

The Pulitzer Prize



The Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning is the hallmark of any cartoonist's career. The path to the Pulitzer starts with the cartoonist selecting up to twenty of his (or her) best cartoons, or at least twenty cartoons he (she) believes will best favorably appeal to the jury and the board. After carefully making the selection of the cartoons he (she . . . you get the picture) wishes to enter, the cartoonist must put together an exhibit of the work, in scrapbook format, including the name of the newspaper or news organization and the date each cartoon was published. Although online material is eligible for submission, it must be derived from print media. To quote the eligibility rules, "Since their creation in 1917, the Pulitzer Prizes have been awarded exclusively for newspaper journalism."

In addition, the exhibit must include a biography, a picture of the cartoonist, and a cover letter demonstrating eligibility and summarizing the contents. All entries must be accompanied by fifty dollars and a completed entry form.

Each year there are twenty-one categories in which a Pulitzer is awarded; 102 judges are divided into twenty juries. Each jury is asked to screen the applicants in their respective categories and to make three nominations, which are put before the Pulitzer Board for final selection. This year the jury for the editorial cartoon category contained a newspaper editor, a former editor, two editorial page editors, and an editorial cartoonist/columnist (and previous winner in the category).

2009 Pulitzer Prize Winner

Steve Breen—*San Diego Union-Tribune*



This is the second time around for Steve Breen, winning his first Pulitzer in 1998. Steve Breen was born in Los Angeles in 1970 and attended the University of California, Riverside. Editorial cartoonist for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* since 2001, his work is nationally syndicated by Creators News Service and regularly appears in *USA Today*, the *New York Times*, and *Newsweek*. Breen also the recipient of the National Press Foundation's 2007 Ber-ryman Award for editorial cartooning. In 2009, Breen not only took home the Pulitzer, but he was also awarded the Overseas Press Club's Thomas Nast Award and the National Headliner Award. Congratulations, Steve.

In his spare time, he writes and illustrates picture books, including the titles *Stick*, *Violet the Pilot*, and *The Secret of Santa's Island*.

Breen lives in San Diego with his wife and four children. He enjoys reading, running, playing the guitar and piano, and watching old movies on cable.

Steve Breen Interview

Dean: Turn-of-the-century journalist Finley Peter Dunne is quoted as saying, “The job of the newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” What do you see as the role of the editorial cartoonists?

Steve: I see it along these lines as well. I feel duty-bound to provide a voice for the little guy. In terms of going after the comfortable, the cheaters, the liars, and the bullies . . . that’s the fun part of the job. Cartoonists love a villain.

Dean: What do you feel distinguishes your work from that of your peers?

