



Signe Wilkinson graduated from her suburban high school about the same time the SAT scores began their slide. Barely acquiring a B.A. in English from a Western university of middling academic reputation, Wilkinson found a job in the only profession that would have her — journalism. She worked as a stringer for the King of Prussia Daily Post and the West Chester Daily Local News before joining a mission to bring peace to the island of Cyprus. Nine months later, war broke out.

Back home, she moved into Philadelphia for remedial art training at the Academy of Fine Arts, supporting herself by doing graphic design for the Academy of Natural Sciences. She finally landed her first job with health care benefits at the San Jose Mercury News in California. After 3 1/2 years on a steep learning curve, Wilkinson repaid her long-suffering editor by taking a job at the Philadelphia Daily News, where she has been drawing contentedly ever since.

In addition to her daily editorial cartoon, which has won a Pulitzer Prize, two Robert F. Kennedy Awards and three Overseas Press Club Thomas Nast Awards, she has drawn for MS Magazine, Working Woman, Organic Gardening and a variety of other publications including the Friends Journal and the University Barge Club newsletter. She was named the "Pennsylvania State Vegetable Substitute" by the speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1989.

Wilkinson was the 1994-95 president of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, a job Molly Ivins likened to running a nursery school.

With her expert sense of timing, Wilkinson thought a recession and newspaper depression would be a good time to launch a daily comic strip. "Family Tree" debuted in 2008 and follows a family's loopy attempts to live green in modern, chemically dependent America.

Wilkinson values her intensely unremarkable family life, which is marked by her interest in growing outdoor lilies, killing indoor orchids and answering her offspring's question, "How can you live with yourself, getting up every morning and making fun of people?" Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, Wilkinson and her husband live in Philadelphia with all the stuff their children didn't want to take to college, two birds, 5 goldfish and a dog named "Ginger."

Inviting faculty and students to
a conversation with

Signe Wilkinson
Editorial Cartoonist

Thursday, January 20th
Merrifield Hall, rm. 300
2:00 pm



Those interested are also invited
to join Signe in one of two art
classes instructed by
Dr. Joel Jonientz in
Room 107 Hughes Fine Arts
1-3:30 or 4-6:30,
Wednesday, January 19th

Visit sponsored by
University of North Dakota
Communication Program
& Department of Art & Design