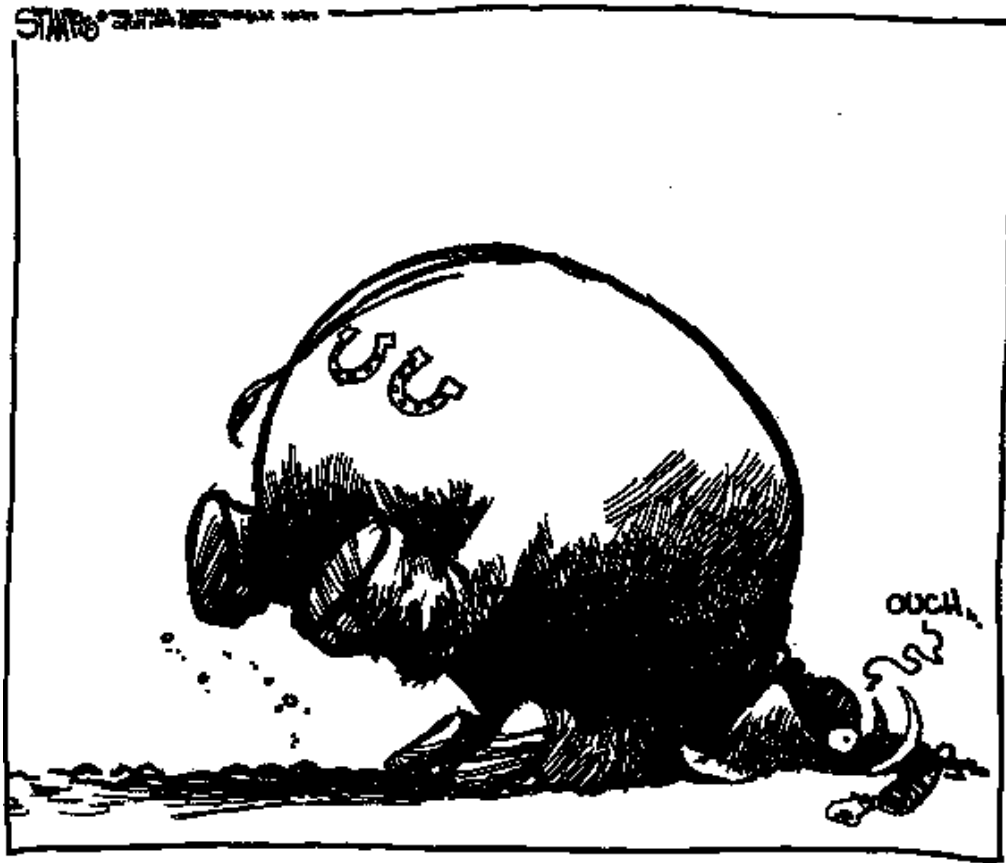
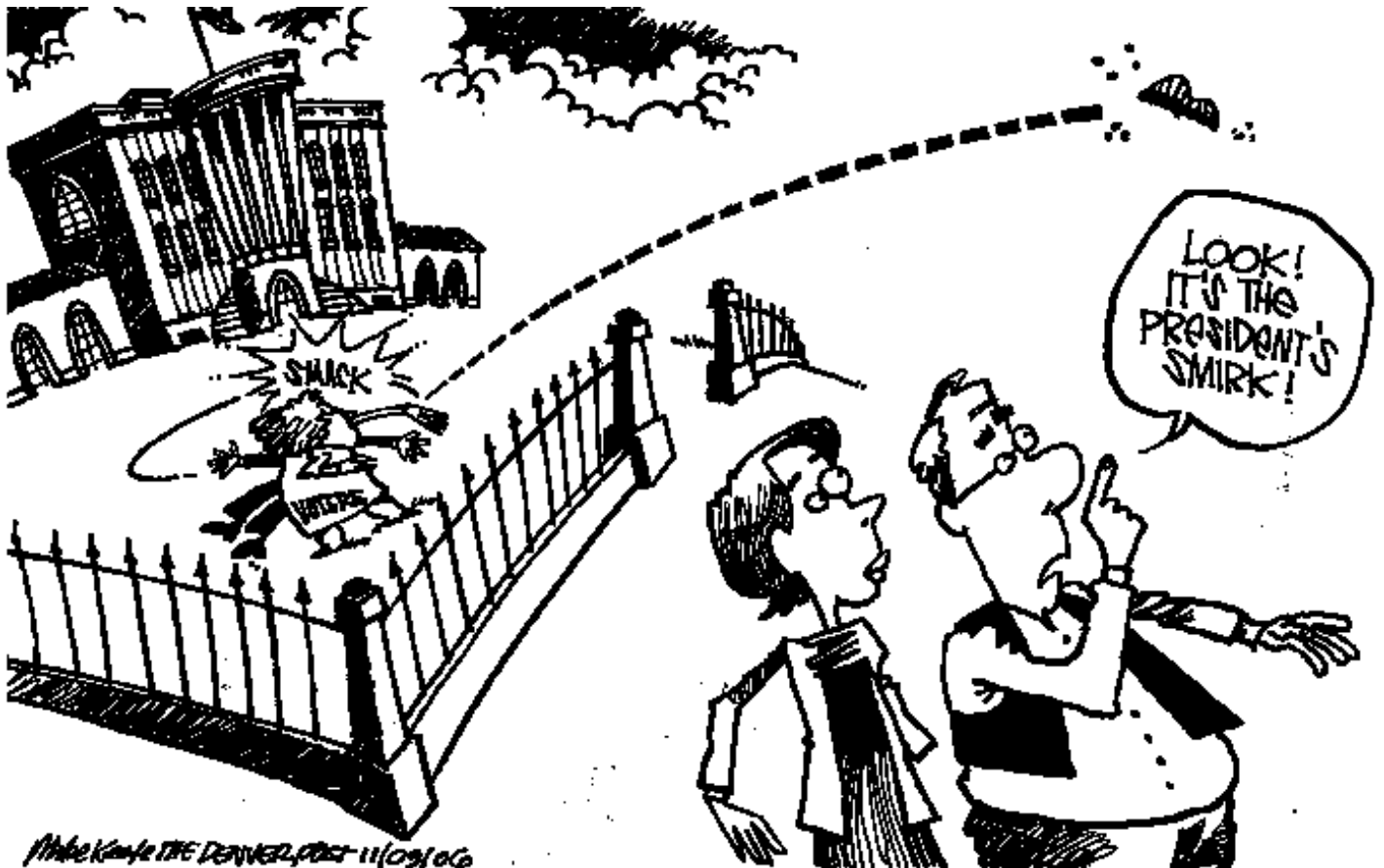


