

Cartoon of the Week

Barack Obama has broken the “color barrier.”

BASIC

This week’s cartoon was drawn by Julianna Gross, a 6th grader at Oakwood School in North Hollywood, California. Her cartoon is about the election of Barack Obama as U.S. president. **What do you think the cartoonist means by “the color barrier”?** (*Barack Obama is the first person of African American heritage to be elected president.*) The cartoonist compares this accomplishment to the accomplishment of another African American — Jackie Robinson. Robinson was the first African American man to play major league

GENERAL

This week’s cartoon was created by Julianna Gross, a 6th grader at Oakwood School in North Hollywood, California. **What do you think the cartoonist means here by “the color barrier”?** The cartoonist is comparing two situations where African Americans broke the color barrier for the first time. As you know, Barack Obama is the first African American to be elected president of the United States. The name “Robinson” on the jersey here refers to Jackie Robinson. **Have you heard of Jackie Robinson before?** Robinson was the first African American to play major league baseball in the modern era. He played in the segregated Negro League at first, but in 1947 he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. **What do you think it was like to be the first**

ADVANCED

This week’s cartoon is the work of Julianna Gross, a 6th grader at Oakwood School in North Hollywood, California. Her cartoon compares the election of Barack Obama to the accomplishment of another African American who broke the color barrier in American history. **Who is he?** (*Jackie Robinson.*) **What do you know about Jackie Robinson?** Robinson was not the first black professional baseball player, but he was the first black player in the modern major leagues. **What is the significance of the “44” on the jersey here?** (*When he was a Brooklyn Dodger, Jackie Robinson’s jersey number was 42. Barack Obama is the 44th president of the United States.*) Robinson started off playing in the segregated Negro League, but in 1947 the Brooklyn Dodgers called him up from its triple-A team. Robinson faced vitriolic criticism,

baseball in modern times.

Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947 to 1956. His jersey number was 42. **Who can guess why the jersey in this cartoon is number 44?** (*Barack Obama is the 44th president of the United States.*) **Are you proud of the United States for electing the first African American president? Do you think this is a good editorial cartoon? Why or why not?** END

black player in major league baseball? How do you think this experience compares to being the first black president of the United States? Why do you think the jersey number here is 44? (*Barack Obama is the 44th president of the United States.*) **Do you think electing an African American president is a major milestone in American history? Why or why not? How do you think future generations will view this event? Do you think this is an effective editorial cartoon? Why or why not?**

As the Obama presidency gets underway, NewsCurrents would like to hear your opinions of his performance. Send us your editorial cartoons and you could see yours in this space in upcoming weeks. END

racist comments, and death threats from fans and players who opposed the integration of baseball. He retired in 1956 with a career batting average of .311, having won the National League MVP once and played in the World Series six times, including one championship. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. **How do you think Robinson’s experiences and accomplishments compare with those of Barack Obama? Do you think the racial attitudes of America have changed much since the mid-20th century? If so, how have they changed? What makes this an effective editorial cartoon?**

As the Obama administration gets underway, NewsCurrents wants to get your opinions on its performance. Send us your editorial cartoons and you’ll be entered in our NewsCurrents Editorial Cartoon Contest. END

