

**John P. McMeel**

John McMeel is the co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Andrews McMeel Universal, a book publishing company and press syndicate known for political cartoons and columnists. McMeel and his editorial team discovered and syndicated comic strip classics including Doonesbury, Calvin and Hobbs and Garfield. Universal Press Syndicate, a division of Andrews McMeel, was the first newspaper syndicate to add female artists, signing the artists responsible for the For Better or For Worse and Cathy comic strips. Andrews McMeel Universal has approximately 130 features covering 22 editorial categories. Text features include newspaper staples such as Dear Abby, Focus on the Family and The Motley Fool. The creative content distributed by McMeel's company has run in almost every daily newspaper in the United States that has a comics section and most likely every major college newspaper, too. Additionally, McMeel fought for world press freedom as chairman of the American Committee of the International Press Institute. He is an important benefactor in the Committee to Protect Journalists and an active alumnus of Notre Dame. Today he continues to support the school by underwriting the campus's Red Smith lectures in journalism.

Supporting Document: Letter from William R. Burleigh

# HoosierTimes, Inc.

P.O. Box 909 • Bloomington, Indiana 47402 • 812-332-4401 • Fax 812-331-4256

September 30, 2009

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

Enclosed please find a letter of recommendation supporting John P. McMeel to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Please include this letter with my original nomination and supporting letters which were sent to you on September 28.

Sincerely,



Scott C. Schurz

WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

The story of John McMeel could not have deeper Hoosier roots. He was born in South Bend, the son of Knute Rockne's team doctor. He grew up literally under the Golden Dome. It was thus almost fated that he would earn his college degree from Notre Dame in 1957. What wasn't scripted was what took place in 1970 on a linoleum covered kitchen table in the apartment of his college pal, Jim Andrews. There this motley pair of creative genius and master marketer, along with their wives, conceived the idea of Universal Press Syndicate. They pledged their lives and their meager fortunes to a chancy enterprise that would grow into one of the American media's great success stories, Andrews McMeel Universal.

Jim Andrews was the philosopher, the creative thinker. But it was John McMeel whose sparkling Irish personality provided the energy, the contacts, the unconventional strategies that would make Universal a magic name in every editor's office in the country, and eventually far beyond. In their endless quest for fresh ideas, journalists gravitated to him. He and his partner spawned success after success in an honor roll of newspaper features that became household companions to readers everywhere – from the iconic Doonesbury, to the Dear Abby columns, to the Calvin & Hobbes comic strips, to the Far Side greeting cards.

To be sure, John and Jim had their share of clunkers but setbacks only pushed these young pioneers into greener pastures. Then, with their business still young but with its reputation soaring, John McMeel came face to face with the ultimate challenge in 1980 when Jim Andrews, his partner and soul mate, died suddenly of a heart gone still. Stunned, stripped of his alter ego, McMeel plunged ahead in his grief. In the years that followed, he built Andrews McMeel into a model in the marketplace with a reputation for never losing touch with the emerging tastes of an ever-changing national culture.

Because of his inspiring life story, I can think of no native Hoosier more deserving of a place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

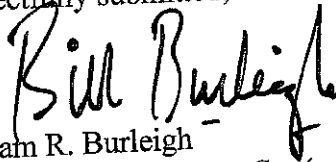
WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

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For more than three decades, John has been my esteemed friend, albeit a tireless competitor. The circumstances of our first meeting convey something of the qualities that make him so endearing and so successful. I was editing a newspaper owned by McMeel's principal rival, but he nonetheless insisted on meeting me. A fierce winter storm had locked down the city, yet right at the appointed hour, the beaming leprechaun bounced through the door and proceeded to convince me why it was in my best interests to do business with him – and to hell with what my owners thought.

There is arguably no syndicate figure in contemporary American journalism more admired than John McMeel. He has helped to make the nation's newspapers more entertaining and more compelling. He has earned an enviable name on a broader international stage. He has pioneered approaches beyond print into the digital information age. He has carved a lasting niche for himself and his company that merits a place for him on the honor roll of journalists in the Hoosier state where he was formed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Burleigh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

William R. Burleigh  
Chairman, E.W. Scripps Co. (ret.)

# HoosierTimes, Inc.

P.O. Box 909 • Bloomington, Indiana 47402 • 812-332-4401 • Fax 812-331-4285

September 26, 2011

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Director  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to nominate John P. McMeel to the Indiana Journal Hall of Fame class of 2012. I have nominated John McMeel in the past with a number of supporting letters of nomination, but I am adding two more: that of Theodore M. Hesburgh, President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, who is blind and in his 90s, but still took the time to write a letter in support of John McMeel's nomination. The second letter is from Robert Schmuhl, Chair, Department of the Walter H. Annenberg-Edmund P. Joyce in American Studies and Journalism, and Director of the John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics & Democracy, also at the University of Notre Dame.

One of the past supporting letters is from William R. Burleigh, a past recipient of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame, and if time allowed, I could also get a letter from another past recipient, Jane Pauley.

It is my understanding that the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame has come up with a brand new award called "Distinguished Service to Journalism, and if I could be so bold, I would recommend that if the selection committee does not find it in their hearts to elect John P. McMeel to the Hall of Fame, that he at least be considered for the new award of Distinguished Service to Journalism.

John P. McMeel is an Indiana native who was born January 26, 1936 in South Bend, Indiana. After attending both grade school and high school in South Bend, John matriculated to the University of Notre Dame where he graduated in 1957. After a year at Indiana University School of Law, John was recruited by Robert Walton, who was then editor of Hall Newspaper Syndicate in New York City. In 1964 the Hall Syndicate was sold to Publisher's Syndicate, and John became general sales manager. In 1970, John, along with Notre Dame friend, Jim Andrews, started Universal Press Syndicate (UPS). At that time the newspaper syndication business was dominated by Hearst and E. W. Scripps through their representative syndicates, King Features and United Media Syndicate.

Many of you might ask if John McMeel is a journalist or a newspaper businessman. The simple answer is: HE IS BOTH. Although John McMeel might first be considered to be a newspaper man, in reality he is the best friend any editor, editorial page editor, or managing editor, ever had. Certainly local news is most important to a community newspaper, but strong syndicated writers, editorial columnists, editorial cartoonists, and strong comics are also important to putting out a first rate newspaper. John McMeel is a master at recruiting and providing this aid that editors need.

If you are looking for a *James Kilpatrick* or a *Jeff Greenfield*, or a *Mary McGrory*, or a *William F. Buckley Jr.*, or a *Garry Wills*, or *Ann Coulter*, then you turn to John McMeel. If you are looking for a *Dear Abby*, or *Erma Bombeck*, or *Jeane Dixon*, or a *Roger Ebert*, then you turn to John McMeel. You may be looking for an editorial cartoonist such as *Pat Oliphant* for your editorial page, and *Gary Larson* for your comic page, or you might also want *Doonesbury* for either editorial or comics. And, speaking of comics, you certainly would want a *Garfield* by Indiana's own Jim Davis, or a *Cathy*, or *For Better or For Worse*, by two nationally honored women cartoon artists who John McMeel first provided. And, for either the comics or sports a *Tank McNamara*, and certainly *Ziggy* for a comic panel, and for in-depth changing world coverage you would want a *Georgie Anne Geyer*. Certainly one of the most popular comic strips that appeared in newspapers around the world was *Calvin and Hobbes* by Bill Watterson.

For well over four decades John McMeel has had the ability to recognize and recruit some of the best feature writers and artists to help those of us in the newspaper industry put out a complete newspaper package that appeals to the reader. He has become an expert in enhancing our daily and Sunday product. Andrews McMeel Universal has approximately 130 features covering 22 editorial categories.

Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU) now includes Andrews McMeel Publishing (AMP), Universal Uclick, and AMUSE. University Press Syndicate (UPS) and Uclick merged in July 2009. Also, John McMeel is president and treasurer of the Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation.