SCOTT STANTIS  
Courtesy Birmingham News



MIKE KEEFE  
Courtesy Denver Post



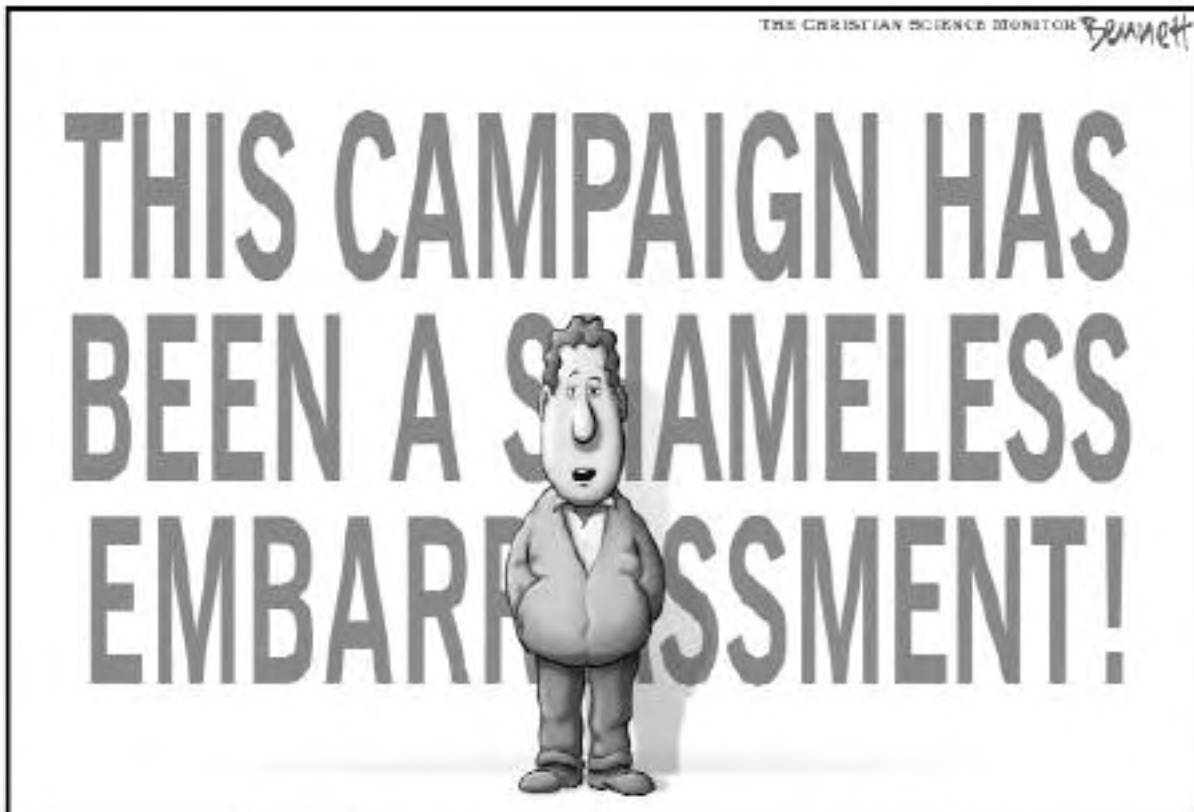
# The November Elections

“It was a thumping,” said President Bush in assessing the results of mid-term elections that handed the Democrats control of both houses of Congress. Democrats needed to pick up a net fifteen House seats and six Senate seats to wrest control from the GOP, who had controlled Congress since 1994. They easily captured the House and gained exactly six Senate seats to build a 51-49 majority. Many observers called it one of the nastiest campaigns in years, with particularly outrageous television ads tainting races in Missouri, and Ohio, and Georgia, and . . . well, a lot of other states.

