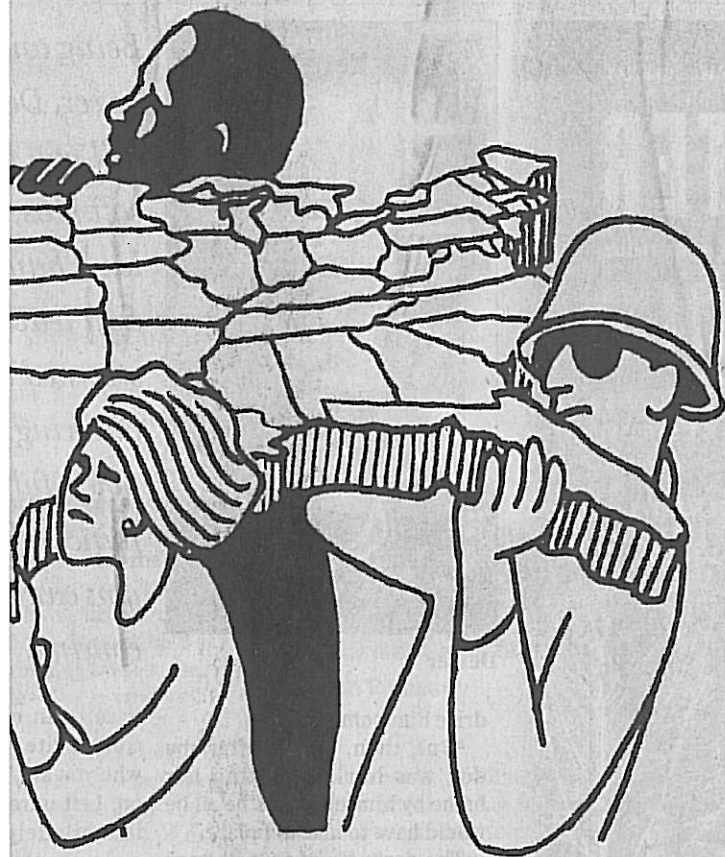


LETTERS



BARRIE MAGUIRE | NEWSART

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people's needs.

In my lifetime, American auto executives have failed many times to understand that oil is not a renewable resource. But as long as SUVs and trucks bring such a big profit margin, why bother changing? Remember, the Japanese automakers were the first to come out with a hybrid engine. What were the Medium Three making then? They were making bigger SUVs.

Honda and other foreign-owned automakers continue to design autos that the American car-buying public both want and need. Have you driven a Ford lately? If not, you're lucky.

ALLEN GABRENYA
Highland Heights

Here we go again, blaming unions for our economic woes. The fact is

Legal help awaits disabled students

Those of us involved with special education advocacy have been following the Winkelman case with great interest. But I was dismayed by Elizabeth Auster's recent article because it implied that low-income families in the Cleveland area have no resources for free or low-cost legal services in the area of special education.

Auster should know of several resources in the community for low-income families. Special Education Services has been in existence since 2001, providing quality legal services for indigent and low-income families. The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland also has resources devoted to this purpose. Income eligibility is different for the two organizations, but parents do have these resources available.

It is important for parents to be aware of these resources because few are likely to relish representing themselves or their children, even if the Winkelmans prevail.

AIMEE E. GILMAN
Cleveland

Gilman is executive director of Special Education Services, Cleveland.

Special needs are met in Parma schools

I can certainly empathize with the Winkelman family, since I am the mother of an autistic son. My son was diagnosed in 1994 at age 5. I can still remember his MetroHealth psychologist telling me that we were "lucky" to be living in Parma because, "Parma has one of the best school systems for special education."

Although I may have had some battles along the way, I couldn't be happier with the education Kendall has received. The most difficult period in his life was between the ages of 7 and 10. Kendall had meltdowns and demonstrated disruptive behavior, oftentimes forcing me to physically restrain him. As Kendall reached puberty, he blossomed and developed into the bright and wonderful young man that he is today.

The Parma School District worked with Kendall on speech and occupational therapy. It molded him by focusing on his strengths and abilities. He is now in the 10th grade at Parma Senior High School.

Toward the end of ninth grade, Kendall went through career testing and assessment. This year, he attended a two-day workshop on preparing for life after high school. Next year, he will begin vocational education.

Without Parma's guidance and assistance, the transition would be more difficult for Kendall. With the help of these educators, Kendall will receive the direction needed to lead an independent life after graduation.

I wish that the Winkelman family would have given the Parma schools a chance. My feeling is that they gave up on the school system too quickly.

PATRICIA A. MADAL
Parma Heights

Court must ensure a proper education for all

...ubert case out to the Winkelman family. The U.S. Supreme