

# Cartoons for the Classroom



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

## Between the lines

Clay Bennett is the editorial cartoonist for the *Christian Science Monitor*. In 2002, Bennett won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning and on April 18, 2006, he won the Overseas Press Club's Thomas Nast Award for best cartoons on international affairs.



## The making of an editorial cartoon

When Clay Bennett was making this cartoon about Barry Bonds, the major-league slugger of the San Francisco Giants was grabbing headlines for his alleged steroid use. So Bennett decided to make an editorial cartoon about it. On the wall is an asterisk, representing how, according to Bennett, Bonds's baseball legacy will be remembered.

"Editorial cartoons are not always about politics," Bennett explains. "As long as it's got an opinion on a topic, it's an editorial cartoon." Besides, if he hadn't become a cartoonist, he would have loved to be a professional baseball or basketball player.

When he's thinking about ideas for cartoons, he doodles. His desk and the floor of his office are littered with dozens of pieces of paper covered with doodles.

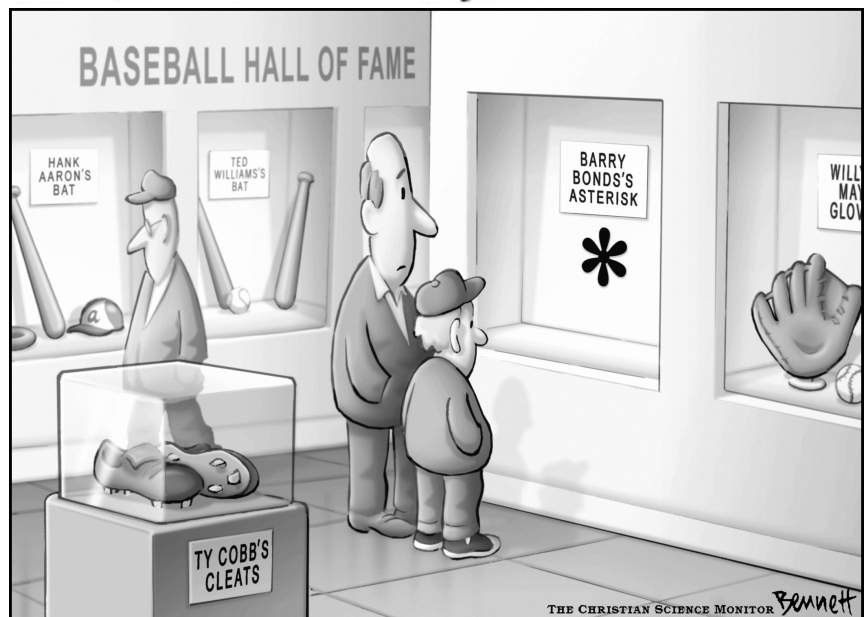
"It sounds so mindless, and editorial cartooning is so mindful," Bennett says, but "I doodle all the time."

### Additional resources

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

More by Clay Bennett

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoonist/profile.cfm/BenneC/>



## Advice for aspiring editorial cartoonists

"Draw about what's important to you. Do you have too much homework? Do a cartoon about that. Draw about stuff at school." But watch out for caricatures of teachers!

Bennett also suggests paying attention to the news. "Read papers; listen to the radio." Not Britney Spears or Lindsay Lohan, but National Public Radio or news programs. In fact, "my kids don't even think the radio in my car has any other stations than news," he says. "It's always just news, news, news all the time."

Excerpted from an April 25, 2006 article by Steven Ellis in *The Christian Science Monitor*: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0425/p18s02-hfks.html>

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