

# Letters

## Whiny White Cuban Males and Traitorous Black Commissioners

Jim DeFede's article "Dade Divided" (January 26) really told the truth about the events surrounding the selection of our latest county manager. However, [manager applicant] Jorge Fernandez's whining was boring — just another white Cuban male complaining because he did not get what he wanted or felt he deserved as a white Cuban male.

The state of ethnic relations in Dade County leaves a lot to be desired. Aside from the fact that no Anglo applied for the job of county manager, didn't Mr. Fernandez wonder why even qualified black Cubans dared not apply for the position? Here in Dade County, white Cubans not only discriminate against anyone who is not Cuban, but they also discriminate against black Cubans.

Commissioner Art Teele's hiring of Julio Martinez as an advisor only confirms that he continues to be the "Oreo Commissioner." Teele is nothing but a traitor who sells himself to the highest bidder. He never planned to vote for Cynthia Curry for manager. Why isn't H.T. Smith organizing a demonstration against Teele?

In 1996 Miami's black community will show Teele that they know where he came from and where his loyalties are. The black community will not help him win the mayor's seat because they know they can't count on him for support. The doors to Miami's black community are closed to Commissioner Teele.

Edith Swaby  
Miami

## How Do I Hate the Jet Ski? Let Me Count the Ways...

I could not agree more with Art Levine's article "The Great Jet Ski Caper" (December 29). But the stealing of jet skis is the tip of the iceberg, notwithstanding the fact that 50 percent of all boats stolen in Florida are jet skis.

I have observed the following in the vicinity of Watson Island, located on the MacArthur Causeway in the City of Miami, and in the vicinity of Flagler Monument Island in the City of Miami Beach: A Florida Marine Patrol officer was issuing citations for items one, two, three, and ten below. After the offenders were released by the officer, they and their friends stood on shore, raised one finger to the air, and chanted "a—hole" at the officer.

1) The speed limit in the vicinity of Watson Island is minimum speed, no wake, seven miles per hour for most motorboats and jet skis. This speed limit is ignored by 90 percent of jet skis. There is a speed limit warning sign on the launch ramp at Watson Island.

2) Sailing classes for children are given adjacent to the launching ramp on Watson Island. These children are nine to fourteen years old. Jet skis travel through the classes at 25 miles per hour in close proximity to the nine-foot prams used for instruction.

3) Jet skis find a large sports fisherman or a trawler that throws a wake. They approach the wake at high speeds and jump into the air. North of Watson Island the driver of a jet ski was killed after jumping a trawler's wake. A motorboat coming the other way hit him in midair. His passenger sued the owner of the trawler for negligence. What chutzpah.

4) Jet ski operators and their passengers continually trespass at the two private clubs located on Watson Island. They use the restrooms, telephones, and docks. One jet ski operator left his female passenger on the dock because she had tired of the jet ski. She spread her towel, reclined, and was sunbathing. Every once in a while the jet ski would return and splash her with a wave, which unfortunately drew attention to her trespassing. When she was asked to leave, the jet ski operator was wrathful.

5) Jet ski operators have been observed dumping oil, oil containers, and gasoline into the water and on the land at Watson Island. A jet ski operator who had run out of fuel was allowed to fill his fuel tank. The jet ski operator poured his excess fuel in the water, claiming the fuel had dirt and water in the tank.

6) Jet skis have approached small sailboats in the vicinity of Watson Island and Flagler Monument Island at high speeds and attempted to swamp the boats. During one of these attempted swampings, a sailboat passenger was a student from a foreign country. This did not help our good-neighbor policy or the image of South Florida. I have been told that if the jet ski could be identified, the driver could be charged with assault.

7) Jet skis have deliberately splashed people on the docks at private clubs on Watson Island. The same assault charges could be filed if the jet ski could be identified (see ten below).

8) Jet skis have been observed approaching swimmers and other boats at high speeds and swerving at the last moment. On one occasion a disabled jet skier was harassed for a period of fifteen minutes by his fellow jet skiers. One after the other they would swamp him with waves of water and would not stop. This was a kind of poetic justice carried to an extreme. He finally pulled the boat to shore for protection. The young woman passenger on the jet ski nearly drowned. The owner of the jet ski was irate. I doubt if he will ever see the young woman again.

