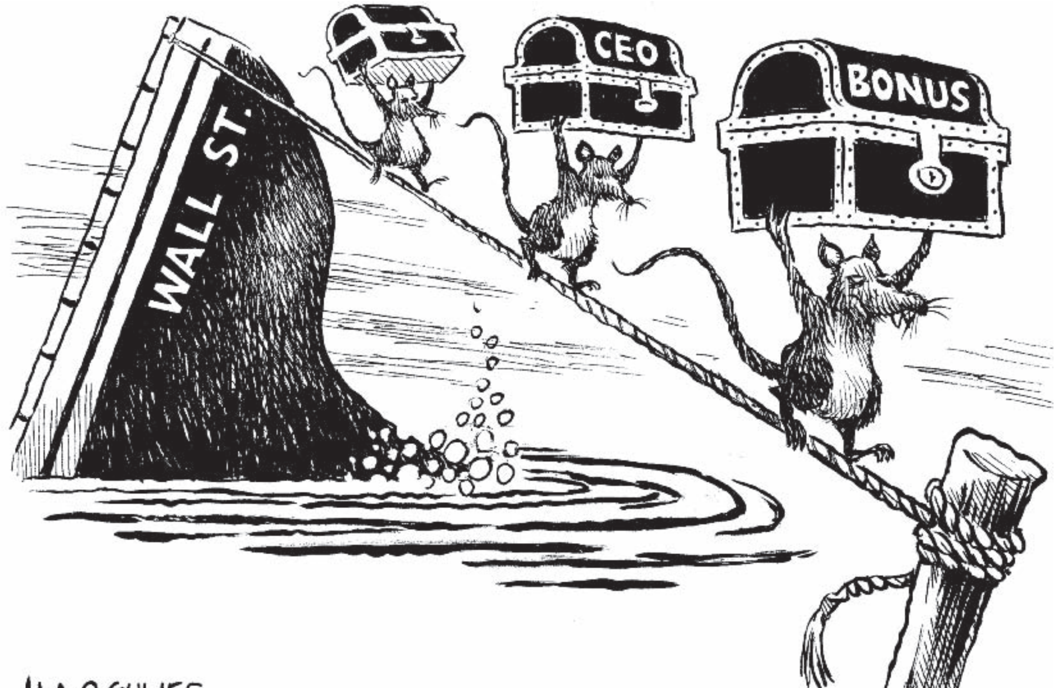

Cartoon Courtesy Jimmy Margulies / New Jersey Record

Drawing a bead on the Wall Street rats

Talking points

1. Jimmy Margulies draws a visual analogy to comment an the bonuses paid to Wall Street execs. Explain the analogy in one sentence.

2. Last week the Phillies signed first baseman Ryan Howard to a three-year, $54 million contract. Should the government cap salaries and bonuses paid to sports figures? What makes them different?? If the Phillies fail to win the World Series within that time, should Howard have to pay back some of the money?

3. New York State receives roughly 20 percent of its tax revenues from the financial services industry. So when Wall Street salaries are capped, it affects the state's budget because tax collections will go down also. That means less money for New York schools, teacher salaries, etc. Is it still a good idea?

Between the lines

"President Obama moved Wednesday to rein in the pay of executives whose companies get taxpayer bailout money -- putting a $500,000 cap on annual compensation.

. . . Obama's action was triggered by disclosures that Wall Street firms paid out almost $20 billion in bonuses last year."

--Los Angeles Times
Feb. 5, 2008

"Six months later, we still don't know what all our money was spent on, though we do know that some money went to such things as buying a corporate jet, sending dividends to shareholders and providing billions of dollars' worth of bonuses to executives."

-- Dean Calbreath
San Diego Union Tribune

"Things have changed. No longer does it seem reasonable -- if it ever did -- that the average CEO makes 344 times as much as the average worker, as was estimated last August."

-- Eugene Robinson
Washington Post

Additional resources

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

More by Jimmy Margulies
http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/MarguJ/

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Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues posed.