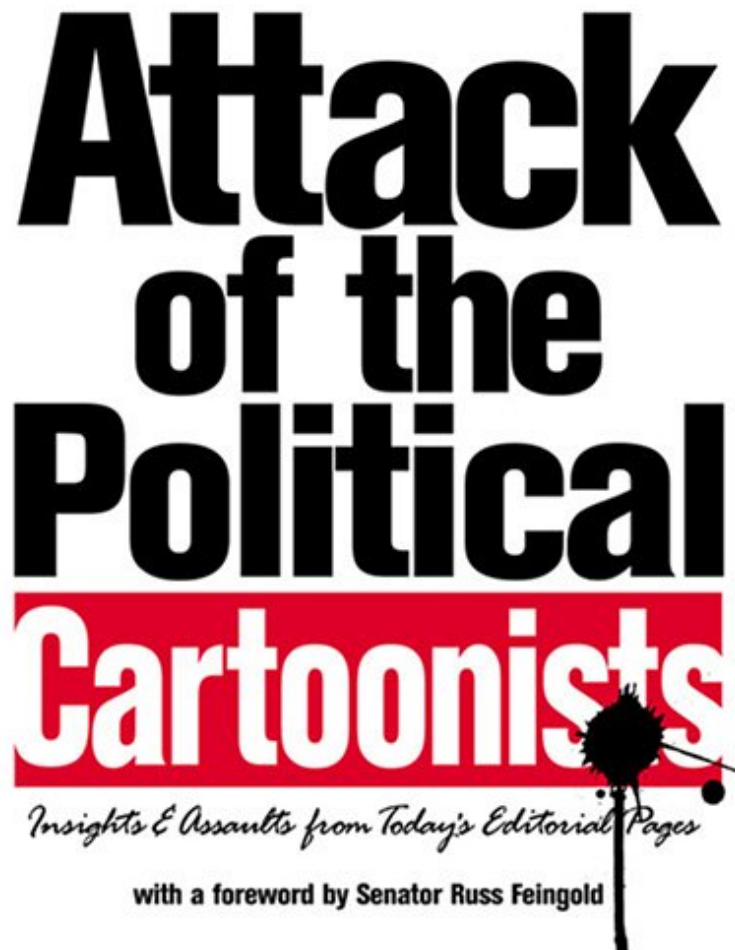


## Attack of the Political Cartoonists

*J.P. Trostle*

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**J.P. Trostle : Attack of the Political Cartoonists** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Attack of the Political Cartoonists:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Be the response an "ah" of agreement or an "argh" of disgust....By Robert MorrisInorder to review the history of political cartoons before examining this book, I surfed the Web and came upon a site which shares a wealth of information: [...] I now presume to suggest that this brief history be read first. (Some may find sufficient background information in Lucy Shelton Caswell's even shorter Introduction to this volume.) Credit J.P. Trostle with the selection and editing of the material which focuses on representative work by almost 150 political cartoonists, introduced in alphabetical order. Together, they do indeed offer a wealth of illustrated "insights assaults from today's editorial pages."Of course, our exposure to political cartoons is limited by the number of daily newspapers and weekly news magazines we read. For that reason, I especially appreciate seeing the works of

cartoonists of whom I was previously unaware. That is one of the greatest benefits this volume offers. I also appreciate the wide range of perspectives on the most prominent public figures. As Caswell correctly notes, almost all of the selections will elicit one of two responses: an "ah" of agreement or "argh" of disgust. For various reasons, political cartoons have an immediate, often compelling impact which Op Ed articles, for example, seldom have. They often seem to me to be the visual equivalent of a sound bite. The most compelling measure up to standards which Pat Oliphant set for himself years ago: To create "a graphic distillation of the personality of the strutting popinjay on last night's news. [His audience] wants a visual rendering of immediacy and endurance that can be cut from the printed page and saved on the refrigerator, or if disliked, can be ripped from the page, have rude recommendations scrawled upon it, and mailed back to the artist. Such people, pro and con, possess awareness and opinion, and as such are to be blessed." High standards indeed. Judge for yourself which of the cartoonists' works included in this volume measure up to them. One final point. Whatever the political loyalties and inclinations may be, it seems imperative to me that those in the news media should do all they can to accommodate a wide and deep diversity of opinion. Many eminently qualified persons have refused to become involved in the political process because it is too often polarized and mean-spirited. (Colin Powell is only one of several such persons who come to mind.) On an admittedly personal note, I conclude with the hope that we follow Voltaire's suggestion: cherish those who seek the truth but beware of those who find it. That is as relevant to elected officials as it is to cartoonists who portray them with caricatures such as those presented in this lively, entertaining volume.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worth the 1 cent price but not the 3.99 shipping

By P. Wagner This book shows why the number of editorial cartoonist positions at daily newspapers has plummeted from over 300 when I began doing cartoons in the 1970s and something like 60 now. Yes, there are over 100 who are members of AAEC and there are a bunch hanging on by their fingernails trying to sell through the internet. But they are not "alive and well," they are on life support and the art form is dead as a doornail. I was in it for a few years, myself, even though I was a radical "alternative" newspaper political cartoonist. There is nothing interesting about this book and nothing exciting about the cartoons, much less "rapier wit" as the usual hype falsely promises. The cartoons I drew 30 years ago that are in *Buy This Book and Buy This Too* are still hotter than any of these--you would think they could have come up with some gonads by now. What kind of attack are these guys talking about? A narcolepsy attack???

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Very Enjoyable Overview

By David Michael Attack of the Political Cartoonists is a highly enjoyable overview. Offering a page per cartoonist, you get a few samples of their work plus roughly a quarter page of bio information. The book offers a nice sample of individuals with different viewpoints on the world. It is a quick read and a helpful way to learn more about the cartoonist from your paper's editorial pages or to discover new editorialists you'd like to learn more about. Quality of the book is as high as I've always come to expect from Dork Storm Press, even in this new area of publishing.

Where the pen meets the sword With laser-like insight and rapier-sharp wit, the political cartoonist is alive and kicking in the 21st Century. Here 150 members of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, whose work has appeared in every major newspaper in the U.S. and beyond, join in this celebration of an art form for the mature mind. The cartoonists collected here have won hundreds of journalism awards, including more than a dozen Pulitzer Prizes. More importantly, they do not suffer fools - in politics, religion, or culture - and are always the first to step forward to shout "The Emperor has no clothes!" With an introduction by Lucy Caswell, professor of the Cartoon Resource Library at Ohio State University, and a foreword by U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, it's . . . Attack of the Political Cartoonists!