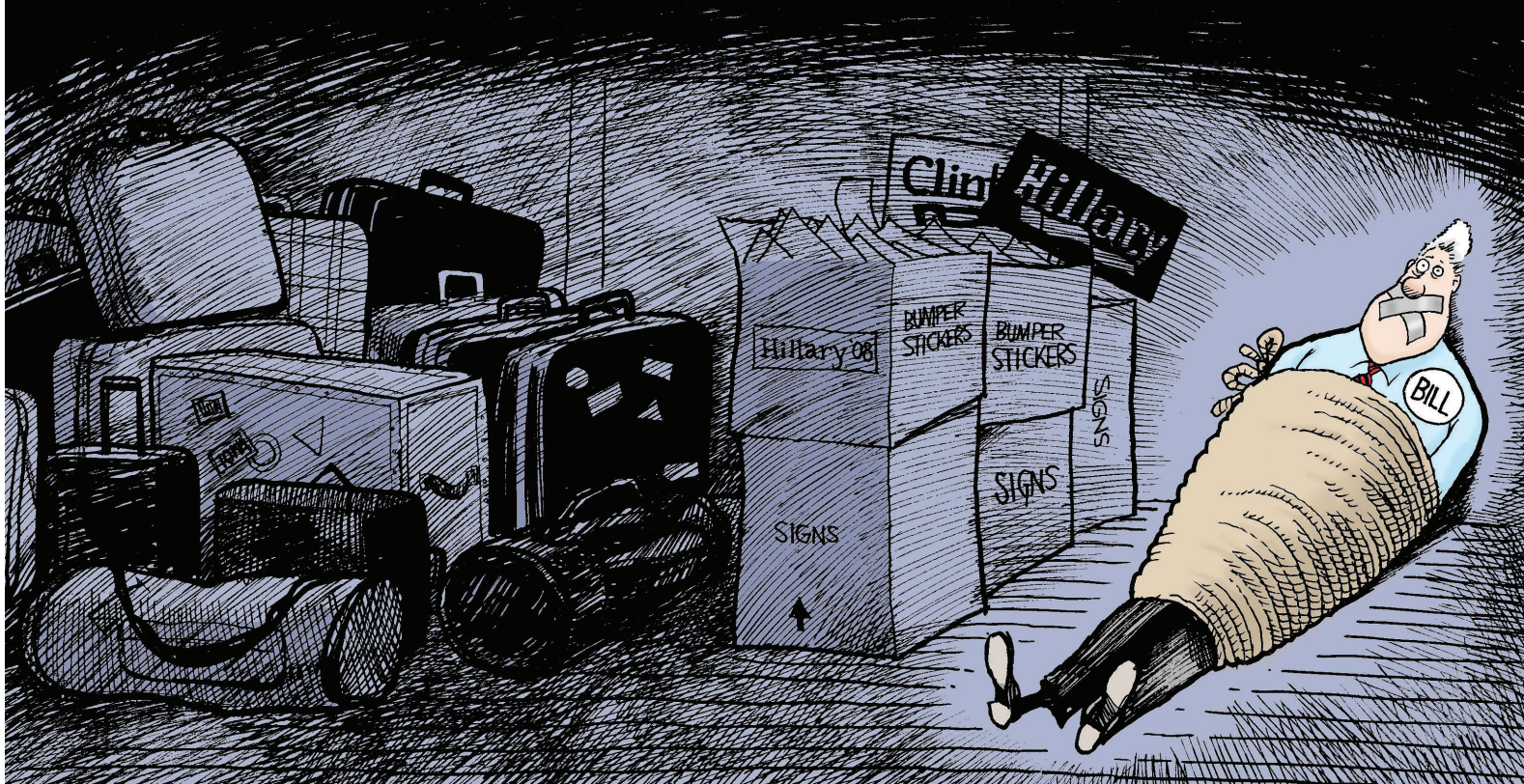
Steve: I really try to see both sides on the issues, not that my peers do

