

Readers discuss abortion, government issues

Political column confuses issues

"Communism succeeds because, unlike Western industrial economies, it makes full use of its manpower." Dust-covered political rhetoric of Ceausescu, Zhivkov, Modrow or Gus Hall? No, but rather a laughably serious statement from his eminence Harvard Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, a thoroughly discredited, although persistently influential, charlatan of the American left. The fact that, unlike most Eastern bloc communists, Galbraith remains happily employed propagating his wisdom to America's academia, serves as a curiously ironic departure into a discussion of Jim Rogers' provoking piece "Can the right survive today?" (DN, Jan. 30).

the West, it was vigorously opposed. Its recent demise, however, does not portend the dissolution of the conservative movement, but rather the shifting of its efforts to those remaining issues essential in the protection and preservation of the American tradition.

The unshackled Soviet satellite nations of Eastern Europe will certainly not be looking for experienced economic and political guidance from the likes of Carter, Dukakis, Mondale or Galbraith as they begin conversion to free-market democracy. It is not surprising, although thoroughly disheartening, that more members of the Polish government are reading Milton Friedman than are our visionaries in Congress. Nor is it strange that conservative organizations such as the Hudson Institute, Washington's Heritage Foundation and the Center for Strategic and International Studies recently have visited Hungary, Estonia and even Moscow itself in an effort to take a decisive leadership role in Eastern Europe's burgeoning democratization process. Such is not the talk of conservatives "speaking softly for fear of unhappy prescience" as Rogers confidently contends.

Finally, the threat to the American tradition within our own borders is, unfortunately, sufficiently active so as to ensure the presence of the conservative movement for quite some time. So long as the ideological progeny of such liberal icons as Galbraith, Abzug and Bond persist in bastardizing the Founding Fathers' conceptions of "rights," "equality" and "liberty" the conservative movement will remain a vibrant and energetic political force. Far from an intellectually-starved movement of the archaic past, conservatism continues to bolster its ranks with such innovative thinkers as Thomas Sowell, Charles Murray, Joseph Sobran and Charles Kesler; influential conservatives ready to address the challenges that remain as the Berlin Wall crumbles. As American conservatism redirects its efforts toward the likes of the Kennedys, Kerreys, Dodds, Jacksons, Bidens, Naders, Yards, Tribes and Brennans, its relevant voice in American politics will, if anything, increase. To the extent that the events in Eastern Europe permit this redirection of conservatism's energies toward our friends on the left currently engaged in debasing our American tradition, the revolutions of 1989 will for conservatives be doubly sweet.

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**Nation's budget
needs revamping**

Did anyone listen to the State of the Union address a couple of weeks

ago? I anticipated all the rhetoric and blather that presidents of the 1980s have been well-versed in, so I watched the Celtics game instead. I did happen to catch the "highlights" of Bush's first state address later on CNN and read about the speech in the paper, and, like I suspected, it was chock-full of rhetoric and cliches -- especially the part about education. As everyone by now knows, Bush called for all sorts of grand goals for education in the 1990s. Unfortunately, it's just a bunch of hot air. Big George's budget calls for a whopping two percent increase in spending on education. State and local government need to pick up the slack, according to the powers that be. How does George intend for American schools to catch up with the rest of the world (tests show American kids regularly finish last or near last in science, math and geography) if he won't put his money where his mouth is? Consider a few things:

The budget calls for a 2 percent cut in defense after inflation. In other words, the actual number of dollars will increase some. This is in the wake of reports that the Pentagon has stockpiled \$30 million in excess supplies. Also, with democracy bursting out all over Eastern Europe, why do we need to pour more money into the highly questionable Strategic Defense Initiative and the dubious Stealth bomber, which each carry a nifty price tag of \$600 million? Why do we continue to spend billions "protecting" Europe from a Soviet invasion? The odds of a Soviet invasion of Western Europe rank up there with the chance of a Canadian invasion of Greenland.

Bush likes to call himself "the education president," but so far he has done nothing at all to resemble that title. All of you paying your tuition now might be interested to know that before the Reagan regime, a Pell Grant paid, on the average, 29 percent of your tuition. With all this talk about the "failures" of communism

gracing our newspapers and airwaves, the failures of capitalism are rearing their ugly head. Homelessness, a crumbling education system, and declining morals could all be tackled by an ambitious leader. But unfortunately Bush, and the entire country for that matter, likes to wait until a problem becomes an all-out crisis. The best medicine for our culture right now is a total revamping of our budget, placing the emphasis on education and the nation's infrastructure, and de-emphasizing our wasteful spending on guns, bombs, missiles and other assorted crap.

Reynolds Towns
freshman
education

Pregnancy could threaten mentality

Even the most extreme proponent of the so-called "pro-life" position will ordinarily relent somewhat when presented with a scenario in which a pregnant woman's physical health is threatened by carrying her fetus to term.

My question is: What about when a pregnant woman's mental health is threatened by a continued pregnancy?

What do I mean by this? It's quite simple. Whether we as individual Americans know it or not, the pleasant and relatively easy reality in which we pass most of our days is actually nothing more than a thin membrane supporting us above an infinite abyss of emotional suffering. Some of us may tread upon this brittle surface all the days of our lives, walking from birth to death without ever knowing the darkness that lies beneath. Others of us, through the circumstances of our lives, may plunge through the membrane and into that darkness.

One way to find one's self among these latter unfortunates, almost certainly, is to be pregnant under circum-

stances which make bringing a fetus to term emotionally unbearable.

It doesn't matter why continuing the pregnancy might be unbearable; the fact that it is should be sufficient to prevent the law from interfering with a woman's right to remove herself from the circumstances of such suffering. Period. There are some things that the law should force no one to endure.

It is inconceivable to me that a human being could live upon this earth and still fail to see this. To think that another member of a species could support a public policy which might cast a person into the aforementioned abyss makes me shudder.

I don't believe in divine justice, but I do believe in statistics. The universe will inevitably strike down into that abyss some percentage of those who falsely imagine themselves to be standing upon bedrock and who proclaim so fervently the rights of a piece of tissue which can know nothing of emotional suffering. And when these self-righteously callous souls are struck down, I hope that they can find peace and relief in the world that they themselves have helped to make. But they better not count on it. Their ignorant and heartless fellow-travelers probably will be trying to pass a law to enforce their pain.

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