

LARRY GUEST

BIOGRAPHY

Larry Guest began his journalism career as the advertising manager and sports editor of the *Brookhaven Daily Leader* in Mississippi. Shortly thereafter, he became a sports columnist and sports editor for the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, also in Mississippi. In 1973 he came to work for the *Orlando Sentinel*. He was a three-time recipient of the Sports Writer of the Year award in Florida. In 1985 he was listed as one of the top twenty-five sports writers in the nation by the *Washington Journalism Review*. He received top honors from the Florida Golf Writers Association in 1996. Guest is the author of five books: Arnie: Inside the Legend; Confessions of a Coach (with Norm Sloan)

Making Magic: How Orlando Won an NBA Team (with Pat Williams)

The Payne Stewart Story

Larry Guest Lite: Glib Slants on Sports from the Orlando Sentinel's Award Winning Columnist and Humorist (1999).

He retired from the Orlando Sentinel in 2000.

SUMMARY

Larry Guest begins by describing his first jobs in the newspaper business in Mississippi, first as the advertising manager and sports editor at the *Brookhaven Daily Leader*, then as a sports columnist and sports editor at the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*. Guest talks about his writing style and attitudes toward sports writing. He discusses changes that

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took place during his time at the *Orlando Sentinel*, particularly in staffing and his move from an administrative position to working purely as a columnist. Guest also describes the growth of Orlando sports teams during his tenure and his involvement with professional golf, including writing his book about Arnold Palmer. He talks about the Orlando Magic basketball team, the players (Shaquille O'Neal and Penny Hardaway) and coaches and his relationship with them. The changes in the media coverage of Florida sports teams, particularly football, during the time he has been in Florida, as well as changes in the field of journalism in general, are discussed. Guest recounts his interactions with college football coaches Bobby Bowden and "Bear" Bryant; comments on golfer Payne Stewart's tragic death and ends with a discussion about young sportswriters and ethics in journalism.

Larry Guest was interviewed by Adam Warrington on November 19, 1999.

W: Could you talk a little about growing up in Mississippi?

G: I was junior-high age when we got to Mississippi but, before that, I really do not know how I came to be so avidly involved in sports. I do remember, in 1954, I was twelve years old, and I really got into baseball and became a big fan of the Cleveland Indians. I was a fan of the journalism coverage as much as of a fan of the team, the writers and the broadcasters, Dizzy Dean and Buddy Blattner.... They did the national game of the week, and I used to sit down and listen to them on the radio. I would actually keep a score book of the games, no matter who was playing, and often [thought about] how I would formulate a story if I was writing about this game.

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W: When did you begin to get interested in journalism?

G: During that time, the little paper was called the *Brookhaven [Mississippi] Leader Advertiser*, when it was a twice-a-week paper, and it was owned by the Jacobs family....

Nobody there knew anything about sports.... The only sports they really did was covering the local high school football and basketball games... and their son had done that while he was in high school. Well, he went off to college, and so they did not have anybody. So, they asked me if I would do that, so I started doing that on the side. I began to write a column for them just as a lark.... Then, they asked me to be the advertising manager of the little paper when it went daily, when it became the *Brookhaven Daily Leader*. So, for five years, I was the advertising manager and sports editor of the *Brookhaven Daily Leader*. The sports, again, was just sort of a lark on the side.... I would use that entree to get credentials to go cover the New Orleans Saints in their infancy and Ole Miss [University of Mississippi] and Mississippi State in football.... Unbeknownst to me, the executive editor of the largest paper in the state,... who wrote a little column two or three days a week in the *Jackson Clarion Ledger*. He would read all these little puddlejumps papers to pick up material [and]... he was reading and giggling at my nonsense. So, when he lost his sports columnist/sports editor, he called me and offered me the job. I had never even thought about doing this for a living. It sounded fun enough.... Going from advertising manager of the little daily paper to sports editor and columnist at Jackson was about a \$10 a week pay cut, as I recall. But, it sounded like a heck of a lot of fun to me, so I did it.... I knew how to write.... But, I did not have a clue how to be a sports editor, and I was a total bust at that. There were people on the staff who resented me coming in, with no experience, to be the sports editor. So we

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had to struggle through that a few years. But, I kind of coped with that and continued. My primary job there, though, was to write a column. I had a good nose for news and wound up breaking several stories, including when the long-time legendary Ole Miss [football] coach--and that was the number one story in the state--Johnny Vaught was being pushed out in sort of an internal coup headed up by "Bruiser" Kinard, one of his top assistants. He brought in Billy Kinard, his younger brother, to be the head coach....

