
Introduction to the Satire

Because funny stuff is funny stuff

The Anatomy of Satire

*“Tis the intent and business of the stage, To
copy out the follies of the age,
To hold to every man a faithful glass,*

And show him of what species he’s an ass”

-- John Vanburgh, The Provoked Wife (1697)

Humor Devices Pre-Test

- Humor
 - Wit
 - Comedy
 - burlesque
 - Satire
 - Parody
 - Verbal Irony
1. a work created to mock, comment on, or poke fun at an original work, its subject, author, style, or some other target, by means of humorous, satiric or ironic imitation.
 2. A form of intellectual humor
 3. the tendency of particular cognitive experiences to provoke laughter and provide amusement
 4. human or individual vices, follies, abuses, or shortcomings are censured by ridicule, derision, burlesque, irony, or other methods, ideally with the intent of improvement.
 5. any humorous discourse generally intended to amuse, especially in television, film, and stand-up.
 6. humorous theatrical entertainment involving parody and sometimes grotesque exaggeration

Humor Devices Pre-Test

- lampoon
 - caricature
 - slapstick
 - travesty
 - farce
 - invective
 - Situational irony
 - poop
1. a portrait that exaggerates or distorts the essence of a person or thing to create an easily identifiable visual likeness. In literature, a description of a person using exaggeration of some characteristics and oversimplification of others
 2. a discrepancy between the expected result and actual results when enlivened by perverse appropriateness
 3. a comedy which aims to entertain the audience by means of unlikely, extravagant, and improbable situations, disguise and mistaken identity, verbal humor of varying degrees of sophistication, which may include sexual innuendo and word play, and a fast-paced plot whose speed usually increases, culminating in an ending which often involves an elaborate chase scene.
 4. Could be a form of parody or a humor magazine, or a famous movie corporation
 5. verse genre primarily of the Renaissance, descended from the tradition of in classical Greek and Roman poetry. Emotionally violent, verbal denunciation or attack of a person or group.
 6. type of comedy involving exaggerated physical violence and activities which exceed the boundaries of common sense. These exaggerated depictions are often found in children's cartoons, and light film comedies aimed at younger audiences

What is Satire?

- Satire is a technique employed by writers to expose and criticize foolishness and corruption of an individual or a society by using humor, irony, exaggeration or ridicule. It intends to improve humanity by criticizing its follies and foibles. A writer in a satire uses fictional characters, which stand for real people, to expose and condemn their corruption.
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"All along I thought our level of corruption fell well within community standards."

What is Satire?

- A writer may point a satire toward a person, a country or even the entire world. Usually, a satire is a comical piece of writing which makes fun of an individual or a society to expose its stupidity and shortcomings. In addition, he hopes that those he criticizes will improve their characters by overcoming their weaknesses.
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What is NOT Satire?

- Saying, "GEORGE BUSH LOOKS LIKE A MONKEY DURRRRRRR" isn't satire, because you could just as easily make fun of the appearance of anyone.
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- Satire doesn't *have* to be political, but it has to cut to the core of the hypocrisy/idiocy of its real-life target in a way such that the most frequent targets are stupid political or social viewpoints.
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AND SHE GREN, and GREN, and GREN! SO LARGE, IN FACT, SHE FILLED THE HOUSE! SHE RAISED THE ROOF... ARMS and LEGS STUCK OUT DOORS and WINDOWS!

