Everybody has inside track on road route

A cartoon is, by definition, a caricature. Its point is to make its point. It does this with attention-grabbing exaggeration.

Look to your right. That's Terry Martin's purposely-exaggerated idea of public reaction to the northern end of the under-consideration corridor of the proposed Davidson-Cornelius eastern beltway that would connect with Interstate 77 at Sam Furr Road south of Cornelius, swing east around the North Mecklenburg towns and connect with I-77 somewhere north of Davidson.

Martin lives in Mooresville and he is fine-turned to the fashions, fancies and foibles of the community, He got this one just about right. This newspaper receives a good many letters and fields even more telephone calls from people who are, or assume they are in the path of the route under study. Most have solid inside information that their carport is smack-dab on the centerline of the future highway.

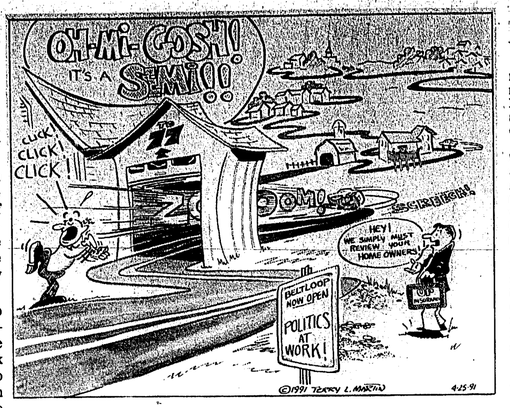
Martin's well-made point: if all the people who have locks on the route of the road are right, there won't be a road. It will be some sort of convoluted test track, darting here, cutting through that farm, swinging sharply to wipe out a front yard over yonder. No way will it go anywhere.

Know the truth, and the truth will give 95 percent of you some measure of peace of mind. Of course official-looking people — survey crews among them — are milling about. A stake in the ground does not a right-of-way make.

Take your concerns directly to the N.C. Department of Transportation, whose people say they are addressing your concerns. Ask about the status of the beltway. Go to every public meeting held on the road corridor. Have some general idea where your target is before you shoot.

You are right: some eggs will be broken before this omelet can be made. And, yes, you have every right to know whose eggs as quickly as DOT knows. Demand that right. But setting up and knocking down boogeymen at every real and imagined turn in the beltway at this juncture is little more than a ready-fire-aim exercise in frustration.

There'll be time enough for counting when the dealing's done.



Uncle Dan from Doolie says

A look at the other Miami

One on One
By D.G. Martin

"Will the last person to leave Miami please turn off the lights?"

Do you remember that bumper sticker from several years ago?

The question seemed so cruelly funny back then when we connected Miami only with crime, drugs, ugly race and ethnic confrontation, a decaying and dirty beach—and a place where English was, at best, the second language.

It all comes back to mind when we read a story about someone in a small North Carolina town being killed by "four gunmen from Miami." The battle for North Carolina turf among drug dealers reminds us the Miami isn't that far from us—just a few miles down I-95.

All these impressions mask the reality of a vibrant, growing, rich city asserting itself more and more confidently as the connecting link between the United States and Latin America.

Miami's great restaurants and tourist attractions did not surprise me last month when I made a short visit to the city. Nor did the Spanish language signs, newspapers, radio stations, and conversations all around.

But there was some excitement that I did not expect to find in Miami.

First, the business side of things. Miami is the Wall Street of the Caribbean and Latin America. The large bi-lingual population makes it one of the best places in the United States for an international business to establish its headquarters. Brand-new skyscrapers fill up Miami's downtown with offices of banks and related enterprises taking advantage of the growing commercial and financial opportunities.

Next, the intellectual aspects. Miami's multi-cultural community provides a living laboratory for interested scholars. One of them, Lisandro Perez, really wowed me. Professor Perez was born in Cuba. He now chairs the department of anthropology and directs the Cuba research project at Florida International University.

Dr. Perez helped me understand more about the blessings and the problem of the mass Cuban migration to Miami over the past 35 years. More than 700,000 former Cubans live in Miami. The city is about 50 percent Hispanic (and 20 percent black and 30 percent non-Hispanic/non-black).

Fifty-six percent of all Cuban Americans live in Miami, making it, except for Havana, the largest Cuban city in the world.

