

Cartoons for the Classroom



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

The Borgman Challenge

Between the lines

In honor of Jim Borgman's 30th anniversary as a political cartoonist at The Cincinnati Enquirer, the newspaper invited readers to draw their best editorial cartoon. The winner, by Don W. Cunningham of Covington, Ohio, was chosen by Borgman from 138 entries. Borgman then redrew it in his own style.

As winner, Cunningham, a 60-year-old machinist, received Borgman's original drawing.

"I'm not very politically motivated," Cunningham said, "But I know the ongoing problem with the Banks. "I thought, I'll give it my view from the Kentucky side."

Borgman said he liked that Cunningham's cartoon makes its point quickly and with few words. "Dubbing the Banks 'the Blanks' is brilliant. Wish I'd thought of it," he said.

"In redrawing the cartoon, I took a bird's-eye view of the riverfront so we'd be able to see the words 'the Blanks' on the empty landscape instead of on a sign. I also thought it would heighten the point if the speakers were a couple clearly having fun in Northern Kentucky. Thus, the ice cream, stroller and balloon animal."

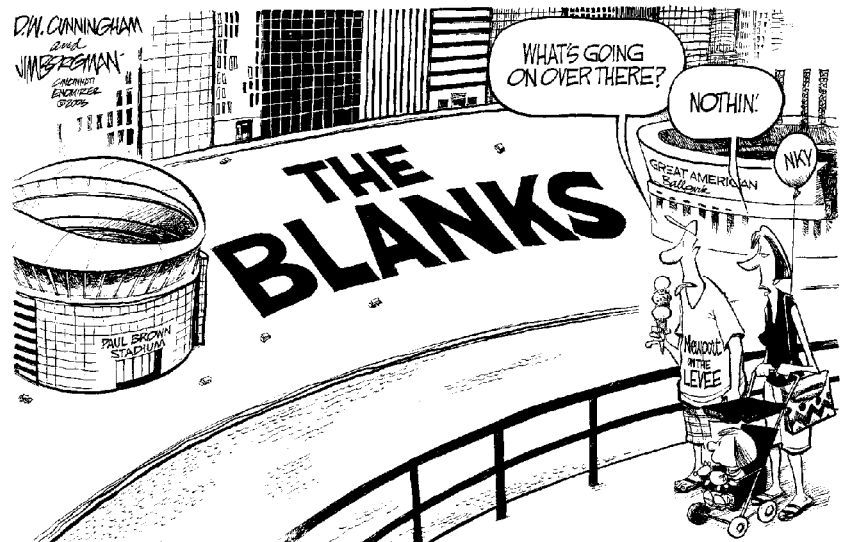
— Excerpted from an article by John Johnston / Cincinnati Enquirer

Talking points

1. If you're not from Cinci, these cartoons won't make any sense to you. That's because they cover a LOCAL topic important to LOCAL readers. Make a list of issues that affect only readers in your area.
2. Both toons stem from the same idea. Which drawing is more effective and why? What visual clue does Cunningham's use to tell you the speakers are from Kentucky? How does Borgman label them?
3. Contact the cartoonist at YOUR newspaper to see if you can arrange a similar challenge. Have your class produce a set of cartoons to submit for your local cartoonist to judge -- and perhaps redraw for publication.



Don Cunningham / Courtesy Cincinnati Enquirer



Courtesy Jim Borgman / Cincinnati Enquirer

Additional resources

AAEC: <http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More on the Borgman Challenge

<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060606/LIFE/606060303>