Between the lines

Unemployment figures in the United States hit a nine-month high last week, prompting fears that the country’s economic recovery is faltering.

-- Aljazeera.net
http://goo.gl/2LOP

Jobs and the economy will dominate debate in Washington this fall as Congress weighs whether to extend the Bush-era tax cuts and the campaigns begin for control of Congress.

-- Miami Herald
http://goo.gl/viP7

Talking points

1. You need to understand the symbols the cartoonists are using here to grasp the point they are trying to get across. What do donkeys represent in American politics? Each cartoon shows a calendar. What’s the significance of the date?

2. The Swords of Dem-ocles is Nate Beeler’s play on the “Sword of Damocles.” Look up that reference and explain the allusion.

3. Nick Anderson focuses on one issue plaguing his donkeys -- unemployment -- while Beeler’s cartoon adds more issues. Why are these issues causing concern among the donkeys? Why are they blamed for these problems?

Exploring the issues dogging the Dems

Additional resources

More by Nate Beeler
http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/beeler.asp

More by Nick Anderson
http://blogs.chron.com/nickanderson/

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