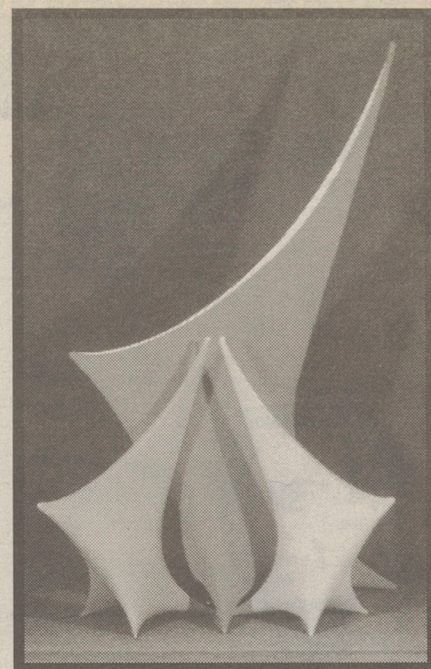
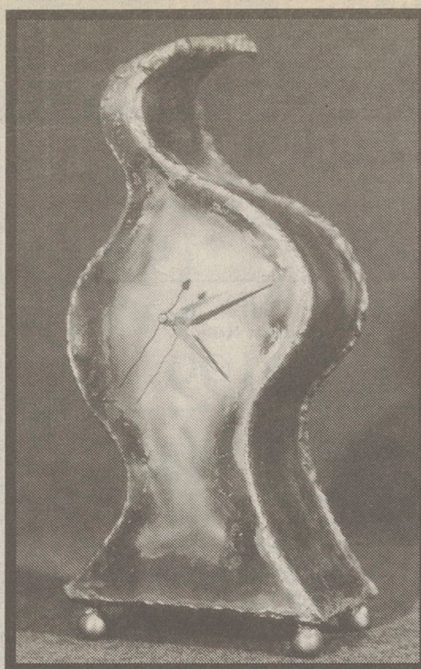
9) A number of anchored boats have been struck by jet skis. The jet ski leaves the scene and is unidentified. An owner of a catamaran reported that a jet ski attempted to go between his hulls and at the last moment swerved and hit a hull. The jet ski owner got back on his jet ski and drove away. Damage to the hull was minimal, but it had to be repainted. Recently a \$14,000 Flying Dutchman, an antique wooden yacht, was hit by a jet ski east of Watson Island. The collision left a two-foot-by-five-foot hole in the bow of the yacht. The jet ski was being driven by a fourteen-year-old girl who lost control of it at high speed. The boat she hit was a total loss. Fortunately for the owner there were two witnesses to the accident who obtained the identity of the driver of the jet ski and the jet ski owner's name.

10) Jet skis are operated without proper identification numbers — or any numbers. Jet skis are operated without a current decal. You can stand on the launch ramp or dock and see this scofflaw attitude.

11) There have been newspaper reports of a death north of Watson Island (see above).

12) There was a newspaper report of a

Continued on page 4



▲ Steel Quisp Clock

► Spandex Light Sculptures

LINCOLN RD MALL  
1671 MICHIGAN AVE.  
MIAMI BEACH, Florida 33139  
305/534-8585.

**LUNATIKA**



**Miami Twice**

Retro Fashion, Furniture, & Objects of Fascination  
6562 SW 40th STREET MIAMI • 666-0127 • Open 7 Days



# European Outlet, Inc.

3750 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL • 576-5355

Across the street from the Police Museum  
Free Secure Parking • Monday-Saturday 10-6 Sunday 11-6



## Italian Suits

One Suit • One Tie • One Shirt  
One Pair Socks • One Pair Shoes

Reg. \$550 NOW \$199  
Whole Package Only

## 100% Silk Suits

Made in Italy

Reg. \$450 NOW \$199

## Slacks

by TED LAPIDUS Made in Italy

Reg. \$39 EA. 3 FOR \$100

## Dress Shirts

Long Sleeve

Reg. \$35 EA. NOW \$10  
3 for \$25

## Ties • Ties • Ties

Giorgio Armani • Valentino • Loris Azzaro  
Pierre Balmain • Lancel

Reg. \$75 NOW \$25 EA.

