



The Pen is Funnier than the Sword

Cartoonist for justice to visit Portland

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His political cartoons tackle issues like Islamophobia, immigration and racial justice in America with insight and humor and have been carried by newspapers around the world, including regularly in the Portland Observer.

Now the journalist known for embracing his Muslim, Third-World perspectives for cutting-edge commentary will be in Portland to give a public lecture and a present some of his cartoons as part of a two month exhibit, "The Pen is Funnier than the Sword"

Khalil Bendib was born a refugee in Paris during Algeria's bloody war of independence before moving to America where he earned a college education and started his career. He draws with a sense of humor that invites viewers to see themselves, to laugh, and then to consider what justice might mean for the people and



Political cartoonist Khalil Bendib is known for tackling issues of Islamophobia, immigration and racial justice in America. A regular contributor to the Portland Observer and other newspapers across the country, Bendib will give a talk 'The Pen is Funnier than the Sword,' at First Congressional Church, downtown, on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. His editorial cartoons are part of an exhibit now showing at the church's ArtReach Galley.

societies he depicts.

"My work has always instinctively espoused the side of the underdog -- the side on which I was born," Bendib said. "After early brushes with political censorship in Algeria, at age 20, I voted with my feet and came to the Land of the Free, where my contrarian leanings -- while not always universally welcome -- did find an echo and gradually became

part of the media kaleidoscope that makes this country irresistible to free spirits like me."

Currently based in Berkeley, Calif., Bendib lived in France, Algeria, and Morocco prior to immigrating to the United States. He earned his master's degree at the University of Southern California in 1982 where his political cartoons were published in the Daily Trojan and where he also

studied sculpture and ceramics. His work is currently distributed widely to alternative and small, independent publications like the black family-owned Portland Observer through Otherwords.org and the Institute for Policy Studies.

The public is invited to meet and hear from Bendib during his visit



Khalil Bendib

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