

2021 Columnist Contest Award Winners

Thank you...

...to our amazing judges!

Gene Collier

Mary Beth Earnhardt

Lori Duff

Christy Heitger-Ewing

Curtis Honeycutt

Chuck Keller

Ginny McCabe

Cassie McClure

Dan O'Brien

Clarence Page

Rob Rogers

Suzette Standring

Mark Sweetwood

Craig Wilson

Special thank you...

...from contest chair, Adam Earnhardt to...

...our contest intern, Jamie Fisher.

...to Bonnie and Suzette.

Thank you all for your service,
charisma and leadership.

Thank you...

...to you, for entering the contest.

Over 200 entries from more than 120 publications. We couldn't do this without your amazing columns and content.

New in 2021: 10 Categories

General (print)

General (online)

Humor (print)

Humor (online)

Team

Sports

Lifestyles

Crisis Commentary

Social Justice

Editorial Cartoon

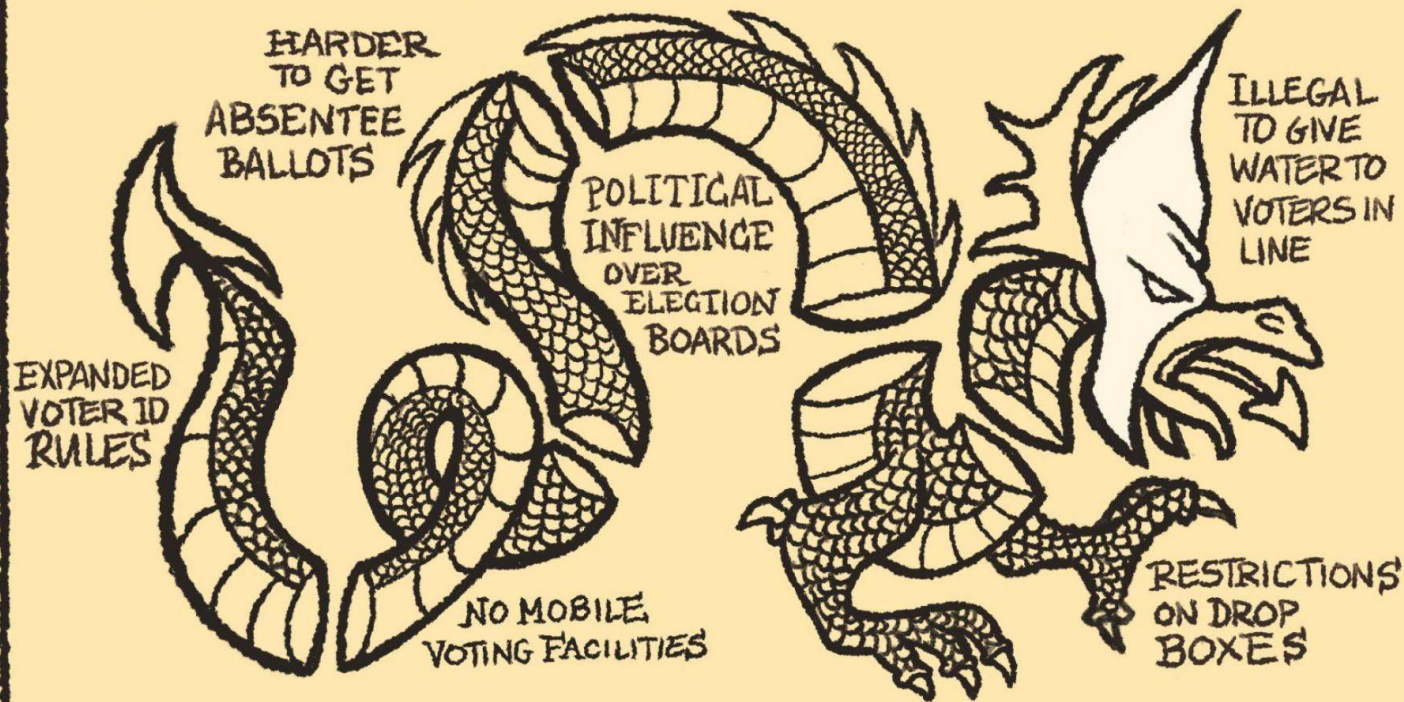
The image is a title card for an editorial cartoon. It features a light gray background with a thin brown border. In the corners, there are small blue squares. A thick orange border frames the central area. The text "Editorial Cartoon" is centered in a bold, black, serif font.

