

Focus on this  
for body!

The artist illustrates through layout and text, symbolism, and visual imagery how though the Federal Reserve as a financial institution is supposed to serve the common people in crisis situations such as the coronavirus, its monetary actions has instead focused on supporting the rich and the stock market, while others are neglected. The artist also illustrates how this view, though directly impacting people, has instead been so dehumanized that too often, only their impact on the economies and markets has been focused on.

The artist of the cartoon utilizes symbolism to illustrate this dehumanization and prioritization of the wealthy, but also the bleak helplessness of the situation. One main symbol within the work is the cross sitting at the hospital and visibly patients. With a cross motif at the piece bears the emotions of helplessness, the symbols of a hospital connects the idea of the Fed's actions to the urgency and severity that hospitals are so often associated with. It also directly alludes to the current situation of the coronavirus, illustrating its inherent connection to the current turmoil of the economy, markets, and people. This symbol is further endorsed through the personification of the Federal Reserve into a doctor. Doctors are meant to act as healers, helping cure and support the sick, but in this case, the symbol is almost oxymoronic as it shows the conflict between the Fed (doctor) and their actions that are well-intended, and the negative consequences that are occurring regardless of these actions, further promoting a feeling of chaos and helplessness. This helplessness is further illustrated through the use of the man's facial expression, partly a slight of effort and pain, and its connection to the clearly futile 'cure' of the rate cut, as symbolized by the IV. The artist portrays this helplessness in a mocking tone as well with the professional, well-dressed doctor monitoring the patient (the stock market), without realizing that he is not even listening



to the stethoscope he is using. This further is the artist's point that despite these well-dressed, seemingly knowledgeable 'experts' as portrayed by the medical coat, behind it is an institution that is struggling to find balance and solution, as illustrated through the pleading question of "are you ok" and the beads of sweat falling from the doctor. The artist also utilizes symbolism to illustrate the quantity of support that rich, wealthy people receive as compared to ordinary individuals. In the bed closest to the frame, the artist portrays a man dressed in a expensive styled top, hat and suit, a symbol of wealth and the upper-class. This is contrasted with the rest of the individuals, all dressed in a uniform blue shirt. The artist uses this to illustrate the clear divide between rich and poor, with the positions of the rich man closest to us also illustrating how as an audience, we too often are drawn to the power and suffering of the rich while they remain supported and loved, while the poor too often are left behind and forgotten. The artist also uses the charts to further probe this idea. While the rich man (the stock market) receives all the attention, it is still clearly struggling compared to the other patients and markets, all with fairly healthy charts. The artist uses this to ask the question, will it ever make sense to let the rich and wealthy fail and suffer in order to save the many, many more poorer people who must cope without support?

In conclusion, the artist of the cartoon utilizes symbolism to connect the dire situation of the coronavirus to the chaotic mismanagement of the Federal Reserve, in its inability to save the market as a result of its gross preferential treatment to the stock market, a haven for the wealthy and powerful. Ultimately, the cartoon portrays a scene of hopelessness, as ordinary people watch as support for them is forgotten and dedicated solely to saving a market that some may now say is a lost cause. Would sacrificing fewer, richer individuals ultimately make more sense than the deaths of thousands of 'normal' people?