I broke the story several days before it actually happened. I guess that kind of put me on the map around the South, and the Orlando paper called and asked me if I would come down and interview. They were looking for, at that time, a Gator [University of Floridas] beat writer and, sort of, backup columnist. So, I came down and interviewed. That was 1973, and I have been here ever since.

W: Talk a little bit about your writing style and how it developed. Did you always take a humorous approach, even starting back at the *Leader*?

G: Yes, always, and that always was and still is [my purpose], to entertain first. I will not run from a controversy or if there is a very serious subject, [like] Payne Stewart [professional golfer] dying or Arnold Palmer [professional golfer] getting cancer. I go for the tear ducts, too. Or the controversy. If Steve Spurrier [head coach, University of Florida football team] does something crazy again or Penny Hardaway [professional basketball player] shows his immaturity, then I do not mind kicking somebody in the butt if I think that is necessary, too. But, still, my first aim always is to write humor or something entertaining or newsy or put a smile/twist on it.... I wanted to do this [book of columns] toward the end of my career as to sort of leave a legacy of light-heartedness and, I guess, to have documented that I did not always kick Spurrier in the butt, that I

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often had fun with sports. The readers that I have the most problems with are the people who take it so deathly serious that it is life-or-death to them. I just refuse to treat it that way.

W: Did you get some positive reinforcement from some of your early columns that pushed you in this direction?

G: Well, sure. I mean, if you make people laugh... the most positive thing I will get is little e-mails or letters or just comments from people directly that they really got a laugh out of such-and-such column. That is gratifying. I get more gratification out of that than anything else. A close second to that would be to break a story. I have a pretty good newshound streak in me and a pretty good antenna, and I have learned that if you treat sources as friends and develop a trust, then a lot more stories will come your way.... A lot of young journalists nowadays try to always be a hardass or to create a gulf between them and the real world out there, like you cannot fraternize with the enemy or something....

W: I want to talk about the growth of the Orlando sports teams since you have been here at the *Orlando Sentinel*.

G: ... When I first came here from Jackson, I thought this would be a nice three-year stepping stone to Denver or Dallas or Detroit or whatever and, now, it has developed into one of those [cities]. When those kind of offers started coming in, we had roots here and liked the area so much. Golf had become a big part of my life professionally... [and] we were very comfortable here and did not want to leave, so I turned down all of those offers. I have been turning them down for, I guess, the last fifteen or twenty years.... [P]eople say, what the heck did you write before the Orlando Magic

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[professional basketball team], but there is always something. In a city like this, there are so many athletes and other sports....

Anyway, when I came here, because this is such a golfing area and because, at any one year, there are always about twenty four players who live here, that became a major part of what I did. It was a major joy to get so connected with the PGA tour. I became good friends with a lot of these guys, including Arnold Palmer, and I wound up doing a lot of magazine pieces on these guys. I began to be in demand at *Golf* magazine and *Golf Digest* and some of those others, the *Wall Street Journal* even. When they were doing a special section before each major [golf tournament], I would often do the lead piece for them. You know, if Nick Price or Payne Stewart or Mark O'Meara [professional golfers] were going back to defend their championship at one of the majors, I would do the lead piece on them. So, it has been terrific. That, of course, led to... getting so close to Arnold, socially and professionally, and traveling with him some. That led to me doing the book on him, which is easily the most important of the four books that I have done.

W: That experience, the whole process of writing that book with him, what was that like?

G: Well, it was actually on him, not with him. Technically, it is a non-authorized biography because it was not in collaboration, nor did he have any rights to edit any of it or whatever. We had talked about doing a book for several years in collaboration, and he kept putting it off and putting it off. He is so busy. He has do many companies going.... He did not have time to sit down and so, as his fame started to ebb and the market for an Arnold Palmer book was beginning to ebb, then I just made the decision

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finally that rather than doing it with him, which may or may not have ever happened, that I needed to go ahead and do it. So, I just did it. I told him I was going to do it, and he was very cooperative in providing some photos that are in the book, very personal, intimate photos that were on the walls of his office and home that he allowed me to duplicate or copy and run in the book.

W: How long did you work on that book?

