Political Cartoons

Analyzing An Editorial in Picture Form

What is a Political Cartoon?

is an illustration or comic strip containing a political or social message that usually relates to current events.

Usually found on the editorial page of the newspaper

A FIRST-RATE MESS

Chicago can't be world class with a second-rate transit system

A world-class city such as Chicago shouldn't have a second-rate transportation system.

Other great cities have figured that out. They know it takes a wise investment and great service to get people out of their cars and into buses and trains. Our leaders still don't get it.

Mayor Daley seems strangely uninvolved on the issue. As the CTA counted down to doomsday cuts this week, he was in Paris riding a bike. Gov. Blagojevich offered a Band-aid fix Wednesday — $24 million that will postpone those cuts until November, as long as the RTA goes along. But he still refuses to support the most realistic plan to address chronic funding problems.

The CTA has been heading toward financial disaster for several years, plagued by mismanagement

Mayor Daley seems strangely uninvolved in the issue.

and revenues that have not kept pace with costs. That's why the agency seems to be holding out its hat begging for money every year, and partly why the rail cars, tracks and buses have been falling into such a sorry state of disrepair.

One week ago, this page challenged certain legislative leaders to ride public transportation. We checked back Wednesday to see if any took up our challenge.

Official	Rode in last week?
Gov. Blagojevich	No.
Senate President Emil Jones	No.
House Speaker Michael Madigan	No comment
Rep. Tom Cross	No
Sen. Frank Watson	No

There were high hopes that this would be the year for legislative help, especially after Daley replaced CTA President Frank Kruesi. He was not well-liked by lawmakers, and his replacement, Ron Huberman, has so far lived up to his reputation for management efficiency. But those high hopes were dashed on the rocks of this year's stormy legislative session.

Concerned lawmakers crafted a plan to boost transit funding with a quarter-cent increase in the regional transit sales tax and with a small increase in the real estate transfer tax in Chicago. Those in-

are also operating in the red — with a stable funding source. The bill also would put more teeth in the RTAs oversight of the three transit agencies. That could help address some of the issues raised in a scathing federal report on last year's train derailment, such as the poor inspection of the Blue Line tracks.

The bill has so far failed, largely because the governor has threatened to veto any sales tax increase. And he has refused to offer an alternative, other than to trot out his tired and rejected plan to close what he calls "corporate loopholes."

