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Editorial Cartoons

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Editorial Cartoons

by Joe Escobar – Friday, January 22, 2016, 9:29 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Editorial Cartoons topic.

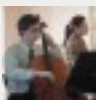
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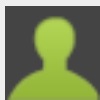
Editorial Cartoon: "At The South"

by Titus Young – Sunday, January 24, 2016, 9:19 AM

This particular cartoon, in my opinion, is both making fun of abolitionists and Blacks. The subtext tries to imitate how African-Americans talk, however I think the artist takes it to far and does not display any respect for the African- Americans. The Black mother uses the term "nigger", as that was an extremely derogatory term to the African-Americans, I can't see any African-American using it. Abolitionists are also being made fun of as the black woman terms them "de big ole bobolitionists". At first I didn't know what "bobolitionist" was, but then it all clicked. The artist is claiming that abolitionists steal black children from their mothers.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 

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Re: Editorial Cartoon: "At The South"

by Zachary King – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 8:29 PM

I would say that at the time 'nigger' was not seen as a derogatory term, but simply the currently used term. The term has changed over time, only as each term has come to be a racial slur, i.e. nigger-to-negro-to-black.

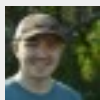
Black people regularly referred to each other as nigger, and if you watch any black culture shows or rap music you will find that the term is still alive and well within the black community.

I agree with you that they were trying to present the abolitionists in a bad light, possible so that the slaves would not get any ideas of being free, it is much easier to control people when hope is removed. I also agree that the artist was trying to make the woman appear uneducated and dumb through the use of the accented speech.

For sure this was a pro-slavery cartoon.

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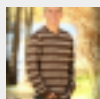


Re: Editorial Cartoon: "At The South"
by [Kevin Smolek](#) - Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 11:14 PM

Hello, I had a few thoughts on your post. I agree that the cartoon does go a little far with the spelling/wording, But I think that the artist was trying to make a point more on the south then on abolitionists. I believe that the artist was attempting to frame the way the south saw the north at the time, as a big boogeyman that was attempting to take away the slaves.

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The Scale
by [Justin Smith](#) - Sunday, January 24, 2016, 1:15 PM

I was very intrigued by this cartoon when I saw it. The cartoonist is clearly implying that Irish immigrants were viewed in the north with the same negative connotation as Blacks were viewed with in the South. The cartoonist even went to the extent of giving the Irish immigrant a monkey-like face to show that they were viewed as less than human. Not only that, but the cartoonist puts the two on a scale showing that the two men are of equal "weight", since Blacks were viewed as less than human in the south we can assume that the cartoonist is saying that Irish immigrants were viewed in the same way. I like that the cartoonist added the words 'white' and 'black' on the two individual scales. This shows that the social issues weren't as simple as people just hating black people, but it was something more complex once the immigrants started to enter the country in such massive numbers.

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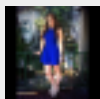


Re: The Scale
by [Zachary King](#) - Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 8:31 PM

I never realized the extent that the Irish were looked down upon and were considered less than human. But you are right that especially in this cartoon, they are being placed on the same level as the black people and both are portrayed as less than human.

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Re: The Scale
by [McKalie Bellew](#) - Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 8:37 PM

I think you make a great point when you mention how the scale is titled "white" and "black" on each side. It shows that, although blacks were the main target of this time, the discrimination was' solely based on the color of a persons skin but also where they came from and what their ethnicity was. This scale says so much about their hatred for the Irish but I can't help but wonder, who was more disliked: the Irish or the Blacks? The picture shows that they are equal in the fact that they're both "less than human" but I feel like in this day and age, the Blacks were more-than-likely worse-off than the Irish.

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Re: The Scale
by [Justin Smith](#) - Friday, January 29, 2016, 10:16 PM

I completely agree with you that Blacks were way worse off in this time period. Sure it was hard for Irish immigrants to find jobs and places to practice their religion without being attacked for it. And of course

they were viewed as being very dependent on alcohol. But they were never forced into slavery and treated in unimaginable ways like blacks were. I think this just goes to show the clear divide between black and white in the 19th century, you could be the most hated white culture in the land but you are still considered more of a human just because of your skin color. Its crazy to think that this was the mind set of the time.

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Re: The Scale

by [Bryan Jakiemiec](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 9:57 PM

You nailed it! In my eyes, very good interpretation of the cartoon. I also found it very interesting that in the cartoon, the black person is smiling, and the Irish person looks very upset and angry. Perhaps maybe the blacks were happy that racial tension was being shifted towards the Irish instead of the blacks having to bear all of it? Something to think about.

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Re: The Scale

by [Justin Smith](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 10:29 PM

I could imagine that some black people would be relieved, in a sense, that there was another group to take some of the hatred. However, Irish immigrants rarely had enough money to travel out of New England region of the United States so there wasn't a large Irish population in the South. It is hard to tell if any of the Irish hatred even made it down to the South where slavery was still going strong. Slaves may have never even caught word that the Irish were beginning to settle in the United States, depending on which type of slave owner they had.