G: My stock answer was at either six months or fifteen years. It was fifteen years accumulating all of these anecdotes. Most of the book was personal observation and incidents and anecdotes where I was there and actually saw.... I had all this mass of material already set. So it was fifteen years of doing that but when I actually started to write the book, then it took six months to pull it all together and fill in the blanks and add here and there until the manuscript was finished.

W: What have you found more enjoyable, writing your column or putting together a whole book like that?

G: The columns are more enjoyable. Writing is not easy to me. I am not a prolific writer. I cannot sit down and write a column in thirty minutes or write thirty pages in one day if I am writing a book. I agonize over it.... So, columns are easier. Doing books is just absolute torture to me, especially the way that I have done them, because the three real books that I did were done with essentially no time off from my job. Some of it was done during some vacation time... but, basically, I have not taken a leave of absence or anything to do the book.... The three books that I did, it was like taking six months out of my life, because I was just oblivious to my family and everything then. I mean, I was up until three o'clock in the morning on the computer often. It was just totally

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consuming for me, so I vowed that I would not do another book after the Arnie book, which was 1993, was the first one. Then, in 1997, we did an update version for another publisher. After that, I vowed that I would never do another book, a real book. Of course, the collection of columns is a different thing, but to do a real book while I was still fully employed at the *Sentinel*....

Although I am on the cusp of possibly getting involved in a Payne Stewart book.... Because... I knew him so well, his wife has said that I am obviously the one she wants to do it because I knew him better than any journalist. It is not one that can wait until a year or two years from now, or whenever I retire to do it. I mean, it has to be done right now while it is pertinent.

W: Talk a little bit about the importance of the Orlando Magic to the Orlando area and how that affected you in your column.

G: Well, it changed... the working situation for a while because until that time, the main sports entities in town—the Florida Citrus Bowl, the Bay Hill Tournament, the Disney Tournament, and then UCF's emerging football program and so forth [did not treat the media as] the adversaries. There was not an adversarial relationship. But when the Magic moved in and it was run by people who, with the Philadelphia [76ers, professional basketball] team, mostly Pat Williams, John Gabriel and others, Jack Swope, they brought with them a tough adversarial media relationship from their experience in Philadelphia in the NBA, where [the attitude] was, you are not our friends, you are to be controlled, and you are to be held at arms' length. So, it was, for a while, a rather unpleasant experience, actually. A lot of that has eroded away. I think the people who run it have finally realized that it is better to have a little bit of a friendly

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professional relationship than a crack the whip and a moat around us sort of relationship. So, that softened quite a bit in concert with Shaq [Shaquille O'Neal, professional basketball player] leaving and Penny [Hardaway] leaving, who were very difficult to deal with. It has gradually gotten a lot more pleasant to cover the Magic.... That was the first time in my long career that I have had that kind of situation where it was not pleasant to go cover something. [Dealing with the University of] Florida became that way when my little tete-a-tete with Spurrier developed three or four years ago, and that is unfortunate dealing with him under those circumstances. I will continue to deal with that professionally, but it is not as much fun nor as productive, for both of us.

W: Then, of course, you have the book with Pat Williams.

G: Yes, we did that at the very start. That book was about the dream, the seed of the dream to the point of the first game. It was how the whole idea got sold to Orlando [and] to the NBA for the acquisition of an expansion team and then to get it up and running.... Hence, Making Magic was the title of it....

W: Can you recall the most important experiences you have had at the *Sentinel*, events you covered or anything like that which sticks out?

G: Well, I have broken a lot of stories, local and national, particularly in the early years here when they wanted me to be more aggressive about doing that. For a while, the trend in our business drifted away to where we were not sure if we were a newspaper or a magazine, and everything started to get bland, with soft features and long-range planning.... In this business, and particularly here, we kind of lost that spontaneity for a while. That has cycled back now to where we are after hard news a little more. But, in the first ten or twelve years that I was here, the whole state of Florida

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had a lot of good newspapers. Every place you would go in the state, you would drive into a motel, and there would be eight or ten racks there.... But, that has changed, that extended circulation is costly, so they pulled back.... So, there is not all that cross-competition. I mean, back then, there were ten papers competing for the same story, and the only stories in the state, the big stories, were Florida and Florida State [college] football and the Miami Dolphins. So, everybody was covering those three entities and trying to beat each other on the stories.

