

# Oregon Cartoon Institute

## “Why Victor Navasky?”

### Handy Guide To The Nation In Portland

#1. Starting in 1874, **Henry Villard**, acting on behalf of German investors, begins acquiring control of Oregon railroads on his way to becoming president of Northern Pacific Railroad. During this period he gives the first major gift to the brand new University of Oregon, where Villard Hall still stands. He starts construction on Portland's first luxury hotel, **Portland Hotel**. Oregon is in its first decades of statehood, and Villard is building infrastructure. Meanwhile, back East during this period, he buys **The Nation**. In 1884, Villard resigns from Northern Pacific, and abandons the hotel, which local businessmen then take over and complete. The site where the hotel once stood is now **Pioneer Courthouse Square**.

#2. **Anna B. Crocker**, the director of Portland Art Museum and founder of the Museum Art School (now Pacific Northwest College of Art), is introduced to the Italian philosopher Benedetto Croce via reviews of his books in **The Nation**. Croce's ideas guide Crocker's work as an educator and museum professional from 1909 to 1936.

#3. **Elinor Langer's** book, *A Hundred Little Hitlers: The Death of a Black Man, the Trial of a White Racist, and the Rise of the Neo-Nazi Movement in America* about the 1988 death of Mulugeta Seraw, an Ethiopian immigrant, at the hands of young Portland skinheads, begins life as an article in **The Nation**.

#4. **Joe Sacco** and Chris Hedges' *Days Of Destruction, Days Of Revolt* is published by **Nation Books**. Joe graduated from Sunset High School in Beaverton, and from the University of Oregon's School of Journalism. He is the youngest of the ten Oregon cartoonists being celebrated in the Oregon Historical Society's June 2016 exhibit.

#5. **Victor Navasky**, publisher emeritus of **The Nation**, and author of *The Art Of Controversy: Political Cartoons and their Enduring Power*, is guest speaker at Oregon Cartoon Institute's 2016 speaker series, presented in partnership with Portland State University's Cartoon Studies and Portland Center for Public Humanities.

Compiled for Victor Navasky, October 2015!