

= Paul Conrad =

Paul Francis Conrad (June 27 , 1924 ? September 4 , 2010) was an American political cartoonist and winner of three Pulitzer Prizes for editorial cartooning . In the span of a career lasting five decades , Conrad provided a critical perspective on eleven presidential administrations in the United States . He is best known for his work as the chief editorial cartoonist for the Los Angeles Times during a time when the newspaper was in transition under the direction of publisher Otis Chandler , who recruited Conrad from the Denver Post .

At the conservative Times , Conrad brought a more liberal editorial perspective that readers both celebrated and criticized ; he was also respected for his talent and his ability to speak truth to power . On a weekly basis , Conrad addressed the social justice issues of the day ? poverty in America , movements for civil rights , the Vietnam War , the Israeli ? Palestinian conflict , and corporate and political corruption were leading topics . His criticism of president Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal landed Conrad on Nixon 's Enemies List , which Conrad regarded as a badge of honor .

= = Early life = =

Conrad was born to Robert and Florence Conrad . He was raised in a conservative , Catholic family with his identical twin brother James and older brother Bob in Cedar Rapids , Iowa . He attended St. Augustin Elementary School in Des Moines , where he first began to show interest in art by writing on the bathroom wall . He was left @-@ handed , but was forced by teachers to favor his right hand . Up until the age of 12 , Conrad stuttered . At an early age , Conrad was exposed to the work of Jay Norwood Darling , more popularly known as " Ding Darling " , whose conservative cartoons were featured in local newspapers and who became a " childhood role model " for Conrad .

After graduating Roosevelt High School , he and his brother spent time working construction jobs in Valdez , Alaska . Conrad also honed his talent as a musician while playing piano in a bordello . With World War II raging , Conrad and his brother enlisted . Because of his poor eyesight , Conrad was initially found to be unfit for military service , but he later served as a truck driver with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Pacific Theater of Operations at Guam and Okinawa , where he was given the nickname of " Con " . He originally planned to attend Iowa State University after the war in 1945 , but instead taught himself to play bass and joined a big band .

When the band did not work out , Conrad enrolled at the University of Iowa in 1946 , where he studied art . He first got the idea to become a cartoonist while hanging out at a local bar in Iowa City . At the bar , his friend Charlie Carroll , then the editor for the school 's newspaper , the Daily Iowan , told Conrad that they needed a cartoonist , and he invited Conrad to give it a try . One of his first cartoons for the Daily Iowan depicted Herbert Hoover , the 31st President of the United States . Conrad was soon creating six cartoons a week . Impressed with Conrad 's cartoons , his professors sent the Denver Post copies of his work .

= = Denver Post = =

After graduating from the University of Iowa with a degree in art in 1950 , Conrad joined the Denver Post , where he drew cartoons for the next 14 years . Early in his career , Conrad sought out the then retired Ding Darling in Florida for advice , and showed him copies of his work from the Daily Iowan . Unimpressed , Ding told Conrad to " get into another line of work " . This discouragement from his childhood role model pushed Conrad to work harder at the Post . At the newspaper he received support and encouragement from his editor , Palmer Hoyt , although he occasionally ran into trouble , especially when he attracted attention for creating critical , unflattering cartoons of Dwight D. Eisenhower , the 34th President of the United States . In 1960 , Time magazine recognized Conrad 's talent , saying that he was " probably the nation 's hottest new cartooning property " . Conrad received the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning in 1964 . His cartoons for the Post were distributed through the Register and Tribune Syndicate in 81 newspapers .

Previously , in December 1963 , lead cartoonist Bruce Russell of the Los Angeles Times died of a heart attack . Russell had worked for the conservative paper since 1927 . Publisher Otis Chandler , in an attempt to replace Russell and to improve the reputation of the Times , recruited Paul Conrad with the help of editor Nick Boddie Williams . Conrad took the offer of an initial three @-@ year contract and was later replaced at the Post in August 1964 by Australian cartoonist Pat Oliphant from the Adelaide Advertiser . Conrad also lectured at the Denver Art Museum in 1964 under a sponsorship from the Cooke @-@ Daniels Lecture Fund .

