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The First Amendment. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or extending the period of copyright, or of the term, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Editorial

Autism bill should be approved

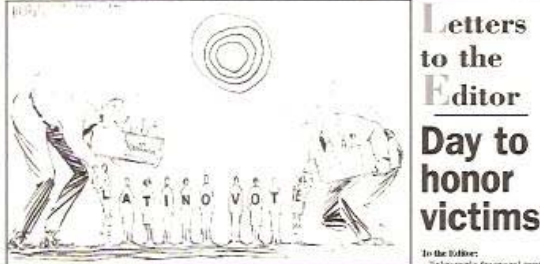
It's hard enough these days to be a parent. In between the bills on their backs/shoes on their feet/food in their mouths/over their head, parents are more and more concerned about making certain their child has adequate healthcare. Note so much so these parents of autistic children.

"Autism" is a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and non-verbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age 3, that adversely affects educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences.

The bill has powerful supporters and has passed support in the State House. The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics says H.B. 170 "coverage of diagnostic services, mental health services and medical treatment for problems associated with autism are critical and clearly should be covered".

Guest columns wanted. Are you tired of reading boring columns by boring politicians? Do you find the discussions of the legislative process in Columbus so mind-numbing that you're asleep? You're not alone. You can put a stop to such space wasters. How you do it? By writing a guest column for this page yourself.

Opinion



The Seinfeld Republicans

Steven Coon, Syndicated columnist

Some years ago comedian Jerry Seinfeld's jokes about the difficulties of being a sports fan in the era of free agency. The players come and go, the coaches and managers are always being fired. So what makes me not loyal to a team? In the end, he concluded, you're rooting for the uniforms. You're cheering for the laundry.

Republicans need to get angry when the government spent taxpayers' money. Then Howard Nogan discovered that spending money was more fun than cutting budgets. Remember, in 1980 the United States was the world's largest creditor nation. We lent money to everyone else. By 1988 we were the world's largest debtor nation - we owed, and owed big, to countries like the Chinese. I'm leaving Manhattan for the day when they decide to call in the note.

We are sinking, Mr. McCain

Donald Kaul, Syndicated columnist

This is an eerie time in the life of our nation. There is a national election going on and the candidates have spent a good share of their time fighting over trinkets on TV. In January and November and who named the Blackberry. It is a reminder of a September Speechy memo - ten kids sitting in the sand on a beach, arguing over who can make the best sandcastle while the background, unnoticed, is a huge tsunami of a wave only visible from afar.

After a week-end that saw such Wall Street drops as Merrill Lynch and Citigroup drop down and other giant banks collapse, Sen. Barack Obama was quick to blame Republicans, the party that pretty much run things for the past 25 years. "Let's be clear," he said in a daily address to Democrats. "What we've seen the last few days is nothing less than the final verdict on an economic philosophy that has completely failed."

Letters to the Editor

Today marks the second anniversary of the National Day of Remembrance for Muslim Victims. A ceremony recognizing the annual observance will be held in Washington, DC, hosted by the National Organization of Parents of Murkined Children (NOPMC).

Republican senator from Arizona runs for president and a growing network, warned about the growth of religious fundamentalism in the Republican party. He said, "The religious factors that are growing throughout our land... trying to force government leaders into following their position 100 percent." He summed up what has happened to the GOP's religious base as "backdoor lockers" who had abandoned their principles.

McCain on the other hand, is actually a lot of things, one being a Republican. "Our financial markets approach should include... removing regulations, accelerating and tax incentives to raising capital." He indicated that the Wall Street Annual 71 are fundamentally sound. Fundamentally is a derogative. Whatever.

We Want Your Letters

What do you think? Are you angry, pleased or concerned about a feature? Write about anything on your mind. There are just a few guidelines. PLEASE include your full name, address and telephone number so we can confirm the letter. All letters we receive the right to edit or omit any letter. Letters that are abusive, obscene, or otherwise violate our policies will not appear. Letters that include any form of hate or discrimination will not appear. Send them to: Letters to the Editor, The Record-Herald, 1200 S. Fayette St., Washington, D.C. 20004