So, I broke a lot of those stories. You know, it is fun when you break a story in somebody else's town.... I broke Howard Snellenberger leaving the Miami Hurricanes. I broke Jimmy Johnson getting the [coaching] job at the University of Miami. I broke Ray Perkins getting fired in Tampa. I broke Spurrier coming to Florida. And, I also broke Dickey [Doug Dickey, former University of Florida head football coach] getting fired ten years earlier in mid-season.... I used to break several of the bowl match-ups all the time because I became very closely involved with the Citrus Bowl here. When they went from the Tangerine Bowl to the Citrus Bowl, they moved into the big leagues, and a lot of the guys who ran the bowl at that time did not have many contacts among the college coaches. So, they would use me as a conduit to keep them from embarrassing themselves as they would go after Georgia or Clemson or Ohio State or whomever. I knew all of those coaches through my network of sources, and I was sort of the go-between. The byproduct of that was, I would find out, you know, the coach at Notre Dame would tell me, no, Larry, tell them that, sorry but we are not interested in that because we are going to be going to the Gator Bowl. So, I would break the story that Notre Dame was going to the Gator Bowl.... Of course, the arrangement was made way

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ahead of... legal bid day at that time, so Notre Dame and the Gator Bowl also called me ugly names and denied it until the actual bid day when they, indeed, invited Notre Dame. Those are fun. I mean, that is fun and personally gratifying... to beat the competition.

But, nowadays, there are not many stories that everybody is competing for because everybody is covering [their own]. We are covering our Magic, and Tampa is covering their Bucs [Tampa Bay Buccaneers, professional football team]. There is minimal attention paid to the same stories, except Florida and Florida State now, still a top news subject of most every paper in the state. So, that is about the only area where we really compete anymore. But, I loved... my first ten years in Florida..., it was a mad scramble by everybody over the same stories.

W: When you go and cover an event, is it more work or is it more fun for you?

G: It is both. I mean, again, it is not being an accountant nine to five in an office. I am going someplace different every week. There is a lot of color and pageantry in most everything that I cover. I cover things on a national basis for [the *Sentine*]. So I am at the Super Bowl and the [Kentucky] Derby and the Masters and the Final Four and all of those things where everybody is excited about being there. So, you get swept up in it. It sure beats pushing paper clips around for an eight-hour day.

W: What would be advice for that next generation of journalists in school? Would you recommend this field?

G: Yes, I would recommend it, although it is evolving now. It has become such multi-media. It is getting into the Internet now and, fortunately, our paper is heavily involved in the Internet. With the advent of television, you know, everybody is busy and they

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have a short memory or attention span, and they are not as anxious to pick up a paper and wade into a 400-line in-depth story on something. They want it snappy and quick, and *USA TODAY* has proven that recipe is what sells. That is what readers want.

They want all the news on events in three or four paragraphs. They want a snappy column, and they want to be entertained. But the opportunities are great.... The opportunities are there in this field now because there is such variety; there are online services that are begging or throwing money around, trying to hire people to write for them because they have just got so much space to fill. And the same in television, with so many different channels and so many specialty channels now. There are just endless opportunities for people in the journalism business. But, as far as just the strict, pure newspaper writer, those opportunities are probably narrowing rather than expanding.

W: As you kind of look back on your career here, what is the kind of legacy you would like to leave?

G: Mainly, that I was not boring and that I was fair. As a columnist, you are charged with the responsibility of analysis... and judgements. So, you want to be remembered that, well, he sure made me mad with some of the things that he wrote, but I respect that he was fair and tried to deliver an honest opinion. I might have been off-base, and I am wrong often, but it is always an honest opinion based on the input that I have. That is a problem sometimes when you run into athletes or coaches who stiff-arm you. If they will not give you their input, then I feel they lose the right to complain about what opinion you form, if they have denied the columnist their perspective on something....

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W: You mentioned before your relationship with Arnold Palmer. What other relationship with either athletes or coaches have you cherished the most?

