of time spent on the preceding 30 blocks.

Beyond extra signage and the oft-broken promise of entrances clear of construction vehicles, FDOT offers little in the way of consolation prizes to businesses negatively affected by the Reconstruction Project. Perhaps prompted by media reports over the past year on those who've experienced heavy losses and even closed due to its impact, the business-owners banded together to execute a surprising amount of influence in getting this phase delayed until at least after the winter. District 2 Commissioner Linda Haskins, an incumbent facing a tight race to keep her seat in the Nov. 7 election, also lobbied FDOT to delay the work.

This concession could open the way to pressure FDOT on specific design points, despite the insistence of Ammons and his associate, Steve McClure, that the design is now immutable.

Stakeholders in the recently established MiMo Historical District, like Eric Silverman of the Vagabond Hotel, want the neighborhood's historic status reflected in unique signs, decorative lighting

and the like. In the other corner, Royal Palm advocates cite Ordinance 11000 in calling for these trees to mark the area's gateway status, and decry the 80-plus Royals that Sean-Paul Melito, of the tree-canopy advocacy group Save Palms, claims were removed from the Boulevard south of N.E. 64th Street.

Haskins' chief competitor in the District 2 Commission seat race, Frank Rollason, cited N.E. 13th to 15th Streets – where as head of the Omni Community Redevelopment Agency he helped change plans mid-construction to accommodate decorative lighting around the new Carnival Center – in support of the idea that nothing is set in stone until it's, well, set in stone.

Other residents asked for a left turn signal into Belle Meade and one into Morningside at N.E. 50th Terrace. Peter Ehrlich, a Lemon City property-owner vocal on issues of land-use related to Miami 21, asked for a sign on the east side of Biscayne at N.E. 69th Street pointing to his neighborhood of Bayside.

Ammons concluded the public information session with, "That concludes our little dog and pony show," but now that this key phase is being delayed, more animal tricks may remain to be seen. Residents and business-owners with thoughts on the project should contact Herbert Ammons at 305-333-3347 or by email at hammons_biscayneblvd@yahoo.com.

Steven K. Baird, P.A. Attorney at Law

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Adding to and Preserving Our Tree Canopy

Two Organizations Helping Miami Breathe

By Priscilla Arias
BBT Contributing Writer

Have you noticed how fantastic the Boulevard north of N.E. 87th Street looks now that those gorgeous palm trees have been planted? The time it took to complete felt like an eternity, but the end result is well worth it. One thing many of you may have not noticed, however, is the lack of trees – specifically shade trees – throughout the county’s urban areas.

Miami may have palm tree-lined boulevards, but the city’s tree cover averages only 10 percent, according to an ecological analysis conducted in 1996 by American Forests. That number may have improved since then, thanks in part to nonprofit programs such as the Miami-Dade Adopt-A-Tree Program and Coconut Grove’s Tree-Man Trust.

The Adopt-A-Tree Program is held yearly during the summer, and its purpose is to donate trees to responsible local homeowners in an effort to promote a substantial tree cover throughout Miami-Dade County. This organization has given away almost 100,000 trees since it’s inception in 2001, and is slowly but surely raising much needed awareness about the county’s meager tree canopy. The program’s great success is due to the participation of the thousands of residents who have adopted trees over the years. Why not contribute to your community and the



Miami-Dade Adopt-a-Tree
www.miamidade.gov/derm/adoptatree/home.asp
The Tree-Man Trust
www.treemantrust.org

environment by adopting a tree for free?

The only prerequisite to participate is that you must be a homeowner within Miami-Dade County. Renters, though, may adopt with written permission from the property-owner. You must also register by bringing proof of homeownership and an I.D. to the program site.

A separate yet equally important organization is the

Grove Tree-Man Trust. As opposed to Miami-Dade County’s program, which aims to increase its tree canopy, Coconut Grove’s Tree-Man Trust is dedicated to *preserving* its distinctly lush tree canopy by educating the public on the “proper care and protection of these trees,” and by urging developers and individual homebuilders to think twice before cutting them down and instead consider alternatives.

This organization is partly responsible for saving the trees that were knocked down last year by Hurricane Wilma’s violent winds. It’s anyone’s guess just how many trees were replanted and saved by the volunteers of the Trust, but take a look at the Grove now and you can hardly tell a hurricane passed through it.

These two organizations have had a tremendous impact on the city’s tree coverage and are only growing stronger. Taking this into consideration, the BBT suggests these programs join forces and work together to create a new organization that both donates trees and educates their recipients on how to plant and care for them properly. The Tree-Man Trust, or at least the concept, should expand to cover all of Miami-Dade County and not just Coconut Grove, so that all trees, old and new, are taken care of and fought for when developers want to cut them down. Because saving the world one tree at a time doesn’t just mean planting more trees, but preserving those we already have.

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BOULEVARD BRIEFS

Miami City Commission News & Notes

The Issue That Wouldn't Die: Class 2 Permit Notifications

"There have been issues with Class 2 permits," said District 4 Commissioner Tomas Regalado at the Oct. 12 commission meeting. "Some people have not been able to take action on projects that affect their quality of life... The building boom has affected so many lives... [and] all they want is information."

The City of Miami, however, seems to be responding to the cry for information, which in recent months has moved from the mouths of irate citizens to those on the dais. The Planning Department now posts/updates Class 2 permit information daily on its website (permit applications are up to a staggering 600 a year), and the city's public access television station conducted public service announcements throughout October explaining how citizens can find out about them.

Wendy Stephan, head of the Buena Vista East Historic Neighborhood Association, was again before commissioners to advocate better and more transparent conveyance of public information on construction projects.

Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones feels this issue is particularly significant to her constituents in District 5, where poverty, a lack of education and language barriers often work against citizens, leaving them uninformed of – and ill-equipped to challenge – projects that could have a potentially negative effect on their lives.

"Developers are not going to extend courtesy notices to people they know will object," she said.

A speaker on behalf of developers' interests, however, contended that notifications are mandatory and subject to a rigorous verification process to ensure all addresses within the 500-foot radius are contacted – a process overseen by developers, not the city.

"We've been saying 'One city, one future,'" said Regalado, "but people wake up and see a building going up... People here welcome development, they just want to know about it. We can change the code – we change it every day."

Spence-Jones and District 2 Commissioner Linda Haskins echoed Regalado's exasperation with the situation. Haskins acknowledged the perceived 'conspiracy' and lack of care on the city's end, noting, "People are getting very distrustful of government."

"The more the public is left out, the more this distrust grows," Regalado said in closing. "It makes the work in this city more difficult for everyone."

After staring at the ceiling for much of the discussion, District 3 Commissioner Joe Sanchez expressed impatience before ushering the meeting along to the next item.

~ ~ ~

Little Haiti Soccer Park Funding Boosted

The City Commission approved a funding increase to the design-build agreement with Recreational Design and Construction, Inc. for the Little Haiti Soccer Park and Recreational Center in order to accommodate "unforeseen conditions and owner-requested changes," increasing the agreement from \$5.7 million to \$8 million. One of the two major compo-

nents to the forthcoming 9-acre Little Haiti Park now under construction (the cultural center on N.E. 2nd Avenue), the soccer park and recreational facility are slated for completion by May 2007. The entire \$32 million project will occupy space between N.E. 2nd and 4th Avenues, from N.E. 59th Street to 64th Terrace.

~ ~ ~

Zoning Board News

Two significant items went before the Zoning Board at Miami City Hall this past month. On Oct. 16, Legion of Doom, LLC, the new owners of what was once Grass at 28 N.E. 40th St. in the Design District, faced Doubting Thomases on both sides of dais as they made their case for a special exception to allow their "supper club" to operate until 5 a.m.

Louis Terminello, on behalf of Anthony Capano and the four other men who bought the property back in April and have invested some \$5 million into it, volunteered the testimony of noise experts to convince the Board and neighbors that this newest incarnation won't be at all like Grass, which garnered complaints despite a similar vow to provide subdued nighttime entertainment.

Wendy Stephan, head of the Buena Vista East Historic Neighborhood Association, and Evelyn Andre, who recently succeeded Susan Braun as president of the Buena Vista Heights Homeowners Association, both spoke against the special exception.

The Board was similarly skeptical, saying they've heard promises from nightclub owners about noise control before, and inevitably they're broken. After a fair amount of back-and-forth, the item was granted a continuance until November, before which time Legion of Doom and their lawyers are to negotiate a compromise with neighborhood leaders.

At that same meeting, a long-pressing issue in the Oakland Grove neighborhood had its day. A large plot of land fronting the Little River, at 399 N.E. 82nd Ter., which came before the Board carrying a 7-0 denial recommendation from the Planning Advisory Board, negative media attention and vocal opposition from neighborhood leaders, was given a 5-1 denial recommendation for its bid to rezone from R-1 Single-Family Residential to R-3 Multifamily Medium-Density Residential.

After several continuances over recent months, A. Vicky Garcia-Toledo, an oft-seen legal face at City Hall, made her case on behalf of owner Katia Traikos, but in the end it wasn't enough to stem the tide of opposition, which didn't want valuable waterfront green-space to turn into what they deemed an overly dense and out-of-scale housing development. Despite these two major denial recommendations, the rezoning bid will go before the City Commission in the near future.

~ ~ ~

Downtown Miami Shores Survey Underway

In lieu of improvements slated to occur over the next four years, the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce has taken the reigns of public opinion by organizing a survey, available both



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Boulevard Briefs

Continued from page 15

in print and online, to gain insight into what residents envision for the future of N.E. 2nd Avenue in downtown Miami Shores.

Widened sidewalks, upgraded landscaping with irrigation, well-designed lampposts and signage, and reduced traffic lanes in off-peak hours are some of the proposed improvements. The completion of Shores Theater improvements, which the BBT wrote about this past spring, will be marked by a Nov. 11 ribbon-cutting ceremony, symbolically commencing what residents, Shores politicians and business-owners hope will be a downtown renaissance.

The survey is available online at www.miamishores.com or in paper form at the Chamber of Commerce, 9701 N.E. 2nd Ave. in Miami Shores.

~ ~ ~

Miamians United for Public Space

There is a new organization forming in Miami to better represent residents at City Hall and combat the influence of special interest parties like real estate developers. The group's temporary name is Miamians United for Public Space, and its committees are set to include Preserving Our Parks, Public Access to Our Shoreline, Public Plazas, Bus Shelters, Billboards, Sidewalks and the Greening of Miami.

To learn more, email KeepParksGreen@aol.com with your position on green issues in Miami and what you might be able to contribute to the cause. This is a good way to collectively influence future policy moves in a city ranked last in the nation for per capita greenspace.

~ ~ ~

79th Street Study Delayed

After a heated meeting between Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) representatives and Upper Eastside residents, held on Oct. 9 at Legion Park by the Shorecrest Homeowners Association, a vote on funding for a proposed study by the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization was bumped from the County Commission's Oct. 26 agenda.

The study will examine options to address problems along N.E. 79th Street, including re-striping the road to two lanes in each direction, lane-width changes, median landscaping and additional traffic lights.

Before the Oct. 9 presentation was fully underway, District 2 Interim Commissioner, Linda Haskins, expressed her dissatisfaction with FDOT's handling of public notice: "We need real notification. This is not fair."

Alice Bravo, FDOT's district environmental management engineer, ensured those present that notices were sent out in the mail, but several in the crowd insisted they had not received any. Notification logistics aside, Haskins also argued against the meeting

being held on Columbus Day, a federal holiday, and said, "People are not feeling like their voices are getting heard."

If the meeting itself is any indication, residents and business-owners of Miami's Upper Eastside are eager to provide input about the project. FDOT is looking at several alternatives to help remedy the difficulties posed by the layout of N.W./N.E. 79th, 81st and 82nd Streets, from N.W. 13th Court to Biscayne Bay.

The greatest concern expressed at the meeting was the alarming speed at which drivers are currently traveling. While business-owners along the 79th Street Corridor worry that potential customers are too hurriedly swept along to consider stopping and purchasing so much as a cup of coffee, residents of 82nd Street complained about living on a residential street-cum-superhighway, as drivers coming off the Kennedy Causeway are diverted through their neighborhood at high speeds on their way to I-95.

While many were eager to hear about possible solutions, few seemed convinced that FDOT's proposals would provide a substantial enough improvement. FDOT suggested adding landscape buffers and slimming lanes to discourage speeding, but business-owners, hesitant to give up the first 15 feet of their properties, resisted the idea. Rafael Marrero-Aristy, who works with a new 79th Street gallery called Artists in the Middle, suggested adding a traffic light or two now to test solutions before committing to an expensive public study. But Bravo maintained such measures would be cost-prohibitive.

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Boulevard Briefs

Continued from page 16

Six New Volunteers on Shores Board

Six new board members were nominated by the Director Nominating Committee, along with three current board members, and all have been elected to full, three-year terms on the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors.

Selected as new directors are Ann Paton, vice-president for institutional advancement at Barry University; Tammy Austin, president of Doctors Charter School Parent Teacher Association; Eric Kuhnke, owner of Tiki Botique; Madeleine Romanello, a broker with Arcadia Real Estate; Becky Ostendurp, owner of 9 to 5 Redesign, LLC; and Mark Piper, with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network.

Miami 21 Update

Luciana L. Gonzalez, special project's coordinator for the City of Miami Planning Department, said that the Miami 21 team is currently in the process of developing the actual code that will become the zoning order and posting documents for public review on the Miami 21 website, www.miami21.org.

The Planning Department, she said, is not yet moving towards adoption of the East Quadrant, but will ideally begin to do so during the first quarter of 2007.

Concerning proposals for N.E. 79th Street, Gonzalez said Miami 21 has chosen a T6-80 transect zone. This zoning allows developers to build eight stories with the option to build up to four additional ones. She noted, though, that the ability to construct these additional stories depends on the lot size and that developers will have to pay an additional amount for every extra square foot. The City of Miami

will use this money for parking, preservation, affordable housing, and parks and open spaces.

The Planning Department intends to hold a public meeting on Miami 21's progress toward the end of December.

Fire Fee Update

In March of this year, Judge Peter Lopez ordered each former plaintiff in the fire fee suit to pay back their portion of the \$7 million settlement, which Lopez voided. But that order, said Patrick Scott, one of the attorneys representing the current plaintiffs, is being appealed.

The appellate court has ruled that the former plaintiffs have to post a bond, so there has been a motion by the City of Miami to set the appropriate bond. The hearing will be held on November 15 at 9:30 a.m.

There is another matter at stake in the ongoing case. The plaintiffs' original complaint only contested fiscal years 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 but has since been allowed to include all fiscal years. The City of Miami, however, is now calling to dismiss all fiscal years from 1999 to 2006. The city, said Scott, is claiming that the statute of limitations has run on fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2004-2005, and that the fire fee collected for 2005-2006 was legal.

But Scott maintains it *isn't* legal, noting the Supreme Court ruling which held that an ordinance imposing a special assessment for emergency medical services was unconstitutional.

"That's exactly what [those involved in the former settlement] were trying to do by paying [the original plaintiffs] and keeping them quiet," he said. A hearing to decide what fiscal years the plaintiffs can contest will be held on November 20 at 10 a.m.

Free Parking at Midtown... Nope!

With commercial elements of Midtown Miami starting to open to the public, many have been surprised by one unexpected fact: After an hour, Target starts charging patrons to park in their garage, which was paid for with \$170 million in public funds. While store officials are trying to improve the situation, Developers Diversified Realty, who own and operated the 600,000-plus square feet of retail space at Midtown, are charging parking fees in order to pay the City and County governments back for the large investment of public funds.

City Attorney Nets Prestigious Post Despite Shaky Year

Jorge L. Fernandez, City Attorney for the City of Miami, has been appointed Chair of the American Bar Association's Government and Public Sector Lawyer's Division. The American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional association in the world, with

more than 400,000 members.

The Government and Public Sector Lawyer's Division provides representation within the ABA for government and public sector lawyers, who make up one-sixth of the legal profession. As this year's Chair, Fernandez will represent thousands of public attorneys.

"I am truly honored to have been appointed by my colleagues and will do my best to ensure that the voice of public practitioners is heard and that they are provided with the latest information available on a myriad of issues including government attorney-client privilege and pro-bono work," he said.

This is a surprising announcement to say the least, as Fernandez has been under fire for the last year for his role in the fire fee fiasco. The Florida Bar Association has been investigating Fernandez and former Assistant City Attorney Charles Mayes since March, along with fellow attorneys Mayor Manny Diaz and Hank Adorno, counsel to the seven plaintiffs who walked away with \$7 million in taxpayers' money.

The situation also sparked criticism of Fernandez's significant pay-raise, which despite the controversy now tops \$240,000, making him the highest paid employee at the City of Miami.



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Boulevard Corridor Business News

Majestic Properties Nets Top National Ranking

Majestic Properties has been named the fastest-growing, privately held, full-service real estate company in the United States in *Inc. Magazine's* 25th annual "Inc. 500" list. In all industries nationwide, Majestic Properties ranks No.182, with a three-year growth of 641.9 percent.

In addition to its *Inc.* ranking, Majestic is also one of South Florida's largest privately owned real estate companies. Founded in 1995 by Jeff Morr, the company has more than 300 sales professionals fluent in over 10 languages and specializing in residential and commercial real estate sales and leasing. The Majestic Collection, the company's sales and marketing division, specializes in positioning and sales of new construction condominiums and conversions.

Two new additions are Majestic at Home, an ultra-modern furniture showroom and design studio, and Genesys Funding, a cutting-edge mortgage lender providing construction and end loans.

According to Majestic, CEO Jeff Morr introduced into the market several design innovations now considered standard practice, including rooftop swimming pools and private terraces, deep living balconies and plasma wall divisions with full-height sliding doors to separate rooms, rather than traditional full walls.

"If you want to find out which companies are going to change the world, look at the Inc. 500," said *Inc.* editor Jane Berentson. "These are the most innovative, dynamic, fast-growth companies in the nation, the ones coming up with solutions to some of our most intractable ills, creating systems that let us conduct business faster and easier, and manufacturing products we soon discover we can't live without."

The 2006 "Inc. 500" list measures revenue growth from 2002 to 2005. To qualify, companies had to be U.S.-based, privately held independents – not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies – as of December 31, 2005, and have at least \$600,000 in net sales in the base year.

~ ~ ~



Majestic founder Jeff Morr.

Biscayne Centre Opens Sales Center on Premise

A new sales center is now open on the premise of Biscayne Centre, SMK Cape Horn Development Group's office condominium located at 11900 Biscayne Blvd. in North Miami. South Beach-based Urbanica Group is designing the 1,000-square-foot sales office, in addition to performing all the renovations on the 156,000-square-foot Class-A office building.

When renovations are complete, Biscayne Centre will be an eight-story office complex pre-wired for smart technology. Attached to the main building is a five-story garage with 450 parking spaces. Exterior renovations include additional lighting, glass and metal cladding to the façade, and on the interior, a fiber optic network. Lobby renovations include refurbished travertine floors, walls and ceilings, tenant signage and new carpeting on each floor. The common areas will be furnished in contemporary fashion.



An artist's rendering of the Biscayne Center lobby.

The office-condos range in size from 1,000 to 25,000 square feet, and are priced from the mid \$200Ks. Biscayne Centre is situated on the west side of Biscayne Boulevard in the City of North Miami and offers access to all strategic points in Miami-Dade County.

For more information, call Jennifer Alvarez or Daniel Gutt at 305-893-6196 or visit www.biscaynecentre.com.

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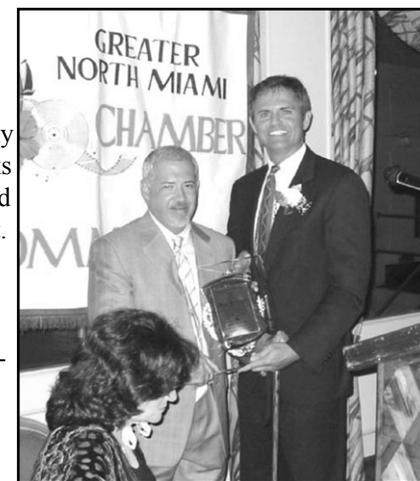
Boca Developers Named "Big Business of the Year"

Boca Developers was named the "Big Business of the Year" by the Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual awards banquet on Oct. 5. Jeff Scott, Boca Developers' divisional president for the Biscayne Landing project, received the award on behalf of the company and offered brief remarks to thank the chamber and its members at the event.

Boca Developers recently celebrated the "topping out" of construction of the first condominium towers in the new 193-acre master-planned community in North Miami.

"Biscayne Landing represents one of the most significant and

Continued on page 20



Jeff Scott, left, divisional president of Biscayne Landing, accepts the award at the North Miami Chamber of Commerce from Councilman Scott Galvin.

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Business Briefs

Continued from page 18

highly anticipated new communities in all South Florida,” said Scott. “The community epitomizes the potential for public/private partnerships to create landmark new residential and commercial real estate opportunities, and we hope that it serves as a model for other cities and developers to follow.”

Biscayne Landing, Boca Developers’ flagship community, is located along Biscayne Boulevard and N.E. 151st Street. Set against the backdrop of an adjacent 2,000-acre nature preserve, the largest urban master-planned community in Miami-Dade County will include 6,000 luxury condominiums, townhomes, villas and lofts surrounding a town center. Designed by Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn, the center will be the hub of the community, with 200,000 square feet of offices, retail shops, a fitness center and hotel. As part of their public/private partnership with the City of North Miami, Boca Developers will also assist in the construction of affordable housing within city limits as well as an Olympic training facility and a new library.

Additional information about Biscayne Landing is available by calling 954-418-0208 or visiting www.bocadevelopers.com.

~ ~ ~

**Playne Jane Boutique
Opens in NoMi: Ain’t
Nothing Plain About Jane**

Playne Jane is a specialty store that carries its own clothing line – Oliver Place Designs – catering to today’s modern women. At this quaint boutique, owned and operated by Martha Hernandez, one can purchase hip styles as well as classic staples at very low prices, in keeping with their motto:

Pretty, chic and cheap.

Playne Jane’s secret is in-house designs made with handpicked fabrics, giving customers unique items that won’t break the bank, a place where a fashionista can have a shopping spree on a shoestring budget. Stop by and help Playne Jane celebrate a November to remember, at 713 N.E. 125th St. in North Miami; for more info call 305-895-4155.

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**Commercial Space
for Sale at Kubik**



An artist’s rendering of Kubik.

Kubik, a residential loft development on the Upper East Side, has released 17 commercial spaces for sale totaling 38,936 square feet. Square footage for individual units ranges from 1,200 to 9,000 square feet, with prices from \$545 a square foot. Bi-level working spaces – some with patios – are available, as are ground-floor retail. The commercial component hopes to add to 55th Street Station, currently home to Andiamo’s Brick Oven Pizza.

“This is a prime location,” said Jose Camilo Lega, a principal of Lab Group Developers, the company behind Kubik, “being highly visible from Biscayne Boulevard and across from many already established shops and restaurants.”

At present, Kubik is the only new condominium project approved in the MiMo

Historic District. Construction was slated to begin last month and finish by spring 2008. LAB Realty, a division of Lab Group Developers, is handling sales from the sales office at 5582 N.E. 4th Ct., Suite 5. For more information, call 305-762-6100 or visit www.kubikspace.com.

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**Related Group’s ‘Attainable
Housing’ Project, Loft 3**



An artist’s rendering of Loft 3.

The Related Group has announced plans to build Loft 3, the third in their “Loft” series of urban high rises and the newest project from Related’s Attainable Housing Division. The tower will be located at 201 N.E. 2nd Ave., across from the Metromover and Miami-Dade College; three blocks from the courthouse; and just west of Biscayne Boulevard, near Bayfront Park and the American Airlines Arena.

Loft 3, designed by Cohen, Freedman, Encinosa & Associates, will stand 32 stories and include 495 residential units and approximately 15,000 square feet of ground-floor retail. To help combat the significant issue of unaffordable housing for many Miamians, Loft 3 will offer 70 percent of its units for less than \$300,000. Units start at \$159,000 with a five percent deposit.

The development aims to provide luxury urban living to a diverse resident population at affordable prices. Related is collaborating with the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County to inform civic employees about both the project and homeownership opportunities.

“Our success to date on the Loft projects is a clear indication of the

tremendous demand in the market among both the upwardly mobile and the workforce for a real live, work and play environment,” said Oscar Rodriguez, vice-president of development and head of the Attainable Housing Division for The Related Group.

The residences at Loft 3 will feature ten-foot-high ceilings; one and two-bedroom floor plans; terrazzo countertops and energy-efficient stainless steel appliances. Baths will include Italian cabinetry and marble vanities, and walk-in closets and balconies will be standard features.

Loft 3 will have amenities including manned security 24 hours a day; high-speed elevators; a heated swimming pool and wet bar on the 28th floor recreation deck; spa, sauna, clubroom, and fully equipped fitness center with cardio theater and separate weight training area; a great room; and outdoor barbeque area.