"CURIOUSER and CURIOUSER"

BOSTON HERBIBOY & TABERT

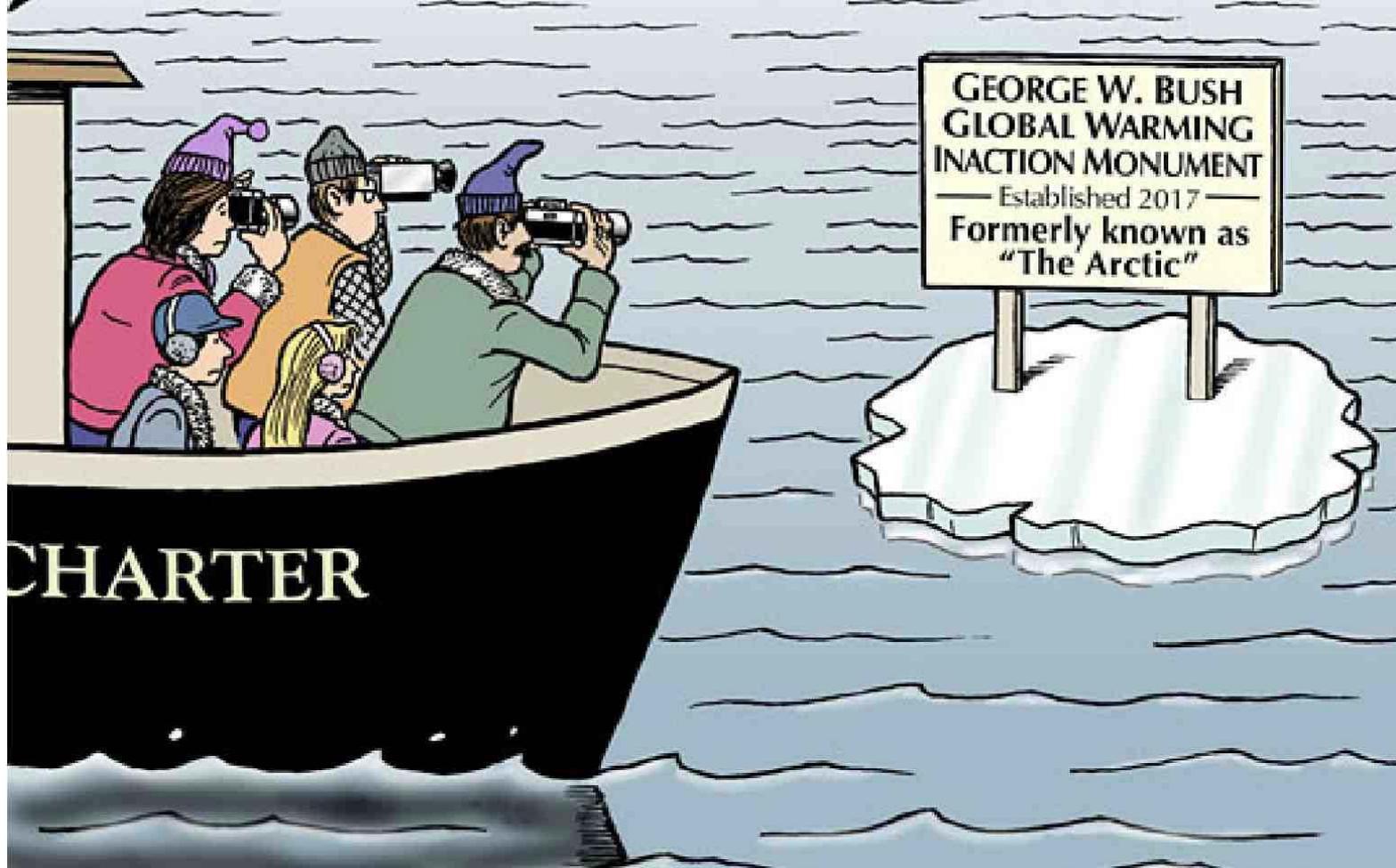
ALICE IN WONDERLAND?