G: I have had a very, very healthy and friendly relationship with Bobby Bowden [head coach, Florida State University football team]. He is a quality person with old-time values.... Bear Bryant [head coach, Alabama football team] had lots of faults, but he was a very unique individual. He was almost without peer as a coaching motivator and psychologist. There have been people before and since who have been craftier drawers of X's and O's, but there has never been, I do not think, another coach in any sport who was so adept at getting between the ears of his players and getting the absolute maximum out of not only his players but his coaching staff. So, I really cherish the relationship I had and the entre that I had with Bear Bryant.... [H]e was so focused on football. A lot of these guys are. Vince Dooley [former head football coach, University of Georgia] is one of the few guys that really has a broad perspective on life and history.... Bobby Bowden has a little of that. But, most football coaches or big-time basketball coaches are so riveted and one-dimensional in what they do, they hardly realize what is going on in the world. But when I went to Bear Bryant's house to do this piece, we went off into his bedroom, this combination bedroom/den, to sit down and do the actual interview, I happened to look up and I saw a painting on his wall that looked familiar to me.... It had been the cover art on a *Sports Illustrated* a couple of years before... for a big Alabama-Tennessee game, and it was the crucial play in that game. It was painted by Leroy Neiman. It was a Leroy Neiman original. When I asked Coach Bryant about it, his reply was, oh, some guy did that and sent that to me. So, Leroy

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Neiman, to him, was just some guy. He was oblivious to the fact that he had, probably, a \$200,000 picture hanging on his wall.

W: With the advent of teams and, even, top players having their own public relations people, I am sure it is much more difficult now to have interaction with athletes....

G: Yes, it has changed. The personal relationship with athletes has gotten more contentious. It has gotten adversarial. Big Money has brought that on. In the earlier part of my career, athletes in college and, particularly, pro athletes had some respect for the media because they needed the media. They needed publicity to advance their own careers and help their sport. But, now, when a guy is making three million or... fifteen million or whatever a year, he does not need the media, and his usual attitude is, I do not need these guys, they are just a pain in the butt, I have my millions, to heck with the sport, I do not need them. They have lost sight that they need to help promote their business, just as if they are a clerk at a Sears or Penney's. That has gotten unpleasant and if an athlete does not want to talk to me, I do not have a problem with that. But he has an obligation, as a human, to be civil about it, and a lot of them are not civil. So, it is degrading a lot of times now when you go into a locker room or something and you get cursed and you get treated like some sub-human, usually by some sub-human who happens to be able to bounce a ball or throw a pass or hit a curve, and who is making ten million a year and thumbing his nose at the world.

W: Some of these experiences have fueled your columns. Do you think this anger about being treated poorly has had some effect on getting your creative juices going?

G: Well, sure. I mean, sportswriters are human, and I am human, too. So, if somebody is rude to you, it is going to seep over, and you are not going to give him the

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slack that you would if somebody is courteous and open. When push comes to shove, as a human, that is going to get into your pen to some extent. I am not suggesting that, because somebody guy treats you well, you become a total homer for him or, if somebody treats you badly, you stalk back to your typewriter and say, I am going to stick it up his twat. Those are the two extremes, and I try to stay away from both of those. I always tell athletes, you want to stay away from reporters who do that. But, the professional reporter or columnist still has a little gray area there where he does have some wiggle room. When something controversial comes up, you can still cover it and give the guy a little bit of the benefit of the doubt, or you can lean the other way and let the chips fall where they may. You are still professional either way as long as you do not become totally vindictive on one side or totally homer on the other. Both are dangerous....

W: Personally, how do you, yourself, stay away from those two extremes? Is it kind of something you just developed over the years, to stay in that gray area?

G: Yes. I do not know that there is a technique or anything, but I am conscious of it. I am conscious that if I am irritated by the way I am treated by some guy, ... I cannot let that influence what I am writing here. Let us look at the facts and make an objective judgement on whatever I am writing.

W: Probably, in the 1990s, the three most important athletes who have lived in this area would be Shaq[uille O'Neal], Penny [Hardaway], and Tiger Woods [professional golfer]. Are there any experiences or any stories you would like to talk about [concerning] those three?

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G: Yes. Shaq is a unique individual. Again, he is the perfect example of a guy who got millions of dollars and worlds of attention, and he did not feel like he owed anything back to anybody. So, he was very difficult to deal with. He was just like a big twelve-year-old.... Now, Penny is a curious study and, in a lot of ways, he and Tiger are the same person. They are consumed by entitlement. They think they are entitled, and they want their sport to revolve around them rather than contributing to their sport. Tiger, [when] first onto the scene, [said] that he wanted to deal with golf on his terms, not that he had to adapt to the way that things are done in golf. Fortunately, he is showing great signs of maturing a little and softening and growing out of that quite nicely.... Steve Spurrier is a little like that as well. What causes that, I do not dare psychoanalyze them, but why they have this insecurity that has to be stroked constantly might be a good case study for some shrink. I mean, it has consumed Penny and, unfortunately, Penny was surrounded by a lot of sycophants, his agents and his handlers and all whom, instead of helping him, only entrenched him in that thinking, that the world is out to screw him and that people should be bowing down to him, that he is so wonderful and great. All they are doing is, they are trying to preserve their spot on the gravy train and, instead of helping him grow, they have pushed him in the wrong direction, in the other direction....