The Loft 3 sales center is located at 201 N.E. 2nd Ave. in Miami. For more information on Loft 3, visit www.loft3downtown.com or call 305-371-5638. But you’d better act fast – 75 percent of the units sold out in four days.

~ ~ ~

**Fendi Casa and Luminaire
Expand in Design District**

Fendi Casa, the fashion house’s home-ware division, and Luminaire are expanding their respective showrooms in the Design District. Fendi Casa, located at 90 N.E. 39th St., will be taking additional space in the Laverne Building, while Luminaire is relocating to the first floor of the Newton Building, at 3901 N.E. 2nd Ave.

Fendi’s nearly doubling its showroom to 13,000 square feet, making their Design District location the largest Fendi Casa in the world. The expansion should be completed by November 2007 to coincide with the launch of a new indoor/outdoor furniture collection.

Meanwhile, Luminaire’s move to a 7,500-square-foot space in the Newton Building should happen by January 2007. With almost double their current floor space, the new showroom will display new lines including Boffi, Agape, Cappellini, Edra, Established & Sons and Puma Black Station label.

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Continued on page 26

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BISCAYNE CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Derek McCann from Actual City of Miami Police Reports

Skateboard Dog Kidnapping Sparks Inquiry

500-Block of N.E. 67th St.

Victim reported she secured her pure-breed Husky in his pen on the porch of her home. When she awoke the next morning, the cage was empty and her pure-breed gone. Victim told police the dog, about 10 years old, does not have the physical capability to jump the front fence and that she suspected foul play: A disheveled teenager on a skateboard had complimented her on the dog the previous evening. Fortunately, the dog has a microchip surgically implanted inside him. At press time, there is no indication that the dog has been returned to its rightful owner, nor has the skateboarder resurfaced.

Desperate Weed-Eater Thief Caught Red-Handed

Bell Meade

Plain clothed officer observed the defendant walk up to the rear of a Blue Dodge pick-up truck. The man promptly pulled out a weed-eater from the back of the vehicle. When approached, the thief threw the weed-eater back into the truck and ran from the scene. When apprehended by the officer, the man, who goes by the name Cisco, admitted to being desperate and that he was responsible for the majority of weed-eater robberies in the area. He also offered that a man by the name of Nassau runs a prostitution and drug ring in the neighborhood in the hope he would get a lighter sentence. This case, according to the police report, was closed by the man's immediate arrest.

Caveat Emptor Part III

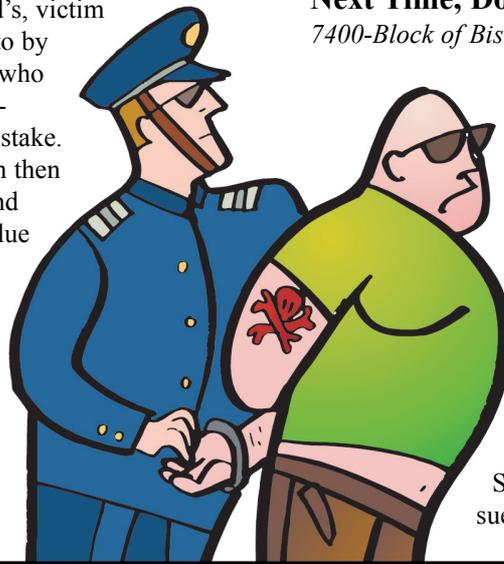
Bayside

Victim had hired a recovering drug addict to do work on her home. The man did not have any certification and to the victim's knowledge, no business registered in the State of Florida. Nevertheless, she inexplicably wired the recovering addict over \$50,000 then waited for the man to do the work. After several weeks of no contact, she notified police. The would-be contractor was also observed by a neighbor removing items from the condo the prior week. Police determined this was a civil matter, since the victim had voluntarily wired the money to the addict. The case was subsequently closed.

A Plaintive Call for a Social Security Check Increase

Biscayne Blvd. and N.E. 81st Street

While waiting in line at the local McDonald's, victim was bumped into by an elderly man who profusely apologized for his mistake. The elderly man then left the scene and drove off in a blue Ford Focus. After ordering his meal the victim noticed his wallet was gone. No arrests have been made.



CRIME BEAT
Compiled from City of Miami Police Reports

Could it have been the BBT?

Buena Vista

Man had become increasingly frustrated by a mysterious person stealing his newspaper. After a month of frustration he decided to tie the newspaper to a hanging bell in the hope he would catch the thief in the act. He did... the day after he saw two people running away with his newspaper. He followed them to their apartment and threatened to call the police. It is unknown at press time what newspaper it was. But, for the record, the Biscayne Boulevard Times is still free and can be found at numerous locations across the Biscayne Corridor.

Shameless Crook Punks Disabled Man

Morningside

A disabled elderly man had recently hired a housekeeper to take care of his affairs. One morning, he gave his attendant his ATM card and pin number and asked her to take out \$150 for groceries. The attendant returned with his money, but the disabled man later discovered she had taken out \$400. When the man asked his now fired attendant to return the money, the attendant refused telling the victim, "I don't owe you nothing." Unfortunately, this shameless vulture

gave a bogus address to the victim and police have been unable to track her down.

Next Time, Don't Take the Bus

7400-Block of Biscayne Blvd.

Man had ridden his bicycle to the bus stop and rested on the bench, with his bike leaning against a pole. Without warning or provocation, a shirtless man in black spandex shorts jumped on the bike and rode it down Biscayne, making a right on N.E. 74th Street. The victim pursued him but could not

keep up as he helplessly saw the man ride his blue Huffly mountain bike down

74th Street. To add insult to injury, the man missed his bus.

Tree Hugger Suspected in Early Morning Robbery

Palm Bay

Victim had put out his green City of Miami garbage pail as well as his blue recycling bin on the street. The next morning, the green bin was still present, but the blue recycling bin was missing. Allegedly, a neighbor had witnessed a young woman, driving an old Ford Escort filled with garbage, get out of her car, then push the bin, unsuccessfully, into her trunk. She drove off, leaving the bin in the middle of the street. It is unknown if the young woman returned later that morning. If anything, Boulevard denizens should be reminded to: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Clean Underwear a Big Commodity

Design District

Victim was doing his laundry and walked away from the machine for an hour. Later, he discovered that the door to his dryer had been opened. Upon looking inside the machine, he noticed that all of his underwear was missing; the thief did not take anything else. There was a pair

of underwear left on the ground, 20 feet away from the dryer, apparently dropped when the underwear thief made his reckless escape. There are no suspects.

One Night Stand Leads to Big Score

Omni

Man had brought home a "strange woman" from a nightclub back to his apartment. According to the police report, victim had "wanted to get laid." Victim stated that both participants drank heavily and were, admittedly, very drunk. Man would eventually pass out on the sofa and did not awake till late morning. The strange woman was gone, as was nearly \$10,000 worth of items: jewelry, laptop computer and an antique clock, amongst other high-valued pieces.

Wannabe Handicapped Crook Steals Permit

100-Block of N.E. 24th St.

Handicapped man had parked his car in its usual location. However, the next day he found his passenger side window broken and his handicapped parking decal gone. No other items were taken.

Even Crooks Must Prepare For Hurricanes

Omni

Man's garage door had been compromised with a crowbar. Ten canisters of propane and a propane grill were taken, as well as several pieces of plywood. Two men were seen placing the items inside a large white van, with the word "repair" sprayed on the side.

A Perfect Case for PETA

Belle Meade

Police responded to a report of a robbery at a residence's back cottage. When they arrived they heard someone rummaging in the supposedly vacant cottage. They gave chase when they saw a wiry man running from the location. The K-9 unit was called in and the man was stopped. However, he did not cooperate with the arrest. He yelled out, "Get this f***ing dog away from me." He then kicked and punched the dog in the chest. The stunned dog did not falter, and proceeded to bite the animal-hater in several sensitive places. Man was arrested and taken to the hospital for the bites. Fortunately the pugnacious dog suffered no injuries.



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BAL HARBOUR	The Mirador, 1/1 w/ bay & downtown vu, \$379K. Carolyn Espasas 305-494-8851	\$139,9K, very large 1/1 in California Club, lake vu, close to Aventura. Vadim Vaynshtok 305-333-9185
Reduced \$25K, Plaza of Bal Harbour, high fl, on ocean, pool, gym, valet. Susan Norton 305-610-5897	1/1 in south Beach, fully remodeled, lots of windows & storage \$264K. Sheri Shoup 305-753-9213	RENT charming 3/1 home in Westchester area, new hurricane panels, tile flrs, large yard, \$1,500/mo. Carolyn Espasas 305-494-8851
DANIA BEACH	2192 Alton Road (handy man special), Rosi Segarra 954-394-4616	NORTH MIAMI
Large 3/2.5/2, a California style home, over 1/2 acre pool, \$831K. Carolyn Espasas 305-494-8851	6423 Collins Ave, huge 2/2, oceanview unit, sale \$630K or lease \$2,300/mo. Carolyn Espasas 305-494-8851	Keystone Point, 4/3 waterfront, REDUCED, \$1,285M, remodeled. Carmen Dmiczadk 305-962-8979
DORAL	RENT - 6423 Collins Ave, ocean front, 3/2, \$3,500/mo. Carolyn Espasas 305-494-8851	Keystone Point, family home 3/3, waterfront beauty, pool, dock, spacious living area, 75 ft on water. \$1,150M. Carolyn Espasas 305-494-8851
Townhouse 2/2.5 new kitchen, tiles, golf view, all remodeled. Stelia Carvajal 305-505-5122	MIAMI SHORES	Spacious 3/2.5 Monterrey Townhouse, golf vu, \$235K. Rachelle Carter 305-409-1598
HALLANDALE	Investor Dream, income producing, 3/2 on one side & 3/1 on the other, \$669,9. Melissa L. Lewis 786-499-6575	OTHER COUNTIES
REDUCED, \$390K, east of US1, 3/2 + florida room. Terri Cantu 305-490-0049	50 NE 110 Beautiful tropical pool home, reduced to \$595K. Denise August 305-790-8307	Boca Raton - \$359,9K, very large house w/ florida room. Vadim Vaynshtok 305-333-9185
LAUDERDALE BY THE SEA	3/2 w/ pool, reduced for quick sale \$569K. Denise August 305-790-8307	Boca Raton - \$109,9K, 2/1.5 Century Village, move-in condition, corner unit. Vadim Vaynshtok 305-333-9185
3/2.5 in a great location, seller very motivated. Ashley Torssaint 786-487-7886	9250 N. Bayshore Dr, over 2,650 sf, selling under appraised value. Melissa L. Lewis 786-499-6575	Lehigh Acres - 6.38 acre building, 10 per acre \$1.5M. Suzanne Fine 305-866-0500
Lovely 1/1.5 just remodeled, new kitchen, corner unit. Rosi Segarra 954-394-4616	COMMERCIAL	Ocala - 63 +/- acres, site plan for 225 units \$5M. Suzanne Fine 305-866-0500
SUNNY ISLES BEACH	Excellent investment opportunity, Jerry & Joe's Pizzeria, franchise inside of gas station, \$63,5K. Oskar Zarate 786-317-2060	Port La Belle - Land, 12,196 sf, close to schools, church, golf course, beautiful lot. Stelia Carvajal 305-505-5122
2/2 amazing direct bay vu, \$380K. Israel Pellot 305-582-1744	Miami - Real opportunity, video club in Little Havana, years in business, low investment, high profits, easy to operate (owner will train). Gustavo Turtula 786-234-0543	Sebring - 20 acres, OK to build 180 units \$4,6M. Suzanne Fine 305-866-0500

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Crime

Continued from page 1

the fact that neither the police nor the CSI were able to find fingerprints or any other useful evidence in her home.

Another Shorecrest resident who also wished to remain anonymous is less hopeful. She has lived near N.E. 85th Street for about 22 years and claims burglaries, drugs and car thefts occur "sporadically" in the neighborhood. Only recently, however, has she feared what she considers surging gang activity. About a month ago, the woman's daughter and a group of friends were out near Biscayne Bay when one of their male acquaintances was physically assaulted. About three weeks ago, the perpetrators were seen strolling near her yard. "I am concerned," the woman said, adding that she no longer lets her daughter out alone.

"I don't know how the police handle their business, [and] I don't want to say anything negative, [but] these guys are getting away with murder," she said, unsatisfied with the Metro-Dade Police response, which she deemed too slow. Although she feels more attention is needed, the woman added that police are already aware of the recent troubles and more policing might not be the solution.

When asked what information he could provide on possible gang activity around N.E. 85th Street, Cmdr. Magnusson was quick to assert, "It's not a gang," instead referring to the group as "a bunch of thugs" calling themselves The Zombies. State statute defines what constitutes a street gang, and these so-called Zombies do not fit the bill. Nonetheless, Cmdr. Magnusson ensured the BBT that he and his colleagues are taking the matter very seriously.

"We've been out there in great force," he said.

The specific plan of attack has been dubbed Operation Trident, which is a three-tiered approach utilizing on-duty, off-duty and city resources to combat the criminal activity in three areas, two within Little Haiti and one in the Upper Eastside. Cmdr. Magnusson described the tactic as a flexible one that allows police to vary their focus as needed.

"Nothing's etched in stone," he said, but the overall goal is to deprive the "thugs" of their comfort zone by applying constant pressure.

Cmdr. Magnusson attributed part of the community anxiety to a desire for overt – not covert – action, but

acknowledged the obvious limitation: An officer cannot arrest someone who is just loitering, even if he or she believes that person is up to no good. But mere police presence, he said, helps to deter criminals.

This vigilance, according to him, takes several forms, including constant raids, setting up surveillance to keep an eye on suspected criminals, and more overt tactics such as setting up traffic stops and DUI road-blocks.

Some neighbors are beginning to notice an improvement. Peter Padowitz, a Shorecrest resident who has resided on N.E. 79th Street near Biscayne Bay for 30 years, feels that the MPD has become more efficient in pursuing crime over the last two or three years. A Palm Grove resident who wished to withhold his name said, "I actually think crime is a little bit down... break-ins are much slower than they've ever been."

But despite these apparent improvements, other residents gave the BBT a less than satisfied view of the area's current public safety situation. A Mr. Maldonado, who preferred to withhold his first name, is selling his home on N.E. 76th Street and moving out of the neighborhood because results "have not been delivered as eagerly as they were promised." Upset about not seeing more cops on the streets to combat prostitution in the area despite a raise in taxes, Maldonado called the circumstances "disheartening and disappointing."

Although his car, he said, has been broken into twice, he has not reported the crimes. "Last time I called them to report it," he said, "they told me to drive the car to them, [and] I thought, 'I'm not going to bother'."

Maldonado's comment is perhaps indicative of one possible reason for the gap between impressions and numbers. Richard Pleban, a Shorecrest resident and property-owner, feels certain that "crime reporting is down" because it is "not worth your effort" to go to the station for petty crimes.

Pleban is particularly dismayed by the emphasis on raising revenue for code enforcement. While violations are quickly identified and dealt with, he said,

"Crime remains unabated," leaving the community to suffer from the same fundamental problems. He insists that the focus is misplaced: "Are you here to protect and serve or to harass us?"

Marc Sarnoff, a Coconut Grove attorney who's running for Miami's District 2 Commission seat, shares Pleban's concern over police reports. NET (Neighborhood Enhancement Team) offices are no longer available as places where one can report nonviolent crime, and the nearest station for residents of the Upper Eastside is located at 1000 N.W. 62nd St., near

Liberty City. Sarnoff fears that declassification of crime and an inconvenient system for reporting is resulting in falsely encouraging figures, and suggested that the MPD's Assistant Chief Louis A. Vega, "has a history of knowing how to reduce statistics."

Napier Velazquez, a former dispatcher now with the MPD's public information office, described the history of crime-reporting procedures as an ever-

changing one: "Twenty-three years ago, they went out on everything."

The wait for service depended upon the urgency of the call, so to remedy long waits the police department allowed petty crime victims to report at the main station. But in-house backups forced them to offer call-ins as an option. Callers were again sent physically to stations, but two substations and NET offices had been added. NET offices still serve the communities in other ways, and so it was only a matter of time before someone asked, "Why did we ever stop letting people report crime there?"

At an October 20 debate between the candidates for the District 2 Commission seat, they were in nearly unanimous agreement that crime reporting at the NET offices should be reinstated. Frank Rollason garnered applause after stating, "We are hearing that crime is down, but the reality is no one is going to report it." Only Seth Sklarey believed the NET offices are unnecessary, but only because he feels they are "a joke."

"They turned out to be neighborhood Nazis," he

Continued on page 61

"We are hearing that crime is down, but the reality is no one is going to report it."

— Frank Rollason, candidate for District 2 Miami City Commissioner

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Business Briefs

Continued from page 20

Women's Diagnostic Imaging Project



Shaunie O'Neal and Ethel Blum-Dublin, president of the Founders of Mount Sinai, with Linda Gunn, national sales director of Pippo Italia Timepieces, showing off their favorite Pippo timepieces.

With Shaunie O'Neal as its honorary chair, The Cancer Lifeline officially launched its Women's Diagnostic Imaging Project during a cocktail party on Oct. 19 at La Gorce Country Club.

"Our goal is to raise \$500,000 to purchase advanced imaging equipment that will help in the early diagnosis

and treatment of cancer," said Marla Bergmann, president of Mount Sinai Medical Center Foundation. "The equipment includes two ultrasound scanners, two bone density scanners and a computer-aided detection system to enhance the quality of breast MRI studies.

Central to the campaign is award-winning Pippo Italia. The internationally acclaimed designer is providing 200 limited edition watches that are being sold for \$2,500 to raise funds for the project. Three watch styles are available, including two women's styles and one men's design. Individuals who purchase a watch will also receive a special gift provided by Estee Lauder.

"By teaming up with The Cancer Lifeline, Shaunie, Pippo Italia and Estee Lauder are helping bring attention to our effort to save countless lives and we are truly grateful," said Bergmann, who hosted the event with her husband, George.

For more information about the luncheon and on purchasing Pippo Italia timepieces in support of The Cancer Lifeline, please call 305-674-2777.

~ ~ ~

Quorum Network Partners With Carnival Center



Quorum showroom

Quorum Network has forged an alliance with the new Carnival Center for the Performing Arts. The relationship fuses two of Miami's burgeoning communities to form a relationship that fosters stability and economic growth in all of the city's sectors.

Quorum Network researches and analyzes historic, current and future market trends and tendencies, economic infrastructures, demographics, industry, government strategies and private investments, offering brokers and investors information available about developments in Miami and abroad. They function as a liaison between brokers, developers, government agencies and private entities. Through this, Quorum is able to offer developers a complete network of

local and international top-producing brokers.

"Quorum will help us build on the intrinsic relationship between the local real estate industry and the Center to create significant business partnerships between developers and their clients and the Center," said Michael Hardy, president and CEO of the Carnival Center.

This partnership, which developers are starting to utilize, marks Quorum's one-year anniversary. Cima, a forthcoming waterfront condo tower from NEO Development, has been the first to commit, offering its residents the all-inclusive Platinum Package, which includes first-choice seats at Carnival Center performances, early invitation to Carnival Center programs and special events, and VIP parking.

"Every sector and every developer... should use the Center and should be involved in what is quickly becoming the most important [cultural] institution in Miami," said Juan Carlos Pardo, Quorum Network's founder and president.

The new Quorum Network Center will soon open at 6400 Biscayne Blvd. For more information about the Quorum Network or the Alliance for the Carnival Center visit www.quorumnetwork.com or call 305-677-5030.

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Two Community Forums Showcase Candidates to Voters

Sifting Through the Policies of a Strong and Sometimes Vitriolic Bunch

By **Melissa Cueto**
BBT Staff Writer

On November 2, a special election will be held for a new District 2 Miami City Commissioner (granted suspended Commissioner Johnny Winton is not acquitted at his Nov. 6 trial).

The seven candidates are Placido Diaz, a real-estate investor and former Miami-Dade Police Officer; Maria “Betty” Gutierrez, Legislative Aide for Miami-Dade District 5 Commissioner; Linda M. Haskins, Interim District 2 City Commissioner; Michelet Philome; Frank K. Rollason, former executive director of two Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs); Marc David Sarnoff, attorney and president of the Center Grove Neighborhood Association; and Seth Sklarey, an attorney and former political editor for the Sun Reporter Newspaper and Coconut Grove Gazette.

All but Philome (despite our repeated efforts to contact him) were present at an Oct. 20 debate co-sponsored by the BBT and Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, and an Oct. 24 forum at Legion Park sponsored by the Shorecrest Homeowners Association.

Radio commentator Jim DeFede was on hand at the BBT’s debate to moderate and provide some much-needed humor, as simmering animosity between Haskins and Sarnoff boiled over into back-and-forth personal attacks.

Twice Sarnoff criticized Haskins about her campaign advertisements currently displayed at shelter-less bus stops along Biscayne Boulevard. He also suggested she should have turned down a pay raise: “When Linda Haskins got a \$13,000 bonus from the [former] City Manager [Joe Arriola], did she say, ‘No, I’ve made enough?’” Later, he spoke directly to Haskins: “You’re about to ask a bunch of people [firefighters and police] to cut their pension plans, and yet you’re going to be one of the biggest pension earners in all of the City of Miami.”

Haskins defended herself aggressively, stating that Sarnoff doesn’t know the city: “You know, the sound bites are great, but you never have your facts right. I don’t belong to the pension plan in the city – never have.”

By declaring “I love Many Diaz,” though, Haskins did nothing to dispel



Jim De Fede brought a touch of humor to an otherwise fiery debate. Catch him weekday mornings from 6 to 9 a.m. on AM 940.

the impression that she is not sufficiently distanced from the present administration to take a strong stance on behalf of the public if elected.

In an attempt to diffuse some of the tension on stage, DeFede opted for a new approach; for one round, each candidate could pose a question to a fellow candidate. This saw mixed results, since three of the candidates (Diaz, Gutierrez and Haskins) chose not to participate or to simply ask themselves a question, prompting long self-aggrandizing speeches.

At the Oct. 24 Legion Park forum, community members provided several poignant questions, but the overall atmosphere was more relaxed. Perhaps having learned a lesson from the BBT debate, candidates refrained from personal jabs and focused solely on their platforms.

Whatever the atmosphere, each candidate succeeded in detailing their stances on the relevant issues for District 2 at both events. Every candi-

date expressed a desire to reach a fair settlement in the fire fee suit as soon as possible and to eliminate the fee altogether: “A settlement needs to be a real settlement,” said Haskins.

“It’s got to be paid back with interest,” added Sklarey, while Diaz stressed the importance of accountability within the City Commission, stating, “There is no such thing as plausible deniability.”

Although all agreed that more aggressive measures are necessary to ensure that the “lucky seven” return their portions of the \$7 million settlement, Rollason noted that the process will take a long time – “Some people haven’t even been requested for the money” – and stated that priority should therefore involve reaching a new, just settlement.

Concerns about Miami 21 were also discussed at both the debate and the forum, and candidates were again in agreement, all saying they would consider a moratorium.

“I don’t have a problem with a mora-

torium so long as it’s legal,” said Haskins, who said she has encouraged public input by setting up meetings in which residents from District 2 neighborhoods can dialogue with Miami 21 representatives.

Gutierrez, however, felt more needed to be done: “Neighborhoods are in an uproar because their input is not being listened to.” Diaz echoed her reserve: “There are many issues [Miami 21] doesn’t address.”

Sklarey suggested Miami 21 should have greater flexibility and a long-term plan if it is to truly benefit the community. While no candidate opposed a moratorium, they all recognized an urgent need for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to complete construction on Biscayne Boulevard, especially this most recent – and delayed – phase, from N.E. 67th to 78th Streets.

Gutierrez said she would work closer with FDOT to ensure the project adheres to its deadline, but Rollason said the 18-month timetable is totally unacceptable. He also recommended providing grants for business-owners along the Boulevard who have been negatively impacted by the construction.

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Gutierrez, however, felt more needed to be done: “Neighborhoods are in an uproar because their input is not being listened to.”