As well as running AMU, John is a member of the William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees at the Journalism School at the University of Kansas. He is also a member of the American Committee of the International Press Association and past U. S. representative to the board of the International Press Institute, a post he held for eight years. John is a member of the board of directors of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum and The Advertising Icon Museum.

At the University of Notre Dame, John is a member of the Advisory Committee of the John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy and the Advisory Council of the College of Arts and Letters. Also, at Notre Dame, the McMeel family sponsors the Red Smith Lecture Series and the McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies. Additionally, at the University of Notre Dame, John McMeel, along with Kathleen Andrews established the James F. Andrews Memorial Scholarship fund, which underwrites summer social-service projects in conjunction with the

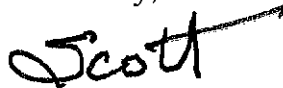
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university's alumni clubs. More than 1,600 Andrew Scholars have participated in the program through 2007.

John McMeel has received many numerous awards for his service and involvement in civic, community, religious, and educational organizations.

John and his wife Susan, have three daughters, Maureen McMeel, Suzanne McMeel Glynn and Bridget McMeel Rohmer, and eight grandchildren.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Scott C. Schurz  
Chairman



# UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

JOHN W. GALLIVAN PROGRAM IN JOURNALISM, ETHICS & DEMOCRACY

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September 21, 2011

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Mr. Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Director  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Members of the Committee:

Although John McMeel hasn't lived in Indiana since his college days, he's a frequent visitor to his hometown of South Bend, and he's always talking about advancing journalism in this state and throughout the country. The columns, features, and comics of Universal Press Syndicate, now known as Universal Uclick, provide newspapers with significant, noteworthy material on a daily basis, and John has been largely responsible for discovering the talent and distributing their work. With an engaging personality and ready smile, John is a human magnet, who attracts writers and artists. They become his creators who contribute a steady stream of insightful words or arresting images to the public—first on newsprint pages and oftentimes later in books assembled by Andrews McMeel Publishing. In a certain sense, John is “the good shepherd,” though his flock of wordsmiths and illustrators become better known than he might be. For all that he has done on their behalf through their contributions to newspapers, I sincerely think John McMeel deserves a place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

At Notre Dame, John is a member of the Gallivan Program's Advisory Committee. We have had annual meetings since our founding in 1997, and he has participated in every one—all fifteen of them. Moreover, he has financially underwritten the Red Smith Lectureship in Journalism, which has brought such figures as Ted

Koppel, Tim Russert, Ken Auletta, Frank McCourt, Judy Woodruff, and Frank Deford to campus. Thanks to John, each Red Smith Lecture is subsequently published and distributed to several thousand educators and journalists across America. These booklets are frequently used as texts in classes or distributed in newsrooms as a tool of continuing education. In 2010, Andrews McMeel Publishing brought out a volume that collected all of the Smith Lectures, *Making Words Dance: Reflections on Red Smith, Journalism, and Writing*, and it was positively reviewed in the *Chicago Tribune*, *American Journalism Review*, *Nieman Reports* and elsewhere. John cares deeply about the state of journalism and personally supports that concern through his involvement in such activities. (A few booklets of Smith Lectures are attached to this letter.)

Good journalism in Indiana and beyond has no better friend or backer than John McMeel. He's not a news person in the traditional sense, but his career has been devoted to developing memorable, at times path-breaking, journalism. He's also committed his own resources to seeing that journalism of the future will be work known for its high standards. Selection to be a member of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame is one notable way to recognize a life that merits considerable recognition. Supporting his nomination is both a pleasure and an honor, and I hope the Committee understands why.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this most worthy of candidates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Schmuhl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert Schmuhl

Walter H. Annenberg-Edmund P. Joyce Chair in American Studies and Journalism

Director, John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics & Democracy



# UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

REV. THEODORE M. HESBURGH, C.S.C.

1315 Hesburgh Library  
Notre Dame, Indiana  
46556-5629 USA

President Emeritus

September 21, 2011

tel (574) 631-6882

fax (574) 631-6877

email Theodore.M.Hesburgh.1@nd.edu

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
% Mr. Lawrence P. Taylor, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 785  
Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Committee Members:


I write in strong support of the nomination of John P. McMeel for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. John is a South Bend native and a 1957 graduate of Notre Dame, so his formative years were spent in Indiana. Whether as the leader of a newspaper syndicate or as a book publisher, John's career personifies a commitment to excellence and ethical conduct, traits we seek to foster and champion at Notre Dame. The journalistic talent he discovered, nurtured, and presented to the public has made newspapers in his home state and across America more informative and more engaging. Though John himself is not a journalist, he has worked throughout his life to make journalism better and that merits recognition, especially today.

John McMeel has been a generous benefactor to Notre Dame. For many years, he has sponsored the Red Smith Lectureship in Journalism at the University, and he is also responsible for endowing the McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies at the University. In both cases, excellence in communication is at the heart of his support—just as it is in his daily work.

I have known John for many years. Indeed, three decades ago, his book company published a collection of my essays, *The Hesburgh Papers*. He has always helped others to become significant contributors to the nation's newspapers and to our public discourse. Now it's time to do something for him. In my opinion, he deserves a place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame, and I hope the Committee agrees.

Again, thank you for your consideration of John P. McMeel for this well deserved honor.

Ever devotedly in Notre Dame,

  
(Rev.) Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.  
President Emeritus

*2011 Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame*

**John McMeel**

## **John P. McMeel**

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### BIOGRAPHY

John P. McMeel is chairman and president of Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU), which includes its divisions of Andrews McMeel Publishing (AMP), Universal Uclick and AMUSE. Universal Press Syndicate (UPS) and Uclick merged in July 2009. He is president and treasurer of the Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation.

AMU, founded in 1970 as UPS, grew from a collaboration that involved McMeel and his wife, Susan, along with Kathleen Andrews and her husband, the late James F. Andrews.

McMeel is a member of the board of directors of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum and The Advertising Icon Museum. He is a member of the William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees at the Journalism School at the University of Kansas, and a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's Hospital Foundation. He is a former board of director for the Federal Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, as well as a former trustee for the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art. He is a member of the American Committee of the International Press Association and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City. At the University of Notre Dame, McMeel is a member of the Advisory Committee of the John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy and the Advisory Council of the College of Arts and Letters. Also at Notre Dame, the McMeel family sponsors the Red Smith Lecture Series and the McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies.

McMeel is a co-founder of Christmas in October in Kansas City, an intensive annual two-day renovation project designed to improve the living conditions of the elderly, disabled and needy in Kansas City. He and co-partner are organizing the First Annual PGA

Nationwide Christmas in October Golf Classic to be played in August 2009. In 1994 the McMeels endowed the Spread the Spirit Fund for Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April, the national response to Kansas City's Christmas in October. The goal of this fund is to raise national awareness of the program.

He received the Human Relations Award from the 2002 Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee. McMeel is the co-recipient of the 2002 Rockhurst University's Father Van Ackeren Spirit Award and serves as co-chairman for the 2002 Rockhurst University Seventh Annual Gala. In 2004, McMeel was named one of the 50 most influential people in Kansas City by Ingram's Magazine. He was also honored in 2003 with the John J. Sullivan, Jr. Foundation Humanitarian Award by the Irish Museum and Cultural Center of Kansas City. In 2009, John and Susan McMeel received the Marion and John Kreamer Award for Entrepreneurship in Volunteer Community Service from the UMKC Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration.

A native of South Bend, Indiana, McMeel earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame. With Kathleen Andrews, whose husband, Jim, also was an alumnus of Notre Dame, he established the James F. Andrews Memorial Scholarship fund, which underwrites summer social-service projects in conjunction with the university's alumni clubs. More than 1,600 Andrews Scholars have participated in the program through 2007.

McMeel and his wife have three daughters, Maureen McMeel, Suzanne McMeel Glynn and Bridget McMeel Rohmer and eight grandchildren.

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# HoosierTimes, Inc.

