

Cartoons for the Classroom



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

When women toon in

The agenda isn't limited to gender issues



Be careful with your assumptions. Not every cartoon drawn by a black artist is about racism; not every cartoon drawn by a woman is about women's rights. Ann Telnaes' 2001 Pulitzer Prize winning portfolio covered a range of topics from presidential politics to China's human rights abuses.

Telnaes was the second woman to win journalism's top prize for cartooning. Signe Wilkinson was the first in 1992. Her political cartoons appear daily in the Philadelphia Daily News. Both women are also past presidents of the AAEC.



Cindy Procius, who draws for the Huntsville Times, had two of her drawings appear in the 2003 edition of Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year, one gracing the back cover. Other women in the 2003 edition include Wilkinson, Deb Milbrah, Ann Cleaves, Linda Boileau and Barbara Brandon-Croft. Only one of their cartoons dealt specifically with women's issues. But then, why would you assume they all would?



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Courtesy Ann Telnaes

Talking points:

Write a short definition for each of the following.

- Bias _____
- Prejudice _____

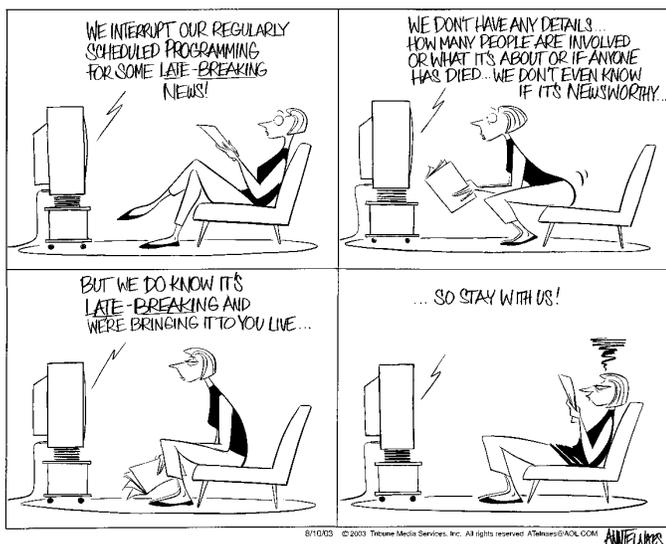
In Ann Telnaes' cartoon at left, a woman reacts to a TV news bulletin. Would the message change if Telnaes had drawn a man instead? Then why draw a woman? Perhaps a better question is why *not* draw the character as a woman?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a couple week's worth of political cartoons and other graphics from your newspaper. When the drawings are not about specific politicians or celebrities, try switching the race and gender of the characters portrayed. In other words, if it is a white male, does the message in the graphic change if the character were female? Or black? Would the message reach a wider audience if the characters were different?

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)
<http://pc99.detnews.com/aaec/>
 Ann Telnaes Gallery
<http://www.newseum.org/telnaes/gallery/about.htm>



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