Continued on page 62



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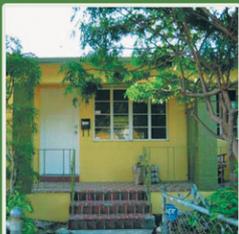
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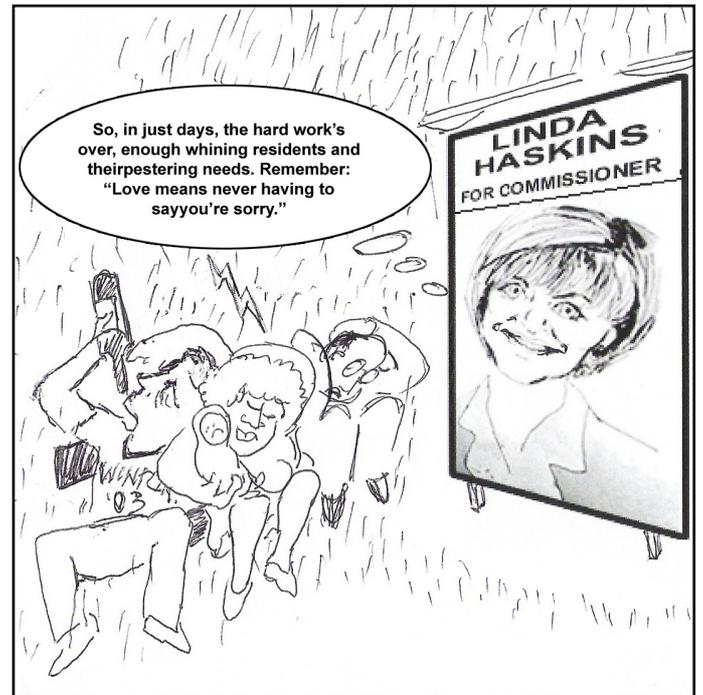
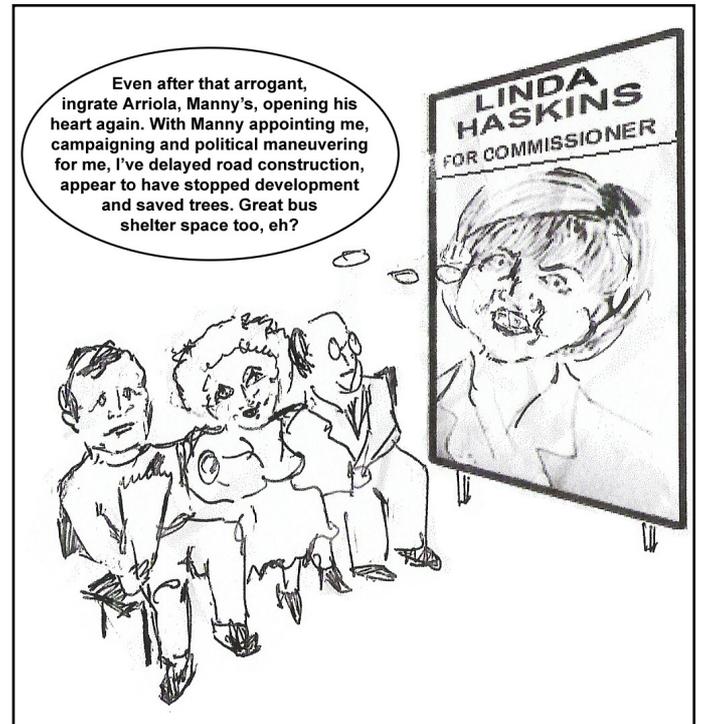
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NoMi Improvements: Trash Out, Garbage Cans In

By Jim W. Harper
BBT Contributing Writer

Concrete trash cans have been dumped by the City of North Miami in favor of green metal cylinders. The sidewalks have been scrubbed clean, and a few unwanted trees have been uprooted from central N.E. 125th Street.

More housekeeping is on the way for the city's business district as a part of its redevelopment plan. Phase two, pending approval by the county, will fund a master plan for improvements along West Dixie Highway, N.E. 125th Street and N.W. 7th Avenue.

"Things are going well," said Tony Crapp, executive director of the North Miami Community Redevelopment Agency, which is responsible for eliminating blight within the city. "Reactions have been all posi-

tive."

The changes will hopefully increase pedestrian traffic, and residents have been longing for their implementation, he added.



Tony Crapp, Executive Director of the North Miami Community Redevelopment Agency

The trees removed were considered a safety hazard, and will be replaced with palms. The hundreds of black birds that roosted in them nightly at the corner of N.E. 6th Avenue and 125th Street must now perch on wires above the missing trees or elsewhere.

Their removal is no problem to Debbie Graves, manager of Jimmy's Place on N.W. 7th Avenue, provided they are replaced. She is pleased with the new

garbage cans, but she would like to see the newsbins of free publications removed from the sidewalk adjacent to the diner.

"They use those as garbage cans," said



New receptacles: One way the City of North Miami is sprucing itself up. Photo courtesy of the North Miami CRA.

Graves. "I had 17 of them at one time."

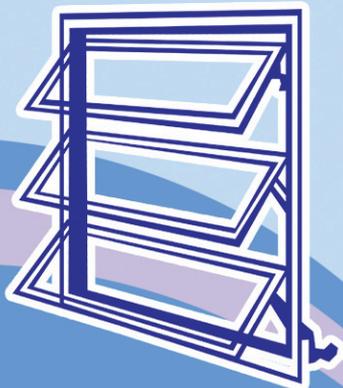
The city removed what it considers old-fashioned and unsightly concrete furniture from the sidewalks near the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) on 125th Street, where the plaza is also under construction.

The cost of the Commercial Corridor Improvement Program is estimated at \$431,000, which includes plans to hire three staff members to maintain the business corridors.

Small business or property owners along these corridors may apply for improvement grants worth up to \$80,000 per building. The initial application period closes on November 10.

Mayor Kevin Burns, who serves as the chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency, earns high marks from Graves: "The mayor is doing a great job, and I'd like to keep him. I've seen a lot of nice changes."

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For Better or Worse

Continued from page 1

since December 2005. However, when contacted by BBT, the owner was succinct: "I don't want to talk about it. Thank you."

"The Best Value Inn was before the board more than four times," said NAB Chairman Robert Valledor. "Sometime in the late 1990s, we wanted to close them down, but their lawyer proposed they would sue us on the grounds of lost income."

The appeal was based on St. Petersburg vs. Bowen, a case in which the NAB ordered the Lorraine Apartments closed for a period of one year. As a consequence of the ruling, Bowen was unable to put Lorraine Apartments to any economic use, and the property's market value was substantially diminished. In 1996, the case was brought to the Florida Supreme Court, and it was ruled that if the state, through the use of its police power, deprives an owner of an economically viable use of the property, then he/she must be compensated.

"That's why we decided to close only six units at the time," said Valledor, speaking about Best Value Inn. "But everybody was upset. The residents wanted blood. So, finally we closed the

place down for a full year."

According to Valledor, Best Value Inn appealed the case and asked for compensation for lost income. However, in 2000 the Florida Supreme Court ruled that the City of Miami doesn't have to compensate the owner if a motel must be shut down because it's overrun with prostitutes and drugs.

"Now, only the front story portion of the motel is open," said Valledor, adding that the owner, who was before board as recently as June, "is doing the best she can to prevent future crimes at the property." As part of an agreement with the board, the owner is required to evict tenants and devise a performance plan.

Another target of residents' grievances is Motel Blu, previously known as the Gold Dust Inn, at 7700 Biscayne Blvd. After more than 16 incident reports, the motel was headed to the NAB. It remained open, however, despite the disapproval of neighbors.

"The City attorney is the one who dropped the charges," said Valledor. "We are a quasi-judicial body that makes a decision after the hearing, but we are not the ones in power to file a complaint."

Motel Blu, owned by New York-based NYMI Enterprise, initially appeared before the board on March 20, but since

the owner's attorney Michael Addicott disputed the legality of the complaints and notifications, the board granted postponement. However, on June 19, Assistant City Attorney George Wysong said he needed stronger evidence to move ahead, so he dropped the case on the grounds the defendant was likely to appeal. Wysong could not be reached for comment.

"The NAB has not done its service," said Margaret Tynan, president of the Belle Meade Homeowners Association. "I am deeply disappointed with their decision. It was a complete fiasco. Others motels straightened up, but not Motel Blu. Their list of violations and complaints is very long."

It seems, however, that they're at least *trying* to shape up. According to Valledor, the owners started improvements immediately by closing voluntarily, changing personnel, tightening security and putting up lights.

"The case was dismissed," said manager Rony Shova, who's been at his post for four years. "We changed the rules. Besides IDs, guests must have a credit card. We don't work on a cash basis any more. Nobody wants trouble, but I'm not the police to do a criminal check on my guests. It's a motel; people come in and out. They can be arrested anywhere."

But Bob Powers, president of the Palm Grove Neighborhood Association, pointed to additional improvements that could change the neighborhood's face and image permanently, as well as the type of guests that stay at the motels:

"Most of the people bought cheap and don't want to put in the money and fix these motels. The owners say they have no money to fix the buildings. I don't know anybody who stays in business and makes no money. If you want to attract different customers, you must be willing to invest in the business and renovate."

He also believes that "there are plenty of grants to get, but the city doesn't provide programs that could teach the owners how to get a hold of that money."

Even without economic incentives, the once troubled Camelot Inn is a good example of how to keep prostitutes and drug dealers out of an establishment. Its owner, Dinesh Paliwal, appeared before the board eight times. He evicted most of his tenants, improved security, put up lights and even moved into the motel.

"I did everything I could to keep the bad guys out," said Paliwal. "My main concern now is the construction on the Boulevard, and how it will affect the businesses in the area."

The Camelot Inn was taken off the board's list of nuisances this past June.

Cmdr. Magnusson said that although on a day-to-day basis people hardly notice any change, the necessary elements for long-term change along the Boulevard are being set in motion. According to police statistics, burglaries and assaults in the area dropped by 20 percent in the last five years. Burglaries are down 30 percent.

But some motel owners feel that the pendulum has swung too far in the opposite direction. "We have been cleaned up," said a woman who identified herself as the owner of Biscayne Inn, but would not give her name. "Too much cleaned up!"

Biscayne Inn's former moniker, Star Dust, is a common sight in past NAB filings. The 57-unit inn was shut down for a year in 1992 by the NAB because of drug activity and prostitution. When it reopened, problems persisted. Several times between 1996 and 1997, the board ordered a partial closing, then again in 2001 and 2003. Meanwhile, the owners asked for reimbursement for the lost income, but under the 2000 Supreme Court ruling, Miami wasn't obliged to reimburse the losses.

"They are squeezing the soul out of the small businesses," said the motel's owner. "Now, the government wants this to be an historic district, but the city doesn't give us any incentives. No aid, no nothing! This is an historic district?! This is a piece of junk!" As far as the criminal activity in her lodging is concerned, she said: "I'm not their mother! I don't know!" before hanging up the phone.

Biscayne Inn has also over the past year been fined numerous times for failing to remove a large illegal billboard for Guinness beer hanging from its façade.

"We don't want the motel owners to get too comfortable," said Cmdr. Magnusson. "We have to keep them in check all the time because crooks are hanging around these motels like flies. Police constantly need to be aggressive by getting out of their cars, asking questions, checking IDs without patting on the back nonsense."

The Boulevard seems to be slowly shifting from a free-for-all to a legitimate business district, although many residents doubt that will ever happen.

"I don't see that much of a difference," said Patricia Germeus, a Palm Grove resident. "I still see the same elements and unsightly things. They just moved away from the main street to our backyards."

BBT

Visit BiscayneBoulevard.com to comment on this story. Or send an email to editorial@biscayneboulevard.com.

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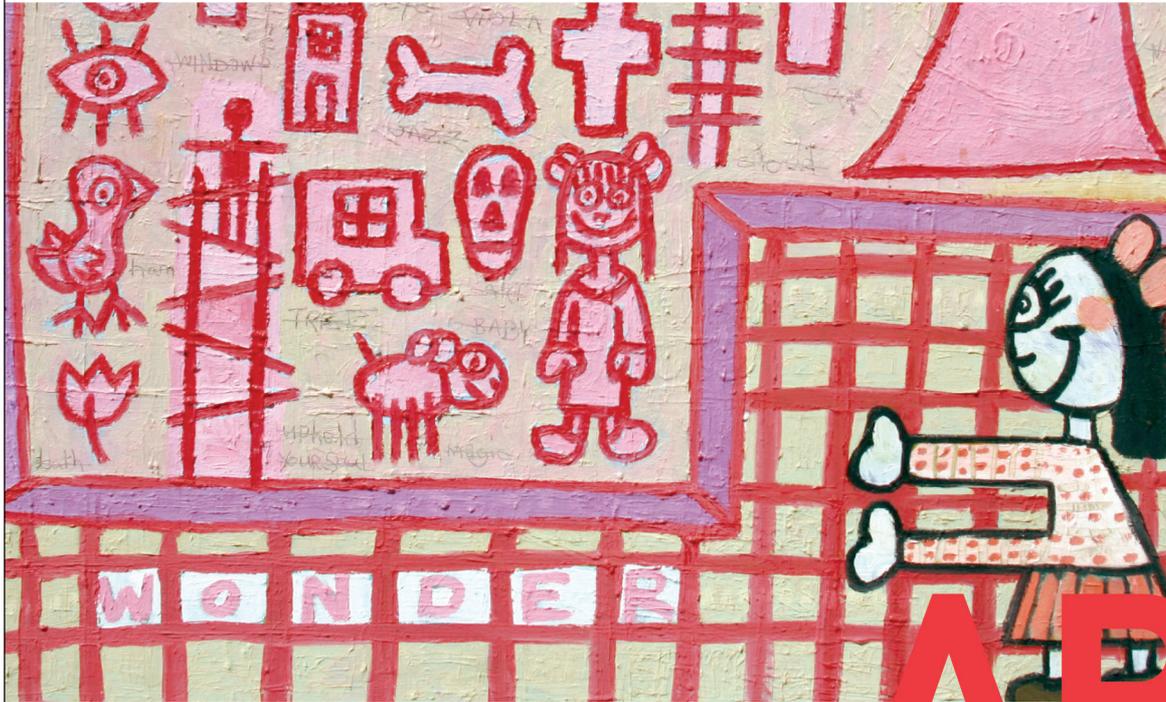
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ART PERSPECTIVES

Rearranging Space: Simon Lee and Yui Kugimiya

A Worthy Exhibit at Ingalls & Associates

By Victor Barrenechea
BBT Contributing Writer

Two artists and two separate shows – “Imaginable Matters” by Yui Kugimiya and “New Work” by Simon Lee – at the Ingalls & Associates gallery offer some extremely challenging artwork to the art-going public, one artist oppressively so, while the other remarkably so.

With Simon Lee, one confronts enormous photos of people riding on a bus – two daytime shots, two nighttime shots. The expressions on people’s faces: discomfort, anxiety, boredom, these prints are overflowing with such emotions. Anyone who has ever used public transportation will definitely be able to relate.

These photos are great on their own, but where Lee starts to slip is with the video component of the show. The video is just a bunch of scenes from the bus, shot through what’s supposed to approximate a camera obscura lens, a precursor to modern photography in which the image always appears upside down. Everything is shot from the bus’s point of view. You see what passengers would see, the bus essentially acting as the camera.

Because the images are always upside down, and because of certain editing tricks employed by Lee, the view is distorted, and what you’re getting is a twisted perspective of what you’d regularly see on a bus. If his point is that riding on the bus is a real drag, all he needed to do was show us the photos.

More likely, Lee is interested in the bus-as-camera idea, and the randomness inherent in it. And it is an interesting idea. Riding a bus, you’ll spot some really amazing things from time to time. But unfortunately most of the scenes will be humdrum and boring – cars, buildings and people passing by.

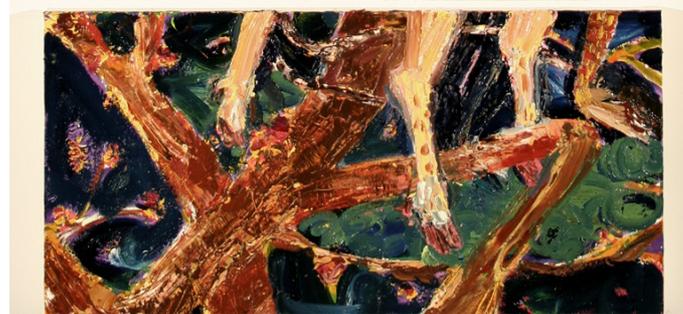
Because of the randomness of his methodology, every dull moment is picked up by the camera. To his credit, he captures the tedium of public transportation quite well, but it’s painful to watch, which might be to some extent his point, but it’s one he got across much easier in his photographs.

Next we move over to Yui Kugimiya’s work. Upon first glance, her work looks really simple. The paintings are representational, quasi-impressionistic, always dealing with nature, always depicting an animal. A snake coiled up in the center of the canvas; a bird in another painting.

Then we get to the more interesting stuff. Two paintings on square canvas, each the same size. The two canvases make up the scene of two dogs on leashes. The twist is that they’re backwards. It looks as though she’s taken one large rectangular canvas, cut it in half, and switched the left side with the right.

Two paintings of the same two animals but switched around. No big deal. But upon closer inspection, it appears the paintings were both done separately. The leash from one canvas to the next changes colors in a way that would indicate so.

Her next work is even more challenging: Two birds – with half a bird on one canvas and half on the other – backwards. This time, switching the two canvases over and connecting the images is not enough. Viewing the canvas from left to right in that state, you’d see the bird’s head on the left canvas, and his tail, on the right, only cut off at the end of the picture. But on the same canvas, instead of the head you see the end of a tail. Perhaps a third bird that’s tail only appears in the shot? Nevertheless, it matches well with the cut-off portion of the tail on the right. Setting up the canvases in a linear, left-to-right fashion produces a skewed looping effect – skewed because the little sliver of tail-end on the left does not connect with the tail on the right unless you lower or raise the canvas a few inches.



Don’t try to put Yui Kugimiya’s panels in order, just enjoy the chaos.

And anyway, the paintings were not set up in a linear fashion, so they produce an incredible effect, sending your mind twisting in all different kinds of crazy directions trying to connect bird heads to bodies, and tail-ends to tails. Kugimiya is adept at fooling around with the natural narrative of a scene, taking the conventional method of viewing and literally flipping it backwards.

The most stunning piece on display is a dark forest scene with what appears to be a deer in the bushes. Four separate rectangular canvases are lined up from top to bottom to create one image. But of course, Kugimiya mixes things up. The deer’s head is at the top, the body with the neck cut out of the picture is two canvases down. The painting with the legs appears between these two. The more you look at this piece, the more frustrating it becomes because your mind wants to stack the canvases into the right order and make one complete image. This is impossible; no amount of stacking can achieve this. Kugimiya has taken different frames from the same scene, cut them out and strewn them about haphazardly to give the illusion of order. What you have instead is a complicated puzzle with no real solution in the end, and in engendering such confusion Kugimiya succeeds quite well.

A Visual Smorgasbord at Dorsch Gallery

By Victor Barrenechea
BBT Contributing Writer

Saturday October 14 at the Dorsch gallery was a lot like an all-you-can-eat buffet with all appetizers. No one thing to totally whet your appetite and keep you satisfied, but a wide variety of tasty choices to load up on your plate and keep you coming back for second helpings. What we have are three totally different artists, each brining their own interesting ideas to the table.

There was Magali Wilensky for instance, with her very unique choice of materials. The pieces she produces are something between sculpture and painting. They're made of various fabrics rolled into tight coils, wrapped together using different colors to create beautiful designs and patterns.

Remember your old high school science textbooks, where they'd take a cell and shed layer after layer to reveal its inner-workings, or a diagram of the Earth with pieces cut off to reveal crust, mantle and core? You see the same thing in Wilensky's work, where it always appears as if layer after layer of something is being slowly shed to reveal the inner-workings.

And Wilensky's work, though mostly abstract, seems to sometimes be representative of nature. One piece looks like a tree collecting energy and nutrients from the soil. The layers of the tree and underground are all clearly visible. Another piece looks like dozens of microbes floating through the air, each one its own individual sculpture. Others look like organs in the human body,

like a heart cut open to reveal the various valves and arteries, or the stringy tissue that makes up muscles in the human body.

The radiant colors and movement indicates wild activity. It's very reminiscent of looking through the lens of thermal vision goggles, where splotches of an image are color-coordinated based on temperature.

We move onto Elisabeth Condon, who creates incredibly surreal landscapes that border on the abstract. Her work is cluttered with ill-defined animals and bizarre shapes coiling and floating across the canvas. It's often very difficult to tell up from down, as she sometimes employs a skewed Escher-like perspective. Her work seems to center around these dreamlike images of a whimsical, natural world that exists only in her imagination.

Her work is also highly stylized. You can look at it and perhaps be reminded of psychedelic poster art from the '70s, or the weird illustrations of Dr. Seuss books, only much more twisted. It's fun to just stare at them and try to decipher what's going on. Is that some sort of animal in the corner there? And what is that – a patch of grass? A swath of hair? Feathers, maybe? And why is it sideways? As abstract works, the paintings contain enough to keep the eye busy between the excellent color compositions and the lively shapes floating, shooting and spiraling out of control.

But the most interesting work of the bunch was a

series of acrylic-on-canvas paintings by Franklin Einspruch. In these scenes of everyday city life, Einspruch reduces figures to their barest essentials. The paintings are flat; there are no outlines. The only thing to separate an arm from a shirtsleeve is a different color.

The people in these paintings are featureless – no eyes or nose, just blank faces. Objects are rendered without detail. A mail-box for instance, depicted as just a lump of blue with nothing to indicate a letter slot. Even in one painting of a nude woman, Einspruch reduces her to just a blob of skin-colored paint in the shape of a woman.

What's great about Einspruch is how remarkably he manages to represent space even though the scenes in his paintings are often quite cluttered. Buildings fill up the backgrounds, tight gatherings of people the foreground. But with his reduction of detail, the illusion of space always shines through.

"Shine" is perhaps not the right word, as his paintings all have a certain sadness about them – something desolate, though not oppressively so. More like a quietness or peacefulness, almost like a pictorial whisper. It's quite a contrast from the other work on display, which is wild and expressive, even if often similarly minimal.

Einspruch might be the most impressive artist hanging in Dorsch right now, but each has enough exciting and unique elements in their work to keep gallery-goers delighted.

What's great about Einspruch is how remarkably he manages to represent space even though the scenes in his paintings are often quite cluttered.

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BERNICE STEINBAUM GALLERY

3550 N. Miami Ave.
November 11, 7 to 10 p.m.,
 Opening for "Matriarchs" by Hung Liu

DAVID CASTILLO GALLERY

2234 N.W. 2nd Ave.
November 11, 7 to 10 p.m.,
 Opening for "Night Air" by Wendy Wischer

DIANA LOWENSTEIN FINE ARTS

2043 N. Miami Ave.
November 11, 7:30 to 10 p.m.,
 Opening for "Altered States" by various artists

BARBARA GILLMAN GALLERY

2320 N. Miami Ave.
November 27, 7 to 10 p.m.,
 Opening for "SIX-EIGHT" by Robert Thiele

DORSCH GALLERY

151 N.W. 24th St.
November 25, 7 to 10 p.m.,
 Opening for "20 Questions" by Dorsch Gallery Artists
 ~ ~ ~

GALLERY EXHIBITS

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www.abbafineart.com

"911 Revisited" by Debra Holt,
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Hung Liu, *Double Barrel* (2006), Oil on canvas, 66 by 66 inches.
 Showing at Bernice Steinbaum Gallery.

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www.alejandravonhartz.net

305-573-5730
www.artfusiongallery.com

"Mysteries and Masters," through
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Continued on page 35

Art Listings

Continued from page 34

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“Young Artist Exhibition,”
November 11 through
November 14.

BARBARA GILLMAN GALLERY

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www.artnet.com/bgillman.html

“Sex-Eight,” November 23
through December 31.

**BERNICE STEINBAUM
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3550 N. Miami Ave.
305-573-2700
www.bernicesteinbaumgallery.com

“Matriarchs,” November 11
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www.bettchergallery.com

CHELSEA GALLERIA

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

“Fragments” and work by Rosa
Muñoz, through November 7.



Simon Lee, *Bus Window Berlin1 (The Thinker)* (2006), 66 by 42 inches. Lambda print Showing at Ingalls & Associates

**CAROL JAZZAR
CONTEMPORARY ART**

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By appointment only:
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“Drawings,” through November 25

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“Night Air,” November 11
through December 1.

DIASPORA VIBE GALLERY

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Work by Juana Valdes, through
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www.dlfinearts.com

“Altered States” November 11
through December 2.

DORSCH GALLERY

151 N.W. 24th St.
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“Live Shape” by Franklin
Einspruch, through November 11.

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“True Stories” by Sophie Calle
and Work by Leandro Erlich,
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305-573-6263
www.ingallsassociates.com

“Imaginable Matters” and “New
Work,” through November 8.

Continued on page 38

THE CANDIDATE BREAKDOWN: DISTRICT 2

Compiled by Priscilla Arias

Note: The following information was gathered from candidates' websites and edited only for grammar, not content. These statements are the candidates' own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BBT.

PLACIDO DIAZ

www.diazformiami.com

Placido Diaz was born on November 28, 1967 in Miami. He attended Miami Senior High and, subsequently, the Police Academy. By the age of 20, Diaz joined the Miami Police Department where he served for 15 years, but remains in the Police Department's Reserve Program after earning numerous awards and commendations as an officer.

