

Sculpting Sand on Bradenton Beach

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Contributing Writer

Beach erosion was not a problem during the annual Sandblast event along the Gulf of Mexico at Bradenton Beach on Nov. 18. The theme was "Pirates," and teams participating created sandy works of art while the professional sculpture team, Sandtastic, crated a sand sculpture depicting a pirate's Christmas and gave lessons prior to the competition.



Each competing team had a 15' by 15' plot with a pile of sand to turn into something relating to the theme. The exhibition is a fundraiser for Keep Manatee Beautiful, which each team's sponsor contributing \$300 to the organization. Ninety tons of sand was donated for the project and will go into beach renourishment after

the competition is completed.

The Bayshore High National Art Honor Society won first place for its "Scary Night" sculpture. Intrepid Home Health was second, and the Manatee High School Art Department came in third.

SOLD!

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include gaily painted Red, White, and Blue parking meters that will take credit card "votes," but "only if the first, quarter based meters work well. We suspect these meters could give the downtown clowns a run for their money." IRE will soon be auditioning "copious local talent" to help design the exteriors of the new machines.

Celebrity psychic Lola Pirsnitz is enthralled with expectation. She believes that famed author Thomas Pynchon will soon be coming to Sarasota. She doesn't know where.



Harris

Saying that her information comes from a host of sources, including the "spirit" of John D. MacDonald, Pirsnitz thinks Sarasota is a perfect place for Pynchon to site his next novel.

"I can already envision him here. With his wife, Melanie Jackson. And son Jackson. And Mason and Dixon." Pirsnitz believes that Sarasota is a "relatively untapped source" for novelists. Outside of Stuart Kaminsky's Lew Fonesca series and its new movie, "people just don't appreciate what we have. Audrey Hepburn, Katherine Harris, the Pretzel Man. John always wanted others to write about

our city. I think he would have wanted Pynchon as his successor."

Pynchon may have to contend for holiday hotel space with Michael Eisner. Rumors abound that he will come to attend art openings all over the city, including at Mack B Gallery and Greene Galleries and of course, at Disney's target Ringling Museum.

"We know he's here to check out the real estate, but we hope he'll enjoy the art, too," explains Mack B curator Tobey Albright, whose gallery is located in a cavernous aluminum neo-Deco pseudo aircraft hanger that may soon become part of Disney's planned expansion near the airport. Mack B's show should be a natural for the former head of the "Magic Kingdom." Entitled the "Mechanics of Heaven," it may point towards the new future of Sarasota real estate.

Stay tuned.

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