

Cartoons for the Classroom

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

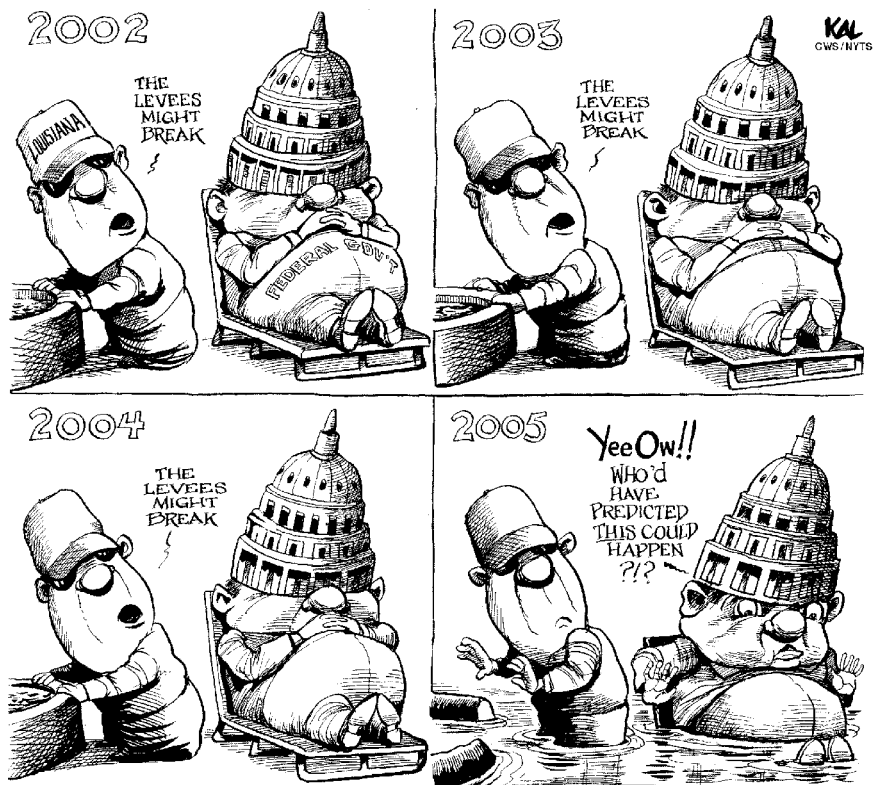


Catastrophe cartoons

The function of a political cartoon is to present an opinion on an issue and persuade you to consider that issue from different perspective. And a complex issue needs to be simplified in order for the toon's message to become clear. These toons by KAL focus on just two of the issues presented by Hurricane Katrina.

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.



Cartoons Courtesy Kevin Kallaugher (KAL) / CartoonArts International

Talking points

1. In his toon above, KAL uses sarcasm to attack the notion that there was no warning about the vulnerability of the levee system in New Orleans. Define sarcasm as it applies here.
2. The oil companies are a menacing force in the toon at left. Explain the notion of "crocodile tears" and how it might apply here.
3. KAL's drawing style is much more refined than that of many cartoonists these days. Compare the drawing style of these cartoons to the toons in your own newspaper and explain which style you prefer and why.

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Kevin Kallaugher at CartoonArts International

<http://www.nytimes.com/cartoons.html>