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Racial Equality

by [Jason Petersen](#) – Sunday, January 24, 2016, 2:17 PM

My two favorite cartoons are “the scale” and “am I not a man”, both artists were obviously expressing their opinions on equality between people with black and white skin. On the “am I not a man” drawing, it says, “Am I not a man and brother?” expressing that despite the color of his skin, he is still a human man and should be treated as such. On the drawing labeled “the scale”, the artist is using a weight scale as a metaphor to express the same issue of un-equality by expressing that both men are physically the same. The only difference is the color of their skin. This goes without saying that the people that supported race equality, were the people who supported the same opinion as this artist. Im sure that both of these drawings had big impacts on everyone that saw them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Looking closer

by [Samuel Black](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 9:36 PM

While I agree you are on the right track, I think you might have overlooked a few things about the cartoon. Firstly, the beam holding the black man is titled south while the beam supporting the white man is titled north, this is important. Because it gives an insight into the representation of these two figures. The African man is obvious, but the white male appears to be drawn like a monkey. If we think back to class, we might remember that Irish were usually drawn as monkeys. With this piece of information, we can make an assumption that is a little deeper about this cartoon. That is, the south held the same value for blacks as the north held for the Irish.

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Re: Looking even closer

by [Jason Petersen](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 11:39 AM

If we look closer at the picture with the black man and Irish man sitting on the scale, there seems to be a wide grin upon the African Americans face. Almost as if he is happy, while the Irish man has the exact opposite look, sad.

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Cartoon: At the South
by Cheree Scott – Sunday, January 24, 2016, 5:57 PM

The person who created this cartoon was most likely a Southern Sympathizer. They wanted people to think that slavery wasn't wrong, that the abolitionist were in the wrong for wanting them to be free. The most powerful parts of this cartoon where the words of course; every parent threatens their kids with something. Another piece of the cartoon was how it was all set up. The mother and child are dressed nicely and in a room that is nice. It doesn't scream shack or poverty.

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Re: Cartoon: At the South
by Bryan Jakiemiec – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9:42 PM

Very nice visual pick up on the clothing on the slaves and the overall room. You're right, it does not seem like they are in horrible conditions like most people often think of when they think of slave living. Perhaps the author of the article is trying to prove a point that slaves have decent living conditions, and that if an abolitionist were to come and set them free, they would be even worse off.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by Kevin Smith – Sunday, January 24, 2016, 9:06 PM

The Scale:

The scale portrays two men, one black, one white, sitting face to face. The black man on the side labeled “South” and the white man on the “North”. Though there are significant distinctions immediately noticeable between the two, as in skin color, clothes and general demeanor. Yet upon closer examination the two men share physical and personified characteristics. Their positions and gestures while sitting on the scale mirror each other. And while their clothes differ in appearance, the same regions are emphasised on both men; hats, vest, coats, and boots (or lack thereof for the black man). The illustrator may have intended to highlight their differences by using clothing as a way to signify the cultural differences. The black man, in a field hat, white shirt and no shoes would clearly be either a slave or a poor working class farmer. The white man, wearing a top hat, coat and leather boots, is presumably an Irish immigrant due his ape-like gesture (Lecture). The artist would appear to have no bias in latitude, but rather the social/cultural state of America. The Irish and African slave balancing the scale is a condemning observation of the American political system. Here, the two men are symbols for the varying strengths of both regions; slaves sustaining the economy of southern democrats, while mass quantities of Irish immigrants bolstered Whigs in the north. Yet the depiction is the artists candid response to what he condemned as either unpatriotic or dirty politics, as he satirized the men to fully encompass his disdain for what he viewed as class and cultural infection.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by Kaelin Kane – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 6:05 PM

You make good points as too the nature of the cartoon, but you're missing a part of the picture. The black man's smirk shows the satisfaction he feels from being on the same level as the frowning, unsatisfied Irishman.

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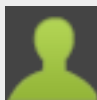
Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Kevin Smith](#) – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 8:40 PM

The demeanor of either party is irrelevant. The critique isn't of their disdain for each other, but rather the artists disdain for both. If the Black man is smirking than that would be the artists personification of his stereotype, the jovial simple slave. If the irishman is frowning, than that would also be the artist's rendition of what he perceives as Irish traits; solemn, smirking and possibly conceited is not necessarily provoked due to the slave facing him, but is again the artist's depiction of his view of the irishman. In short, neither are cognitive of each other, just renditions of the illustrators bias towards both parties

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Zachary King](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 8:33 PM

I agree that the smile on the face of the slave is showing that they are dumb and happy with their situation as slaves. The Irish on the other hand are always portrayed as angry, a stereotype we still have, drunk and angry.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

by [Kaelin Kane](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 11:31 PM

The time of this cartoon a time at which blacks were know to be smiling and chipper as a stereotype. He's smiling for a reason: because he is now on the same level as this Irishman. Imagine the scale started with the Irishman weighing more than the black men, and the two slowly meeting at the middle. If I were in the black man's spot, I would be very pleased to be on the same level as a white man (any white man). But if I were the Irishman, I would feel like less of a human being and more of a slave: a huge degradation.

