

Cartoons for the Classroom



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

Between the lines

As Wall Street capped one of its worst weeks ever on Oct. 11, 2008, the only conversations that held any interest revolved around banks, investments and the strong fear that the worst is yet to come.

A Los Angeles Times-Bloomberg poll taken before the markets went into free-fall found that most Americans didn't believe the government has responsibility for bailing out financial firms with taxpayer money.

It's the reckless greed of those same financial institutions that's been blamed for triggering the collapse. Profits from high-risk loans and mortgages that couldn't possibly be paid back, have been replaced by panic selling in markets around the world.

Visual Allegory

Tooning into the credit crisis



Courtesy Tim Eagan / Deep Cover

Talking points

1. Tim Eagan presents a simple allegory that ridicules the federal bail-out plan to save the financial institutions. An allegory is defined as "a story or visual image with a second distinct meaning partially hidden behind its literal or visible meaning." The literal story is dissected below. Can you explain the "second meaning."
2. The literal story seems pretty clear. After a little "wups" there's a cry for help along with a threat. Who's the driver? How's he acting before he goes over the cliff? What's the implied threat in the 4th panel? Think it's real?
3. What happens to the reluctant "catcher"? Who walks away unscathed? Who's left to clean up the mess? How do you feel about the bail-out now?

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

More by Tim Eagan
<http://timeagan.com>

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