



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.

27 November 2005

Editor, The New Orleans
Times-Picayune

Dear Editor:

New Orleanian Stephen
Bradberry received the Robert
F. Kennedy Human Rights
Award, in part because he
lobbied for a higher minimum
wage ("Local Receives
Human Rights Honor," Nov.
27).

Minimum-wage statutes are
premised on the notion that
employers arbitrarily keep
wages too low unless forced
by government to raise them.
Evidence that this notion is
wrongheaded is visible
throughout New Orleans
today -- for example, Burger
King's offer of a bonus of
\$6,000 in addition to hourly

wages of \$10 to entry-level
employees.

22 November 2005

Editor, The Wall Street
Journal
200 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10281

Dear Editor:

Re "Pump it Up," (Editorial,
Nov. 22): I, too, have noticed
that the price of gasoline sold
at the station I normally use
has fallen 40 percent from its
high in early September.

My heart is warmed by this
decline in oil-industry greed -
although I'm distressed by the
obvious increase in consumer
greed revealed by these
sharply lower prices.

21 November 2005

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

Dear Editor:

Sebastian Mallaby wisely
endorses free trade ("Trade
and Aid: Stars Are Aligned,"
Nov. 21). But he
unnecessarily weakens his
case by insisting that "trade
creates losers as well as
winners," offering the
example of cutting rice tariffs
in India. Such a tariff cut
would indeed harm Indian
rice growers while helping
Indian consumers.

Note, though, that lowering
trade barriers creates losers as
well as winners only in sense
that cracking down on
pickpockets creates losers as
well as winners - the
pickpockets lose and
everyone else wins.