P.O. Box 909 • Bloomington, Indiana 47402 • 812-332-4401 • Fax 812-331-4285

August 30, 2010

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to nominate for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Class of 2011, the name of John Paul McMeel, chairman and president of Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU).

John P. McMeel is an Indiana native who was born January 26, 1936 in South Bend, Indiana. After attending both grade school and high school in South Bend, John matriculated to the University of Notre Dame where he graduated in 1957. After a year at Indiana University School of Law, John was recruited by Robert Walton, who was then editor of Hall Newspaper Syndicate in New York City. In 1964 the Hall Syndicate was sold to Publisher's Syndicate, and John became general sales manager. In 1970, John, along with Notre Dame friend, Jim Andrews, started Universal Press Syndicate (UPS). At that time the newspaper syndication business was dominated by Hearst and E. W. Scripps through their representative syndicates, King Features and United Media Syndicate.

Many of you might ask if John McMeel is a journalist or a newspaper business man. The simple answer is: HE IS BOTH. Although John McMeel might first be considered to be a newspaper man, in reality he is the best friend any editor, editorial page editor, or managing editor, ever had. Certainly local news is most important to a community newspaper, but strong syndicated writers, editorial columnists, editorial cartoonists, and strong comics are also important to putting out a first rate newspaper. John McMeel is a master at recruiting and providing this aid that editors need.

If you are looking for a *James Kilpatrick* or a *Jeff Greenfield*, or a *Mary McGrory*, or a *William F. Buckley Jr.*, or a *Garry Wills*, or *Ann Coulter*, then you turn to John McMeel. If you are looking for a *Dear Abby*, or *Erma Bombeck*, or *Jeane Dixon*, or a *Roger Ebert*, then you turn to John McMeel. You may be looking for an editorial cartoonist such as *Pat Oliphant* for your editorial page, and *Gary Larson* for your comic page, or you might also want *Doonesbury* for either editorial or comics. And, speaking of comics, you certainly would want a *Garfield* by Indiana's own Jim Davis, or a *Cathy*, or *For Better or For Worse*, by two nationally honored women cartoon artists who John McMeel first provided. And, for either the comics or sports a *Tank McNamara*, and

certainly *Ziggy* for a comic panel, and for in-depth changing world coverage you would want a *Georgie Anne Geyer*. Certainly one of the most popular comic strips that appeared in newspapers around the world was *Calvin and Hobbes* by Bill Watterson.

For well over four decades John McMeel has had the ability to recognize and recruit some of the best feature writers and artists to help those of us in the newspaper industry put out a complete newspaper package that appeals to the reader. He has become an expert in enhancing our daily and Sunday product. Andrews McMeel Universal has approximately 130 features covering 22 editorial categories.

Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU) now includes Andrews McMeel Publishing (AMP), Universal Uclick, and AMUSE. University Press Syndicate (UPS) and Uclick merged in July 2009. Also, John McMeel is president and treasurer of the Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation.

As well as running AMU, John is a member of the William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees at the Journalism School at the University of Kansas. He is also a member of the American Committee of the International Press Association and past U. S. representative to the board of the International Press Institute, a post he held for eight years. John is a member of the board of directors of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum and The Advertising Icon Museum.

At the University of Notre Dame, John is a member of the Advisory Committee of the John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy and the Advisory Council of the College of Arts and Letters. Also, at Notre Dame, the McMeel family sponsors the Red Smith Lecture Series and the McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies. Additionally, at the University of Notre Dame, John McMeel, along with Kathleen Andrews established the James F. Andrews Memorial Scholarship fund, which underwrites summer social-service projects in conjunction with the university's alumni clubs. More than 1,600 Andrew Scholars have participated in the program through 2007.

John McMeel has received many numerous awards for his service and involvement in civic, community, religious, and educational organizations.

John and his wife Susan, have three daughters, Maureen McMeel, Suzanne McMeel Glynn and Bridget McMeel Rohmer, and eight grandchildren.

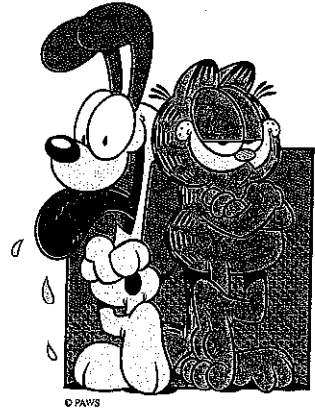
Sincerely,



Scott C. Schurz  
Chairman

July 14, 2010

Larry P. Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington, IN 47402



Dear Mr. Taylor:

It is an honor to nominate the name of John Paul McMeel, chairman and president of Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU), for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Class of 2010.

As a previous nominee, I know you're aware of John's journey through Notre Dame and that his experience there provided him with a lifetime friend and business partner, Jim Andrews. Together they began Universal Press Syndicate and challenged the "big guns" at the time e.g. E.W. Scripps and Hearst. But John soon showed his business acumen, innovation and keen understanding of "funny" when he signed Doonesbury, followed soon by his reception of Lynn Johnston and Cathy Guisewite as two of the first female artists signed by a newspaper syndicate.

John and I became good friends through the growth years of our careers. He never gave up jokingly placing a syndicate contract in front of me at each of our encounters and trying to get me to sign it. It became a running joke until one day, I *was* actually looking for a new home for Garfield. There was no question of the one and only partner I would consider – Universal Press Syndicate. Through the years, his cartoonist clients (also my friends) had never hesitated to share the excellent way that John has treated them as talent *and* friends. If that wasn't enough, his wisdom in seeing the brilliance of Gary Larson (The Far Side) and Bill Waterston (Calvin and Hobbes) truly established Universal Press Syndicate as the place to be for talent. Garfield signed with John and Kathy Andrews and has never looked back.

Never one to wait for opportunities to land in his lap, John's company was one of the first to aggressively employ state of the art digital tools to communicate with talent and the consumers who love their features. John's staff actually helped us get started on the web and in the wireless industry and they continue as our partners in these endeavors today. They have since created *the* premiere online puzzle syndicated feature which appears on USAtoday.com and other leading dot com sites.

It should come as no surprise that John has been quietly influencing the journalistic field for nearly three decades with his proactive engagement in many national and international civic initiatives. John is a member of several advisory committees at Notre Dame and his family sponsors the *Red Smith Lecture Series* and the *McMeel*



*Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies* there. He is a member of the prestigious American Committee of the International Press Association and was a U.S. representative to the board for eight years. His numerous awards for service in these and other areas are a testament to his and his wife, Susan's, desire to engage in meaningful endeavors that have a lasting impact on mankind.

It is a distinct privilege to recommend John to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Class of 2010.

Best Regards

*JIM DAVIS*

Jim Davis



## Georgie Anne Geyer

Universal Press Syndicate

July 24, 2010

Selection Committee,  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame,  
C/o Lawrence Taylor, executive secretary,  
P.O. Box 785,  
Bloomington, Indiana, 47402

Dear Selection Committee,

Traditional journalists tend to think of anyone who is not in the very middle of journalism---a local reporter, an editor or a foreign correspondent---as not really a "journalist!" But this is obviously a mistake. There are others throughout and around our wonderful profession who often offer as much or more to news-gathering and analysis and are not so often honored. John McMeel is one of those people. I am therefore immensely proud and honored to back up his nomination for membership in the 2011 Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

I will not go into the details of John's work, because that has been meticulously outlined elsewhere; rather, I would like to present a small word "photo" of the man, his attitudes and the effects of his unusual work.

Whenever I am asked what I do and I tell them I work for "the syndicate," because of my Chicago upbringing, I am met with, at best, a certain, shall we say, judgmental response. But when I explain what a newspaper syndicate does, there is always tremendous interest on the listeners' part. I explain, in short, that Universal Press Syndicate (now Universal Uclick), with whom I have happily worked since 1980, is essentially a talent scout for newspaper talent; special talents contract with the syndicate to have it sell their output (columns, cartoons, special features, etc.) to as many newspapers as possible across the country.