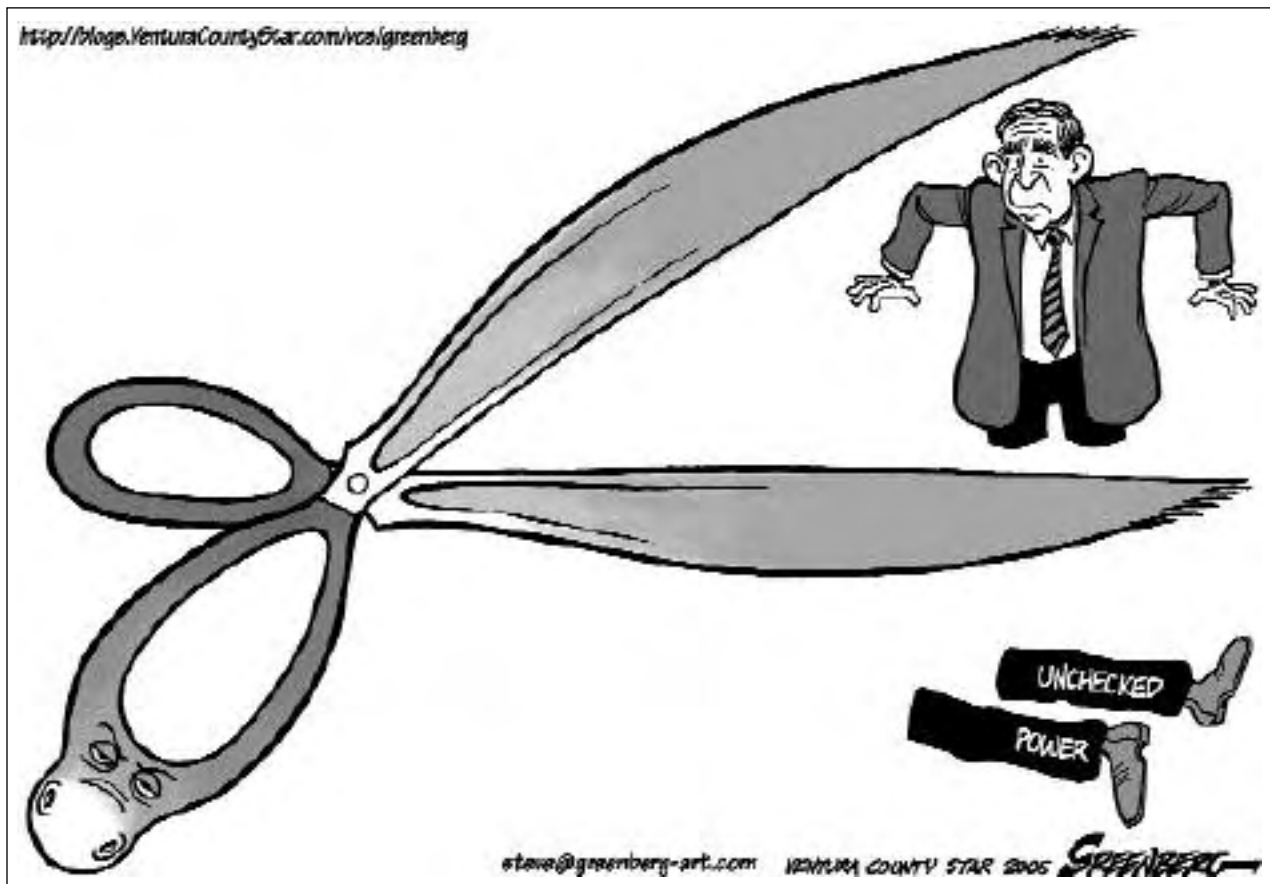
The sobering loss was attributed to a variety of factors: GOP scandals, an unpopular war, and the historical tendency for the party in power to suffer significant losses in mid-term elections. Probable Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain offered his analysis: Too many Republicans had not been “careful stewards of taxpayers’ dollars” and had not “adhered to conservative principles.”

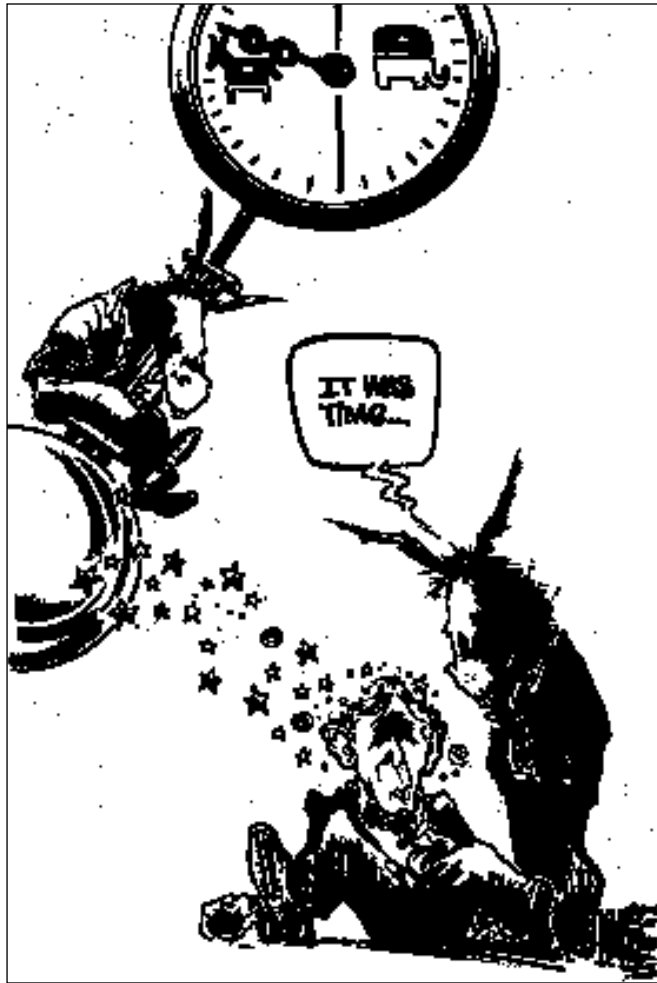
The ballots were still being counted when President Bush announced the resignation of embattled Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Former CIA Director Robert Gates, called by Bush “an agent of change,” was named to replace him.

CLAY BENNETT  
Courtesy Christian Science Monitor



‘I’m an American voter and I approve this message.’