Perez points out that outsiders sometimes don't understand what special people these Cubans are. As refugees from Castro's communist Cuba, they tend to be enthusiastic entrepreneurs. They work hard to own businesses and fight to succeed. Their efforts stimulate economic growth in the community—and make for a lot of wealthy Cuban-Americans. If anybody has a notion that Hispanics are lazy or unfocused, let them visit Miami and see the Cubans.

Castro also defines the politics of many Cuban-Americans. They hate him. And they hate communism and anything that sounds like it. The Cuban-American community resists every suggestion of any social, cultural, economic, or political connections with Castro's Cuba. That makes is tough for Professor Perez. He argues that his university research programs should leave open the possiblity that limited connections with Cuba may hasten a change in government.

There is little doubt that a change in government in Cuba will come someday. And when it does, watch for another boom time in Miami. It will become the funnel through which American money and expertise flow to reconstruct the Cuban economy and take advantage of the tremendous markets that will open up.

Will the Cuban-Americans then return "home" to Cuba? Don't bet on it. It's too nice for them in Miami. So we can forget about that bumper sticker's cruel question. The lights in Miami are going to keep glowing for a long time.

D.G. Martin of Chapel Hill is secretary to the University of North Carolina. He shares these opinions with state newspapers.

Forgive, forget national debt

Solving a Middle East problem is like curing a cold. It's the same if you use remedies or leave it alone, and fer sure it'll be back sooner, not later. —Zeke Grubb

Bug Hookum told the fellers at the country store Saturday night that he don't know nothing about high finance and he gits that mixed up. No wonder, Bug said, that he can't see rime or reason in the Federal Guvernment fergiving debts of other countries. He had saw where the U.S. recent wrote off $3.8 billion that Poland owed.

The U.S. Treasury said there was no need to clog up the books because Poland will never pay the money back. Bug saw recent where Gorbychef said the Soviet Union had to have billions in foreign aid if it was to avoid collapse and turning back into a dictatership. Bug wondered if the signal we sent Poland was to be picked up in Moscow to mean all it has got to is ask. A better guess, Bug went on, might be Washington's creative bookkeeping.

As Bug sees it, the American Guvernment borrowed money from Americans to lend to Poland. Is that somepun like savings and loans buying junk bonds with investors money? Is money owed by foreign Guvernments to the U.S. Treasury carried as a asset? Does writing off the debt make our national debt $3.8 billion more or less, Bug ask, and who gits to take the tax credits fer loss. Other countries owe the U.S. $64 billion, nearly all of which we'll never see, Bug said, so if we fergive the hole thing do our books look better or worse.

Practical speaking, Bug went on, he could deal with fergiving what Egypt owes us fer military equipment, and with our policy of begging Israel to allus take three times what it wants in ever kind of aid. This is our way of buying friends and of thanking all the countries in the Middle East that didn't go out of their way to hurt us in the Irock war. Besides, when Japan, Saudi Arabia and the rest pay what they promised 'on the cost of the war, we will be in better shape to give Irock what it needs to fix what we tore up.

Zeke Grubb told Bug to calm down and take some deep breaths before he blowed a gasket. The longer Bug talked, the less sense he made, Zeke said, fer the simple reason that he knows less about American foreign policy than about economics. Zeke said solving a Middle East problem is like curing a cold. It's the same if you try a remedy or leave it alone, and fer sure it's going to be back sooner, not later.

But then, Zeke said, Americans that spend $3 billion a year on pain killers and cold cures that don't help a bit will buy anything that's sold right. If copper bracelets don't ease the arthritis, well, we never would of been satisfied if we hadn't give em a try. We want patience, but we want it right now. We don't want to sit around and wait while somebody else might be gitting a leg up.

Clem Webster was agreed with Zeke on the selling. It's all in how the product is promoted, Clem said. He recalled some years back when a outfit that makes farm equipment had a unusual slow year. It invited barbers from little towns fer a plant tour and a meal in the fall.

The thinking was, barbers would speak high of the company to their farmer customers through the winter, and farmers would think of the company in the spring, and they did.

Community Chaff revisited

These are excerpts from Tribune founder Tom McKnight's weekly columns published during a 20-year period ending with his death in 1968

From "bone dry" Mississippi comes the story of a stranger stranded overnight in a small town.