Editorial Cartoon

Editorial Cartoon

FIRST PLACE: Student

Alexandra Bowman, *The Lincoln Project
Newsletter*



THE SERPENT eating DEMOCRACY

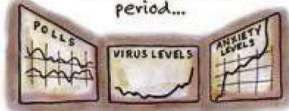
Editorial Cartoon

SECOND PLACE

Sage Stossel, *The Boston Globe*

THIS ELECTION season, with its unprecedented virus spikes and portentous moment of truth for the future of our country...

...has been perhaps the most anxiety-inducing period...



...of the most distinctly traumatic year...



...of a surpassingly stressful presidency.

Indeed, at various times since 2016, everything from our very lives...



...to our livelihoods...



...to the rule of law...



...and the social fabric...



...have felt palpably in jeopardy, with much feeling beyond our control.

But now, as we prepare to move forward into what comes next...

...which, as of this writing, seems likely to be the banishment of Trump himself, but not of Trumpism...

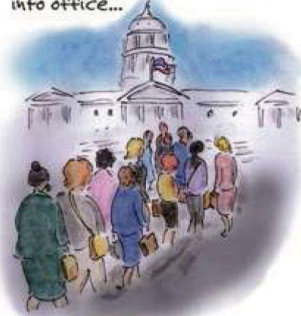
...it may be worth looking back over this period just passed, and recognizing that, bleak though it has been...

...the darkness has not been entirely unremitting.

It's been a time, after all, when we saw unabashed misogyny...

"When you're a star, they let you do it... Grab 'em by the..."

...countered by the elevation of record-breaking numbers of women into office...



...and forthright racism...

"You had very fine people on both sides."
"Proud Boys stand back and stand by."

...countered by an overwhelming groundswell of opposition.



Antidemocratic machinations, meanwhile, spurred legions of the formerly apathetic...



...to zealous participation...



...while even the grim onset of a pandemic...

...brought home for many just how adaptive and resilient they could be.



And so, whatever's coming next...

...one hopes we might take away from these tumultuous last four years...

...a feeling, not only of trauma...

...but also of readiness and resolve...



...for the work—which is clearly considerable—still to be done.

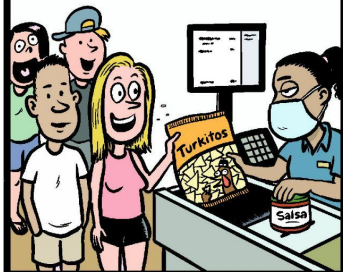
Editorial Cartoon

FIRST PLACE

Jen Sorensen, jensorensen.com
(work appeared in Politico, Daily Kos, The Nib)

FACES of the MASKLESS

OBLIVIOTS
NOT REALLY THINKING
ABOUT IT. TENDENCY TO
FORM GAGGLES.



THE POLITICIZER

MY NOSTRILS ARE
FREE AND WILL
STAND THEIR
GROUND!



THE CONSPIRACIST

MASKS ARE A TOOL
OF THE ILLUMINATI TO
KEEP US COMPLIANT
FOR THE NEW WORLD
ORDER.



THE MISGUIDED MASCULINIST

MAN STRONG.
NOT NEED MASK
LIKE WOMAN.



THE ARMCHAIR EPIDEMIOLOGIST

THROUGH MY OWN
EXTENSIVE INTERNET
RESEARCH, I'VE
LEARNED THAT ALL I
NEED TO BE SAFE IS
THIS TEA MADE
FROM MULEWORT.



SORENSEN

THE VICTIM



AT LEAST
HE DOESN'T
HAVE TO
WEAR A
MASK!



Social Justice

Social Justice

SECOND PLACE: Student

Greta Maras,
The John Hopkins News-Letter
John Hopkins University

Social Justice

FIRST PLACE: Student

Jonathan Zhang,
Wayland Student Press Network
Wayland High School

Social Justice

HONORABLE MENTION

Mary C. Curtis, *Roll Call*

Ken Dixon, Hearst Connecticut Media Group

Rose Carmen Goldberg, freelance

(work appeared in *The Hill*, *Orlando Sentinel*)

Social Justice

THIRD PLACE

Dave Lieber, *The Dallas Morning News*

Social Justice

SECOND PLACE

Naomi Ishisaka, *The Seattle Times*

Social Justice

FIRST PLACE

Derrick Z. Jackson, *Union of Concerned
Scientists and Grist*



Crisis Commentary

Crisis Commentary

FIRST PLACE: Student

Rudy Gabriel Malcom, *The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter*

