

Cartoons for the Classroom

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

Between the lines

On its surface, KAL's cartoon is just a spoof of market forces. But it contains an element of truth even if exaggerated for effect: Rumors do drive market actions.

"Sometimes the market tends to react irrationally to economic news, even if that news has no real effect on the technical value of securities itself. Therefore, the stock market can be swayed tremendously in either direction by press releases, rumors, euphoria and mass panic."

--Wikipedia

Courtesy Kevin Kallaugher (KAL)
CartoonArts International



The market roller coaster

Talking points

1. Here's Webster's definition of "satire": "The use of ridicule, sarcasm, irony etc. to expose attack or deride vices, follies, stupidities and abuses." Is KAL's satirical look at the way rumors can create market swings simply a funny social commentary or is it making a serious social statement?
2. Using the words from the definition of satire above, define KAL's cartoon. For example, is KAL attacking a vice? Ridiculing a folly?
3. What is the difference between sarcasm and irony? (Look it up!) How does a satire differ from a parody? (Look it up!)

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the economy. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed.

Additional resources

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

More by Kevin Kallaugher at
CartoonArts International
<http://www.nytimes.com/cartoons.html>