# Vanishing newspapers

**Talking points**

1. Ed Stein’s cartoon points out that newspapers form the foundation for a democracy. How? Why are newspapers so important to sustaining a democracy. Who will do what newspapers do when there are no more newspapers?

2. David Horsey’s cartoon features a quote by Thomas Jefferson on the importance of newspapers. Has newspapers’ watchdog role changed since Jefferson’s time?

3. The government has already provided billions of dollars to prop up banks and auto companies. Should the government subsidize local newspapers? What’s the danger in government funding newspapers?

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**Between the lines**

The Christian Science Monitor announced in Oct. 2008 that it would end its daily print edition, started 100 years ago, and focus on its Web site.

The Tribune Co., owner of the Chicago Tribune and the Los Angeles Times among others, filed for bankruptcy protection on Dec. 8, 2008.


Hearst Corp., is trying to sell the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. It says that if there’s no sale within 60 days, the paper may move to a digital-only operation or fold.

Denver’s Rocky Mountain News, faces shutdown if a buyer isn’t found shortly.

Gannett Co. says it will shut down the Tucson (Ariz.) Citizen if a sale is not completed by March 21.

Both cartoonists featured here work for newspapers that are likely to be shut down within 90 days.

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**Additional resources**

More by Ed Stein
http://blogs.rockymountainnews.com/stein/

More by David Horsey
http://blog.seattlepi.nwsource.com/davidhorsey/index.asp

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