**Between the Lines**

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.

This year Sunshine week is March 13-19.

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

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**Sunshine Week: A bright idea**

**Talking points**

1. “What you don’t know won’t hurt you.” What’s wrong with that statement? Explain why cartoonist Jeff Parker points to “The People’s Right to Know” as the cornerstone of democracy.

2. Joe Heller’s cartoon shows a variety of ways to spread the word about your government. List the news sources he shows in order of importance. Which can you trust more than the others?

3. How might the tools listed in Joe Heller's cartoon have affected the recent uprisings in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya?

**Additional resources**

More by Joe Heller

Jeff Parker
http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/parker.asp/

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

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