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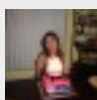
Am I not a man

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 12:20 PM

The cartoon is clearly drawn by an anti slavery cartoonist in my opinion. It displays a man that is clearly trying to be viewed as an equal. He is not pleading with hostility but as an equal. I believe the cuffs on his hands and feet would mean he is a slave. As most slaves would not have the means of having a cartoon like this published, I am more inclined to believe that is either a free slave or an anti slavery white man from the north that drew the picture. I don't believe the cartoon would have been very effective in the 19th century. The men that they were trying to target already had it made up in their minds that black men were less than white men. Today the cartoon makes complete sense to us because we know that blacks and whites are exactly the same. This man would be a brother and a fellow man to us. Back then, southern slave owners would not find the cartoon amusing, and probably would've thrown a fit at the very thought that a black man be treated the same as a white man.

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Re: Am I not a man

by [Nicole Tapia](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 8:33 PM

I also chose this picture in my post because this one stands out the most to me. I agree that this cartoon was definitely drawn by an anti slavery artist because the artist clearly shows us that the black man in chains barely clothed is asking a simple and powerful question, "Am I not a man am I not a brother?" The slave is asking us if he is considered or seen as an equal. He is trying to be an equal and a brother to the white men because the only difference is the skin color. Now it is out of the question, that of course no matter what race you are you are an equal, at least that is how it is for me in my eyes.



Am I Not a Man Interpretation
by [Coal Taylor](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 2:36 PM

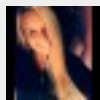
I think this cartoonist must have been someone who opposed slavery, and believed that blacks deserved freedom. I can't say for sure if the cartoonist also believed in entirely equal rights for blacks, but I think the caption "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?" being shown below a black man kneeling down in chains clearly shows that the cartoonist at least wanted to improve the standing of blacks in America. The main point of this cartoon seems to me to be to gather sympathy for abolitionism, and this point was made by attempting to garner sympathy from the viewers of the cartoon by showing a black man in distress, and captioning that picture with one simple sentence designed to show the painful and unequal position of slaves.

At the time, the opposing point of view to this particular cartoonist was that though the picture may show a man, his race made him not as important or as intelligent as the white man. This view was held primarily by the South. Plantation owners of course were very rooted in this opinion, but much of the Southern population at the time shared this view.



Holy Horror (Questions Set 1)
by [Clayton LeaMaster](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 5:23 PM

I chose the Holy Horror cartoon to observe. The cartoonist’s opinion appears to be “supporting” the slaves during that era. If you notice the white lady has a basket of foot and drinks but does not have nice clothing or an attractive face but yet she still seems to be scolding the black lady and acting like she is better than her. Then there is the black lady, she has nothing except a tiny umbrella but is wearing nicer clothing and has a beautiful face. She also has her head down and is ignoring the white lady. To me, this image speaks toward the different attitudes between white and blacks in that day. The whites may have had the material things but really they had nothing due to their horrible actions and attitudes toward the blacks. As for the blacks, they had nothing but made everything of what they could out of the materials they had. They also just kept to themselves because whites did not care of their opinions and could not see their beauty and full potential.



Holy Horror
by [Hailey Cordier](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 5:48 PM

- 1.The conclusion I drew about the cartoon, "Holy Horror" was that Mrs.Mccaffraty was portrayed as mean and scary looking because she voted against black peoples right to vote. The black lady sitting next to her is portrayed as soft and calm and seems as if she is minding her own business while Mrs.Mccaffraty is staring at her because of her skin color. What led me to this interpretation was how Mrs.Mccaffraty's face was drawn in such a mean and ugly way when the black lady was drawn in a nice and beautiful way.
- 2.The opposing point of view would have been people who voted against black peoples right to vote being the one's drawing the cartoon and their point of view on the subject. The democrats would have supported this message because the democrats were pro-slavery.



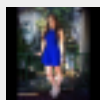
Re: Holy Horror
by [Bryan Jakiemiec](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 10:04 PM

I agree that Mrs. Mccaffraty was made out to be the villain in this cartoon. It appears that Mrs. Mccaffraty feels confident in her situation and does not fear the possibility of any punishment coming towards her regardless of what she thinks or says. On the other hand, the black lady seems angry but composed. As if she would like to speak her mind, but she knows that if she does so then she could possibly be in trouble. I also noticed the shady, but defined line drawn down the middle of cartoon to symbolize that two different sides of the issue of whether or not blacks should be allowed to vote.



