

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Government snooping: Different views

Between the lines

The uproar over revelations that the National Security Agency has collected the telephone records of tens of millions of Americans spilled onto the nation's editorial pages recently. Major newspapers condemned the program saying what the government was doing "undermines US freedoms and threatens us all."

But a poll taken after the disclosures showed that a majority of Americans supports the NSA program.



Courtesy John Trever / Albuquerque Journal



Courtesy Bob Englehart / The Hartford Courant

Talking points

1. "We are in a war, and we've got to collect intelligence on the enemy, and you can't tell the enemy in advance how you are going to do it," said Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz. With that quote in mind, decipher what John Trever's cartoon is saying about the American Press revealing government actions. Is the press functioning as a spy network for terrorists? Do you agree with polls that the program is OK?
2. Bob Englehart says our liberties have been wounded by the government's war on terror. How so? Do you agree?
3. List and explain the symbols used in both toons. By the way, Englehart always draws President Bush wearing a bicycle helmet. Why would he do that? What famous recent incident (shooting accident) is part of the parody here?

Additional resources

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

More by John Trever

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

More by Bob Englehart

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

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.