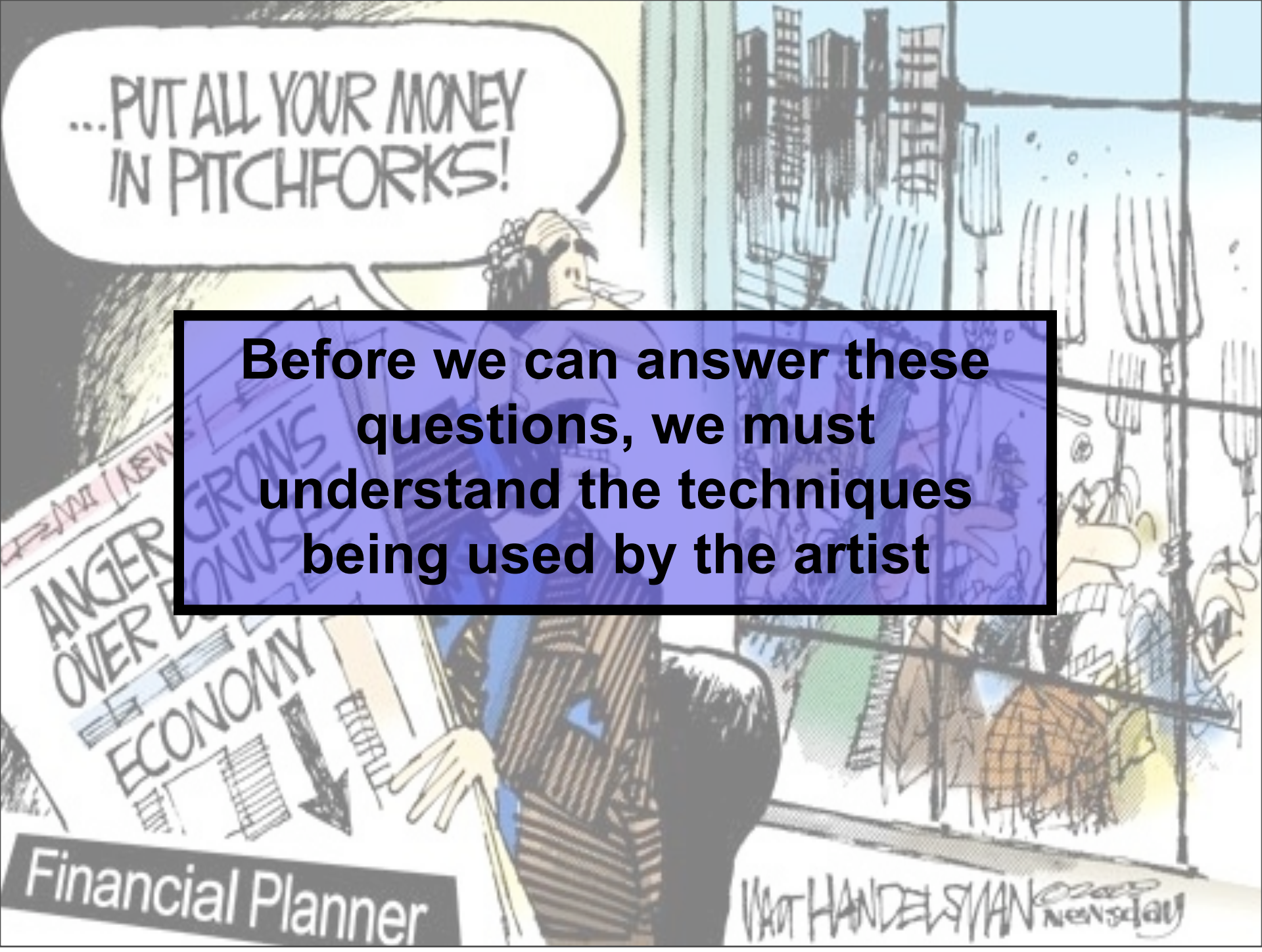
On Wednesday, faced with the very real prospect that he would be blamed for CTA fare hikes and service cuts, he offered the agency his $24 million Band-Aid. He also repeated his opposition to the sales tax increase. He insists "real progress is being made" on a long-term solution, but there's little evidence of it, and little optimism.

A mayor with Olympic ambitions — and a governor and state leaders who also are Democrats — should be able to provide a world-class transit system to a world-class city.

SPECIAL REPORT

When looking at a political cartoon, we want to answer these questions:

- What issue is this political cartoon about?
- What is the cartoonist's opinion on this issue?
- What other opinion can you imagine another person having on this issue?
- Did you find this cartoon persuasive? Why or why not?
- OPVL: Origin, Purpose, Value, Limitations



Before we can answer these questions, we must understand the techniques being used by the artist

Tools & Methods Used

Cartoonists use different methods to make their political cartoons effective and memorable.