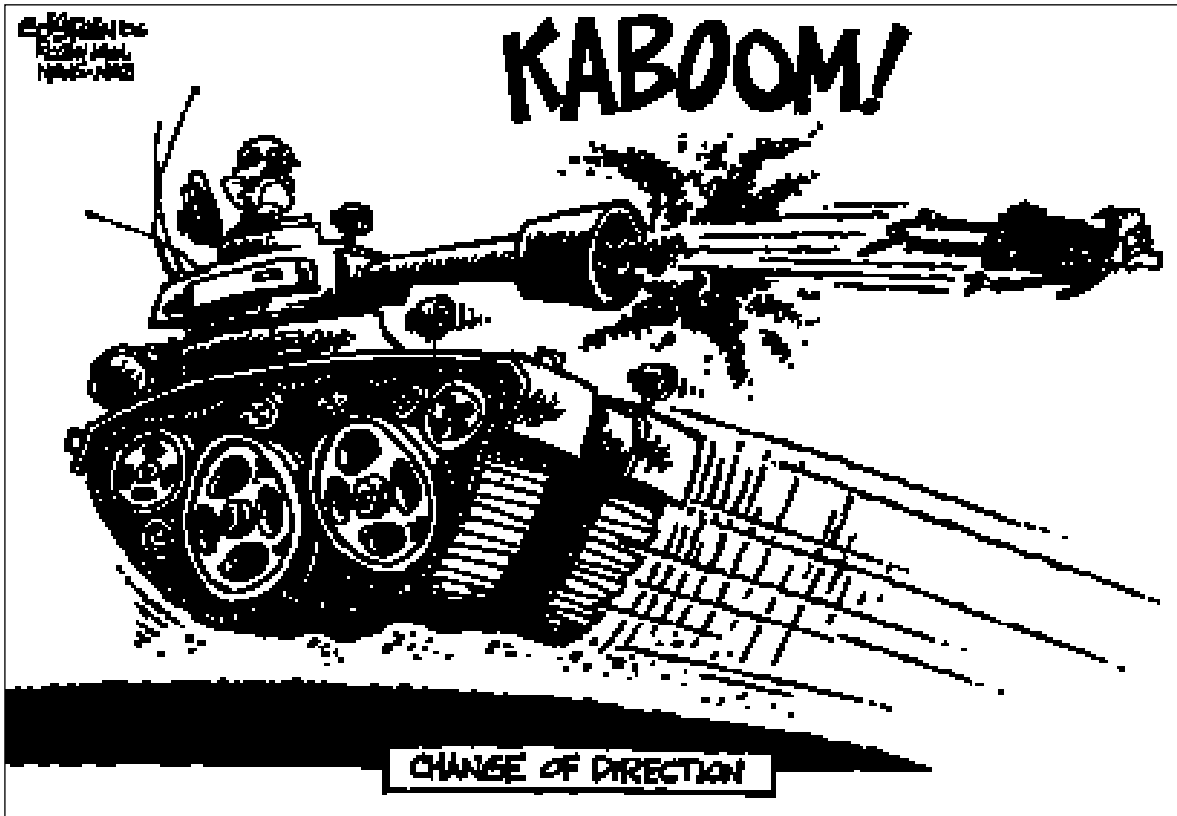


ED HALL  
Courtesy DBR Media



MIKE PETERS  
Courtesy Dayton Daily News

ED STEIN  
Courtesy Rocky Mountain News (Colo.)



JAMES D. CROWE  
Courtesy Mobile Register



# Terrorism / Iraq

Worldwide terrorism showed no signs of lessening during 2006. Seven men, five of them United States citizens, were arrested in a plot to bomb the Sears Tower in Chicago. British authorities thwarted a plot to simultaneously blow up ten or more aircraft leaving London's Heathrow Airport. The terrorists intended to use explosives disguised as harmless liquids or gels. A plan to attack train tunnels around New York City was also defused.

The new government in Iraq seemed unable to make Baghdad and other parts of the country safe, even with the help of U.S. soldiers. Insurgents killed an average of scores of civilians a day throughout the year, primarily by suicide bombers and roadside explosive devices.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban increased the tempo of its attacks against the government. Troops from the U.S., Great Britain, and Canada continued to aid Afghani soldiers in their offensives against militant strongholds.

Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person to be tried in connection with the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York, was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the most wanted terrorist in Iraq, died when U.S. planes bombed his safehouse.

