Look—I’m a college president!
Who would have thought?

Certainly not the Sisters of Notre Dame.

In second grade I spent my Saturdays with the School Sisters, who tried to teach me to read.
With a ruler, they would slide an M+M across the table for each sentence I read correctly.

Try as I might, I accumulated few M+Ms.
That summer trapped indoors didn’t help.
I was once a confident kid. Now my parents and teachers thought me a lost cause. I felt ashamed.
The only time reading was pleasurable was when my father and I read the paper together on Sunday mornings.

He'd read the news, and I'd read the comics.
I started connecting the drawings to words.
My dad noticed I was reading the comics with no trouble. Soon there were comic books in the house and I was writing and drawing stories of my own. Instead of shame, I felt empowered.
For CCS students, cartooning is not only a vehicle for self-expression, but a sense-making tool that helps them deepen their understanding of themselves and the world.

Over the years, I've seen the profound impact reading and making comics can have on children in the classroom and veterans returning from combat —
and even a kid with dyslexia.

THANKS FOR READING!
Write. Draw. Learn.

THE CENTER FOR CARTOON STUDIES
cartoonstudies.org

Written and drawn by Michelle Ollie, President and Co-founder.