SYMBOLISM

EXAGGERATION

LABELING

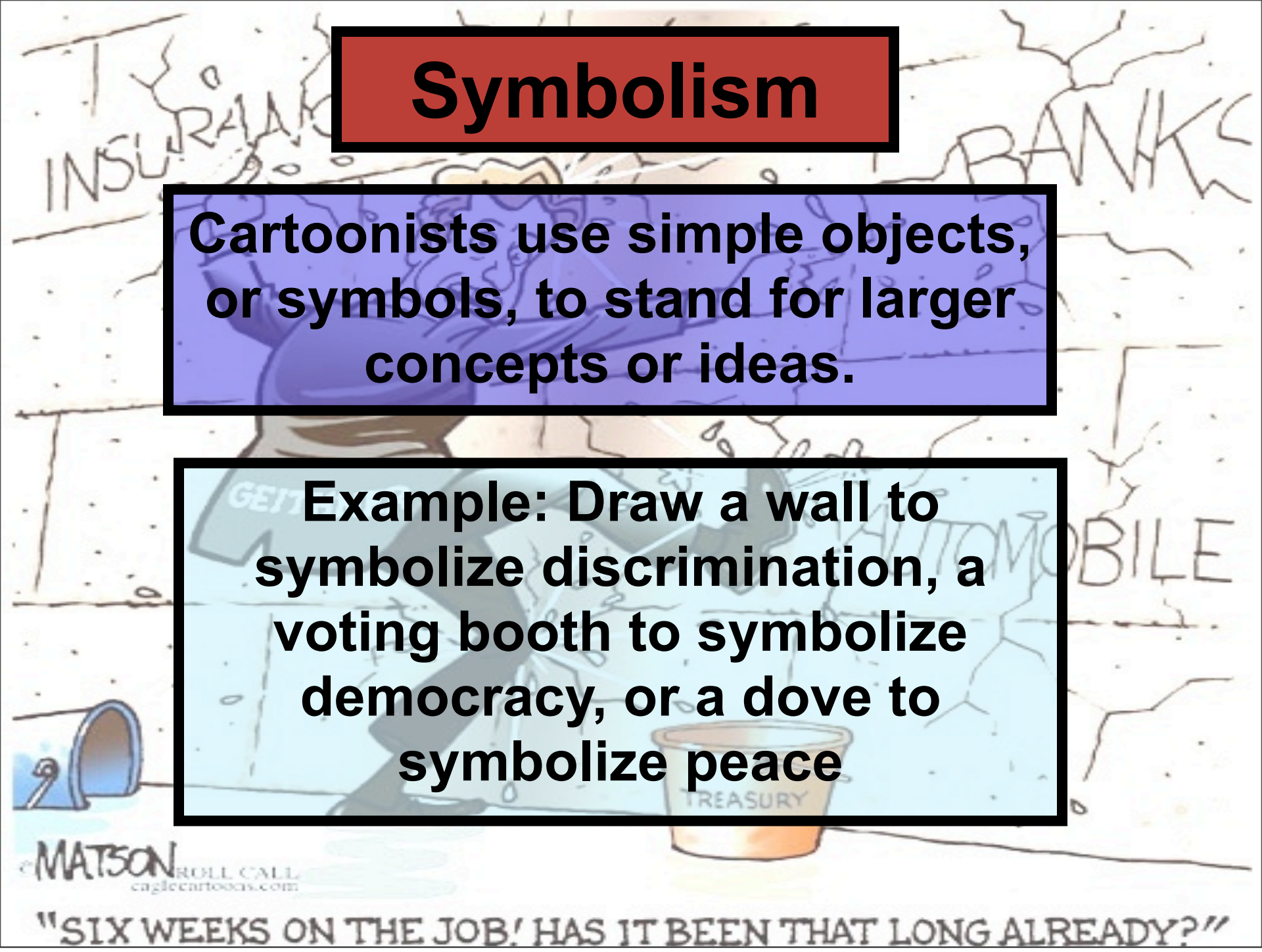
ANALOGY

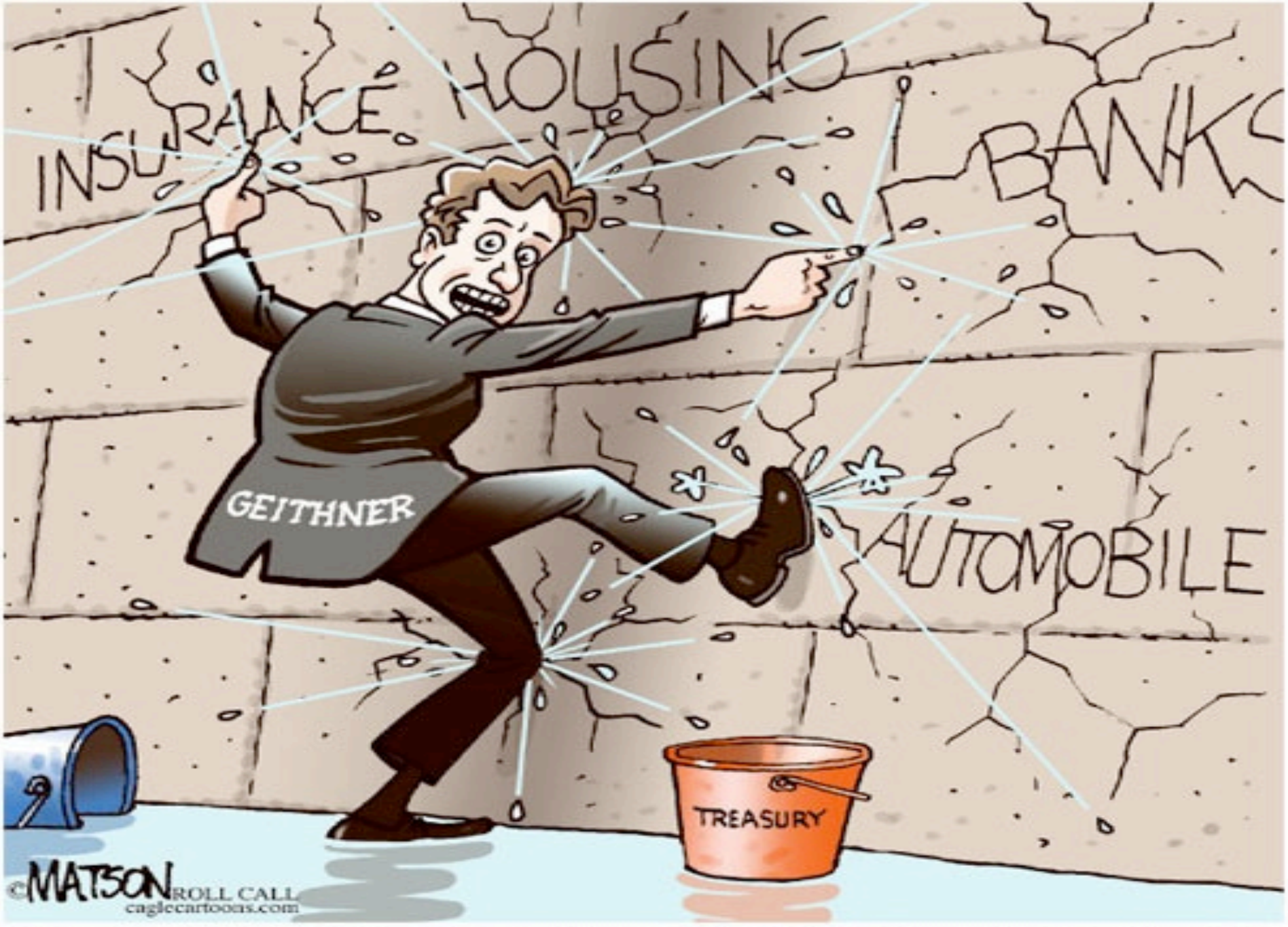
IRONY

Symbolism

Cartoonists use simple objects, or symbols, to stand for larger concepts or ideas.

Example: Draw a wall to symbolize discrimination, a voting booth to symbolize democracy, or a dove to symbolize peace





