

New York Times

Miss Letty Cottin Pogrebin writing under the pen name Letty Cottin Pogrebin uses the Socratic method to devastating effect. Such a mind! Such a body!:

With so much real suffering in full view, why has news-media attention been lavished on the inevitable pockets of dissension in the women's movement itself? After ten years of consciousness-raising, hearings and legal battles, why are some people still debating whether or not injustice exists? During hard times (war, reconstruction, depression, unemployment) why is it always women who are asked to step aside in favor of men, no matter what the real need of the individual may be?

Nobody had to teach blacks how to recognize racism, yet millions of women are still unable to identify sexism. [March 18, 1976]

The Nation

Apodiabolosis, as practiced by the world-renowned humanitarians at *The Nation*, for over a century the voice of the ethically besotted:

...in letting Butz go for what he called a "gross indiscretion" (meaning: it's all right to think that way, but not to say it out loud), the President lavished such words of praise on him as "decent," "good," "courageous," and said he remained "a close personal friend." If any further evidence were needed as to the essential vulgarity of Ford and his administration, it is there in that smarmy language.

[October 16, 1976]

Chicago Tribune Magazine

As invincible to reason as she apparently is to Valium, Madame Shirley MacLaine heaves up another screed on political economy and mysticism:

Anyway, I think the sex talk is a diversionary tactic from the real issue, which is economics. The real thing is that the system we're living under is unfair, not just to women but to everybody. And the women's movement—which talks about things like equal pay—has not joined that issue. The very notion of capitalism makes exploitation necessary. That's why I'm not involved in this election. I don't know what they're talkin' about. All the candidates seem to be fearful, probably because the changes that have to be made in this country would be so harsh, so drastic, no one wants to tackle them. Except the people. [June 6, 1976]

Time

Mrs. Ida Mae Howland sounds the tocsin against grayness and decline in *Time's* "Forum." Wake up America:

As Chinese, Koreans, Indians and, of course, Mexicans victimize this republic yearly by their arrival, *Time* blithely suggests that these people are valued additions to our gene pool. This is an infamy.

This nation was established in 1776 as a white republic. You and your irresponsible cohorts want to bastardize it into a miscegenationist grayness that will lead it to an inescapable decline. [July 26, 1976]

Harper's

Mr. Bjorn Kumm, aptly named reporter for the world renowned Swedish gazette *Aftonbladet*, cheerfully offers a specimen of Swedish casuistry, the kind that stimulates prodigies of thought in his imbecile homeland:

The Third World is not much of a threat, I am afraid, and I feel deeply distressed by this fact. Attacking the idea of Zionism through UN resolutions or even through occasional hijackings and airport massacres is not the result of some Machiavellian, world-wide, totalitarian conspiracy. What has happened in Munich, at Lod Airport, in Cairo, and Bangkok over the past few years is the outcome of terrible frustration and weakness in Third World nations and states, some of which, like Palestine, are so weak that they do not even exist. Terrorism—which has claimed fewer lives in a decade than one day of traditional, regular warfare—is the poor man's, the poor country's last desperate attempt at stopping the big powers and their much more efficient and brutal methods of imposing their will. [September 1976]

Mother Jones

A confession of the utmost moment, from a palpable, olfactible, audible, and unreadable jackass, Robert Lipsyte:

We need an End to Masculinity—a revocation of that illegitimate birth certificate that imprisons the biological male in a web of burdens and responsibilities that limits his options as a human being almost as severely as his sisters have been limited by sexual discrimination.

The traditional oppression of women, as murderous as it is, can be frontally assaulted. It's happening. For many women righteously storming the castle, the battle will provide a fulfillment almost as rich as equality. But men have no such accessible enemies. We are our enemy: other men and parts of ourselves....

I measure myself only against other men. The size of my bank account, the size of my penis, the imagined size of my obituary when it finally shouldn't matter anymore.

[September/October 1976]

Harper's Weekly

The public announcement of "a single, 35-year-old male in perfect health," published in *Harper's Weekly*, a self-proclaimed "Journal of Civilization":

I am a single, 35-year-old male in perfect health. However, my so-called natural, intrinsic, sexual drives, urges, and appetites have long proven themselves to be useless burdens which shall never realize their supposedly hedonistic manifestations. Therefore, I wish to channel these energies elsewhere. But first, I would appreciate hearing from any individuals and organizations who may be able to recommend to me any medical, naturopathic, or mental procedure, be it surgery, chemotherapy, medications, will power, meditation, diet, etc., which shall result in a complete elimination and permanent suppression of my sexual urges. Randell Thomas, 202 So. Franklin, Wenatchee, Washington 98801 [April 5, 1976]

Chicago Tribune

Vietnam's wonderful symbiosis of "military authority" and "a liberated attitude," as elucidated by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, in a discourse full of hope:

