Cartoons for the Classroom

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

GADO / Daily Nation (Nairobi, Kenya) Courtesy CartoonArts International

Tooning into the Candidates: Barack Obama

Between the lines

Barack Obama, the junior U.S. Senator from Illinois, is among the Democratic Party's leading candidates for nomination in the 2008 U.S. presidential election. He is the fifth African American Senator in U.S. history and the only African American currently serving in the U.S. Senate.

Talking points

1. At first, you don't notice the weapons mixed in with the press paraphernalia in GADO's portrait of Obama. What's the threat implied by the bloody swords and guns? Are certain members of the media out to get Obama in GADO's view? Why?

2. Cartoonist Godfrey Mwampembwa, a.k.a GADO, is an African cartoonist in Kenya. Does that fact lend a racial implication to the threat Obama is facing in the toon? Why would race be a factor in Obama's campaign?

3. Is this caricature a flattering portrait of the candidate? Does the artist support the candidate? Or is it a neutral observation? Explain.

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper and other resources dealing with the Presidential campaign. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed.

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
http://editorialcartoonists.com/

More by GADO
http://cartoons.nytimages.com/
http://www.gadonet.com/

Cartoons for the Classroom is available through Newspaper in Education programs. Copyright Online Publications Inc. and NIEonline.com