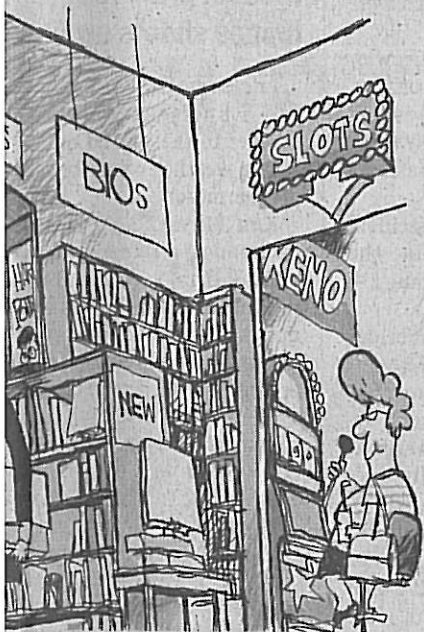


ROBERT M. LONG
Executive Vice President



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LETTERS

Doing what's right for special-ed students

Congratulations to the Ohio Legal Rights Service for holding the Ohio Department of Education accountable to students with disabilities and their families. The proposed changes will increase transparency and improve services to these most vulnerable students.

As advocates for students with disabilities, my colleagues at the Legal Aid Society and I welcome ODE's commitment to more thoroughly investigate complaints. ODE is in the best position not only to uncover problems for individual families, but also to identify systemic problems affecting students throughout a district. We expect the improved complaint investigation process to result in more creative and effective solutions benefiting both students and school districts.

We hope U.S. District Judge John Holschuh will give final approval to this settlement in October. The basics of the agreement are the minimum due parents and students and should have been in place long ago.

MALLORY CURRAN
Cleveland Heights

Curran is the legal director of the Community Advocacy Program, a medical-legal partnership of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and the MetroHealth System.

A sabotaging headline

It's too bad that the brilliant, thought-provoking and insightful remarks made by Professor Sam Thomas on July 15 were so poorly summarized by The Plain Dealer and cleveland.com. In particular, the cleveland.com headline ("Economist Sam Thomas of CWRU says U.S. should steer stimulus money to Africa") dumbed down the sophisticated point that Dr. Thomas — a Cleveland treasure — was making: that stimulating demand for American goods and services in underdeveloped countries is one

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with those drug dealer, feeding the intense social and economic pressure to stay constantly in touch with employers, colleagues, friends and family.