During this time, he obtained a Bachelor's of Professional Studies at Barry University, dabbled in real estate investment and continues doing so today.



Plans as Commissioner...

- Fight Crime
- Ensure proper and immediate police officer recruitment
- Improve the City of Miami's services for cleaner neighborhoods
- Propose and work toward the removal of the Fire Fee, and the financial recovery of the rest of the money unfairly paid out
- Work toward further reductions to the City Property Tax millage rate
- Advocate for smarter development growth with a focus on greenery (increased landscaping)
- Proactive approach in ensuring that underprivileged areas like Overtown, Wynwood and West Grove Village receive the attention needed and deserved in city services and housing
- Bring the Commissioner's office closer to the neighborhoods

BETTY GUTIERREZ

www.vote4betty.org

Betty Gutierrez was born and raised in Miami. She attended Immaculata La Salle High School, and soon after earned an Associate of Arts degree from Miami-Dade Community College. In 2005, she earned her B.A. in Public Administration from Florida International University, and is currently working toward her master's in the same field. Betty has held many posts within city and county organizations, including secretary and chairperson for the City of Miami Beach Hispanic Affairs Committee; founding member of the UNIDAD/Miami Beach Hispanic Community Center; and has been heavily involved in the Miami Beach Community Development Corporation. She's also been chairperson of the Miami Design Preservation League, ex-officio member of the Board of Governors of the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, and chairperson to the City of Miami Beach Housing Authority. Professionally, Betty has been working as legislative aide for District 5 County Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro, as well as district assistant in the Miami Beach office since 1998.

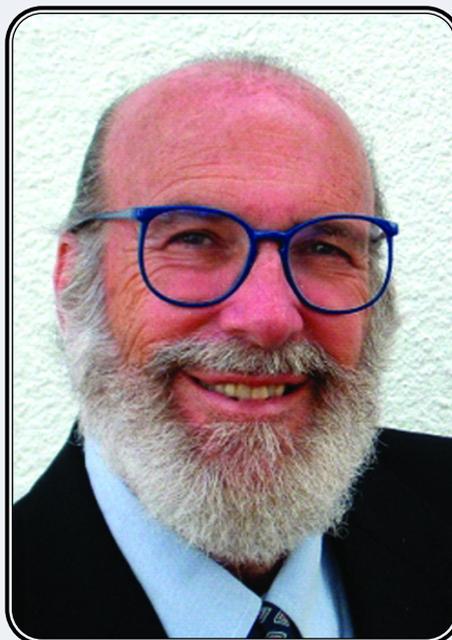


Plans as Commissioner...

- Reduce property taxes
- Improve City services
- Keep public access to Waterfronts
- Fund more parks programming
- Preserve Coconut Grove Playhouse
- Relieve traffic congestion
- Create workforce housing opportunities

SETH SKLAREY

Seth Sklarey was born in Newark, New Jersey, and raised in Hollywood, Florida, where he attended South Broward High School. He earned a B.A. in Political Science at Tulane University in New Orleans and went on to attend the University of Miami School of Law, the John F. Kennedy School of Law, and later, Indiana University's Certified Auctioneer's Institute. He's been a fundraiser auctioneer for Save Dade, the Diabetes Research Foundation and the American Lung Institute. Seth was a real estate appraiser and handled property tax appeals for more than 30 years, a building, roofing and structural inspector for the City of Miami, director of Bikeways Now!, and political editor for the Sun Reporter Newspaper and Coconut Grove Gazette.



Plans as Commissioner...

- Create architecturally significant buildings and scaled down multifamily housing
- Increase and improve police candidate quality by offering higher starting salaries
- Repair and/or improve pension situation
- Restore integrity and common sense to the City of Miami
- Promote a plan to repave streets on a timely basis
- Propose a plan for historic preservation
- Propose Jimbo's is recognized as a public treasure
- Improve public works services
- Propose removal of board members on the basis of nonattendance to board meetings and that all board meetings be televised and open to the public.

BBT Reco

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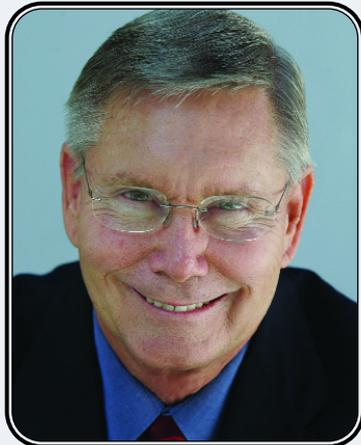
CITY COMMISSION RACE HEATS UP MIAMI

~ BBT Contributing Writer

FRANK ROLLASON

www.frankrollason.com

Born and raised in Miami, Frank Rollason attended Miami High School, and subsequently Dade Junior College. During this time, Frank became a fireman and was quickly ascended to assistant chief. He was drafted into the army after three years as a fireman, where he served one year in Fort Rucker, Alabama, and another year in Vietnam. After hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida, Frank was asked by then City Manager Cesar Odio to head the Hurricane Andrew Recovery Task Force, and later, to take over the city's Risk Management Department and their Group Benefits/Health Insurance Program. He held these positions for more than seven years, and then returned to the Fire Department as district chief. He also worked as director of the City Building Department before being appointed assistant city manager in charge of operations by newly appointed City Manager Carlos Gimenez. Most recently, Frank served for three and a half years as executive director of Miami's two Community Redevelopment Agencies, from January 2003 to July 2006.



Plans as Commissioner...

- Put forth a plan to reimburse Fire Fee taxpayers affected
- Oppose Home Depot, Kubik, Mercy Hospital, the Miami Streetcar, Port Tunnel and Museum Park projects
- Supports 27th Ave. Metrorail project
- Increase street policing
- Attract highly qualified candidates by implementing employee contracts to increase starting pay for police officers and firefighters
- Promote conscientious development
- Create more park spaces
- Update the city's COMP plan and increase development impact fees appropriately
- Return N.E. 82nd Street to two-way neighborhood traffic and turn N.E. 79th Street into four-lane, two-way traffic

LINDA HASKINS

www.lindahaskins2006.com

Linda Haskins was born in January 1954 in Rural Shields Township, Illinois. She attended The University of Florida, earning a B.S. in Business Administration specializing in Accounting, and went on to become a Certified Public Accountant. Since then, her experience has been primarily focused on the finance industry. She has been senior manager of the audit department for KPMG Peat Marwick; senior vice president and controller, executive vice president of finance and chief financial officer of American Savings of Florida; director of management and budget for the City of Miami; senior financial advisor to the Mayor; adjunct professor of finance and financial consultant for the University of Miami; and most recently, deputy city manager and chief financial officer for the City of Miami, not to mention interim commissioner for District 2.



Plans as Commissioner...

- Cut budgetary waste
- More efficient government
- Expanded workforce and affordable housing
- Lower property taxes
- Reduce traffic
- Expand parks and green space
- Improve our quality of life

MARK SARNOFF

www.marksarnoff.com

Marc Sarnoff was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1959. He attended Central High School on Long Island where competitive swimming earned him a scholarship to the University of Tampa. There he obtained a B.A. in Criminology. In 1984, he received his J.D. from the Loyola University School of Law. He then furthered his education in New Orleans at Tulane University's LLM Program in Admiralty. He worked for two years in the District Attorney's office, Section A, Criminal Division in Orleans Parish Criminal Court before moving to Miami in 1987. Here, Marc settled in Coconut Grove, started his practice as an aviation attorney, and eventually became president of the Center Grove Neighborhood Association, Coconut Grove Village Council chair and co-chair of the Village Council's Tree Watch Committee.



Plans as Commissioner...

- Preserving neighborhoods through responsible development
- An actualized traffic plan
- Economic development that brings vitality to our neighborhoods
- Expanding green spaces
- Protecting and increasing our tree canopy
- Fighting crime

Commends:

Commission District 2:
Rollason
Dade County,
at Metro Zoo: No
District 2:
Stinson
108: Ronald Brise
17: Kendrick Meek
Bill Nelson

State

Amendment 1: No
Amendment 3: No
Amendment 4: Yes
Amendment 6: Yes
Amendment 7: Yes
Amendment 8: Yes

See you at
the polls
November 7

Art Listings

Continued from page 35

KARPIO + FACCHINI GALLERY

1929 N.W. 1st Ave.
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www.facchinigallery.com

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2249 N.W. 1st Pl.
305-576-2000
www.kevinbrukgallery.com

KUNSTHAUS MIAMI

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305-438-1333
www.kunsthhaus.org.mx

LEITER GALLERY

6900 Biscayne Blvd.
305-754-9022

LEONARD TACHMES GALLERY

3930 N.W. 2nd Ave.
305-572-9015
www.leonardtachmesgallery.com

Work by Erika Morales, through November 11

LOCUST PROJECTS

105 N.W. 23rd St.
305-576-8570
www.locustprojects.org

LUIS ADELANTADO GALLERY

98 N.W. 29th St.
305-438-0069
www.luisadelantadomiami.com

LURIE FINE ART GALLERIES

3900 N.E. 1st Ave.
305-573-7373
www.luriegalleries.com

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ART AND DESIGN

1501 Biscayne Blvd. Ste. 100
305-428-5700
www.aimiu.aii.edu

THE MOORE SPACE

4040 N.E. 2nd Ave., 2nd Floor
305-438-1163
www.themoorespace.org

"Room" and "Twilight Town," through November 1.

STEVE MARTIN STUDIO

66 N.E. 40th St.
305-576-9221
www.stevemartinstudio.com

WHITE VINYL SPACE

7160 NW 2 Ct.
(St. Mary's Art District)
www.whitevinylspace.com

~ ~ ~

Museum and Collection Exhibits:

CIFO (Cisneros Fontanel Art Foundation)

1018 N. Miami Ave.
305-455-3380
www.cifo.org

THE DEBRA AND DENNIS SCHOLL COLLECTION

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170 N.W. 23rd St.
305-576-7436
Appointment only: Contact dennis@worldclassboxing.net

MIAMI ART MUSEUM

101 W. Flagler St.
305-375-3000
www.miamiartmuseum.org
\$5 adults, \$2.50 seniors, free for children under 12 and students, free the second Sat. of each month from 1 to 4 p.m.
Gifts from the Charles Cowles Photography Collection
November 17 through February 25.

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA)

770 N.E. 125th St.
305-893-6211
www.mocanomi.org
\$5 adults, \$3 seniors/students, free children under 12/North Miami residents, Tues. admission is by donation
Bruce Nauman "Elusive Signs," through January 7, 2007.

MOCA AT GOLDMAN WAREHOUSE

404 N.W. 26 St.
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

THE MARGULIES COLLECTION

591 N.W. 27 St.
305-756-1051
www.margulieswarehouse.com
Wed. to Sat., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free of charge.

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

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By Carlo Gozzi
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FOR AGES 10 AND UP
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GALLERY PEEK

A Snapshot of Local Gallery Offerings



Tubes II
Mauro Giaconi
 117 by 60 inches
 Graphite on canvas
 \$14,000

Showing at Dot Fifty-One Art Space
www.dotfiftyone.com

In Mauro Giaconi's works, the repertory is austere, though heavy at the same time, loaded with sense layers that the artist is particularly interested

not to show in a single shot. Much of his images and ideas are revealed in second delayed interpretations on details. Giaconi works around the world of construction. That certainty arises out of the borders of the things that the artist chooses to represent – bricks, scaffolds, tubes, wires, stairs. Nevertheless, Giaconi's way of thinking goes far beyond shapes, materials or tools. Behind images there are underlying questions, fear clouds floating on the fragility of supports; the underlying fear that what seems solid may break into pieces at any moment.

Untitled (from the Nudes Series)
Mathias Saillard
 20 by 25.5 inches
 Pilot pen on paper
 \$1,200

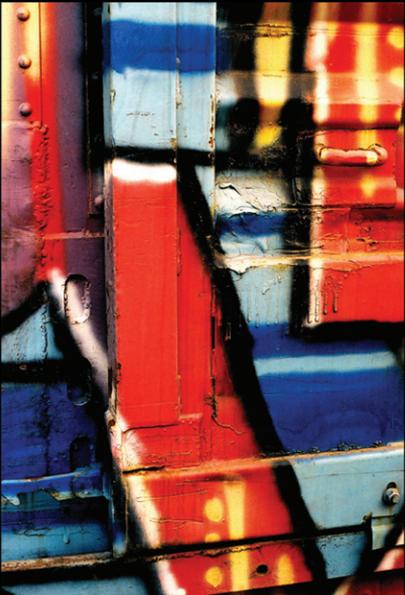
Carol Jazzar Fine Art
www.cjazzart.com

Mathias Saillard, a graduate of the Beaux-Arts school of Lorient (France), uses a simple pilot pen as his sole material. His work is complex and refined, massive and fragile, the fruits of a graphic search that turns into obsession. In a series of nudes, the lines stretch out and intermingle; the ink darkens the paper, doubt settles in. Are we looking at bodies, a landscape and constellations? The subject is but a pretext that becomes erased under the relentlessness of the stroke or the repetition of the form.



URBAN COLORS

photography by **Chris Gordon**
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Natasha Tsakos's Fourth *Up Wake* Installment

Miami Light Project Protégé Comes into Her Own

By Victor Barrenechea
BBT Contributing Writer

Three large projection screens box-out to make up the set. One actor stands alone in front of them – Zero, a male cartoonish figure who looks something like a cross between David Bowie and Roger Rabbit. On each screen a computer-animated cityscape is being projected with skewed, oddly shaped buildings dressed in pinstripe suits. Electronic music pulsates as the actor gyrates wildly to the beat, interacting with computer animations flashing on the screens.

Upon closer examination Zero is actually a she, dressed in a ridiculously dated suit-and-tie getup from the 1930s or '40s, with pinstripe pants and a bright blue tie that peeks out the bottom of his jacket, not unlike Charlie Chaplin. Zero also carries his trademark suitcases, a recurring theme throughout the performance – a mockup caricature of the nine-to-five businessman.

What you're witnessing is *Up Wake*, essentially a one-man show that com-



bines computer animation with dance, music and acting, which combine into an elaborately produced multi-mixed-media performance. Dozens of people help out behind the scenes, in everything from choreography to computer animation, design to wardrobe, and of course music, but it's Natasha Tsakos –

director, producer, main actor and creator of this new performance piece – who assumes the character of Zero to dance in this intricate and original performance.

"I've never liked institutions," she said. "I don't like conventions."

Tsakos became involved with theater

at the age of 12 and eventually moved to start writing and producing her own plays. The types of plays she's written are works such as *Colours*, a self-proclaimed collection of "nonsense" and made-up words. The type of performance art she dabbles in has its roots in street performing, and clowning. As a street clown she's performed on Ocean Drive, at the Sunset mall and various spots in downtown. With her clown character Kokoff, she would shock the average person on the street with things like clownishly exaggerated hiccup fits, sneezing fits or just plain falling down. And sometimes the reactions she got from the public were not always positive. She admits she's had people attack her with her own props.

"You have to be humble," said Tsakos. "You've taken a stage that belongs to everyone and no one."

Tsakos takes the energy of street performing and clowning to her latest production, which is actually the fourth *Up Wake*, and story hasn't changed much.

Continued on page 41

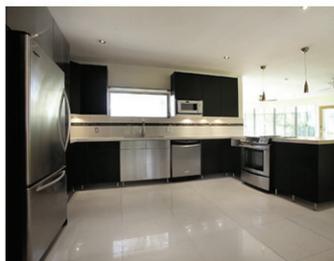
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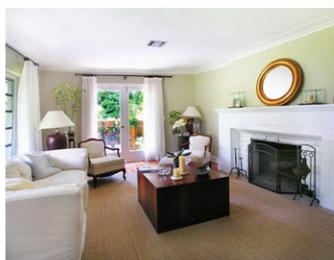
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Up Wake

Continued from page 40

The character Zero is stuck between dream and reality. He contorts his body and interacts with a surreal landscape that's supposed to resemble the existential drama of the modern times in which we live.

"I'm touched whenever a story unfolds that exposes the vulnerable humanity in all of us," said Beth Boone, artistic director of the Miami Light Project, the organization that selected and commissioned the show's production. "I see all of those things in Zero, this character who's wrapped up in 'keeping up,' and filled with emotion. I can relate to all of that."

Through expressions of music, dance and clowning, Zero struggles for control and liberation, while symbolically purging emotions like fear and anxiety through such gestures as smashing computer-animated glass; the broken shards subsequently shoot out and attack her.

"We have moments of dreams, and moments of nightmares and moments of clarity," said Tsakos. "It speaks to the Western world and industrial countries. I think it's a very universal piece."

The concept for *Up Wake* began when Tsakos took part in a performance piece by Nathan Rausch, also commissioned by the Miami Light Project.

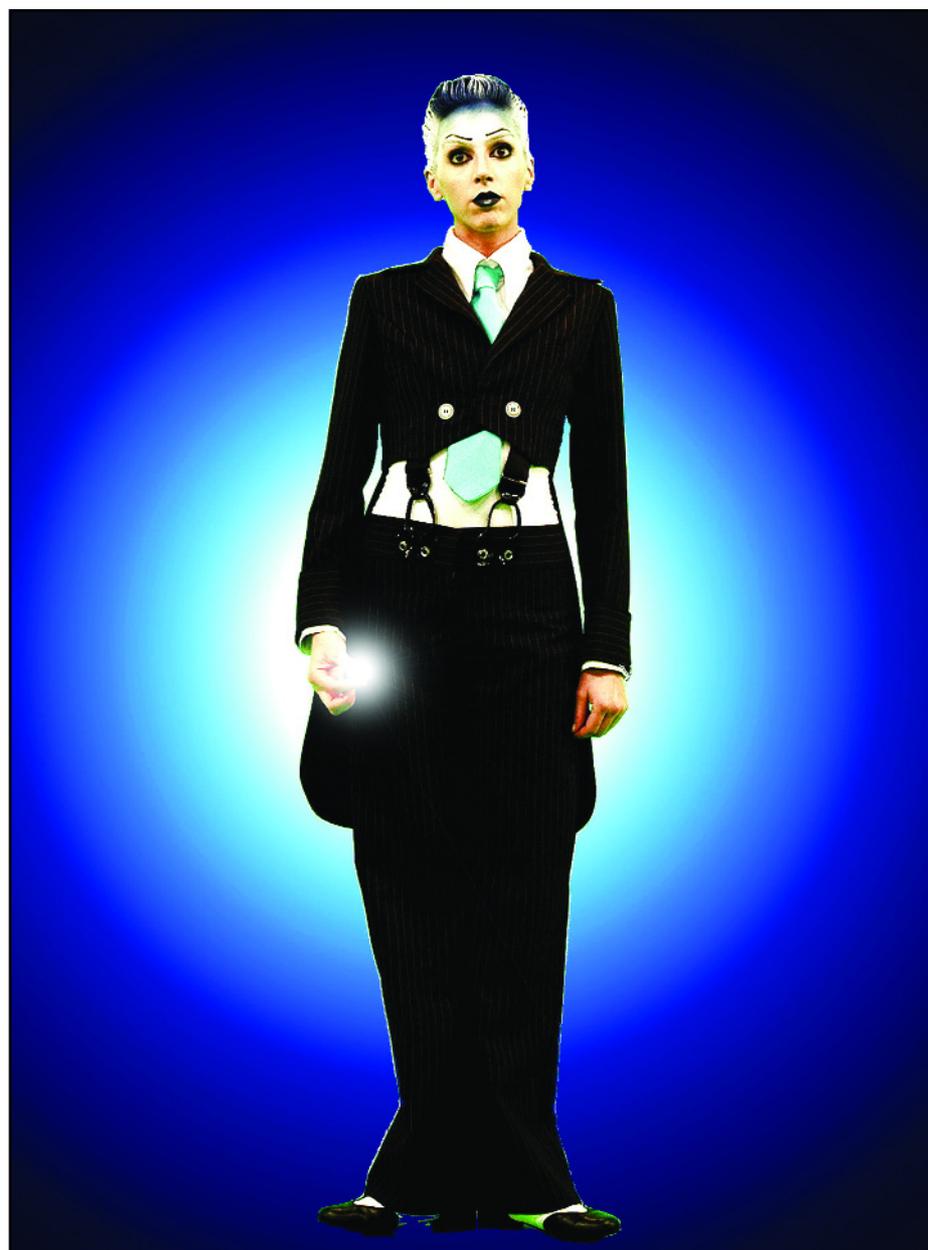
"He had Natasha perform certain portions of this work and it was great," said Boone.

For a brief segment of this production, Tsakos interpreted a modern businessman. "That was literally three minutes in his show," she said. But those three minutes would go on to inspire the idea for the *Up Wake* series.

The first installment was in 2004, and with each successive *Up Wake* the project has grown more and more ambitious.

With the first, the only thing for Zero to interact with was text being projected onto the screen. But in this most recent *Up Wake*, there's large-scale computer animation. For instance, in one scene, she interacts with a mirror image of herself projected onto the screen. At first they stand in front of one another, as one would stand before a mirror, mimicking one another's movements almost like the classic cartoon gag where two characters do this not realizing they're two separate people. Soon the two figures merge, and with meticulous choreography, a dance of sorts occurs between the real life actor and the image on the screen.

Other scenes involve a dark but surre-



Natasha Tsakos
Up Wake

Nov. 30; Dec. 1-2

Carnival Center for The Performing Arts

Visit www.natashatsakos.com

or www.miamilightproject.com for tickets and info.

al city landscape with buildings dressed in pinstripe suits. As Zero walks down the street, the camera moves from screen to screen to give the illusion that she is actually moving and turning around corners. Misshapen doors appear behind black backdrops; she opens them. At one point Tsakos commands an army of empty suits and ties projected on the screen behind her, and they mimic her movements perfectly.

Even the floor has images and animation projected onto it. All projectors must be perfectly in sync. Timing is everything.

"We live in quick times," said Tsakos. "I want to adapt to the times we live in and the speed we live in."

As a result, the show is so fast paced that one missed beat, one mistake could

ruin everything. A self-proclaimed perfectionist, Tsakos wasn't actually very happy about the last *Up Wake*.



"The third one is a disaster," she said. "It didn't match what I envisioned in my head."

She complained that the feel of the third was too mechanical, too robotic, too dark. The surrealism and lightheartedness originally envisioned was lost: "It's too easy to go with robots. The visual of a robot does not match the visual of *Up Wake*."

The image she's going for this time around is more along the lines of a surreal computer-animated cartoon. The streets are skewed and curvy. In fact, everything is skewed and stylized, almost like something out of Tim Burton film.

"What makes this piece beautiful is this delicate balance between technology and pure humanity," said Boone. "The caution would be losing humanity in the process, and Natasha does not."

Originally, all the other *Up Wake* shows had been performed at the Miami Light Project's Light Box performance space on Biscayne Boulevard, but this time around they are working in conjunction with the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts to bring Natasha's work to a larger venue, with hopefully a larger audience. Also, with this change, more money is being put into the production. According to Boone, moving it to the Carnival Center "opens up a whole new world."

"I say she's one of the hardest working artists I've ever worked with," added Boone. "She's sort of never satisfied. She's always working harder, harder, harder. Natasha will get her due. I think it's just the beginning for sure. I think she is going to go very far."

Tsakos feels that this incarnation of *Up Wake* is closer to her vision than the preceding three, and will be the most fully realized version of her artistic vision to date. *Up Wake* premieres at the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, Nov. 30 to Dec. 3.

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Around Town: Culture Briefs

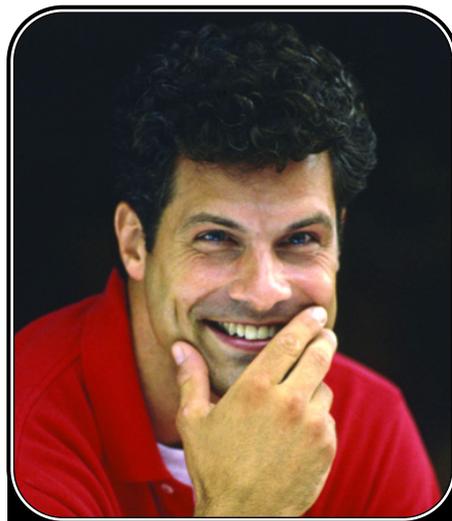
Area Happenings for the Month of November

Note: Due to a high volume of complaints, we must remind readers that this column is meant to be satirical, and that Tad is a force unto himself.

Bingo, bango, bongo. I'm just full of it this month! Since you're asking, Tad's had himself a grand few weeks, replete with many close encounters of the fabulous kind at sexy parties in very tall buildings. I would pat myself on the back, but I'm still plagued by a social faux pas involving an "antique" revolver and a **Rich Latino Man's** prized Italian greyhound.