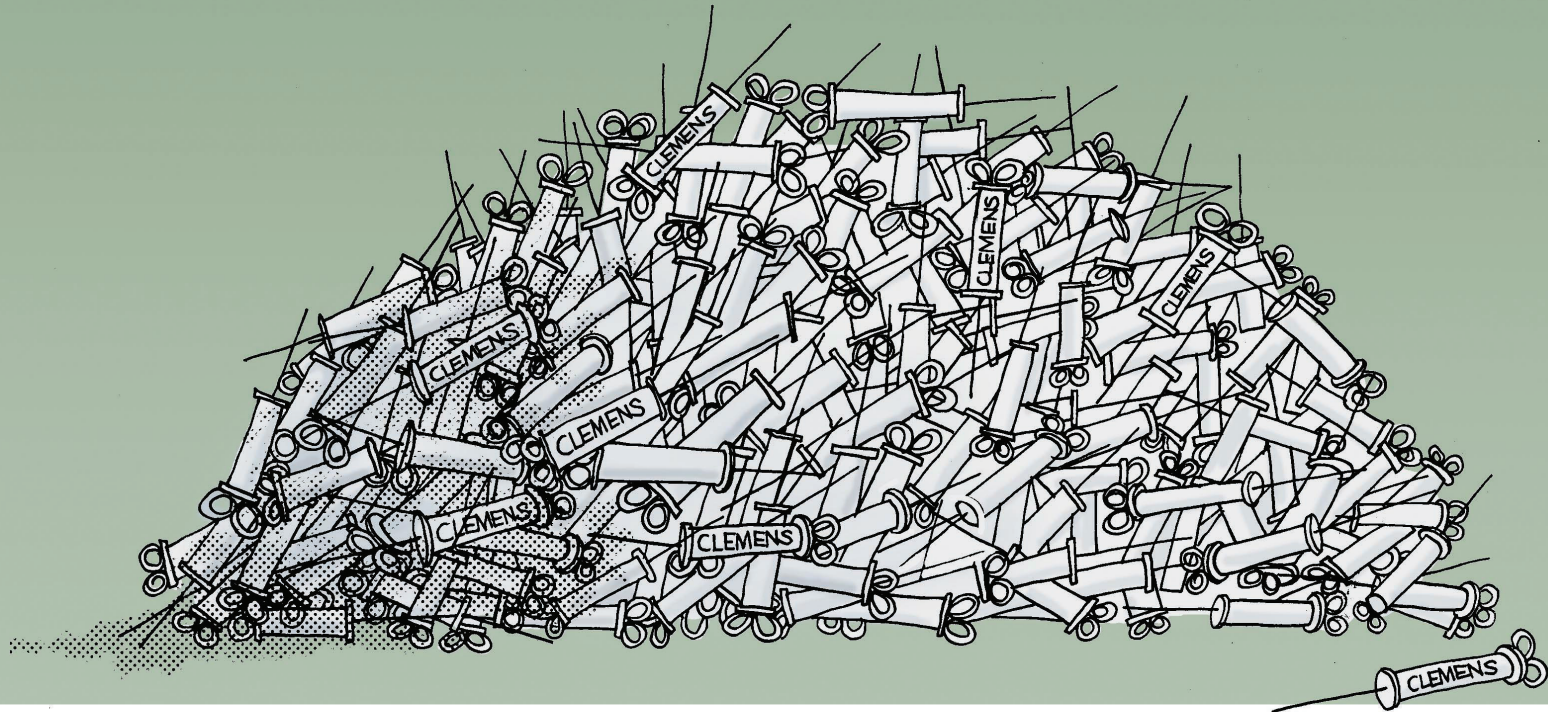
NOT try to do this. But I like the way that a reader looks at my work and can’t tell if I’m a liberal or a conservative. True, I tend to lean conservative, but I think I’m pretty fair in tweaking the donkey noses as well as the elephant trunks.

Dean: Although the bulk of this book is dedicated to editorial contests in the U.S., the final section of this book deals with the international Lurie Award. How do you think U.S. cartoons differ from those of other countries?

Steve: I like the way that the foreign cartoonists seem to embrace the visual. I think the best cartoons have few, if any words.

MEANWHILE, IN THE CARGO HOLD OF HILLARY'S CAMPAIGN BUS...



