

Inspired Comment on the Commentary of the Day

by

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Disclaimer: The following "Letters to the Editor" were sent to the respective publications on the dates indicated. Some were printed but many were not. The original articles that are being commented on may or may not be available on the internet and may require registration or subscription to access if they are. Some of the original articles are syndicated and therefore may have appeared in other publications also.

20 October 2005

The Editor, The Washington Times

To the Editor:

Peter Pitts wants Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, as FDA commissioner, to "empower" patients "through better communications" ("Tough Tasks for New FDA Chief," Oct. 20).

The only real way to empower patients is to abolish the FDA. Why in the land of the free must each of us - each with different medical histories, family situations, and risk tolerances - be forced to abide by bureaucratic decisions made by strangers in Washington? Dr. von Eschenbach might be, as Mr. Pitts says, a remarkable physician. But Dr. von Eschenbach has never met me. He doesn't know my situation. He cannot possibly know enough to make trade-offs for me as well as I am likely to make them.

19 October 2005

Editor, The Washington Post
1150 15th St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Editor:

Robert Samuelson worries that the allegedly undervalued Yuan gives Chinese producers "staggering competitive advantages" ("The Fate of 'Made in the USA'," Oct. 19). Not so.

To lower the Yuan's value, the Chinese government must raise taxes to get revenue to buy dollars, or it must inflate the Yuan supply. Either way, the overall efficiency of the Chinese economy tumbles, thereby giving some American industries competitive advantages that they would not otherwise possess.

An undervalued Yuan artificially boosts the 'competitiveness' of some Chinese industries only by artificially impairing the 'competitiveness' of other Chinese industries.

18 October 2005

Editor, The Boston Globe

To the Editor:

Lauren Schieck opines that Michelle and Jim Bob Duggar are "appallingly selfish and socially irresponsible" for having 16 children (Letters, Oct. 18).

The Duggars are loving and devoted parents who raise their children on their own nickel. Such devotion is quite the

opposite of selfishness, and requires a rare and admirable degree of responsibility.

The selfish and irresponsible one is Ms. Schieck who gratuitously criticizes people who do not behave according to her preferred pattern.

17 October 2005

Editor, Christian Science Monitor

To the Editor:

You wisely endorse free trade (Opinion, Oct. 17). Your argument, however, is weakened by your use of loaded protectionist language.

In particular, you write about the "flood of Chinese textile imports." Floods kill people and destroy property. No one wants them; they are unambiguously undesirable natural disasters. Imports, in stark contrast, are goods and services that consumers choose to buy. Imports improve consumers' lives and free domestic resources to produce yet other valuable goods and services that otherwise would be too costly to produce.

Floods devastate lives. Imports enrich lives.