

Cartoons for the Classroom



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

Conflicting Constitutional Views

Between the lines

A federal judge ruled in August, 2006, that the government's warrant-less wiretapping program is unconstitutional and ordered an immediate halt to it. The judge said the program, which involves secretly listening to conversations between people in the U.S. and people in other countries, violates the rights to free speech and privacy as well as the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution. The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of journalists, scholars and lawyers. The government argued that the program is well within the president's authority.



Courtesy Cox & Forkum / Coxandforkum.com

REXBABIN THE SACRAMENTO BEE



Courtesy Rex Babin / Sacramento Bee

Talking points

1. The cartoon from Cox & Forkum attacks the ACLU lawsuit by insisting that the Constitution is being rewritten by the ruling. Does the Constitution protect foreign interests? Should it?
2. But in Rex Babin's view, it's the president who is rewriting the Constitution with his actions. What reason might the cartoonist have for showing the president using crayons?
3. The objective of a political cartoon is to get you to look at an issue from a different perspective. Notice that neither of these cartoons is a criticism of the Constitution. In fact, each seems to be pointing out an attack on the Constitution. How can both sides defend the Constitution?

Additional resources

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

More by Rex Babin

<http://dwb.sacbee.com/content/opinion/cartoons/babin/>

More by Cox & Forkum

<http://www.coxandforkum.com>

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. Find news stories dealing with the topic and evaluate the opinions presented.