

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Toons as tributes

According to Daryl Cagle of the Pro Cartoonists Index, readers respond more to obituary cartoons than to anything else that political cartoonists draw. The death of Pope John Paul II provided cartoonists with an opportunity to pay tribute through their craft. An illustration can express emotions and abstract concepts in ways photographs and written stories can't.



Courtesy Clay Bennett / Christian Science Monitor

Talking points

1. Clay Bennett's cartoon above plays off the symbolism of the pope as the shepherd of his flock. How effective is the simple image of the shepherd's crook to represent John Paul II?
2. As Pope John Paul II traveled around the world, the sight of him kissing the ground as he arrived in distant lands became a familiar image. John Sherffius uses that image to show the pontiff's arrival at Heaven's gate. Does it work for you?
4. There is a link to more cartoon memorials below. Sample the toons posted there and select the one you find most effective and explain why. Which toon is the weakest among the those posted. Why? Compare the drawing styles in the cartoons posted. Do certain styles lend themselves better to tributes?

Additional resources

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

More by Clay Bennett
<http://www.claybennett.com/>

More by John Sherffius
<http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/sherffius.asp>

Cartoon Memorials to John Paul II
<http://www.cagle.com/news/PopeMemorial/main.asp>

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper over the next two weeks. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the point of view of the artist. Gather news stories about those issues and evaluate the cartoonists' opinions.



Courtesy John Sherffius