

111 W. Main  
Coconut Cove, Florida  
February 12, 2006

Jim Wright, Editor  
*Coconut Cove Gazette*  
100 Main Street  
Coconut Cove, Florida 30366

Dear Editor:

I am writing to urge readers to attend and protest the groundbreaking of Mother Paula's All-American House of Pancakes in Coconut Cove which was recently advertised in the *Gazette* because the restaurant will destroy the homes of the burrowing owls that live on the property.

I love pancakes, but I care more about the burrowing owls that live at the corner of East Oriole and Woodbury than I do about breakfast. I have seen these owls. They are small, only eight or nine inches tall, and they live in holes in the ground with their families.

Burrowing owls are a Species of Special Concern in Florida. The law states that you cannot harm these birds or their nests without a special permit. However there is no permit and no Environmental Impact Statement in the city files. Building the restaurant will destroy the owl's homes and break the law that protects these birds.

Mother Paula's has ignored attempts to fix this problem. Leroy Branitt, the site foreman, will not listen to complaints or look at the evidence. The company's Vice-President for Corporate Relations, Chuck E. Muckle, sent a form letter in response to our complaint. While his letter says that the company "is working closely with local authorities, in full compliance with all laws, codes, and regulations" (172), the fact that the company is going ahead with the ceremony shows they care more about money than the environment.

Please join me to protest this construction. Show Mother Paula's that you give a hoot about burrowing owls!

Sincerely,

Roy Eberhardt