## Men's Shoes

TOP NAME BRAND ALL LEATHER

\$39<sup>90</sup> FOR 1 PAIR

## Women's Shoes

ALL MADE IN ITALY

FROM \$10 to \$20

• Versant • or 3 pairs for \$100 • Via Spiga  
• Evan-Picone • 1 PAIR \$40 • Charles Jordan  
• Nickels • 3 PAIRS \$100 • Bruno Magli

## Letters

Continued from page 3

serious injury south of the Julia Tuttle Causeway when two jet skis ran together. A woman passenger was reportedly paralyzed from her injuries.

13) Towing of skiers or floats requires an observer or a mirror. Jet skis have been observed pulling skiers, floats, and something resembling a big yellow banana with as many as seven people on it. This is dangerous to other boaters and to the persons being towed, as well as being unlawful.

14) One jet ski operating out of Watson Island has repeatedly been cited for no mufflers. This is not an ordinary jet ski, but a home-constructed boat with a V-8 engine. This jet ski can be heard more than two miles away. Others have removed the interior of their mufflers to make them louder. The law states a noise limit of 90 decibels at 50 feet. The reason for this is the need to hear sirens, whistles, warning horns, or shouts for help.

15) Unsupervised operation of jet skis by very young children has been observed in the vicinity of Watson Island. From the size of the child, age has been estimated as young as eight years.

16) Very small children have been observed as passengers on jet skis. These children are so young they are still wearing diapers. This could be considered child abuse; the children appeared to be scared.

17) Jet ski operators have been observed knocking down a few beers and then jumping on their jet skis for a quick whirl. The marine patrol has reported finding marijuana butts in the vicinity where jet skis are launched on Watson Island.

18) The shoreline, bottom, and sea-grass beds on Watson Island and Flagler Monument Island have been destroyed by jet skis. The jet skis are ridden with the jets in a near vertical position, creating a pothole in the bottom and displacing the soil and sea grasses, and eroding the shore. The purpose appears to be the removal of rocks and the formation of deep water so jet skis can be anchored closer to shore. The two areas where this is done on Watson Island are not permitted launching areas. In one of these areas, small finger piers have been constructed with large broken rock to make access easier. On Flagler Monument Island, on the western shore, there are numerous potholes that make swimming and beaching of boats dangerous. These potholes were created by the jet skis' jets.

19) Jet ski operators have been observed leaving oil containers, used diapers, beer bottles, and beer cans both in the water and on the land at Watson Island and Flagler Monument Island. Glass bottles are thrown in the water. These bottles are broken on

the rocky shoreline and become a hazard to anyone who walks in the water in the vicinity, including jet ski operators and their passengers.

20) When the jet ski operator is confronted by a marine patrol officer, the excuse given is: "I didn't know I was breaking the law," or "Where's the sign?" No one should operate a boat without knowledge of the safety requirements and the pertinent laws. Ignorance of the law is no defense. Ignorance of common sense is even worse.

21) A jet ski was observed jumping the wake of a boat repeatedly, after the sun had set by more than half an hour. The jet ski had no lights, not even a flash light. The jet ski was speeding in a no-wake zone. Jet skis have been observed jumping docks at high tide. They catch a wave as it approaches the dock and get momentum and lift, and up and over.

22) According to Florida Marine Patrol statistics, in 1993: 50 percent of all boats stolen were jet skis; 28 percent of all marine accidents involved jet skis; 30 percent of all marine injuries involved jet skis; 8 percent of marine deaths involved jet skis. In 1994 the rates were much higher.

23) According to Coast Guard recall data, jet skis have a very high recall rate. Between 1989 and 1993, 78,394 were recalled for loss of steering control, fire/explosion hazard from ruptured gas tanks, broken steering cables, engine kill switch automatically operating in rough water, fuel-filler neck breaking and causing fire/explosion hazard, and steering-shaft failure.

24) One manufacturer offers a 90 horsepower jet ski that weighs 900 pounds. This is ten pounds of boat per horsepower. The acceleration is described as neck-snapping. This boat is capable of going in excess of 60 miles per hour. What would Ralph Nader say about this?