At the South
by [Summer Smith](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 7:19 PM

I was mostly effected by the editorial cartoon, At the South. I believe the artist's point of view was that black slaves were dumb due to the grade school level vocabulary and the mispronunciation of certain words. People might not have seen the same point of view. I think it would be mostly southerners who would support this message to prove that blacks were "not fit to be citizens." I imagine this cartoon was pretty effective in the nineteenth century. The cartoon was pretty effective in showing me how certain people were publicly viewed. In 2016, our culture taught us that we were all created equal and had equal opprotunities for education and I know you wouldnt see something like that in the Register Guard.



Equality Issues... Still a problem today
by [McKalie Bellew](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 8:17 PM

Out of all five of these cartoons the one that stood out to me the most was Am I Not A Man. The conclusion I feel this cartoonist is drawing is that black men at this time were treated as though they aren't even people. The caption on this piece of works reads, "Am I not a man and a brother?" This is so obviously implying that black men were treated as objects and not as men. There are many different aspects of this cartoon that led to my conclusion on how I interpreted it; first, the caption in the photo says just about everything you need to know. "Am I not a man...", asks a question of people with slaves, are they nothing more than things that do the work for you? "... and a brother?", asks the question, do I have no family correlation because of the color of my skin? Next, the way the man in the cartoon is down on his knees, with his hands cuffed together I feel shows that he is in a position of submission. Someone has full control over him; he is someones servant and someone, a white man most likely with a threatening tone of voice and look about him, is his master. And because he has a master, he has no freedom. The way that the cartoons has his eyes closed and chin up with his hands folded together makes me feel as though he is either praying for help to God or begging for something from his master.

Opposing point of views on this cartoon would definitely be that based on the color of their skin, no blacks were not men or brothers or even classified or acknowledged as people at all. Obviously the people that would have supported this cartoon and it's meaning in the 19th century would be white people who were slave-owners, privileged or just simply racist. As far as whether this was an issue that would have been more or less supported by Republicans or Whigs at the time I'm honestly not sure. I feel as though you could find a handful of people supporting the disagreement of slavery and how they were treated in this time.

As far as effectiveness of the impact this cartoon had on people in the 19th century, I really think that depends on each individual person. I do feel like class would have been a big factor as well, for lower-class and some middle-class people that didn't have slaves of their own, I feel as though they would have more of an open mind about a cartoon such as this one. However, upper-class people I feel would have been 100% against this cartoon and everything it represented because they were the ones utilizing the slaves more than anyone. Now, not every household that had slaves working in and around it were treated completely terribly, there were slave-owners that treated their slaves like real people. Still employees of their estate and under their command but definitely treated better than almost all other slaves. The households that were more humane towards their slaves probably felt a little differently however, freedom of the slaves would mean no longer having ownership of their slaves. Overall, I feel as though the message this cartoon was portraying only resonated with a few people here and there.

Learning about it today just makes me resent the time that people were treated as badly as they were based on the color of their skin. I feel very passionately about racism, I would go as far to say that it is my favorite thing to learn about in history even though it makes me angry to know people were really treated so badly at one point and time. I have much respect for the person that drew this cartoon as, I assume, blacks weren't given the resources to create such a drawing nor have the privilege to release their feelings on anything to the public despite the Freedom of Speech amendment. The person who drew this cartoon is one of the few people in the handful of people at this time that saw things differently than the majority. They saw how not okay the treatment of slaves was and despite the disagreement that was more-than-likely received from their audience they still put out a piece of work that said so much at this point and time in hopes of it reaching some people among that

horrible crowd that treated their slaves so badly.

Although this cartoon was drawn in another age, there are still people in this world that feel this way. Based on the color of someones skin and where they came from, they aren't good enough to be treated like a real human being and respected and acknowledged as one. Based on the culture of 2016, we have come such a long way since racism was one of the biggest problems of the world. I am friends with people of various different ethnicities and vice versa because slavery and racism were mostly overcome in the United States; the hard part is that, although we would like to feel like this is a resolved issue we needn't worry about anymore, there are still people out there in our world today that will not give people of different ethnicities the same opportunities or respect as white people. It's despicable and breaks my heart everyday knowing this is a problem that could quite possibly never be fully resolved.

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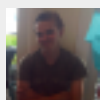
Am I Not A Man?

by [Bryan Jakiemiec](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 8:18 PM

This cartoon is from a cartoonist who does not believe in slavery. The main point that the author was trying to make is that he does not understand why some white people still do not see the black person as an equal. My interpretation was led by the shackled slave on his knee looking to the sky with the caption “Am I not a man and a brother?” Both the white person and the black person are human beings, but why does the color of skin determine how one should be treated? I do not think this cartoon would have been very effective in the 19th century in the sense that it would not influence slave owners to change their mind about having slaves. A simple cartoon will not have the effect of changing someone’s deeply rooted beliefs, but hopefully it led to some slave owners thinking about their treatment of black people and slaves.

