



#125 Jeff Koterba
May 2010

Koterba has been the Omaha World-Herald editorial cartoonist since 1989. As to be expected with a roast of a cartoonist, laughs were plentiful. Roasters included Mike Kelly, World-Herald columnist, who served as emcee; Kevin Quinn, public affairs specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Tom Becka, KFAB radio talk show host; novelist Timothy Schaffert; and former Omaha mayor and Nebraska congressman, Hal Daub. Partsch wrapped up the event with a toast. Koterba, whose cartoons are distributed to more than 400 newspapers nationwide by King Features Syndicate, took a circuitous path to the World-Herald newsroom. He first started editorial cartooning when he worked for the Gateway newspaper at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. While sacking groceries in his late 20s, he finally got his break when Partsch, the World-Herald's editorial page editor, hired him on a trial basis. He's shown in the drawing putting finishing touches on the Dogie the Dog cartoon that went into space with astronaut Clayton Anderson, who is from Ashland, Neb. A letter from Anderson, who took two of Koterba's cartoons into space with him in April 2010, encouraged Koterba "to enjoy your time in the sun and on the floor." He's seen performing with his band, the Prairie Cats. Also shown is the memoir Koterba wrote, "Inklings." Koterba was obviously moved by the entire experience, which concluded with Kelly leading the crowd in singing happy birthday to the honoree who was observing his 49th birthday. .