

Cartoons for the Classroom

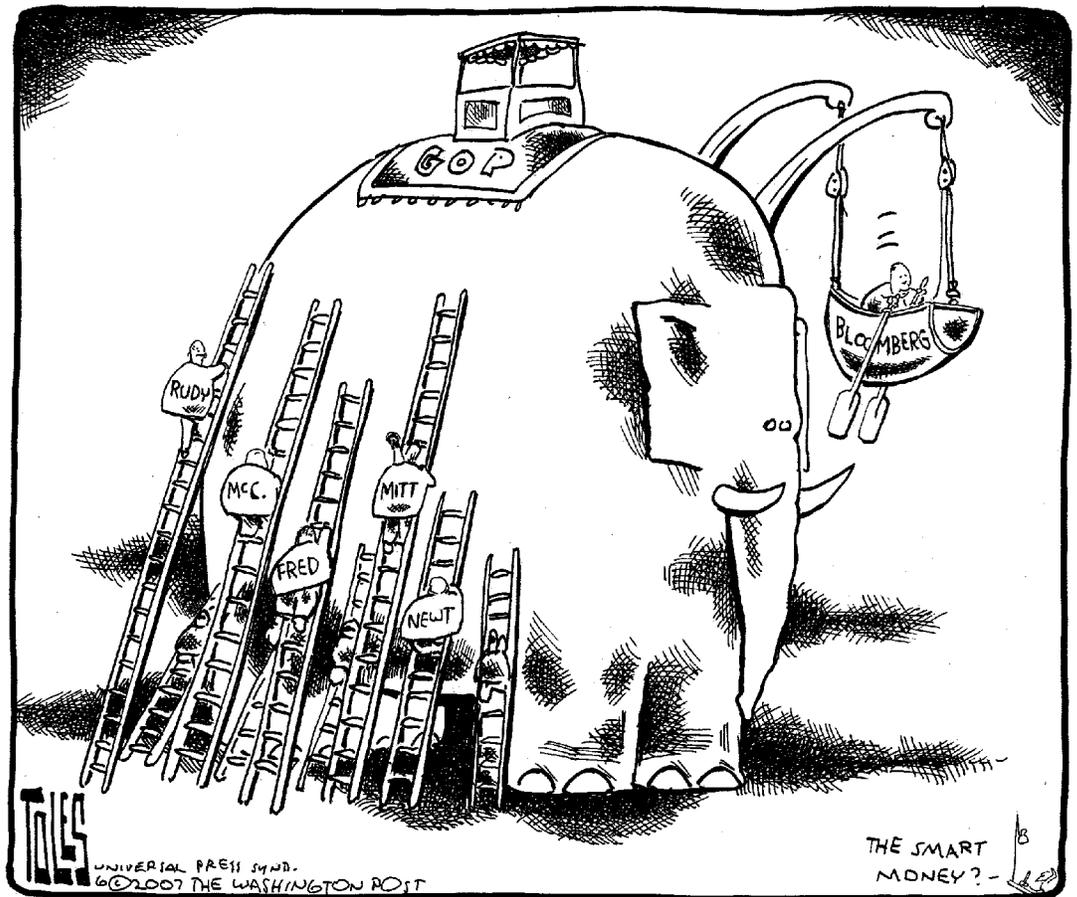
Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Between the lines

New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg abruptly left the Republican Party in June, declaring himself free of a "rigid adherence" to ideology and stoking speculation that he will use his multibillion-dollar fortune to mount an independent bid for the White House. But the founder of the Bloomberg financial media empire has repeatedly denied interest in the presidency.

Cartoon by Tom Toles
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Tooning into the Candidates: Michael Bloomberg

Talking points

1. In order to understand this Tom Toles' cartoon you need to understand the symbols he's using as well as some knowledge of current events. For example, what is the elephant a symbol for? What does GOP stand for.
2. While other candidates struggle up the fund-raising ladder, Michael Bloomberg easily cranks his way to the top, ahead of them. Who are the other candidates Toles identifies?
3. Is the cartoonist supportive or critical of Bloomberg's candidacy in this cartoon? Explain. How does the statement the cartoonist's self-portrait (bottom right) makes contributes to your opinion.

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 Tom Toles: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/opinions/cartoonsandvideos/toles_main.html