Political Cartoons for the Classroom

Promoting Critical Analysis of Current Events, Law, and Social Issues

A project of the
Citizenship Law Related Education Program
for the Schools of Maryland
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Introduction

For decades, political cartoons have proven to be effective, powerful learning tools that engage audiences of all backgrounds and ages. They provide concise, humorous (or heart-tugging), quick-witted snapshots of all kinds of issues—from politics and law to education and general humanitarian efforts. We have developed this publication in the hope that those on the "front line" of education will incorporate it into daily discussions with students on "the issues"—to spark debates, critical thinking, and comprehensive, careful analysis of events happening in the world around us.

The positions expressed in these cartoons are not necessarily the position of CLREP or our staff. All cartoons in this publication are re-printed with the express written permission of Cagle Cartoons. If you wish to access additional political cartoons, we encourage you to visit www.politicalcartoons.com — a comprehensive website that includes lesson plans and classroom resources on a wide array of subjects.

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Name: _____

Analyzing Political Cartoons: Student Worksheet

Identifying the Main Idea

1. To what political event or idea is the cartoon referring?

2. What key person(s) are targeted in the cartoon?

3. How has the artist depicted these people? Are they distorted in any way? Does the artist's portrayal of characters cast them in a negative or positive light?

4. Identify and explain any symbols incorporated in the cartoon.

5. Identify and explain captions, labels, titles and/or speech bubbles. How do these contribute to the cartoon's message?

6. What is the message of the cartoon? How is the artist trying to persuade the reader?

7. What impact and/or reaction is the artist attempting to trigger?

Analyzing the Method Used by the Artist

1. How does the method used by the artist effectively convey a political message?

2. Identify and explain the use of:
   a. Juxtaposition (the state of being side by side or close together, in a figurative sense)

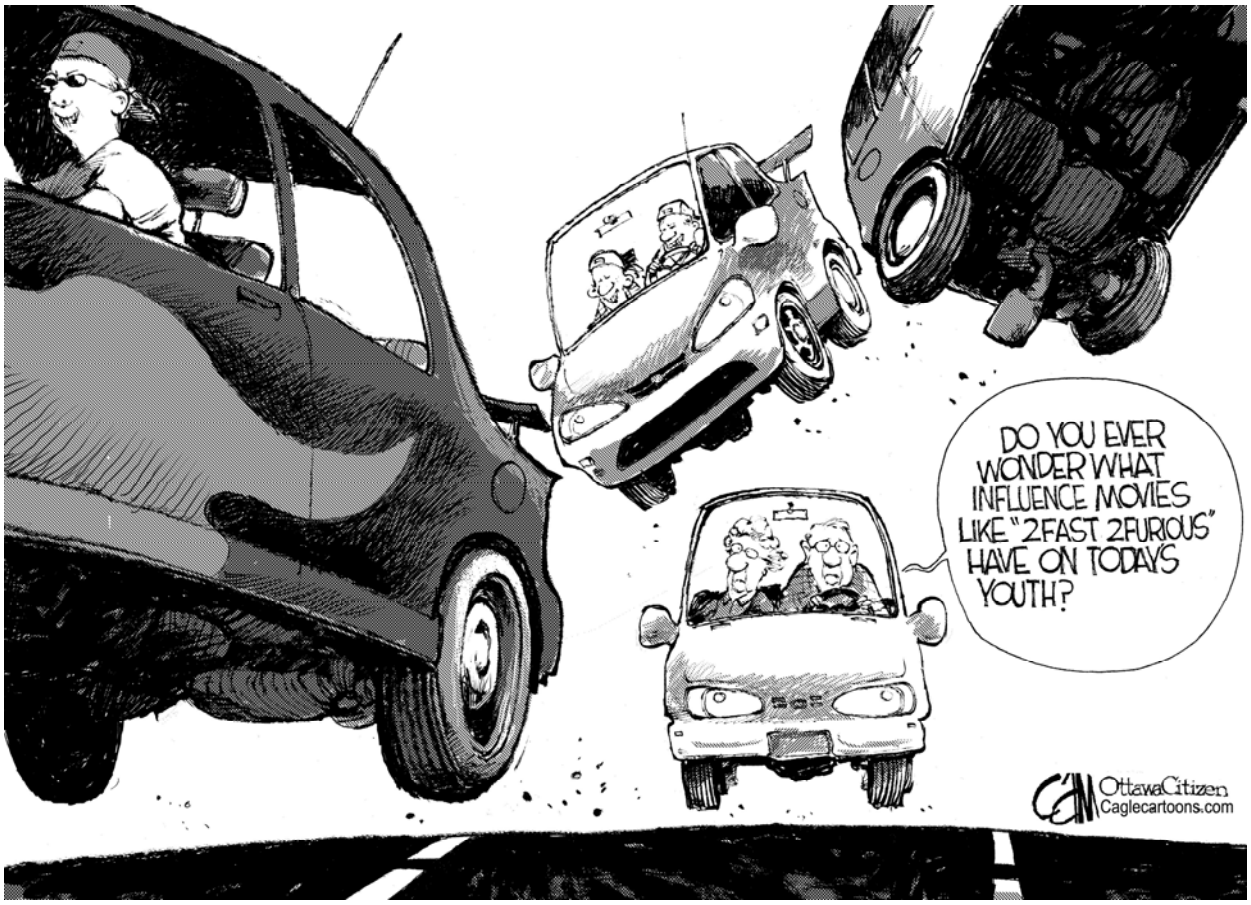
   b. Irony (the use of words or pictures to express something different from, and often opposite of their literal meaning)