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Uncomfortable history

by [Samuel Black](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 9:10 PM

After seeing the cartoon, *The Scales*, it was quite clear this one struck me the most. This cartoon is a clear illustration of a concept that many people seem to either be ignorant of or choose to ignore. The north was not an all-race loving society, in fact by today’s standards their racists attitude would be far beyond what we see these days. The cartoon shows a scale with an African man sitting on when arm called ‘South” and an Irishmen sitting on the one titled “North”. This is showing that to the northerners, the Irish were to them as the Africans were to the south, a lower race. Which was hinted at last week in class when Joe talked about only 0.5% of the population being abolitionists.

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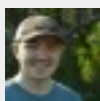
The Promised Land?

by [Victoria Hayles](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 9:23 PM

When I first saw “the promised land” I immediately noticed that the cartoonist most likely had an anti-Catholicism outlook. The main item that led to my interpretation was the catholic priest pointing towards America, when in class Joe had talked about American nativism which included a negative view of Catholicism. In the background of the picture, there was some pikes which lends a threatening, dangerous mood to the scene, thus solidifying the anti-Catholicism theme to this cartoon

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Re: The Promised Land?

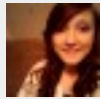
by [Kevin Smolek](#) – Friday, January 29, 2016, 12:45 PM

I agree with your interpretation for the most part. I think the artist was trying to imply the catholics were attempting an invasion of sorts, symbolised by the pikes in the background, and the gleeful looks on the

faces.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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An Attack on Catholics

by [Kaelin Kane](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 10:28 PM

The cartoonist who drew this is Thomas Nast and he did not have a very fond idea of Catholicism. “Nast considered the Catholic Church as a threat to American values.” (Wikipedia) This is a great explanation of the message that this depiction conveys.

The Monk is setting his sights on the US. The Pope (with the Mitre, or headdress with the cross) is maliciously rubbing his hands together at the satisfying prospect of infiltrating another country. There’s pole axes in the background are there to reinforce the idea that they’re going to force their way into American culture.

An opposing view may be that Catholicism isn’t this force that’s going to manipulate American culture, it’s simply another religion that deserves the same amount of respect as Protestantism.

Mostly Whigs but many Democrats who weren’t fond of Irish immigration would have agreed on this issue. If someone as influential as Thomas Nast was circulating this cartoon, this depiction would’ve been very effective. Religion has a huge influence on every political country today and by switching out only a few characters, you can have a modernized political cartoon with the same effectiveness in our culture.

I have some family that is Catholic and the influence they had on my father and seeing what happens in between them is concerning. I recently saw the movie *Spotlight*, (based off a true story) which shows there is an alarming amount of corruption, child sexual abuse, and molestation present in the modern day church. “From 2001 to 2010 the Holy See, the central governing body of the Catholic Church, considered sex abuse allegations concerning about 3,000 priests dating back up to fifty years.” (Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church_sexual_abuse_cases

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Nast#Style_and_themes

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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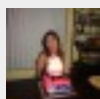
Re: An Attack on Catholics

by [Coal Taylor](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9:57 PM

What I find interesting is how well this post can tie into the other topic in this forum, about Hollywood mythology. You said you saw the movie *Spotlight*, and that it gave you some insights about the modern Catholic religion. I would be interested to see how much of the movie was giving a true account of the history and how much of was giving half-truths and mythologies designed to make the movie more dramatic and interesting.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Am I Not A Man And A Brother?

by [Nicolle Tapia](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 10:35 PM

Conclusions that I can draw from this cartoonist’s opinion is that the artist is probably against slavery or wants to show a different side because he drew a slave and writes in “Am I Not A Man And A Brother?” The artist is trying to show the side of a slave that nobody back in the 19th century really considered. Although the slaves did have different color skin, they were not less than the white man in the United States. The artist shows that the slave is not only a man but also a brother. What stands out most in this cartoon other than the message and the chains on the slave but also the detailed muscles drawn out. Showing us that they are just like us and have a similar body figure to them. This saying that they are just like us, they are humans just like us and should be treated like our brother or sister not as slaves who the white men would torture and mistreat for no reason.

An opposing view might be that they are not seen as brothers or men (or human in this case) that they

are used for one purpose only and that would mean they are only used as slaves to work the fields or in the houses. Or even women concubines for their white masters. A 19th century american who would support that message would be Jackson because we learned in class that he had many slaves working in his fields and in his home. He worked them and when he died they continued to make them work and did not set them free. He believed in slavery and he never saw them as humans and would never picture slaves as his equal.