People who do not know the business do not realize how important this interaction has been to the profession. It allows original talents to appear nation-wide and to have a broad influence; but even more important, it allows the readers to know WHO, say, the columnist really is, to pit himself or herself against or for the writer and thus to hone their judgments, as well as that of the columnists themselves. Such an exchange is impossible to do with ever-changing columnists, whom the reader can never get to know.

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## Georgie Anne Geyer

Universal Press Syndicate

Selection Committee---PAGE TWO:

John McMeel and Universal have been central in our era to bringing the greatest number of newspaper talents to the American public—and most of the American talents just naturally gravitated to Universal. With John, the company was far more than a “business,” although he is a very good businessman, which we can use more or in journalism today. Indeed, John cared, and cares, deeply about journalism. We were talking recently and he said, in a very emotional tone, “And isn’t this a great business?”

I remember being especially touched at a meeting of the International Press Institute meeting in Boston several months after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan had started and John, who was then head of the national IPI grouping, had a bouquet of one white rose for every American already killed in the wars. He gave a brief, but extremely touching, speech, after which we were all in tears, and we all proceeded to take the roses home. I nurtured mine for many days afterwards.

There are so many things that John and his equally wonderful wife, Susan, have done for the propagation of language and The Word that one doesn’t know where to begin. I will only mention the wonderful Red Smith journalism lectures which they sponsor at Notre Dame, his alma mater, and which Andrews McMeel Universal has now published as a book, and the Shakespeare chair which the McMeel family funds there. (For the record, I was the Red Smith lecturer in 1995.) Indeed, at every turn, you find John McMeel reflecting the criteria of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame about “persons who contributed significantly to journalism” and “persons who contributed to the regard others have for journalism.”

One last final thought:

For most people who know John McMeel, the first thing they will speak of is John’s charm. (No problem here: perhaps we could use a little more of it in our troubled and fractious journalism today.) Then they will talk about his sense of humor. (And, for sure, he is one of the funniest men you have ever met.) Then his sheer joy in life, and...and...and... In fact, I see him very much in the line of one of the impresarios of the legendary newspaper families who for so many decades gave us the great journalism we thought would be ours forever. Today, he and his family are ever more lonesomely continuing that tradition---and he has never, ever left his home state of Indiana behind.

Please don’t leave him behind now. Give John P. McMeel his rightful place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

Sincerely Yours,

Georgie Anne Geyer, Syndicated Columnist, UPS

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Lee Salem  
President and Editor

July 30, 2010

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Mr. Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

It is a privilege for me to support the nomination of John P. McMeel to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. I have worked for and with John for more than 35 years, so I know him well enough to attest to the great loves of his life: his family, his company, his roots in South Bend, where he was born and raised, and the state of Indiana.

I can also attest to his sustained support for journalists and journalism, going back to the first days of Universal Press Syndicate, the company he co-founded in February, 1970. One of his earliest efforts was a series excerpted from Seymour Hersh's forthcoming book-length treatment of the My Lai massacre. Before the Pulitzer Prizes were announced in 1970, John managed to persuade a number of newspaper editors to pay double the usual rate for the series if Hersh received the Pulitzer for his 1969 reportage. Hersh did; the newspapers paid; and Universal Press Syndicate was off and running.

That gamble led to others, which in turn evolved into a pattern of success that impacted nearly every newspaper and newspaper reader in America. Through John's efforts and vision, a home was provided for many of the most popular names in American print journalism over the past forty years:

Dear Abby  
James Beard  
Erma Bombeck  
William F. Buckley Jr.  
Calvin and Hobbes  
Cathy  
Jeane Dixon  
Doonesbury  
Roger Ebert  
For Better or for Worse  
Foxtrot  
Garfield  
Georgie Anne Geyer

Jeff Greenfield  
James J. Kilpatrick  
Mary McGrory  
Non Sequitur  
Pat Oliphant  
Richard Reeves  
The Far Side  
Tom Toles  
Cynthia Tucker  
Garry Wills  
Ziggy

The publishing affiliate of the syndicate, also co-owned by John, not only published works by many of the writers above, and collections of the comic art, but also books by newspaper people such as James Bellows, former newspaper editor, and Walter Mears, former Associated Press political reporter. The common bond among these many talents is McMeel's regard for the people who practice their art and craft in newspapers.

John's professional and charitable details are included in the attached biography. They are indeed many, but the enumeration cannot do justice to the impact his career, talents and devotion have had on American newspaper readers and on American popular culture. Nor can it do justice to the lingering bonds to Indiana and to John's birthplace, South Bend. He travels there several times every year for family or Notre Dame University, or both. He remains a true son of the state.

John's calling is a singular one, perhaps never to be repeated in the shifting landscape of journalism, and I hope you will agree that it is one worthy of serious consideration by your eminent group.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Lee Salem  
LS:lj

WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

The story of John McMeel could not have deeper Hoosier roots. He was born in South Bend, the son of Knute Rockne's team doctor. He grew up literally under the Golden Dome. It was thus almost fated that he would earn his college degree from Notre Dame in 1957. What wasn't scripted was what took place in 1970 on a linoleum covered kitchen table in the apartment of his college pal, Jim Andrews. There this motley pair of creative genius and master marketer, along with their wives, conceived the idea of Universal Press Syndicate. They pledged their lives and their meager fortunes to a chancy enterprise that would grow into one of the American media's great success stories, Andrews McMeel Universal.

Jim Andrews was the philosopher, the creative thinker. But it was John McMeel whose sparkling Irish personality provided the energy, the contacts, the unconventional strategies that would make Universal a magic name in every editor's office in the country, and eventually far beyond. In their endless quest for fresh ideas, journalists gravitated to him. He and his partner spawned success after success in an honor roll of newspaper features that became household companions to readers everywhere – from the iconic Doonesbury, to the Dear Abby columns, to the Calvin & Hobbes comic strips, to the Far Side greeting cards.

To be sure, John and Jim had their share of clunkers but setbacks only pushed these young pioneers into greener pastures. Then, with their business still young but with its reputation soaring, John McMeel came face to face with the ultimate challenge in 1980 when Jim Andrews, his partner and soul mate, died suddenly of a heart gone still. Stunned, stripped of his alter ego, McMeel plunged ahead in his grief. In the years that followed, he built Andrews McMeel into a model in the marketplace with a reputation for never losing touch with the emerging tastes of an ever-changing national culture.

Because of his inspiring life story, I can think of no native Hoosier more deserving of a place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

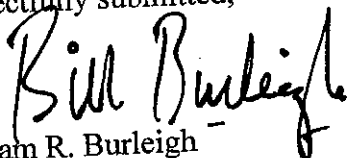
WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

-2-

For more than three decades, John has been my esteemed friend, albeit a tireless competitor. The circumstances of our first meeting convey something of the qualities that make him so endearing and so successful. I was editing a newspaper owned by McMeel's principal rival, but he nonetheless insisted on meeting me. A fierce winter storm had locked down the city, yet right at the appointed hour, the beaming leprechaun bounced through the door and proceeded to convince me why it was in my best interests to do business with him – and to hell with what my owners thought.

There is arguably no syndicate figure in contemporary American journalism more admired than John McMeel. He has helped to make the nation's newspapers more entertaining and more compelling. He has earned an enviable name on a broader international stage. He has pioneered approaches beyond print into the digital information age. He has carved a lasting niche for himself and his company that merits a place for him on the honor roll of journalists in the Hoosier state where he was formed.

Respectfully submitted,



William R. Burleigh  
Chairman, E.W. Scripps Co. (ret.)

2010

*2011 Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame*

**John McMeel**

# HoosierTimes, Inc.

P.O. Box 909 • Bloomington, Indiana 47402 • 812-332-4401 • Fax 812-331-4285

August 30, 2010

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to nominate for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Class of 2011, the name of John Paul McMeel, chairman and president of Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU).