I believe we should look to the Third World for an answer. The message from there is clear: Through the proper use of money and a positive attitude, we can stimulate self-development and give the people a vision. It has been fascinating for me to observe what has happened in South Vietnam in the past year. The new Saigon leaders have spent little time talking about the Americans who carpet-bombed and defoliated their country. Instead they have concentrated on rebuilding, putting people to work, inculcating new values and attitudes. They did it with military authority and a liberated attitude. [April 18, 1976]

New York Times Magazine

The pious and profound Francine du Plessix Gray renders a remarkable account of Christian endeavor in the late 1960s and chronicles the theological deliberations that obtained:

As a member of a small New England chapter of Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam, I had worked closely with activist churchmen in the 60's, written manifestoes, marched, fasted, sat in with them. At the Mobilization that brought half a million Americans to the Capitol in the fall of 1969, I'd walked a stretch of road with Boston supporter Harvey Cox, chanting, "All we are asking is Give peace a chance," with the mesmeric monotony of a rosary. "What's the absolute opposite of far out, Harvey?" I'd asked during a pause in the singing, searching for some title. "Way in, I guess," he'd mumbled, and passed me a hunk of his hot dog. [June 27, 1976]

Washington Star

After years of illusory tumult over busing Mr. Arthur S. Flemming, exalté of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, manfully steps to the microphone and launches this stunning revelation:

...where there is initial hostility it disappears very quickly because of the fact that the community, the school administrators, the teachers, and the students begin to realize that first of all, they're having the opportunity of participating in the implementation of the Constitution of the United States and in the second place they begin to realize that there are very significant benefits that flow from this particular process. [September 15, 1976]

Commonweal

The state of economic education in the land of the Jesuits:

Indeed, many of the Postal Service's problems would disappear in the morning, if just one or two of the \$100 billions being pumped into the military this year were diverted to help solve its problems. [June 18, 1976]

CORRESPONDENCE
(continued from page 36)

contamination of streams by acid mine drainage or agricultural chemicals. If he were aware of the studies of the behavior of sulphates and oxides from industrial emissions, he could not dismiss the air pollution issue as solely one of population densities.

Finally, Bruce-Briggs declares that "the most glaring inefficiencies of land use are the results of past government planning mistakes." In this, he would be right if he meant, as I believe he does *not*, that the big mistakes of government have been to accept and legalize short-range, ecologically-harmful land-use planning by developers, speculators, industrialists, and public utilities without regard for long-term social and economic costs borne by entire communities and by posterity. Some of the worst mistakes of public planning have been made by government acting *de facto* as the agent of special interests without regard to the preferences of the broader community of citizens.

In summary, to refute the specious rhetoric of "Needless Fuss about Land Use" is somewhat like presenting positive disproof of the statement that the "moon is made of green cheese." Even if the proposition is recognized as absurd, serious refutation requires far more effort than the assertion. There is great need for public action to protect the public interest and the welfare of the vast majority of individuals in land now and in the future. Conflict arises over intersecting, and often incompatible, claims on land in bounded localities: and these controversies are in no way alleviated by the gross acreage of undeveloped land somewhere else. Thus, the so-called "fuss about land use" is no mere fuss, nor is it needless. Land-owning, as well as landless, Americans have made it a major political issue throughout the nation and at all levels of government. Mr. Bruce-Briggs has chosen a poor subject on which to exercise his evident talents as a polemicist.

*Lynton K. Caldwell
Bloomington, Indiana*

Lynton K. Caldwell is Arthur L. Bentley Professor of Political Science at Indiana University, and author of several books on environmental policy.

Mr. Bruce-Briggs replies:

In his annoyance over an analysis that he finds incongenial, Professor Caldwell attributes notions to me that I do not hold (i.e., I did not argue against "crowding" but against incorrect notions of alleged overcrowding) and has invented history (i.e., his version of English land law is wholly false).

Mr. Caldwell also appears to have difficulty reading American prose. I did not write that "the existing densities of American metropolitan areas make air and

water pollution negligible..." but that development at "very-low-densities" (2 acre lots) have that effect.

Nor is it clear how he got the idea I am a "laissez-faire self-styled conservative." "Marxist rhetoric" is sometimes comical but Marxist analysis is oftentimes illuminating. Regarding the lack of "evidence" to support my allegations of class interest in the stop-growth movement, he might have noticed that this journal does not provide annotation. One would think a presumed scholar would have the wit to refer to the original source, the anthology *No Land is An Island* where an essay by A. Lawrence Chickering takes up this point. Caldwell might also poll the political science faculties of major universities. His sneer at the "monotonous stretches of Levittowns" indicates which side he is on.

Caldwell's description of the widespread local land-use control agitation is correct. One would think a "political scientist" would recognize the political implications of the piece—that the invention of "problems" of land use are useful to selfish local interests who wish to maintain their perceived quality of life by excluding the upwardly mobile. Is it an accident that the block development movement appeared just as black Americans began to move to the suburbs?

The bulk of Professor Caldwell's letter is incredibly confused and/or deals with irrelevant issues. It reflects small credit on the quality of scholarship at Indiana University. □

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