



















This was MacNelly's first drawing to appear in The Daily Tar Heel. It ran in the October 27, 1967 issue and promoted a men's soccer game that day.









im Shumaker: Insp

This column was originally published in The Charlotte Observer on Sept. 18, 1977.

By JIM SHUMAKER

his has been a crowded week for me, being an instant celebrity and all. A publisher once told me, in

A publisher once told me, in my newspaper days, "You belong on the comic page instead of the editorial page." And that is where I have finally landed, it seems, after all the years of striving, thinly disguised as Purple Martin Shoemaker. (The publisher, incidentally, now writes his own editorials, and I wish him well.)

I owe the instant celebrity to Jeff MacNelly, who, it turns out, lacks proper respect for his elders. In our days together on the old Chapel Hill Weekly, when he was doing the editorial page cartoons and I was unwittingly creating the prototype for P. Martin Shoemaker, I had taken MacNelly for a regular enough young man, if a trifle loose-jointed. He was the only one I've ever seen who appeared to be sprawling all over the place while standing up straight.

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I still have right much regard for him, even though ne won the Pulitzer Prize at the disgusting age of 24. He said at the time that the Pulitzer judges had to be out of their minds and I readily agreed. (This was not said out of envy or any sense of injustice. Having been passed over for 30 years running, I know better than most how unstable the Pulitzer panel is.)

Anyway, MacNelly's comic strip, entitled "Shoe," began

running last Monday in The Observer and a papers. I had been given plenty of warning used to be a reporter for The Observer and Editor of the Winston-Salem Journal. Joe ser advance copies of the comic strip along with you, Shu, it's you." I figured Joe had been wand needed a rost

Then, last Monday night, when I gothon around in the post office, there was a good f the door stoop, clutching the comic page in ed me to autograph the confounded thing. I MacNelly, Pulitzer Prize Winner."

A former colleague telephoned to ask if I tennis shoes that I always wore to work at the wanted me to have them bronzed, for crying have the tennis shoes. I contributed them to

taking a tax deduction, and the Thrift Shop Several stopped me on the street to ask if Martin Shoemaker and I denied it holly. I h life used a trash can for a desk - orange cra

Then a graduate student at the University MacNelly on network television, the Today identified me as the inspiration for P. Martin her you couldn't believe anything nowadays

in the newspaper.

To seal me up tight, an editorial writer for Daily News who, I take it, was having alternative of the control of the contr come up with something fit to print, said I w Martin Shoemaker. I am about halfway thro