Seeking to relieve monotony, he asked the romming house proprietor where a man could find a drink?

Walking to the door and pointing, the proprietor said, "See what little white cottage over yonder? That's where our preacher lives."

"You don't mean to say I can find a drink there," exclaimed the astounded visitor.

"No," was the reply, "that's the only place you can't find one."

Your turn

Judging by the number of calls I have received, there is quite a bit of misunderstanding concerning House Bill 782 and the Mooresville zoning areas. Let me explain where the bill came from and what it does.

A tremendous amount of growth is taking place in and around Mooresville and throughout South Iredell. This growth creates a need for planning and preparation for water and sewer services, highways and controls over the types of industrial and commercial growth that takes place.

Development around the N.C. 150-Interstate 77 intersection already indicates a need for planning. Another area that needs land-use planning is the industrial park. Both areas asked to be annexed by Mooresville, and the town used its satellite-annexation authority to do so.

Last year, there was a tremendous uproar when county zoning was established. It permitted a very broad range of industrial development. If the industrial park is brought into municipal zoning, tighter control over permitted industries would be imposed. This should help alleviate some of the concerns the surrounding community has about potential new industries.

It is standard across North Carolina for municipalities to have one-mile zoning perimeters around them. In some instances, this perimeter has been extended to two miles.

Rather than extend the Mooresville zoning perimeter from one miles to two miles, it appears the real need for municipal zoning authority is around the two particular growth areas — the N.C. 150-I-77 interchange and the industrial park. House Bill 782 does just that. It would give Mooresville zoning authority in a one-mile perimeter around the satellite annexation.

The bill does not extend — or make it easier for the town to extend — its limits. It does not change any town limits or laws that affect where, when or how the town limits are changed.

The bill simply puts a one-mile perimeter around parts of the town that are separated from the main body of the town.

C. Robert Brawley

Robert Brawley of Mooresville represents the 43rd District, which includes Mooresville/South Iredell, in the N.C. House. He introduced HB 782 at the town's request.

Previously, I expressed my hope that certain tax money be directed to worthy causes such as the police department, the library, the school system, and drug-awareness programs.

Suddenly, during its annual fund-raising, I thought of the Mooresville Rescue Squad. It would be the perfect cause in which to invest the two percent motel tax revenue.

Let's do something gentunely good for the quality of life in Mooresville. Let's not channel that money into the chamber of commerce for frivolous waste; rather, let's invest it into the rescue squad so that everyone can benefit.

Frankie Archer

OUR COMMUNITY IN OTHER YEARS

1931
60 YEARS AGO

Sunday morning shortly after 5 o'clock, Mr. J. Mitchell Fesperman and his two hands, Marvin Karriker and a colored man, John Shuford, drove the 28 milk cows into the feed barn and had finished milking all of them except three when a roaring noise was heard overhead; some one inquired about it and found the hay loft to be on fire.

Mr. Fesperman and his helpers got busy and by heroic work managed to get the cows out of the barn and far enough away for their safety. By use of water thrown on the dairy barn, milk house and crib, these buildings were saved. The feed barn was totally consumed, along with about 17 loads of hay and forty bags of feedstuff.

Mr. Fesperman said he had no idea as to the origin of the fire, suggesting that perhaps somebody had been sleeping in the loft and in some way set fire to the hay. However, 16 loads of the hay was new and had been placed in the loft a few days prior to the fire. He said it was thoroughly dry and he does not think it caught from spontaneous combustion.

The loss of the barn and the contents amount to approximately $3,000 with insurance on cows, barn and contents for $2,300. He estimated his total loss around $1,500.

Conrad Stiles, who has been operating the Joe Ikall cafe under a lease for sometime, will turn over the business to Mr. Ikall the first of June.

Mooresville Tribune

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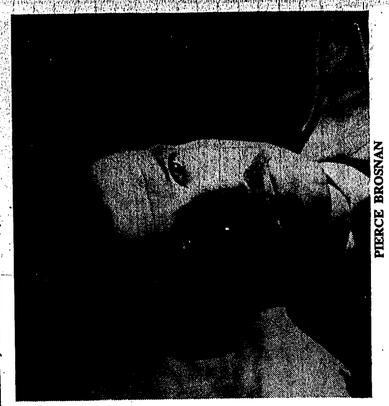

PIERCE BROSNAN

by Seli Groves

CBS has scheduled "Victim of Love" for airing on May 5. The flick stars JoBeth Williams, Virginia Madsen, and Pierce Brosnan — "Nash Johnson" from the "Thorn Birds" — both women and may also have good reason to fear.

