

Pink Slip Recipient Bob Conroy Fulfills Lifelong Dream

Artist Laid Off from High Tech Job “Leaves It to the Reader” in Popular New Editorial Cartoon Series

DRACUT, Mass. – July 9, 2009 - Kids at school laughed when [Bob Conroy](#) said he wanted to grow up to be a cartoonist. If any of those youngsters are still around the economically embattled Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts, they're not laughing now. Instead, they've been reading Bob's *Pink Slip* comic strip in the Sunday [Lowell Sun](#) for the past three years.

If they follow politics, they may also have heard how Bob's recently launched series of editorial cartoons has met a warm reception in print and online newspapers across the land.

After his employer of 14 years laid him off in 2004, Bob's wife Suzanne urged him to devote full time to a comic strip that would put his artistic talent and life experiences to work. The result was *Pink Slip*, which initially focused on families grappling with a breadwinner's unemployment. Suzanne has a thinly disguised starring role in the strip along with three daughters, friends, and former colleagues.

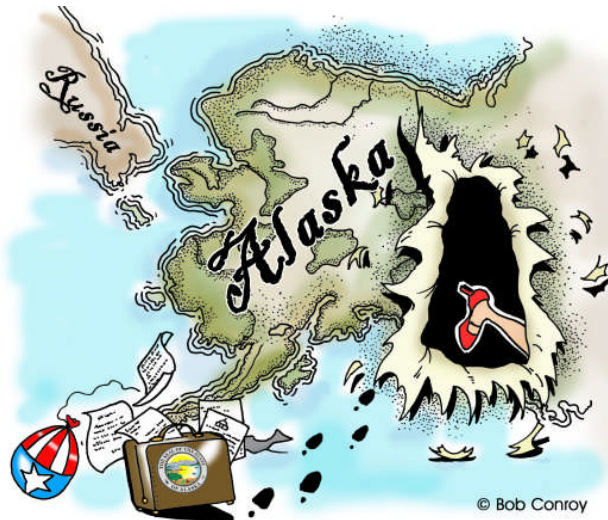
Segue from Funny to Serious

For Conroy, a fan of history and economics, it was simple to expand into politics and commentary beyond his monthly editorial cartoons in the *Merrimack Journal*. In May 2009, he contacted editor Bruce Coulter of the Burlington, Mass. *Union* and offered him some samples.

Coulter requested permission to send Bob's cartoons to other papers of the Gatehouse News Service. They were an immediate hit, running at or near the top of the service's "Most Popular" statistics during the first month. They have even been published by *World News Report*, the largest online service in Europe.

Leaving It Up to the Reader

Many editorial cartoonists put forth their own points of view. Bob's approach leaves the door open for a range of interpretation.



“Take this cartoon about [Sarah Palin's resignation](#). It should elicit reactions that will depend on each reader's place on the political spectrum,” he explains.

“Opinions about Governor Palin vary widely and are not lukewarm, to say the least. I think that this cartoon will strike chords that resonate with those opinions. At least that's the aim – we'll see.”

“I've received emails in which the sender told me that I represented his view exactly. But in many cases, similar emails about the same cartoon congratulated me for the exact opposite of the first interpretation,” Conroy said.

Conroy tells his story in an interview with hosts Gail Scott-Key and John Campanello in an upcoming broadcast of [Hollywood New England](#). The show will air several times on New Hampshire [community television](#) stations.

To see more of Bob's editorial cartoons and other work, visit [Pink Slip Comics](#).

Editors interested in publishing Conroy Cartoons and/or *Pink Slip* should contact [Ray Graber](#) (781-221-0018) or [Tom Burke](#) (617-323-5694) at [Grabber Associates LLC](#).