

Cartoons for the Classroom



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

Between the lines

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper suspended Parliament until until Jan. 26, 2009, Canadians found themselves embroiled in an usual political showdown. The suspension, known as prorogue, was Harper's response to the growing political threat his minority Conservative government faces from opposition parties dissatisfied by the government's response to the country's economic crisis.

Prorogue? Oh, Canada!

Talking points

1. Canadian cartoonist Tab, manages to both sum up the Prime Minister's situation and define "prorogue" with a cartoon analogy of "Custer's last stand." Define analogy and explain how it's used here.
2. What's Tab's take on the political crisis based on the top cartoon? Do you think he supports the Prime Minister suspending government to avoid a power showdown?
3. In the bottom cartoon Tab uses another pop culture reference to make fun of Stephen Harper. What's the reference? Now explain the punch line.

Additional resources

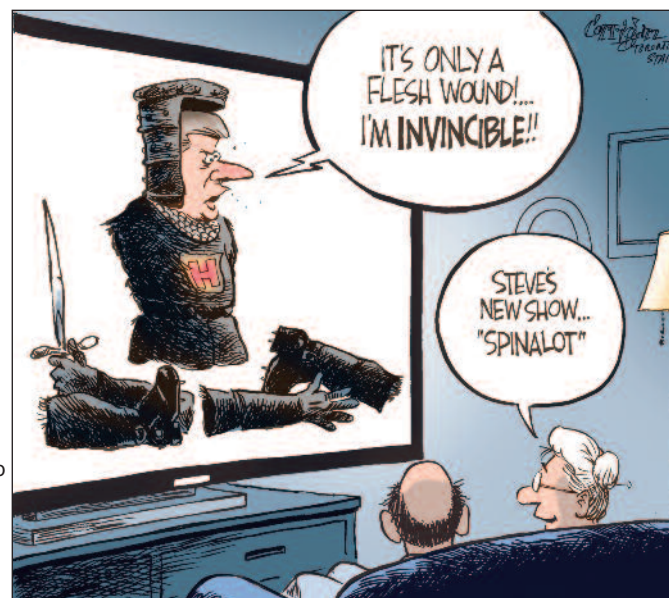
More cartoons by Tab
<http://cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/tab.asp>

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

Assn. of Canadian Editorial Cartoonists
<http://www.canadiancartoonists.com/>



Cartoons by Tab, The Calgary Sun, Courtesy Cagle.com



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.