

Andre Adams

illustrator bio

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1974, Andre's talent for creating cartoons became apparent very early on, as one of his crowning achievements included winning first place in a nationwide drawing contest at age 7 for *Cricket Magazine*, beating out many kids years older than him. This event pretty much left no doubt as to what he wanted to do when he would grow up.

This passion transgressed throughout his childhood and teen years, as Andre would often succumb to the temptations of daydreaming and doodling in class, missing out on practical matters, such as the quadratic equation.

In 1992 Andre attended AIU (American Intercontinental University), in Los Angeles, where he majored in Commercial Art. He graduated in 1996 with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts with emphasis in Illustration & Design.

Following his school years, Andre moved to Monterey, California, where he began freelancing for newspapers, magazines, ad agencies, local art directors and companies worldwide, taking on a wide range of projects, using traditional pen & ink media to digitally rendered compositions using Photoshop, Illustrator, Poser, Flash, etc (hence the name of one of his portfolio sites, "Tradigital Designs"). Andre also contributed political cartoons to local newspapers, volunteered for local community events, while being actively involved in the artist's community; he became a member of the AIGA, the National Cartoonist's Society, and became a ComiCon regular.

Andre didn't quit his day jobs though. Beginning in 2001 and up to the present day, he has worked as a Multimedia Designer and Animator for various educational and entertainment companies, where he's designed ads, catalogs, publications, templates, and worked closely with marketing and product development teams.

After getting laid off in 2008 during the Great Recession, Andre and his family moved to northern France (Ch'ti land) to weather the financial storm, and it was there that the idea for "Freedom Fries"—a cartoon satirizing French and American culture—was born.

Grappling to learn French and acclimate to societal norms was no easy task for Andre, even though he had visited many countries during his lifetime, being the son of a former KGB spy (true story). One fine day at a French/American club in Lille, a lady asked whether Andre could create some material on the differences between French and American culture. His first cartoon was on cars, which spawned an avalanche of other ideas. He decided to chronicle his experiences and observations into a series. The original working title was "Franglais", but that didn't quite capture what he was trying to satire; which was, of course, French *and* American culture.

"Freedom Fries" felt like a much better name. As we all know, this term came about when über patriotic conservatives re-named the quintessential American fast food—french fries—to 'Freedom Fries' following France's decision not to participate in W's war in 2003.

Having lived in France for nearly 5 years, Andre took a leap of faith and moved the family back to the States in 2013, to try and give life in America another go. The Plan backfired, his French wife bid him adieu, but it also led to more fodder for his cartoons.

Currently working as a Multimedia Designer for the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Andre hopes to gain notoriety with his politically incorrect cartoons and focus more on his illustration ambitions.