John P. McMeel is an Indiana native who was born January 26, 1936 in South Bend, Indiana. After attending both grade school and high school in South Bend, John matriculated to the University of Notre Dame where he graduated in 1957. After a year at Indiana University School of Law, John was recruited by Robert Walton, who was then editor of Hall Newspaper Syndicate in New York City. In 1964 the Hall Syndicate was sold to Publisher's Syndicate, and John became general sales manager. In 1970, John, along with Notre Dame friend, Jim Andrews, started Universal Press Syndicate (UPS). At that time the newspaper syndication business was dominated by Hearst and E. W. Scripps through their representative syndicates, King Features and United Media Syndicate.

Many of you might ask if John McMeel is a journalist or a newspaper business man. The simple answer is: HE IS BOTH. Although John McMeel might first be considered to be a newspaper man, in reality he is the best friend any editor, editorial page editor, or managing editor, ever had. Certainly local news is most important to a community newspaper, but strong syndicated writers, editorial columnists, editorial cartoonists, and strong comics are also important to putting out a first rate newspaper. John McMeel is a master at recruiting and providing this aid that editors need.

If you are looking for a *James Kilpatrick* or a *Jeff Greenfield*, or a *Mary McGrory*, or a *William F. Buckley Jr*, or a *Garry Wills*, or *Ann Coulter*, then you turn to John McMeel. If you are looking for a *Dear Abby*, or *Erma Bombeck*, or *Jeane Dixon*, or a *Roger Ebert*, then you turn to John McMeel. You may be looking for an editorial cartoonist such as *Pat Oliphant* for your editorial page, and *Gary Larson* for your comic page, or you might also want *Doonesbury* for either editorial or comics. And, speaking of comics, you certainly would want a *Garfield* by Indiana's own Jim Davis, or a *Cathy*, or *For Better or For Worse*, by two nationally honored women cartoon artists who John McMeel first provided. And, for either the comics or sports a *Tank McNamara*, and

certainly *Ziggy* for a comic panel, and for in-depth changing world coverage you would want a *Georgie Anne Geyer*. Certainly one of the most popular comic strips that appeared in newspapers around the world was *Calvin and Hobbes* by Bill Watterson.

For well over four decades John McMeel has had the ability to recognize and recruit some of the best feature writers and artists to help those of us in the newspaper industry put out a complete newspaper package that appeals to the reader. He has become an expert in enhancing our daily and Sunday product. Andrews McMeel Universal has approximately 130 features covering 22 editorial categories.

Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU) now includes Andrews McMeel Publishing (AMP), Universal Uclick, and AMUSE. University Press Syndicate (UPS) and Uclick merged in July 2009. Also, John McMeel is president and treasurer of the Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation.


As well as running AMU, John is a member of the William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees at the Journalism School at the University of Kansas. He is also a member of the American Committee of the International Press Association and past U. S. representative to the board of the International Press Institute, a post he held for eight years. John is a member of the board of directors of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum and The Advertising Icon Museum.

At the University of Notre Dame, John is a member of the Advisory Committee of the John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy and the Advisory Council of the College of Arts and Letters. Also, at Notre Dame, the McMeel family sponsors the Red Smith Lecture Series and the McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies. Additionally, at the University of Notre Dame, John McMeel, along with Kathleen Andrews established the James F. Andrews Memorial Scholarship fund, which underwrites summer social-service projects in conjunction with the university's alumni clubs. More than 1,600 Andrew Scholars have participated in the program through 2007.

John McMeel has received many numerous awards for his service and involvement in civic, community, religious, and educational organizations.

John and his wife Susan, have three daughters, Maureen McMeel, Suzanne McMeel Glynn and Bridget McMeel Rohmer, and eight grandchildren.

Sincerely,



Scott C. Schurz  
Chairman

## John P. McMeel

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### BIOGRAPHY

John P. McMeel is chairman and president of Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU), which includes its divisions of Andrews McMeel Publishing (AMP), Universal Uclick and AMUSE. Universal Press Syndicate (UPS) and Uclick merged in July 2009. He is president and treasurer of the Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation.

AMU, founded in 1970 as UPS, grew from a collaboration that involved McMeel and his wife, Susan, along with Kathleen Andrews and her husband, the late James F. Andrews.

McMeel is a member of the board of directors of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum and The Advertising Icon Museum. He is a member of the William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees at the Journalism School at the University of Kansas, and a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's Hospital Foundation. He is a former board of director for the Federal Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, as well as a former trustee for the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art. He is a member of the American Committee of the International Press Association and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City. At the University of Notre Dame, McMeel is a member of the Advisory Committee of the John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy and the Advisory Council of the College of Arts and Letters. Also at Notre Dame, the McMeel family sponsors the Red Smith Lecture Series and the McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies.

McMeel is a co-founder of Christmas in October in Kansas City, an intensive annual two-day renovation project designed to improve the living conditions of the elderly, disabled and needy in Kansas City. He and co-partner are organizing the First Annual PGA

Nationwide Christmas in October Golf Classic to be played in August 2009. In 1994 the McMeels endowed the Spread the Spirit Fund for Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April, the national response to Kansas City's Christmas in October. The goal of this fund is to raise national awareness of the program.

He received the Human Relations Award from the 2002 Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee. McMeel is the co-recipient of the 2002 Rockhurst University's Father Van Ackeren Spirit Award and serves as co-chairman for the 2002 Rockhurst University Seventh Annual Gala. In 2004, McMeel was named one of the 50 most influential people in Kansas City by Ingram's Magazine. He was also honored in 2003 with the John J. Sullivan, Jr. Foundation Humanitarian Award by the Irish Museum and Cultural Center of Kansas City. In 2009, John and Susan McMeel received the Marion and John Kreamer Award for Entrepreneurship in Volunteer Community Service from the UMKC Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration.

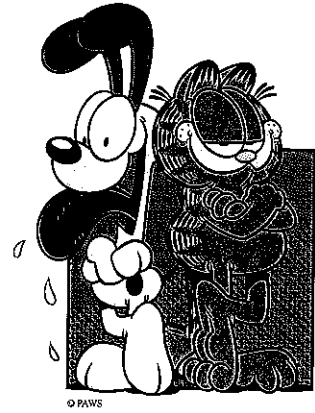
A native of South Bend, Indiana, McMeel earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame. With Kathleen Andrews, whose husband, Jim, also was an alumnus of Notre Dame, he established the James F. Andrews Memorial Scholarship fund, which underwrites summer social-service projects in conjunction with the university's alumni clubs. More than 1,600 Andrews Scholars have participated in the program through 2007.

McMeel and his wife have three daughters, Maureen McMeel, Suzanne McMeel Glynn and Bridget McMeel Rohmer and eight grandchildren.

###

July 14, 2010

Larry P. Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington, IN 47402



Dear Mr. Taylor:

It is an honor to nominate the name of John Paul McMeel, chairman and president of Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU), for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Class of 2010.

As a previous nominee, I know you're aware of John's journey through Notre Dame and that his experience there provided him with a lifetime friend and business partner, Jim Andrews. Together they began Universal Press Syndicate and challenged the "big guns" at the time e.g. E.W. Scripps and Hearst. But John soon showed his business acumen, innovation and keen understanding of "funny" when he signed Doonesbury, followed soon by his reception of Lynn Johnston and Cathy Guisewite as two of the first female artists signed by a newspaper syndicate.

John and I became good friends through the growth years of our careers. He never gave up jokingly placing a syndicate contract in front of me at each of our encounters and trying to get me to sign it. It became a running joke until one day, I *was* actually looking for a new home for Garfield. There was no question of the one and only partner I would consider – Universal Press Syndicate. Through the years, his cartoonist clients (also my friends) had never hesitated to share the excellent way that John has treated them as talent *and* friends. If that wasn't enough, his wisdom in seeing the brilliance of Gary Larson (The Far Side) and Bill Waterston (Calvin and Hobbes) truly established Universal Press Syndicate as the place to be for talent. Garfield signed with John and Kathy Andrews and has never looked back.