It was probably effective in a way that could raise some eyebrows. Many people probably saw this cartoon and realized that maybe slaves should be given the chance to be free or even seen as equals even though their skin color is not the same of a white man. This cartoon is extremely effective to me simply because I have always respected people of color and I was always taught to love and care for everyone who is kind to me. So seeing this painting and realizing that even when they did nothing wrong, the white men believed they could compare the blacks to “monkeys”, so they would take them in as slaves, and that is repulsive to think that just because they had different color skin, they could treat them that way. I just believe that with all the incidents that have been happening to black people, especially with the police force, I still feel compassion for them and a trend has occurred that everyone now wants to support which is “Black Lives Matter” and to me everyone’s life matters and everyone should be treated equally and also with respect.

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Re: Am I Not A Man And A Brother?
by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 7:12 PM

I completely agree with your views on this cartoon, up to the point at which you argue the effectiveness of the cartoon. I believe that the picture would not raise eyebrows. It is a hard thing to understand, but much like the way you were raised to view everybody as equals regardless of their skin color, southern slave holders were raised to view blacks as a lesser form of life and to be used as slaves. If you saw a cartoon today that portrayed blacks as a lower form of life, you would disregard it and write it off as some crazy idiot that clearly does not understand that all people should be treated equally regardless of their skin color. I believe the same would hold true back then to Southerners that saw this cartoon. They were raised on a completely different set of morals, and most likely disregarded the cartoon.

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Political Cartoon: At the South
by [Robert Driver](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 10:51 PM

I would say that the political cartoon portraying the black (and most likely slave) mother scaring her child into obedience with the threat of a “bobolitionist” running away with him was written by an anti–abolitionist, who is calling the abolitionists monsters and suggesting that blacks don’t really want to be free. I found it easier to understand (and funnier, despite its being pro–slavery) than most of the other political cartoons. I also find it interesting to think that there was a time when people were actually defending slavery. All too often, such unpleasant bits of history are glossed over and ignored.

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Re: Political Cartoon: At the South
by [Bryan Jakiemiec](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9:46 PM

I agree with your points. The author also puts nice cloths on the slaves and makes the living conditions around the slaves suitable. Perhaps giving off a false reality of slave living conditions in order to make it seem like the abolitionist are taking slaves out of something that they do not want to leave.

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by [Mason Kotz](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 11:27 PM

I think the picture of the scale, Am I Not a Man, and at the south all have a specific look at slavery but I really like how the at the south picture showed a mother scolding her child. But instead of it being a bad thing the mother is scolding her child I think it is cool that she is instead like he be bad and I will make you run away to the free north and that will fix things for you.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons

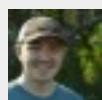
by [Zachary King](#) - Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 8:36 PM

I think you misunderstand the cartoon, she is saying that if the child is bad that they will be taken away from their family and will never see their family again. This is a threat the the child by the mother.

It seems like the idea is that the mother is content to be a slave and is using the abolitionists as a threat toward her child.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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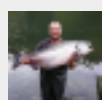
At the south, A Democratic Sterotype

by [Kevin Smolek](#) - Monday, January 25, 2016, 11:40 PM

The cartoon titled At The South, shows a slave mother attempting to scare her child with tales of abolitionists coming to take them away. I think the artist was a whig, and was attempting to show not only the racist views held by the south, illustrated by the way the caption is spelled, but also to show the fear in the south caused by the abolistionist movement. This northern cartoon in my opinion, was intended to discredit the south, and show that the anti-slave movement was working, and that the south was in fear of it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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scale

by [Daniel Swisher](#) - Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 6:30 PM

This cartoon really grabbed my attention because there is a concept behind it that I did not grasp until learning about it in this class. The white man on the northern side of the scale is equal to the black man on the southern side of the scale. I believe the man on the northern side of the scale is an Irish immigrant. To northerners, he is viewed as a lower form of life. Much like the black man is viewed to southerners as a lower form of life. The cartoon made no sense to me at first, but once I noticed that the white man was drawn with an unusual face, and baggy looking clothes I realized that the cartoon must have been drawn by a Northerner that was very against Irish immigration to the states. Almost anybody you talk to on the street today knows that blacks were mistreated, but I would be willing to bet that most do not fully understand how many northerners rejected the idea of Irish immigration.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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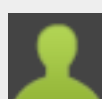
Re: scale

by [Clayton LeaMaster](#) - Thursday, January 28, 2016, 10:31 AM

I also took a look at The Scale and I did not see the things that you saw. I thought it was saying that whites and blacks were equal but I did not pay attention to the "north" and "south" on the scale. Assuming that the white man is an Irish immigrant is a great observation.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Am I not a Man and a Brother

by [Zachary King](#) - Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 8:01 PM

I choose this cartoon because I identify with the idea that all people regardless of color or nationality are all equal. We are all people, the only time that a person should be judged differently is on their actions, not who they are.

This cartoon is definitely from an Anti-Slavery prejudice. The saying at the bottom; "Am I not a man and a Brother?" along with the picture of a man in chains and in a position of begging combined to show that the artist was anti-slavery.

At the time many people did not agree that Blacks were equals, but primarily the abolitionists would have agreed with this. alot of your anti-slavery people, still did not want to see the slaves as equals.

