

# Cartoons for the Classroom

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



## Smelly gas a sign of life on Venus?



Joe Heller, Green Bay Post-Gazette / Courtesy of Cagle.com

### Talking Points

1. An astronomer discovered phosphine, a smelly gas made by microbes on Earth, in the atmosphere of Venus. What do these cartoons say about the possibility of life on Venus?
2. Should we spend millions of dollars to find out if there really is life in the clouds of Venus or under the surface of Mars?
3. How has the pursuit of scientific knowledge helped or hurt humanity? Examples?
4. A runaway greenhouse effect made the surface of Venus uninhabitable. Do you worry about Earth's fate?

### Between the lines

"It's very speculative to say that there is life on Venus, but it's also speculative to say there definitely can't be life on Venus." - Michael Wong, astrobiologist.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/venus-might-host-life-new-discovery-suggests/>

### Additional resources

#### ■ More by Joe Heller

<https://www.cagle.com/author/joe-heller/>

#### ■ More by Rick McKee

<https://www.cagle.com/author/rick-mckee/>

#### ■ Association of American

[Editorial Cartoonists](http://editorialcartoonists.com/)

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Rick McKee, The Augusta Chronicle / Courtesy of Cagle.com