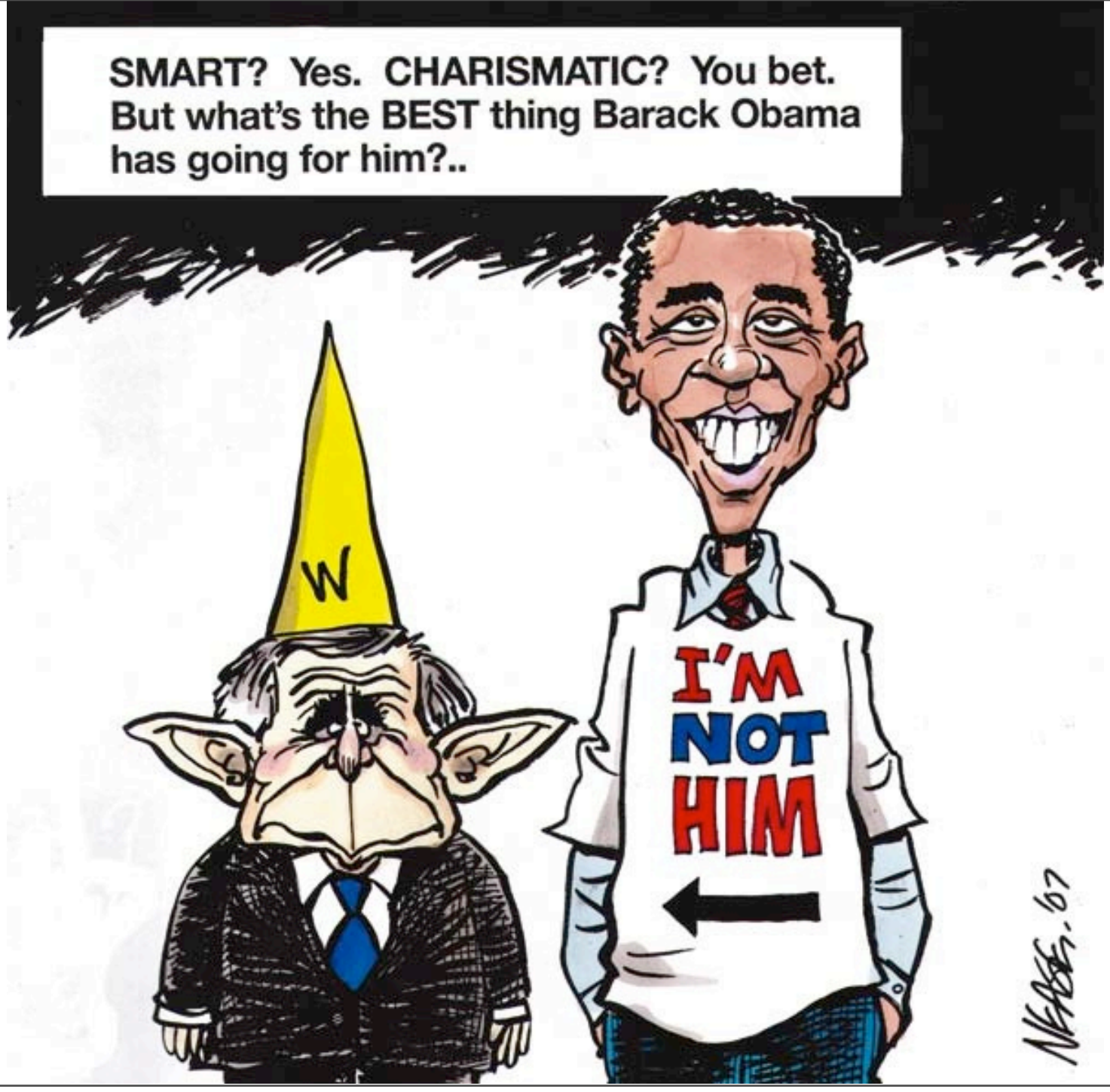
"SIX WEEKS ON THE JOB! HAS IT BEEN THAT LONG ALREADY?"

