Between the lines

On May 1, the Greek government proposed a series of austerity measures including spending cuts and tax increases to help address the country’s growing national debt. The proposal clinched a 110 billion euro bail-out package for Greece but triggered a national strike and widespread protests that turned violent.

World stock markets fell sharply on fears Greek debt crisis will spread through the euro zone.

Borrowing from the Greek debt

Talking points

1. Cartoonist Jim Morin invokes Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol to explain the fears the European debt crisis holds for the United States. It’s a metaphor. Explain the Dickens tale and then explain how it applies here.

2. The cartoon relies primarily on symbols to get the point across: The ghost, the barrel, Uncle Sam. Explain each symbol.

3. At right the nations in the European Union are all seen as beggars looking for handouts. The barrel makes an appearance again. Explain its significance here. The cartoon doesn’t need a caption. But try writing one to make the point of the cartoon more clear for the reader.

Additional resources

More by Jim Morin
https://www.nytsyn.com/cartoons/cartoons?channel_id=336

CartoonArts International
https://www.nytsyn.com/cartoons

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