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Editorial Quick Hits: Other views

Repugnant, yes, but protected

Ilya Shapiro, Cato Institute: The Supreme Court ruled 8-1 in favor of free speech at the expense of giving a legal victory to a repugnant group. While the Westboro Baptist Church hates what they view as both the sinner and the sin, the Court properly rebuked the Phelps while correctly expressing utmost devotion to their right to propagate their wayward message. ... As the brevity of Chief Justice Roberts's opinion confirms, there's very little to this case and the Phelps' actions, ugly and objectionable as they are, are as constitutionally protected as a neo-Nazi parade.

Public workers should sacrifice

William McGurn, Wall Street Journal: The idea that the demonstrators in the state capitol in Wisconsin and the Democratic state senators who fled the state are upholding democracy rather than thwarting it is, of course, absurd. But it is an absurdity that represents the logical conclusion of a disconnect that defines today's Democratic Party and the union movement: Their almost total estrangement from the productive sector of our economy.... Here in Michigan, the disconnect may be even more acute. Over the past decade, the state lost more than 850,000 jobs. So what's the answer from the Democrats and the government employee unions? "Tax ... the ... Rich ..." The irony here is that though Michigan is in far worse shape than Wisconsin, Gov. Snyder's reforms are far more modest.

Where's Obama?

Ruth Marcus, Real Clear Politics: For a man who won office talking about change we can believe in, Barack Obama can be a strangely passive president. There are a startling number of occasions in which the president has been missing in action — unwilling, reluctant or late to weigh in on the issue of the moment. He is, too often, more reactive than inspirational, more cautious than forceful. ... The dots connect to form an unsettling portrait of a "Where's Waldo?" presidency: You frequently have to squint to find the White House.

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