   c. Exaggeration (representation as greater than is actually the case; overstatement)

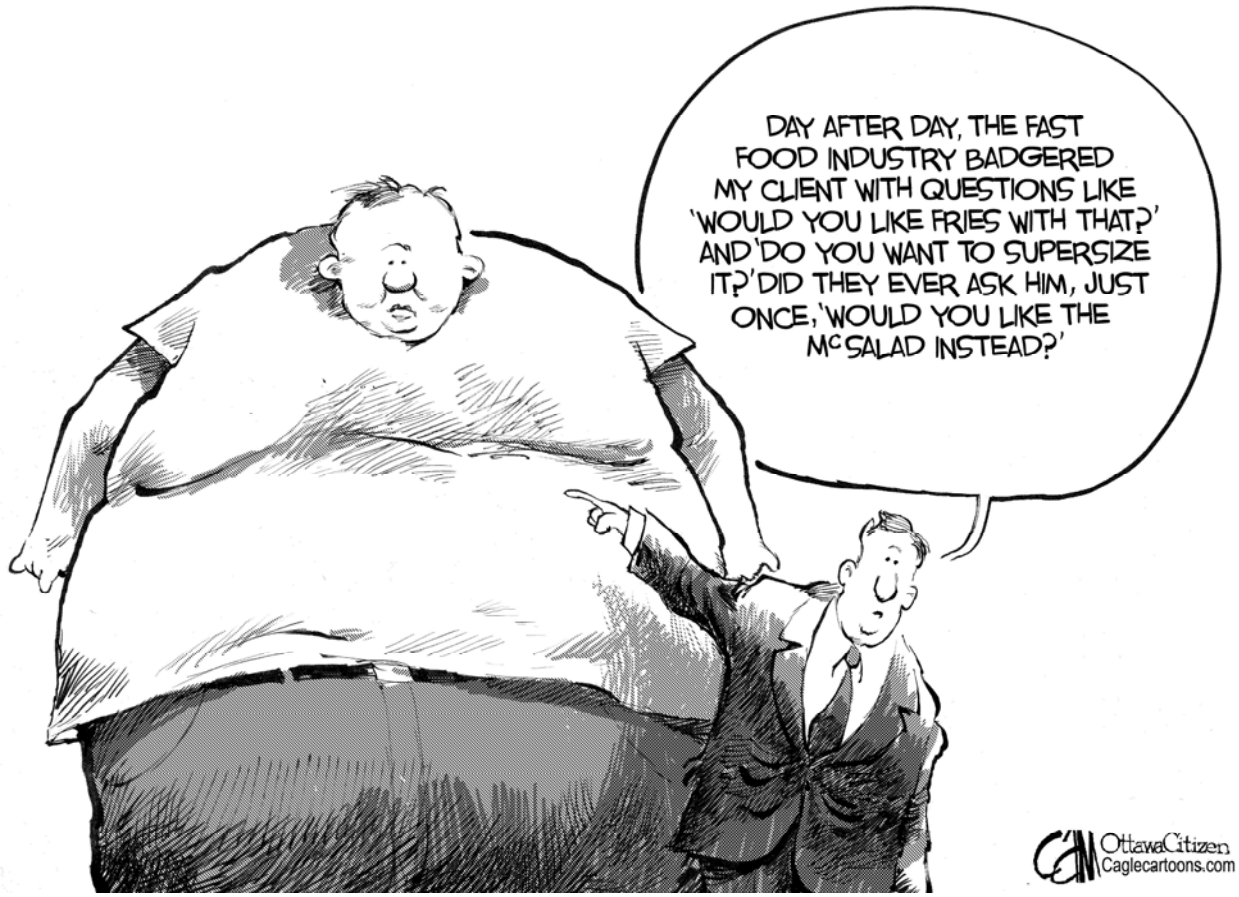
Artist: Tab

I GUESS YOU'LL WANT A NIGHT LIGHT...
caglecartoons.com
TAB
2004
TSUNAMI
IRAQ
TERRO

