

Roy Paul Nelson Cartooning

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Of the Emerald

"Cartoonists draw fast because they don't like to work long hours," says Charles Schulz.

And maybe that's why they write fast, too.

Speed is no detriment to quality, however, as University professor Roy Paul Nelson's book "Cartooning" proves. Drawing on his years of teaching caricature and graphic humour courses at the University and his own experiences as an editorial and gag cartoonist, Nelson was able to complete his latest book in about six months.

"Cartooning," published in April, displays over 250 cartoons drawn by 100 artists, including several from Portland and the Northwest as well as nationally-known cartoonists. Besides tracing the evolution of cartooning and trying to measure its social impact, the 376-page book also serves as a bibliography and how-to-do-it guide.

Growing up in Portland in the 1930s during the fierce

circulation battles among the city's three newspapers, Nelson began his career at an early age. His cartoons decorated the youth pages of the *Oregonian*, the *Oregon Journal* and the *Portland News-Telegram*. "It was the crowning glory of my childhood to be published in all three at once," says Nelson.

Looking back, an even more glorious part of Nelson's youth was when, at 14, he finished ahead of Mort Walker in a cartooning contest sponsored by "Open Road for Boys," a magazine Nelson describes as "not a very distinguished publication, but one remembered fondly by today's middle-aged cartoonists." Walker's comic strip "Beetle Bailey" has since won him a national following.

Nelson's high school years were spent laboriously carving his drawings into linoleum blocks, in those days the only reproduction technique which letterpress high school newspapers could afford. He "couldn't get enough" of drawing at Portland's Jefferson High School, but he did get enough of seeing his cartoons indiscriminately butchered by the editor of the high school's newspaper.

"I originally took journalism to protect myself," he says. "I became editor of the paper and filled it with my own uncropped drawings."

With a free scholarship and a New Deal-inspired job which paid him 35 cents an hour for sweeping out the YMCA, Nelson started college amidst the fever of World War II. Attending Oregon while officially a Marine, Nelson graduated from the University of Oregon in 1947 after serving for a time in the South Pacific.

After stints of studying at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and working as a public relations person for a forest industries association in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, Nelson returned to Oregon in 1955 to earn an advanced degree and teach.

Although he rarely laughs at his own gags and drawings, Nelson does laugh at himself. In "Cartooning" he writes, "that blandness had crept into my work (his *Register-Guard* editorial cartoons) and was never more apparent to me than when I received from one of my readers a contribution labelled 'Typical Roy Paul Cartoon.' Two persons, indifferently drawn, were shown talking. One was saying 'I think Eugene is nice.' The other was saying 'I think everything is nice.'"

Nelson says a cartoonist often draws himself. "I tend to be bland as a person and it comes out in my drawings," he says. "I find it too easy to see both sides of an issue." He says he prefers the "fine subtlety of social comment" embedded in a *New Yorker* style gag cartoon to the "meat cleaver" approach of an editorial cartoon.



Photo by John Johns

FOOTNOTES:

CLASS	PROFESSOR	TIME	PLACE
Anth 101	Moreno-Black	2:30 UH	180 PLC
Anth 102	Carter	10:30 UH	150 GEO
Anth 302	Tonkinson	1:30 MWF	180 PLC
Bio 102	Postlewaite	12:30 MWF	177 LA
Bio 272	Frank	8:30 MWF	211 ALL
Bio 302	Sistrom	10:30 MWF	150 GEO
Bio 305	Herskowitz	8:30 MWF	123 SC
Bio 322	Soderwald	8:30 MWF	123 SC
Bio 381	McConnaughey	2-3:30 UH	123 SC
Chem 102	Schellman	9:30 UH	150 GEO
Chem 105	Mazo	11:30 MWF	150 GEO
Chem 332	Boelkelheide	12:30 MWF	150 GEO
GS 105	Goswami	1:30 MWF	107 LA
Geog 301	Smith	2:30-4 UH	207 CHA
Geol 101	Lund	3:30 MWF	177 LA
Geol 102	Lund	9:30 MWF	150 GEO
Econ 201	Simeral	3:30 MWF	180 PLC
Econ 202	Grove	10:30 MWF	180 PLC
Econ 375	Grove	12:30 MWF	103 FEN
Econ 376	Simeral	11-12:30 UH	103 FEN
Hist 202	Maddex	12:30 MWF	180 PLC
HE 150, 250	Zentner	8:30 MWF	180 PLC
Psy 201	Littman	10:30 MWF	177 LA
Psy 214	Hawkins	9:30 MWF	180 PLC
Psy 215	Fagot	12:30-2 UH	180 PLC
Psy 480	Kirkpatrick	10:30 MWF	207 CHA
Ph 108	Ebbinghausen	2:30 MWF	150-GEO
PH 116	Lonnedes	1:30 MWF	138 GIL
Soc 201	Johnson	11:30 MWF	138 GIL
Soc 201	Moen	9:30 MWF	103 FEN
Soc 306	Hill	11:30 MWF	331 GIL
RHCM 121		12:30 M	133 GIL

Footnotes Available for Winter Term 1976

Old Notes are also available at \$4.00 for certain classes. Check in Room 15 EMU for listings.

FOOTNOTE SUBSCRIBERS

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The notes are available approximately five days after a class meeting. If there is a test, the process will be speeded up for that specific class and all notes for the test will be out by 3:00 the afternoon of the day before the test. (Excluding Friday notes for a Monday class.)

If you have a subscription or plan to purchase one please pick up the notes before the day before a test as we do have rushes of "last minute scholars" and do often run out of some sets just before tests and time involved in reprinting prohibits their being available before the test. People subscribed to a class *must* have their card with them to pick up their notes. Lost cards cost one dollar to replace. (non-refundable).