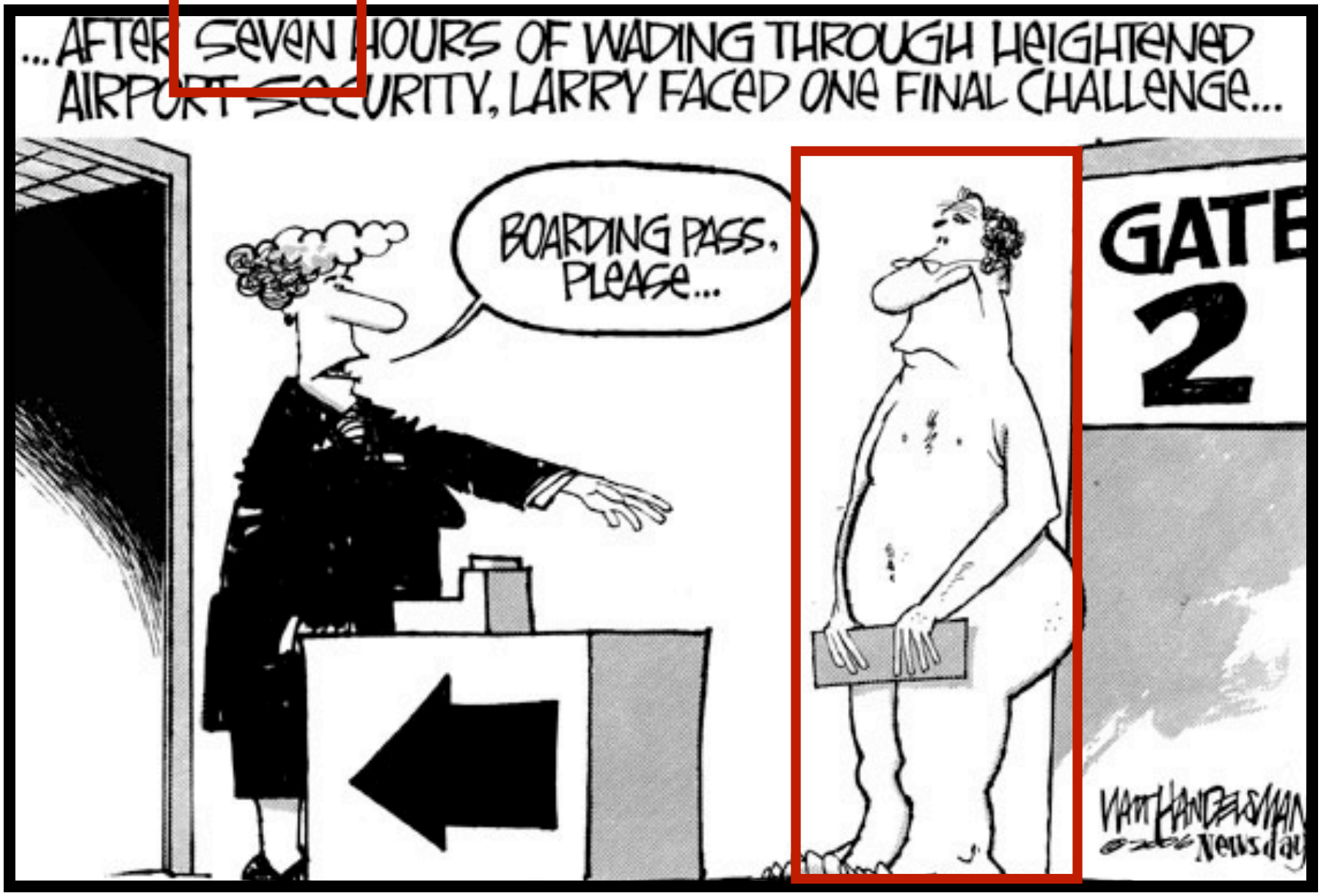
EXAGGERATION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Sometimes cartoonists overdo, or exaggerate, the physical characteristics of people or things in order to make a point.

- When you study a cartoon, look for any characteristics that seem overdone (Facial characteristics, clothing, etc.)

- Then, try to decide what point the cartoonist was trying to make through exaggeration.