= = Los Angeles Times = =

Conrad moved his family to southern California , and for three decades , from 1964 to 1993 , he worked as the chief editorial cartoonist for the Los Angeles Times . His cartoons were now syndicated to hundreds of newspapers worldwide . In April 1967 , Conrad drew the cover for Time magazine in an issue about the potential candidates for the 1968 United States presidential election . The cover art depicts the upcoming election as a horse race with the candidates as jockey 's weighing @-@ in . Caricatures of Lyndon B. Johnson , Bobby Kennedy , Hubert Humphrey , Richard Nixon , Ronald Reagan , George Romney , Nelson Rockefeller , and Charles Percy grace the cover .

During the Watergate scandal , Conrad drew numerous cartoons about Richard Nixon 's downfall . One cartoon showed Nixon , during his last days as president , nailing himself to a cross . Conrad later described the cartoon as one of his all @-@ time favorites . In 1973 , the Associated Press contacted Conrad to inform him that he had been added to Nixon 's Enemies List . Unperturbed , Conrad considered his place on this list as a badge of honor , but members of the list were exposed to greater scrutiny by the government and subject to investigation . His tax returns were subsequently audited by the IRS several times , but no changes were made .

Conrad accepted an early retirement from the Times on April 1 , 1993 , but continued to draw four cartoons a week in syndication for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate . Editorial cartoonist Michael Ramirez replaced Conrad at the Times with a conservative approach .

= = Sculptures = =

Conrad first became interested in sculpture in the mid @-@ 1970s . After working on a drawing of a crucifix depicting the Christian doctrine of the Trinity , he decided to use steel to create it . He spent time at the public library learning to make welded sculpture and three months later emerged with a 272 @-@ kilogram (600 lb) sculpture titled The Trinity , which was installed at Marymount College . Although it was made from steel , Conrad gave The Trinity a verde patina to give it the appearance of copper . The sculpture was restored in 2012 .

After working with large sculpture , Conrad began creating small bronze sculptures of famous Americans , beginning with Richard Nixon . Additional sculptures followed , including caricatures of Jerry Brown , Ronald Reagan , Jimmy Carter , Gerald Ford , John F. Kennedy , Ted Kennedy , and Martin Luther King Jr . Six of these sculptures were featured in an exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 1979 . In the 1980s , Conrad often donated smaller bronze sculptures for fundraisers . Later sculptures included Golda Meir , Abraham Lincoln , Bill Clinton , and George W. Bush . Writer Grady Miller of the Canyon News , who met and visited with Conrad at his home in the late 1990s , recalled that Conrad " was specially proud of his bronze sculptures , which could be taken as a illustration of both his artistic range and his political beliefs " .

Conrad also created several other works of public art : Risen Christ , an altar piece located at Saint John Fisher Catholic Church in Rancho Palos Verdes , California ; Otis Chandler , a bust of the publisher installed in the Los Angeles Times building ; and Chain Reaction , a peace monument in the shape of a mushroom cloud located in the Santa Monica Civic Center .

= = Awards = =

Conrad earned the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning three times , once for his work at the Denver Post in 1964 , and twice more for his work at the Los Angeles Times , in 1971 and 1984 . The Society of Professional Journalists / Sigma Delta Chi (SDX) honored him seven times with the Distinguished Service Awards for Editorial Cartooning , in 1962 , 1968 , 1970 , 1980 , 1981 , 1987 , and 1996 . Conrad also won two Overseas Press Club awards (1981 and 1970) and received the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award four times , in 1985 , 1990 , 1992 , and 1993 . He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists in 1998 , and the Lifetime Public Service Award from the Edmund G. " Pat " Brown Institute of Public Affairs at California State University , Los Angeles in 2000 .

