

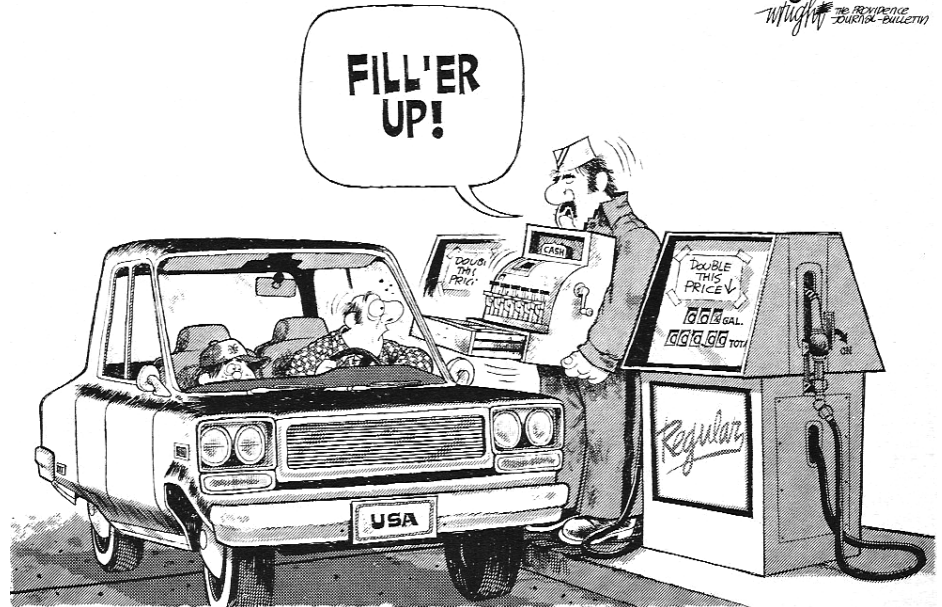
# Cartoons for the Classroom

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

## Gas Pains? Been there, done that!

### Between the lines

The recent spike in gas prices in the wake of Hurricane Katrina caused a national outcry before easing off a bit. It's happened before. In 1973 Arab nations refused to sell oil to countries that had expressed support for Israel in the Arab-Israeli war. Expressed in today's dollars, the price jumped from about \$10 to \$40 a barrel. In 1979, unrest in Iran caused another shock as the price of oil doubled. You just can't overestimate the effect oil prices have on the economy.



Dick Wright / Providence Journal Bulletin



Tab / The Calgary Sun

### Talking points

1. One of these toons was drawn in 1980, the other in 2005. Can you tell which is the older toon? A couple of hints should make it easier. Compare the vehicle styles in each toon. In the toon at left, the man is pumping his own gas. The toon above shows a gas station attendant. When was the last time you saw a gas station attendant?
2. Tab's cartoon at left actually works on two levels. The befuddled motorist doesn't seem to understand the relationship between a small supply and a huge demand. But what else is illustrated? Hint: How BIG is that hog he's driving?
3. Are the two cartoonists taking a stand on an issue or just making an observation in these toons? What's the subtle message one of the toons is driving at? Hint: See Number 2.

### Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper over the next two weeks, looking for toons dealing with the price of gas. 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 issue and evaluate the cartoonist's position based on the articles you read.

### Additional resources

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

More by Tab at Cagle's Pro Cartoonist's Index  
<http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/tab.asp>

More by Dick Wright  
<http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/dickwright.asp>