

## **Water, Water Everywhere....**



I was appalled to read in Erik Bojnansky's story about the Morningside Park swimming pool ("Not in the Swim of Things," April 2019) that the City of Miami has spent \$150,000 on studies that say the pool can and should be fixed, but nothing is happening.

For three years our neighborhood children have not had their local pool open for swimming lessons, summer camp programs, exercise, and for just cooling off on hot summer days.

Pools provide a very important educational service, teaching children how to swim. We have plenty of water in South Florida, and no child should be deprived of enjoying it or of being in danger of drowning in it.

Mayor Francis Suarez and Commissioner Ken Russell, please don't waste any more time or money. Please get that pool fixed!

*Alexandra De Lara*  
*Morningside*

**City Should Do the Right Thing**

Given that the city has all the information mentioned in Erik Bojnansky's article, but that "after three years, Morningside Park pool repair remains in doubt," why are they dragging their heels over refurbishing this popular and well-loved pool in Morningside Park?

They have done a great job seeking out public opinion, they have spent money to survey the pool's condition, and on all counts, the evidence clearly points to repairing and reopening it.

The city needs to do the right thing by the community that it exists to serve. City leaders should heed the thousands of signatures gathered from park users, recognize the results of the neighborhood survey, and utilize the structural surveys that they commissioned.

Enough time and money has been spent.

Allowing the pool to languish in its current condition is both detrimental to our neighborhood and to the people who wish to use it. Bickering over what should or should not be done has torn holes in the community, causing irrevocable damage to our precious neighborhood spirit.

Please fix and reopen it as soon as possible.

*Deryn Cowdy  
Former Park Committee Chair  
Morningside Civic Association*

## **Guardhouse Inclusivity**

The article "Not in the Swim of Things" includes the following misstatement: "The only two vehicular access points, at NE 50th Street and NE 58th Street, have guardhouses manned by security personnel who record the license plates of any automobiles that don't belong to residents."

This is incorrect. Pursuant to the county contract with Kent Security, the security personnel record the license plates of *all* automobiles passing through the guarded entrance lane, whether they belong to residents or not.

*Rachel Wagner Furst, Esq.  
Grossman Roth Yaffa Cohen  
Coral Gables*

## **Our Seasoned Arts Writer Miswrote**

I winced twice while reading Anne Tschida's cover story "Out With the Old" in the *BT* (April 2019).

Any seasoned arts writer should know that nobody "wins" the Whitney Biennial. It's a curated exhibition that you are selected to participate in. Nothing more.

Miami in many ways is still a backwater city awash in obscene amounts of money.

*Kevin Arrow  
Bakehouse Art Complex*

## **Can't Flush Away These Horrific Problems**

I just finished reading John Ise's "Toilet Troubles Ahead" (April 2019). I live in Miami Shores

Estates, mentioned in the article, and have been dealing with this septic-tank issue for years.

But this last year has been worse than ever. I actually just had an emergency call yesterday for my septic tank to be emptied. And I had it emptied three weeks ago for the same thing. The tank gets completely full after only one day of rain!

Now it seems that I will have to continue to empty it on a bimonthly or so basis, and we are at the end of the road with our system.

Miami Shores should be solving this problem. I already had flooding after the last hurricane because they plugged the drain field. When the hurricane hit, it was a slow-moving, rainy hurricane, and it completely flooded my corner and entered my garage and vehicle. Some neighbors had flooding in their homes.

Not only does this affect our daily lives, but it severely impacts our home values. Who wants to buy a home in Miami Shores and deal with this problem? No one.

Thanks for the article. I hope to hear positive news regarding this horrific problem.

*Lorraine Lancri*  
*Miami Shores*

## **We Can Guess Who Runs This House**

Janet Goodman's question about who's smarter ("Brainy Cat," April 2019), is a no-brainer in my house, where I have a dog and a cat.

The Maltese thinks from Point A to B (“If I stand by the door, I get a walk,” “If I bring her my toy, she’ll throw it”) and, when I respond, hurls himself into mindless, yipping, whole-body-wagging leaps of joy.

The house cat knows I’m capable of greater things. For example, I know not to give up until I find his preferred cat food flavor of the day; how to adjust the tap to his perfect drip; how to play his in-the-door, out-the-door game ad nauseam; how to surrender whatever newspaper, book spread, or keyboard he wants to sit on; and of course, how, on demand, to adore him as the center of the frigging universe.

A happy dog will pretty much love anyone any time without reserve. Even your soul-mate cat will remind you daily that you have won a great privilege.

I count my blessings with both.

*Rebecca Schultz Westbrook*  
*Aventura*

## **Where’s the Meat and Carbs, Jack?**

I read Jack King’s scripted column “On the Record” (April 2019).

Jack, there is no meat and potatoes in your article! Trump is doing a great job and still in power! He does tweet a bit too much; however, our nation is great and prospering.

You are only trying to brainwash your low-information readers. In the end, we will see in 2020 what the country believes.

*Charles Jackson*  
*Sunny Isles Beach*

## **Your Columns Are a Joke, Jack**

Jack King, have you ever looked in the mirror and asked yourself why you are so jealous of Trump?

You bash this hardworking man while you sit on your ass and write your hate speeches!

Don't you have anything better to do?

Guess being a communist befits you.

Get on the Trump train and stop your stupidity. People think your columns are a joke anyway.

*Kat Tesauro*  
*North Miami*

## **Simpson Park's Poison Tree**

I was glad to see that Janet Goodman paid some attention to Simpson Park in her "Park Patrol" column. It is a jewel of a remnant of the tropical hardwood hammock near Brickell ("Little Remains of Brickell Hammock," March 2019).

I was distraught back in 2014, when I visited the park and found it to be in an advanced state of abandonment. I had first visited this park while in high school, when it was thriving, and wanted to see its condition.

One of my interests was to find out about a “poison tree,” properly cordoned off, that was at the center of this park for its historical connotations: Natives would reportedly tie enemies to the trunk of the tree, and in a few days it would signal the demise of these poor individuals.

My visit and inquiries to the gentleman in charge at the park produced no information on this subject. He wasn't even aware that particular tree had been there. Did Ms. Goodman have any knowledge of such tree? Could it have been a poisonwood?

I learned that across from ZooMiami there were once similar trees. Most of that land was, unfortunately, sold to a developer with little regard to the preservation of Miami pine rocklands, another endangered habitat.

*Relman R. Diaz*  
*Coral Gables*

**Editor's note:** On January 5, 2009, the Crandon Park website posted a blog entry by naturalist Roger L. Hammer that included the following: “Like Gumbo Limbo, poisonwood can mature into a rather large tree, and a classic example is the national champion poisonwood in Brickell Hammock (Vizcaya) that was measured at 90 feet tall prior to Hurricane Andrew.” See [crandonpark.wordpress.com/2009/01/05/meet-a-native-poisonwood](http://crandonpark.wordpress.com/2009/01/05/meet-a-native-poisonwood).