Between the lines

In the 2006 mid-term elections the Democrats clinched majorities in both houses of the US congress for the first time since 1994, capping a dramatic return to power on Capitol Hill. The results set the stage for two years of divided government as President Bush attempts to get his policy proposals through a Democratic congress further hampered by his declining popularity with the electorate.

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.

Talking points

1. Roger Harvell combines symbols in the toon above to make a subtle point about the outcome of the mid-term elections. The long-time symbol for the Democratic party holds up an inked finger. The inked finger became a symbol for celebrating democracy when Iraqis proudly showed off their inked fingers after voting in their first free elections recently in Iraq. With that as background, explain the point Harvell is making. Is that relief on the Donkey’s face?


3. Bonus round: How did the symbols for our political parties originate? Do some research!

Additional resources

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

More by Roger Harvell
http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm?HarveR/