

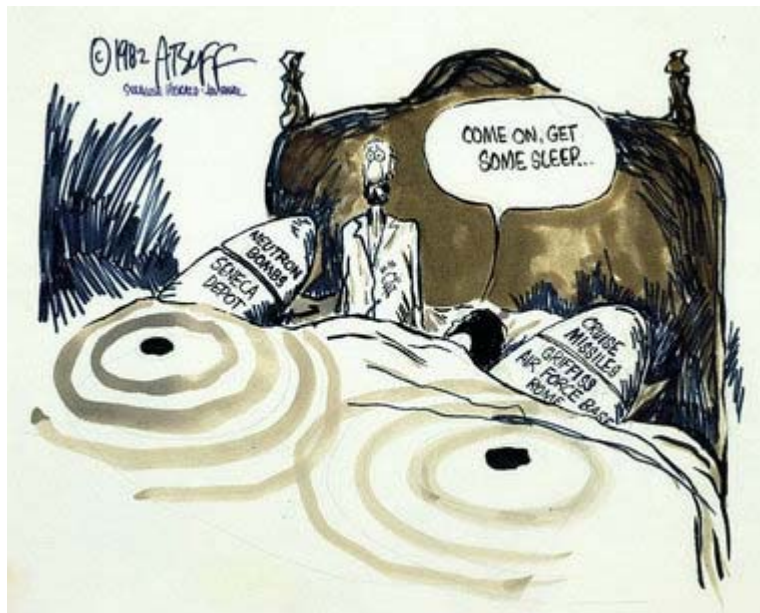
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Take No Prisoners: Onondaga Historical Association exhibit displays local political cartoons

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Hart Seely / The Post-Standard
By



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Courtesy of Tim Atseff / OHA

This 1982 Herald-Journal cartoon by Tim Atseff is part of the Onondaga Historical Association's "Take No Prisoners" exhibit.

They were the kids who doodled in math class, the ones with a bit of attitude. They grew up to draw donkeys with hands in cookie jars, and elephants walking off ledges.

"You only have a blink of an eye to get the point across," said Tim Atseff, whose political cartoons skewered national and local bigwigs in the Syracuse Herald-Journal for about 20 years. "The whole who idea is to evoke a strong response. If it just sits there on the page, it's not doing its job."

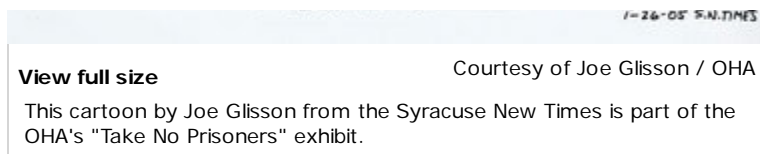
Atseff is one of three prominent local artists featured in "Take No Prisoners: Political Cartoons Over Time and Place," an exhibition opening Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at the **Onondaga Historical Association**.

The three -- Atseff, **Joe Glisson** and **Frank Cammuso** -- have drawn their satirical takes on Syracuse from the days of President Ronald Reagan and Mayor Lee Alexander to the current set of caricatures. The exhibit, sponsored by Syracuse University's Humanities Center, also includes cartoons that extend back to the Civil War.



The earliest work, drawn from the Association's archives, is an original cartoon, circa 1808, that ridicules graft within Syracuse's salt industry. Another original 1874 caricature pokes fun at Lt. Gov. Thomas Gold Alvord, a 19th-century local honcho.

The exhibit includes originals on loan from SU's collection, with local cartoonist Edgar F. Schilder (works from 1918-1950) illustrating his opinion



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Courtesy of Joe Glisson / OHA

This cartoon by Joe Glisson from the Syracuse New Times is part of the OHA's "Take No Prisoners" exhibit.

about the use of taxes and Chicago Tribune artist Carey Orr (works from 1917-1962) depicting the Democrats' chances in the 1928 election.

But it spotlights the trio, whose works have shaped

the local scene for more than 40 years.

Atseff started as a copy boy at The Herald-Journal in 1965 and impressed editors with his work. Until 1987, he served as the paper's in-house editorial cartoonist, skewering Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. He became the newspaper's managing editor and later founded and edited The Good Life Central New York magazine, until his recent retirement.



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Courtesy of the OHA

"Can the Law Reach Him? The Dwarf and the Giant Thief" by Thomas Nast was one of the most famous political cartoonists of the late 19th century. His caricature of political boss William Tweed became a symbol for New York government corruption in the 1870s.

Glisson built a successful freelance career, while serving as editorial cartoonist for the Syracuse New Times. Known for drawings that celebrate -- and/or mourn -- the Syracuse sporting scene, Glisson's illustrations of such coaches as Dick MacPherson and Jim Boenheim have comprised three books, including "Dome Sweet Dome: A Syracuse and National Sports Cartoon Retrospective."

Cammuso graduated from SU in 1987 and has drawn political cartoons for The Post-Standard for about the past 20 years. His works have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today and Newsweek. He has authored several books, including the young adult graphic novel series of "The Knights of the Lunch Table" and "Max Hamm: Fairy Tale Detective."

A reception featuring the artists will be announced at a later date.

The details

What: "Take No Prisoners: Political Cartoons Over Time and Place" exhibit

Who: Cartoonists Tim Atseff, Joe Glisson and Frank Cammuso

Where: Onondaga Historical Association, 321 Montgomery St., Syracuse

Duration: Wednesday to Nov. 15

Hours: Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: Free

More information: 428-1864 ext. 312 or **cnyhistory.org**

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