Never one to wait for opportunities to land in his lap, John's company was one of the first to aggressively employ state of the art digital tools to communicate with talent and the consumers who love their features. John's staff actually helped us get started on the web and in the wireless industry and they continue as our partners in these endeavors today. They have since created *the* premiere online puzzle syndicated feature which appears on USAtoday.com and other leading dot com sites.

It should come as no surprise that John has been quietly influencing the journalistic field for nearly three decades with his proactive engagement in many national and international civic initiatives. John is a member of several advisory committees at Notre Dame and his family sponsors the *Red Smith Lecture Series* and the *McMeel*



*Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies* there. He is a member of the prestigious American Committee of the International Press Association and was a U.S. representative to the board for eight years. His numerous awards for service in these and other areas are a testament to his and his wife, Susan's, desire to engage in meaningful endeavors that have a lasting impact on mankind.

It is a distinct privilege to recommend John to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Class of 2010.

Best Regards

JIM DAVIS

Jim Davis



**Georgie Anne Geyer**

*Universal Press Syndicate*

July 24, 2010

Selection Committee,  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame,  
C/o Lawrence Taylor, executive secretary,  
P.O. Box 785,  
Bloomington, Indiana, 47402

Dear Selection Committee,

Traditional journalists tend to think of anyone who is not in the very middle of journalism---a local reporter, an editor or a foreign correspondent---as not really a "journalist!" But this is obviously a mistake. There are others throughout and around our wonderful profession who often offer as much or more to news-gathering and analysis and are not so often honored. John McMeel is one of those people. I am therefore immensely proud and honored to back up his nomination for membership in the 2011 Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

I will not go into the details of John's work, because that has been meticulously outlined elsewhere; rather, I would like to present a small word "photo" of the man, his attitudes and the effects of his unusual work.

Whenever I am asked what I do and I tell them I work for "the syndicate," because of my Chicago upbringing, I am met with, at best, a certain, shall we say, judgmental response. But when I explain what a newspaper syndicate does, there is always tremendous interest on the listeners' part. I explain, in short, that Universal Press Syndicate (now Universal Uclick), with whom I have happily worked since 1980, is essentially a talent scout for newspaper talent; special talents contract with the syndicate to have it sell their output (columns, cartoons, special features, etc.) to as many newspapers as possible across the country.

People who do not know the business do not realize how important this interaction has been to the profession. It allows original talents to appear nation-wide and to have a broad influence; but even more important, it allows the readers to know WHO, say, the columnist really is, to pit himself or herself against or for the writer and thus to hone their judgments, as well as that of the columnists themselves. Such an exchange is impossible to do with ever-changing columnists, whom the reader can never get to know.

The Plaza Suite 1006 • 800-25th Street N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20037

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## Georgie Anne Geyer

Universal Press Syndicate

Selection Committee---PAGE TWO:

John McMeel and Universal have been central in our era to bringing the greatest number of newspaper talents to the American public—and most of the American talents just naturally gravitated to Universal. With John, the company was far more than a “business,” although he is a very good businessman, which we can use more or in journalism today. Indeed, John cared, and cares, deeply about journalism. We were talking recently and he said, in a very emotional tone, “And isn’t this a great business?”

I remember being especially touched at a meeting of the International Press Institute meeting in Boston several months after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan had started and John, who was then head of the national IPI grouping, had a bouquet of one white rose for every American already killed in the wars. He gave a brief, but extremely touching, speech, after which we were all in tears, and we all proceeded to take the roses home. I nurtured mine for many days afterwards.

There are so many things that John and his equally wonderful wife, Susan, have done for the propagation of language and The Word that one doesn’t know where to begin. I will only mention the wonderful Red Smith journalism lectures which they sponsor at Notre Dame, his alma mater, and which Andrews McMeel Universal has now published as a book, and the Shakespeare chair which the McMeel family funds there. (For the record, I was the Red Smith lecturer in 1995.) Indeed, at every turn, you find John McMeel reflecting the criteria of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame about “persons who contributed significantly to journalism” and “persons who contributed to the regard others have for journalism.”

One last final thought:

For most people who know John McMeel, the first thing they will speak of is John’s charm. (No problem here: perhaps we could use a little more of it in our troubled and fractious journalism today.) Then they will talk about his sense of humor. (And, for sure, he is one of the funniest men you have ever met.) Then his sheer joy in life, and...and...and... In fact, I see him very much in the line of one of the impresarios of the legendary newspaper families who for so many decades gave us the great journalism we thought would be ours forever. Today, he and his family are ever more lonesomely continuing that tradition---and he has never, ever left his home state of Indiana behind.

Please don’t leave him behind now. Give John P. McMeel his rightful place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

Sincerely Yours,

Georgie Anne Geyer, Syndicated Columnist, UPS

The Plaza Suite 1006 • 800-25th Street N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20037

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July 30, 2010

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Thank you.

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Lee Salem

LS:lj

WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

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Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

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To be sure, John and Jim had their share of clunkers but setbacks only pushed these young pioneers into greener pastures. Then, with their business still young but with its reputation soaring, John McMeel came face to face with the ultimate challenge in 1980 when Jim Andrews, his partner and soul mate, died suddenly of a heart gone still. Stunned, stripped of his alter ego, McMeel plunged ahead in his grief. In the years that followed, he built Andrews McMeel into a model in the marketplace with a reputation for never losing touch with the emerging tastes of an ever-changing national culture.

Because of his inspiring life story, I can think of no native Hoosier more deserving of a place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

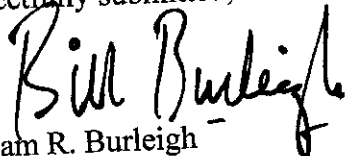
WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

-2-

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Respectfully submitted,



William R. Burleigh  
Chairman, E.W. Scripps Co. (ret.)

# HoosierTimes, Inc.

P.O. Box 909 • Bloomington, Indiana 47402 • 812-332-4401 • Fax 812-331-4256

September 30, 2009

2009  
Nomination

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

Enclosed please find a letter of recommendation supporting John P. McMeel to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Please include this letter with my original nomination and supporting letters which were sent to you on September 28.

Sincerely,



Scott C. Schurz

WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

The story of John McMeel could not have deeper Hoosier roots. He was born in South Bend, the son of Knute Rockne's team doctor. He grew up literally under the Golden Dome. It was thus almost fated that he would earn his college degree from Notre Dame in 1957. What wasn't scripted was what took place in 1970 on a linoleum covered kitchen table in the apartment of his college pal, Jim Andrews. There this motley pair of creative genius and master marketer, along with their wives, conceived the idea of Universal Press Syndicate. They pledged their lives and their meager fortunes to a chancy enterprise that would grow into one of the American media's great success stories, Andrews McMeel Universal.

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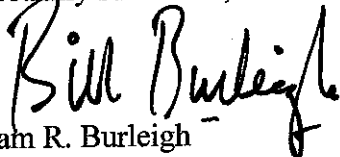
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Burleigh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

William R. Burleigh  
Chairman, E.W. Scripps Co. (ret.)

# HoosierTimes, Inc.

P.O. Box 909 • Bloomington, Indiana 47402 • 812-332-4401 • Fax 812-331-4256

September 30, 2009

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

Enclosed please find a letter of recommendation supporting John P. McMeel to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Please include this letter with my original nomination and supporting letters which were sent to you on September 28.

Sincerely,



Scott C. Schurz



School of Journalism  
University of Missouri-Columbia

Lee Hills Chair in Free-Press Studies

132A Neff Annex  
Columbia, MO 65211

PHONE (573) 884-1599  
FAX (573) 884-1699  
E-MAIL loorys@missouri.edu

September 18, 2009

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

I would like to wholeheartedly and without reservation support the nomination of John McMeel for membership in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. He is a giant in the news business as the founder and long time chief executive of Andrews McMeel Universal, a leading distributor of a broad range of material that makes print journalism indispensable to its consumers.

