

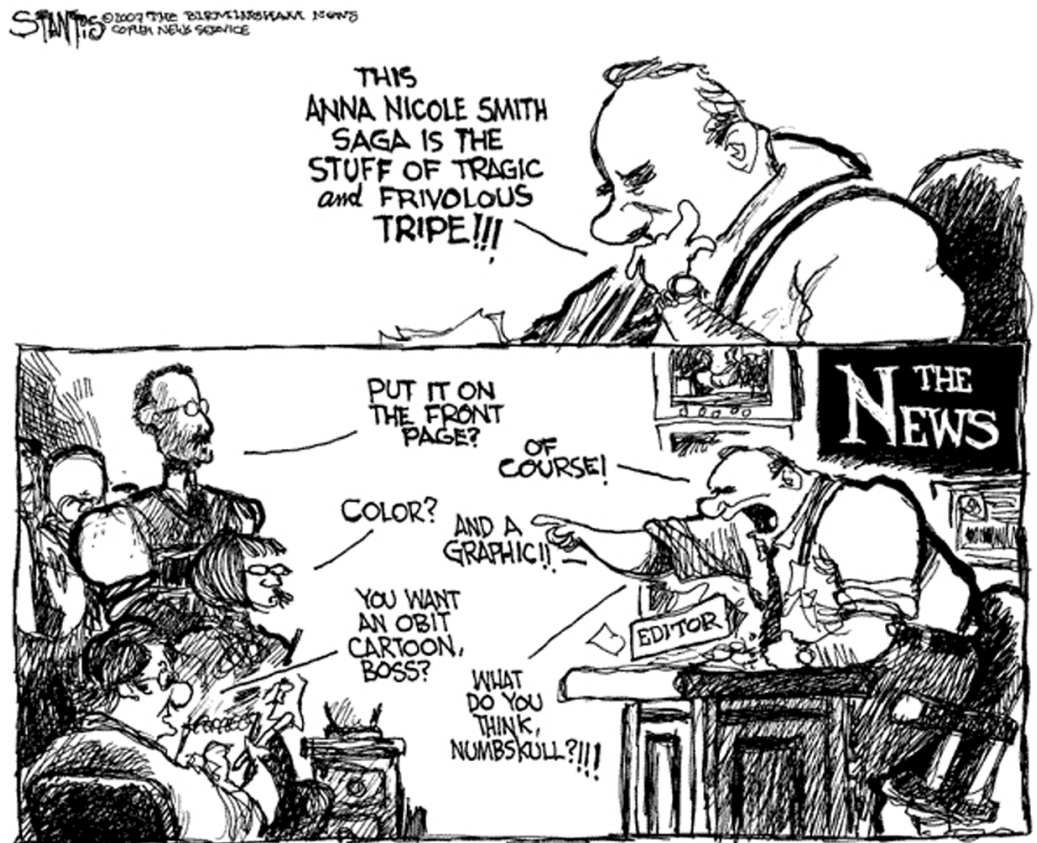
Cartoons for the Classroom



Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

Talking points

1. Scott Stantis pokes some fun at the news coverage of Anna Nicole Smith's death. It brings up an interesting question. Put yourself in the editor's chair. How would you define 'news'? What makes an event important enough to get on the front page? As an editor what would you do with the Anna Nicole Smith story? Does the event touch your readers in some way?
2. When an astronaut drove across country (wearing a diaper) to attack her rival in a lover's triangle, the press couldn't get enough of the story. Again, what news judgement comes into play?
3. As a cartoonist, how would you approach these two news stories? Do you see them as funny or as tragedies? What's your commentary?



Scott Stantis / The Birmingham News

Tooning into a media frenzy



Jeff Parker / Florida Today

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper and other resources. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed. Find news stories about the issues addressed by the cartoons. Determine the point of view of the cartoonist and explain why you agree or disagree with the opinion expressed.

Additional resources

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

More by Scott Stantis
<http://www.al.com/opinion/birminghamnews/sstantis.ssf/>

More by Jeff Parker
<http://cagle.msnbc.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/parker.asp>

More toons about Astronauts & Playboy Bunnies
<http://www.cagle.com/>