

Skinny Dipping Beats Nightclubbing Any Day



Jay Beskin got it right on the “Miami” word and its magnetism (“ [We’re in the Promised Land](#) ,” October 2019). But not all visitors and/or tourists now identify their visit to South Florida as a visit to Miami.

When I am at the Naturist Beach section at Haulover Beach Park, I meet people from all over the world who came to South Florida to visit that beach. Many never even visit Miami, and many others consider Miami to be a small city somewhere south of Haulover.

Friends at the naturist beach who travel to naturist beach sites all over the world will tell stories of encounters on foreign beaches, when other beach visitors learn they are from Florida and will quickly boast that they have been to Haulover Beach. Not Florida and not Miami -- but Haulover’s Naturist Beach. It’s a new brand for the area.

Also I was glad to learn that Nancy Lee was writing for *Biscayne Times* (“ [Eye on Miami](#) ”). I met Nancy many years ago when I was active in environmental groups. She was a great volunteer, dedicated to protecting Miami’s future and its environment.

I am sure she will bring her history and her skills to the *BT*.

Richard Mason
North Miami Beach

Promised Land? Really?

What is Jay Beskin smoking these days to think that Miami is the envy of the world? He spins a thesis out of two comments, purely anecdotal “evidence,” and thinks we could metaphorically market Miami sand?

He’s been gazing out at those Sunny Isles Trump condo towers too long! It’s time he use his column to tackle real issues and help solve real problems.

*Rebecca Schultz Westbrook
Aventura*

Depressing, Disconcerting, Decayed

After reading John Ise’s column “ [Time to Reassert Order](#) ” in the October issue of *Biscayne Times* , I could not agree more.

About five years ago, I walked my dog all the way up to the referenced Advance Auto Parts store on Biscayne Boulevard, and I can tell you conditions were far worse than today. There was no chain-link fencing back then, and the back wall of the store was lined with tents and sleeping bags, makeshift cardboard shelters -- basically a shantytown.

The county “park” behind it [Biscayne Shores and Gardens Park] was also, to my horror, a major homeless encampment with various undesirable elements taking up the benches and sleeping throughout the area. I could not imagine a single female or a family ever wanting to set foot anywhere near that park due to safety concerns and an overall feeling of dread. I have not returned since that sad excursion.

Other areas of concern that any citizen should find depressing and disconcerting is the unincorporated neighborhood east of Biscayne Boulevard between Quayside and Miami Shores, a stone's throw from the waters of Biscayne Bay, peppered with housing in significant disrepair and with a segment of its populace giving off a foreboding vibe to those who simply want to enjoy the fresh air and walk to the water.

The stretch of NE 13th Avenue north of 108th Street around the convenience store is also an area that makes one wonder: *Where the heck am I?* I avoid these blighted areas of the community and basically stay within the boundaries of Biscayne Park and Miami Shores when dog-walking.

There are, however, many children and families, good families, who live right in the midst of these spots of decay and chaos. Being a native of Dade County and having moved to Miami Shores six years ago, I had no idea that these forlorn pockets one would typically only find in the downtown urban core were within a half mile of the bay and the long-established single family neighborhoods of Biscayne Park and Miami Shores.

This is where the county government has failed its citizens so miserably and is clearly incapable of "reasserting order," as Ise phrases it. Unfortunately, there are not enough voices raising Cain over how our elected leaders have simply looked the other way.

*Robert Alexander
Miami Shores*

Once-in-a-Lifetime Chance

My take on Erik Bojnansky's "[Miami's Election Rejection](#)" (October 2019): Ken Russell is such a cliché, I'm laughing in my tears.

It's a sad irony that a man who got his start shouting about arsenic and lead contamination, and trying to save a park, is now tossing away a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve for city

residents a beautiful greenspace in Melreese Golf Course.

He says he's proud to have helped pass the Forever Bond. Well, how about this? We're about to *forever* lose our only public golf course and precious open space, and are about to be stuck *forever* with more asphalt, more gridlock, and more pollution.

Tanya Muñoz-Shear
Miami

How to Raise a Leader

As an educator, I wonder whether moxie and grit, qualities integral to student success, are born or nurtured, or maybe a combination of both.

Nancy Lee's excellent exploration in her "[Eye on Miami](#)" column of mayoral candidate Daniella Levine's childhood hikes with her father ("A Force of Nature, Compass Bound," October 2019) reminds us that children need to be challenged, not mollicoddled!

Thank you, Ms. Lee!

Cheryl Caris
Miami

Keep Them Coming

Written by BT Readers
November 2019

I really enjoyed reading Nancy Lee's article about Daniella Levine Cava. I look forward to reading more of her articles.

Joann Schaffer
Miami

A Much-Needed Perspective

I have to commend you on the refreshing angle taken by Nancy Lee in her recent column on Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

She took me and all readers to a past world where family interaction and long walks and home and ice cream were the center of the universe. This perspective is so needed today, and I read and reread the article -- with joy and gratitude for new insights into a powerful woman.

More of this please.

Caroline Lewis
Cleo Institute
Miami

Nice to Know Mike

Kim Ogren's "Going Green" column on Mike the Weatherman ("[Man for All Seasons](#)," October 2019) performed a real public service.

Mike's Weather Page is a great compilation of interactive maps and data. When you first look at the web page, it's overwhelming, but then the logic of it hits you.

Every link serves a purpose. And the comprehensive detail, as you move out from Miami to Florida to the nation, the hemisphere, the planet, helps you understand local weather not as a lone phenomenon, but as part of a global system.

Thanks, Kim.

*Rachel Silvertown
Miami*

Celebrate, Don't Condemn

What a fabulous "My View" commentary from Mark Schultz (" [Immigrants Make This Country Great](#) ," July 2019). His essay had a tone of great sincerity. He is one individual speaking his voice and sharing his experience from a common ground that we all share.

My family came to North America many generations ago for a better life and to escape hardships, discrimination, and tyranny in no way different from the families of immigrants that seek a new life in North America today. We and our families hail from every nation on this planet, making this continent a model of the earth itself. Let us celebrate that we offer this chance to the world, the chance for a new life.

Let's celebrate the beauty of our differences rather than condemn those differences. I agree with Mr. Schultz and love his example of being saved by a doctor who happened to have a Muslim background. No matter where we come from, we are here celebrating our talents and gifts, and using them to create a better world for everyone -- not to discriminate and breed hatred.

Letters November 2019

Written by BT Readers
November 2019

Thank you, Mr. Schultz, for sharing your experience through *Biscayne Times*.

Kelly Eppcohen
Miami