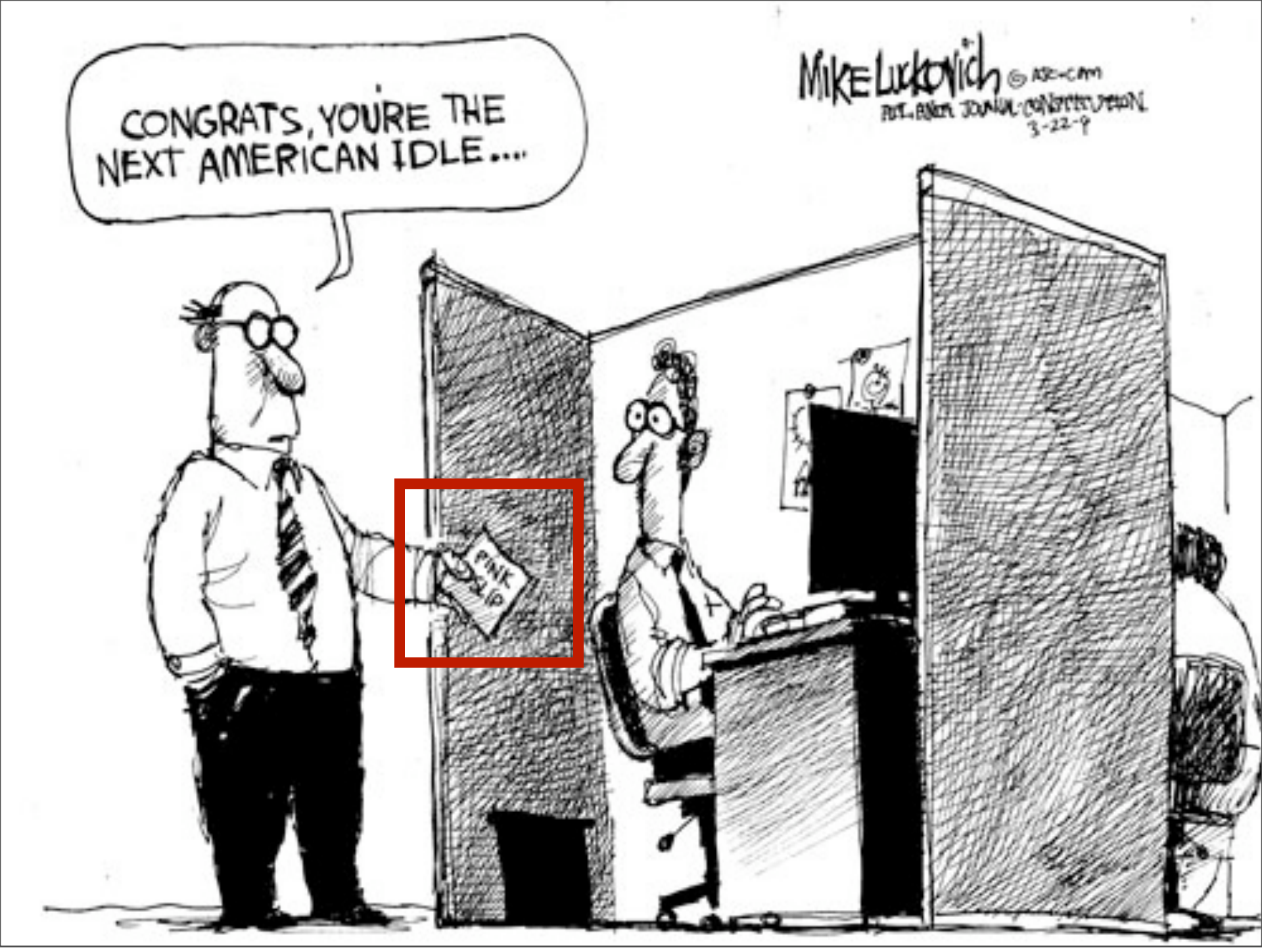

SMART? Yes. CHARISMATIC? You bet.
But what's the BEST thing Barack Obama
has going for him?..
W
I'M
NOT
HIM
NEASE '07


...AFTER SEVEN HOURS OF WADING THROUGH HEIGHTENED AIRPORT SECURITY, LARRY FACED ONE FINAL CHALLENGE...
BOARDING PASS, PLEASE...
GATE 2
MATT HANDELSMAN
Newsday

Labeling

- Cartoonists often label objects or people to make it clear exactly what they stand for.

- Watch out for the different labels that appear in a cartoon, and ask yourself why the cartoonist chose to label that particular person or object. Does the label make the meaning of the object more clear?