Artist: Cam Cardow

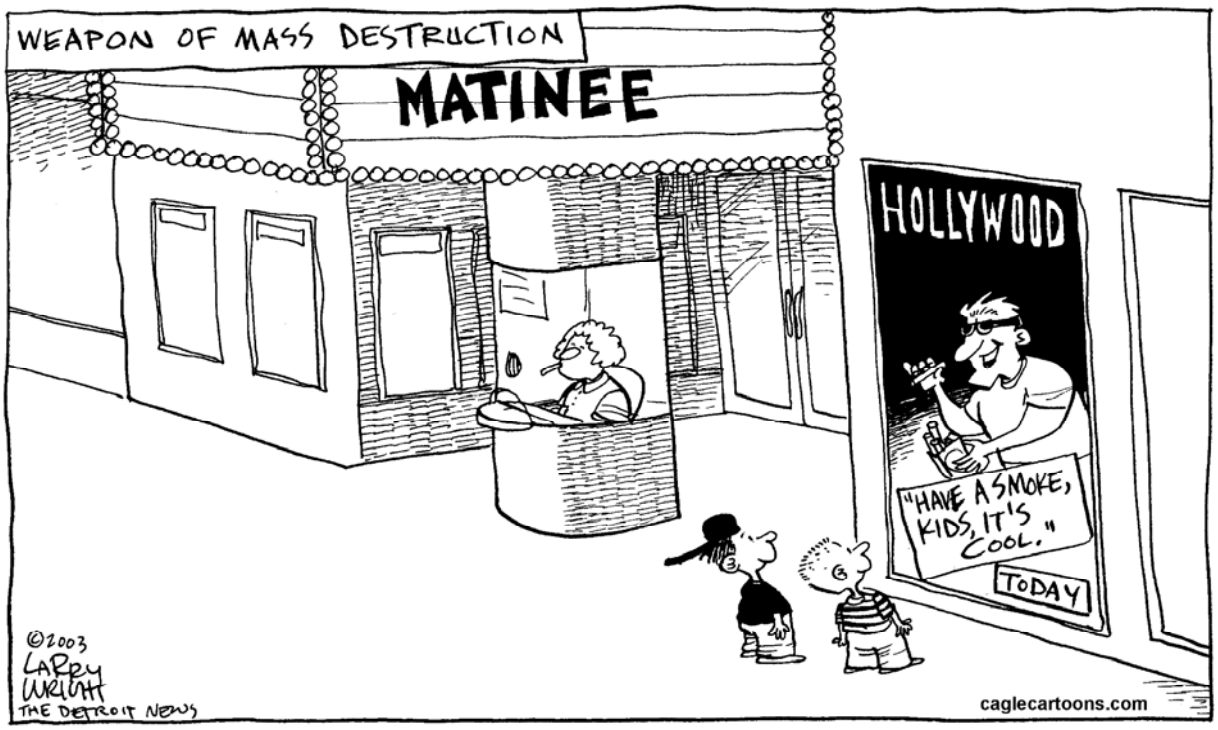


Artist: Cam Cardow

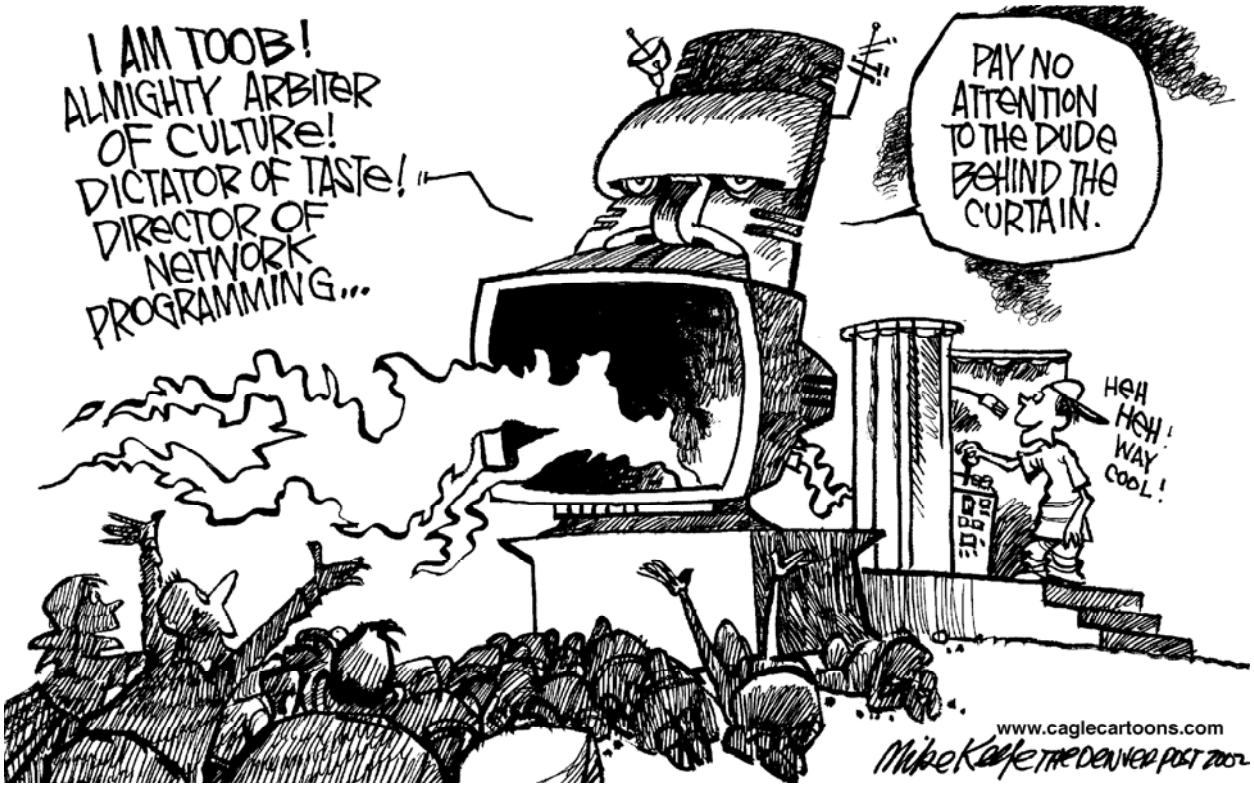


Artist: Mike Keefe