NICK ANDERSON  
Courtesy Houston Chronicle



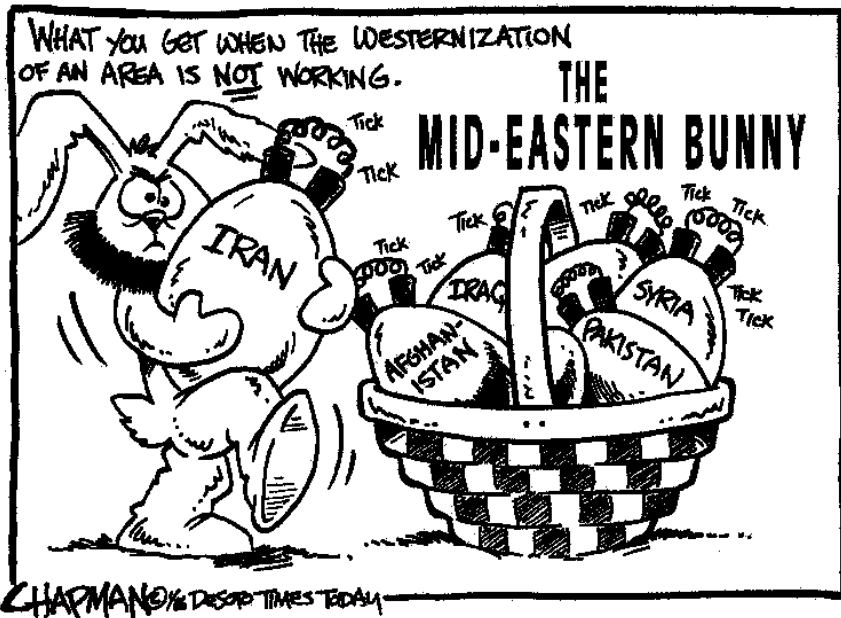


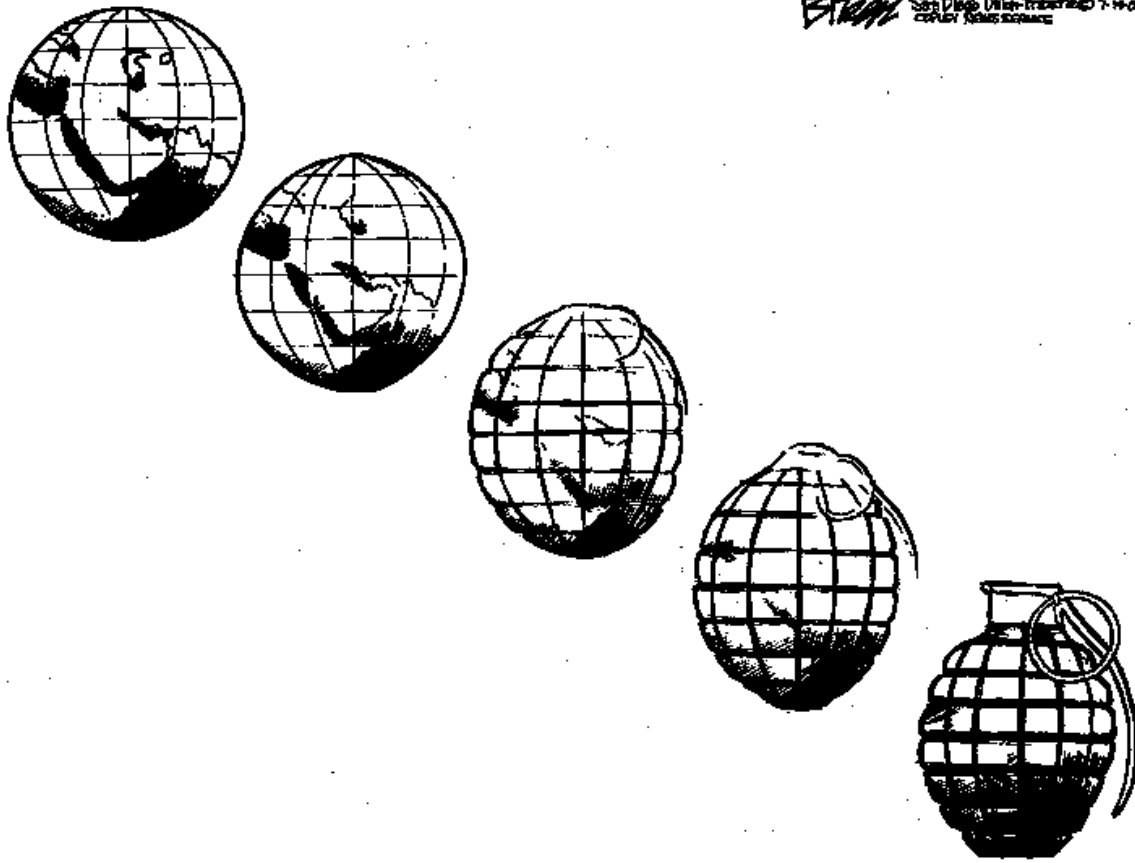
ONE LESS RAT

RANDY BISH  
 Courtesy Tribune-Review (Pa.)



ANN WHITNEY CLEAVES  
 Courtesy The Palisadian Post (Calif.)



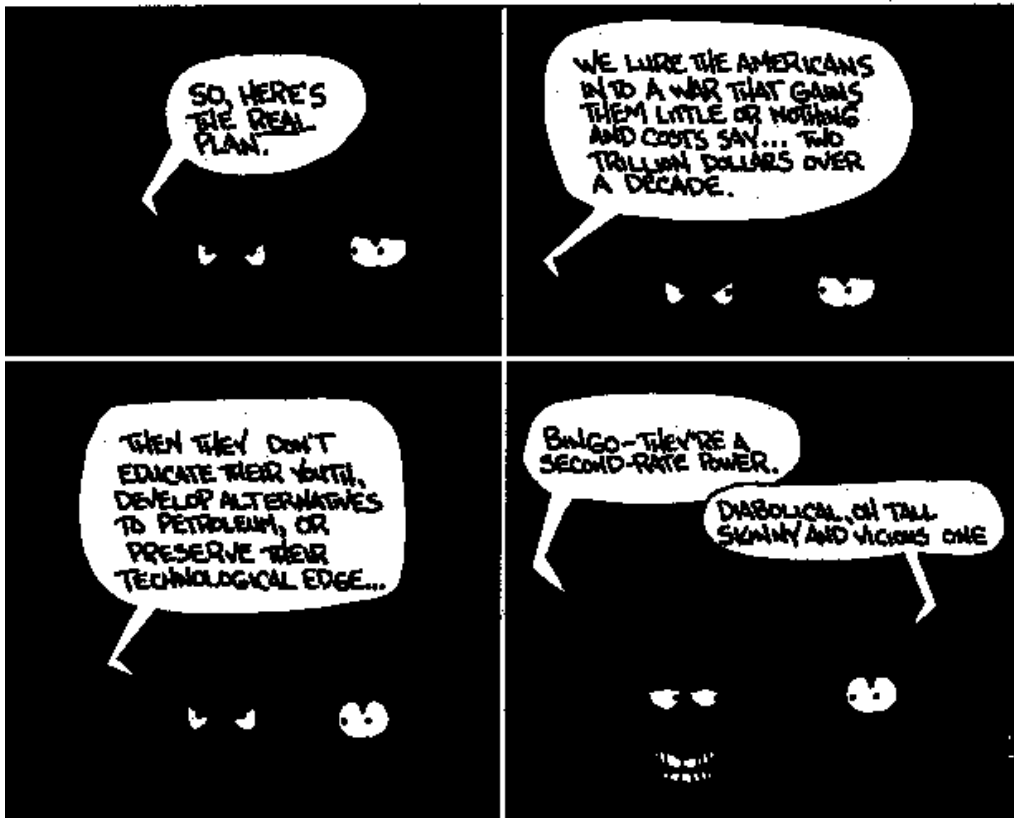


JAKE FULLER  
Courtesy Gainesville Sun





SOMEWHERE IN SUBTERRANEAN PAKISTAN...