Today I would relate this issue to the muslin issue currently being debated. Not that anyone is saying that Muslims are not equally people, but the current argument that we should strip all Muslims of rights and remove them from the nation to protect the society falls into a very similar argument.

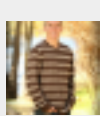
Removing a persons inalienable rights because they are of a different race, color, or creed is wrong. America should be a place where everyone is free to do as they wish as long as they do not infringe on the rights of others.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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The Scale Continued



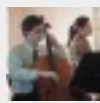
by [Justin Smith](#) – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 9:23 PM

To answer the question of how effective this cartoon was in the time period that it was created, I would say that it probably would've been very effective. It relates to the social issues that were happening in both the north and south and it shows that each issue was equally as drastic within each region. In the north, the huge amount of catholic immigrants coming to the United States was causing schooling issues, working issues, and much more. And of course in the south there was the problem of slavery. In my opinion, Thomas Nast does a great job of showing how each part of the country had it's own major social issue occurring and he does it with the use of a simple cartoon.

As a student, i feel that it is very important to learn about both of these issues. Before this history class, I was never taught that catholic immigrants were being discriminated against in the north. In the grand scheme of it all, I'd say that slavery was a much bigger issue just because of how brutal and how long it was in this country; but I think it is still very important to know that people in the north weren't perfect human beings by any means and that is how a lot of lower level history is taught.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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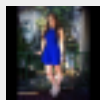
Editorial Cartoons: The Promised Land.

by [Titus Young](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 12:53 PM

The editorial cartoon: The Promised Land, depicts various residents of Europe standing on a church steeple. Clearly seen are Catholics, monks, and an army. They are all gazing intently across the Atlantic Ocean toward America. The pope is seen talking to what looks like a king. Obviously discussing America as the king is pointing towards America. This cartoon is probably referring to how many catholic immigrants there are coming into America, and that they were afraid that Europe might invade America (hence the army behind the king).

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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"At the South"

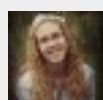
by [McKalie Bellew](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 9:27 AM

Since the "At the South" cartoon is being discussed more I thought I would take a closer look at it. I have noticed some are focusing on the caption more than the picture and others and I think that the spelling of the words makes so much sense to the theme of the cartoon. In my English class last term we read a book called, "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston. In this book Hurston goes back and forth between correctly grammatical narration and Southern dialect which really added a bigger understanding to the plot of the story. In the At the South cartoon, the incorrect spelling of these words make sense because that's really how the Blacks and I'm sure even some of the rest of the Southern population sounded in this time. I don't feel that the term 'nigger' was used in a derogatory way either. That's what Blacks were referred to as; it is extremely derogatory and disrespectful to use such language now but I feel as though calling people certain things based on the color of their skin was just how things were at this time.

My biggest question with this cartoon is, is she using this threat that if the boy, Julius, doesn't behave well she's going to call the Abolitionists to take him away to scare him into behaving the right way? Kind of like a reverse psychology approach? I assume that a mother wouldn't actually let their child be taken away under any circumstances let alone call someone to have them taken away, I just would love to hear someone's thoughts and input on the approach of this "punishment" from the mother to her child.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: "At the South"

by [Victoria Hayles](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 9:43 PM

When I saw this cartoon and the mother threatening her child, I actually assumed that the cartoonist was making that a 'tongue in cheek' joke. The way I see it is that most black families in the south would see the abolitionists as good people, not people who would take children away.

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Sum of ratings:1 (1)



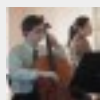
Holy horror – who is the monster?
by [Zachary King](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 11:21 AM

Looking at holy horror, the idea it shows me, is that the white lady is really a monster underneath because she voted against black suffrage. Where as the black lady is portrayed as a beautiful person just wanting equal rights.

I believe the message is one of pro-suffrage and equality.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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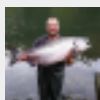


Editorial Cartoons: The Scale
by [Titus Young](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 1:22 PM

The editorial cartoon: The Scale, depicts two men on a scale. One is a black man while the other is a white man. When it is described you might expect the two men not to be equal, however, they are equally balanced and looking right at each other. At the top of the scale the two sides are labeled "South"(over the black man) and "North"(over the white man). There is no sub-script, just this picture. I wonder if the artist was trying to promote equal rights for all skin colors, or if they were showing that the amount of blacks in the south were equal to the white people in the north. The white man is clothed in nice clothing with shoes and a top hat, while the black man is shoeless and wearing farmer's clothes. Could this be saying that the black slaves of the south were equal to the northern abolitionists? For me, this cartoon is hard to tell whether it is pro-slave, or pro-slavery. Maybe I am just missing something or maybe the artist had yet to decide for himself.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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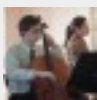


Re: Editorial Cartoons: The Scale
by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 9:01 PM

