

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Courtesy Jimmy Margulies / The Record, New Jersey

Between the lines

In recent high-profile cases, Northwest Airlines, Delta Airlines and Delphi Corp., the nation's largest auto parts supplier, have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as the costs to operate -- including labor, health insurance and pension benefits -- became too burdensome. It's no accident that filings surged before Oct. 17, 2005, when new federal laws made it much harder for companies to qualify for protection from creditors. Of greatest concern to the employees of those companies is often the potential loss of health care insurance as the companies cut costs.

Additional resources

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

More by Jimmy Margulies at The Record
<http://www.bergen.com/margulies/>

Unhealthy outlook

Talking points

1. When Jimmy Margulies drew this cartoon in 1993, President Bill Clinton's administration had proposed to overhaul the health care system to address the skyrocketing cost of medical care. Explain how the point of the toon is still applicable today as more companies seek bankruptcy protection.
2. How does the cost of health insurance figure into the cost of a car? An airline ticket? Other parts of the economy?
3. Who's to blame for the problem? Doctors? Drug companies? The government? Can you illustrate your claim with a cartoon?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with economy and bankruptcies of companies. 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.