

# THE BOCA RATON observer

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FITNESS** ISSUE

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Photo by: Eduardo Aparicio

Author Philip Smith

**MEDIA**

# HE SEES DEAD PEOPLE

Adolescence is angst-ridden at best, but imagine growing up with a psychic parent – one who knows your every thought, almost before you do. Such was life for South Florida author Philip Smith, who in his book, *Walking Through Walls: A Memoir* (Atria Books), chronicles a childhood raised by a clairvoyant father. In this poignant, coming-of-age tale, which critics have described as “*Running With Scissors* meets *Bewitched*,” Smith tells the story of his late father, Lew Smith, who by day worked as a chi-chi interior designer for celebrities (a mobster or two), and by night did his “real work” as a psychic. Smith, an artist and former for *GQ* magazine, tells of a life where séances, talking spirits, exorcisms and hands-on he monplace, and where in his teens he sought escape through sex, surfing and even Scientolog spirits who tended to behave like nagging relatives.” Today, Smith warmly embraces his father, a childhood growing up in a home more reminiscent of *The Addams Family* than *Father Kn*



**STATS**

## SCHOOL DAZE

In the spirit of rubbing salt in an open wound, here's proof that as the economy wanes, college tuitions rise. The following are cost averages at four-year universities.



SOURCE: SUN-SENTINEL



Caren S. Nelle, director of the South Florida Storytelling Project at a VOX event

**DIVERSION**

## THIN OUT THE

**HEALTH**

## LIKE A HAIRY TALE

You may have noticed Boca Raton's Dr. Marta Rendon in *People*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle* and other magazines. Since being named the global celebrity dermatologist for P&G Beauty's Head & Shoulders marketing campaign, the ubiquitous founder and medical director of the Dermatology & Aesthetic Center has been front and center



Dr. Marta Rendon

in the shampoo's fight against flakes. The campaign, “Respect the Scalp, Love the Hair,” has been utilizing Rendon's expertise and clinical research training to help educate consumers on the merits of a well-nourished noggin.

If you've got a juicy tale to tell, VOX story-telling provide a captive audience. VOX, which in Latin stands for vox of the people”), has been taking the spoken-word scene by monthly events, produced by Florida Atlantic University's Sch nication and Multimedia Studies and School of the Arts. The sk platform for non-professional speakers who've got something say; they're modeled after MOTH, the New York story-telling ve copycats across the country. “Everybody loves a good story,” sa the school's director. “But equally important, it makes the po body's story is valuable, that in a democracy, every voice m How it works: Participants get five minutes to share their stories win cash or other prizes. Tips for talkers: Stick to the time limit, kr ence (R-rated stories are OK, but keep them tasteful), don't n words and, lastly, make sure your story is a story – it needs to hav middle and end. For details, call 561-297-0042 or e-mail cneile@

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You merely t

Fine J