Between the lines

“I am concerned that if the direction of the news is all blogosphere, all opinions, with no serious fact-checking, no serious attempts to put stories in context, that what you will end up getting is people shouting at each other across the void but not a lot of mutual understanding.”

-- President Obama
September 20, 2009

How about a bailout for ailing newspapers?

Talking points

1. Banks got theirs. General Motors also got billions. Insurance company AIG cashed in, too. Why not have the government give some financial help to newspapers that are on the verge of failing? In Roger Maynard’s cartoon, the industries that received government bailouts don’t look very happy. Why not?

2. Explain the role newspapers play as the public’s watchdogs. How might a government bailout for newspapers impact that important function?

3. Notice that the dogs that got bailout biscuits are all on leashes. What’s the artist implying, since the newspaper dog isn’t chained? What happens when a newspaper that gets financial support from the government writes something critical of the government?

Additional resources

More by Roger Maynard
http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/MaynaR
Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
http://editorialcartoonists.com/