

# Satire

The use of **mockery, irony, humor**, and/or **wit** to **attack or ridicule** something such as a person, habit, idea, institution, society, or **custom** that is, or is **considered to be foolish, flawed or wrong**. The **aim** of satire is, or should be, **to improve human institutions and/or humanity**. Satire attempts through humor and laughter to **inspire** individuals, institutions, and humankind to **improve** or to **encourage** its readers to put pressure on individuals and institutions so that they may be improved for the benefit of all.

# Satire

- Satire **tries to persuade the reader to believe or to do something** by showing the opposite view as absurd, vicious, or inhumane. Satire is partially so complex, because it addresses **multiple audiences** at once with **multiple intents**.

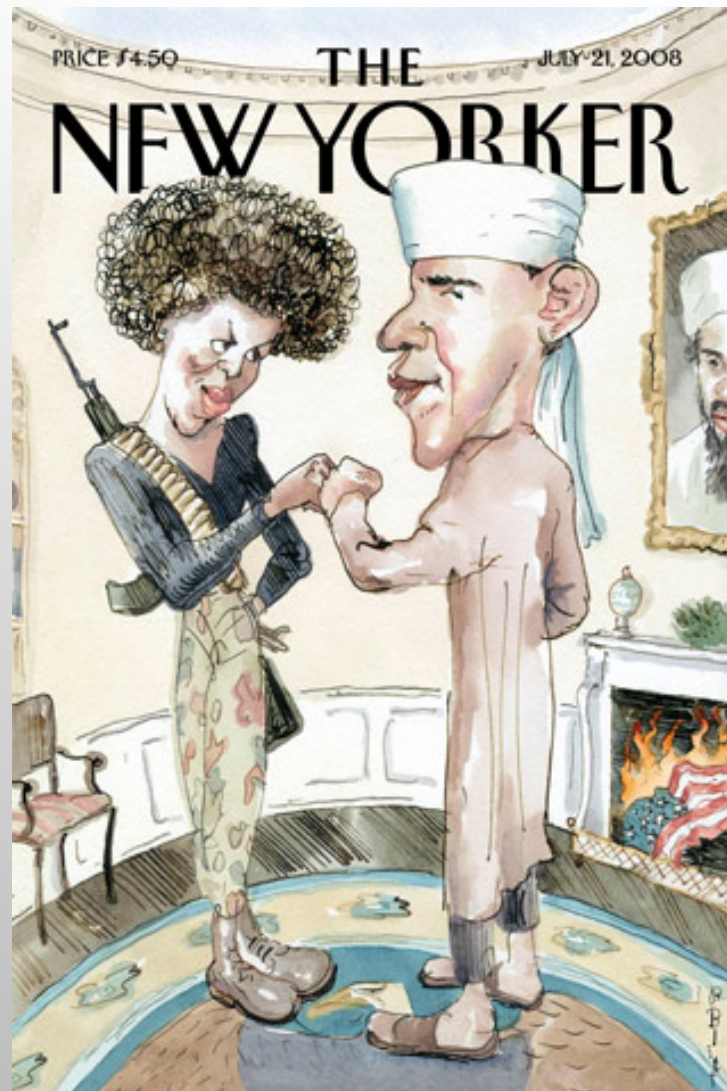
# Three Audiences

- 1. Those whom the author (or artist) believes to **already be in agreement**. (They would share in the “laugh”)
- 2. Those whom the author (or artist) **would like to ridicule** for their opposing viewpoint.
- 3. Those whom the author (or artist) believes **may be persuaded** through exposure to the satirical work – to think or act as he/she would like.

# Three *Intents* of the Satirist

- 1. To **show yourself intelligent and accomplished** to those on your side.
- 2. To **make those whom you disagree with look foolish**.
- 3. To **persuade** to your point of view, those who are intelligent enough to understand the satire and recognize the ridiculous (thereby “swinging” them to your side).

# Techniques of Satire



# Exaggeration/Hyperbole

- Making a small blemish bigger or a hidden vice or folly larger in order to make it visible is one of the best ways to point out its existence to the audience or to the target itself. Some specific types of exaggeration include the outrageous suggestions and proposals which often characterize satirical pieces and the writer's exaggeration of the customary diction and syntax of an individual, an agency, a text, or a publication.