HAP PITKIN  
Courtesy Boulder Daily Camera



HIGGINS

JACK HIGGINS  
Courtesy Chicago Sun-Times



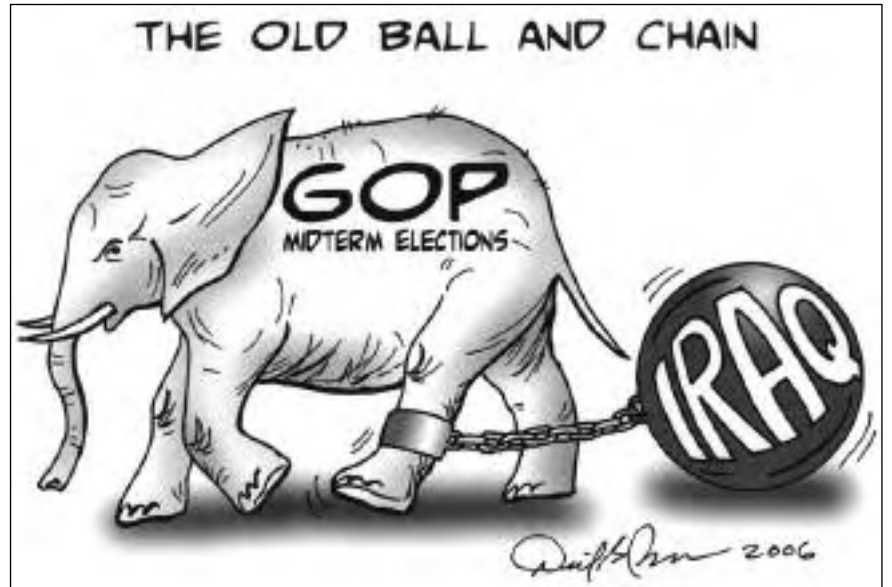
CARL MOORE  
Courtesy Creators Syndicate

SCOTT STANTIS  
Courtesy Birmingham News



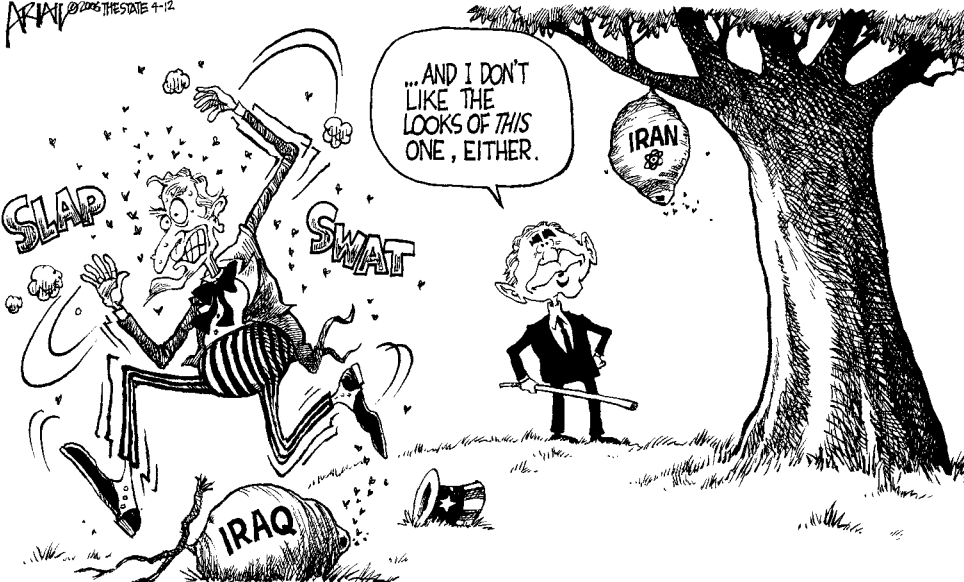


"He needs more matches to play with."



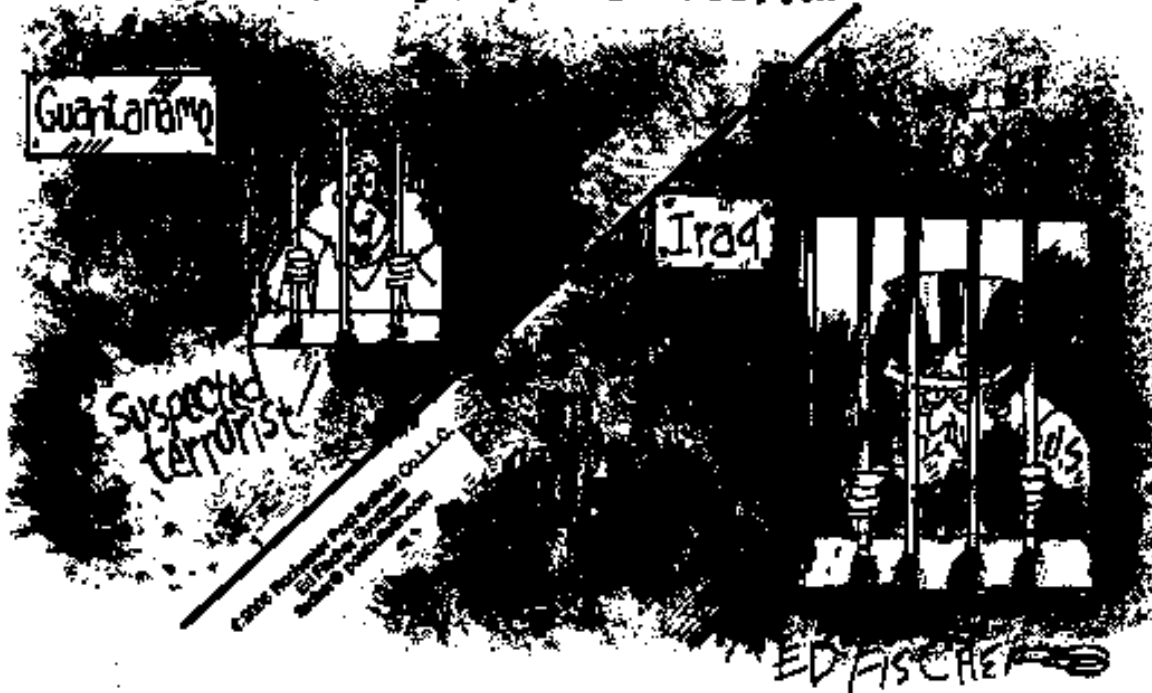
ROBERT ARIAL  
Courtesy The State (S.C.)

