

Cartoons for the Classroom



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



Courtesy Ben Sargent / Austin American Statesman

Between the lines

As oil hit a record above \$147 a barrel on July 11 and gas prices spiked over \$4 a gallon, the political debate over what to do about it all continued to rage.

President Bush renewed his call for drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR); and again proposed increasing refinery capacity. Republicans also called for an increase in domestic oil production from offshore drilling.

Democrats countered by calling for increased efficiency standards for vehicles and for more investment in American-grown biofuels.

Conserve more or drill more?

Talking points

1. As a weeping Uncle Sam comes to terms with his addiction to oil and petroleum, an elephant promises to find him cheaper dope instead of helping him shake his addiction. Who does the elephant symbolize? What should the "therapist" be urging instead?
2. In Lisa Benson's take, Congress has run out of gas and is hitch-hiking to find an energy policy while ignoring the oil and gas available in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Who does the donkey symbolize here? Explain the cobwebs on the attendant.
3. Both toons pose powerful arguments about the nation's energy policy. Which do you agree more with? Gather facts to defend your answer either defending drilling or conservation.



Courtesy Lisa Benson / Washington Post Writers Group

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper and other resources. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed.

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<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Ben Sargent

<http://www.statesman.com/opinion/content/editorial/sargent/>

More by Lisa Benson

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