

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Cartoon Courtesy Paul Combs /Tribune Media

Between the lines

The 110th Congress was sworn in on Jan. 4, 2007. As a result of the 2006 elections, the Democrats control a majority in both chambers for the first time in 12 years.

The new Democratic leadership in the U.S. House has pledged to pass a group of bills in their first 100 hours in the majority.

The Democrats' clock moves only when the House is working on legislation. You can find the actual clock at on the Web at www.house.gov/pelosi/.

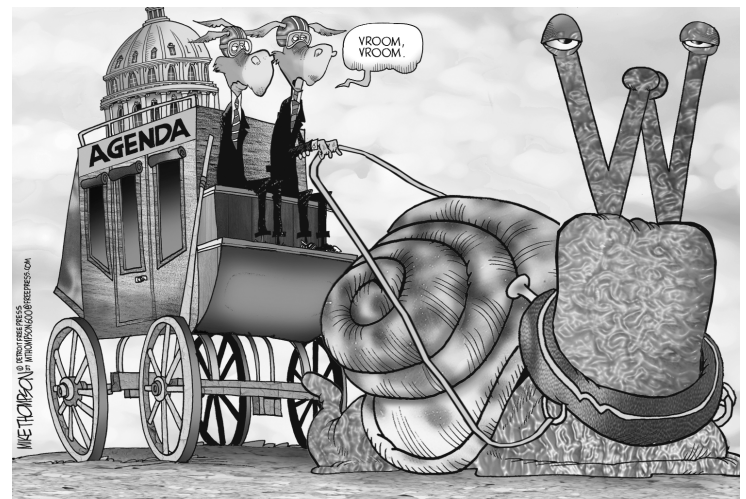
Welcoming the new congress in cartoons

Talking points

1. In order to understand a political cartoon you need to first decipher the symbols being used and then put the toons into the context of the news of the day. Define the symbols being used in these two cartoons: Donkeys, snail, "W". What's the context?
2. For all their good intentions to move forward with their agenda, the donkeys at right realize they are hampered by the "snail." Who's the snail supposed to represent? How can he affect the agenda?
3. There are some clever details in Combs' toon above that help put the toon into context. The clock has Jan. 4 as a date. The stuffed animal wears 110th Congress on his shirt. Summarize Combs' message.

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the Democrats regaining power. 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. Then find news stories about the topic.



TAKING THE REINS OF POWER IN WASHINGTON...SORT OF

Cartoon Courtesy Mike Thompson / The Detroit Free Press

Additional resources

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

More by Mike Thompson

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=COL25>

More by Paul Combs

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/CombsP/>