I also chose to try and depict this cartoon for myself. I disagree with you when you say the artist is yet to decide for themselves.It is my take that this picture was drawn by a northerner trying to show that Irish immigrants are a nuisance in the north, just as the blacks are a nuisance in the south. The "monkey like" face on the white man is the artists way of showing that the white man is an Irish immigrant. The cartoon is aimed to bash the Irish immigrant. This is why the black man is smiling across the scale. He thinks it's funny that he is finally equal to a white man.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons: The Scale
by [Titus Young](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 6:08 PM

Thank you for pointing out that the white man is an Irish immigrant I had completely forgotten how much Americans disliked them. Thank you for clearing that up for me.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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The Holy Horror
by [Victoria Hayles](#) – Thursday, January 28, 2016, 9:31 PM

I didn't understand The Holy Horror at first, until I looked at it from the anti-slavery point of view. Why this was hard for me to see was that back in those days, African Americans were drawn as unattractive and simple. In this cartoon however, the black woman is beautiful and the white woman is seen as ugly and arrogant, which to me makes this cartoon so powerful.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Editorial Cartoon: Am I Not A Man
by *Titus Young* – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 6:06 PM

The editorial cartoon: Am I Not A Man, shows a black slave, bound in chains, kneeling with his hands folded. Underneath his feet is a banner with the words "Am I Not A Man And A Brother?". This sends a very potent message of how slaves wished for freedom. Obviously this cartoon was drawn by either an abolitionist, or a freed slave. It is pleading for freedom for slaves and equal rights. The "Am I Not A Man" part is asking for freedom, because all men are equal. The "And A Brother" part is asking for equal rights because, you should treat all your brothers the same as you would want them to treat you.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Editorial Cartoons
by *Kevin Smith* – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 6:59 PM

Am I not a man:

In *Am I Not a Man and A Brother?*, the artist depicts a slave in chains, pleading his case as an equal to an oppressor beyond the frame. The Illustrator seems to use a well known format to present the man. The scroll lying underneath the man, reading “AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER”, along the the profile view of the slave, is reminiscent of the style used in currency and coin. Following the curvature of the scroll the cartoon would be framed as a circle or an oval, and while modern paper currency would not be introduced for years to come, this design was in a similar style used in coin around the mid 19th century, as well as coin today. Why the artist would use such a technique is not certain. The symbolism of slaves having monetary value as property would be a strong social commentary, or perhaps it was only means to easily reach a diverse and expansive audience. The technique is effective regardless of it's application, the portrait of a man desperately pleading for mercy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Scale
by *Dan Johnson* – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9:55 PM

The Scale depicts a southern African-American man and an Irish man looking at each other with their respective views of each other shown on their faces as they are deemed equals under the law through the "scale of justice". The cartoonists uses to common stereotypes of the time to depict both individuals. For the Irish man, he shows he is poor based off the condition of his clothes and the roughness of his face. Also, he indicates he is Irish because the Irish were commonly characterized at the time as being more primitive than "white" citizens through the imposition of ape-like features onto their faces. The African-American man is depicted as happy-go-lucky and naive while he wears no shoes and looks Northward with joy.

The cartoonists shows the dissonance in views between the optimism of the African-American man towards the onset of equality in the North and the reality of a Northern part of the population that could potentially make their lives much worse than they ever could have expected as they excepted true equality. The actuality of equality as the cartoonist implies was closer to the equality of immigrants and African-Americans as they were allowed to fight for the dominant position amongst the other groups of second class citizens.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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The Scale
by *Dan Johnson* – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9:50 PM

Another interpretation of The Scale is that the cartoonist is attempting to portray the African-American and the Irish man as equal to one another in each others' regional contexts. As in, the southern equivalent to the northern Irish man is the southern African-American. The cartoonist depicts that the African-American man's lack of intelligence makes him accept his place and in some respect makes his place as a lesser individual of the United States. At the same time, he depicts the Irish man's lack of sophistication and refinement and to a lesser extent intelligence make him equal to the southern African-American man in his Northern context as being lesser. Unlike the African-American man, it shows the Irish man as less willing to except his place, and in many

ways for the people of the time, even more of a nuisance than that of the African–American man of the South because of their strong will.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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At the South

by *Dan Johnson* – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10:21 PM

At the South reminds me of the arguments used to support the use of sweat shops in foreign countries. For example, the idea that without the sweat shops the foreign workers would be unable to fend for themselves economically and that the system in some ways gives them more than they would otherwise have. The "you're better off this way" argument seems to be a staple of most abusive systems for two reasons. It keeps, in this case, the slaves questioning their capacity for self–reliance and autonomy, and it maintains the idea to outside detractors that they shouldn't intervene because it would actually be against the will and well–being of the slaves themselves. From the side of the southerners, it is an effective way to add more complexity and difficulty to the abolitionists' efforts to maintain their moral high ground.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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