

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Cartoon courtesy Lisa Benson / Victor Valley Daily Press

Lisa Benson 2007
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Between the lines

President Bush vetoed a Democratic bill that would have greatly expanded the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which makes health insurance available to poor children. The veto set the stage for a Congressional show-down as lawmakers considered overriding his veto. The bill would have added \$35 billion to the program, known by its acronym SCHIP.

Differing ideas frame a debate

Talking points

1. "How much more load do you expect us to carry," Lisa Benson's cartoon seems to ask. But to understand the toon, you need to decipher the symbols and put the toon into the context of current events. That's not easy if you're not familiar with the issue addressed. So start by listing the symbols and what they mean: Old guy in top hat, donkey, SCHIP, etc. The issue is explained at left. Put it together.
2. President Bush's veto of the SCHIP bill was unpopular with lawmakers, the public (according to polls) and many cartoonists. Which side does this cartoon take in the debate?
3. Should a cartoon always reflect popular opinion? Why is an opposing voice important when considering an issue? This cartoon doesn't argue against helping children. What is it saying?

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.

Additional resources

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

More by Lisa Benson <http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/BensoL>