"It's a wonderful story," Brosnan said. "It has those turns and twists that catch you when you least expect it. You can't be sure of anything you see or hear. It can all change very quickly. Is Paul, the man I play, evil, and is one woman his victim and the other one a potential victim? Or is he an innocent victim of their fears? Can we believe everything that's said about him? Is he guilty of much of what he's accused of? Is he innocent? Is he? I don't know."

Briefly, "Victim of Love" is about a therapist, Tess, played by Williams, and her patient, Carla, played by Madsen. Tess has been seeing Paul, a widowed college professor. He's tall, dark, and handsome. He's also intelligent and loving; in short, everything she could want in a man. The problem is, she's begun to wonder if the man Carla claims destroyed her emotionally, may well be Paul. And if what Carla says is true, will Tess' dream man become her worst nightmare?

And if she even suspects that he's out to do dastardly deeds, why does she stay with him?

"Precisely because of what she suspects," Brosnan said. "Some people, and very nice people at that, seem to be fascinated with evil and are attracted to those you'd think they should avoid."

He laughed. "Of course, for actors, it's very nice. It's always good fun to play the villain. It's always good fun to play the man who enjoys dramas that take those curious twists. One example was his recent starring role in USA's "Murder, 101." He played a mystery writer who teaches mystery writing, and who may be the target of a killer. Or, he may be the killer himself. During the course with him through the film, Tess is led on a path that takes all sorts of plot turns that leads to a conclusion that proves to be another shocker. The ending even took Brosnan by surprise. "I wasn't sure about it when we did it," he admits. "But when I saw it, I thought — yes, it does, somehow, work. And others have said the same thing."

Ask most folks to name the television production in which Pierce Brosnan made his American debut, and chances are, they'll say "Remington Steele." Indeed, it was the series on first appeared in the mini-series, "The Manions of America" written by Agnes Nixon, creator of "All My Children" and other soaps.

"Manions" was his introduction to American audiences. "Remington Steele" sealed his ties to his new constituency. It made the Irish born actor an American TV star and started him on the road to international stardom. But, in one of those curious real life twists of fate, the series also threatened to compel the career Bond films were looking for an actor to succeed Roger Moore (who had, earlier, succeeded Sean Connery) as the suave, sophisticated, sexy and super elegant Agent OO7, they focused in on Brosnan — largely because of his role as Remington Steele. Like Bond, Steele was a dashing figure (although he sometimes seemed more eager to dash from danger than toward trouble). However, the series was on indefinite hiatus, and Brosnan ready to resume production at any time. That made him unavailable to take up the bid to play Bond So, where Steele opened the door to the Bond offer, it also closed it. And where Steele brought Pierce almost instant stardom, it also made it tougher for him to develop his acting career.

"I didn't want to do another series or character reminiscent of 'Remington Steele.' But it wasn't easy persuading people that I could do more than variations of Steele," Brosnan said, noting that the image of Steele was so strong, it overshadowed much of what he had done before.

"I had to make a very deliberate decision to do things that would be different from 'Remington Steele' as possible."

That decision paid off. On television he starred in "James Clavell's Noble House," and "80 Days Around the World" playing two characters who were very much in the non-Steele modes. He costarred with Michael Caine in "The Fourth Protocol" playing a Soviet military officer who coldbloodedly murders his way toward his final deadly mission.

"Fourth Protocol" took him to Africa where he played a British colonial officer while the Empire was still in existence. Making the film was an emotionally demanding experience.

His wife, actress Cassandra Harris — who costarred in the James Bond film, "For Your Eyes Only" — had become ill. Most of the time, she'd been able to travel with him to location sites. But not this time. "It was difficult having to leave her," he said, "and I was eager to get back as soon as we'd finished production in Pierce and Cassandra's home in the Chelsea section of London. They have two homes, one in Southern California and one in Wimbledon, a suburb of London. The Brosnans are a close and loving family.

Asked what he thinks he might have done if he hadn't become an actor, Pierce says: "I never considered anything but a career in theater."

