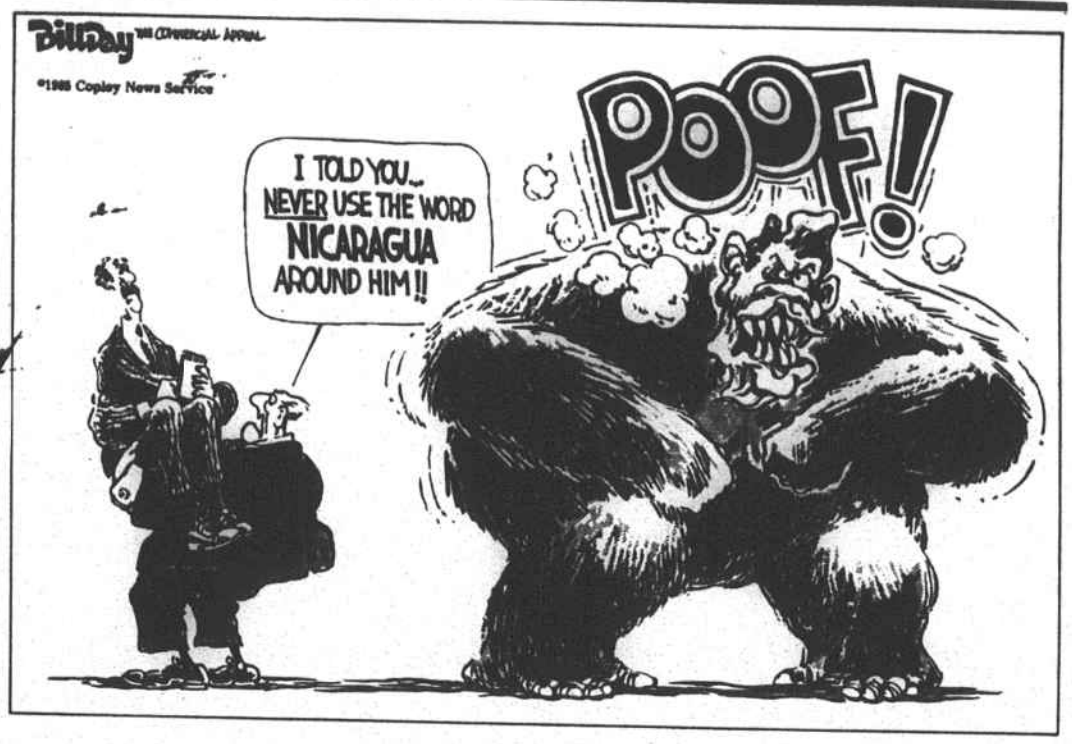
Opinions



Character adds mirth to life

Looking On

Raz Autry

Every individual is entitled to meet a number of characters in a life time. One such character is my friend Jim Milligan from Covington, Georgia. I met Jim at Mendenhall School Of Auctioneering in High Point.

It was customary for each student to introduce himself or herself in any manner which suited their style.

Jim chose the morning break as the ideal way to make himself known.

Talking about wives or girl friends is as natural among a group of men as mosquitoes bites are in the summer. Being aware of this Jim introduced himself to this particular group by showing a picture of what he said was his wife. He further challenged them to show a picture of a better looking woman.

As they looked at the picture, each man disappeared as fast as a fox does in a den. When my turn came I was as shocked as the rest of the group. It was a picture of the most unattractive woman I had ever seen.

When I recovered, I said: "Jim is that really your wife?"

Laughing he said: "No, it is a picture of a witch, I bought it, boy did you see them disappear."

Last summer Jim called and said he and his family were going north on a vacation and wanted to stop by for a visit, I was anxious to see the woman who could live with him.

A lovely young woman greeted me after Jim and I did our back slapping. I could hardly wait to relate the story about the picture. She smiled and said that was mild.

Once in a cafeteria line on a Saturday night when the place was crowded, she whispered to him to get a bag of potato chips. In a voice which could be heard across the dining room, he said: "Loan you a dollar, lady I don't even know you."

