

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



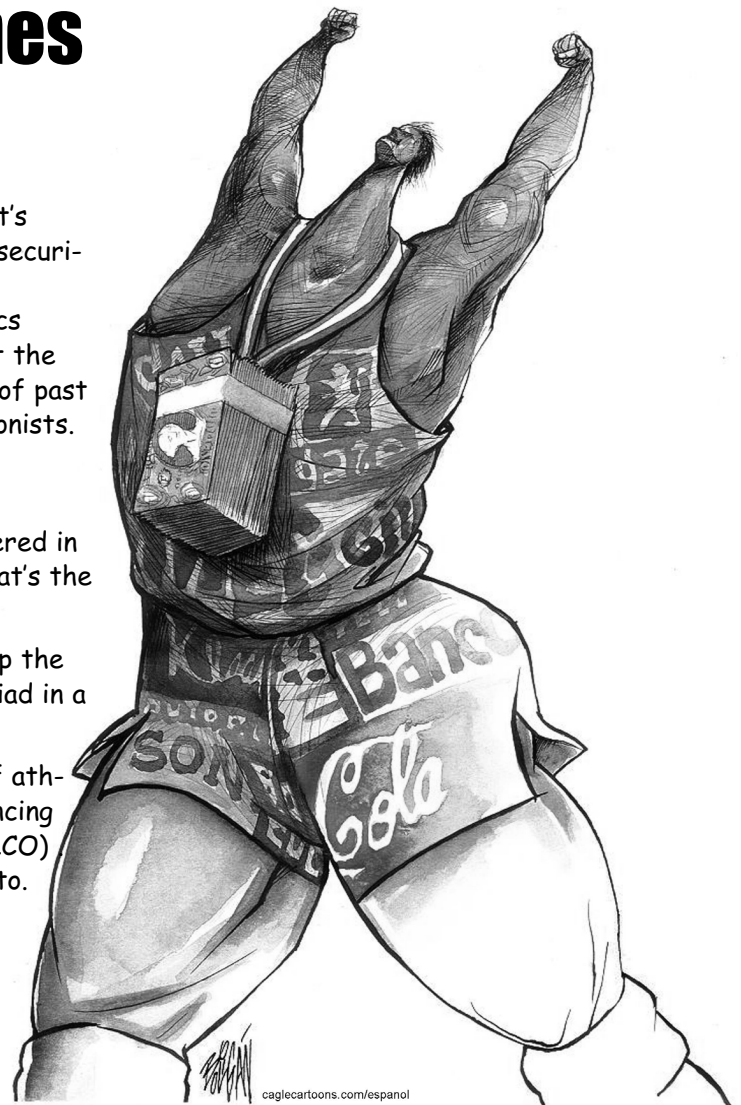
Tooning into The Games

The Olympics provide plenty of opportunities for commentary

The Olympic Games generate plenty of hoopla. And that's aside from the actual sporting events. Doping scandals, security concerns and nationalistic judges are just the start. Athletes are stripped of medals after drug tests. Politics seeps in and countries boycott. Cities pay bribes to host the games. Bombings and terrorist attacks were grim parts of past Games. In other words, it's a funfest for political cartoonists.

Talking points

1. Angel Boligan's athlete celebrates a victory while covered in sponsor logos and wearing a wad of cash as a medal. What's the statement being made?
2. Playing up the negative is always easier than playing up the positive. How would you capture the spirit of the Olympiad in a political cartoon? What aspect would you focus on?
3. Mike Keefe's toon, below, comments on the scandal of athletes suspected of illegally obtaining performance-enhancing drugs from the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (BALCO). Explain the irony in changing the motto to BALCO's motto.



Angel Boligan / Cagle Cartoons
El Universal, Mexico City



Mike Keefe / The Denver Post

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Angel Boligan at Cagle's Pro Cartoonists Index
<http://cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/boligan.asp>

More by Mike Keefe: <http://www.intoon.com/>

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper over the next two weeks. Since this is an international event, if possible, compare these cartoons with others appearing in the foreign press. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the point of view of the artist. Gather news stories about those issues and evaluate the cartoonists opinions. Do you agree or disagree with what the cartoons attack (or defend). How do the opinions in the foreign press differ?