

Caricature

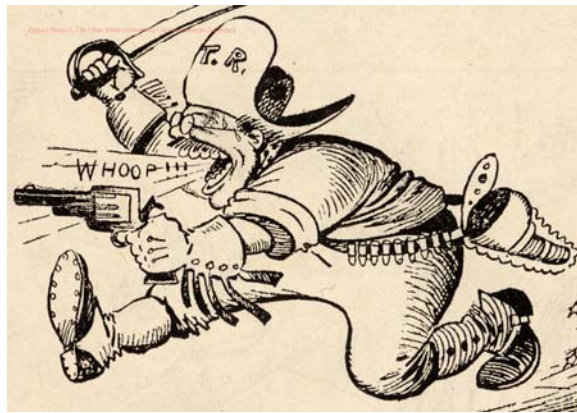
Caricature is the deliberate exaggeration of a well-known person's distinctive features. The cartoonist must be careful not to overdo this exaggeration or the person will not be recognized by readers. Caricature is the best known device used by editorial cartoonists to make political statements. Some cartoonists create realistic, portrait-like images while others only hint at the true appearance of the person.

Caricature is based on the assumption that readers will recognize the person being depicted. This makes the study of historic editorial cartoons challenging because we may not have seen a photograph of the person being depicted, so we have no way to know what he or she looked like.

Cartoonists caricatured President Theodore Roosevelt in many ways during his lifetime. What specific characteristics of Roosevelt's appearance do the cartoonists emphasize or exaggerate?



Cartoonist: Ole May.



Cartoonist: W. L. Evans



Cartoonist: Homer Davenport

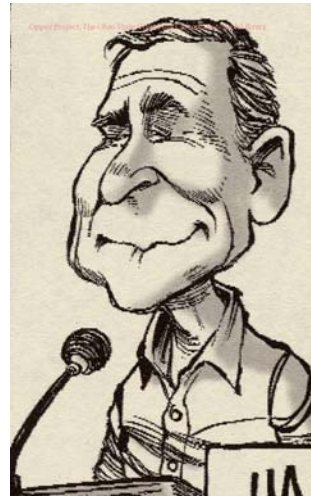


Cartoonist: Frederick Burr Opper

Within caricature, the question of what is a “fair” likeness has no answer. The cartoonist is not concerned about fairness, but about expressing an opinion, as may be seen in these examples of contemporary cartoonists’ caricatures of President George W. Bush. Which of these caricatures seem the most critical of Bush and why?



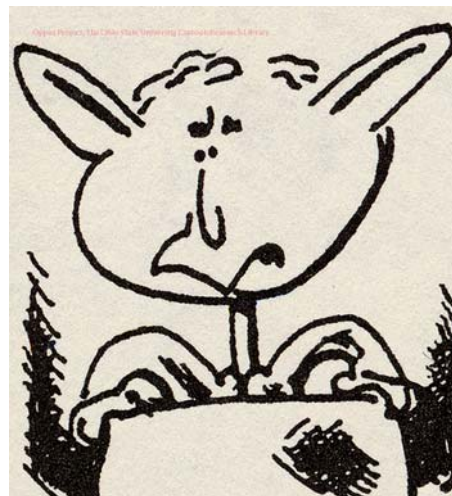
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