Polly said there wasn't a jury in the world which would have convicted her if she had shot him.

Jim told me he once worked in a mens clothing store. He said he was the best salesman the manager ever hired. Selling a suit with two pairs of pants to a lady who bought it to bury her husband in was only one of his feats.

The owner of the store gave him the dubious task of selling the ugliest suits in the store. They were so ugly according to Jim they were placed in the back room.

A blind man came in the store and Jim decided he was a perfect candidate to buy one of the suits. After a sales pitch which would do justice to a barker at a carnival, Jim sold him one. When the blind man's seeing eye dog saw the suit on his master he attacked Jim.

One morning after we arrived at auctioneering school he met me for breakfast with a look which would make a blood hound look like a cheerleader. He related this story:

Polly had called to give him some bad news about his favorite sow and pigs. It seems, he was chopping his garden and a snake tried to bite him. Missing him, the snake bit the hoe handle instead. When he and Polly awoke the next morning the hoe handle had swollen to the size of a large log. Immediately he took it to the saw mill and cut it into two by fours. The lumber was used to build a pen for his sow and pigs. While he was away the lumber had shrunk and squeezed his sow and pigs to death.

My friend Jim is one of those rare individuals that makes Americans, at times, laugh at themselves, an ingredient the world needs so badly.

He has learned well the art of laughter and how to make others enjoy it.

Not all smooth in college

Cliff Blue

People and Issues

Not everything is smooth in colleges these days.

The office of Henry S. "Ted" Bedford, the dean of admissions of Amherst College, is as necessary as a dormitory at exam time, writes Anne Makay-Smith in *The Wall Street Journal.*

In Amherst College they are deciding which 700 of 4,400 applicants to Amherst deserve acceptance.

Come to think about it, most colleges have their problems.

TORNADOES ... This is the season when tornado warnings could save lives. Just about a year ago Red Springs and other communities in the eastern part of North Carolina were hit hard with tornadoes, and several deaths occurred.

In just a few minutes a whole community can be torn asunder when a tornado hits.

Act quickly to reach a basement or low spot if a tornado approaches. Open windows if there's time; lie flat in the lowest, most protected location available.

A tornado can begin in a spiral of air, which may initially be horizontal but can turn vertical, to produce the dangerous, skipping tunnel so frequently seen in midwinter and southern states.

Tornadoes pass quickly but the velocity of tornado winds is greater than that in other storms.

Adults living last year can never forget the tornadoes that passed through eastern North Carolina in 1984.

PSU TRUSTEES ... The Pembroke State University Board of Trustees, who last October unanimously endorsed changing the name of the school to University of North Carolina at Pembroke, at their regular March meeting Friday heard a presentation against that change by Lonnie Revels of Greensboro, chairman of the N.C. Commission on Indian Affairs.

In his remarks Revels noted that Pembroke State has 528 Indians among its student body of over 2,000 students. "This is 52 percent of all Indians enrolled in the UNC system," Revels said, giving Pembroke State by far the largest Indian enrollment.

"Therefore, any action --positive or negative -- will affect more than half of the Indian students in the UNC system." (Note: PSU's total enrollment is made up of approximately 60 percent white, 34 percent Indian and 14 percent black.)

The six-member committee met immediately after the full trustee meeting and agreed that the Board of Trustees had made their decision in October in support of the name change and the vote was unanimous. "As far as that issue is concerned, it is over with," they agreed.

However, the committee, chaired by Dennis Lowery of Charlotte and including five Indians among its six members, recommended that an advisory committee be set up on a permanent basis "to listen to input from the N.C. Commission on Indian Affairs and bring a closer relationship with it."

LIGHTNING ... The National Safety Council warns that too few are concerned over lightning.

Yet one statistician recently determined that in the April-October lightning season, the average person can expect forty to eighty bolts within a half mile.

The safest places in thunder and lightning storms are in homes, steel-framed buildings, and in an automobile with windows closed, so we read.

If in the open, seek a low place, such as a ravine or ditch away from trees and lie flat on the ground.