W: Going back to your days in Mississippi, what has been the toughest story for you to cover?

G: The toughest story, probably, there was a coach named Bob Tyler, who became the head coach at Mississippi. He was a very corrupt coach, and I had gotten too close to him and was too young at the time to realize that what he was doing was cultivating

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me for his own purposes and that it was not a sincere relationship. It was his attempt to cultivate or create a homer for him. When I came to realize how corrupt he was and got documented evidence of a lot of infractions, recruiting cheating and so forth, then that was probably the toughest column. I blistered him and just labeled him as an absolute cheat....

The Payne Stewart column, the morning after he died, for which I have been gratified and it has gotten a lot of huzzahs and applause..., was probably one of the easiest columns I have ever written, as far as actually writing it. I mean, it was sad and I was touched by Payne and I was very affected by his death. And, like a lot of people who knew him, had come to admire him and watch him grow into a wonderful gentleman.... So, I was affected, and I dropped some tears writing it, but it was an easy column to write because I felt so confident about the subject. It just flowed very quickly.... But, when I sat down to write, I wrote it in about forty-five minutes, which is about half the time it takes me on a good day. [It takes] normally, an hour and a half to three hours, to write a column....

W: I am just curious about any of your peers around the state of Florida, any fellow columnists you have developed close relationships with, anyone from Tom McEwen [*Tampa Tribune*] to Ed Pope [*Miami Herald*].

G: That has been one of the real joys, developing a friendship and mutual respect with Eddie [Pope] and McEwen and Hubert Mizell and, now, Mike Bianchi, who is in Jacksonville.... We are like a tribe, and not only statewide but nationally because I cover the national events for us. It is like a traveling family out there.... And there is

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healthy competition between all of these guys, but there is also a sense of helping out one another as well....

W: What are your opinions on guys, maybe the younger generation, like Mitch Album and Bianchi, Pat Dooley [sports writer, *Gainesville Sun*], who voice their opinions in different ways than you do in your columns? I mean, these guys are, perhaps, more abrasive.

G: There are a lot of different styles, and there is a lot of great young talent out there. I think Mike Bianchi in Jacksonville is one really enjoyable bright young columnist around, as an example. But the [Bob] Woodward and [Carl] Bernstein [columnist for the *Washington Post* during the Watergate scandal] [and] Watergate infested journalism with people who wanted to get somebody, to get some spectacular negative....

There was a movement to raise the ethics of journalists. In some cases, I think it went too far.... One sports editor, whom I will not name here, got so carried away with the ethics at an APSE meeting, Associated Press Sports Editors Convention [that] he got up and proposed that they adopt ethics guidelines that would include repaying teams for their fax transmission when they sent you stats... and he was hooted down. ...

There is a story I like to tell of Jim Murray, the columnist in L. A. ... He heard from some of the younger writers that there was this ethics movement and that there were no-nos about accepting this and that. Santa Anita Racetrack sent him, as they did every Christmas, a fifth of whiskey as a Christmas gift. So, he called his managing editor whom he worked under and said, I know that we have some new rules about gifts and things; Santa Anita sent me a fifth of whiskey for Christmas, so what should I do

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about it? And the guy said, drink it. He said, a fifth is gift; a case is a bribe. So, I have told that story often.

There are some social graces involved. If I play golf some place and people insist that I have a complimentary drink, I can kick and scream and say, how dare you, and I am going to pay for this drink. Well, what I do in a case like that is, I will go over and buy a shirt from the shop or a sleeve of balls or something or, at some later time, I will try to take that person out to dinner or something to reciprocate, to balance the relationship. But, there is just the human interaction that intervenes at some point and time. I am all about trying to establish trust with people. When you come off as pious and perfect, then you do not establish trust; you establish suspicion....

END OF INTERVIEW

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

University of Florida

Florida Newspaper Project

Interviewee: Larry Guest

Interviewer: Adam Warrington