



Comment on the Commentary of the Day

by

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4 March 2006

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

Dear Editor:

Mark Pelavin says that conservatives are happier than "liberals" because, unlike "liberals," conservatives selfishly ignore the plight of poor people (Letters, March 4).

Mr. Pelavin obviously interprets opposition to government-provided welfare and redistribution as proof of indifference to the poor. But libertarians and conservatives oppose such welfare and redistribution not because we are unconcerned about the poor but, rather, because we believe these programs to be counter-productive. Perhaps we're mistaken, but at least we don't accuse those who disagree with us over means as not sharing with us the end of helping the less-fortunate.

27 February 2006

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

Dear Editor:

You accuse Virginia legislators who refuse to stiffen enforcement of seat-belt laws of being "callous to the carnage on the state's roads" ("Va. To Drivers: Drop Dead," Feb. 27).

One of my valued co-workers always drives unbuckled. But I never assault him with officious demands that he buckle up. Am I callous? Or am I simply minding my business while simultaneously treating him as an adult? And if I should feel no shame for refusing to meddle in my colleague's private affairs, why should legislators feel shame for refusing to do so?