



## 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.**

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26 November 2006

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

To the Editor:

Responding to home-schooling and "unschooling," Professor Luis Huerta insists that "If the public and policy makers don't feel that this is a form of schooling that is producing productive citizens, then people should vote to make changes accordingly" ("Home Schoolers Content to Take Children's Lead," Nov. 26).

Even if you agree with Prof. Huerta's dubious

assumption that the state is a better judge than are parents of how, and for what purposes, children should be educated, what schooling alternative does the professor propose? Government schooling? If so, does he really think that better citizens would be produced by forcing even more children into the chops of the greedy and rapacious teachers' unions?

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25 November 2006

The Editor, The Atlantic

To the Editor:

Your list of the 100 most influential Americans of all time (December 2006) is marred by one glaring flaw:

the omission of Milton Friedman. This great economist exposed many of Keynesianism's deep but politically convenient flaws. He also taught the world that government does not create wealth by printing pretty pictures of dead statesmen on ever-larger numbers of small pieces of paper and calling the result "legal tender."

Most importantly, through the clarity and vigor of his popular writings he inspired several generations of people from around the world to cherish individual liberty not only as a means to material prosperity but also as the indispensable foundation for human flourishing and dignity.

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24 November 2006

Editor, The Washington Times

Dear Editor:

Bravo for Ryan Krueger's defense of payday loans ("Cashiering payday loans?" Nov. 24).

It's ironic that the assault on payday loans comes at a time when many pundits are criticizing Borat for being "elitist." Borat uses comic genius merely to expose some people's ignorance. In contrast, those who would ban payday loans are so drunk with elitist arrogance that they ignorantly want to use force to block poor Americans' access to an important source of credit.

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All food produced went into a common fund and was distributed according to need. The result was near-starvation.

The first true Thanksgiving was in 1623, the year of the Pilgrims' first bountiful harvest. It occurred only after Governor William Bradford in Spring 1623 allotted each family their own private plot of land. As Bradford records in his history of Plymouth Plantation, "This had very good success; for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corne was planted than other wise would have bene by any means the Govr or any other could use, and saved him a great deall of trouble, and gave far better content."

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with which to ship back their finished products to the U.S" (Letters, Nov. 22).

I wonder if Sen. Dorgan has ever heard the riddle - and here I paraphrase - "What's more valuable? A dollar's worth of waste paper or a dollar's worth of consumer electronics?"

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23 November 2006

Editor, The New York Post

Dear Editor:

The Pilgrims did celebrate their harvest in 1621, but you are mistaken to count this celebration as the first Thanksgiving ("For Which We Give Thanks," Nov. 23).

That harvest was meager, as was that of 1622, because the Pilgrims at first practiced socialism.

22 November 2006

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

Dear Editor:

Troubled by the fact that America's largest export, by volume, is waste paper, Sen. Byron Dorgan thinks that "it is symbolic of our trade failure that we ship waste paper to China and the rest of Asia so they can make cardboard boxes

22 November 2006

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

Dear Editor:

Fearing that globalization sparks a race to the bottom, Harold Meyerson argues that American workers must be protected from the competition of firms in countries with wages and labor standards significantly lower than those in the U.S. ("The Democrats' Economy Wars," Nov. 22).

Yet in your Business section today we read that "Total U.S. investment in China last year was \$1.6 billion, about a quarter of U.S. investment in Belgium. U.S. investment in Germany was about 4 1/2 times the U.S. investment in China last year" ("U.S. Firms Invest More in Europe than in Asia"). Such investment occurs despite China having much lower wages and labor standards than those of western Europe.

This pattern of investment is consistent with reams of

evidence, nearly all of which thoroughly contradict the "race to the bottom" thesis. (For example, Nathan M. Jensen, Nation-States and the Multinational Corporation (Princeton University Press, 2006), pages 53-71)

21 November 2006

Editor, The New York Post

Dear Editor:

Rep. Charles Rangel believes that by forcing the children and grandchildren of high government officials into the military, the draft will reduce Uncle Sam's likelihood of going to war ("Rangel: Bring On the Draft," Nov. 21). In other words, Rep. Rangel believes that government makes irresponsible decisions whenever politicians have no large, personal stakes in the matters they decide.

Rep. Rangel's insight applies more broadly than he suspects. It means also, for example, that minimum-wage legislation is ill-advised, for very few politicians have family members who are likely to

lose jobs as a result of raising the minimum wage.

20 November 2006

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

Dear Editor:

How ironic that Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) renews his call for a draft just days after the death of Milton Friedman ("Amid Uproar Over War, Rangel Renews Call for Draft," Nov. 20). I recommend that Rep. Rangel read Christopher Hitchens's book *Letters to a Young Contrarian*, in which Hitchens explains how Friedman, along with Alan Greenspan, persuaded the Nixon administration that conscription is (as Friedman accurately described it) "slavery."

Friedman and Greenspan understood, as Hitchens understands, a fact that seems lost on Rep. Rangel: conscription reflects the totalitarian idea that the citizen is the property of the state.