

# Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



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Courtesy Dick Locher / Chicago Tribune

## Ebony and ivory revisited

Thousands of people from the predominantly black city of New Orleans have been displaced in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The inadequacies of the government's initial response brought loud charges of racism as the hardship fell primarily on the African American population. Television news brought that fact home night after night as reports exposed the deplorable conditions in the evacuation centers. Many of the evacuees have since been placed in far-away cities to try and rebuild their lives. It's unclear whether those displaced by the catastrophe will ever be able to return to New Orleans. And it's unclear if they will ever want to.

### Additional resources

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

More by Dick Locher through the AAEC website  
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/LocheD>

### Talking points

1. Explain how Dick Locher's cartoon addresses the issue of racism through symbolism. There are a few levels evident -- what kind of music can you expect from this piano?
2. Who does the toon blame for the racism? Or does the cartoon just point out that a problem exists.
2. If the piano didn't carry the name of the city, would you still understand the point of the toon? Is music unique to New Orleans? Is racism unique to New Orleans?

### Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes and the follow up. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and determine the artist's point of view. Gather news stories about the process and evaluate the cartoonist's position based on the articles you read.