Hey! When you're looking in the mirror do you ever make the craziest faces you can just to gross yourself out? I do.

But the first thing is first: My career as a watercolorist has taken a turn for the worse, but I persevere. A very "important" gallery-owner who's name is not **Fred Snitzer** refused an invite to my opening at Casa de Tadley, a new 'thinkspace' located steps from my bedroom and overflowing with the sort of genius people in polite society do



By **TAD SIMMONS**
BBT Events Maven

not address with words but acknowledge with a cool glance, because they get it.

That's how Tad rolls.

But despite having sent out 103 hand-painted invitations, the crowd was sparse: Gathered in my kitchen to support my very first one-man show, *One Fine Feline: Reflections on the Life of Good Sir Alan Goldberg (Tad's Cat)*, was me, a homeless man I befriended at a bus stop who agreed to DJ for two bottles of Night Train, my 11-year-old cousin **Margaret Simmons** and Gram Gram, who joined us by phone from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

You know what? I don't even want to talk about this. I sent five invitations alone to **Rick Ross**. He didn't show, but I told Gram Gram he was there and made the homeless man mouth a few lines from "Hustling" into the phone. It's been a really good month otherwise. Really, it has.

But I'm going to stop before I hunt-

and-peck something I'll regret, for behind my warm smile this month lies a man forlorn. I shall rest my bones through November while I gear up for Art Basel. I've rented a booth to display my latest collection, *Who Knew? Portraits of a Seldom-Seen Tad*, and it's going to knock **Norman Braman** on his ass.

~ ~ ~

Design is, Like, the New Art, or Whatever, Right?

A bunch of government and artsy people present **How to Art Basel: A Survival Guide to the Fairs**. Topics covered include "How Do I Look?", "Sounding Cultured Even When You've Been up All Night," and "Yeah, But is it Art?" Oh, I kid you Art Basel.

The discussion takes place **Nov. 4** from **4 to 6 p.m.**, followed by a reception at the Marcy Building, **3850 N.**

Miami Ave. in the Design District. It's free and open to the public, but RSVP to cgarci@artcentersf.org or call 305-674-8278 x 14 for additional information.

"How to Art Basel" was created as a guide to the sometimes overwhelming marketplace for art amateurs (i.e. **poor people**). By addressing topics such as researching artists and galleries, approaching exhibition booths and negotiating pricing, it hopes to inspire them to visit the growing number of fairs equipped with more knowledge, key strategies and insider tips.

There will be a separate discussion out back led by me called "Why Watercolors of Cats are the Absolute Rage."

~ ~ ~

Hey Beavis, You Said "Bang"



Duran Duran

I went to **Bang Music Festival's** first run last year and it kicked the A in a major way, if you're picking up what I'm putting down. This year's lineup features **Duran Duran**, who will be thawed from their cryogenic tank live onstage, pumped full of cocaine and then set aboard a sailboat to collect everyone's panties.

Also headlining is **Daft Punk**, who also hail from somewhere beneath the Crown of Queen Elizabeth II. From Yankee shores we've got super-haute-right-now **Gnarls Barkley**, **Modest Mouse**, **Common** (who Tad says is *anything but!*), **Damian "At Least I'm Better Than Sean Lennon" Marley** and a boatload of human jukeboxes playing other peoples' records.

Oh, and **DJ Tiësto**, who just so happens to be the coolest thing to huff turpentine to this side of a Wurlitzer. It all starts Saturday, **Nov. 11** at 11 a.m. Get to **Bicentennial Park at 10th and Biscayne** early so you can overdose before the crowd gets too thick. Visit www.bangmusicfestival.com for info and tickets, which are now up to **\$75**.

~ ~ ~

Aural Assault

Every drum and bass fan, all 15 of you, should be out in full force on **Nov. 4** for **URBAN ASSAULT** at **Bullfrog Eatz**. I kid, it's gonna be swell. Promoters are bringing in a very large sound system to pump a night's worth of relentless d'n'b mayhem, headlined by **Soulslinger**, a ubiquitous staple of the Northeast rave scene. He'll be celebrating the release of his newest album on Junglesky Records.

From Boston, it's **War Stories** live on three turning-tables, a live set from **Assembly Station, Session 9** from NYC

Continued on page 43

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Culture Briefs

Continued from page 42

and local jock **Danny Bled**. Best of all, they'll be giving away free crap all night. It's 18 and over, \$12 in, \$10 if you're in camouflage, free if you can prove you've killed a man in an act of war; **2344 N.E. 2nd Ave.**

