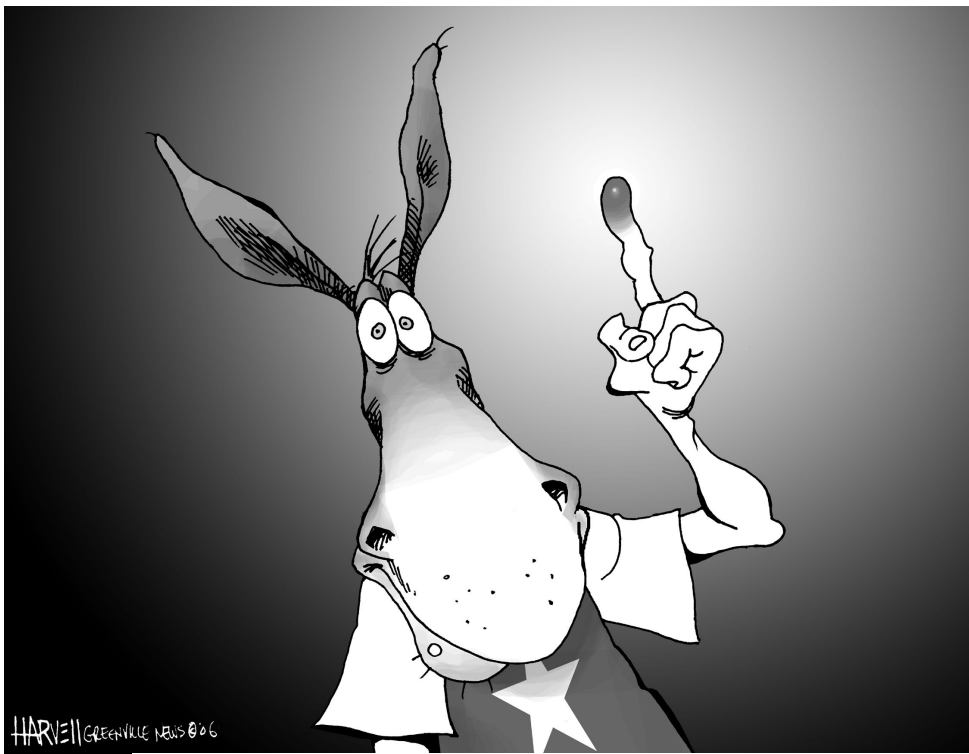


Cartoons for the Classroom

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



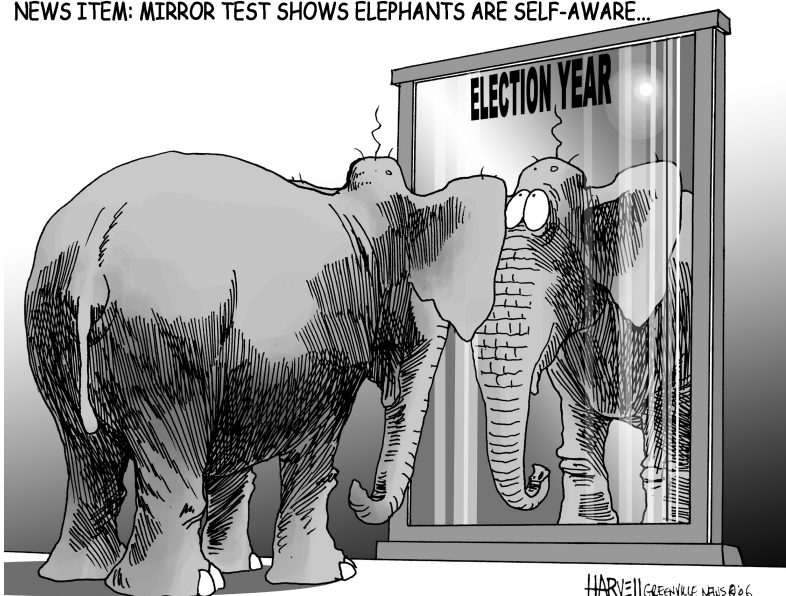
Cartoon Courtesy Roger Harvell / Greenville News

Donkeys, Elephants & Elections

Between the lines

In the 2006 mid-term elections the Democrats clinched majorities in both houses of the US congress for the first time since 1994, capping a dramatic return to power on Capitol Hill. The results set the stage for two years of divided government as President Bush attempts to get his policy proposals through a Democratic congress further hampered by his declining popularity with the electorate.

NEWS ITEM: MIRROR TEST SHOWS ELEPHANTS ARE SELF-AWARE...



Cartoon Courtesy Roger Harvell / Greenville News

Talking points

1. Roger Harvell combines symbols in the toon above to make a subtle point about the outcome of the mid-term elections. The long-time symbol for the Democratic party holds up an inked finger. The inked finger became a symbol for celebrating democracy when Iraqis proudly showed off their inked fingers after voting in their first free elections recently in Iraq. With that as background, explain the point Harvell is making. Is that relief on the Donkey's face?
2. As the election approached, Republican's became "self-aware" in Harvell's toon at left. Aware of what? Shortcomings? Impending doom? Why does the elephant look worried?
3. Bonus round: How did the symbols for our political parties originate? Do some research!

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the artist's point of view.

Additional resources

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

More by Roger Harvell

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/HarveR/>