



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.

6 November 2005

The Editor, New York Times Book Review
229 West 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036

To the Editor:

Reviewing "Restless Giant," a book about America from 1975 through 2000, Charles Peters explains tax cuts, high executive salaries, and other alleged evils as resulting from an "increase in individual and group selfishness" (Nov. 6).

Whatever you think of recent trends in taxation, executive compensation, and income distribution, these phenomena are products of deep, complex causes. To explain them as resulting from a change in human nature is childish.

I trust that you'd not tolerate a reviewer who explained population growth as resulting from an "an increase in individual and group

sexuality" or one who attributed the Enlightenment to "an increase in individual and group intelligence"? So why abide Mr. Peters's jejune nonsense?

5 November 2005

The Editor, New York Times
229 West 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036

To the Editor:

The protestors in Mar del Plata lose all credibility by carrying banners sporting the image of Che Guevara (Front Page, Nov. 5). In his 1967 "Message to the Tricontinental," Guevara touted "hatred as an element of struggle; unbending hatred for the enemy, which pushes a human being beyond his natural limitations, making him into an effective, violent, selective, and cold-blooded killing machine."

These weren't just words. Guevara himself killed cold-bloodily. For example, in 1957 he shot Eutimio Guerra because he suspected

Guerra of being an informant: "I ended the problem with a .32 caliber pistol, in the right side of his brain." (<http://www.independent.org/newsroom/article.asp?id=1535>)

Guevara was a blood-thirsty thug.

3 November 2005

News Editor, WTOP Radio
Washington, DC

Dear Editor:

Today you shared with your audience e-mails from listeners complaining that they'll spend less this year on holiday gifts because today's economy is so bad (Mornings with Mike and Richard, Nov. 3). I feel sorry for people who've lost jobs. But unlike your anchor who recounted her plight with woe in his voice, I can't sympathize with "Sunny" who says that she'll spend less this year because she's "getting older and has to save for retirement."

Is the need to save for retirement a misfortune? Is it something that, when the economy is perking along perfectly, no one must do? Does Sunny or your anchorman think that someone else is morally obliged to save for her retirement?

2 November 2005

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

Dear Editor:

Disgusted by the duplicity and lying by politicians on both sides of the aisle, Robert Samuelson ends his column today with this lamentation: "But who cares about the truth? For most politicians, the real problem is to appear principled even when they're not. If that's not phony, what is?" (?Fiscal Phonies," Nov. 2). Indeed.

So why do so many people continue to trust these phonies with vast power? Why do GOP voters eagerly trust them to wage war and protect family values? Why do Democratic voters enthusiastically call for these frauds to regulate markets and supply health care?

1 November 2005

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

Dear Editor:

Regardless of Samuel Alito's merits and demerits, his fitness for the Supreme Court does not depend upon him mimicking the Justice he'll replace ("Alito Leans Right Where O'Connor Swung Left," Nov. 1). Did the pundits who today complain that Judge Alito is to the right of Sandra Day O'Connor complain in 1993 that Ruth Bader Ginsburg is to the left of Byron White? Will these pundits demand in the future that Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas be replaced by Justices equally conservative?

31 October 2005

The Editor, The New Orleans
Times-Picayune

To the Editor:

I've been a Saints fan since I was nine. One of my fondest memories is cheering with my dad in Tulane stadium on a warm September afternoon in 1967 as John Gilliam returned the opening kickoff for a Saints' touchdown in the team's

first-ever regular-season game. I sincerely hope the Saints stay in New Orleans.

But I hope even more that politicians would keep their noses and taxpayers' money clear of the issue. If owner Tom Benson wants a fancier stadium, let him build it. If he and the NFL choose to move the Saints to another city, so be it. Government's core duty is to protect citizens' lives and properties. Given the evident inadequacies on this front in Baton Rouge and City Hall, politicians there should be among the last who waste their time and citizens' money in wooing billionaire owners of sports franchises.