Booyakasha wa guan, respék!

~~~~

**If You Listen, He Will Come**

In a world of chaos and unrest, what is the thing everyone wants more than anything? No, the answer is not more of both, plus strippers and midgets, though all that has its place. According to **Lorenzo Rodriguez**, it's peace and happiness, and he's gonna tell you just where to get them in his presentation, "**Where the Shepherd Leads Peace and Happiness Follows**," to be given at **5th Church of Christ Scientist, 1600 N. W. 54th St. on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 3 p.m.**

Who is this Scientist Jesus, you ask? I don't know, but I think he works in the physics department at Barry. Rodriguez will address issues like the challenges involved with employment, income and relationships by giving examples from the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy.

Born in Cuba and raised in Mexico, Rodriguez has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, but even since early childhood he felt his calling was in the "helping" profession. Anyhow, go see it yourself so I can **stop writing about it**. They stress that *no* collection will be taken, just in case you thought he was some guru trying to take your money. Are you thinking that? What a cynic. Visit [www.lorenzorodriguez.org](http://www.lorenzorodriguez.org).

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I Know You're White, but You're Still Invited

On Saturday, **Nov. 4** it's the **Haitian Community Arts Festival**, where kids of all ages can explore the world of Haitian traditions in a fun-filled day of dance, cooking, storytelling, drumming and much more. The events will be presented in a series of workshops, demonstrations and performances by local community artists. Raymonde Vertyl and Dieudonne Daphnis will be giving dance demonstrations while Emile Wilnord shows everyone what time it is on the drums, amongst other festivities.

Ongoing throughout the day will be: **Baked** goods by Mona Baptiste and Fernande Beauzile, creating Carnival costume hats with the Party Room Squad,

making Haitian arts and crafts with Margaret Armand and playing traditional children's games with Edeline Clermont.

The **FREE** fun goes from **1 to 4 p.m.** at the **Historical Museum of Southern Florida**, 101 W. Flagler St. Call **305-375-1492** or visit www.hmsf.org for more info.

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**Yaaaayyyyyy, ICE CREAM!**

The 55th Street Station Center for Urban Living in cooperation with Gelato Station is holding a day of **Art, Fashion and Live Music on Nov. 18**. The event will be held in the 55th Street Station Courtyard, **5580 4th Ct. from 1 to 10 p.m.**

If the show is successful, they hope to do it again during Art Basel in December, and possibly every successive year until the **end of time**. Local artists and their work will be on display, including the artist **Victor Hugo**, the fashions of **Rucht D'Oleo** and live music by **Robin Avery**.

Participating sponsors include: Gelato Station, Soyka Restaurant, Kubik, Sushi Siam, Andiamo Pizza, The Urban Collective, Idol's Gym, The Architects Hall Designers, Illy Coffee and Pago Juices.

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Watch, I Look Just Like a Robot



On **Nov. 3 at 8:30 p.m.** Electro Alliance's will celebrate their fifth anniversary by screening *Darkbeat: An Electro World Voyage*, directed by Iris B Cegarra, at the Miami Beach Cinematheque as part of the Music on Film. Wynwood-based **3GZ Productions** and Mi Chica Chico Force bring to the screen a fresh interpretation of educational music and **underground** culture documentaries. This hour-long biopic on the electro music experience as told by artists past and present will **stimulate** audiences with cool visuals, fascinating interviews, archive clips and rare electro tunes for your **aural** enjoyment.

Travel through space and time, from Miami, England, Spain and Holland, to Japan, NYC, Paris and Detroit and experience the short but rich history of elec-

Continued on page 47

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Life Imitating Art

Out: Reality Television... In: Documentaries

By Christian Cipriani
BBT Editor

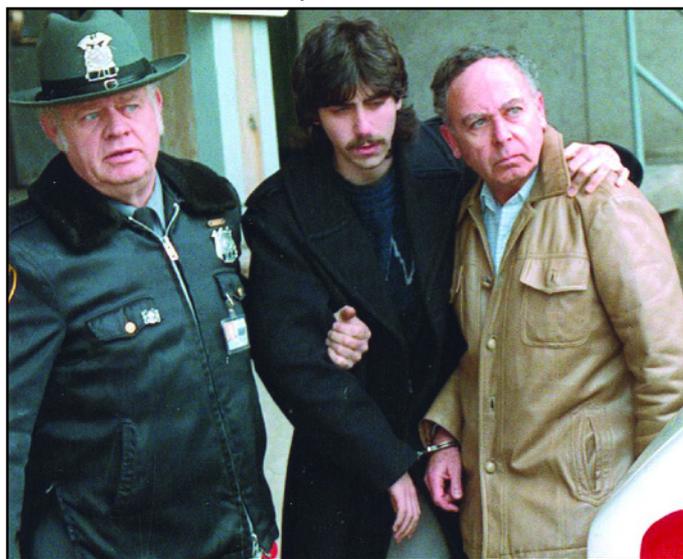
Capturing the Friedmans

Dir. Andrew Jarecki
U.S., 2003
DVD: HBO Video
107 minutes



At the heart of this is a documentary made largely from another documentary – that which the Friedman family made of their own demise. It is the fall of 1987 and a middleclass Jewish family in Great Neck, New York, is about to have their lives torn open for all to see in the sort of high-profile case the media adores.

After postal police bust Arnold Friedman, a well-respected educator and community member, importing child porn from The Netherlands, allegations soon arise that the computer classes he teaches in his home are a front for molestation sessions led by him and his 18-year-old son Jesse, and the details are



outrageous. But the twist is that *Capturing the Friedman's* incorporates troves of monstrously uncomfortable home video shot by the three sons. This is a real-life *Blue Velvet*; a voyeuristic vision of saccharine American suburbia rotting from the inside.

The act committing such an extreme situation to home video is bizarre in itself, as it requires a certain level of

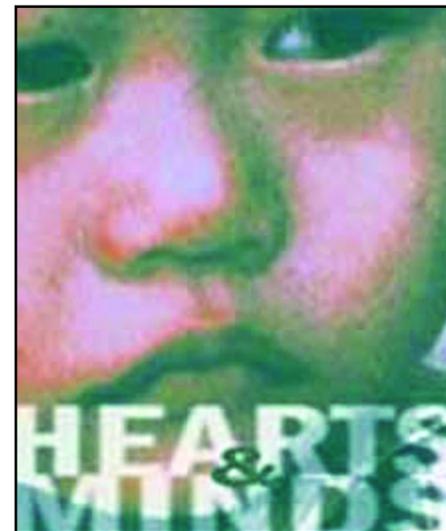
detachment from a very horrible and personal situation. But each revealed layer only serves to complicate the story and disturb the viewer. On a superficial level, the Friedman's are not unlike most families, but their private moments speak to dysfunction so tragic it elicits equal parts sympathy and repugnance.

Yet beyond the family's story is the embedded crime drama, which grows so ambiguous that the burning question (and, in fact, the film's tagline) becomes: Why do you believe? At the top of this documentary's list of achievements is the absence of any clear answer to this question. Even 20 years on, the truth seems as far away as ever.

This is a must-see for anyone fascinated by the dark underbelly of humanity,

but if that's not your bag, it'll at least scratch that *CSI* itch for a good crime story, and then leave you scratching your head for weeks.

Hearts & Minds



Dir. Peter Davis
U.S., 1974
DVD: The Criterion Collection

Continued on page 44

AUTOMOTIVE

Understanding You're Vehicle's Repair Invoice

Just about everyone who has hired a serviceman to do a particular job for them wants to know the final cost before the work is done, and most experienced tradesmen can provide an estimate prior to beginning work. However, there are always disclaimers noting that the estimate may change based on unforeseen conditions. Tradesmen such as carpenters, electricians and plumbers will usually quote an hourly rate before starting the job, but auto mechanics are expected to be more precise than most tradesmen.

An automobile is made up of many systems – some of them quite complicated. That is why auto technicians have mandated continuing education for the whole of their careers. Most auto repairs are listed in national labor guides published by various companies like Mitchell, Motor or Chilton. These guides get their initial information from the auto manufacturer, who can determine how much time it should take to replace a component they originally designed. Data from repeat operations performed by various mechanics carrying out a particular task is used to come up with a standard amount that the average mechanic, working under normal conditions and following the outlined procedures in service

manuals, would charge.

That measured time is worked out in tenths of an hour. Thus, the time to replace an alternator in a 2001 Toyota Corolla should take six-tenths of an hour, which is multiplied by that particular shop's hourly rate. The hourly rate is determined

by the shop's cost of doing business, and varies due to factors such as rent, taxes, insurance and all other costs of staying in business.

Due to the complexity of cars today, diagnostic labor has become just as important as fixing the car. Usually the best technicians are the diagnostic techs. And yes, diagnostic labor is part of the cost of repairing a car today. No more throwing it in if you get the job.

So, next time you get your repair bill, look closely, and take note of all itemized tasks – the labor time, diagnostic time, parts cost, taxes and environmental fees. Save all your invoices and keep them in a folder in your car, that way you will know who did what and when, and increase the value of your car at trade-in time.

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Life Imitating Art

Continued from page 44

112 minutes



Released at the tail end of the Vietnam War, and winner of the Academy Award for best documentary, *Hearts & Minds* is perhaps the definitive film on the subject. Its U.S. release was delayed, however, due to a frenzy of controversy in part because Davis's acceptance speech including reading a letter of "Greetings of Friendship to all American People" from the North Vietnamese government, which forced Frank Sinatra to read aloud a note from Bob Hope apologizing for politically charged statements.

Being a Criterion release, this print comes with extremely helpful commentary. In one surprising snippet, Davis – who by virtue of the film itself seem like a director with an agenda to damn the U.S. government – explains how he agonized over where to place a clip of General Westmoreland, who commanded U.S. forces at the war's peak, saying: "The Oriental doesn't put the same high price on life as does a Westerner. Life is plentiful. Life is cheap in the Orient." The decision to place it directly after a heart-wrenching scene of a grieving Vietnamese family courted much criticism.

One of the most interesting things about *Hearts & Minds* is that all those infamous photographs from Vietnam – the nude little girl, stone-faced, burned with Agent Orange; the handcuffed man being shot point blank in the temple – are brought to life from stock footage. The images are moving, the narrative well-organized and the end result a powerful and beautiful documentary.

Harlan County USA



Dir. Barbara Koppel
U.S., 1976
DVD: The Criterion Collection
103 minutes



This is one of the finest examples of documentary filmmaking you're ever likely to see, and a grand achievement on so many levels. In 1973, Barbara Koppel was an aspiring New York filmmaker on a road trip through the South. A stop in Harlan County, Kentucky, in the midst of a mineworker strike led to her and her crew start casually documenting the strangely unself-conscious locals.

First and foremost, Koppel has a great eye for composition and the keen ability to capture real-life drama in such a way as to make it quite cinematic. At very, very few points does anyone address the camera, and the tense and violent strike plays out more like a well-written film than anything.

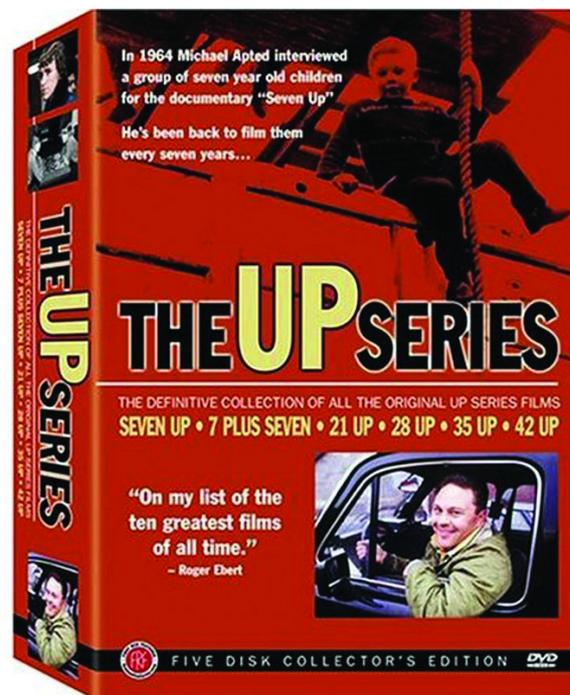
Harlan County USA is a moving slice-of-life portrait of a people in flux, as the mine-workers reject the proverbial cave shadows and begin the painful process of breaking their chains and emerging into the light of unionization. And Koppel gets it all: The us-versus-them highs; the struggle to remain idealistic as desperate lives turns more so; the mine-sanctioned bullying and violence; the incredibly strong women who hold their men up, and often end up on the front lines; the reality of a hermetically sealed world defined by mining; and the test of human will all undergo in the effort to affect an industry sea-change.

Hundreds of hours of film – some obtained through great feats of fearlessness – were carefully whittled down into a three-act high drama that will leave you in tears. Koppel's camera is not patronizing, nor does it seek to exploit these 'salt of the earth' types; it sympathizes and encourages, and very literally may have saved lives.

~ ~ ~

Further Recommendations

The Up Series



The premise behind the *Up* series is deceptively simple – take a cross-section of children at age 7, ask them about their hopes for the future and then return every seven years to mark their progress. However, the results of these experiments, launched in 1963 by Britain's Granada Television, are anything but mundane, and their revelations about society, maturation and the human condition were compiled into six extraordinary films. We meet the 14 children whose lives we will follow for the next 36 years in *Seven Up*, an episode of the television series *The World in Action* and directed by Paul Almond. What becomes evident almost immediately is that class and background will have an indelible effect on the kids for the rest of their lives; the upper-class boys and girls seem confident to the point of boorishness, while the middle- and

Continued on page 48

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What Would You Change About N.E. 79th Street?

By Victor Barrenechea—BBT Contributing Writer



Alex Puentes

“It’s a little dangerous to parallel park the car as far as getting into a space here.”



Derkis Sanchez

“Two lanes in each direction and a traffic light at 8th Court.”



Emilio Herrera

“The traffic here is really not bad. I never see it backup. I wouldn’t want to see the negative consequences of a road blockage [due to construction].”



Omar Lopez

“Some parking on the north side would be great. I guess widen it – maybe mark parking areas.”



Rafael Marrero-Aristy

“The speed limit: Put a traffic light at 8th Court and slow people down so they see the businesses.”



Tatiana Ribas

“The crackheads on every corner.”

BE HEARD!

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

Culture Briefs

Continued from page 43

tronic music. Guests will be treated to an electro set by **DJ Uprokk** before and after the film's screening. Early release DVDs of *Darkbeat* will also be on hand!

The **Miami Beach Cinematheque & Gallery** is located at **512 Espanola Way**. Call **305-673-4567** or visit www.mbcinema.com for details. For more info on the filmmakers visit www.3gzproductions.com.

The 23rd Miami Book Fair International

Opening on **Sunday, Nov. 12** and running through Sunday, Nov. 19, the **Miami Book Fair International** will present a world-class roster authors at **Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus, 300 N.E. 2nd Ave.** This year's theme is "flirting with the classics," celebrating classic art and its role in contemporary society with special commemorations of Shakespeare, Mozart and children's book characters Curious George, Arthur and Wilbur of *Charlotte's Web*. During the Street Fair, on the final weekend Nov. 17 to 19,



roaming musicians and street performers will entertain and amuse the crowd, filling the streets with color, dance and song.

The "Evenings With..." series kicks-off Nov. 12 with Pulitzer-winning memoirist **Frank McCourt** and continues throughout the week with other Pulitzer-winners, including Edward P.

Jones and Richard Ford, plus best-selling novelist Isabel Allende, political pundit **Arianna Huffington** and historian Thomas Cahill.

Fairgoers can also expect to see during the Congress of Authors John Berendt, Nora Ephron, **Jonathan Franzen**, Mary Gordon, Jay McInerney, Doris Kearns Goodwin, U.S. Senator **Barack Obama**, Robert Olen Butler, Francine Prose, Helen Thomas, Meg Tilly, and Gary Wills, among others.

The Ibero-American Authors Program will return stronger than ever in 2006, with readings scheduled to take place every evening during the week and all day during the weekend. Among the celebrated authors in attendance this year are Jorge Ramos, Daina Chaviano, Jorge Edwards, Edmundo Paz Soldán, Gioconda Belli, **former Miami Mayor Maurice Ferré**, Santiago Roncagliolo, **Andres Oppenheimer**, Gonzalo Rojas, Maria Kodama, Borges' widow, and dozens of others from Latin America, Spain and the U.S. The Miami Book Fair is the only festival of its kind in the country to present such a consistently strong line-up of writers of Spanish-language literature.

On the evening of Nov. 16, the International Pavilions will open to

showcase the literature, fine art, music, and culinary traditions of Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Israel and Spain. For the first time in the history of the Fair, the World Art Gallery will showcase artwork by artists from the featured countries.

On Nov. 17, the Street Fair will kick-off, offering the chance to see more than 250 publishers and booksellers exhibit and sell books in a festive atmosphere. **Rare book aficionados** will find first editions, antique maps and other collectibles at the Antiquarian Annex, and mystery lovers, history buffs and bargain hunters will also have bookstores catering to their whims. The Rockbottom Reminders, a fairgoers favorite, come back this year with authors (moonlighting as musicians) **Dave Barry**, Ridley Pierson, Greg Iles, Kathi Goldmark, Aron Ralston, and Andy Borowitz.

All that and much, much more will be happening at the 2006 Miami Book Fair International, so log onto www.miami-bookfair.com for ticket information and a complete schedule of events.

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Life Imitating Art

Continued from page 45

working-class children seem resigned to a life of hard work or inevitable failure due to their backgrounds. How their lives actually unfold, however, is surprising.

—Paul Gaita, Amazon.com

American Movie (2000)



Dir. Chris Smith

On the northwest side of Milwaukee, Mark Borchardt dreams the American dream: For him, it's making movies. Using relatives, local theater talent, slacker friends, his Mastercard and \$3,000 from his Uncle Bill, Mark strives over three years to finish *Coven*, a short horror film. His own personal demons (alcohol, gambling, a dysfunctional family) plague him, but he desperately wants to overcome self-doubt and avoid failure. In moments of reflection, Mark sees his story as quintessentially American, and it's the nature and nuance of his dream that this film explores.

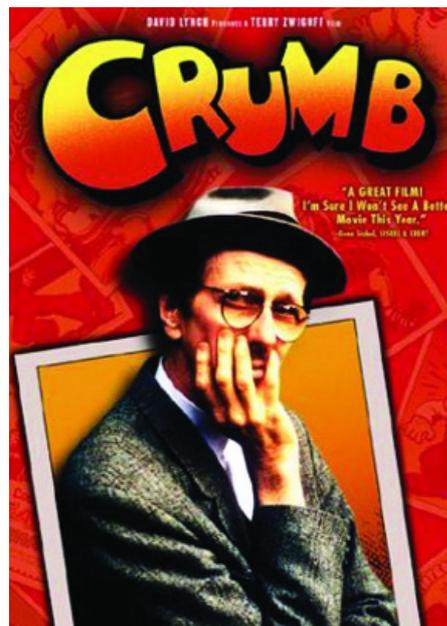
—Amazon.com

Crumb (1995)

Dir. Terry Zwigoff

This movie chronicles the life and times of R. Crumb. Robert Crumb is the cartoonist/artist who drew *Keep On Truckin'*, *Fritz the Cat* and played a major pioneering role in the genesis of underground 'comix'.

Through interviews with his mother, two brothers, wife and ex-girlfriends, as well as selections from his vast quantity of graphic art, we are treated to a darkly comic ride through one man's subconscious mind. As stream-

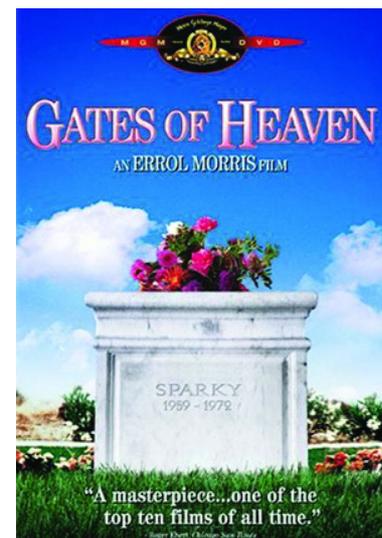


of-consciousness images incessantly flow forth from the tip of his pen, biting social satire is revealed, often along with a disturbing and haunting vision of Crumb's own *betes noires* and inadequacies.

As his acid-trip-induced images flicker across our own retinas, we gain a little insight into this complex and highly creative individual.

—Amazon.com

Gates of Heaven (1978)



Dir. Errol Morris

Funny, inspiring and bizarre, *Gates of Heaven* is the celebrated pet cemeteries documentary that is in reality an unorthodox look at life. Inspired by an article entitled "450 Dead Pets Going to Napa Valley," Errol Morris set out to capture the event, which centered around the transport of hundreds of animal remains from one pet cemetery to another. Pet cemetery proprietors, embalmers, pet-owners and others speak about life, work and feelings.

—Amazon.com



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The Man in the Moon

By Jeffrey Warren Hyman
BBT Contributing Writer

How to Dress for the Moon

If you know the position of the moon, you should know the prevailing mood and the appropriate clothes to wear. Now, the type of clothes you wear one night may not work on another night, even with the same people at the same place. For this reason, a smart hostess often calls everyone up and says that people are dressing up or that everyone is casual. Expensive clothes and good taste aren't always the answer either, as there are nights you regret not dressing with more pizzazz or you over did it and looked foolish.

Many people instinctively know what to wear without ever consulting the moon, but lunar insight helps you to plan ahead. For example, you want to take the right clothes when you can only pack a few things on a mini-vacation. Another example is when a woman buys a dress for a special occasion and later on doesn't feel comfortable wearing it. That's why a woman should always buy a new outfit on the same or similar moon phase as when she will be wearing it. Lunar insight takes away the guess work.

The Waxing Moon: 13 days (2 days after the new moon – 1 day before the full moon)

Dress is conservative. Women should have their hair up and wear a one-piece bathing suit at the beach. Men are never out of place wearing a tie and jacket now.

The Third Quarter: 8 days (full moon – the day of the last quarter)

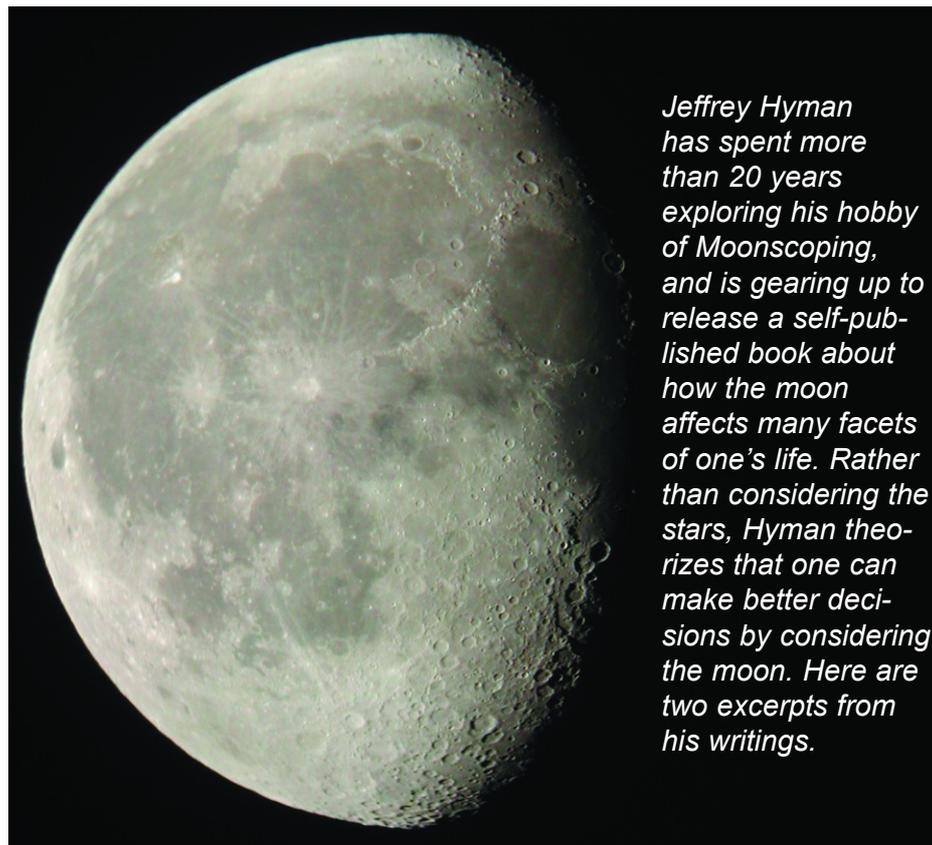
Anything goes. A great time for bright colors, huge earrings, revealing outfits and lots of jewelry. This is when a woman should consider going topless at the beach.

The New Moon Syndrome: 7 days (5 days before the new moon – 1 day after the new moon)

Wear subdued outfits and colors. Tone it down now during this compulsive and explosive period.

The Full Moon: 3 days (the day before, of and after the full moon)

Wear your best clothing. If you attend a black tie optional affair during the full moon period, then go formal. The word formal even sounds like full moon



Jeffrey Hyman has spent more than 20 years exploring his hobby of Moonscoping, and is gearing up to release a self-published book about how the moon affects many facets of one's life. Rather than considering the stars, Hyman theorizes that one can make better decisions by considering the moon. Here are two excerpts from his writings.

when you say it fast. Also, make sure that your clothing is loose-fitting, as blood pressure may be on the rise now.

The Quarter Moons: 2 days (the day of the first quarter and the day of last quarter)

Dress is casual. On these mellow days, people are tired and could care less about their clothing.

Which Performance to Attend

A dilemma we sometimes face is whether to attend an early or a late performance. Many of us instinctively feel that the late show will be better or hipper, but this is not always the case. You first need to check out the moon. Look for a good lunar transit, when the moon is either overhead or directly underfoot, because this is when it exerts its maximum force on tides and on people. As a rule of thumb, attend the early show if the performance takes place near the day of the first quarter or the day of the last quarter. Go to the late show if the performance is near the time of the full moon or the new moon.

If you write for tickets to the Letterman or Leno shows, request the waxing moon period. This is from two days after the new moon through one day before the full moon. The likelihood of a substitute host increases

once the moon starts to wane. Also, it is better to travel when the moon is waxing.

The best performances tend to occur during the waxing moon period, especially on six, five, four and three days before the full moon. The reason is the moon is always at its zenith then between 7 and 10 p.m., and the energy at this time is electric.

A good example was the Monterey Pop Festival. This took place on June 14, 1967, three days before the full moon. Many people regard this concert as having some of the most memorable rock performances ever.

For performances during the third quarter of the moon, from the full moon to the day of the last quarter, anticipate that the band will be flat or that foul-ups may occur. During the fourth quarter of the moon from the day of last quarter to the new moon, look for stressed-out band members, such as when Ringo quit the Beatles on August 22, 1968, two days before the new moon, or rowdy crowds, like we saw at the Rolling Stones concert at Altamont Speedway on December 6, 1969, three days before the new moon.

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ParentPalooza

Anyone who knows me well knows that when my beloved calls me, my cell phone plays *Birdhouse in Your Soul* by They Might Be Giants. Knowing that about me, you can imagine my delight when shortly after Goldi was born, a dear friend presented us with a copy of *NO!*, a They Might Be Giants album for kids. I was in heaven. This friend told us that she had gone to a free TMBG park concert in Atlanta only to discover a big lawn full of toddlers bopping to the good feelings of the Giants' accordion-laced grooves.

A couple of months later, during an otherwise unfortunate three-month stay in New York, I was initiated into the world of *Music for Aardvarks* – something of an urban parents' response to other such research-based baby and toddler music programs that we take here (and advo-

cate) because they are our only choices. We leave our cringes at the door as we are submerged in their mind-numbing 'cuteness'. At Aardvarks, we really got into songs like *Modern Art* and *Playdate*,

which feature not only rock guitars, pounding electric bass and slamming percussion, but also lyrics that are relevant to our life like:

"Modern Art! Modern Art! It can be a painting or a sculpture in the park. Take a bus or a train, it's not very far, down in the museum you can see Modern Art!"

Seeking out palatable kids' music continues to be something of a mission for us. And when I say palatable, I am not only wanting my kids to rock – I also want them to be exposed to music of substance, not just single-line melodies and dorky lyrics, but layered textures, music influenced by important styles and cul-



Hot Kids in the City

By Jenni Person



Lisa Mathews and Mikel Gehl are Milkshake, part of a new breed of children's musicians that parents will like, too.

Photo courtesy of Steve Parke

tures, music and lyrics that challenge their brains and expand on their cognitive development by not being predictable. Some of the music of my childhood such as *Free To Be... You and Me* as well as Carol King and Maurice Sendak's *Really Rosie* became part of our regular fare – as did the strong-but-very-serious collections for kids from Putamayo and even some of Elvis' more danceable recordings, but we were still hungry to provide more.

Luckily, we quickly discovered more cool options – compilations by mostly alternative rock artists covering kids songs, or including their own songs that seemed to fit the kid bill: *Mary Had Little Amp* (i.e. Graham Nash, REM, Lou Reed, Indigo Girls, the Dixie Chicks), *For the Kids* (i.e. Barenaked Ladies, Sarah McLachlan, Sixpence None the Richer, Darius Rucker) and *For the Kids Too* (i.e. They Might Be Giants, Lisa Loeb, Matthew Sweet). Both these latter albums support VH-1's Save the Music Foundation, which supports music education in schools. Goldi has grown up on this music but still gravitates to so much other stuff because most of her friends aren't growing up on it.

And then we discovered Noggin's musical interludes, which feature some pretty cool stuff with the exception of the overplaying of Laurie Berkner videos (kids really seem to love this universally

so my hat is off to her; I don't turn it off like I do the Wiggles). Some really rockin' people are making kids' music now, as evidenced not only in the collections cited above, but also on Noggin between in the interludes and the very groovy *Jack's Big Music Show*. We've seen Lisa Loeb on Noggin, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Music for Aardvarks is featured, as well as some kid-specific bands made up of real rockers like Dan Zanes, Milkshake, the Dirty Sock Band and Hot Peas 'N Butter. I only wished these musicians played shows here like the commercial ones that parents are always bending over backwards to get tickets to at major venues.

And then one day I caught a very promising announcement on Noggin: A very cool music show for kids did exist, but I had to wait a year for it to even get close.

"If you're old enough to walk, you're old enough to rock," goes the motto of Jamarama Live's Kidfest, which is much like a Lollapalooza for the car seat set. But more importantly, Jamarama Live boasts music their Baby Boomer and Gen-X parents want to bop to along with them. Featuring the smart, musically sound and lyrically relevant music featured on Noggin, Jamarama Live is the hip parents' antidote to packaged commercial kids' music shows featuring the

Continued on page 51

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A photograph of Jamarama — the closest thing to Woodstock for knee-highs

ParentPalooza

Continued from page 50

.....
overly sugary offerings of purple dinosaurs and other such characters we get enough of in Central Florida.

Parents who found themselves in the mosh pit of Lollapalooza at Bayfront Park in the '90s will be happy to rock to the grooves of indie-rockers-turned-parents Milkshake and others with their kids between dives in the My Gym play area. And those who piled into their cars with five other friends to drive to Tennessee for Lilith Fair can relive the thrill in their mommy-mobiles on the way to the Pompano Beach Amphitheatre for the show featuring Noggin's born-from-literature characters (rather than vice versa) such as Miffy, from award-winning children's author Dick Bruna, as well as characters from Lazytown, the anti-junk-food, pro-exercise adventure series that mixes people and puppets in flamboyant colorful sets and costumes.

OK, that was Goldi and Izzi's parents at Lollapalooza and Lilith Fair, but it's the kids who will now reap the rewards. This is the place to be on November 11 if you are a family with little kids. Pompano Beach may seem like a schlep with all the kid gear and required snacks and favorite possessions, but it will be worth it. I have this fantasy that it will be some sort of

Mecca-like merging of what formed me and who I am now with a family.

Jamarama has been touring the country since last year. It was borne out of the producers' quest — much like ours — for their kids to rock to good, solid music. In its first leg, many of the show dates were played in hip clubs where parents may have hung out pre-kids (specifically, I noticed I had hung out at some of the clubs in the different cities), but apparently the sound worked out better in more traditional venues, so this year's leg is scheduled mostly in more theatre-like venues. But at least our show date is scheduled in an outdoor venue, helping it ooze with the coolness of Woodstock and its aforementioned '90s offspring.

We LieberPersons, unfortunately, are booked that day, but after a year of waiting for the show to come within an hour's drive of us, we'll be road-tripping to Clearwater to catch the show in the much less rock-and-roll venue of Ruth Eckerd Hall! Luckily, as you dear regular readers by now all know, we are road-warriors; it'll truly be like reliving the trip from Miami Beach to Nashville for Lilith Fair! Except with a diaper bag and an Angelina Ballerina suitcase full of dress-up clothes...

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

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~ ~ ~

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JACK KING

Down the Drain

By Jack King

BBT Columnist

One my first conversations with our former city commissioner Johnny Winton was about what to do with downtown's Bicentennial Park, or as it is now called, Museum Park. The Florida Marlins were in a full court press to snatch the property for their new stadium. What more could they ask for? Free land, on the water, and then the city and county would dump millions more into the construction costs. What a deal!

Winton went on to lead the charge to keep the Marlins off the bay, and then he started a study to see just what should go into Bicentennial Park. What we have ended up with is the Museum of Science and the Miami Art Museum. Sort of.

After several years of studies, community meetings, planning charettes and God knows what else, those two became the heirs apparent to the city's most expensive free property. Only there was a small hitch. Both the Science Museum and the Art Museum were essentially broke. They had no chance to build anything in the park even with the free land. You would think that would have been a wakeup call for the city, and it was. But rather than dump them and find more worthy tenants, the city just borrowed the money and gave it to them. Or at least they told them they would, but the two museums have to raise at least half the amount. So far, neither museum has even come close.

So, more than six years later nothing has happened in Bicentennial Park. Millions have been spent and, with the exception of a new sea wall, nothing has happened. Our wonderful mayor, Manny "Concrete Manny" Diaz takes all the credit for the rebirth of Miami, but so far he has been unable, or more correctly incapable, of doing anything with Bicentennial Park. Six years. Millions of dollars. Nothing accomplished.

Bicentennial Park is a mess, but it's just one of many messes in the parks system in the city. Take a look at Grapeland Heights Park on Douglas Road just north of the Don Shula. It had multiple baseball fields and was used extensively by the local community. It is next door to the Melreese Golf course, one of the best public courses in the nation. So, Mayor Concrete Manny and his developer minions decided that such a large piece of public land that wasn't being used the way they thought it should be, should be used for a new upscale hotel. Forget that the ball fields were in use daily by hun-

dreds of residents and that no one bothered to do any marketing studies to see if their was any reason to build a hotel.

They got some of Manny's concrete clowns to bid on the program and then the city flattened the ball fields, and the community center. Then, with the economy crashing, the bidders took a walk. That left the city with a huge vacant lot and another park with no use to the residents of Miami. Way to go, Manny. Buy more of those green vehicles and park them on the concrete. Millions gone again and no plan for the people who actually live here.

