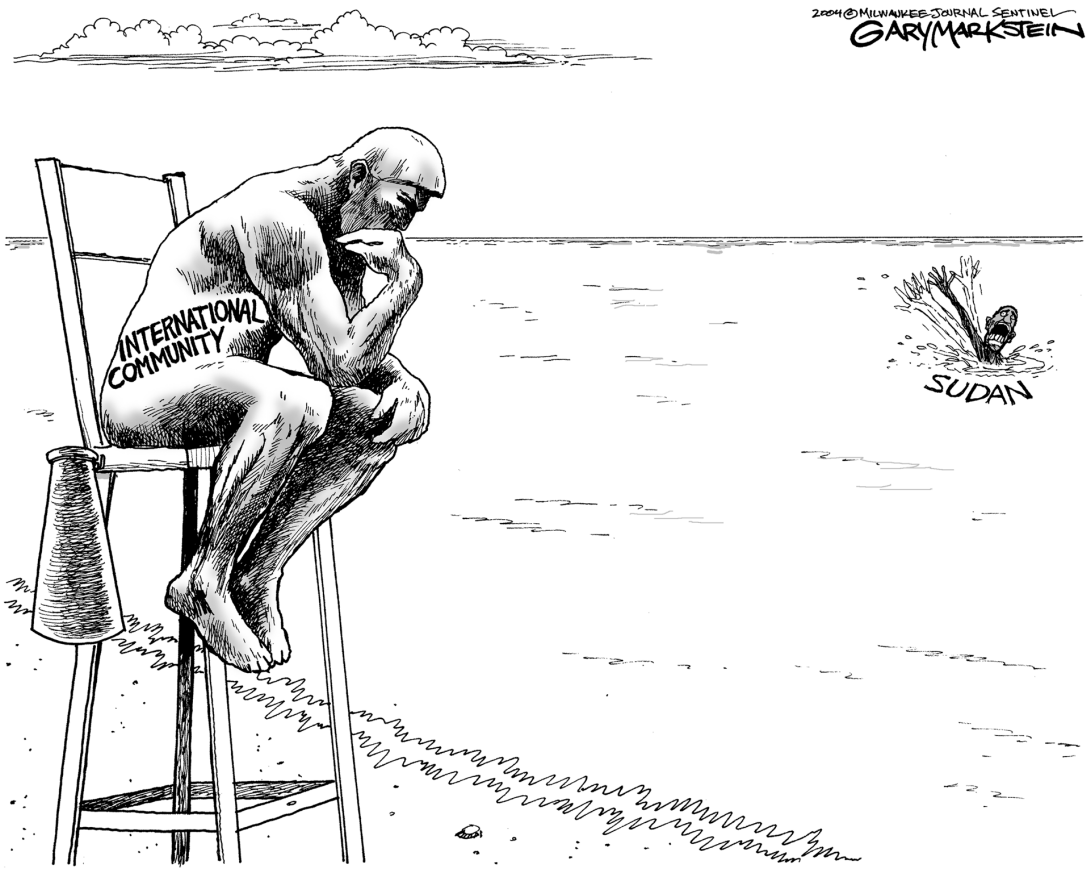
Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Between the lines

United Nations boss Kofi Annan has accused the international community of dragging its feet over what he calls the "appalling situation" in the Sudanese region of Darfur. The government-backed militias in Darfur are accused of killing thousands of villagers, and forcing 2 million to flee their homes as part of a campaign to suppress a rebel uprising.

Cartoon courtesy
Gary Markstein
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

A call to action

Hey! There's somebody in trouble out there! You're a lifeguard for Pete's sake. What could you possibly be thinking about? Can't you see what's happening?

With this cartoon Gary Markstein captured first place in an international competition of newspaper cartoonists sponsored by the United Nations Correspondents Association.

Markstein, 45, said he drew the cartoon because he had become frustrated with the world's failure to respond to the humanitarian crisis in the Sudan.

Additional resources

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

More by Gary Markstein
https://www.copleynews.com/1cns/EditorialCartoons/ma/

Talking points

1. The lifeguard's pose is based on a famous statue called The Thinker. Why use that symbolism here?

2. The U.S. often gets the blame for acting (or failing to act) in international crises. Here the blame is placed on the "International Community." Who is that?

3. This cartoon is a call to action, not just a commentary. Explain how the cartoonist gets the urgency of the situation across. Is it effective?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper over the next two weeks. 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.

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