

Application for Daily Illini Editorial Cartoonist Fall 2007

Job Description: Cartoonists are meant to largely take the place of syndicated editorial cartoons like Tole's Take or caglecartoons.com that focus mainly on national issues. Cartoonists are encouraged to address local topics but all submissions will be judged on creativity regardless of scope. This position is different than that of illustrators, who are responsible for the drawings that accompany columns. Editorial cartoonists must be both strong artists and have a grasp of politics and the news. Editorial Cartoonists will be expected to produce multiple editorial cartoons (at least 2) per week.

Follow all instructions carefully. Incorrect or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Instructions:

1. Fill out the contact information completely.
2. Complete the short answer questions in as many (or as few) words as it takes. Your answers should be typed, single-spaced, and in a separate Word document.
3. Submit drawing samples.
 - a. Three sample editorial cartoons on campus topics (black and white)
 - b. One caricature for each of the following figures: George W. Bush, Rod Blagojevich, and one figure of your choosing. (black and white)
 - c. Up to three previously created pieces. This can be anything that offers insight into your personality or artistic talents — a drawing, a photograph, a painting. (Keep in mind these must be submitted electronically as an email attachment.)
4. Send all your materials (contact info sheet, short answers, and drawing samples) as attachments, in one email, to diopinions@gmail.com by **SATURDAY, MAY 12TH**. Emails should have the subject head: "Fall 2007 Cartoonist Application"

NOTE: If you do not have access to a scanner and need to submit your pieces on paper, please contact the opinions editor via email or phone as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Editorial Cartoonist Short Answer Questions:

1. What is the role of an editorial cartoonist? What responsibilities does the cartoonist have to their readers? To the paper?
2. Why should **you** be a Daily Illini editorial cartoonist? How can you contribute to the perspectives or diversity of the page?
3. As an editorial cartoonist, you will be expected to produce cartoons on a regular basis of two to 3 times a week. Where do you expect to get your ideas for your cartoons?
4. The editorial cartoonist and the illustrators bridge the gap between written and graphic content in the Daily Illini. What is the relation between the two? How could the DI make more effective use of art in sections other than the Opinions Page?

Daily Illini Editorial Cartoonist Contact Information Fall 2007

Name _____ Year in School _____

Major (s) _____ Minor(s) _____

Summer Contact Information

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Address _____

Campus Contact Information

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Address _____

Net ID: _____@uiuc.edu Preferred Email: _____

Other

Campus and community organizations you belong to: _____

Have you ever written or drawn for other publications? Which ones? _____

Have you ever had a letter to the editor published in the DI? If so, when? What topic was it about?

Expectations of a Opinions Department Member

Please read and initial the following requirements:

_____ 1. Columnists are required to write one column (approx.650 words) each week for the course of the semester. Cartoonists are required to submit at least two cartoons per week. Some cartoons will be held in stock for future use as the need arises.

_____ 2. Members are required to have at least one (ideally two) evergreen (non-dependent on current news trends) submissions on file to fill gaps and as insurance for unforeseen circumstances that may arise. These should be submitted ASAP after hiring.

_____ 3. Each columnist will be required to work with another columnist on Point/Counterpoint 2-3 times a semester. The pairings will be determined by the Opinions Editor at the beginning of the semester.

_____ 4. Each columnist will be required to contribute to the Opinions blog “Critical Mass” at least once every two weeks. Members are encouraged to contribute as much as they wish.

_____ 5. Writers (and artists as needed) are required to attend an edit with the Opinions Editor for every piece they submit, two days prior to publication. Some exceptions may be made, but only with the permission of the Opinions Editor. Edits are not only for the benefit of the paper, but also to improve the skills of the authors.

_____ 6. Members are required to attend a mandatory meeting once a week with the rest of the Opinions staff and are highly encouraged to keep in regular contact with the editors and other members of the department.

_____ 7. All members must conform to the Associated College Press Model Code of Ethics and other policies as determined by the editors and Illini Media Company.

_____ 8. The Opinions Desk employs a Three Strike Policy. An accumulation of three strikes may result in termination. Strikes may include, but are not limited to, missing an edit, failure to respond via email or a phone call to the Opinions Editor, or missing deadlines.

_____ 9. Some actions (such as plagiarism) are considered grounds for immediate termination.

_____ 10. Research is a vital component of the columnist position. Columnists must be prepared to back up any claims made in columns with credible evidence.

_____ 11. Being an employee of the Daily Illini is both a privilege and a responsibility. Any submission that is not to the standards of this publication will not be published.

Questions? Contact The Daily Illini Opinions Department at diopinions@gmail.com.

I have read and understand all the requirements listed above.

Signature _____ Date _____