

Cutler Bay

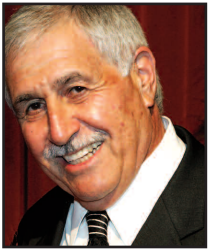
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SERVING SOUTH DADE

Get the peanut butter, tuna, it's hurricane season again

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I know you all watch TV for the latest hurricane predictions so you can plan ahead.

I have authoritative information for the 2010 hurricane season direct from the PBRNDC (Peanut

Butter Reserve National Distribution Center) and TFAP (Tuna Fish Association of Preparedness). Both predict many hurricane alerts and warnings this year and every year into the future. They of course suggest that you stock up heavily on both products and be prepared to discard them once the expiration date comes up.

I have been doing this for years and so far it seems to have prevented hurricanes since 1992 with a few minor interruptions in between.

I also have taken additional steps to prevent hurricanes. I no longer make pee-pee in the ocean. I am told that the warming effect can be devastating. If I just happen to be standing still while wading it is probably because I am contemplating my next article or something, so don't be alarmed.

I also invested heavily in accordion storm shutters, two generators, a special FPL jack on my meter; portable air conditioner; thousands of AA, C and D batties; dozens of flashlights; candles; bottles of water and, of course, peanut butter and tuna fish. If everyone did this, I guarantee no hurricanes in the foreseeable future.

Now for some history and why I happen to be so knowledgeable on the subject. Back on Aug. 15, 1992, my date and I went to the movies one night and the girl at the candy counter asked us if we knew any more about the

hurricane that was headed our way. Being a Miami veteran of 24 years I assured her that it would not hit here and not to worry. She seemed relieved to be hearing this from an expert.

The next morning my former mixed-doubles tennis partner called me from her tennis match to tell me that there were lines of people trying to get into Home Depot apparently to prepare for the coming hurricane. I assured her that those people were nuts but to make her feel better I promised to go to a nearby hardware store and buy stuff.

I guess that is what you are supposed to do prior to a hurricane — buy stuff. When I arrived at the hardware store the shelves were virtually empty. I knew that I had some masking tape at home, two candles, and a piece of wood, just in case, so I decided that I was well prepared. Just to be sure we went to Publix to stock up. Same thing there — the shelves were empty. One lady was checking out with an entire market basket full of ketchup. Smart thinking on her part, I guess.

That night the TV guy said that if the hurricane continues on its current course it would strike in the vicinity of Perrine/Cutler Ridge. How foolish I thought. Hardly anyone at that time had ever heard of Perrine/Cutler Ridge so how could a major hurricane locate it?

Besides, hurricanes never remain on a straight path to where they are heading. Just to be sure and safe I brought out my two candles, and had two towels ready in case some water leaked under the doors, as a neighbor told me had happened during the last "big one." I even found my piece of wood to block a window should one get broken. How well prepared could I be?

The rest of course is history. When the storm actually hit, I did what any self-respecting male would do in such a situation. I lay on the floor whimpering that we were

all going to die and that the National Guard would be heaping our bodies onto a truck the next morning. My feminine associate at the time began to prepare a nest for us with blankets, mattresses, etc., and moved me into a safe place in the house with no exterior walls. What ever happened to scaredy-cat women?

After my mate threatened retribution for me not taking the evacuation orders seriously and having to move out of our wrecked home for over six months, we finally started life all over again, only this time better prepared. The one good thing: I love Peanut Butter, extra chunky, and it might actually have lasted a long time if I only gave it a chance. BE PREPARED!

Other articles of national importance can be viewed at Ernie's website at <www.sochin.com>.



My office after the storm