Artist: Larry Wright



Artist: Mike Keefe



Artist: Larry Wright

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Artist: Mike Keefe

Artist: Jeff Parker

Artist: Brian Farrington

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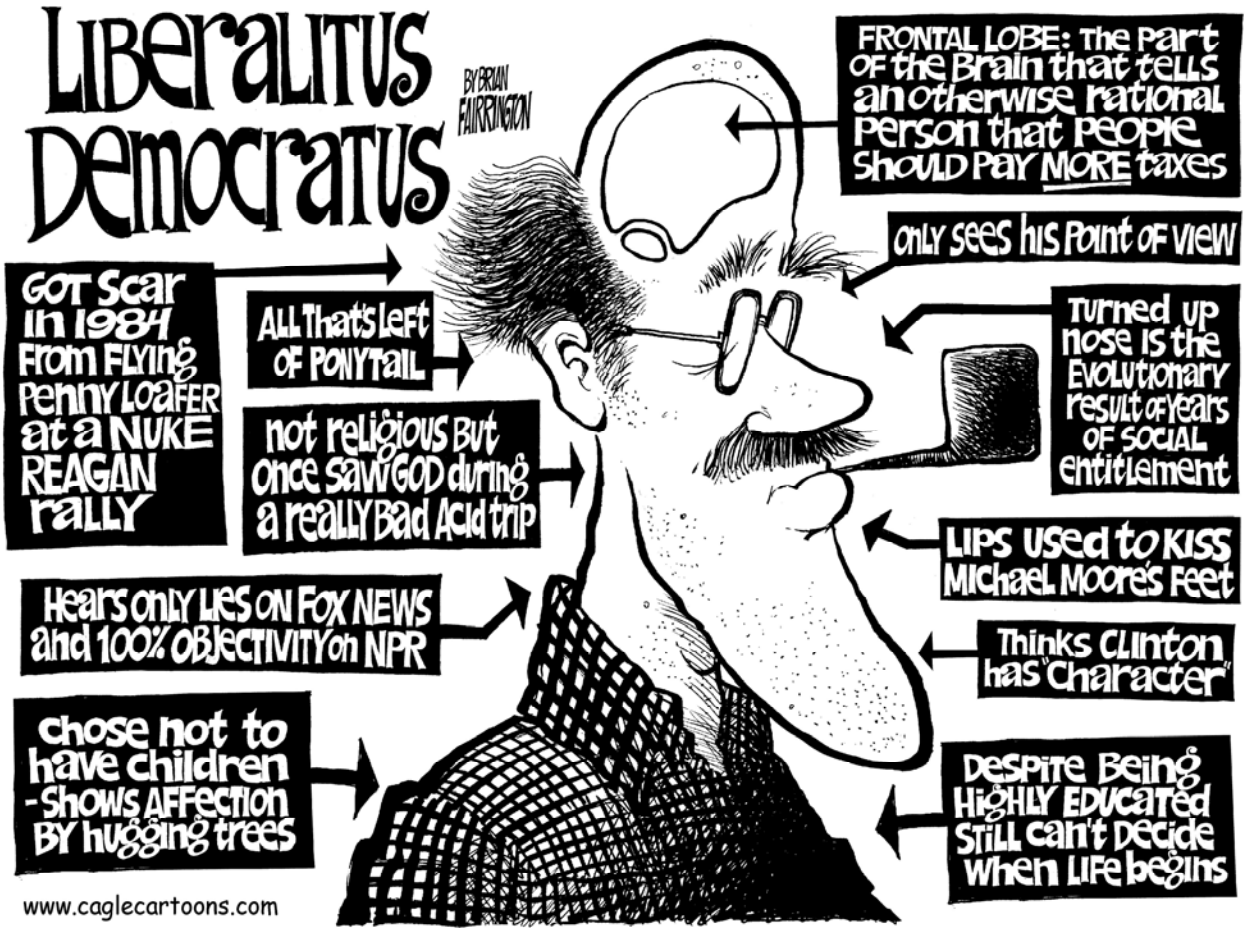
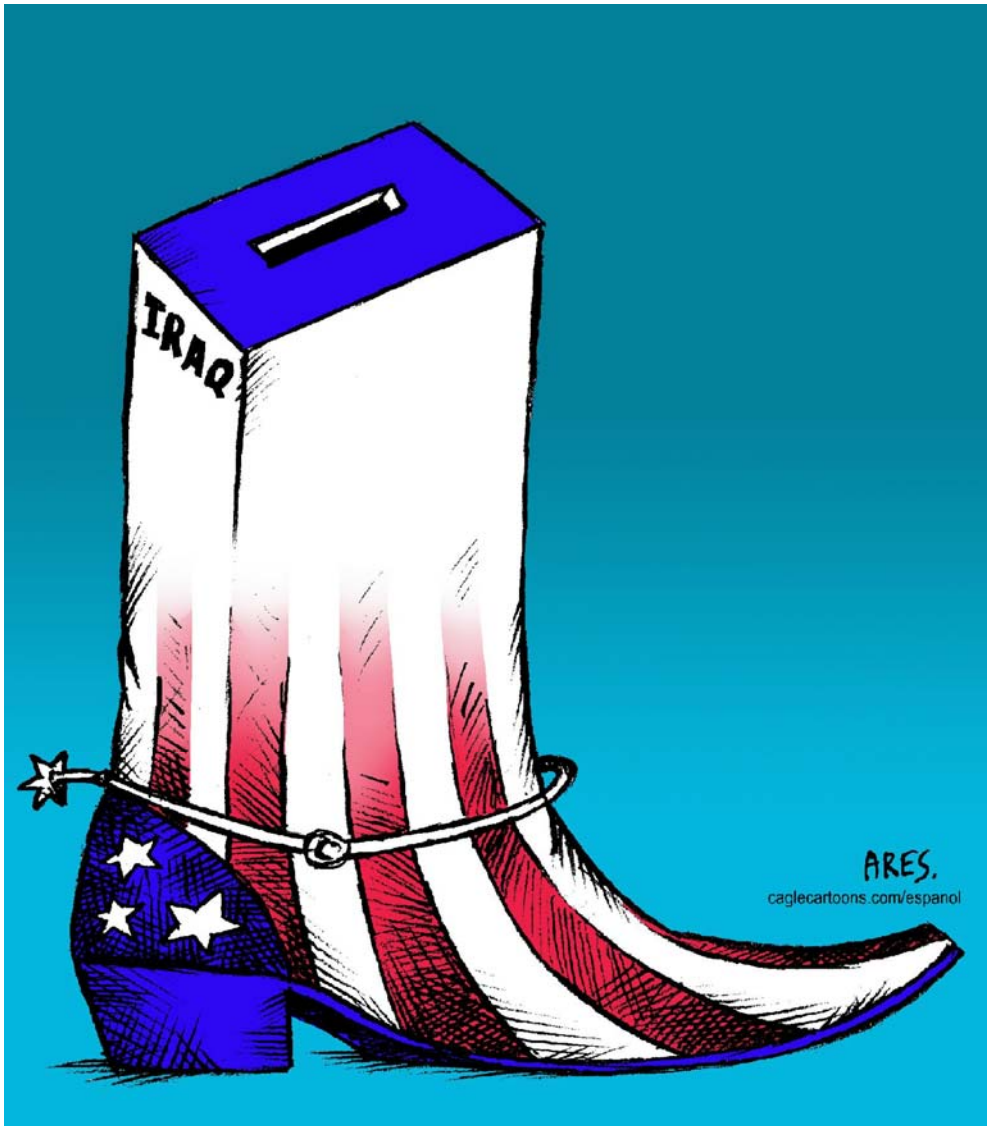


