

FNP-55
CARL HIAASEN

On page 1-7, Mr. Hiaasen discusses his experience studying journalism at UF, writing for the *Independent Alligator*, and mentions the impact Buddy Davis and events such as Watergate had on his journalism career. He also talks about his writing style and how it differed between investigative assignments and opinion columns. On page 8-13, he addresses how newspapers have changed in the last fifty years, explaining how tightly-budgeted newspapers have affected the quality of journalism. He also shares his opinion on what makes a good reporter.

On page 13-18, Mr. Hiaasen provides information on his experience working for *COCOA TODAY*, under the publisher Al Neuharth, where he learned the business side of journalism and its limitations, and discusses the turnover rate in small newspapers and how it affects community coverage. He also briefly describes the newspaper style of *USA TODAY* and its influence on other newspapers. On page 18-22, he explains why he stayed with the *Miami Herald*, how he got his own column and why it is important to him. He also justifies why certain politicians deserve to be treated poorly in his column, and why he switched to the Opinion Editorial page.

On page 23-28, Mr. Hiaasen names some events that have occurred in South Florida, such as the Elian Gonzales case and the presidential election of 2000 with Palm Beach County's ballot problems. He also reveals Miami's history of corruption, citing names of some local politicians that are being investigated or have been charged with crimes, Operation Court Broom with Judge Davis, and the Miami Port Authority scandal. He briefly talks about the columns he wrote after Hurricane Andrew revealing the poor building construction of the Linar Homes company.

On page 28-29, Mr. Hiaasen describes the character he invented in the novel *Double Whammy* named Skink. On page 29-33, he discusses the Everglades restoration project and tries to explain what is going on in the political and environmental community. He uncovers Big Sugar's role in destroying the Everglades, defeating Amendment Four, and getting Amendment Five passed, along with criticizing other people in his columns like the Fajul sugar barons. On page 34-35, he talks about how environmentalists are stronger in political and economic terms than ten years ago, and how the changes President George W. Bush wants to make will take time and face opposition.

On page 35-39, Mr. Hiaasen discusses how his book *Team Rodent*, was inspired by Disney's impact on Florida and their autonomy in Central Florida. He also comments on his greatest contribution in raising public awareness, stating the condo projects he was involved in stopping on Card Sound Road as an example. On page 39-42, he assesses his columns, explains his mission in writing them, and says he wants to keep writing in the future and to continually improve his work.