After his family moved from his birthplace in County Heath in Ireland to London, he became involved in school theatricals. Later, he got a job at a film studio as an illustrator, and waited for a chance to move from the drawing sketches to playing in them instead. Another employee told him about a workshop in experimental theater. He joined it, and prior to his enrollment in the Drama Center. That, in turn, brought him to York where he landed a job as an assistant stage manager. It was Tennessee Williams himself who chose Brosnan to star in the British premiere of Williams' play, "Bad Devil Battery Sign." And that, as they say, was the big turning point that ultimately led to a successful stage career and eventually TV and films.

Pierce worked as a commercial artist until he could break into acting. Ironically, it's his success as an actor that's allowed him to go back to being an artist. But this time, however, when he picks up a brush to paint," he says, "There really is nothing quite like painting for expressing your own feelings about the way you see things. As an actor, you really are interpreting someone else's work. But as a paint, it's all mine — from concept to its last brush stroke."

When Agnes Nixon saw the first run of her miniseries, "The Manions of America" she said, "We're going to be seeing a great deal of this dark haired young man in the future."

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Entertainment Extra by Evelyn

Q. I really like Steve Winwood. Could you please tell me if he is planning a U.S. tour this summer? Opal L.

A. Rock 'n' roll's "One And Only Man" Steve Winwood is gearing up for his first U.S. tour in three years. The tour kicks off this week with a pair of dates in Seattle, Wash., and will continue throughout North America during the spring and summer. Fans also get a taste of Winwood's soulful sound during several upcoming television appearances, most notably on May 13 on "The Arsenio Hall Show."

The tour boasts a sizzling array of opening acts. Rock legend Roger McGuinn — a founding member of The Byrds — will open shows through May 9; Robert Cray will warm up crowds with his "bluesy" sound from May 10 through May 16. The inimitable Joe Cocker will open shows from May 17 through the rest of the tour.

Winwood's tour comes hot on the heels of "Refugees Of The Heart," his latest hit album for Virgin Records.

Q. I recently read Kitty Kelley's book on former First Lady Nancy Reagan and really enjoyed it. However, I haven't seen much of Ms. Kelley on television, and it seems she is only interviewed in print. Why is this? Is Ms. Kelley camera shy? Doreen T.

A. Not at all. However, such people as Joan Rivers and Barbara Walters have refused to promote the book on television, mainly due to the fact that these folks are friends of fancy Nancy.

Q. What's Zsa Zsa Gabor doing these days? Isn't it time for another one of her publicity drives? Ronald D.

A. Ms. Gabor is very busy working on a syndicated talk show. As host, Zsa Zsa will be interviewing celebrities at home, and highlighting their pets as Ms. Gabor prefers pets over people.

Q. Has John James, formerly Jeff Colby on "Dynasty," retired from acting? Carole Anne C.

A. No. However, John and his lovely wife, Denise did leave Hollywood for the comforting confines of upstate New York where John is doing summer stock. In addition, John is hoping to land a television series and will be starring next season in the "Dynasty" miniseries. John and Denise have one child.

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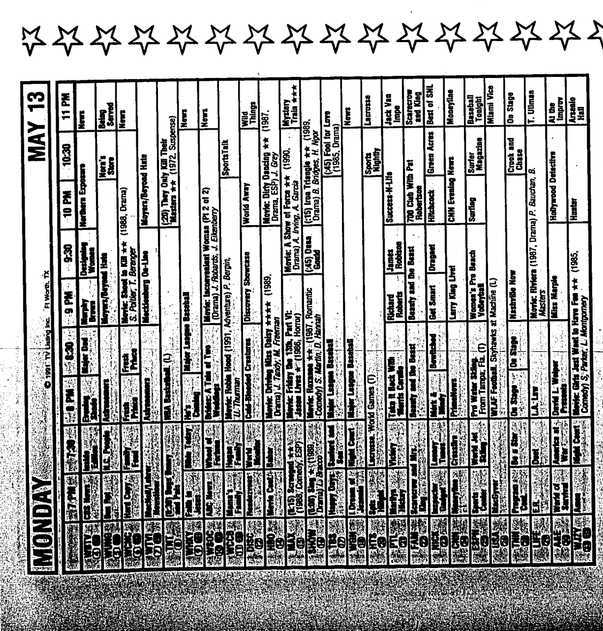
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