Artist: Bob Englehart

Artist: Best of Latin America

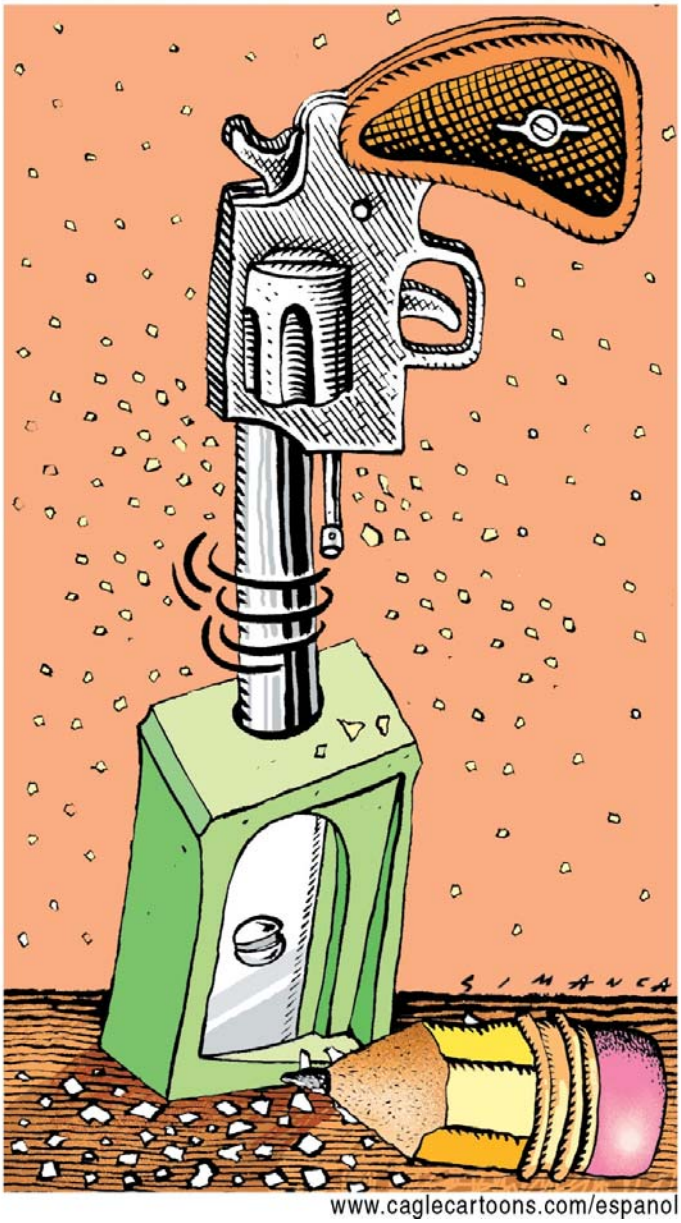


Artist: Daryl Cagle

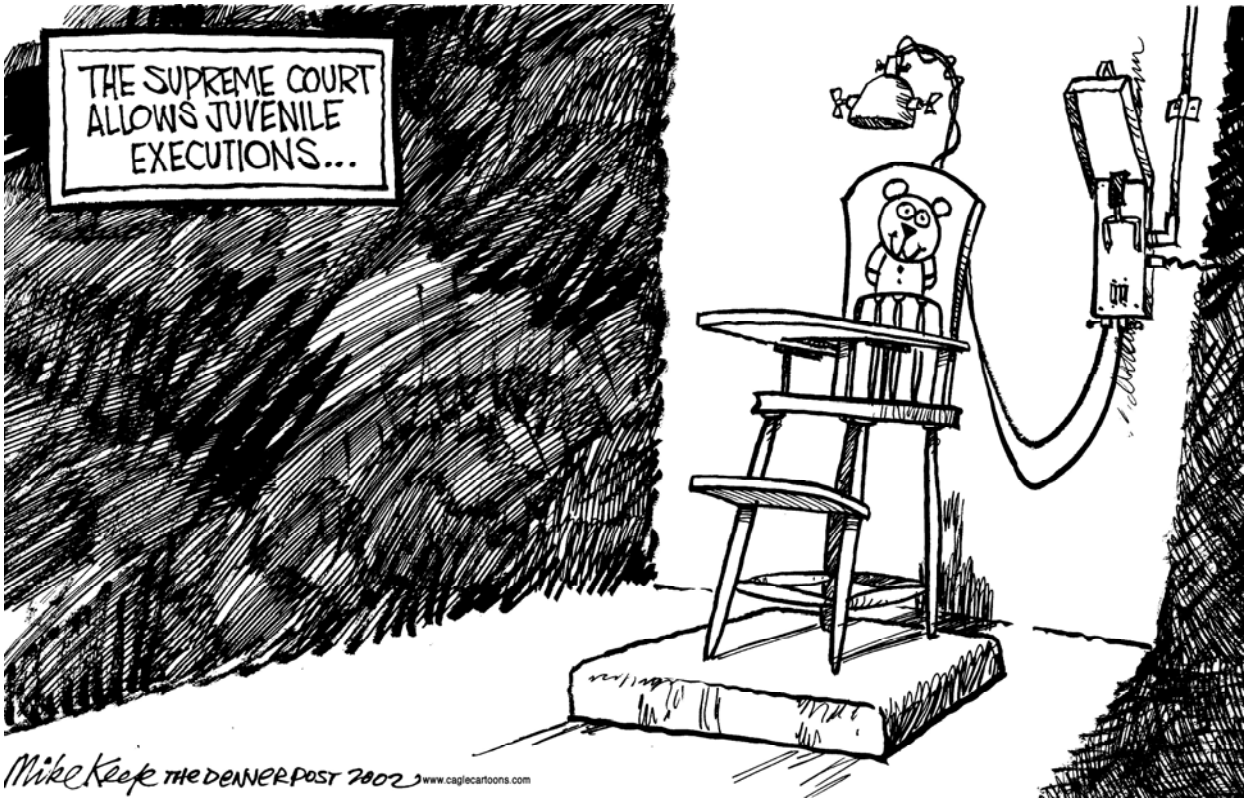
Artist: Best of Latin America

Artist: Mike Keefe

Artist: Best of Latin America



Artist: Mike Keefe



Artist: Mike Lester

Artist: M. E. Cohen