

Dear Pulitzer Jurors,

I have been lucky enough to spend my entire professional career drawing cartoons in Utah—certainly a target rich environment if there ever was one. My cartoons have been a popular fixture in The Salt Lake Tribune for decades, which seems to puzzle outsiders who wonder how a liberal cartoonist gets away with it in such a deeply red state.

The truth is, it keeps me on my toes. Knowing that the barbarians are always at the gate lends urgency to my work and has kept me engaged and relevant. The cartoons are important to people in the community who are dispossessed. Many here find themselves without a voice in a state where ninety percent of the legislature belongs to one religion and there hasn't been anyone but a Republican in statewide office for over two decades.

My cartoons are, arguably, tempered in the hottest hotbed of ideological crazy currently found in the country. Judge for yourselves if they are any good.

All my best,

Pat Bagley