It was January 4, 1986 when a new reporter entered this building, coming from Greenville, South Carolina. It didn't take long before Patrick Fraser started covering some of the biggest stories in South Florida, like the Lozano riots, the cocaine cowboys, the visit of Pope John Paul II to Miami and Hurricane Andrew just to name a few. Patrick covered the Gainesville student murders for weeks, and was the reporter who broke the news that Danny Rolling was going to plead guilty to the crimes. He has been our "number's guy" for presidential elections and has interviewed most of the living Presidents. But his career took a turn in 1989, when WSVN created a syndicated program called Inside Report and Patrick signed on. He traveled the world for Inside Report, interviewing serial killer Aileen Wournos, and Otis Toole, the man who killed Adam Walsh. He also bungee jumped out of a hot air balloon, …….and even searched for Big Foot!

Even with all those career highlights, Patrick will probably best be remembered for his segment, Help Me Howard. In case you don't know, Patrick and Howard were paired together to cover the OJ Simpson trial in its entirety. Patrick and Howard would be on air all day long, reviewing and dissecting the testimony. Once the trial was over, we knew we had to keep these two on air together. That's how Help Me Howard was born. Patrick receives 50,000….yes 50,000…. calls and emails each year. He has helped too many people to mention, but I believe his proudest moment was getting Margaret Dagle a liver transplant in Miami-Dade county when Broward wouldn't help her. Patrick is approached everywhere he goes by people thanking him for his service to the community. And nothing makes Patrick happier than helping people…. people who have been wronged, people who have been taken advantage of, and people who have nowhere else to turn.

As some of you know, Patrick has decided to retire on January 9, 2026. His puns will be missed, but the segment will live on. Brandon Beyer will be taking over Help Me Howard. I believe Brandon's empathy and heart are the right combination for this new role. Help Me Howard will live on, but after 40 years of dedication, our biggest Gator fan will now take a chomp out of retirement!