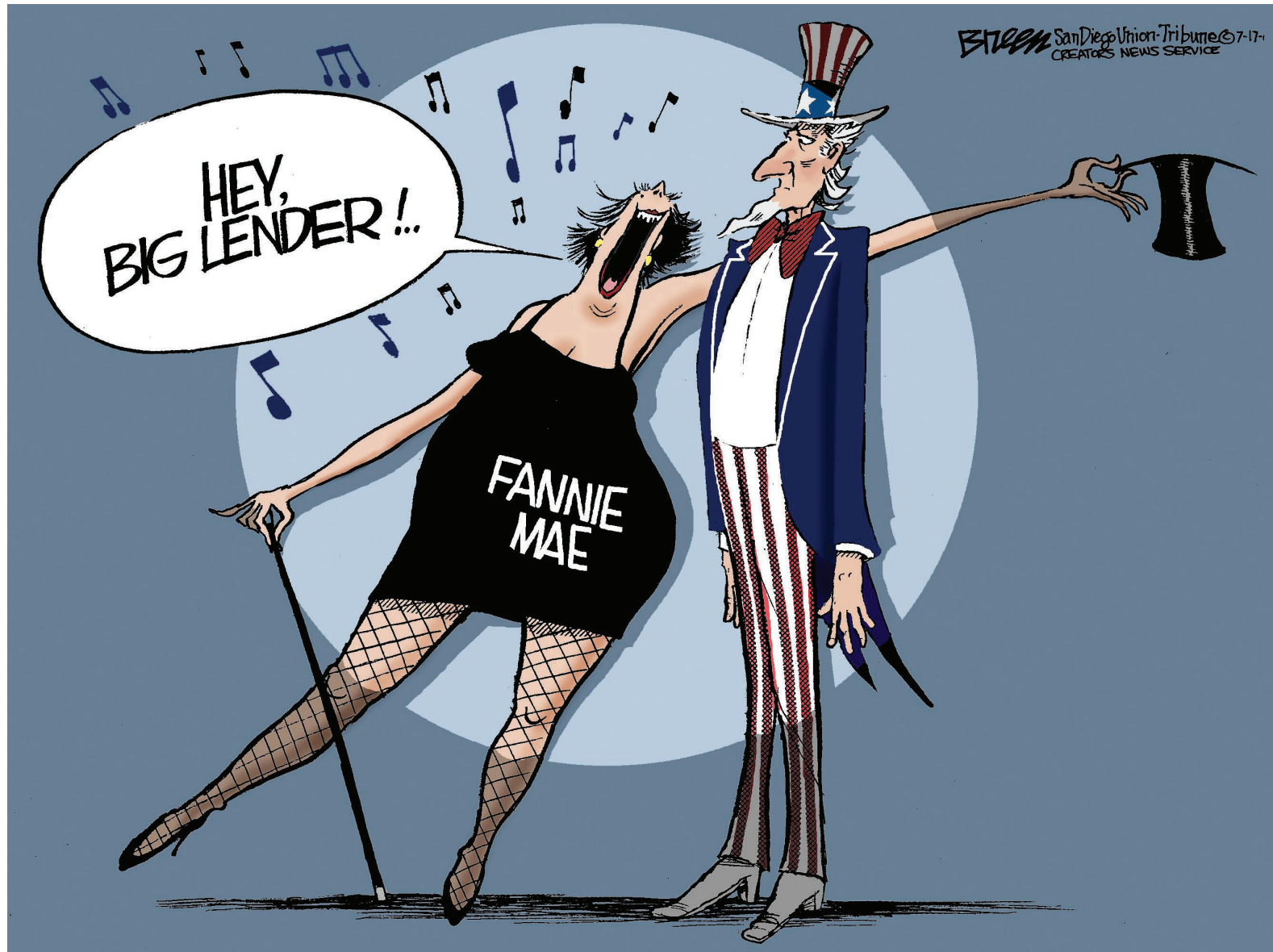


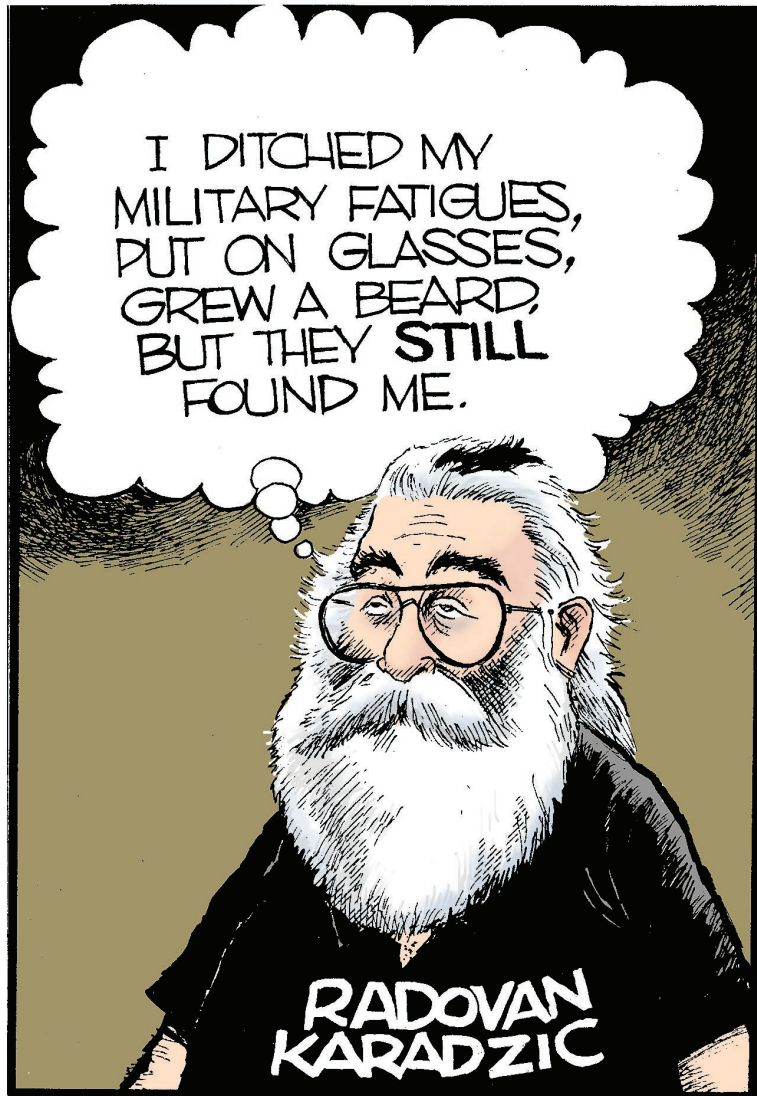
PITCHER'S MOUND

MORE POLITICS
ALLEGED AT
JUSTICE DEPT...

