

Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Between the lines

Because of a labor dispute, the 2004-05 National Hockey League season never got under way. Team owners demanded a cap on salaries to help contain costs. The players union refused to accept the possibility of lower pay to raise league profits. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman officially cancelled the season on Feb. 16. No major North American sports league ever had ever lost an entire season due to a labor dispute.

Cartoon courtesy
Patrick Corrigan / Toronto Star



Canada toons out as NHL ices season

If you're not a hockey fan (or at least Canadian), Patrick Corrigan's cartoon might be tough for you to decipher. For example that fancy garbage can is the most revered trophy in sports — the Stanley Cup. The man behind the imperial desk is NHL commissioner Gary Bettman. The issue is the cancellation of the 2004-05 hockey season. According to Canadian Press, the Lost NHL Season caused big headlines but few tears as even Canadians had tuned out by the time the announcement was made.

Additional resources

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

More by Patrick Corrigan
<http://www.corrigan.ca/>

Association of Canadian Editorial Cartoonists (ACEC)
<http://www.canadiancartoonists.com/>

Talking points

1. The Stanley Cup is the oldest and probably most revered trophy in professional sports. Corrigan's cartoon depicts it as a trash can. Why?
2. Bettman is throwing away a paper that reads 2004-05. Does this mean the cartoonist blames Bettman for the season's cancellation?
3. List the symbols you see and what they might mean. For example, did you notice the "L" in the NHL logo resembles a hockey stick.
4. Hockey is Canada's official Winter Sport. So what's Canada's official Summer Sport? (Don't know? Look it up!)

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper over the next two weeks. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the point of view of the artist. Gather news stories about those issues and evaluate the cartoonists opinions.