

Cartoons for the Classroom

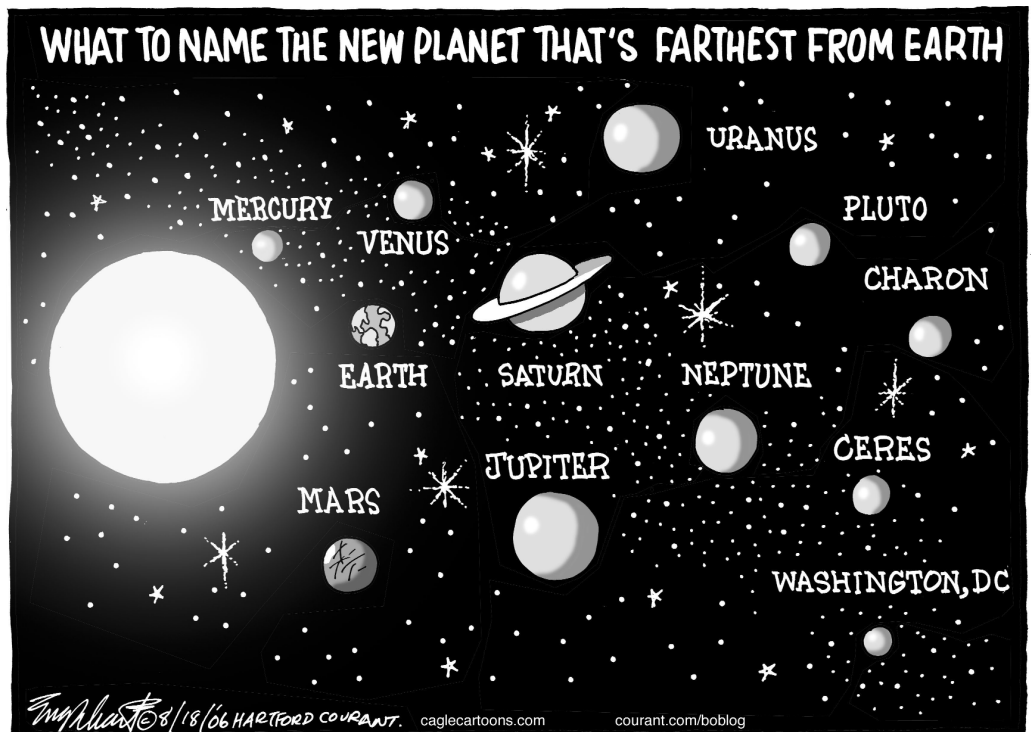
Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Tooning into the cosmos

Between the lines

A new definition of planets proposed at the International Astronomical Union meeting in Prague in August, 2006, would add three more planets to the Earth's solar system: Pluto's moon Charon, the asteroid Ceres, and a distant body temporarily dubbed UB 313.



Cartoon Courtesy Bob Englehart / The Hartford Courant

Talking points

1. Bob Englehart uses this celestial opportunity to poke some fun at Washington politics by comparing D.C. to the most distant planet in the new solar system. See if you can sum up Englehart's point in a single sentence. Some helpful keywords: Out there, Out of touch, Too far removed, Alien . . .

2. Jack Ohman's toon takes a different approach and offers a different message about the state of the world today. List all the symbols Ohman includes to define the world. As you get into it, you'll see he uses lots of them in a pretty small space.

2. The symbols in Ohman's toon are meant to carry a negative connotation. Explain how each is a negative — at least in Ohman's opinion. Do you agree?



Cartoon Courtesy Jack Ohman / The Oregonian

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.

Additional resources

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

More by Bob Englehart

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

More by Jack Ohman

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/jack_ohman/