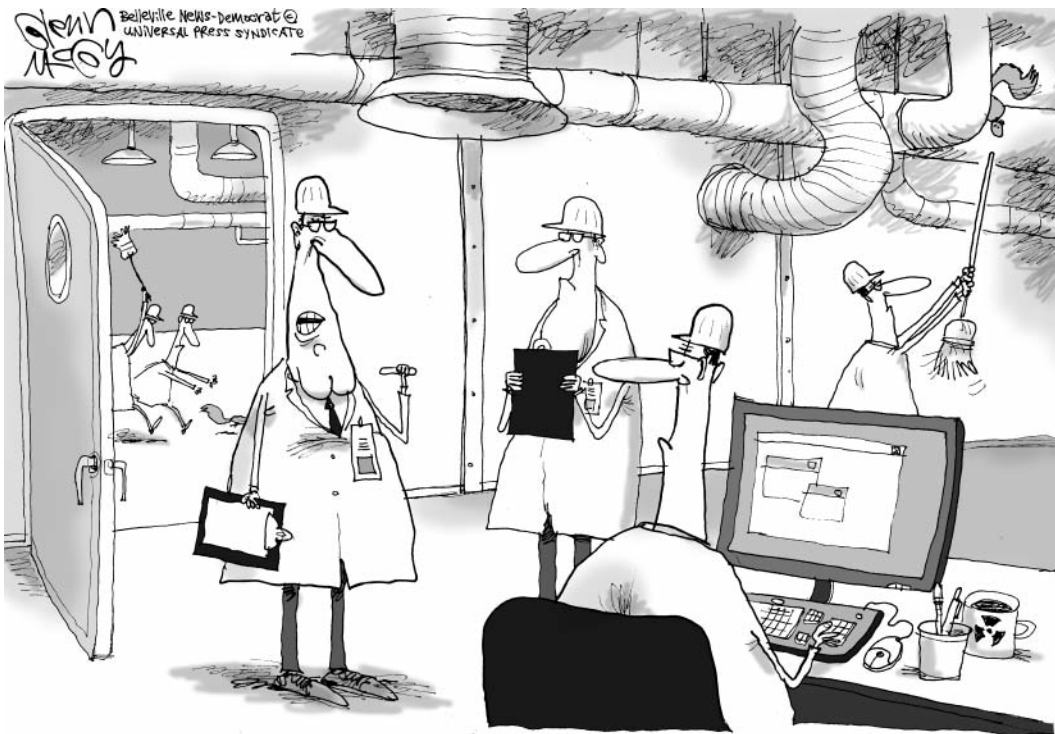


Cartoons for the Classroom



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



Between the lines

On Sept. 10, 2008, scientists fired up the "Large Hadron Collider" (LHC) the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator complex just outside of Geneva, hundreds of feet beneath the Franco-Swiss border.

The \$10-billion project is designed to monitor what happens when tiny particles smash together at close to the speed of light. Fears that the collisions might form tiny black holes that could destroy the world led to lawsuits that sought to halt the project and save the planet. Operations at the facility were suspended after a few days due to equipment failure.

Meanwhile, Wall Street was reeling from the collapse of Bear Stearns, the fire sale of Merrill Lynch and the financial meltdown at insurance giant AIG.

Explanations of what caused these financial problems are difficult to grasp (to say the least).

Get out your newspaper

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

BAD NEWS. A SQUIRREL GOT IN THE SUPER COLLIDER AND OPENED UP A BLACK HOLE THAT'S SUCKING UP INVESTMENT BANKS.

Courtesy Glenn McCoy / Belleville News-Democrat

Explaining the financial market meltdown (sort of ...)

Talking points

1. Just for fun, Glenn McCoy's cartoon juxtaposes two current events: The debut of the Super Collider (and the fear that resulting black holes would destroy the world) and the string of failures in major U.S. financial institutions. Define juxtaposition.
2. Juxtaposition is just one of the tools in a cartoonist's arsenal. Find two events in the news that are unrelated and find a funny way to "relate" them. It can be an absurd cause-and-effect relationship, as in McCoy's cartoon, or a comparison for irony or sarcasm (two more terms for you to define!). Need help coming up with a topic? How about cell phones and schools, newspapers and the internet . . . and so on.
3. Not all editorial cartoons need to carry serious, persuasive messages. As a class, gather a collection of cartoons from newspapers, magazines and the Internet. Divide them into "gag" cartoons and Political Cartoons. Which do you enjoy more?

AAEC
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Glenn McCoy
<http://townhall.com/funnies/cartoonist/GlennMcCoy>