THE DEMOCRATS' BUDGET



The Function of Satire

- The role of satire is to ridicule or criticize those vices in the society, which the writer considers a threat to civilization. The writer considers it his obligation to expose these vices for the betterment of humanity.
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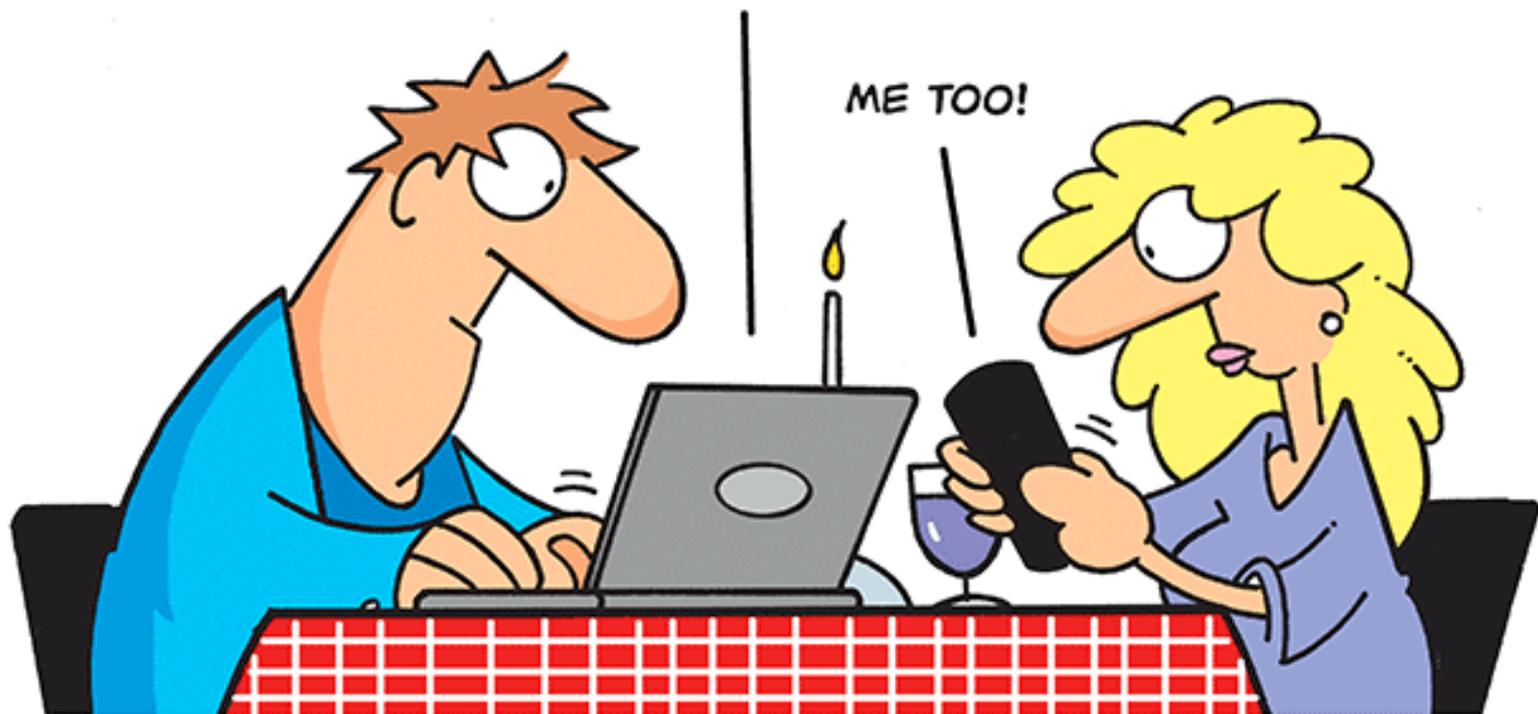


The Function of Satire

- Therefore, the function of satire is not to make others laugh at persons or ideas they make fun of. It intends to warn the public and to change their opinions about the prevailing corruption/conditions in society.
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AFTER ALL OUR
ONLINE CHATS,
I'M HAPPY TO
FINALLY MEET
YOU IN PERSON!

ME TOO!



Types of Satire

- Horatian: gentle, sympathetic form of satire. Mildly mocks the subject. The audience is asked to laugh at themselves as much as the players.



