

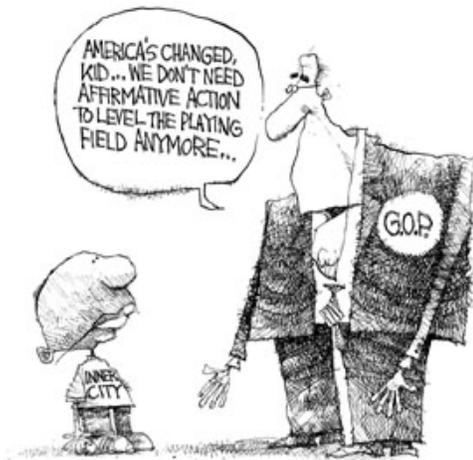
Cartoons for the Classroom

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

Comforting the afflicted

Defending the little guy is a tradition in journalism

"Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." Sure, it's a cliché. But journalists are still fond of using it to define their profession. At its best, a political cartoon can focus our attention on a social issue in ways words alone can't. Cartoonist Matt Davies sees himself as a champion of the underdog. His work addresses his own social and political concerns, including poverty, the environment and inequality. The artist was awarded the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning based on a portfolio that included the two cartoons reproduced here. The Pulitzer jury praised "his piercing cartoons on an array of topics, drawn with a fresh, original style." Standing up for what you believe in has its own rewards.



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Talking points:

- n In the toon above, what do the letters G.O.P. mean?
- n Who does the man represent?
- n Why is "inner city" written on the boy's shirt?
- n Explain the point the artist is making.

In the toon at right, Matt Davies is making a point about something called "outsourcing" and the government's reaction to it. What is outsourcing? And why should the government care? Is either cartoon an example of sarcasm? Does either rely on irony? Explain your answers.

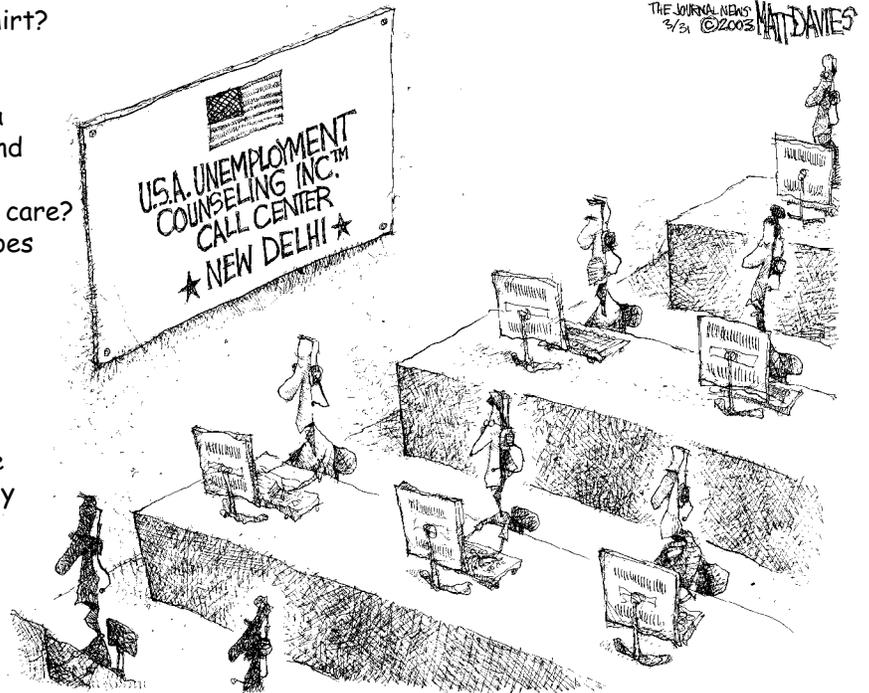
Get out your newspaper

Gather a week's worth of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and study the caricatures used.

Additional resources

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

Matt Davies Pulitzer-Prize winning portfolio:
<http://thejournalnews.com/davies/>



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