I know that every neighborhood in Miami has its stories about how the city has abused them, but having lived in Coconut Grove for the past 25 years, I can tell you we are at the top of the list. You might argue that the Black sections of Miami are more abused, but that's just not true. They are just ignored. And every time the city wants to do something stupid in the Grove, the residents catch on and stop it. Then the city orders a "study" to buy some time in the hopes that every-one goes on vacation.

That is what is going on right now. Manny and his minions, led by none other than former Commissioner Winton, wanted to build a vaporous strip mall on the waterfront, but the community said no way. Along came a study, but this time the study was done by a respectable firm that wouldn't roll over for the city. Thanks in no small part to a group of dedicated citizens, the city accidentally did something right and selected the firm of Sasaki to come up with a waterfront plan for the grove. They did such a good job that the city immediately rejected their proposals, saying that wasn't what the city wanted.

The city then went on the offensive, placing blame everywhere they could, but not on themselves. Now, the city is fumbling and mumbling around, trying to make the study go away. Sure, why not. Three years later and \$600,000 down the drain, and there are more broken promises to the residents of the Grove. Yes, but we're used to it. This is the fourth study that will not be implemented in the past 20 years. We're hanging tough, but it's not easy. Every time we go on vacation, another concrete pouring plan pops up in the Grove.

When I get back from this trip I have no doubt that the new plan for a Marlins stadium surrounded by a strip mall with a 50 foot statue of Mayor Concrete Manny to be built on the site of the Dinner Key Convention Center will be well in the works.

eBay: America's New Marketplace

Much like such proprietary terms as Frisbee or Kleenex, the concept of "selling it on eBay" has entered the cultural lexicon as a universally recognized reference point. The ubiquitous online auction site has become the world's flea market of first refusal, the default place for finding rare or bargain items and/or unloading same. Oddly enough, many people mouthing the term "eBay" have never even visited the site, and plenty of habitual tchotchke buyers out there don't know the first thing about the art of selling, having never hawked so much as a paper clip on the site. There's also a big difference between pawning a few used CDs and marketing bigger-ticket items. Moreover, one could fill an encyclopedia with the particulars of eBay's wide-ranging impact on societal and business customs, and the ways such factors influence buying and selling on the site. So, having sold six cars on eBay myself, here's a primer on what I've learned, what to watch out for and how to protect yourself.

First off, there's no doubt that if you're looking to buy or sell just about anything, it behooves you to include eBay in your calculations. The site has truly altered the dynamics of U.S. and world commerce, introducing an essentially limitless virtual marketplace and facilitating the transactions of millions of buyers and sellers. Compare eBay's global reach with the old-school methods of buying and selling – garage sales, newspaper classifieds, word of mouth, etc – and one immediately grasps the awe-inspiring power inherent in enabling anyone with a computer to access so many potential buyers and sellers from the comfort of one's living room. Many formerly local distributors of specialized consumer goods now boast eBay or Amazon storefronts, allowing them to sell to anyone in the country. And the wider your potential customer base, the higher your potential sales. From the buyer's perspective, such a wide auction-oriented marketplace with so many sellers just about guarantees a lower price for any conceivable purchase.

The company got its start in 1995, in Pierre Omidyar's California house. The secret to its phenomenal success is one of critical mass: It was the first decent auction site on the scene and quickly built the huge customer base coveted by any thriving auction house. Like a self-fulfilling prophecy, everybody started using eBay to buy and sell, simply because that's where everybody else was. Needless to say the site also appealed to that opportunistic flea

market bargain-hunter inside all of us. Isn't 'cutting out the middleman' fun? You bet it is. Lucrative, too. And eBay makes its money all along the way, via marketing and listing fees charged on most transactions.

But buying and selling on eBay is not always easy, or safe. The 'Buy It Now' option is simple enough – a set price that, once met, means the sale is immediately consummated. But a lot of people don't understand what a 'reserve auction' is, or what it takes to win a listed item. (I myself have had to give basic eBay user lessons to gruff buyers asking me to 'please send their won item posthaste', when the auction isn't even over yet!) Simply put, a reserve auction allows me to set a secret minimum price at which I must sell the listed item, should a buyer meet or exceed that price. That secret reserve price is only revealed when a buyer meets it during the course of the timed auction, at which point I am obligated to sell the item to whoever winds up bidding the most. (Coincidentally, once the reserve is met, the winning bidder is also obligated to buy.) Should the auction expire without any buyers meeting my minimum price, then I do not have to sell the item; in this case I am always free to make deals with any extant bidders, though none are obligated to me in any way. So the reserve is the least I'll take, but there is no maximum – only the limit of how much people are willing to pay.

Here we come to the bumpy part: Assuming a consummated sale, money must at some point be exchanged remotely between total strangers in different cities, and no sane seller is going to part with any item without first receiving payment. So this necessarily entails a level of trust on the buyer's part, routing money into the ether (either via U.S. Mail or an electronic payment service such as PayPal) without knowing for certain whether the seller will reciprocate. In this arena eBay is for the most part self-policing, with an intricate system of customer ratings and comments letting you know how other people felt about doing business with your buyer or seller.

Unfortunately this is of no use with unrated novices, which is how everybody starts out; such is also the M.O. of most

eBay fraudsters, who create new unrated identities after every swindle so that one never knows whether you're dealing with a genuine novice or a serial crook. There's been much discussion and speculation about just how much fraud is perpetrated on eBay every year; it stands to reason that management would want to downplay those numbers, so nobody's really sure. But I've seen and heard a few examples myself, and eBay scams run the gamut from simple non-payment or nonshipment rip-offs, to classic bait-and-switch ruses, to more elaborate big-ticket cons. One zero-rated guy tried to get me to ship a load of printer equipment to Canada before having received a penny from him ("The check's on the way!"); I've also heard stories about buyers conning money out of naive sellers to help 'facilitate' high-value transactions, and then vanishing without a trace. As a seller, the rule is simple: If it

sounds like a scam it probably is. Don't send nuthin' till the cash is in hand! As for buyers, go by a seller's rating whenever you can, and only buy big-ticket items (like cars) face-to-face. Most eBay users become targeted at one point or another, and spoof emails are a constant threat; the site does have extensive fraud protection guidelines, so obey them.

There are a couple of other tenets for happy eBay transactions. Remember, an auction is an auction. Meaning whatever you're selling, be honest about its details and condition, and your buyers will then offer whatever they feel it's worth. I once sold a piece-of-****, beat up old Nissan coupe to some guy for 25 percent of its Blue Book value. He knew exactly what was wrong with the car (everything!), but he paid me what he felt it was worth and everyone drove away happy. Also, be aware that specialized auction sites might be better for certain items (guns and boats aren't usually allowed or seen on eBay, for example). Otherwise, happy eBaying!

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



Tech Talk

By Marc Stephens

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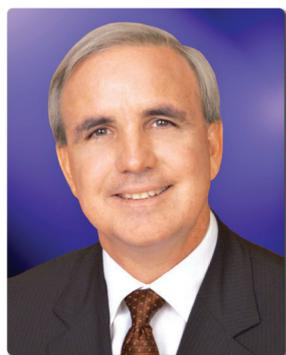


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COOKING

**Polenta with Portobello
Mushrooms and Gorgonzola Cheese**

By Sandra Stefani
Casa Toscana

Editor's note: The BBT welcomes as guest chef Sandra Stefani, owner of Casa Toscana at 7001 Biscayne Blvd. Make your reservations for now by calling 305-758-3353 or visit www.casatoscanamiami.com to learn more.

Parmesan-herb polenta

- 5 cups chicken stock
- 1 to 2 cups milk
- 3 cups instant Polenta
- 1 cup grated parmesan
- 1/2 stick butter
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh herbs (rosemary, thyme, sage)

Mix the chicken stock and milk in a deep saucepan and bring to a boil. Add the polenta and stir with a wire whisk (in order to avoid lumps) for about 5 minutes. When the polenta reaches a thick consistency, remove from the heat and add the butter, grated cheese and chopped herbs – mix well. Pour into a square glass pan to cool. Invert the cool polenta on a cutting board and slice about 1/2 inch thick. Lightly flour each piece and fry in olive oil until golden.

Sauce

- 3 large Portobello mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- Chopped garlic
- Chopped parsley
- Olive oil
- Tomato puree
- White wine
- Salt and fresh ground pepper
- Crumbled gorgonzola cheese



Place olive oil in a large pan over high heat; add the chopped garlic and sauté for a minute until the garlic turns nutty brown (be careful not to burn). Add sliced mushrooms and sear until golden brown, splash with the wine, add the tomato puree and the chopped parsley, and then reduce the heat and simmer for about 5 minutes until some of the liquid reduces.

Arrange the prepared polenta in an ovenproof dish. Place some of the sauce on each piece – topped with the crumbled gorgonzola cheese – and place in the oven for a couple of minutes, enough for the cheese to melt.

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Budget Blues Take Your Green

Change in seasons, changes in spending: Your condominium association, like your private home, may budget an average monthly expense account that you hope will even out in the end, yet the end of the year sees an increase in expenses. The fall brings relief to common area air-conditioning bills, but an increase in pool heating costs may offset any savings. The end of daylight savings time makes lights go on earlier, using even more precious energy dollars. Snowbirds flock to our warmer climes, adding to your buildings census with additional residents and guests straining staff and services. Holiday lights sure look nice, but at what cost? What is a money-cruncher to do?



CONDO COUNSEL
By Gabrielle Redfern

Now is the annual time to reassess your common expenses, and in light of what you can learn, plan for next year. Start, as always, by reading your documents to see if there are any clauses or requirements above and beyond the Florida Statutes for drafting, notifying homeowners and adopting your budget. One tower I manage on Miami Beach requires that the new budget be passed 45 days before the start of the new fiscal year. For us, that makes the budget meeting mid-November. Couple that with the 30-day mailing requirement, the advance notice we must provide for our homeowners with the notice of the budget meeting and a draft of the budget with proposed reserves, our budget was inked in early October. January is a long way away. Next December, where the numbers you come up with now will really count, is even further a field. Planning that far ahead can be a daunting task, especially when you want to be as correct as possible. The presentation of the next year's operating budget is the first and foremost responsibility of the board of directors.

Begin by looking at your third-quarter to date actual expenses. Divide the numbers by 9 then multiply that number by 12; that should give you a quick and dirty projection of where your expenses will land at the end of your fiscal year. Some numbers will have to be adjusted, especially those one-time expenses, based on your knowledge of the management of the association.

Now look at those year end numbers to start thinking about next year's budget:

Are there reasons your office supply line is over budget by 125 percent? Can you expect those needs to reoccur next year, or does the emergency purchase of the new computer for the front desk explain it? Water, electric, gas and trash pick-up: Have you stayed on track, or can you expect increases? Do you dare to budget a five percent reduction for next year as FPL forecasts, or is it better to keep that line flat with actual projected year-end expenses and hope for a surplus? I like fat budgets that are within reason and do not burst the bank. Reach out to vendors and contractors for next year's increases; add 10 percent to this year's actual projected costs. Look at the numbers then and see what makes sense, and be

sure to annotate your decisions, line-by-line, so when the assumptions change, or homeowners have questions (which they will), you will have a basis for the numbers. Does your building have a staff? Have you tied staff expenses to the actual schedule to see if it is realistic? Will there be increases or decreases in the level of services you offer in the future? And what about healthcare, emergency overtime for hurricanes and vacation coverage: Do you have that budgeted correctly as well?

Capitol projects: Do you want to upgrade the landscaping, put in a new decorative fountain or buy a new 52-inch plasma-screen TV for the recreation room? Budget for all those things and make sure you make them happen, or trust will be lost and money for those kind of projects harder to come by in the future.

The big wildcard in all this is your insurance renewal. If your association was not hit with an eye-popping renewal cost this year, you can almost bank on it for the next. One building I manage was lucky in 2006: Their renewal date was mid-May, just a few weeks before the new insurance schedules kicked in. Additionally, their windstorm continued to be bundled in with their condominium package insurance. Although the building does carry over a half million dollar hurricane deductible (which we do not reserve for), the premium itself was quite reasonable. Now next year, we have been warned, and I am sharing that warning with you, that if our carrier chooses to

write our policy with wind protection excluded, we will be forced, like many of you, to seek windstorm insurance from Citizens, the state-funded insurer of last resort. Our cost could go as high as \$1.09 for each \$100 of coverage, just for windstorm. On a \$20,000,000 building, that is \$218,000. How do you budget for that?

You don't. That is, at least, one choice. This board, when faced with that possible reality, (considering the tower is not fitted with hurricane-rated glass, or shuttered 100 percent), chose to keep insurance budget lines relatively flat, based on other line projections provided by our agent. They then warned the homeowners in writing when sending out the proposed budget, that should the insurance rates reach stratospheric heights, the association would assess the premium as a special assessment. Usually, a special assessment of that size would be spread out over several months. Insurance

premiums, as you know, are due when they are due, and in this climate those figures are being presented to the associations only a few days before renewal time. Associations with a tight cash-flow may not be able to float the premium, or even the down payment. How do you budget for that?

Budgets are really a do-your-best guess, but there is a science to the art and a willingness to make

tough decisions, not only in the planning process, but during the administration of the budget in the fiscal year. The more realistic you are, however, in your financial planning, the less decision-making will be needed on the fly next year. You should also get as much input from as many homeowners and other sources in creating your budget. The more your neighbors understand and participate in the process, the easier it will be for them to write their maintenance checks each month.

Our cost could go as high as \$1.09 for each \$100 of coverage, just for windstorm. On a \$20,000,000 building, that is \$218,000. How do you budget for that?

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This Person's Transportation Plan: Scooters!

By Jim W. Harper
BBT Columnist

Live where you work. Work where you live.

That's the best prospect for people concerned about the environmental impact of their commute. It's also a necessity in our increasingly urbanized world, so we better figure out how to make our cities more livable and sustainable.

Until we create those walkable, affordable neighborhoods in Miami-Dade, we will spend countless hours alone in our cars, growing angrier and unhealthier each day.

We are addicted to traffic. Admitting it is the first step.

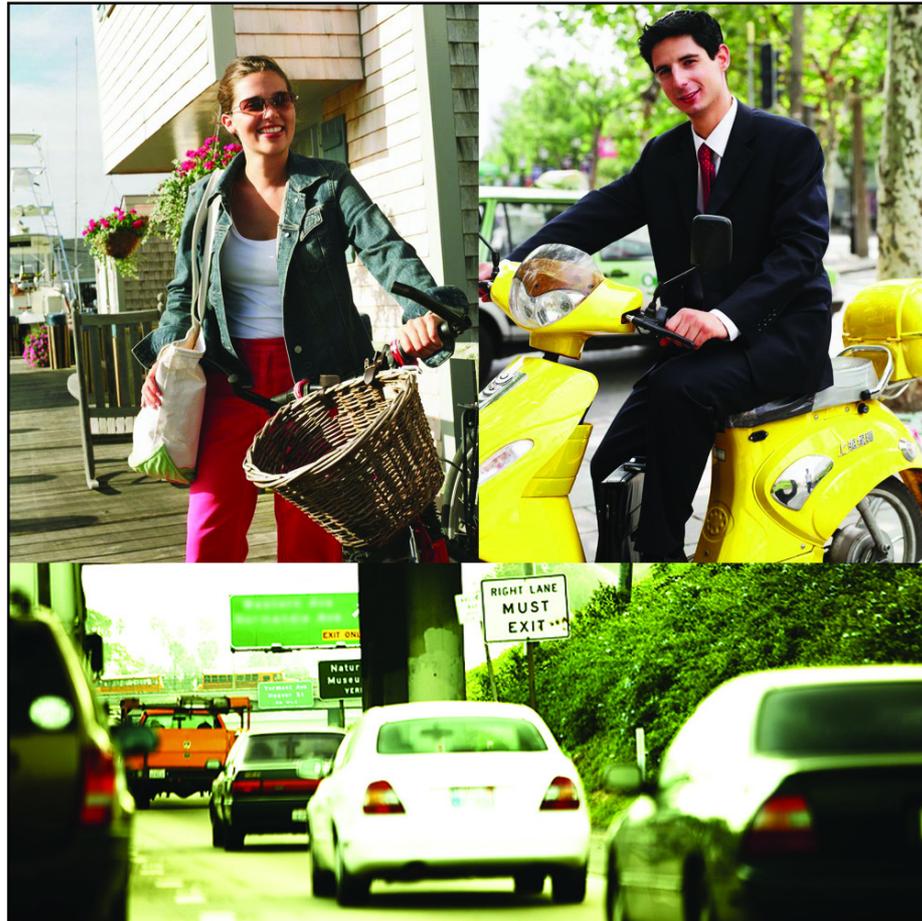
The congestion is so bad that in 2002 the people of Miami-Dade voted in a half-penny tax and the People's Transportation Plan, which are supposed to get us out of this mess in 25 years at a price tag of \$17 billion.

But what about the state of public transportation today?

I bought a one-month metro pass in September to see how much I could use mass transit. Silly me. I had no idea what I was up against. I should have read the transit chronicles *Confessions of an Ex-Busrider* in this paper by Priscilla Arias.

My experiment was hindered by one small caveat: I own a car. Anyone in Miami who owns a car will not ride the bus more than twice. This equation is immutable. But I did come up with a brilliant compromise while waiting for the bus on day two. Watching the cars whiz by, you notice that most of them are occupied by only one person. And one person does not need four wheels.

Instead of cars, we should all be driving scooters! We could become the



scooter capital of the Americas. After all, Ft. Lauderdale proclaims itself as the "Venice of America," so why can't Miami become Vespa's "Home Away from Rome"?

Scooters use much less gas, take up much less space and require much less raw materials to build than SUVs. And they are cool – even Hollywood Stars Living in London (Gwyneth) ride them. You help the environment and you look fashionable doing it. Win-win.

Avoid scooters that sound like lawnmowers (using a two-stroke engine) in favor of beefier four-stroke models, which actually have cleaner emissions. Better yet, search for a hybrid or elec-

tric model. Or go completely Flintstones with a foot-powered manual.

If I were implementing the People's Transportation Plan, I would set aside rebates for residents who purchase scooters. Then I might be able to afford a trendy hybrid model.

But for most people, the bus remains the most affordable and comprehensive mass transit option. People unable to purchase scooters must ride the bus, and they deserve to be comforted during the hours they spend each day waiting for one to arrive. Tell your municipality to give them shelters, now! Don't make these good people suffer tomorrow when they are helping to relieve traffic congestion and air pollution today.

Bus shelters can't happen fast enough.

In the good news column, Miami-Dade has plans to purchase hybrid buses using cleaner technologies. Great move. The basic problem with buses, however, is that they are stuck in traffic instead of getting you out of it. Mass transportation works best when it takes you over, under or around street traffic.

The current push for streetcars in the City of Miami needs this reality-check. They will be glued to tracks built into the asphalt. Enough said.

Now, onto the trains. We actually have them in Miami, and one is com-

pletely free! You really should try the Metromover, if only for the views of downtown. It has a Disney-esque feeling, like the monorail around the Magic Kingdom. Is that why they call it The Magic City?

As for the MetroRail, it only has one line, and that line has nothing to do with our part of town. Imagine New York City if the subway only went to the Bronx. But with some expansion, the MetroRail could become a real park-and-ride option.

For us, the best bet is the proposed conversion of the FEC Railway into a commuter line (see www.sfecstudy.com). The next public meeting about this proposal is November 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gwen Margolis Center in North Miami.

Until that golden train comes shining through, most of us will still need a car. But you do not have to drive it alone.

An immediate solution is Vanpooling, a service offered by South Florida Commuter Services (see

www.1800234ride.com). They match riders and provide a van for a group of commuters, who each pay around \$80 per month to ride. Currently only 73 such vehicles operate in Miami-Dade, according to Guy Milord of SF Commuter Services. But that number equates to over 400 cars out of traffic.

Getting cars off the road leads to cleaner air as well as saner traffic.

Good intentions, however, do not equal cleaner air. You may want to ride your bike to work, but you don't. Do you have any idea how much pollution you create by driving everywhere?

There is a personal price to carbon dioxide emissions, and online calculators such as the one at Americanforests.org will give you an exact number. It also tells you how many trees you need to buy to pay your penance. Know your environmental footprint and take steps of remediation now.

You could also volunteer for TREEmendous Miami, which plants trees for the elderly and needy. Call 305-378-1863 for details. Trees are huggable; cars are not.

Whenever you can, take a walk, ride a bike or skateboard to your next destination. When you get there, you will have done something better for the air we breathe, and you will feel better, too.

Maybe we didn't build I-95, but we can take part in imagining and creating its alternatives.



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Building a Better Financial Future

By Kevin C. McCarthy
President, McCarthy
Financial Group, P.A.

This column is designed to give you a clear picture of what equity indexed annuities (EIAs) are about. Kevin C. McCarthy, President of McCarthy Financial Group, explains the pros and cons behind this popular investment path.

In the past, the road to accumulating assets led almost exclusively to banks for all but the most sophisticated investors. Today, there are hundreds of investment paths people can take. One of the fastest-growing choices is the annuity. According to the Financial Services Fact Book, in 2003 Americans owned more than \$1 trillion in annuities.

Now, most of us have heard of annuities. But, honestly, does anyone really know what they are? Simply stated, an annuity is issued by an insurance company and it can offer unique benefits. There are two types of annuities:

Fixed Annuities – As the name suggests, your money earns a fixed interest rate of return. When you decide to take money out, you can elect to receive a guaranteed fixed payout every month, partial payout or lump sum at the end of the term.

The relative newcomer in this category – the product I call the better mousetrap – is the **equity indexed annuity**, or EIA. It pays a minimum fixed interest rate of return, and you might earn interest based on a generally used stock market barometer such as the S&P 500¹ Index. And market risk of principal is eliminated.

Variable Annuities – With this type of annuity, your money is invested in sub-accounts that can be invested in stocks, bonds or cash. These sub-accounts are considered securities, and as such are subject to market risks and fluctuations. The value of this type of annuity is based on how well these sub-accounts perform.

Benefits can be a blur – to help you remember all of them, all you have to know is the acronym STYLE.

Safety – With an EIA, there is a guaranteed minimum account value, a guaranteed minimum interest rate, no stock market risk to your principal and the backing of the issuing insurance company.

Tax Deferral – Your gains accumulate tax-deferred, helping lower your current tax bill while you build assets for the future. Plus, the deferred income is not

TYPE OF ANNUITY	PAYOUT	RISKS
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Variable Annuities	Based on Performance	Subject to Market Risks & Fluctuations
Equity Indexed Annuities	Fixed Rate plus Interest	Eliminates Market RISK to Principal

included when calculating federal income taxes on Social Security benefits, helping some pay less or no tax on their monthly Social Security benefits.

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Estate Benefits – For those concerned about estate planning, EIAs can provide beneficiaries with an immediate cash payment. When paid to a properly designated/named beneficiary (other than your estate), EIAs are not usually subject to the administrative costs, fees, delays and publicity of probate.

~ ~ ~

Now that you know the benefits, it's important to know the downfalls of the EIA. Annuities are sometimes marketed by providing higher interest rates the first year and lower rates in succeeding years. Make sure you ask about rates before committing to an investment. Another thing buyers need to take into consideration is the insurance company that's backing the annuity. The annuity is only as good as the insurance company, so deal with a top-quality provider.

Remember, your guaranteed return is only as good as the insurance company that gives it. While it is not a common occurrence that a life insurance company is unable to meet its obligations, it happens. There are several private companies that rate an insurance company's financial strength. The guaranteed minimum return for an EIA is typically 90 percent of the premium paid at a three percent annual interest rate. However, if you surrender your EIA early, you may have to pay a significant surrender charge and a 10 percent tax penalty that will reduce or eliminate any return.

You should have a better understanding of annuities and more confidence in deciding if EIAs are right for you. When it comes to your retirement, today more than ever, investors need to work with someone they can trust. If you would like to attend one of my free educational luncheons on "Exposing the Myths of Annuities," please contact Vivian Cruz at 305-945-7630 for a list of upcoming dates and restaurants. You may also contact Vivian if you would like to receive a free brochure about annuities.

Editor's Note on disclosures: The information provided is for educational purposes and is not a solicitation for any specific annuity or security. EIAs are not guaranteed by banks or insured by the FDIC. The guarantees provided in annu-

ity contracts are contingent on the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. Surrendering any annuity before the surrender period has passed will cause surrender charges, if any, to be applied. Interest accumulated in an annuity is generally tax-deferred until withdrawn. Withdrawals or distributions from an annuity may be fully or partially subjected to federal and state income taxes and will decrease any death benefits. If the holder is under the age of 59-and-a-half when a withdrawal is made, there may be a 10 percent penalty. Beneficiaries of EIAs are not afforded the step-up benefit that is available to beneficiaries of stocks and mutual funds, and are subject to income tax on the amounts attributable to earnings when withdrawn.

¹ "S&P 500" is a registered trademark of The McGraw-Hill Companies. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. When you own an EIA, you do not own shares of any stock index. The values of the various indices vary from day-to-day and are not predictable.

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Protein, Cardio and You

By Jairo Morales
One Fitness

Marketing mongrels from various companies have made dieting harder and harder for the average individual to understand and follow a good eating plan. Fat is bad, no wait fat is good; carbs are bad, no wait carbs are good. You don't know what to believe or what to do.

First off, calories are calories no matter what source they come from – fat, carbohydrates or protein. So if you eat too much of any source of calories you will gain weight. It's simple: If you eat more than you expend you will gain weight, and if you eat less then you expend you will lose weight.

There are basic differences between each macronutrient. When it comes to diet, each gram of protein has a value of 4 Kcal. Carbohydrates also have a value of 4 Kcal per gram. But fat, on the other hand, has 9 Kcal per gram. So it is easier to eat more calories of fat than protein and carbohydrates because for each serving you get more calories.

This is the first marketing tool that was popular, which said fat will get you fat. Now it *is* easier for your body to store fat if you consume more fat, but remember that calories are calories no matter where you get them from.

When it comes to carbohydrates, it has nothing to do with the serving size but how much we consume. Americans are a carbohydrate society. Breakfast (cereal, bagels), lunch and dinner (rice, bread), and snacks (chips, cookies) are all carb-heavy, so it is easy for to us to eat too many calories from

carbohydrates.

Protein, on the other hand, we don't eat at every meal, and the amount that we eat is not enough. This is a bad practice because protein is involved with almost every aspect of growth and repair in your body. Basically, it helps you heal.

Everybody always forgets the most important thing that our body needs: food. It's our source of fuel, so eating smaller amounts of food more frequently throughout the day, every two to four hours, is more effective.

The conclusion is that we don't eat enough protein, too many carbohydrates and, because fat tastes good, too much of it, which has too many calories per serving. So our proportions are all messed up. There literally is no balance in our diet.

Therefore, what does all this information tell you? Have smaller meals every two to four hours rich in protein with minimum carbohydrates, and try not to eat foods that have fat because of the amount of calories per serving. That's it! Any more complications makes it unrealistic for everyday life.

Food is a pleasure of life and you should eat what you want; don't suffer to lose weight. If you follow this simple advice you will lose weight and be healthy.

For more advice on diet and exercise contact Jairo Morales by email at jairo@onefitness.com or by phone at 786-390-8931. Visit www.onefitness.com for more information.



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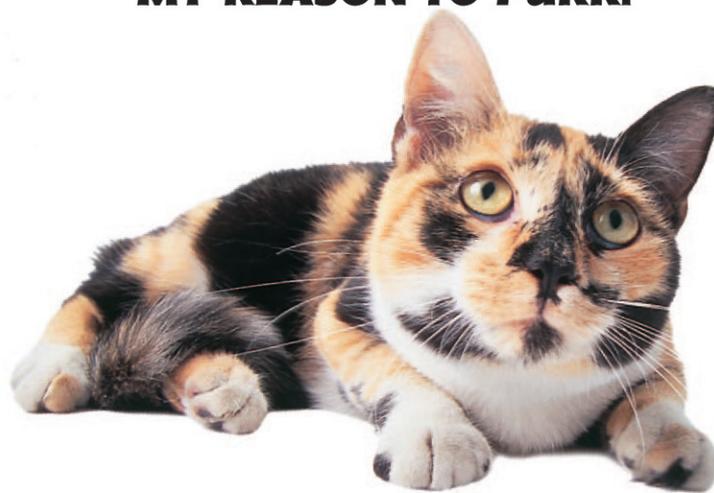
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Sustainable Landscaping and Horticulture



A view of Parrot Jungle Island's tree canopy, October 2006. This was grown in a sustainable manner without the use of any pesticides or fertilizer.

By Jeff Shimonski
Tropical Designs of Florida

A couple of weeks ago I gave a presentation on sustainable landscaping at the 2006 American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting & Expo and the International Federation of Landscape Architects 43rd World Congress. This came about through my involvement with the Environmental Protection Agency's GreenScapes landscape program.

Sustainable landscaping means different things to different people, but I think this concept should include long-term and short-term goals. An appropriate design that is functional for the site and climate, cost-efficient and environmentally benign is a good short-term goal. Long-term goals should take into consideration the rate of growth and lifespan of the plants, irrigation and maintenance needs and a plan for soil health. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Plant Health Care (PHC) programs and systems are the core of sustainable landscaping for any size project.

Sustainable landscaping means different things to different people, but I think this concept should include long-term and short-term goals.

Below are factors that I believe should be taken into consideration for the planning phase or a redesign phase of a project, no matter if it is a residence or a theme park-sized property.

What kind of soil is available? If the soil is in poor condition with little or no biological activity that can promote healthy and active roots, then are you going to depend on constant fertilization and spraying? You can create a more sustainable plan that will depend on the use of compost and

mulch to create beneficial biological activity around the root systems. Another benefit of added compost and mulch is that for every extra kilogram of organic matter added to sandy soil, you increase the soil's water-storage capacity by approximately two liters. That means better water-retention and less irrigation!

Those plants in your garden that are always yellow and chlorotic, and always need fertilizer to stay green perhaps need more acidic conditions. But we can only offer alkaline soil in our area of South Florida, so select plants that grow

Continued on page 60

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Sustainable Landscaping

Continued from page 59

well in your specific soil conditions. There are so many species of plants that will do well in our local conditions, and native plants can be quite attractive in a well-designed landscape and require minimal 'chemical care'.