Types of Satire

- Juvenalian/juvenile: harsh and bitter satire



Two Types of Satirists

■ Optimist

- ❑ Likes people, but thinks they are rather blind and foolish
 - ❑ Tells the truth with a smile
 - ❑ Cures people of their ignorance
 - ❑ Writes in order to heal
 - ❑ Uses Horatian satire
-

Two Types of Satirists

- Pessimist

- Loves individuals, hates mankind
- Aim is to wound, to punish, to destroy
- Uses Juvenalian satire



Forms of Satire

- Diatribe, Invective:
 - Direct attack
 - Stated without irony or sarcasm
 - Do not have to figure out what the satirist is trying to say
 - Dennis Miller, Chris Rock, George Carlin
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Forms of Satire

- Caricature, Exaggeration:
 - Distortion for emphasis
 - Usually focuses on powerful subjects
 - Emphasize physical characteristics in order to make deeper criticism

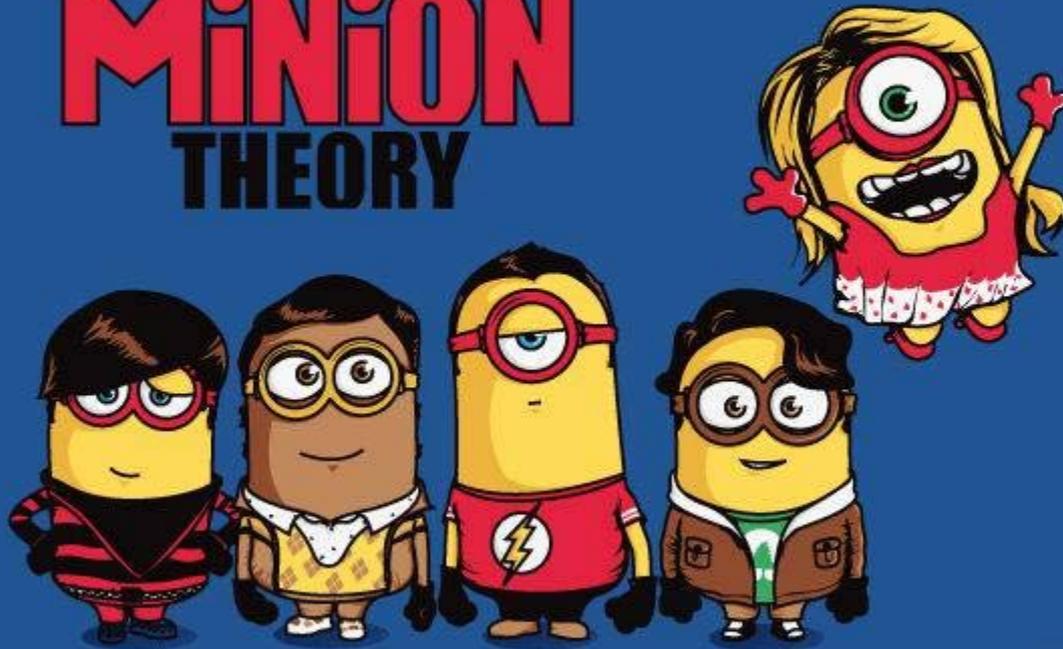


Parody

- Imitation which, through distortion and exaggeration, evokes amusement, derision, and sometimes scorn
- Borrows a pre-existing form
- The Daily Show, The Colbert Report
- Spaceballs



