

PRESS RELEASE

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Portrait of a Cartoonist: Bio of Dan Youra

Dan is a master at the art of political cartooning. His branded Utoons conjure up caricatures of world leaders, national politicians, media personalities, and celebrities.

His sharp observations take form in colorful artwork which comes alive with whimsical characters. His incisive commentaries on national and international politics are captured in edgy artwork, where a few strokes of his pen can elevate the downtrodden and bring down the mighty.

He was the first recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship from his alma mater University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies. After a year in Latin America, he studied political science in graduate school at The Ohio State University.

In the early 50's Dan's introduction to cartooning was from his father, who drew cartoons for his kid's amusement. He remembers drawing cartoons in Sister Theodora's second grade class.

His first professional introduction to cartooning came from Charles Schultz in neighboring Minnesota, who dropped Charlie Brown into his lunch box.

His first published work was in his high school yearbook at St. Lawrence Seminary at Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. He was staff cartoonist for his prep school's newspaper at Maryknoll Seminary in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. At the University of Wisconsin Dan published cartoons in the student newspaper.

In the early 70's Dan studied cartooning at the University of Washington in a class taught by Ray Colins, political cartoonist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. At that same time Dan also enjoyed *The Daily* cartoons of David Horsey, student cartoonist, then; and, now, Pulitzer Prize-winning, political cartoonist for the *LA Times*.

In Olympia, Dan submitted cartoons to *The Paper* at Evergreen University, where, Matt Groening, the creator of The Simpsons, also studied and submitted cartoons at the same time.

His first purchased cartoon appeared in the *Environmental Quality Magazine* in 1973.

Dan illustrated a business book *Managing Is Everybody's Business*. He illustrated a cookbook, *I Love Hot Dogs*, and children's book, *Oswald Hoot The Owl Who Was Scared of the Dark*.

Dan created his own line of cartoons marketed as *Utoons* under his trademarked U, which is the company's distinctive signature.

Dan Youra's websites are: utoons.com/, youracartoon.com/ and danyoura.com/