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.