

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Between the lines

Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton continue to battle each other in primary after primary for the Democratic Party nomination for president. Since neither can gain the required number of delegates needed by the August convention, superdelegates may have to make the decision for the party regardless of who wins in the popular vote.

And, with both candidates concentrating on the battle within the party, neither can launch an effective campaign against the presumptive Republican candidate, John McCain.



Courtesy Jeff Darcy / Cleveland Plain Dealer



Courtesy Gary Varvel / Indianapolis Star

Tooning into the Campaign

Epic battle rages on

Talking points

1. List the symbols in Jeff Darcy's battlefield cartoon to explain the point of his cartoon. For example, Gettysburg?
2. Why is Hillary tossing a beer at Obama while he hurls a bowling ball back? It's a subtle jab at the candidates' recent attempts to portray themselves as common folk. In early April, Clinton stopped at Bronko's Restaurant in Crown Point, Indiana and downed a shot and a beer while cameras rolled. Obama bowled a few frames while trying to woo blue collar voters at Pleasant Valley Lanes in Altoona PA. But why is McCain a bird? Darcy explains: He's a buzzard. Ok, what do buzzards do on the battlefield?
3. Gary Varvel portrays the Democrats' campaign as a school-yard fight. John Dean is the Chairman of the Democratic party. Recently he urged the superdelegates to take sides and pick a winner so the candidates could stop fighting each other and start fighting the Republicans. What's the reaction of the superdelegates?

Additional resources

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

More from Gary Varvel
<http://garyvarvel.com/>

More from Jeff Darcy
<http://www.cleveland.com/darcy/>

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.