What is the year-round climate? Even though our winters are milder than they used to be, some plants just don't do well when exposed to a windy cold front, sometimes taking months to recover. Check out Yellow Malayan coconut palms or Carpentaria palms after winter. They usually look terrible.

Since hurricanes are not uncommon and most of us live in exposed areas on the coast, are you planting to mitigate hurricane damage? You can create aerial roots on many species of Ficus trees so they can withstand hurricane force winds. Really! Are you pruning your trees properly? Think about selecting trees and palms that are from hurricane or typhoon-prone areas and look at which ones survive the best.

What kind of horticultural maintenance will be available? What is your budget? If you are planning minimal maintenance and your budget is tight,



Newly planted large trees at Parrot Jungle Island, March 2001.

then sustainable landscaping is the way to go. You won't be dependent on expensive 'chemical horticulture'.

Think about species diversity: Remember, a monoculture is vulnerable to diseases and pathogenic insects. If you plant large expanses of one type or species of plant and a pathogenic insect or disease gets started, you will have a tough (and probably expensive) fight ahead to keep those plants alive. How much do you spend a year just to keep your lawn looking green and pest-free? Diversity promotes a healthy ecosys-

tem, and if you do get a problem it will be more localized and easier to cope with. You could just prune back or cut the plant out completely.

Some of the slower-growing and longer-living species of trees are very much desired for landscaping, but either they take too long to mature or are very expensive to purchase as larger specimens. Why not plant what you can afford and then use faster-growing, short-lived – some would say, 'weedier' – species to plant above and amongst the slower-growing trees to create a

'quick' canopy. As the slower growing trees mature, simply remove the other trees. You can say that R-selected plant species are to be used as 'quick' canopy and filler; K-selected species will replace them.

During my presentation at the ASLA conference, I constantly made the point that sustainable landscaping was not only cost-effective but also value-added. I will leave you with a quote that I used in the presentation: "Eco-efficiency is increased by 'activities that create economic value while continuously reducing ecological impact and the use of natural resources'." If this idea piques your interest, check out the source: De Simone and Popoff's 1997 book *Eco-efficiency: The Business Link to Sustainable Development*, published by MIT Press.

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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Key Facts about Influenza and the Influenza Vaccine

By Sorangely Menjivar, R.N.
Executive Vice President
Patient Services Miami Beach
Community Health Center

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 5 to 20 percent of Americans come down with the flu during each flu season, which typically lasts from November to March. Children are two to three times more likely than adults to get sick with the flu, and children frequently spread the virus to others. Although most people recover from the illness, the CDC estimates that in the United States more than 200,000 people are hospitalized and about 36,000 people die from the flu and its complications every year.

Influenza, or flu, is a respiratory infection caused by a variety of flu viruses, which spreads from person to person through coughing or sneezing. The flu differs in several ways from the common cold, a respiratory infection also caused by viruses. For example, people with colds rarely get fevers or headaches or suffer from extreme exhaustion that flu viruses cause.

Flu outbreaks usually begin suddenly and occur mainly in the late fall and winter. Besides the rapid start of the outbreaks and the large numbers of people affected, the flu is an important disease that can cause serious complications. Most people who get the flu recover within a week, but for elderly people, newborn babies and people with certain chronic illnesses, the flu and its complications can be life-threatening.

Influenza vaccine can prevent influenza. There are two types of influenza vaccine, an inactivated (kill) vaccine, or 'flu shot', has been used in the United States for many years. It is given by injection. A live, weakened vaccine was licensed in 2003. It is sprayed into the nostrils. Influenza viruses are always changing; therefore, influenza vaccines are updated every year, and an annual vaccination is recommended.

It takes about two weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination, and pro-

tection can last up to a year. Influenza vaccine is recommended for people who are at risk of complications from flu, and for people who can spread it to those at high risk.

Those at high risk include:

- People 65 years of age or older.
- Residents of long-term care facilities housing persons with chronic medical conditions.
- Patients with long-term health problems:
- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Lung disease
- Metabolic disease,

such as diabetes

- Asthma
- Anemia, and other blood disorders
- People with a weakened immune system due to:
- HIV/AIDS or other diseases that affect the immune system
- Treatment with drugs such as long-term steroids
- Cancer treatment with x-rays or drugs
- Women who will be pregnant during

influenza season

- Physicians, nurses or anyone else coming in close contact with people at risk of serious influenza
- People who provide essential community services
- All children 6-59 months of age
- Students and staff at schools and colleges, to prevent outbreaks
- Anyone who wants to reduce their chance of catching influenza

The best time to get influenza vaccine is between October and December. Most people need only one shot each year. Children under 9 years of age receiving flu vaccines for the first time should get two doses. Influenza vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines, including pneumococcal vaccine. To learn more about the flu vaccine visit the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

The Miami Beach Community Health Center is located at 710 Alton Rd. in Miami Beach, 1221 71st St. in Miami Beach and 2340 N.E. 6th Ct. in North Miami.

The best time to get influenza vaccine is between October and December. Most people need only one shot each year.

Crime

Continued from page 24

said.

Cmdr. Magnusson, while cognizant of the inconvenience of having to drive to any station, said that it's more important to ensure that officers are proactively patrolling the street rather than responding to petty crime.

Despite his discontent with police response, Pleban said officers seem overextended and doesn't fault them altogether, and suggested they might be disillusioned because of low pay and lack of respect.

"We are losing police officers to Broward and Miami Beach," he said.

Donna Stavel, a resident of El Portal since 2003, said police "are not getting what they need." She claimed her Sherwood Forest neighborhood is "plagued with theft and vandalism," and was outraged to hear suggestions at Village Hall budget talks about hiring a new code enforcement officer, buying more real estate and undertaking a new beautification project.

Officer Andres Mendoza, with the El Portal police department, was dispatched to Stavel's home after the robbery. At the time, only one policeman

was on duty for each eight-hour shift, but that has since changed. Officer Ernie Ruiz said that, on average, there are now two or three police officers on duty each shift. Officer Mendoza was more conservative in his estimate: "We try to have at least two on-duty cops in the neighborhood." Both officers noted that more police have not been hired for the night shift.

But Stavel, for one, feels more policing is necessary, but doesn't hold the El Portal police department accountable - "I really commend the police department in the area." Rather she faults Mayor Mariette SaintVil, who "does not feel it's important to have adequate police protection."

Residents of the Upper Eastside are making two fundamental demands: 1) A more fair and efficient system for reporting crime, and 2) increased police protection. Their personal safety, as Stavel phrased it, is being sacrificed in favor of "making sure the grass isn't longer than eight inches."

BBT

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Debate

Continued from page 27

nesses along Biscayne Boulevard, Sarnoff stressed the importance of enterprising and suggested grants and loans be offered.

Heavy construction throughout the City of Miami in recent years has further highlighted quality-of-life concerns within the community. One such concern is scarcity of green-space, namely parks and tree canopy.

Sarnoff pointed out that the City of Miami placed last in a survey of 55 cities for total tree canopy, and would consider adopting Broward County's tree ordinance, which penalizes people for taking down trees: "We should plagiarize Broward County's ordinance lock, stock and barrel."

Rollason agreed that "the tree ordinance being provided does not go far enough ahead," and noted that to accumulate valuable park land, impact fees need to be leveled.

Sklarey said he has personally planted more than 10,000 trees in District 2, and suggested the community become more proactive by educating children about planting trees and carrying out smaller projects throughout the various neighborhoods.

Pointing again to her record as Interim City Commissioner, Haskins opined that the city needs to get creative by partnering with organizations like the School Board and the YMCA to make use of their vast property holdings for green-space. She also noted the potential for utilizing available space on Brickell Avenue: "All of these initiatives have been started in the last few months."

Another problem facing the City of Miami in lieu of the development boom is an underdeveloped public transit system plagued by filthy Metromovers and shelter-less bus stops. At both debates, candidates were asked to comment on the heat-retaining metal bus benches and the need for bus shelters.

Haskins, Rollason, and Sarnoff all blamed the City Commission for spending money on unusable benches. Haskins faulted former City Manager Joe Arriola (from whom she's made very vocal efforts to distance herself since leaving her post under him), and Sarnoff blamed all the members of the City Commission, saying they did not carefully read the contract (Sarnoff's legal skills are one of his major campaign selling-points). Rollason agreed

that the necessary political will was sorely lacking.

Meanwhile, Sklarey proposed privatization as a viable alternative, saying that competition would produce the most efficient bench design.

There was greater disagreement, however, over whether or not to use city funds for bus shelters. Gutierrez felt that a cost/benefit analysis should be done before the matter was decided, but Haskins and Rollason had their minds made up.

"To be more responsive," said Haskins, "the city should take [bus shelters] under its control," which Rollason countered by arguing, "The city can hardly maintain anything."

On matters of public safety, residents will continue to depend on the city, but Miami Police Department officers have been demanding higher pay. Candidates were asked what they would do to attract quality police and firefighters.

Sklarey reasoned, "To have good people, you need to have good morale, a good working environment and an attractive salary." Diaz, a career officer with the MPD, said, "Our employees across the board are fed up... We can't retain an employee here."

Sarnoff again blamed irresponsible government: "The city did not properly fund its pensions for many years [and did not] plan for a rainy day." Rollason and Gutierrez both emphasized negotiating pension contracts. "The pension is a red herring," said Rollason. "The city mishandled the money."

Haskins said the city should increase the starting pay for police, but said, "We don't need to pay firefighters more."

See this month's center spread for a further breakdown of the candidates' policy points and backgrounds, and remember to vote on Nov. 7.

My Side of the Street

Continued from page 10

major city collecting record tax revenues would still pay cops a \$36,000 starting salary or teachers \$32,000? Bienvenidos a Miami. The dysfunction is so comical that it borders on the poetic. Portland, Oregon, has none of these problems and is often referred to as a model of urban planning. Yet when I lived there, I often longed to deliver the city a massive shock, not unlike that of a heart defibrillator. The place was so provincial I could barely find a pulse.

Every day I speak Spanish and English. I love hearing Creole on the street. There's a reassuring level of integration among minorities and socioeconomic classes not seen in too many other places. Miami's cacophony of cultures feeds a raw cosmopolitanism that makes it ground zero for the new American demographic. As this city dives headfirst into the future with often questionable results, ample opportunity abounds for artists and writers to reflect in their work the travails of this fresh demographic. It is the city becoming, which in my mind makes it such an exciting place. Miami is somewhere on the road between the "Cocaine Cowboys" days and "The City of the Future," a phrase I often hear in reference to our fair city. I even saw it in a display at the History Museum downtown, where the exhibits stall out somewhere around 1989. Hope springs eternal, I guess.

Progressive rock oracle Neil Peart once wrote, "The point of the journey is not to arrive." What he meant is that the fun is in the journey, or in our case, in the act of becoming. There's plenty of time for Miami to mature, gentrify and create a well-worn cliché. When that happens, I probably won't be here. For now, I'll sit back and enjoy the ride – at least I know it'll never be boring.



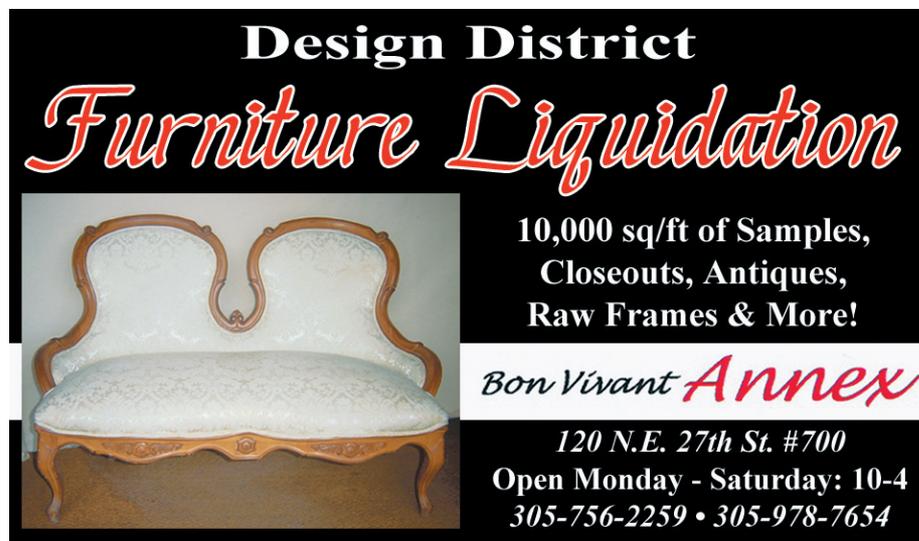
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The United Nations of Sandwich

Our Foodie Returns, Enamored of Bread

By J.P Chops
BBT Columnist

Ed's note: After a three-week absence we received the following telegram from missing columnist J.P Chops. No one knows what it means, except that he's back.

Sandwich. *Sangwitch*. Funny how Italian grandmothers pronounce certain things their whole lives thinking it's correct. They think they're dead sure, but for some odd reason spell your name wrong consistently and eternally.

Allow us to delve into the possibilities of a fine 'cram'. What is a sandwich? Or should we ask, "What is it to sandwich?"

A-ha!¹ In short, slap some meat between a few loaves, lather generously with condiment of choice.

Chimi

Origin: Dominican Republic
Name: Derivative of *chimichurri*, the Argentinian steak sauce
History: Rumor has it the first chimi cart served a steak sandwich, which over the years morphed into what is now more like a sausage patty. Dominicans have a knack for chopping words, thusly, to make it quicker and a lil' more slick to say.

Pronunciation: <chee-mee>; rhymes with "Mimi" or "here it be."

Breakdown: Pan de agua (a roll not unlike Cuban bread); secret sausage patty with garlic and oregano (no relation to Jimmy Dean); standard fare special sauce of equal parts ketchup and mayo; shredded cabbage; toasted and served warm.

Beverage of choice: Ice cold Presidente or *chinola* (passion fruit punch)



Roti

Origin: West Indies; Trini & Tobago
Name: Short for 'rotisserie'
History: An easy way to serve spit-fired meats; takes from the Indian culture of eating with your hands, facilitated by pulling a piece of bread. Heavily sauced meats are traditional to many cultures. Multi-spiced, long-cooked cheap cuts of animals are also popular.²

Breakdown: Flatbread filled with curried chicken cooked on the bone, spiced, boiled potatoes and cooked onions.

Beverage of choice: Ginger beer (Rasta-style, contains no alcohol.)

Bahn Mi

Origin: Vietnam
Name: Funny. Sounds like 'bathe me,' or the end of 'champagne'.

History: Heavy French influence on this Asian cuisine. Results are quite phenomenal.

Breakdown: Warm, toasted, crusty baguette sliced lengthwise and filled with charcuterie, Vietnamese-style bologna,

pate (warm & gooey), and hot sauce. Contents may vary, as different types exist. Garnish consists of fresh cilantro with stem and all, further crunchy, crispy goodness arrives from carrot and daikon shreds.

Beverage of choice: Fresh-squeezed grapefruit mixed with sugar cane juice

But the key question remains: Where do we find these little buggers when not on their homeland? The best roti in Miami is at Christine's Roti Shop at 16721 N.E. 6th Ave.

in North Miami Beach. You can score a good chimi at Primo's, a van in the parking lot of L'Boulevard on N.W. 27th Avenue. Hit it up between 3 and 4 a.m. on a weekend for some excellent personalities, rim and dubs, and bring someone who speaks Spanish if you don't. As per bahn mi, haven't found a local provider. Although in New York's Chinatown you can find one at the corner of Mott Street and Grand.

The beauty of these delectable delights

is they are usually around or under \$6, plus your authentic beverage of choice to wash it all down. This is a veritable bargain at less than a ten-spot for such a fulfilling meal. This ain't PB&J or grilled cheese...

¹ Popular '80s group with a few top ten hits, such as "Take On Me."

² Due to lack of proper refrigeration, spices cover the unpleasant scent of aged meats.

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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.

NOVEMBER 1

7 p.m.
Planning Advisory Board
Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Dr.
www.miamigov.com

7 p.m.
City of North Miami
Town Hall Meeting on Charter Amendment Vote
Sunkist Community Center
12500 N.W. 13th Ave.

NOVEMBER 2

City of North Miami
Town Hall Meeting on Charter Amendment Vote
Margolis Center
1590 N.E. 123rd St.

7:30 pm
Biscayne Gardens Civic Association
15000 N. Miami Ave.
305-948-0750
www.biscaynegardenscivicassociation.org

NOVEMBER 3

7 p.m.
Greater NoMi Historical Society
Chamber of Commerce
13100 W. Dixie Hwy.
305-891-7811
www.northmiamihistory.com

NOVEMBER 7

3 p.m.
Historic & Environmental Preservation Board
Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Dr.
www.historicpreservationmiami.com

NOVEMBER 8

7 p.m.
Bayside Residents Association Meeting
Legion Park
6445 N.E. 7th Ave.
www.homestead.com/baysideresidents/index.html

NOVEMBER 9

9 a.m.
City Commission
Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Dr.
www.miamigov.com

NOVEMBER 13

7 p.m.
Zoning Board
Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Dr.
www.miamigov.com

NOVEMBER 15

7 p.m.
Planning Advisory Board
Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Dr.
www.miamigov.com

NOVEMBER 28

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

Housing Fair in North Miami

The Nanay Housing Resource Center, in Partnership with the Miami-Dade Neighborhood Housing Service, presents the "I Need Help with my Housing" Housing Fair and Expo. The free event is on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 659 N.E. 125th St. in North Miami. Learn how you can qualify for homeownership, obtain government down-payment assistance, evaluate mortgage products, reduce your debt and determine affordability. Door prizes and refreshments will be offered. For more information call Bennie at 305-981-3232 or 786-797-8125.

Arch Creek Native Plant Sale

Arch Creek Trust presents its semiannual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at Arch Creek Park, 1855 N.E. 135th St. (half a block west of Biscayne Boulevard). The sale will feature a large assortment of Florida Native flowers, plants and shrubs. In addition, there will be a variety of butterfly-attracting flowers and plants, colorful garden flowers and palm trees. Cash or checks accepted. After the sale, stay for a self-guided trail walk. Admission is free; for more information call Carol at 305-681-6319 or Arch Creek Park at 305-944-6111.

Greater NoMi Business Expo

The Greater North Miami Commerce will hold its 18th Annual Business Expo on Nov. 2 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Miami Shores Country Club, 10000 Biscayne Blvd. Admission \$10 and refreshments will be served. For more information call Penny at 305-891-7811.

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Tents Pitched Over Housing Iniquity

Liberty City Activists Hope Government Heeds Message

Story and Photos by
Christian Cipriani & Victor
Barrenechea

On a dusty, city-owned vacant lot on N.W. 17th Avenue at 62nd Street, a motley crew of homeless people, grassroots black activists and self-described white ‘anarchists’ erected tents on the evening of Monday, Oct. 23. The shantytown and its inhabitants grew throughout the week to include a cluster of shelters and makeshift kitchen area, all around which flew hand-painted banners with slogans like “Take Back the Land” and “Housing NOW.”

“If we wait for the county and the government to provide housing, we’re going to be waiting forever,” said Andrea Seaton, one of the organizers. Another volunteer, a young white man named Cody Galligan from Lake Worth there with other social activists, described the atmosphere as “very chill.”

Miami Police Department officers’ first response was to try and break up the enclave, but those gathered defended their right to remain under the auspices of the landmark 1998 case *Pottinger v. The City of Miami*, which ruled that police must not disturb any homeless person on public property engaged in a life-sustaining activity, such as bathing or relieving oneself, when shelter is unavailable.

This is all coming as the issue of housing in South Florida reaches a boiling



point: The Miami-Dade Housing Agency is recovering from a major misspending scandal; the lack of truly affordable housing rides high on political agendas for the upcoming election; Miami’s black communities are becoming increasingly gentrified; and while home prices are dropping slightly, insurance and taxes continue to price many South Floridians out of the market.

Clayton Dawkins’s 3 and 4-year-old daughters ran around a large tent laughing and smiling, too young to understand what was going on, but he expressed his position quite clearly:

“I really think [erecting tent city] is the right thing because nobody’s trying to hear us. The commissioner, the government, you know... they are walking all over us.”

Homelessness in Miami is a major problem, which the BBT expounded upon in an extensive investigation this past July. Of the 4,800 or so homeless in Miami-Dade County, some 800 of these are chronic, meaning they’ve been on the streets continuously for a year or experienced four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years. While shelters and support bodies do exist, the

homeless problem is augmented by mental illness and substance abuse issues, and the resources to eradicate the problem simply do not exist.

While this tent city, with its large, militant slogans waving in the wind, might seem like a media stunt to attract the attention of government officials, the Center for Pan-African Development (CPAD) – the force behind the initiative – didn’t notify the City of Miami of any plans to take over the lot and plan to continue housing and feeding the homeless for as long as possible.

The first night drew around 40 participants, but by the next afternoon many were off working or doing whatever it is they do by day. When the BBT visited, CAPD members and several men from Brothers of the Same Mind, an affiliated black activist group, milled about laboring while the others cooked food and constructed a new kitchen area out of forklift skids. Most of the materials – cooking instruments, tents, sign materials, etc – were donated.

As long as the project remains safe and sustainable, and interest doesn’t wane, this tent city could grow and remain almost indefinitely. Galligan noted that neighbors have been very supportive, both practically and ideologically.

“The city and the county have no interest in housing poor black people,” said Max Rameau, one of the organizers, “so we will do it ourselves.”



Clayton Dawkins, a tent city resident, with his daughters.



Large hand-painted banners announce the shantytown to passersby.

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PET PERSONALS



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We are **Socks** and **Oreo** and we are both 2-year-old neutered male terrier mixes. We are brothers and victims of extreme cruelty to animals. Picture a small box about the

size of a cat carrier. We were crammed into that box so tightly that you couldn't tell where one of us ended and the other one began. A blob of black and white fur

is all we were. Luckily, our human angel who works at the shelter found us. We'd been so abused by our miserable family that we could only cower and snarl. Our angel brought us inside and the staff helped us get healthy again. However, there were so many obstacles for us to overcome. We are not only brothers, we



function like one dog. We play together, eat together, sleep together and walk together. Neither one of us can rest unless the other one is there. The staff worked so hard to

gain our trust and "socialize" us.

Now, except for the fact that we must always be together, we are happy, well-adjusted dogs looking for a loving, safe home. We are currently enrolled in obedience class and

we are on our way to graduating with honors. We are shy guys at first but once we know you we love to play and give and receive lots of love and kisses. Children over 12 would be great *and* we like cats and most other dogs! We would love to find a family that will adopt us both and love us forever and ever.



"Maybe I look like a cow, but I'm a sweet loveable doggie through and through. My name is **Spike** and I am a 7-year-old neutered male. I love to go for long walks on the beach. I would even be content with staying home and watching a movie. I am picky about my doggie friends so it would be best if I were the only doggie man in your life. Please take me home with you. I promise I will make you so happy."

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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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A Day in the Life of a Dog Trainer and Her Rescue Dog

Many people who meet my dog and I think, "Oh sure, her dog can do it. She's a trainer!" Sometimes clients and people ask me how I train my dog or what it's like to live in my house. Frankly, it is probably not that different than living at yours with your dog. There is no hocus-pocus; if I don't work with my dog, he doesn't get trained, period. In fact, I might take longer to teach my dog something than the average person, as I am not in a rush and I don't want him to experience any negative side effects of inhumane methods or stress. Of course, some things are learned faster. So for all of you who have asked or wondered what life is like for Jay Jay and I, here is a peek into our world.

After my last Dalmatian, Kody, passed away two years ago, I decided I would look for a young rescue dog that showed some aptitude to learn that I could use as my assistant/demonstration dog in group training or at events. Well, this is not what happened. As a rescuer, I was fostering some Dalmatians, forever finding

them homes and looking for more to save. I came across a beautiful Dalmatian on Petfinder.com living at an animal control shelter in Connecticut. Originally from a pet store/mill, he was 18 months old and had been living there for the last seven months. Five people adopted him and all gave him back within a week. His time was up. A great rescue friend arranged his flights and transport down to Miami and I picked him up at the airport.

Jay came home, ran around my house, did not care to socialize with me or anyone else, was not housebroken, and was hyper from living in a kennel so long. He growled or lunged at everyone he met, ran around looking for things to chew, and didn't care what kind of treats or toys I had. I decided to work with him for fear that someone else might hurt or kill him.

First, he had to learn the commands 'leave it' and 'come'; I needed some control over my new charge. He also had to learn to like humans, as he had no experience with them, unless you count the workers at the pet store who

cleaned his cage and the officers at animal control. All my free hours were spent play-training him, making myself look like an invaluable source of food and fun. All praise and love were lost on the poor boy. He didn't care or know about touching, belly-rubs, kisses, etc. He looked at me with a blank stare for weeks.

Every morning we went out for a walk, where out of fear he would behave badly, growling and lunging like a lunatic at anyone who passed, unless they had a dog. I found he was wonderful with dogs, probably very used to them from his pet store days. Good!

He was comfortable with people with dogs.

He thought kids were squirrels, and his very high prey-drive meant anything moving had to be tackled as well. For months he was walked at least twice a day, as well as taken to the dog park daily

to give him new experiences. This went on for *months* and is ongoing. I have now had him one year. How things will change! Jay is a very good boy most of the time, and comes with me to many doggy events. Being a Dalmatian he has a silly streak, but this is what I love most about the breed so it's fun for me. Now he is super sweet and loving to me and his friends, and courteous to others. He still gets spooked by a few people but is so much better.

Jay Jay has by far been the slowest learner of all my clients, but he catches on more quickly everyday. And so what? He is not going to Harvard or being graded. He is my pet and companion first and foremost. He knows sit, down, stay, leave it, drop it, heel, bring, target, come, turn on or off the lights, spin right, left, high-five, wave, sit pretty, be a bear, crawl, roll over and some other silly stuff for fun. He chases the opossums and squirrels. He checks trees for new scents. He is and is allowed to be a dog.

A typical day for us starts at sunrise. Jay Jay slips beside me for our five-

minute morning snuggle session. Then he dances around talking until I get up to let him out and feed him breakfast. Twenty minutes later we are off for the real walk which lasts one hour or longer. Sometimes we go to the park, sometimes the lakes near home. I try to mix up our route. At home he drinks some water, dances around some more and by 10 a.m. he is exhausted, and it's back to bed for a nap while I go to work. Usually I come back around 3 p.m. when it's more dancing from Jay, lizard hunting in the backyard and hopefully time for a quick training session. After

his 4 p.m. dinner, it's more backyard lizard hunting. These days we work on agility or tricks, but sometimes I see more clients and am too tired to work with him in the evenings. By dark, Jay Jay is tired of catching cane toads and is ready to come in, and by 8 p.m. he's done for the day.

So you see, our life is not so different

than that of other pet-owners. He had a neglected past, but hopefully a bright future. The only difference with Jay Jay is that someone had the patience and fortitude to work with him as long as it was going to take. He will never be perfect – nothing living is – but I am very proud of him for how far he's come.

Dogs can only learn what someone is willing to take the time and teach them. They are a privilege to own. Hopefully every dog will be admired not for what they can't do, but for the individual they are and what they teach us.

If you are looking for a pet companion, consider adoption. Most dogs are abandoned because their owner didn't care enough to make time for them – not a major problem that cannot be fixed. Most small adoption agencies work hard to make a good match and carefully screen the dogs. All ages and breeds come through rescue! For more info visit www.petfinder.com, or www.petharbor.com.

Lisa Hartman is head trainer for Pawsitively Pets! You can reach her at www.pawsitivelypetsonline@yahoo.com



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Offered at \$390,000

30th Floor condo South view over looking city of Miami.

STUNNING DIRECT BAY VIEWS
BISCAYNE 21

Offered at \$368,000
GREAT VALUE! Beautiful bay views from corner (SW) 10th Fl 2/2, 1233 Sq.Ft. updated condo. Features large balcony, opened kitchen (w/windows), W/D, large rooms and closets, 2 parking spaces. Pool, BBQ, 2 tennis and security. Located on bay in HOT Edgewater, minutes to SOBE, Performing Arts, Downtown and Airport.



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ARTIST STUDIOS / GALLERIES
Offered at \$2,200,000

77 NE 24 Street, 16' ceiling warehouse in excellent condition, near Performing Arts Center. Ample parking, 2 roll-up doors. Building is 10,325 Sq.Ft., lot size is 14,175 Sq.Ft. Also for lease at \$5,800 for 7,000 Sq.Ft./month triple net.

2021-2041 NW 1 PL
Offered at \$3,900,000

Amazing commercial property consist of 4 buildings that are in mint condition, just minutes from downtown, performing arts center and midtown. This is the future of Miami. 20,000 Sq.Ft. of land, +/- 12,000 Sq.Ft. (4 bldgs).

17500 N. BAY RD. UNIT S-602
Offered at \$325,000

Elegant 2BD/2BA condo is offered completely furnished with all built ins, large bedrooms and large bathrooms within walking distance to ocean. *Motivated Seller!

THE HAMPTONS SOUTH
Offered at \$1,300,000

The Hamptons South, a palace in the sky on the 23rd floor with spectacular views of the ocean, golf course, intracoastal, and Golden Beach. Fabulous new building on Country Club Drive. 2Bd plus a den that could be a 3rd bedroom or a media room. Great location, great amenities. Extremely spacious, private elevator and huge closets. Kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances.



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