

P.J. O'ROURKE BIO

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR & LEADING POLITICAL SATIRIST

Exclusive Representation by Greater Talent Network

"O'Rourke is probably the most resilient comedy writer to come out of the early National Lampoon. He saw through the anarchists' narcissism, and has been satirizing it for years in Rolling Stone and elsewhere. But the conservative O'Rourke was reviled by the Lampoon staff, who saw themselves as consummately left-wing—or disorganized, or real, or drunk, or something. For his pains, O'Rourke, who was more professional than they, and more reliably funny, won the indignation of his colleagues, whom he later left in the dust. If anyone 'changed comedy forever,' it was O'Rourke." —The New York Times

With more than 1 million words of trenchant journalism under his byline and more citations in *The Penguin Dictionary of Humorous Quotations* than any living writer, P. J. O'Rourke has established himself as America's premier political satirist. Both *TIME* and *The Wall Street Journal* have labeled him "the funniest writer in America." He is the best-selling author of 16 books, including *Parliament of Whores*, *Republican Party Reptile*, *Holidays in Hell*, *Give War a Chance*, *Eat the Rich*, *The CEO of the Sofa*, *Don't Vote—It Just Encourages the Bastards*, and *Holidays in Heck*. O'Rourke's latest book, *THE BABY BOOM: How It Got That Way... And It Wasn't MY Fault... And I'll Never Do It Again*, is on sale now.

O'Rourke now writes a weekly column at *The Daily Beast* titled "Up To a Point..." offering his classic wit and insight on today's current events—from politics to pop culture. He is also a contributing editor at *The Weekly Standard*.

AT THE PODIUM

O'Rourke covers current events, combining the skill and discipline of an investigative reporter with a comedian's sense of the absurd and the stupid. Known as a hard-bitten, cigar-smoking conservative, he, in fact, bashes all political persuasions. Whether dealing with the inner workings of Washington bureaucracy or the shifting political and economic sands of the new world disorder, O'Rourke proves himself to be a savvy guide to national and global affairs. His razor sharp insights never fail to inform and entertain audiences.

BIOGRAPHY DETAILS

Born in Toledo, Ohio, O'Rourke received a BA from Miami University and an MA in English from Johns Hopkins, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. After graduate school he worked at small newspapers in Baltimore and New York.

In the early 1970s, he joined *The National Lampoon* where he eventually became editor-in-chief and created (with Doug Kenney) the classic *1964 High School Yearbook Parody*. Concluding in the 1980s that the real world was funnier than anything *National Lampoon's* writers could make up, he became a foreign correspondent and has since covered crises and conflicts in more than 40 countries.

O'Rourke has written for such diverse publications as *The Wall Street Journal*, *World Affairs*, *Car and Driver*, *Town & Country*, *Forbes*, *The Atlantic*, and *Rolling Stone*, where he was the foreign-affairs desk chief for 15 years. He is the H.L. Mencken Research Fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington, DC and a frequent panelist on National Public Radio's game show *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!*

SUGGESTED SPEECH TOPICS

- Pirates in Neckties:** Government vs. the Free Market, Which is Worse?
- If You Think Health Care Is Expensive Now, Wait Until You See What it Costs When It's Free
- THE BABY BOOM:** How It got That Way...And It Wasn't My Fault...And I'll Never Do It Again
- Don't Vote:** It Just Encourages the Bastards