

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.

Friends,	31 March 2007	30 March 2007
New York Times reporter David Leonhardt reviews, in today's NY Times Book Review, Brian Doherty's new book <i>Radicals for Capitalism: A Freewheeling History of the Modern American Libertarian Movement</i> . Here's a link: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/01/books/review/leonhardt.t.html?_r=1&oref=slogin	The Editor, New York Times 229 West 43rd St. New York, NY 10036 To the Editor: Union leader Leo Gerard applauds higher tariffs on paper produced in China as being good for "thousands of paper workers throughout the United States" ("In Major Shift, U.S. Imposes Tariffs on Some Chinese Paper," March 31). He's correct. But why ignore the fate of other American workers?	The Editor, New York Times 229 West 43rd St. New York, NY 10036 To the Editor: Austan Goolsbee eloquently explains the benefits of subprime mortgages - benefits overwhelmingly enjoyed by poorer people ("'Irresponsible' Mortgages Have Opened Doors to Many of the Excluded," March 29). He might have mentioned also another benefit, one unique to New York City and other jurisdictions with rent-control. By making owner-occupied housing more affordable, such mortgages better enable poorer households to escape rent-control's ill-consequences, such as a chronic shortage of apartments and shoddy
Leonhardt's review, alas, is seriously flawed. The Cato Institute's David Boaz unveils these flaws here: http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2007/03/31/nyt-clueless-on-libertarianism/	These tariffs force American consumers to pay more for paper. One result is that consumers have less money to spend on other goods and services. Workers in these other industries suffer.	

maintenance of those units
that are available.

28 March 2007

The Editor, The New York
Review of Books

Dear Editor:

Discussing Milton
Friedman's monetary
economics, Paul Krugman
says that "he showed
himself much less
doctrinaire and much more
realistic than many of his
acolytes: many
conservative economists
are drawn to visions of a
restored gold standard or a
world currency, dismissing
the problems such a
system would create"
(Letter, March 29).

Krugman utterly distorts
the views of market-
oriented economists. Only
a tiny, insignificant fringe
advocates a gold standard.
Many more - influenced by
the works of F.A. Hayek,
Ben Klein, Gordon Tullock,
Larry White, George
Selgin, and Kevin Dowd -
support competition among
money issuers. This
proposal is as far from
advocacy of a gold
standard or a "world
currency" as one can get.

Krugman's creation and
destruction of straw men is
deplorable.

28 March 2007

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

To the Editor:

Behavioral economics - a
subject that Alan Blinder
knows something about -
teaches that people often
read too much into the
dominant facts currently
before their eyes. In
fearing recent
technological innovations
that makes "outsourcing"
more likely, Mr. Blinder
himself seems to have
fallen victim to this
psychological malady
("Pain From Free Trade
Spurs Second Thoughts,"
March 28).

Do today's technological
advances put more
pressure on American
workers than did the arrival
of electrification,
automobiles, aviation,
container shipping, and the
microchip? Is today's
increased competition from
foreign workers really that
different from the massive
post-WWII entry of women
into the workforce?
Unlikely.

Mr. Blinder should chill out.

27 March 2007

The Editor, The Baltimore
Sun

To the Editor:

You applaud that part of
the No Child Left Behind
Act that gives Washington
the authority to set national
education standards ("A
flawed 'fix,'" March 27).

Your sanguine assessment
of the abilities and motives
of federal officials is
surprising. How would you
feel about a "No Reader
Left Behind Act"? Such an
act would set national
standards for newspaper
reporting and editorializing.
Individual citizens surely
are powerless in the face
of giant media corporations
such as your parent, the
Tribune Co. To ensure
quality reporting and
opinion-making, the No
Reader Left Behind Act
would require Uncle Sam
to set national standards to
guide the news media.

Do you think that such an
Act would improve
Americans' access to
news?

26 March 2007

The Editor, The New
Orleans Times-Picayune

Dear Editor:

As a life-long Saints fan, I
would be saddened if the

team relocated out of
Louisiana ("Deal buys time
in Saints negotiations,"
March 26). But surely Gov.
Blanco and the state
legislature have no
business taxing ordinary
citizens in order to bribe
the Saints' billionaire owner

to keep the franchise in
New Orleans. And surely
Louisianans who've
endured Katrina, Rita, and
FEMA are sturdy enough
to suffer the loss of a
football team.