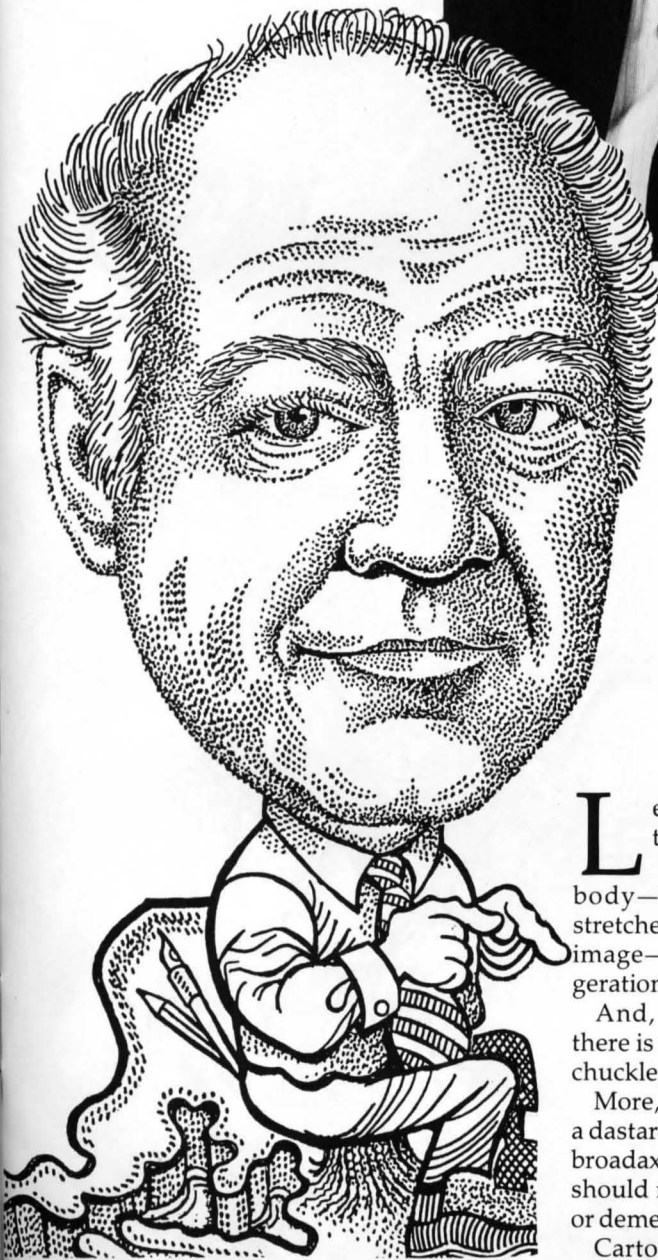




*Author of six books, J. Earle Bowden is editor and vice president of the Pensacola News Journal—with 39 years as a Pensacola newspaper editor. He teaches journalistic writing at the University of West Florida and is known for his community leadership in historic preservation. His editorial cartoons have appeared in the News Journal since 1965. He teaches children cartooning at the Pensacola Museum of Art, and a gallery of his published works decorates the walls of the Irish Politicians' Club at McGuire's Irish Pub.*



## Faces I Have Drawn

*by J. Earle Bowden  
Editor and Vice President,  
Pensacola News Journal*

**L**et's face it, faces fascinate cartoonists.

Often it's the big-head, small-body—life bigger than life, parts stretched and contorted for humorous image—that sparks humorous exaggeration we call caricature.

And, if we cartoonists are lucky, there is enough of a likeness to spark a chuckle, or "Yep, that's him." Or her.

More, in this sense caricature—once a dastardly art form used as a rapier for broadaxing hypocrisy and pomposity—should not be to provoke or make fun or demean the person.

Cartoonists playing the big canvas

on the national and world scene so embellish faces that, in time, George Bush, Bill Clinton, Ross Perot, Saddam Hussein and other celebrated figures look like their own caricatures.

But caricature is a tougher line to master when dealing with your Pensacola neighbors.

Their faces, while familiar, are not sudden recognizable images like national figures. Sometimes, caricature works when sketching interesting faces such as Sen. W.D. Childers, retired mayor Vince Whibbs, or Pensacola City Manager Rod Kendig; indeed,

*Faces, page 24*



it's easier with Pensacola's Gov. Reubin Askew or even current Gov. Lawton Chiles. And sometimes a truer likeness is needed; even though the big-head, small-body personification is an effort to convey personality. Most times at the local scene, labeling is necessary—if included in an editorial cartoon.

Many Pensacolians and Floridians through the years have peopled my local-emphasis editorial cartoons on the pages of the Pensacola News Journal.

And frequently I'm asked to capture a likeness for an anniversary, birthday, special recognition or simply a sketch to hang on a wall—as many do with a gallery of Bowden editorial cartoons on the walls of the Irish Politi-

cian's Club in McGuire's Irish Pub on Gregory Street.

Whether it's Mayor Jerry Maygarden or Escambia Commissioners Buck Lee and Steve Del Gallo, the task is to make newsmakers at least recognizable if not comically so in this enigmatic art form.

I've been drawing Pensacolians, politicians and community leaders since the 1950s. Some are newsmakers, ani-

mating public issues; other facial images I do for fun or as friendly gestures with no reward other than the pleasure of seeing the faces come alive in my sketchbooks.

While caricature has been romanticized as a powerful art form capable of effecting change, exposing corruption, or even toppling government, rarely does it accomplish such altruistic triumphs.

Too, caricature does not have to be an offensive weapon, even though the likenesses should be rife with aesthetic appeal.

The cartoonist—casting politicians and policy makers in strange, humorous and fantasy situations—tries for a morning chuckle.

The cartoon can be the cocktail or salad before the main meal—words we editors write.

It can be pure entertainment. And should be.

Certainly these faces have been fun from this point of the pen of this insubordinate doodler.

This sampling of faces is from the hundreds I hope to include in a book of editorial cartoons—from the pages of the *Pensacola News Journal* and other pen-and-ink illustrations—titled "An Editor Drawing Fire." □



How many can you identify? Answers on page 47. If you get 1-10, Welcome to Pensacola; 11-14, You're Getting There; and 14-17, Congratulations, You Qualify as a Native.

CARLE BOWDEN