ARIAL © 2006 THE STATE 4-12



DAVID G. BROWN  
Courtesy Los Angeles Sentinel

Prisoners who are confined and have little hope of being released soon...



ED FISCHER  
Courtesy Rochester Post-Bulletin



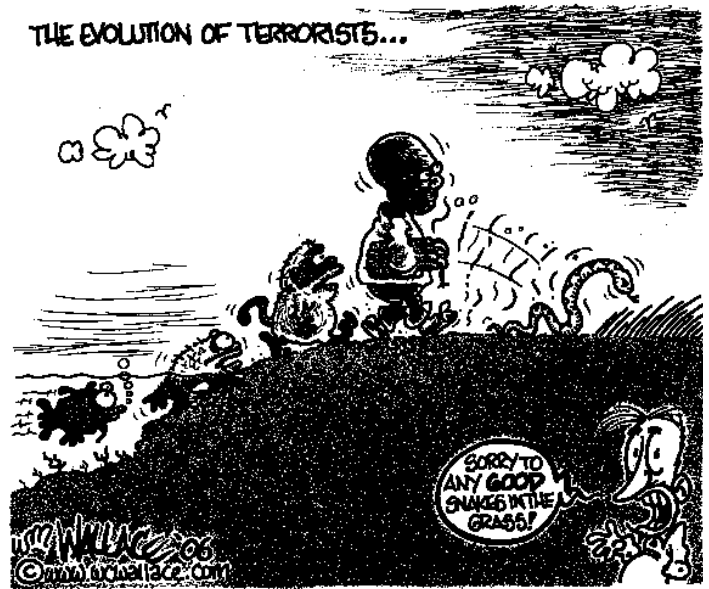
FIVE YEARS AFTER  
AND NOT MUCH TO TELL...  
FIVE YEARS AFTER—  
OSAMA'S NOT IN A  
JAIL CELL.



ALAN VITELLO  
Courtesy Greeley Tribune



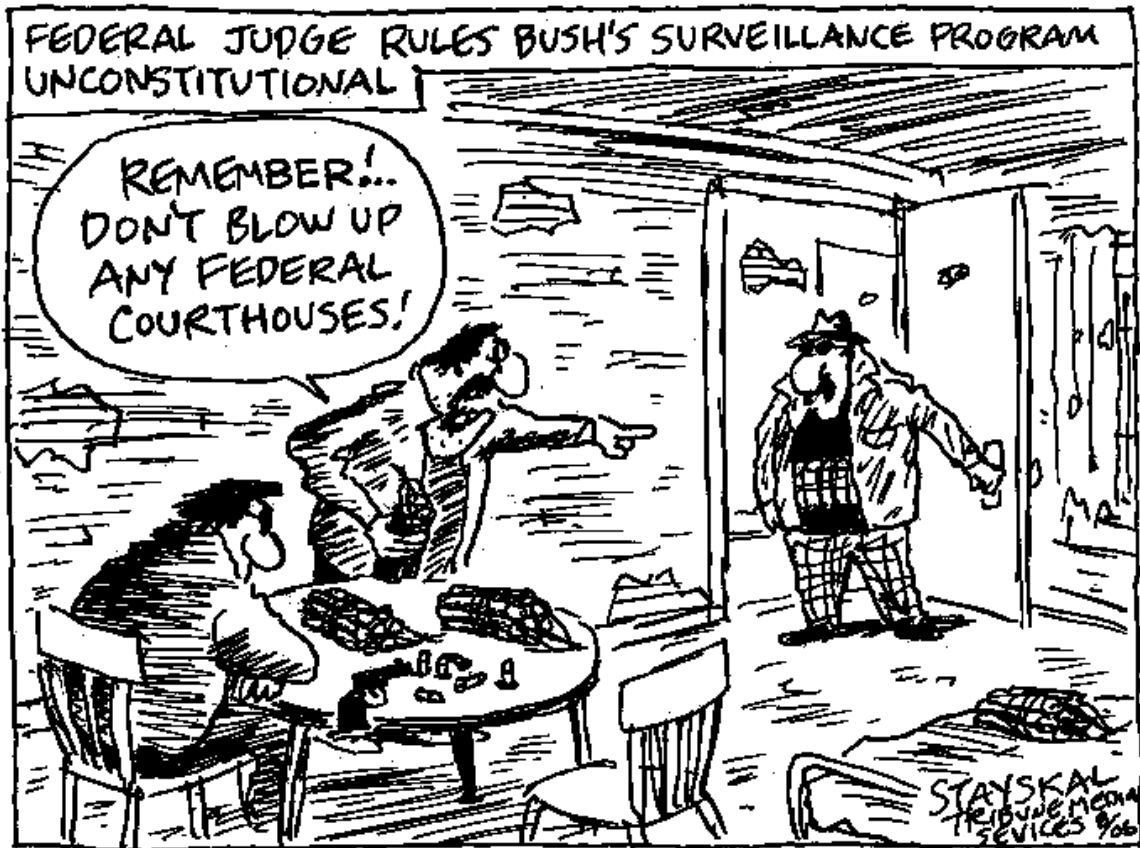
MARK BAKER  
Courtesy Army Times



WILLIAM WALLACE  
Courtesy Powell Tribune (Wyo.)

CLAY JONES  
Courtesy Free Lance-Star (Va.)