= = Controversies = =

As an editorial cartoonist who openly editorialized from a liberal point of view on the issues of the day , Conrad was involved in many publicized political and religious disputes over his cartoons . In one dispute , he angered conservatives when he compared them to white supremacist Buford Furrow in a cartoon . Conrad 's cartoons often made fun of the governorship of Ronald Reagan , leading his wife , Nancy Reagan , to phone publisher Otis Chandler and complain about how the cartoons were ruining her husband 's breakfast . The calls were so frequent , Chandler had no choice but to stop taking them . In another dispute , members of the Jewish community of Los Angeles took issue with Conrad 's portrayal of the Israeli ? Palestinian conflict .

In the late 1970s , Pope Paul VI expressed his opinion against the ordination of women , saying that priests must represent the image of Christ . This led Conrad to draw a cartoon of the pope holding a baby who resembled a miniature version of the pope in his image . Cardinal Timothy Manning complained to Conrad , but Conrad defended his work , arguing that what the " human soul " has in common is far more important than its appearance in the form of a man or woman . Conrad also criticized the Catholic church for not letting priests marry and for treating their nuns poorly . " This is the type of church Christ had in mind ? " he asked the National Catholic Reporter in 2001 .

= = Personal life = =

Conrad was an imposing man with a powerful voice who was often seen smoking a pipe while working on his cartoons . James Rainey of the Los Angeles Times described Conrad as a " towering , practically invulnerable figure " standing at " 6 feet 2 , [with] his large head framed by thick , black @-@ rimmed glasses " , his demeanor " loud and often profane in person " . The Library of Congress described him as " a tall Midwesterner with long hair swept straight back from his forehead [who] displayed a trait that he said he often wished for in his subjects : the ability to laugh at oneself " .

Conrad married Kay King , the Post 's society editor , in 1953 . As his wife , Kay became one of only two people (along with his editor at the Times , Edwin O. Guthman) who could influence his work .

Although he was raised as a Republican and a Catholic , his views changed as he aged . By 1960 , the media was comparing his point of view to an " Adlai Stevenson Democrat " . Conrad voted for only one Republican in his life , Dwight D. Eisenhower , but said he later regretted it . He remained a devout Catholic and his belief in social justice informed his work . According to Matt Schudel of The Washington Post , " Conrad considered himself an unabashed political liberal , except for his long @-@ held opposition to abortion . He changed his views in the 1980s , when he came to believe that it was a matter of private choice . "

= = Death = =

Conrad died at home in Rancho Palos Verdes at the age of 86 . His funeral was held at Saint John Fisher Catholic Church in Rancho Palos Verdes on September 11 , 2010 , with eulogies delivered by journalist Robert Scheer and editorial cartoonist Tony Auth . Conrad was survived by his wife ,

Kay King , two sons , two daughters , and one grandchild .

= = Legacy = =

Many publishers and journalists describe Conrad as one of the finest political cartoonists of the 20th century . According to the Associated Press , " Southern California political junkies for decades would start their day either outraged or delighted at a Conrad drawing . " He was one of only several post @-@ war cartoonists to have won a total of three Pulitzers for his work and he was the only cartoonist named on Nixon 's Enemies List . From 1977 ? 1978 , Conrad held the Richard M. Nixon Chair at Whittier College , Nixon 's alma mater .

Conrad 's editorial cartoons later appeared in exhibitions at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism . He authored several books about his work and donated many of his original editorial cartoons to the Prints and Photographs Division of the United States Library of Congress .

His influence and legacy as an editorial cartoonist are explored in the documentary film Paul Conrad : Drawing Fire (2007) . In honor of this legacy , the " Paul Conrad Scholarship " is annually awarded to journalism and mass communication students by the University of Iowa . The Huntington Library , which hosts the Conrad Collection papers , calls his body of work " a powerful record of key issues that have confronted [the United States] in the second half of the twentieth century " .

= = Public sculptures = =

Trinity (Statue , Marymount California University)

Risen Christ (Altar piece , St. John Fisher Church , Rancho Palos Verdes , CA)

Otis Chandler (Bust , Los Angeles Times building)

Chain Reaction , (Monument , Santa Monica Civic Center)

= = Publications = =

When in the Course of Human Events (1973)

The King and Us (1974)

Pro and Conrad (1979)

Drawn and Quartered (1985)

CONartist (1993)

Drawing The Line (1999)