

Cartoons for the Classroom

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

Drawing attention to government secrecy



Courtesy Etta Hulme / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Sunshine Week

Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

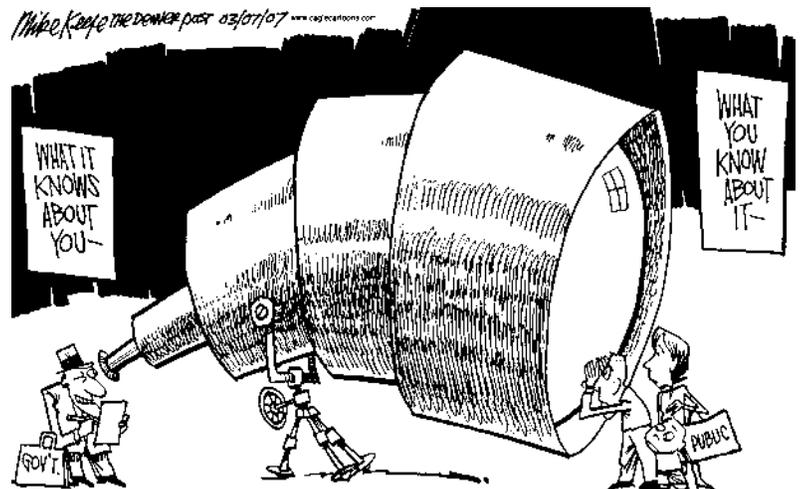
Though spearheaded by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing, and why.

Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

-- From Sunshine Week:
Your right to know
<http://www.sunshineweek.org>

Talking points

1. How do you answer the question Etta Hulme poses in her cartoon: "Is open government a threat to tyranny or to democracy?" Why do dictators find it necessary to keep their government actions secret and limit access to information? Why is it so hard sometimes to get information from our own government?
2. Mike Keefe's cartoon points out the government knows a lot more about you than you know about the government and that fact should make you uncomfortable. A free press is essential to keeping the public informed about what the government is doing. How do cartoonists fit in?
3. The Freedom of Information Act is a critical tool in a journalist's arsenal. Do some research and explain what FOIA is and why it's so important to shine the light on government secrecy.



Courtesy Mike Keefe / Denver Post via <http://Cagle.com>

Additional resources

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

More by Etta Hulme
<http://www.star-telegram.com/205/index.html>

More by Mike Keefe
<http://www.denverpost.com/keefe>

More Sunshine Week Resources: <http://www.sunshineweek.org> | <http://www.spj.org/sunshineweek.asp>