The constitutional battleground

Talking points

1. In Mike Keefe’s toon above, Democrats are dreaming of the day when they’ll be rid of George W. Bush while a sculptor carves the President’s portrait onto the Supreme Court building. The toon uses irony to get its point across. First define “irony” and then explain how it applies to this toon.

2. The Supreme Court decides constitutional issues. So why does politics enter into the selection of Justices?

3. Leilah Rampa’s cartoon (published weeks before the confirmation process) predicts that the nation will once again be split, this time by the nomination of John Roberts to the Supreme Court. Has Roberts’ nomination really caused that much controversy? Or public interest for that matter? Explain.

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the Supreme Court confirmation process. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and determine the artist’s point of view. Gather news stories about the process and evaluate the cartoonist’s position based on the articles you read.

Additional resources

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

More by Mike Keefe at Cagle’s Pro Cartoonist’s Index

More by Leilah Rampa at the Annistonstar

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