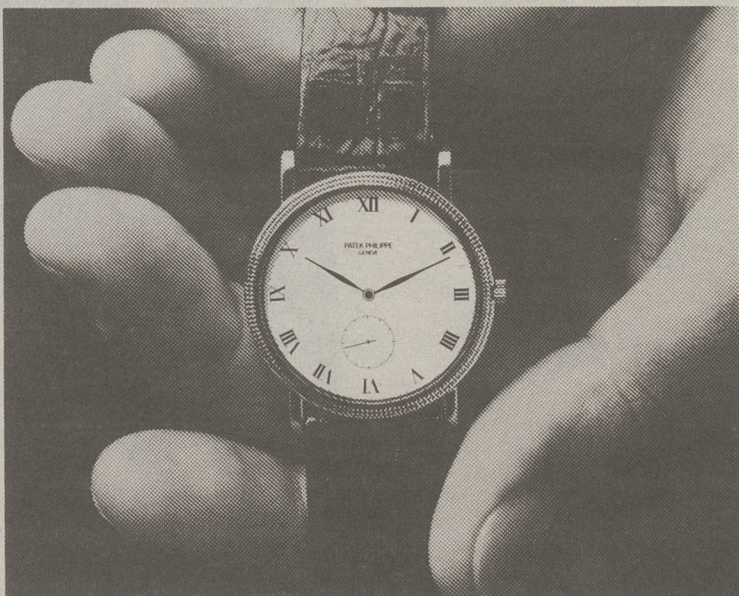
According to the Florida Marine Patrol, Watson Island is the second-worst jet ski location in South Florida. I would hate to see the worst; that area must be a real zoo. The Rickenbacker Causeway area, White Heron Rookery, and Everglades National Park have banned jet skis for valid reasons. It is only a matter of time before all jet skis are banned as a method of controlling antisocial behavior.

Harold R. Cobb  
South Miami

## Erratum

An article titled "One World One Family One Conflict" (January 19), misstated the exact location of a T-shirt sales table operated by the One World One Family Now organization. The table is located in front of the Adrian Apartments at 1024 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach.

A watch of rare perfection deserves a jeweler of equal distinction. Patek Philippe selects its jewelers the way you should choose your Patek Philippe—very carefully.



PATEK PHILIPPE  
GENEVE

Riviera  
JEWELERS

369 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables (305) 445-4000

**Distribution:** New Times is available free of charge, limited to one copy per reader. Additional copies of the current issue of New Times may be purchased for \$1.00, payable at the New Times office in advance. New Times may be distributed only by New Times's authorized distributors. No person may, without prior written permission of New Times, take more than one copy of each New Times weekly issue.

**Subscriptions:** Domestic subscriptions may be purchased for \$50 yearly or \$30 for six months. Mail to: Subscriptions/New Times, P.O. Box 011591, Miami, Florida 33101. Delivery may take one week.

**New Times:** (ISSN 10723331) (USPS 010669) is published by New Times, Inc., 330 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132, weekly, 52 times per year. Second-class postage rate is paid at Miami, Florida 33152.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to New Times, Post Office Box 011591, Miami, Florida 33101-1591.

**Copyright:** The entire contents of New Times are Copyright 1995 by New Times, Inc. No portion

may be reproduced in whole or part by any means including electronic retrieval systems without the express written permission of the Publisher, New Times, 330 Biscayne Blvd., Tenth Floor, Miami, FL 33132. Please call the New Times office for back issue information.

**VERIFIED**  
AUDIT CIRCULATION

## New Times, Inc.

Executive Editor **Michael Lacey**,  
Design Director **Kim Klein**, Executive Managing  
Editors **Christine Fleming**, **Deborah Laake**,  
Corporate Editorial Assistant **Alex McCall**,  
Operations Director **Marjorie Rothrock**,  
Computer Systems **Dave Ritter**,  
Corporate Administrator **Kathy Ziegler**, Director  
of Human Resources **Yolanda Celis**, Financial  
Coordinator **Michelle Anderson**, Sales Director  
**Michele Laven**, Chief Financial Officer **Jed Brunst**,  
Executive Vice President **Scott Spear**, President  
and Chief Operating Officer **Hal Smith**,  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer **Jim Larkin**