

Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Between the lines

Actor and former U.S. Senator from Tennessee, Fred Thompson is expected to announce his candidacy for the Republican nomination for the 2008 Presidential election in September. His role on the long-running NBC television series *Law & Order*, playing New York City District Attorney Arthur Branch, gives him recognition among voters. Supporters like to point out similarities between Thompson and former President, and actor, Ronald Reagan.

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the 2008 Presidential Campaign. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and evaluate the artist's opinion.

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

SourceWatch is an encyclopedia of people, issues and groups shaping the public agenda. It is a project of the Center for Media & Democracy.

<http://sourcewatch.org/>



Cartoon Courtesy Ed Gamble / Times-Union, Jacksonville

Tooning into the candidates: Fred Thompson

Talking points

1. The Thompson campaign is eager to draw comparisons between their candidate and former President Ronald Reagan, considered by conservatives to be one of the greatest presidents. Ed Gamble has an unhappy Thompson putting on a Reagan mask. What can you read into the cartoon now that you know the background?
2. But what does the line: *And don't forget to mention the "Shining City on the Hill"* mean? The phrase and concept is from a 1630 sermon by John Winthrop: "We shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us."

But it was Ronald Reagan who most famously referenced the phrase throughout his presidency and in his farewell address: "America is a shining city upon a hill whose beacon light guides freedom-loving people everywhere."

According to SourceWatch.org: "The idea behind the phrase -- of America as a special nation blessed by God -- has burrowed so deeply into the American consciousness that some prominent religion scholars and pol-watchers say it is nearly obligatory during Presidential races."

More by Ed Gamble: <http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/GambleE/>