# Exaggeration/Hyperbole

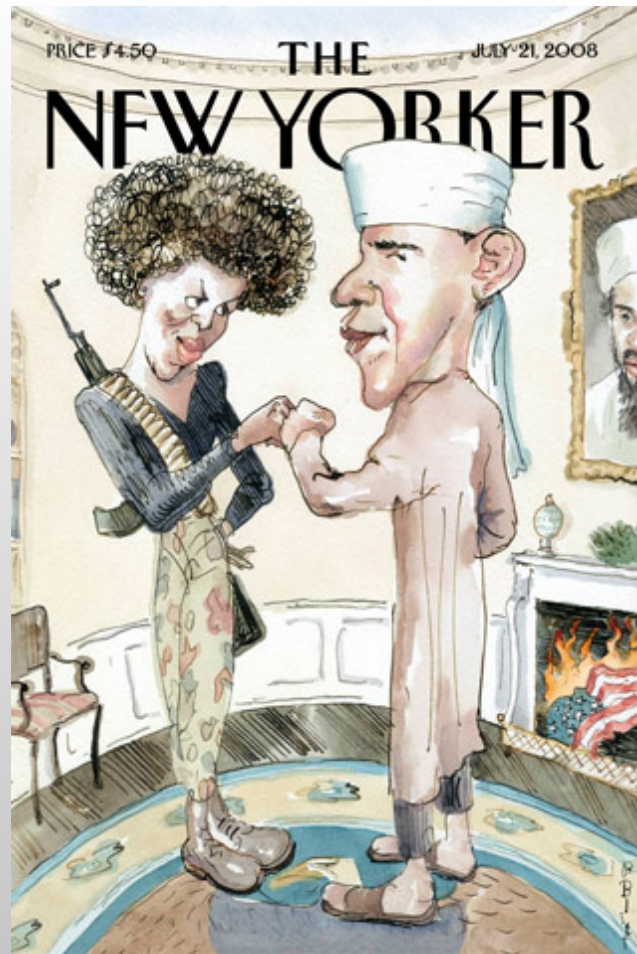


# Distortion

- Twisting or emphasizing some aspect of a condition, individual, or event tends to highlight it. A type of distortion may include the juxtaposition of inappropriate or incongruous ideas or things.