John McMeel's story is one of a young man from South Bend who combined entrepreneurial and journalistic instincts to build a company that became a publishing and multimedia syndication powerhouse. It has syndicated columnists ranging from William F. Buckley and James Jackson Kilpatrick on the right to Mary McGrory on the left. It brought to readers of hundreds of newspapers in the United States the tragic story of how American GIs murdered over 500 Vietnamese civilians and torched the village of My Lai during the Vietnam War. It also published a book on the O. J. Simpson murder trial in the 1990s. At the same time, it distributed some of the leading service journalism features of the period, including the Dear Abby advice column and dozens of comic strips and cartoons, some of which were in themselves not only humorous but with political bite that made readers think seriously about social, cultural and political issues of the day.

John and his partner Jim Andrews accomplished all of this after moving away from New York City and establishing their business in Kansas City, demonstrating that leading firms of the national communications industry need not be headquartered in New York or Washington, DC.

In addition to his work in his own business he has also been active in several professional organizations, most recently as chairman of the North American committee of the International Press Institute and a member of the board of the IPI. As such he was a leader in a worldwide organization that championed the preservation of a free press around the world and its continued growth.

John is a man of charm, wit, intelligence and commitment to quality journalism. He is a credit to the news business and in fact to the millions in this country who agree that participation in democratic processes is an obligation, not a privilege.

I am proud to call John McMeel my longtime friend and I hope to see this Indiana bred and educated man inducted into the state's journalism hall of fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stuart H. Loory". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Stuart H. Loory  
Lee Hills Chair in Free-Press Studies  
Missouri School of Journalism



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

PHILIP MERRILL COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

1117 Journalism Building  
College Park, Maryland 20742-7111  
Undergraduate Services 301.405.2399  
Graduate Services 301.405.2380  
FAX 301.314.9166  
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September 21 2009

Members of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
Selection Committee

Dear Members:

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse John McMeel's nomination for Indiana's Journalism Hall of Fame.

He has been a major force in American and international journalism for more than three decades – creating important and lasting features for newspapers; fighting for world press freedom as chairman of the American Committee of the International Press Institute and as a member of its international executive board; being an influential presence at American Society of Newspaper Editors meetings and those of American newspaper publishers; and publishing books on outstanding writing and photography. His importance to journalism, in short, defies overstatement.

His accomplishments as co-founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Andrews McMeel Universal, the press syndicate and book publishing company, would – even if he had done nothing else – make him an outstanding figure in journalism. You virtually cannot look at an editorial page or Op-Ed page in America without seeing John's handiwork. He syndicates most top political cartoonists (including Pat Oliphant and Tom Toles) and many of the nation's most important columnists. Until their retirement, he syndicated two of the country's conservative giants – William Buckley and James Kilpatrick. On the liberal side, he is legendary for having decided, when Gary Trudeau was a student at Yale, that he and his politically incorrect comic strip, *Doonesbury*, should be offered to newspapers around the nation. *Calvin and Hobbs*? John and his editorial team discovered the strip. Same for *The Farside*. Starting almost literally from their hip pockets, John and his later partner, Jim Andrews, built what is certainly the most creative and arguably the most important press syndicate in the world.

The son of a doctor, he grew up in South Bend and became a loyal Notre Dame graduate. He repays his school by underwriting the Red Smith lectures in journalism at Notre Dame each year and by co-underwriting the Jim Andrews Fellowships which provides pay for scores of Notre Dame students who spend their summers at some humanitarian endeavor such as tutoring culturally disadvantaged students. He does it quietly, but he is an untiring philanthropist, funding civic betterment causes in Kansas City, where Andrews McMeel is located, and journalistic causes across the nation and around the world. He has, for example, been an important benefactor in the Committee to Protect Journalists which fights to free journalists from jail in the underdeveloped world and evacuates them to safe havens if their lives are in jeopardy. This is, of course, in addition to his work with the International Press Institute in Vienna.



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I commend him to your Hall of Fame without reservation or hesitation. He will bring honor to your hall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Roberts".

Gene Roberts  
Professor of Journalism  
Philip Merrill College of Journalism  
University of Maryland College Park

WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

The story of John McMeel could not have deeper Hoosier roots. He was born in South Bend, the son of Knute Rockne's team doctor. He grew up literally under the Golden Dome. It was thus almost fated that he would earn his college degree from Notre Dame in 1957. What wasn't scripted was what took place in 1970 on a linoleum covered kitchen table in the apartment of his college pal, Jim Andrews. There this motley pair of creative genius and master marketer, along with their wives, conceived the idea of Universal Press Syndicate. They pledged their lives and their meager fortunes to a chancy enterprise that would grow into one of the American media's great success stories, Andrews McMeel Universal.

Jim Andrews was the philosopher, the creative thinker. But it was John McMeel whose sparkling Irish personality provided the energy, the contacts, the unconventional strategies that would make Universal a magic name in every editor's office in the country, and eventually far beyond. In their endless quest for fresh ideas, journalists gravitated to him. He and his partner spawned success after success in an honor roll of newspaper features that became household companions to readers everywhere - from the iconic Doonesbury, to the Dear Abby columns, to the Calvin & Hobbes comic strips, to the Far Side greeting cards.

To be sure, John and Jim had their share of clunkers but setbacks only pushed these young pioneers into greener pastures. Then, with their business still young but with its reputation soaring, John McMeel came face to face with the ultimate challenge in 1980 when Jim Andrews, his partner and soul mate, died suddenly of a heart gone still. Stunned, stripped of his alter ego, McMeel plunged ahead in his grief. In the years that followed, he built Andrews McMeel into a model in the marketplace with a reputation for never losing touch with the emerging tastes of an ever-changing national culture.

Because of his inspiring life story, I can think of no native Hoosier more deserving of a place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

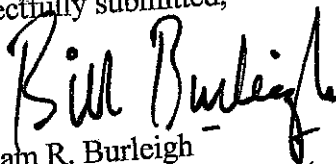
WILLIAM R. BURLEIGH

-2-

For more than three decades, John has been my esteemed friend, albeit a tireless competitor. The circumstances of our first meeting convey something of the qualities that make him so endearing and so successful. I was editing a newspaper owned by McMeel's principal rival, but he nonetheless insisted on meeting me. A fierce winter storm had locked down the city, yet right at the appointed hour, the beaming leprechaun bounced through the door and proceeded to convince me why it was in my best interests to do business with him -- and to hell with what my owners thought.

There is arguably no syndicate figure in contemporary American journalism more admired than John McMeel. He has helped to make the nation's newspapers more entertaining and more compelling. He has earned an enviable name on a broader international stage. He has pioneered approaches beyond print into the digital information age. He has carved a lasting niche for himself and his company that merits a place for him on the honor roll of journalists in the Hoosier state where he was formed.

Respectfully submitted,



William R. Burleigh  
Chairman, E.W. Scripps Co. (ret.)

## **John P. McMeel**

John McMeel is the co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Andrews McMeel Universal, a book publishing company and press syndicate known for political cartoons and columnists. McMeel and his editorial team discovered and syndicated comic strip classics including Doonesbury, Calvin and Hobbs and Garfield. Universal Press Syndicate, a division of Andrews McMeel, was the first newspaper syndicate to add female artists, signing the artists responsible for the For Better or For Worse and Cathy comic strips. Andrews McMeel Universal has approximately 130 features covering 22 editorial categories. Text features include newspaper staples such as Dear Abby, Focus on the Family and The Motley Fool. The creative content distributed by McMeel's company has run in almost every daily newspaper in the United States that has a comics section and most likely every major college newspaper, too. Additionally, McMeel fought for world press freedom as chairman of the American Committee of the International Press Institute. He is an important benefactor in the Committee to Protect Journalists and an active alumnus of Notre Dame. Today he continues to support the school by underwriting the campus's Red Smith lectures in journalism.

