Between the lines
A new definition of planets proposed at the International Astronomical Union meeting in Prague in August, 2006, would add three more planets to the Earth’s solar system: Pluto’s moon Charon, the asteroid Ceres, and a distant body temporarily dubbed UB 313.

Talking points
1. Bob Englehart uses this celestial opportunity to poke some fun at Washington politics by comparing D.C. to the most distant planet in the new solar system. See if you can sum up Englehart’s point in a single sentence. Some helpful keywords: Out there, Out of touch, Too far removed, Alien . . .

2. Jack Ohman’s toon takes a different approach and offers a different message about the state of the world today. List all the symbols Ohman includes to define the world. As you get into it, you’ll see he uses lots of them in a pretty small space.

2. The symbols in Ohman’s toon are meant to carry a negative connotation. Explain how each is a negative — at least in Ohman’s opinion. Do you agree?

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.

Additional resources
Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
http://editorialcartoonists.com/

More by Bob Englehart
http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/EngleB/

More by Jack Ohman