

Youra Media
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Dan Youra Story

Dan Youra is a political cartoonist. His caricatures are recognizable depictions of world leaders, national politicians, media personalities, and celebrities. He is a master of satire. His characters portray “people’s stupidity and vices,” which is the definition of satire.

[The definition of satire is: *the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose people’s stupidity and vices, especially in the context of contemporary politics.*]

Dan’s 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 mouse can elevate the downtrodden and bring down the mighty.

Dan’s art is described by Chris Dahl as “exceptional and poignant satire.” Rob McKenna describes his art as “witty, sometimes acerbic.” According to Michael W Mandeville, Dan has created “a new satiric genre.”

In 1967, he was the first recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship at his alma mater--University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies. He drew cartoons for the school's *Advance-Titan* newspaper. After a year of travel in Latin America, he entered graduate school with a 4-year scholarship in the Behavioral Sciences Laboratory at The Ohio State University in Columbus. He studied quantitative research during the summer of 1969 at the Institute For Social Research at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Next Dan went to New York where he worked at the United Nations as an editor of *Current Thought on Peace and War*.

In the early 50's, Dan's introduction to cartooning was from his father, who drew cartoons on the refrigerator and taught "Danny" the tricks. He recalls drawing cartoons in Sister Theodosia's second grade class at St. Mary's grade school in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. During the 50's Dan devoured *Mad* magazines as brain food.

In the early 70's, Dan was the editorial cartoonist for Seattle's underground paper, *Seattle Sound News*. He attended a cartooning class taught at the Free University by Ray Colins, political cartoonist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. At that same time, Dan enjoyed the cartoons of an up-and-coming student cartoonist on the staff of *The Daily* at the University of Washington. He was future, Pulitzer Prize-winning, political cartoonist--David Horsey, whose art subsequently enlightened the *Seattle Times* and *Los Angeles Times*.

In Olympia, in the early 70's, Dan drew cartoons for *The Paper* at Evergreen University. After Dan, the creator of *The Simpsons*, Matt Groening was cartoonist for *The Paper*.

Youra sold his first cartoon for ten dollars to the *Environmental Quality Magazine* in 1973. Living near Microsoft, Dan created a comic book, *Chairman Bill and the Weird Wide Web*, which was a hit with Microsoft's employees. It was a compilation of 3-panel barbs at the company's famous (or infamous) founder.

Dan is an accomplished caricature artist. He wrote the book *The Art of Editorial Caricatures and Political Cartoons*. The word caricature comes from the Italian word *caricare* meaning "to load, as a rifle." *Caricatura* is a "cartridge," "ammo," or "clip." Dan's caricatures are acknowledged to be loaded with fire power. And, they consistently hit the bullseye.

Dan sprays his acerbic ammo to the max. He follows in the footsteps of the two 20th Century's greatest editorial cartoonists, Jules Fieffer, who said that the "only requirements for a good political cartoonist are intelligence and ill-will" and Bill Mauldin, who urged political cartoonists to be "stirrer-uppers."

Dan is the illustrator of *Managing Is Everybody's Business*, *I Love Hot Dogs*, *Joey and the Threeep*, and *Oswald Hoot: The Owl Who Was Scared of the Dark*.

Dan lives in Washington State, where he enjoys gardening and drawing cartoons for his website — youra.com