

Cartoons for the Classroom



Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

Drawing the line

Get to know your local editorial cartoonist

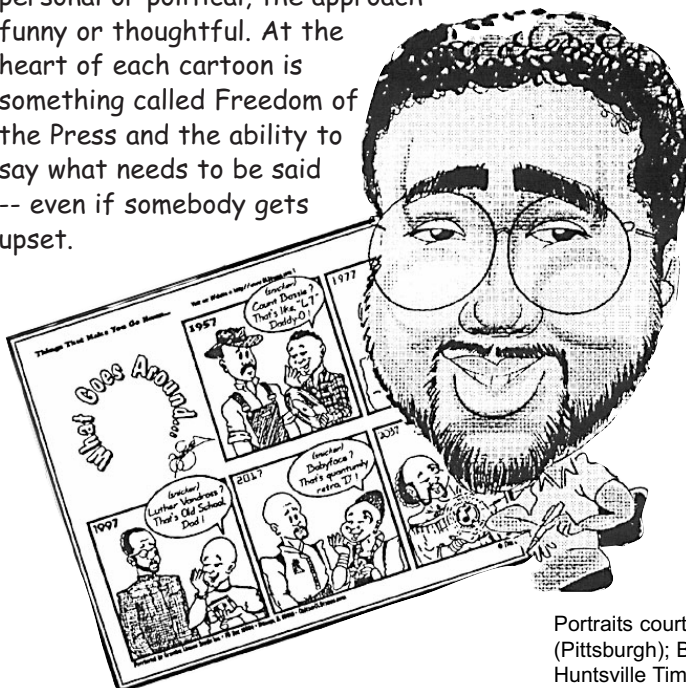
They're funny folks, these Editorial Cartoonists. Their job is to have opinions. And if they do their job right, somebody's bound to get upset. They speak in a visual language of symbols and caricatures. Yet they have to be clear and quick with their message or you won't get the point. And the point is, you have to get the point.



To study political cartoons is to study history in the making. The cartoons are snapshots in time dealing with issues as current as today's newspaper. Looking back at

cartoons in history you get a glimpse of issues and ideas that shaped our lives, what was important at the time -- at least to the artist.

Through satire and wit, political cartoonists give us a different view than television or even photos can. Issues addressed can be national or local, the targets personal or political, the approach funny or thoughtful. At the heart of each cartoon is something called Freedom of the Press and the ability to say what needs to be said -- even if somebody gets upset.



Talking points:

Write a short definition for each of the following.

Caricature _____

Satire _____

Get out your newspaper:

Open your local newspaper and find the Editorial Cartoon. Who's the artist? Start a scrapbook of their cartoons and maintain it through the semester. Use the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet to examine the cartoons in detail.

(Download the worksheet from the NIE website.) After you've studied a number of their toons write a letter to the artist in care of the newspaper and invite them to visit your class to talk about cartooning. Trust us, they'll love it. Just don't ask them to draw Spongebob!



Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)
<http://pc99.detnews.com/aaec/>

Portraits courtesy the artists. Clockwise from top left, Randy Bish, Tribune-Review (Pittsburgh); Bruce Plante, Chattanooga Times Free Press; Kirk Anderson; Cindy Procius, Huntsville Times; Tim Jackson, Chicago Defender.