WAYNE STAYSKAL  
Courtesy Tribune Media Services



JERRY BARNETT  
Courtesy Boonville Standard (Ind.)



ROY PETERSON  
Courtesy Vancouver Sun



MARK BAKER  
Courtesy Army Times

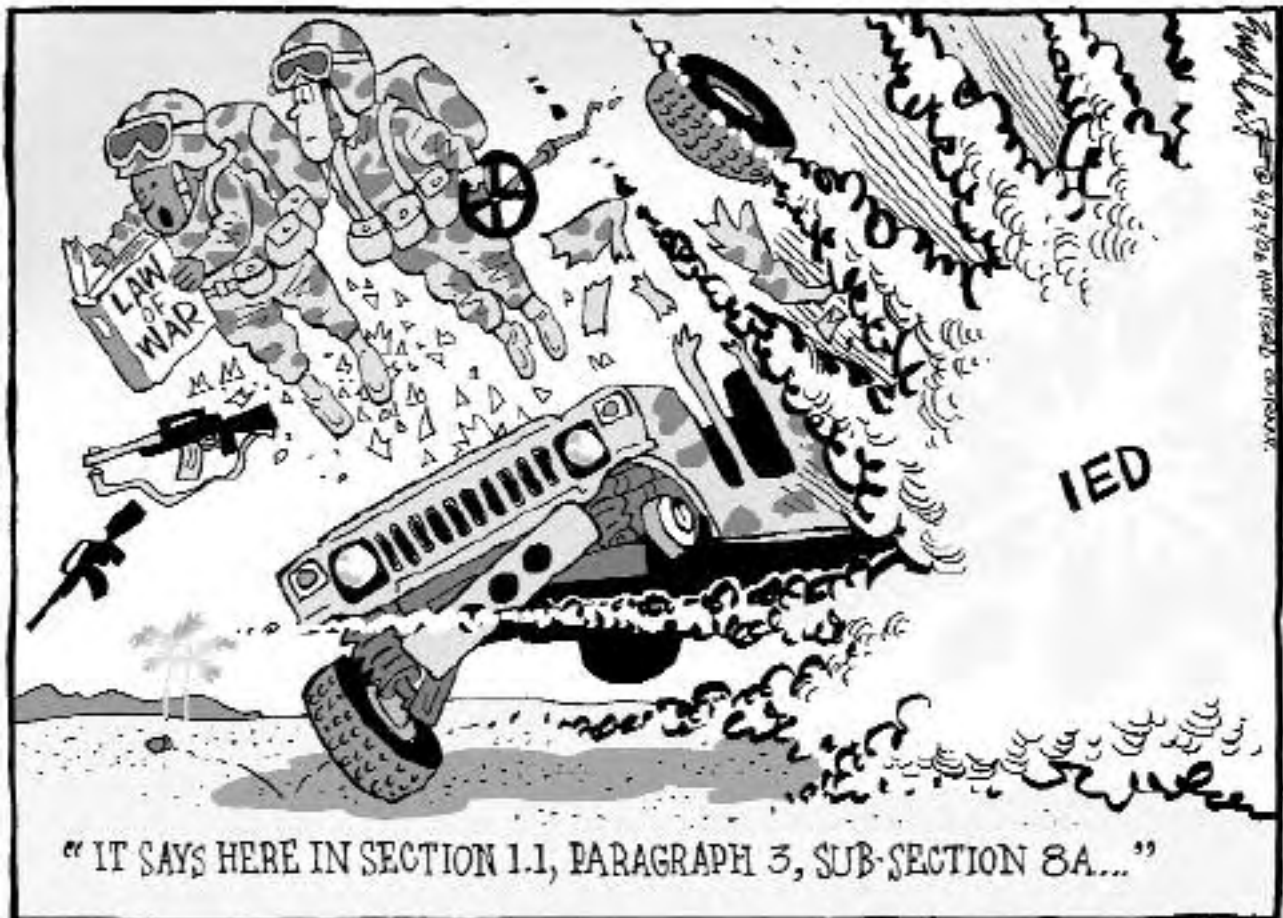


ED GAMBLE  
Courtesy Florida Times-Union



ADAM ZYGLIS  
Courtesy Buffalo News

BOB ENGLEHART  
Courtesy Hartford Courant



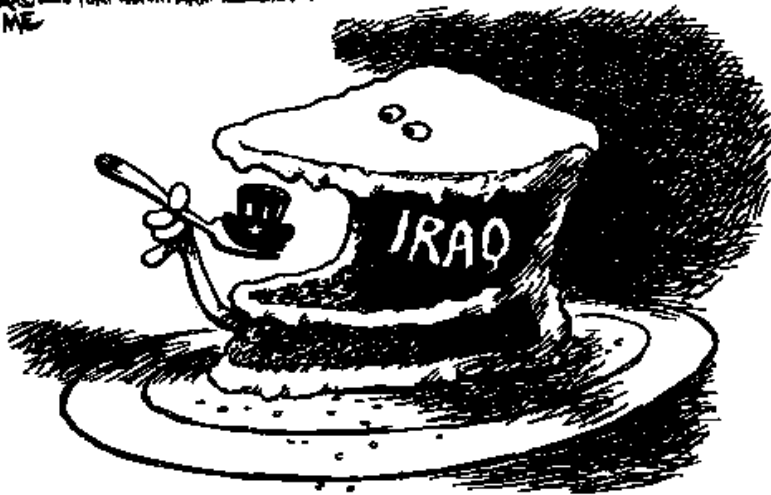




ETTA HULME  
 Courtesy Fort Worth Star-Telegram

STEVE GREENBERG  
 Courtesy Ventura County Star

ETTA HULME  
 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM



PIECE OF CAKE

ROB ROGERS  
 Courtesy Pittsburgh Post-Gazette





MARTY RISKIN  
 Courtesy Melrose Free Press (Mass.)

AARON TAYLOR  
 Courtesy The Daily Herald (Utah)

