

Cartoons for the Classroom



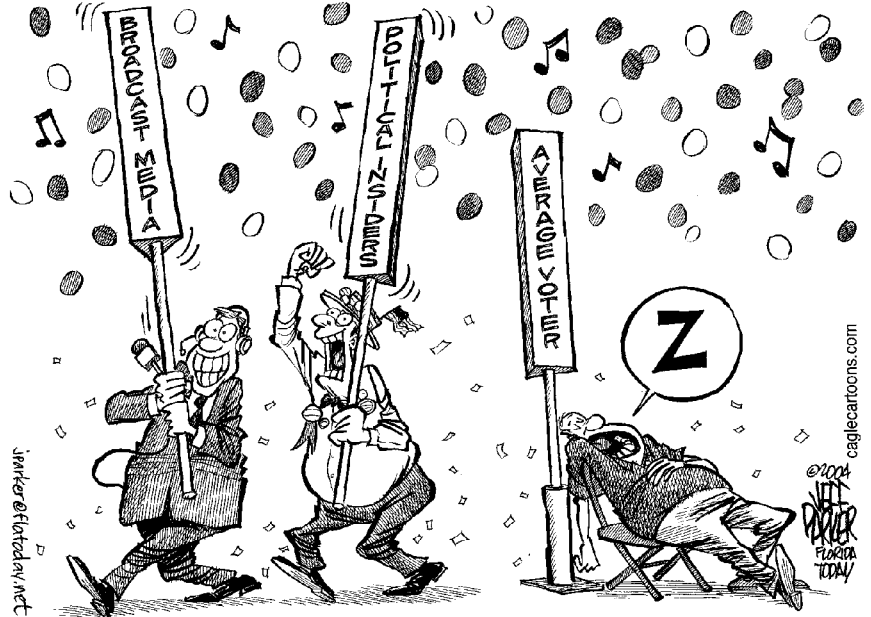
Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

Unconventional approach

Toon in as the conventions take center stage

The major television networks cut back live coverage of the Democratic and Republican national conventions to one prime-time hour a night. More prime-time TV was devoted to the selection of the last American Idol. And, according to a recent Pew survey, more than 20 percent of 18-29 year olds say they get their campaign news from comedy shows like "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and "Saturday Night Live." Thanks to Jay Leno and David Letterman, we are a little bit aware of what's going on around us. But are we better informed? Political cartoons won't give you all the news either. They are comments on the news. And they are biased -- as efforts to persuade, they take sides in the debate. But political cartoons are a great way to get you to think critically about the issues behind the news. Agree or disagree with the cartoonist, at least you've given some thought to the issues.

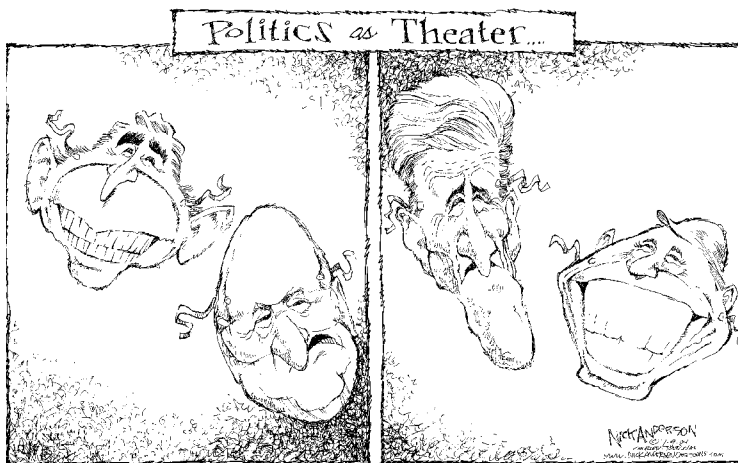
WHO'S READY FOR A GOOD OLD FASHIONED POLITICAL CONVENTION?



Jeff Parker / Florida Today

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper over the next two weeks as a way of examining the current issues of the political campaign. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the point of view of the artist. Gather news stories about those issues and evaluate the cartoonists opinions. Do you agree or disagree with what the cartoons attack (or defend). Based on your assessments can you tell if the cartoonist is a Democrat or a Republican? Is that important to know? Why?



Nick Anderson / Louisville Courier-Journal

Between the lines

Nick Anderson has a novel way to engage the readers of the Louisville Courier-Journal. Like the late caricaturist, Al Hirschfeld, Nick hides his sons' names among the lines and squiggles in each of his drawings. See if you can find the names Colton and Travis in Politics as Theater (separate download).

Additional resources

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

Daily updating political cartoons
<http://cagle.slate.msn.com/politicalcartoons/>

More by Nick Anderson:
<http://www.courier-journal.com/nick/index.html>