John Hopkins University

Crisis Commentary

HONORABLE MENTION

Kathy Eliscu, kathyeliscu.com

Derrick Z. Jackson, *Union of Concerned Scientists*

Renee Schafer Horton, *Arizona Daily Star*

Crisis Commentary

THIRD PLACE

Theodore Decker, *The Columbus Dispatch*

Crisis Commentary

SECOND PLACE

Patricia Bunin,
Southern California Newsgroup

Crisis Commentary

**FIRST PLACE:
TIE**

Ken Dixon, Hearst Connecticut Media Group

&

Rose Carmen Goldberg, freelance

(work appeared in *East Bay Times*, *USA Today*)



Lifestyles

Lifestyles

SECOND PLACE: Student

Jonathan Zhang,
Wayland Student Press Network
Wayland High School

Lifestyles

FIRST PLACE: Student

Sydney Murphy, BLENDtw.com
Wheaton College

Lifestyles

HONORABLE MENTION

Dave Lieber, *The Dallas Morning News*
Phillip Tutor, *The Anniston Star*

Lifestyles

THIRD PLACE

Laurie Stone, *Laurie Stone Writes: Musings,
Rants & Scribbles*
lauriestonewrites.com

Lifestyles

SECOND PLACE

Mark Gauert, *City & Shore*
(the magazine of the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*)

Lifestyles

FIRST PLACE

Pam J. Hecht, pamjhecht.com

(work appeared in *WNC Parent*, *Asheville Citizen Times*, *USA Today*)



Sports

Sports

THIRD PLACE

Steve Greenberg, *Chicago Sun-Times*

Sports

SECOND PLACE

Dom Amore, *The Hartford Courant*

Sports

FIRST PLACE

Derrick Z. Jackson,
ESPN's *The Undefeated*



Team

Team

FIRST PLACE: Student

Rudy Malcom, Katherine Wilner, Laura
Wadsten, Marvis Gutierrez, Ariella Shua

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

John Hopkins University



Humor (Online)

Humor (Online)

FIRST PLACE: Student

Alexandra Bowman, *The Georgetown
Independent*
Georgetown University

Humor (Online)

HONORABLE MENTION

Lee Gaitan, The Bounce Back Blog
&
Elise Seyfried, The Belladonna Comedy

Humor (Online)

THIRD PLACE

Dave Jaffe, *Sleeping Between Giants: Life, If
You Could Call It That, With A Terrier*

Humor (Online)

SECOND PLACE

Mary Kay Jordan Fleming,
NextAvenue.org & NextTribe.com

Humor (Online)

FIRST PLACE

Max McCoy, *Kansas Reflector*



Humor (Print)

Humor (Print)

HONORABLE MENTION

John Breunig, *The Stamford Advocate*
&
Rebecca Regnier, *Monroe News*

Humor (Print)

**THIRD PLACE:
TIE**

Heather Buchanan, *The Independent*
Dan's Media

&

Gary Yordon, *Tallahassee Democrat*

Humor (Print)

SECOND PLACE

Steve J. Penhollow,
Whatzup (Fort Wayne, Indiana)

Humor (Print)

FIRST PLACE

Kevin McKeever, *The Stamford Advocate*



General (Online)

General (Online)

FIRST PLACE: Student

Camille M. Daniels, *The Daily Orange*
Syracuse University

General (Online)

HONORABLE MENTION

Lee Cataluna, *Honolulu Civil Beat*
&
Max McCoy, *Kansas Reflector*

General (Online)

THIRD PLACE

Brian Reisinger, freelance

(work appeared in *National Review* & *The Cap Times*)

General (Online)

SECOND PLACE

Luis Martinez-Fernandez, *The Globe Post*

General (Online)

FIRST PLACE

Jill D. Lawrence, *USA Today*



General (Print)

General (Print)

FIRST PLACE: Student

Ariella Shua

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

John Hopkins University

General (Print)

HONORABLE MENTION

Mary C. Curtis, *Roll Call*

&

Norris Burkes, freelance syndicated

(work appears in *The Post & Courier*)

General (Print)

THIRD PLACE

Pamela Sherman, *Democrat & Chronicle*
(Rochester, NY)

General (Print)

SECOND PLACE

Leslie McCarthy, *Webster-Kirkwood Times*
(Saint Louis)

General (Print)

FIRST PLACE

Mark Brown, *Chicago Sun-Times*



**Congratulations to all
our winners!**

SAVE THE DATE

2022 NSNC Conference

Birmingham, Alabama

Thursday, June 9, 2022 to
Saturday, June 11, 2022



