Smallpox Riot—Norfolk, Virginia 1768

Norfolk, Sept. 6, 1768...

The smallpox has always been alarming to the inhabitants of this borough [Norfolk] since the fatal 52 [1752], and those who were spectators of its direful effects at that time cannot think of it without dread and consternation. Inoculation has been talked of these several years past; the great success attending it has reached the ears of almost every one; it has often been the subject of the cool and deliberate; and no rational being can deny its usefulness, when properly carried on, we mean when it is performed with a humane and benevolent disposition, not only for the preservation of the lives of fellow creatures, but also to serve the community, and when that mercenary view is laid aside which, to the disgrace of the profession [doctors], we are sorry to say has been, and still is, the chief motive of undertaking it. To return: When the inhabitants found themselves often threatened with this disorder, by vessels bringing it from the West Indies and elsewhere, they procured a publick piece of land, as remote, at the same time as convenient, as they possibly could, and the only place then to be had; they there erected a house by subscription about three years ago, and devoted it entirely for the reception of those who arrived from sea with that complaint, or should be seized at any time with it in and about the town, which house was, by agreement, put under the direction of the Mayor and Aldermen, hoping by that means to prevent the infection from spreading among them. The good and happy effects have been, peace and quietness of mind, from its answering the end beyond their expectations...

Notwithstanding, in June 1767, Doctor John Dalgleish has the assurance to inoculate his apprentice privately in the town, and sent him to this house, without leave asked or obtained. For this imprudent step (by which we suppose he then intended to introduce inoculation) he would have been sued in an action of trespass, agreeable to the opinion of an eminent Gentlemen of the Law in Williamsburg, who was consulted upon the occasion, had not Mr. Paul Loyall, one of the directors, prevented it ...

Matters were thus situated when, about February last, it was whispered that Doctor John Dalgleish (still full of his favourite scheme) had endeavoured privately to lease a house very near the town in order to carry on inoculation, and, to make sure work if he failed in that, had agreed to give the proprietor 100 l. [100 pounds] for a small portion of his land to build a house thereon for that purpose. Every one was much surprized he should do so, and at first doubted the truth of it; but on application to the proprietor, they soon found it was too true. This gave the first alarm; arguments and threats were instantly made use of to the landlord, who, much surprised and frightened to hear that it was not agreeable to the people of Norfolk (when he had been so strongly assured of the contrary readily broke off his agreement, and the peoples minds for some little time were again quieted. This respite, however, was not lasting; the snake, which lay concealed in the grass, now reared up its head. About a month afterwards a report prevailed that Doctor Campbell intended to have some of his family, and others of his friends, inoculated by Mr. John Dalgleish, at a plantation of his own about three short miles from town, and was accordingly fitting up a house for that purpose. The adjacent inhabitants became very uneasy, and soon after the whole neighbourhood and people of Norfolk were much disturbed in their minds. Doctor Campbell had at first made his intentions known only to a few (instead of doing it...
Inoculating for Smallpox

openly) and never consulted the publick whether it was agreeable or disagreeable. This the Doctor cannot deny; but as the time of carrying it into execution drew near, there then arose a general clamour against it, which daily increased, in town and country. Matters began now to run high; severe threats were publicly thrown out against the inoculators if they persisted; the reason and arguments were not wanting from those who considered consequences.

Assemblies of people were now frequent; some were for rash, others were for mild methods first. In short, every step that human invention could suggest was taken to put a stop to it, but all to no purpose. The minds of the people were now more inflamed; the poor people in that neighbourhood, whose crops were then on the ground, filled with fear and rage, came into town to represent their case, and prayed for assistance. Application was made to the county magistrates; they accordingly met; the law was silent in the matter, and all they chose to do was giving their dissent and disapprobation. This not sufficiently appeasing to the people, they assembled in a large body and went to Doctor Campbell’s plantation in the evening, where the Doctor and some of his friends then were; he was accosted upon the subject, evasive answers were given, told they were fools and were set on by others, they had better go home quietly, as they were in no danger, &c. and such coaxing language as this; but the people had more spirit than to be amused in this manner. Their number increased with several from town; they now thought themselves much trifled with; they came closer to the point, and demanded, in a more peremptory manner, if he was determined to inoculate in that house. On their first appearance, the Doctor and his company were struck with fear; however, they thought of an expedient to frighten those poor people away, and such a one as we say will appear very amazing to the impartial reader: About twenty slaves from the rope work, equipped with weapons, accompanied with large bull dogs, marched out to the above house with the foreman of the ropery for their leader, and were there concealed until further orders. ...They were soon reenforced by a number of the Doctor’s friends, who went out of town armed, in order to support him in his mercenary scheme. This being communicated to some of the magistrates, and they apprehensive that the poor people might be cut to pieces, ordered a general alarm to be given; upon which several Gentlemen rode out, to prevent any mischief....

The Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon), September 8, 1768, Postscript, pp. 1-2.
CARTOON ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

1. Who drew the cartoon? ____________________________

2. Where was it published? Give the title and date of the source. ____________________________

3. List the key objects in the cartoon and describe what each represents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Symbolizes</th>
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4. What techniques or devices does the cartoonist use? (Ridicule, caricature, satire, puns, etc.)

   __________________________________________________________

5. What issue or event does the cartoon deal with?

   __________________________________________________________

6. Describe the action taking place.

   __________________________________________________________

7. What is the cartoon’s message?

   __________________________________________________________

8. Who is the intended audience?

   __________________________________________________________

9. What is the cartoonist’s point-of-view?

   __________________________________________________________

10. Does the cartoon clearly convey the desired message? Why or why not?

    _________________________________________________________

11. What groups would agree/disagree with the cartoon’s message? Why?

    _________________________________________________________

Inoculating for Smallpox

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### Elements of Political Cartoons Summary Chart

Political / editorial cartoons are NOT just like other comics. They may be funny, but their main purpose is to offer an opinion or point of view about some issue or problem in the news.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Symbolism</strong></th>
<th>A symbol is any object or design that stands for some other thing, person, or idea.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exaggeration and Distortion</strong></td>
<td>Changes in size or shape often add to the cartoon’s point. Distorting an object means changing it in some way to make it look funny, ugly, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stereotypes</strong></td>
<td>A stereotype is a simplistic view of some group. It is often insulting, but it can also help the cartoon make its point quickly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caricature</strong></td>
<td>Caricature is a portrayal of an individual’s features in an exaggerated or distorted way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humor and Irony</strong></td>
<td>Humor is important in many editorial cartoons. Irony is one kind of humor. In an ironic statement, situation, or image, a viewpoint is expressed in such an odd way as to make that view actually seem ridiculous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Captions</strong></td>
<td>Words are used to reinforce the cartoon’s nonverbal features. Words help the other parts of the cartoon make one overall point. Famous sayings, slogans, song lyrics, and well-known phrases can be used as captions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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