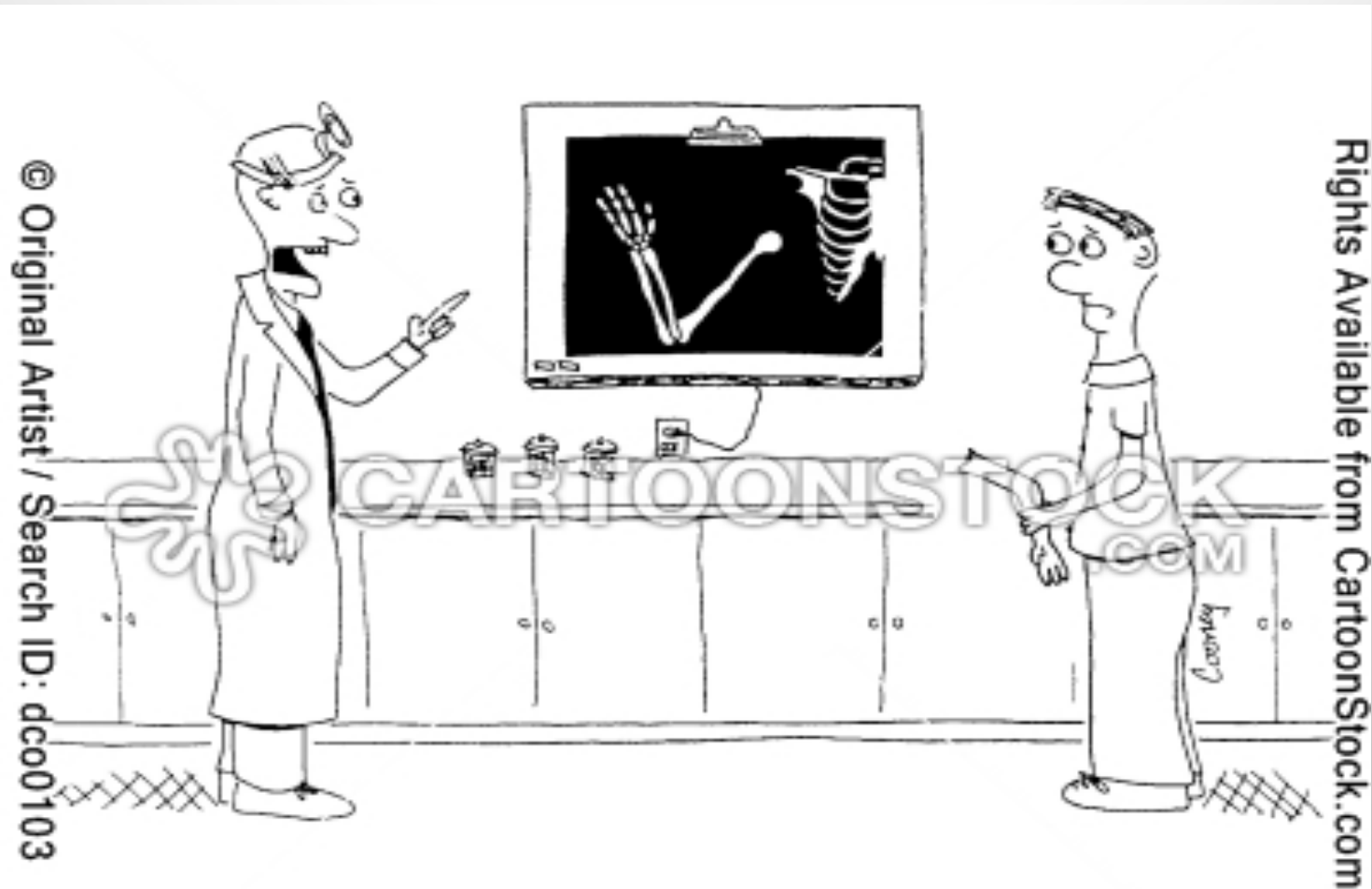
# Distortion



# Understatement

- When the folly or evil is so great that further exaggeration is impossible, understatement shows its true extent.

# Understatement



"It's definitely dislocated."

# Innuendo

- A valuable tool for the satirist because it allows him to implicate a target by a completely indirect attack. This is especially useful when the target is dangerous, for it is often possible to deny the insinuation.