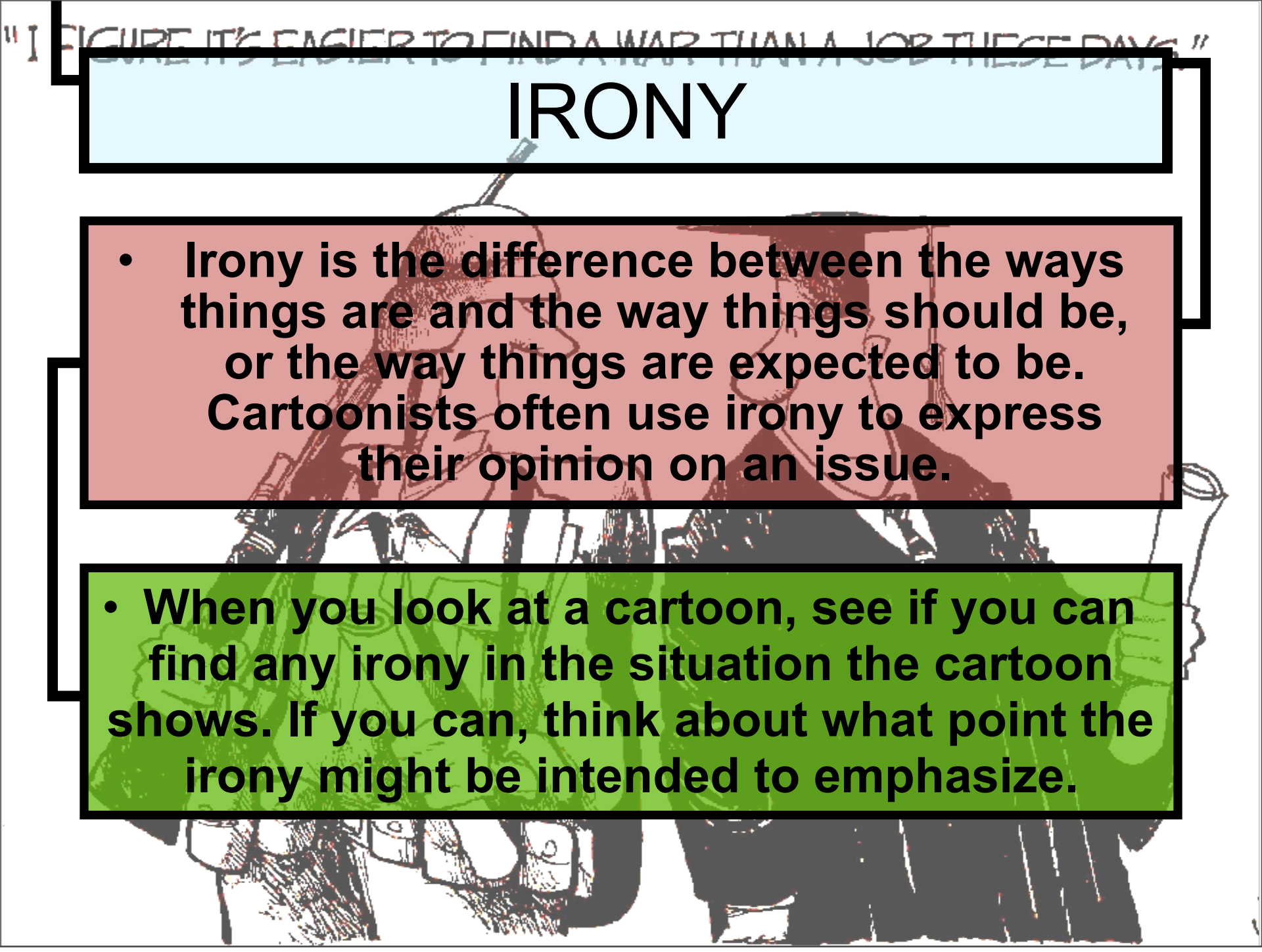

CONGRATS, YOU'RE THE NEXT AMERICAN IDLE....
MIKE LUCKOVICH © AR-CAM
ATL. JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION
3-22-9
PINK SLIP

ANALOGY

- **Analogy: a comparison between two <u>unlike</u> things that share some characteristics. By comparing a complex issue or situation with a more familiar one, cartoonists can help their readers see it in a different light.**

- **After you've studied a cartoon, try to decide what the cartoon's main analogy is. What situations does the cartoon compare? Decide if this comparison makes the cartoonist's point more clear.**

- **Analogy: solving the economic problems is <u>like</u> pushing a really, really, really, really fat guy on a swing**



IRONY

- **Irony is the difference between the ways things are and the way things should be, or the way things are expected to be. Cartoonists often use irony to express their opinion on an issue.**

- **When you look at a cartoon, see if you can find any irony in the situation the cartoon shows. If you can, think about what point the irony might be intended to emphasize.**

Irony: AIG and this ugly little boy looking for rewards for a bad job

Irony: The UN should be helping stop the genocide but does not due to racism

COKE
COKE
COKE

Assignment

- **In groups of two, fill out the worksheets by analyzing the political cartoons on the Arab Israeli conflict**

Assignment

- **Choose one or more aspects of globalization (free trade, WTO, sweatshops, etc) and design your own political cartoon.**
- **Write a paragraph explaining your political cartoon, including your use of symbolism, exaggeration, irony, labeling, and analogy**

Making Your Cartoon

Hints:

- **Keep your message and your drawing simple, yet be creative.**

Process:

- **Pick your topic (controversial ones are usually better).**
- **Decide your opinion on your topic.**
- **Brainstorm words, ideas, images, symbols, slogans, and places associated with that topic.**
- **Use all of this information to create your political cartoon**

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