

## Paul Orfalea Entrepreneur



Paul Orfalea was born in Los Angeles to parents of Lebanese descent. Nick-named "Kinko" because of his curly red hair, Orfalea founded the multi-million dollar copy chain, Kinko's.

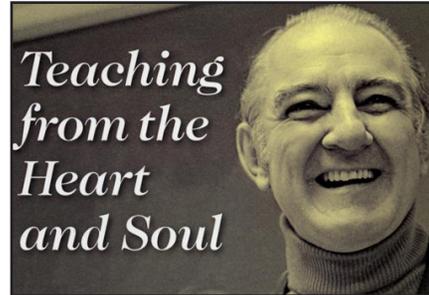
According to Orfalea, he was a wood-shop major in high school, and his typical report card was "two Cs, three Ds, and an F." Due to his dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Orfalea reportedly flunked two grades and was expelled from several schools. He later attended the University of Southern California. when he decided to start up his own business. With a bank loan co-signed by his parents, Orfalea founded Kinko's in 1970, and within 10 years, Kinko's grew to a network of over 80 stores across the country.

In later life he remarked on the subject of his handicaps. "I get bored easily, and that is a great motivator, I think everybody should have dyslexia and A.D.D."

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## Robert Panara Teacher



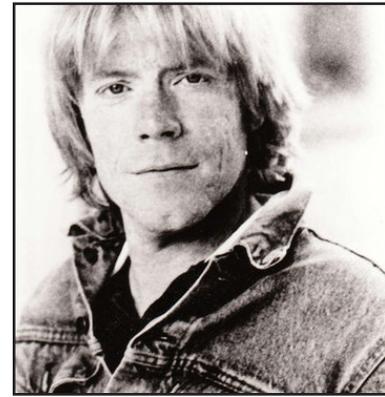
Robert Panara was the first faculty member at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a beloved teacher, founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf, and honored by the World Federation of the Deaf for his contributions to education and culture.

Born on July 20, 1920 in the Bronx, Panara contracted spinal meningitis at the age of 10 and became profoundly deaf. What seemed to be an unfortunate illness later became evident as one of the best things that happened to him. While he was recovering from his illness, his cousins brought him stacks of books, and he soon became a voracious reader. With no interpreters or note takers available, he would sit in class with a stack of novels and read throughout classes. He knew no sign language until after graduation, when he learned about Gallaudet College and decided to learn sign language at the American School for the Deaf.

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## John Callahan Cartoonist



John Callahan became a quadriplegic in an auto accident at 21. Following his accident, he became a cartoonist, drawing by clutching a pen between both hands. His visual artistic style was simplistic and often rough, although still legible. Mr. Callahan often defended his work with a shrug, saying simply that he thought it was funny, but he also said that people who were genuinely afflicted tended to be his fans.

"My only compass for whether I've gone too far is the reaction I get from people in wheelchairs, or with hooks for hands. Like me, they are fed up with people who presume to speak for the disabled. All the pity and the patronizing. That's what is truly detestable."

Two animated cartoon series have been based on Callahan's cartoons: *Pelswick*, a children's show on Nickelodeon; and *Quads*, a Canadian-Australian production.

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## Bree Walker Radio-TV Broadcaster



Bree Walker is a radio talk show host, actress and disability-rights activist, who gained fame as the first on-air American television network news anchor with ectrodactyly. Walker worked as a news anchor and/or reporter in San Diego, New York City, and Los Angeles.

Walker inherited ectrodactyly, a rare genetic condition, resulting in missing fingers and toes, and syndactyly resulting in fingers and toes being fused together.

Established and well into her career at the ABC affiliate KGTV Ch 10 in San Diego, Walker decided to go public with her ectrodactyly after previously keeping her deformed hands hidden inside a pair of glove-like prosthetic hands. With her hands now clearly visible, she continued her newscasting career at KGTV, moving up to the larger rock station KPRI FM.

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