

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



STAR TRIBUNE
SACK



Cartoons courtesy Steve Sack / Minneapolis Star Tribune

Talking points

1. The retirees are in for a wild ride in the toon above thanks to the raging bull labeled "market fluctuations." In the stock market, what do the symbols of a bull and a bear represent? Would investors be more worried about a bull market or a bear market?
2. In the toon at right, Steve Sack turns the cliché, "that's going over like a lead balloon" into a visual to make his point about President Bush's Social Security plan. What's the squashed elephant symbolize?
3. During the 2004 presidential campaign, Democrat Howard Dean's candidacy imploded after he gave an impassioned speech that ended with a scream. The result: Dean became the laughing stock of the rest of the campaign. Here, the president is shown saying the same words and the elephant gives the scream. Explain the sneaky point Sack is making. Hint: Who gets hurt politically if the plan fails?

Additional resources

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

More by Steve Sack
<http://www.startribune.com/opinion/>

Humor helps hammer a point home

As President Bush struggles to get the country behind him in his quest to privatize Social Security, political cartoonists are having a field day. Ridicule is a powerful tool in commentary. Making fun of something can often be more effective than serious debate. Just because a toon is funny doesn't mean there isn't an important point being made.

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 cartoonist's opinions.

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