

FNP 59  
Don Wright  
Summary

Don Wright went into the newspaper business right after high school, working as a photographer, but he always interested in drawing. He describes an incident in which he drew a sketch in an attempt to catch serial murder suspect (1-2). He became graphics editor of the *Miami News* in 1958, working with photographs in the paper. The editor there, Bill Baggs, persuaded him to draw editorial cartoons (2-4). He talks about Bill Baggs's term as editor and how today papers or publishers have become most interested in financial success, rather than doing investigative reporting (4-5).

Wright moved from the *Miami News* to the *Palm Beach Post* in 1989. He discusses his syndication, first with the *Washington Star*, then with *The Chicago Tribune*, and how the syndication process works (6-8). Wright won the Pulitzer Prize for his editorial cartooning in 1966 and 1980 and he describes his reactions to those awards, as well as other awards (9-11).

Wright describes the process he goes through to create a cartoon. He states that independence is one of the key characteristics of a good political cartoonist. He talks about drawing political figures and the role of humor in political cartoons (11-14). Wright discusses his favorite topics for cartoons, including hypocritical politicians, the environment, and labor unions (15-17). Wright talks about the role of television and newspapers in the 2000 election. He also discusses the impact he would like his cartoons to have (17-18). Readership of the editorial pages is not high enough, but responses to editorial haven't changed much. He talks about reader responses to and his reaction to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks (18-19).

Wright discusses Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush and the absence of female editorial cartoonists. (19-21). He talks about the 2000 election and its impact on the newspaper and Palm Beach County (22-24). In conclusion, Wright describes what he sees to be the future of editorial cartoonists and the future of newspapers (25-27).