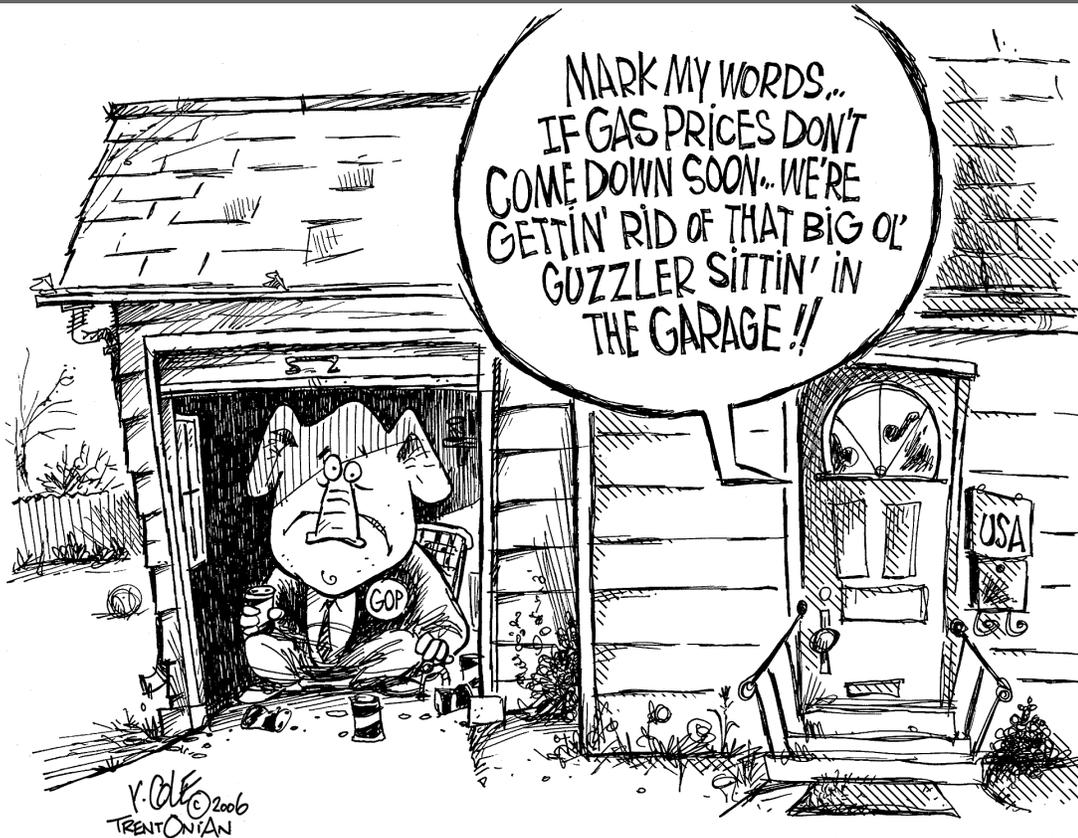


Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Cartoon Courtesy Rick Cole / The Trentonian

Tooning into the issues: Campaigns and gas pains

Talking points

1. In Rick Cole's cartoon what does the elephant symbolize? And what does *GOP* stand for? Why does the speaker in the toon blame the elephant for rising gas prices?
2. Is the rising price of gas an effective campaign issue? Where do you think it ranks in importance compared with like taxes, health care, education, national security and jobs?
3. Gas prices affect everybody. Why then don't politicians make a bigger deal out of the problem? Is it because their opponents aren't really to blame? Is it because nobody has a solution? Is it because higher prices are better for ecology?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with campaign issues. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed. Find newspaper stories about the issues and re-evaluate the issues and the opinions expressed.

Additional resources

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

Between the lines

So far, the American public isn't blaming President Bush for steadily spiraling gasoline prices. . . . But in an election year, hot issues usually feed into voter decisionmaking. Democrats are working overtime to make sure \$2-plus-per-gallon gas works to their advantage. Republicans are pedaling furiously to keep the blame at bay.

--Christian Science Monitor
May, 2004

The high cost at the pump has turned into a major political issue, with Democrats and Republicans blaming each other for a problem that is largely out of Congress' control. Republicans are worried that voters paying more than \$3 per gallon would punish the party in power. Democrats want to make that happen.

--Associated Press
April, 2006

California's skyrocketing gas prices lead the nation at an average of \$3.40 per gallon. The national average is \$3.11.

--Associated Press
November, 2007

More by Rick Cole: <http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/Coler/>