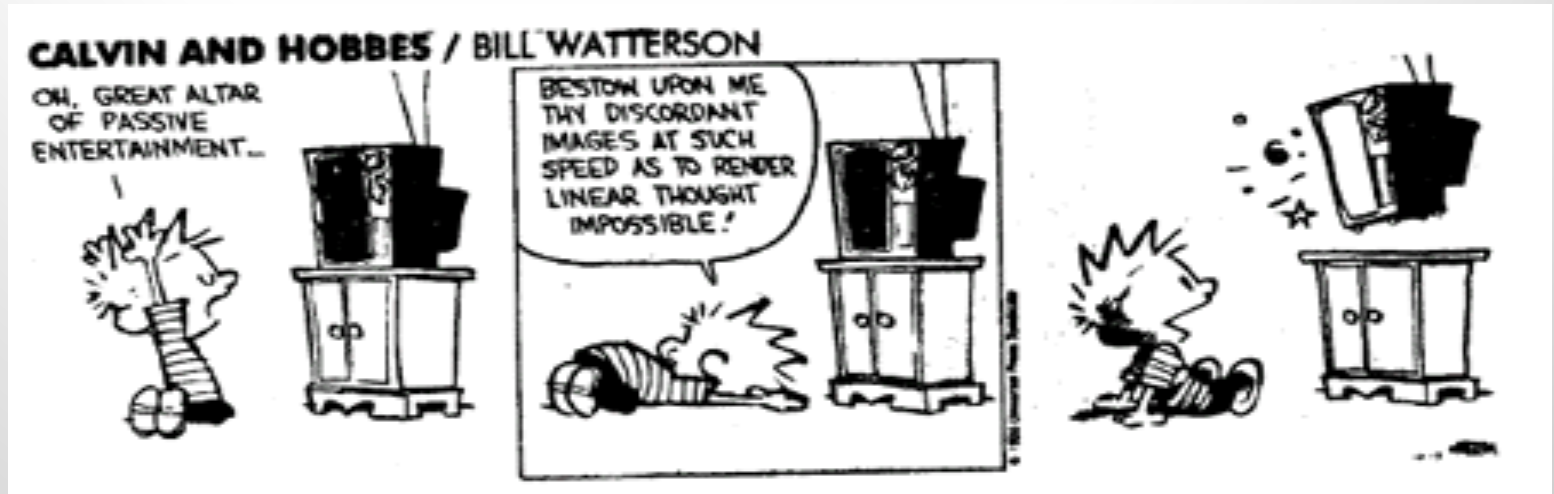




# Diction

- Use of silly or inherently funny words like “newt” and “nostril” can enhance satire.

# Diction



# Invective/Diatribes/Rant

- A speech that criticizes someone or something fluently and at a length. For example: “I see. Well, of course, this is just the sort of blinkered philistine pig-ignorance I’ve come to expect from you non-creative garbage. You sit there on your loathsome spotty behinds squeezing blackheads, not caring a tinker’s cuss for the struggling artist. You excrement, you whining hypocritical toadies with your color TV sets and your Tony Jackling golf clubs and your bleeding Masonic secret handshakes.” (John Cleese in Monty Python’s “Architect Sketch”)

# Diatribes/Rants/Invectives



# Pun/Malapropism

- Any construction capable of conveying a double meaning is likely to be employed in satire, since multiple meanings form the basis of much of satire.



# Malapropism

The use of an incorrect word in place of a word with a similar sound, resulting in a nonsensical, often humorous utterance.

**He had to use a fire distinguisher.**

**Dad says the monster is just a pigment of my imagination.**

**Isn't that an expensive pendulum round that man's neck?**

**He's a wolf in cheap clothing.**

**Michelangelo painted the Sixteenth Chapel.**

**My sister has extra-century perception.**

**"Don't" is a contraption.**

**I feel like dancing the flamingo.**



# Oxymoron

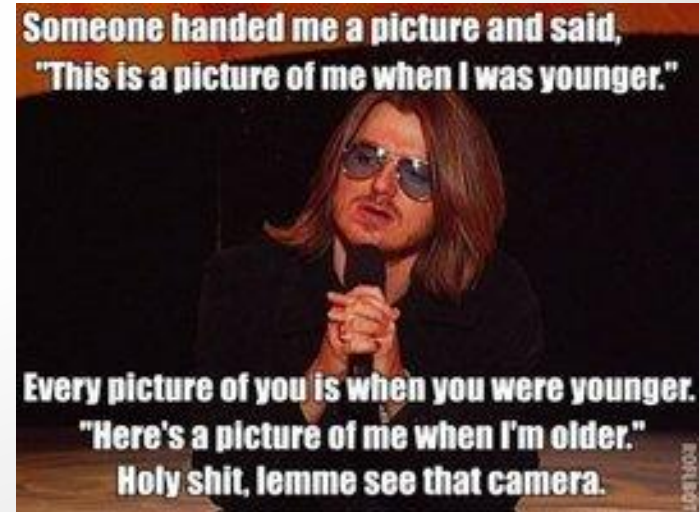
- Expressions composed of words that are not inherently mutually exclusive but express an opinion that the two cannot occur together, usually for satirical intent. For example, cruel kindness, business ethics,

# Parable and Allegory

- A single work can combine elements of an allegory, fable and satire. For example, the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is full of farm animal characters who represent Russian historical figures. The novel satirizes Communist ideas through the events and actions that the animals engage in on the farm. The story works as an allegory. On one level it is about animals living on a farm but, on another level, it is about the history of Russian Communism. The animal characters who possess human qualities make the story a fable and the novel's use of exaggeration and ridicule make it a satire.

# Sarcasm

- a sharply ironical taunt  
a sneering or cutting remark



The awkward moment when your sarcasm is so advanced that people actually think you are stupid.

