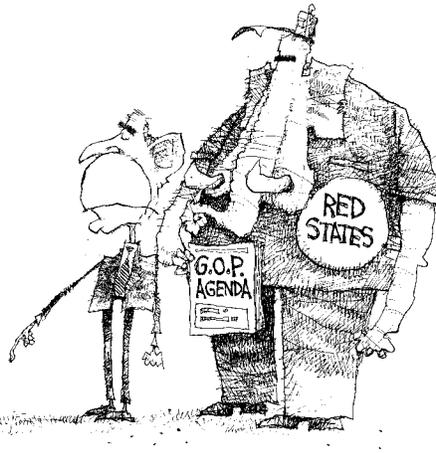
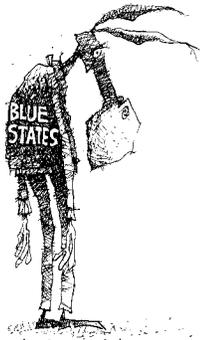


Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



MATT DAVIES THE JOURNAL NEWS
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A TIME TO HEEL...

Keep current through a cartoonist's commentary

To study political cartoons is to study history in the making. They are snapshots in time dealing with issues as current as today's newspaper. Through satire and wit, political cartoonists give us a different view than television or even photos can. But because most cartoons are so time-sensitive, they need to be viewed in context. Otherwise the meaning is easily lost. Issues fade and opinions can change over time.

Talking points

In the span of just a couple of days this week, Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Matt Davies tackled major topics like the election aftermath and the death of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

1. You need to understand multiple symbols to decipher the toon above. What are Red and Blue States? Who are the elephant and donkey representing?
2. What is the play on words (pun) in the caption?
3. Of course, that's a caricature of George Bush telling the donkey to heel. But what's "G.O.P. Agenda" mean? In fact, what does G.O.P. stand for?
4. At right, Davies is indicating that the death of Arafat could be viewed as a "breakthrough" in the Mideast. What is the wall in the drawing? Is Davies praising or condemning Arafat?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a week's worth of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon. Find the latest news story on the topic covered by each cartoon. Then explain the issue the cartoonist chose to explore and the point of view taken.



Cartoons courtesy Matt Davies / The Journal News

Additional resources

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

More by Matt Davies at the Journal News
<http://www.thejournalnews.com/cartoons/davies/>