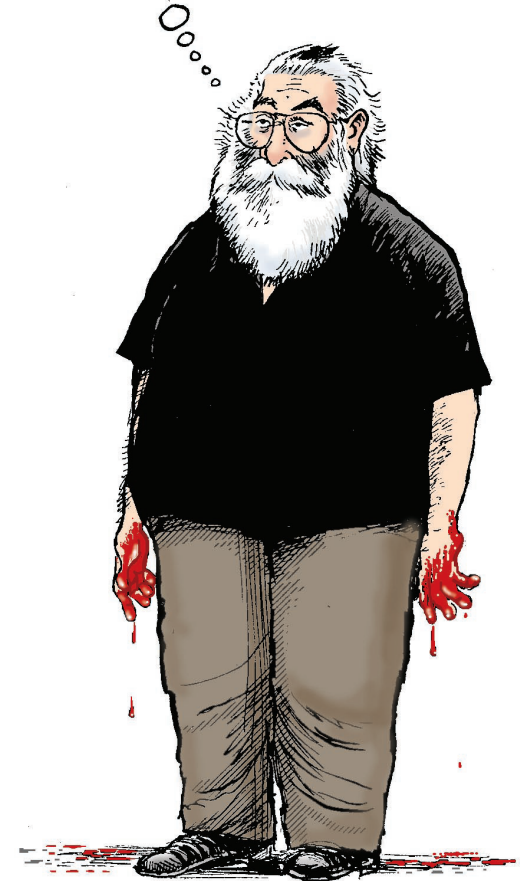








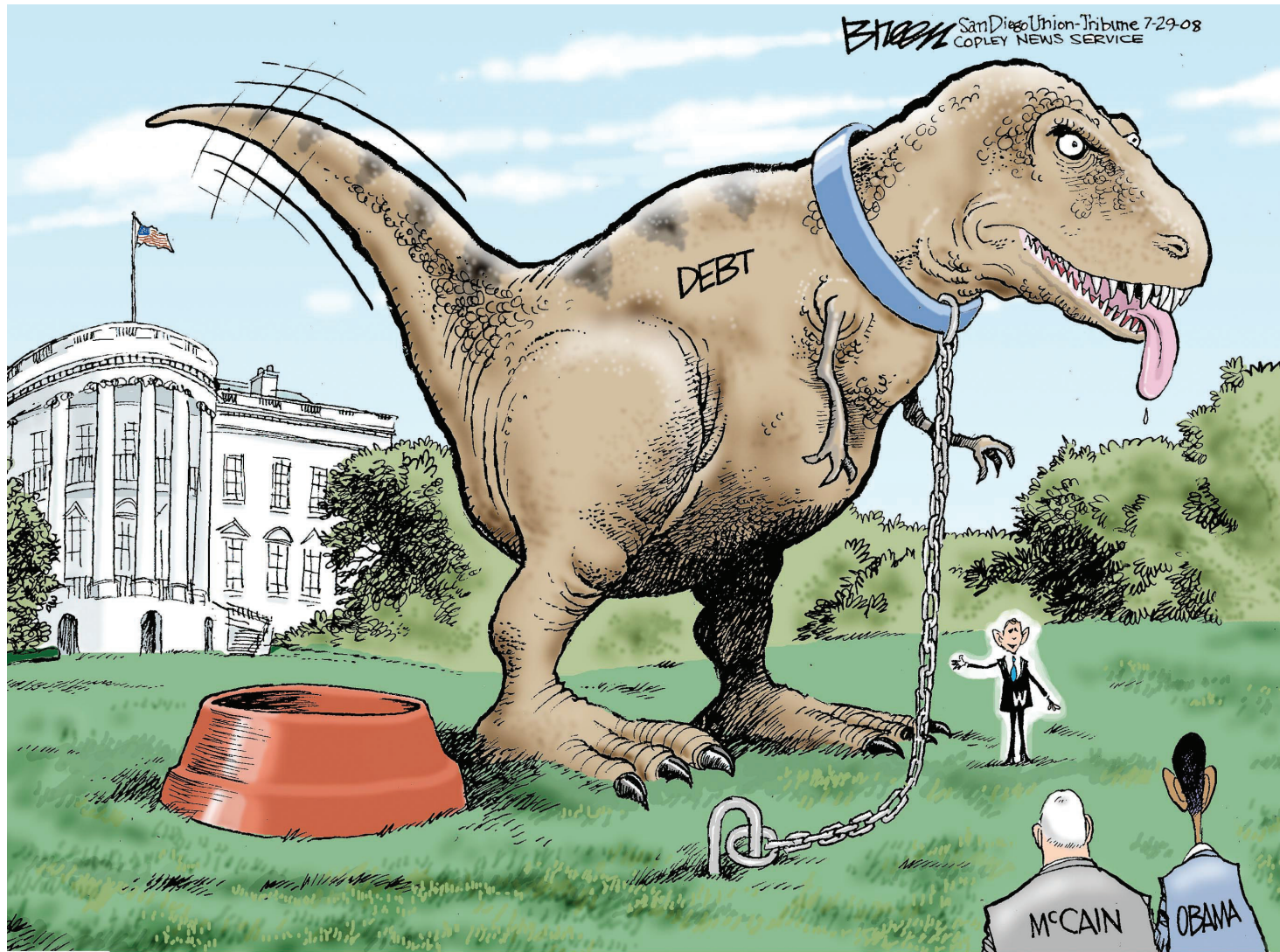
...I WONDER WHAT
TIPPED THEM OFF.



LOIS AND SUPERMAN



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"REX COMES WITH THE HOUSE..."