the **BiG** **MINION** THEORY



Types of Parody

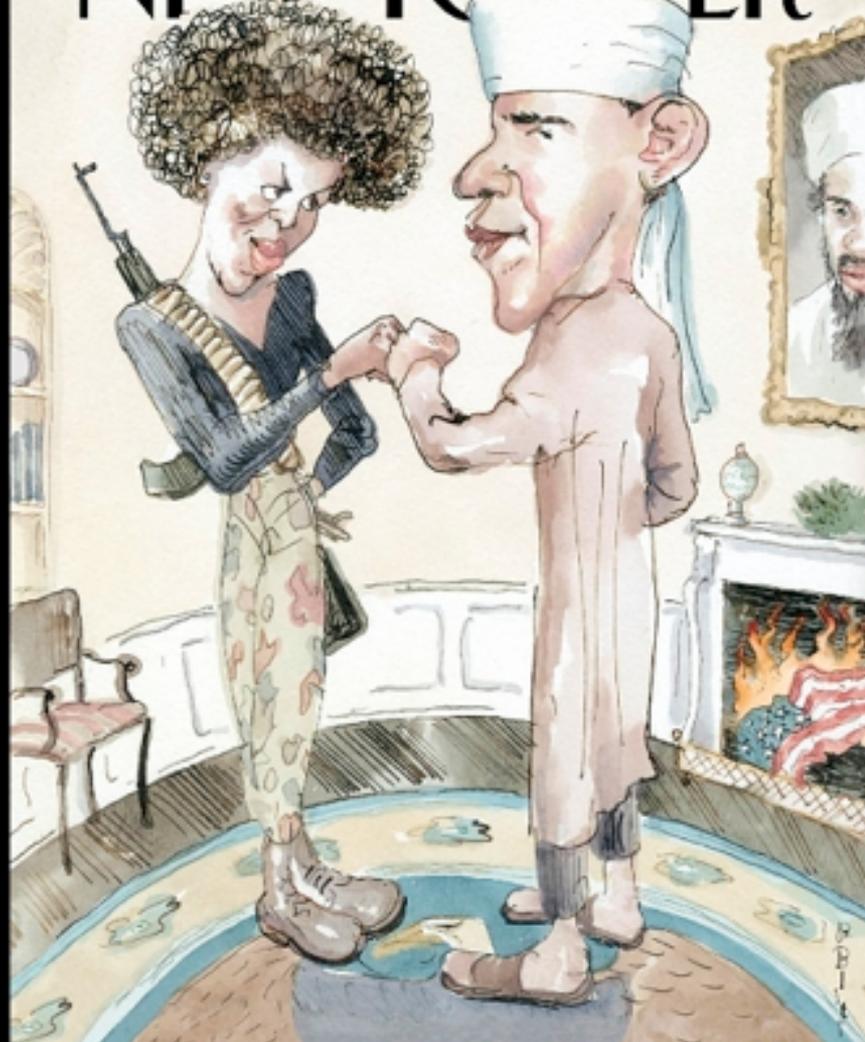
- Burlesque:
 - Vulgar
 - Treats subject with ridicule, vulgarity, distortion, and contempt
 - “Dear companions hug and kiss,
Toast old Glorious in your piss”
-- Jonathan Swift on the Irish parliament
-

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Types of Parody

■ Mock-heroic

- ❑ “like a laughing child wearing a full-scale suit of majestic armor”
 - ❑ Grand diction, lofty style
 - ❑ Takes a trivial or repellent theme and treats it with grandeur or feigned solemnity
 - ❑ The Onion Headline: “Loser Spends Entire Day in Bed”
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- Garrison Keillor:
 - The last cigarette smokers in America were located in a box canyon south of Donner Pass in the High Sierra by two federal tobacco agents in a helicopter who spotted the little smoke puffs just before noon. One of them, the district chief, called in the ground team by air-to-ground radio. Six men in camouflage outfits, members of a crack anti-smoking joggers unit, moved quickly across the rugged terrain, surrounded the bunch in their hideout, subdued them with tear gas, and made them lie flat down on the gravel in the hot August sun. There were three females and two males, all in their mid-forties. They had been on the run since the adoption of the Twenty-eighth Amendment.
 - What type of humor used? Give examples. To what extent do you agree with his comments? To what extent do you disagree.
-

GRAPHIC SATIRE PROPS & METAPHOR WAREHOUSE

Again?
We've only just
packed this lot
away...

