

Publisher
Shelley Lund
slund@floridaweekly.com

Managing Editor
Cindy Pierce
cpierce@floridaweekly.com

Reporters & Columnists

Lois Bolin
Bill Cornwell
Karen Feldman
Artis Henderson
Pamela V. Krol
Peg Goldberg Longstreth
Jim McCracken
Alysia Shivers
Nancy Stetson
Evan Williams
Roger Williams

Photographer

Jim McLaughlin

Contributing Photographers

Peggy Farren
Marla Ottenstein

Copy Editor
Cathy Cottrill

Presentation Editor

Eric Raddatz
eraddatz@floridaweekly.com

Production Manager

Kim Boone
kboone@floridaweekly.com

Graphic Designers

Amanda Hartman
Jon Colvin

Circulation Manager

Penny Kennedy
pkennedy@floridaweekly.com

Circulation

Paul Neumann
Gregory Tretwold
David Anderson
Carl Fund

Account Executives

Tauna Schott
tschott@floridaweekly.com

Nicole Masse
nmasse@floridaweekly.com

Business Office Manager

Kelli Carico

Office Assistant

Mari Hornbeck

Published by
Florida Media Group LLC

Pason Gaddis
pgaddis@floridaweekly.com

Jeffrey Cull
jcull@floridaweekly.com

Jim Dickerson
jdickerson@floridaweekly.com

Street Address: Naples Florida Weekly
2025 J&C Blvd., Suite 5
Naples, Florida 34109
Phone 239.325.1960 • Fax: 239.325.1964



Subscriptions:

One year mailed subscriptions
are available for \$29.95.

Call 239.333.2135
or visit us on the web at
www.floridaweekly.com
and click on subscribe today.

OPINION

Obama the graceless

BY RICH LOWRY

Republicans needn't trouble themselves to nominate a presidential candidate in 2012. No matter what, President Barack Obama will be running against George W. Bush.

Bush will be Obama's eternal foil. At this rate, when Obama writes his post-presidential memoir, it will be titled "An Audacious Presidency, or How I Saved America From That Bastard Bush." His presidential library will have a special fright-house wing devoted to Bush's misrule. He will mutter in his senescence about 43, like the Ancient Mariner about his albatross.

Obama clearly wants Bush to be the Hoover to his FDR. Since his predecessor left office with a 34 percent job approval, Obama understandably feels moved to scorn and berate him. But Obama's perpetual campaign against Bush is graceless, whiny and tin-eared. Must the leader of the free world — if Obama still accepts that quaint formulation — always reach for the convenient excuse?

No doubt, Obama inherited formidable challenges, but it's usually thus. The

presidency is a miserable job. During our first inaugural marking a presidential transition, John Adams thought he could almost hear George Washington thinking: "I am fairly out and you fairly in! See which of us will be happiest."

Obama complains of having to clean up what he charmingly calls "somebody else's mess." Obama took office during a stomach-churning financial crisis, and he now brags "we've rescued our economy from catastrophe." Who's "we"? When then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke confronted Bush with the magnitude of the crisis last fall, he told them to do anything necessary to fight it.

Bush's support of the ideologically uncongenial TARP legislation, together with Bernanke's expansive actions at the Fed, rescued the system. But Obama takes the credit, while pretending Bush heedlessly let the economy burn — a tack that is in equal measures petty and dishonest.

Obama also blames Bush for the deficit, now at \$1.4 trillion. Whatever his own profligacy, Bush didn't compel Obama to spend money nearly as fast as it could be

printed, or roughly double the projected debt over the next decade. Obama's motto apparently is "Stop Bush — before he makes me spend again!"

In international forums, Obama acts as if Bush were the former president of another country, or a disgraced former leader ousted in a coup. He might at least credit his — and his country's — good intentions in toppling Saddam Hussein and promoting democracy in the Middle East. No, he's incapable of it.

Obama should be grateful that Bush ordered the surge in Iraq against Obama's opposition. If he hadn't, Obama likely would have — on top of everything else — inherited a strategically central Middle Eastern country in full-scale civil war. Does Obama express any appreciation, or any humility about his own mistaken call? Of course not.