Supporting Document: Letter from William R. Burleigh

# HoosierTimes, Inc.

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September 30, 2009

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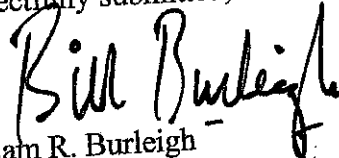
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William R. Burleigh  
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INDIANA JOURNALISM  
HALL OF FAME

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President  
**Nelson Price**  
Vice-President  
**Scarlett Syse**  
Secretary

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**Ex-officio Members:**

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Hoosier State Press Association  
**Lee Giles**  
WISH-TV (ret)/IBA

**Staff:**

**Larry Taylor**  
Executive Director

December 2, 2009

TO: Mr. Scott Schurz

FROM: Larry Taylor

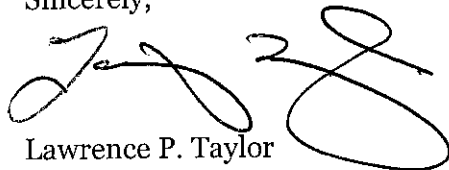
RE: IJHF Candidacy of John P. McMeel

The names of the six inductees for the 2010 Hall of Fame are being announced today. I wanted to let you know that in spite of the very strong advocacy and the impressive accomplishments, the board voted to hold Mr. McMeel's nomination over until 2010.

I will just say that there was a lot of interest and discussion on his nomination but with three posthumous candidates that the board felt needed consideration now and thirty nominations reviewed, Mr. McMeel was in the final round of voting and received a lot of supportive comments.

Sorry to be the bearer of disappointing news but I assure you he will be a finalist in 2010 and I thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,



Lawrence P. Taylor

# HoosierTimes, Inc.

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September 16, 2009

Selection Committee  
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame  
c/o Lawrence Taylor  
Executive Secretary  
PO Box 785  
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to nominate for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Class of 2010, the name of John Paul McMeel, chairman and president of Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU).

John P. McMeel is an Indiana native who was born January 26, 1936 in South Bend, Indiana. After attending both grade school and high school in South Bend, John matriculated to the University of Notre Dame where he graduated in 1957. After a year at Indiana University School of Law, John was recruited by Robert Walton, who was then editor of Hall Newspaper Syndicate in New York City. In 1964 the Hall Syndicate was sold to Publisher's Syndicate, and John became general sales manager. In 1970, John, along with Notre Dame friend, Jim Andrews, started Universal Press Syndicate (UPS). At that time the newspaper syndication business was dominated by Hearst and E. W. Scripps through their representative syndicates, King Features and United Media Syndicate.

Andrews McMeel Universal grew from collaboration with John McMeel, his wife Susan, and Jim and Kathleen Andrews. From 1970 to 1982 John McMeel and Jim Andrews had an extremely harmonious and closely knit business relationship. In 1982, unfortunately, tragedy struck when Jim Andrews died of a massive heart attack. John asked Jim's widow, Kathleen Andrews, to succeed her husband as full partner and top officer of the company. In the early years the syndicate started slowly, but with the acquisition of Gary Trudeau and his comic strip, Doonesbury, Universal Press Syndicate started to gain momentum. Universal Press was the first newspaper syndicate to add female artists with signing of both Lynn Johnston with her comic strip For Better or For Worse, and Cathy Guisewite and her strip Cathy. Universal Press added the very popular strip Calvin and Hobbes by Bill Watterson, and topped that with one of the world's most popular comics, Garfield by Indiana's own Jim Davis.

Andrews McMeel Universal has approximately 130 features covering 22 editorial categories. In the area of cartoon panels John was successful in obtaining one of the country's best, Gary Larson, who drew a panel called The Far Side. In the area of

September 16, 2009

Features; John and Jim were able early on to get Pauline Ester Phillips, better known as Dear Abby, and later John recruited Erma Bombeck. On the political side, features range from Ann Coulter to Garry Wills.

Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU) now includes Andrews McMeel Publishing (AMP), Universal Uclick, and AMUSE. University Press Syndicate (UPS) and Uclick merged in July 2009. Also, John McMeel is president and treasurer of the Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation.

As well as running AMU, John is a member of the William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees at the Journalism School at the University of Kansas. He is also a member of the American Committee of the International Press Association and past U. S. representative to the board of the International Press Institute, a post he held for eight years. John is a member of the board of directors of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum and The Advertising Icon Museum.

At the University of Notre Dame, John is a member of the Advisory Committee of the John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy and the Advisory Council of the College of Arts and Letters. Also, at Notre Dame, the McMeel family sponsors the Red Smith Lecture Series and the McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies. Additionally, at the University of Notre Dame, John McMeel, along with Kathleen Andrews established the James F. Andrews Memorial Scholarship fund, which underwrites summer social-service projects in conjunction with the university's alumni clubs. More than 1,600 Andrew Scholars have participated in the program through 2007.

John McMeel has received many numerous awards for his service and involvement in civic, community, religious, and educational organizations.

John and his wife Susan, have three daughters, Maureen McMeel, Suzanne McMeel Glynn and Bridget McMeel Rohmer, and eight grandchildren.

Sincerely,



Scott C. Schurz  
Chairman



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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His accomplishments as co-founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Andrews McMeel Universal, the press syndicate and book publishing company, would – even if he had done nothing else – make him an outstanding figure in journalism. You virtually cannot look at an editorial page or Op-Ed page in America without seeing John's handiwork. He syndicates most top political cartoonists (including Pat Oliphant and Tom Toles) and many of the nation's most important columnists. Until their retirement, he syndicated two of the country's conservative giants – William Buckley and James Kilpatrick. On the liberal side, he is legendary for having decided, when Gary Trudeau was a student at Yale, that he and his politically incorrect comic strip, *Doonesbury*, should be offered to newspapers around the nation. *Calvin and Hobbs*? John and his editorial team discovered the strip. Same for *The Farside*. Starting almost literally from their hip pockets, John and his later partner, Jim Andrews, built what is certainly the most creative and arguably the most important press syndicate in the world.

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Gene Roberts  
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Philip Merrill College of Journalism  
University of Maryland College Park



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PHONE (573) 884-1599  
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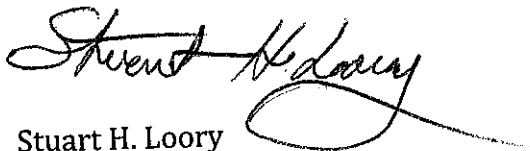
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John is a man of charm, wit, intelligence and commitment to quality journalism. He is a credit to the news business and in fact to the millions in this country who agree that participation in democratic processes is an obligation, not a privilege.

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Missouri School of Journalism



## **SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

To: Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Selection Committee  
From: Brad Hamm, Dean  
Date: Sept. 15, 2009  
Re: Nomination for John P. McMeel

I learned from Mr. Scott Schurz that he plans to nominate South Bend native John P. McMeel for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame, and I am writing in strong support of Mr. McMeel's case.

You will receive letters from those who know Mr. McMeel well; I do not know him personally, and he is not an Indiana University alumnus. The reason for my letter is that there is no doubt Mr. McMeel, along with his fellow University of Notre Dame graduate Jim Andrews, played an important role in national and international newspaper publishing and readership over the past four decades through the creation of Universal Press Syndicate in 1970.

Universal is the largest independent newspaper syndicate in the world. It is home to comics such as Calvin & Hobbes, Cathy, Doonesbury and Garfield; text features such as Dear Abby, Focus on the Family and The Motley Fool; and other services in sports, Sudoku and lifestyle features.

The company is international with Spanish-language products and manga, or Japanese/Japanese-style comics, along with the worldwide popularity of its comics that originated in the United States. Calvin & Hobbes, for example, no longer is distributed to papers in the United States by choice of the artist, but reprints are still available to publications outside of North America.

The creative content distributed by Mr. McMeel's company has run in perhaps every daily newspaper in the United States that has a comics section and most likely every major college newspaper, too. Today, throughout the country, Universal Syndicate is an important resource for the content of the American newspaper. I even look forward when I travel to Japan to seeing Calvin & Hobbes reappear in a daily newspaper.

Mr. McMeel is an important entrepreneur in the journalism world, and, in my opinion, his remarkable success over the past four decades clearly justifies his inclusion in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.