The acid test of the White House inevitably exposes a president's character flaws: Nixon's corrosive paranoia, Clinton's self-destructive indiscipline, Bush's stubborn defensiveness. Obama in the crucible is exhibiting an oddly self-pitying arrogance. It's unbecoming in anyone, let alone the most powerful man on the planet. ■

— Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

GUEST OPINION

Update: Keep Our Beaches Open for all to enjoy

BY MARY LOU SMART

Special to Florida Weekly

Last May, Keep Our Beaches Open formed to monitor conditions on Vanderbilt Beach. Comprised of concerned citizens, we distributed flyers in Naples Park and on Vanderbilt Beach and are in touch with people around the county.

We have learned that many in Naples Park are avoiding the beach. Many report that last season was the worst yet.

Collier County uses tourist tax dollars, which are technically supposed to benefit tourists, to advertise the beaches of Collier County, both in this country and in Europe. The effort is successful. People flock to our beach in droves during season. With the situation at the south end so untenable, however — parking garage crowded even during the week, people crammed on the beach like sardines on weekends and the beach restrooms used far beyond capacity — it's time to put the focus back on amenities that benefit tourists and resident beachgoers alike.

Several things affecting public domain and beach access include:

Ritz-Carlton employees, reacting to crowds following the opening of the parking garage more than three years ago, have been involved in several incidents with beachgoers. In May, Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, which oversees public beaches, surveyed the beach that borders the hotel. While the resort embellished a media spin about its northern boundary, the DEP actually came to mark its western boundary.

In light of the confusion over public and private beachfront, KOBO asked Collier County to place a sign welcoming people to our public beach and advising beachgoers of public domain rights. In early August, the county put up a sign next to The Ritz-Carlton's northern boundary, which is not the actual public beach boundary. We notified the state and the county and the misleading sign came down. There is now a marker in the sand at the western boundary of The Ritz-Carlton's beach. The public is welcome to enjoy the considerable sand to the west of this marker.

Signs tell the story. Every few yards on both sides of Gulfshore Drive along Vanderbilt Beach, NO PARKING ANY TIME signs stand tall. Down at ground level, Collier County Parks and Recreation signs are barely visible. Of six public access points, only three are marked. One sign in particular is always being vandalized. Years have gone by and the culprit eludes capture. Collier County has gone to considerable expense to perfect the science of using cameras on traffic lights. Maybe it could employ the same technique on Gulfshore Drive's beach access decals.

The county recently floated a plan to charge residents for beach parking, which would effectively take care of the parking problem by causing even more people to stay home. Because of the countywide uproar, the plan has been shelved, but we need to stay in touch.

Conner Park parking is being expanded to add approximately 78 parking spaces. This is a net increase of approximately

60 spaces because the county is planning to take out the 18 free spaces near the entrance to Delnor-Wiggins State Park in order to have room for a turnabout, four restrooms and a walkover to the beach. Work on this long-overdue project might begin near the end of 2010.

When asked why so few spaces are planned, Marla Ramsey, administrator in the county's public services division, said the county determined that this number is sufficient. She also said the county is requesting that Delnor-Wiggins State Park provide 200 additional spaces in its park, and added that park attendants regularly close the gate before it's filled to capacity.

An administrator with Florida State Parks in Tallahassee said he knows of no such plan, and noted that because thousands of people walk into the park from Vanderbilt Beach to use its facilities for free each year, determining the park's capacity involves more than counting cars.

One solution to beach crowding would be to distribute the crowd. Ms. Ramsey suggested that Naples Park residents would put less stress on the parking garage if they were to ride bikes to the Gulfshore Drive access points. While biking is not feasible for many, these public access points provide an excellent means for beachgoers to visit empty stretches of sand for pleasant walks along the water.

Many of us moved here because of the beaches and want to preserve a good thing. Please e-mail or call so that we can continue to develop a database and keep you informed: KOBO, smartieml@earthlink.net or 287-1196. ■

MOMENTS IN TIME

► On **Nov. 5, 1911**, Leonard Slye, later known as Roy Rogers, is born in Cincinnati. The singer and cowboy actor launched "The Roy Rogers Show," a mix of music and drama, in 1944. The show always closed with the song "Happy Trails," which became known as Rogers' theme song.

► On **Nov. 7, 1944**, Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected president of the United States for a record third time, becoming the first and only president in history to win a fourth term in office. Three months after his inauguration, Roosevelt died of a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

► On **Nov. 9, 1938**, in an event that would foreshadow the Holocaust, German Nazis launch a campaign of terror against Jewish people in Germany and Austria. The violence left approximately 100 Jews dead, and 7,500 Jewish businesses damaged. An estimated 30,000 Jewish men were arrested. ■