

Mail

The American Enterprise welcomes your comments. Send to "The Mail," The American Enterprise, 1150 17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Or fax to (202) 862-7178. Or e-mail 75272,1226@compuserve.com. Please include your address and phone number. Published letters may be edited for length and clarity.

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed the first issue of *The American Enterprise* in its new version. I was surprised at how much was genuinely insightful and novel—it did not read like the same old conservative palaver. I particularly enjoyed the various short pieces at the front of the magazine.

Keep up the good work!

Michael Pack
Manifold Productions
Washington, D.C.

In his otherwise excellent run-down on state ballot measures, Grover Norquist (SCAN, January/February) heaps blame for the defeat of Oregon's Measure 5 (a tax limitation measure) on teachers' unions. Measure 5 was, as Mr. Norquist points out, "terribly worded"—it would have subjected even miniscule public expenditures to voter approval—but its defeat came about with a hefty push from Associated Oregon Industries, our equivalent of a state chamber of commerce.

I hold no brief for greedy teachers' unions, but let's also give big business the blame it deserves for helping to foster big government.

Tom Holt
Capital Research Center
Beaverton, Oregon

I just browsed through the January/February issue of your magazine. It is extremely well done and welcome—even if Christopher Hitchens didn't fit in the otherwise great "Pariahs" roundtable. I look forward to reading future issues.

Paul Budline
Via Compuserve

I hate to disappoint Rick Henderson, your Environmental ECONOMIST columnist (January/February), but the Sierra Club is not "tottering toward bankruptcy." We downsized our 1995 budget by about 10 percent because we

had been spending our reserves but no longer felt this was prudent. Now membership is growing again.

What baffles me about the conservative response to environmental problems is its essentially whiny character. In other areas conservatives advocate solutions to problems. Most conservative commentary on environmental problems, however, dismisses them as overblown. And few conservative commentators will acknowledge that the "risk analysis" they favor gives some parties the right to pollute the air and water used by other citizens. Where in a free society does a petroleum refinery get the right to put benzene into my lungs without my consent?

It is not difficult to design environmental policies that would better fit conservative approaches than those embodied in the current generation of environmental laws. Eliminating subsidies to mining and timber companies and taxing pollution instead of employment might be a good place to start.

But somehow when such approaches are suggested it is the much-maligned moderate wing of the Republican party that embraces them, while conservative senators and congressmen continue to represent the commodity interests of their home districts and states.

And who ends up fighting for these rational reforms? The "hide-bound" Sierra Club and similar environmental organizations.

Carl Pope
Executive Director, Sierra Club
San Francisco, California

Rick Henderson replies: *Mr. Pope's letter suggests why environmental advocacy groups like the Sierra Club are "downsizing": they portray any attempt to question the effectiveness of centralized, top-down regulations as right-*

wing whining or outright nuttiness. His vision is being rejected, as anyone would recognize who saw Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), principal sponsor of last year's California Desert Protection Act, take the floor of the Senate on January 11 to assail unfunded environmental mandates.

Mr. Pope incorrectly characterizes pollution as a "problem" that can be "solved" with sufficiently tough regulations. Pollution is instead an unavoidable consequence of human and animal activity. The challenge today is to construct policies, using such tools as cost-benefit analyses, that minimize risks to human health while preserving individual rights and the dynamic processes of a market economy. As for his assertion that risk assessment is a euphemism for the "right to pollute," I can only assume that Mr. Pope occasionally uses an automobile and heats his home. Where do his benzene emissions go?

I'm reading your first issue and finding it impressive. I was particularly touched by the article by Louis Nanni, who wrote of the homeless and their "disconnectedness." I am gathering data for a book on the weakening of family attachments and believe that the homeless typically have weak family bonds.

Brenda Hunter, Ph.D.
Vienna, Virginia

The premier issue of the newly remade *The American Enterprise* looks fabulous! Keep up the good work!

Betsy McCaughey
Lt. Governor, New York State

Congratulations on the new version of the magazine. Except for the Phil Gramm interview (it starts off reading like a Gramm promotional brochure) it's a solid effort. I actually read nearly all the pages, which I only do with a handful of

magazines. Hope future issues go as well.

Gregg Easterbrook
Arlington, Virginia

I was intrigued by your article on None of the Above voting (JOURNAL, January/February). I had heard about the option existing in Eastern Europe, where only Party members could run for office and everybody had to vote. We were not so lucky at the Wellesley College of my youth. It was the spring of 1969 and Hillary Rodham was finishing her term as president. Her successor was nominated unopposed, thus guaranteed election. Somehow this didn't seem right, so an impromptu write-in campaign for the fictitious Wendy Wellesley sprang up. If she were elected, college government would be revealed for the fiction it was. Many of us voted this, in effect, "None of the Above" ticket.

We never knew how many, though, because the write-in was declared illegal and the unopposed candidate installed. But it must have been many, for shortly thereafter a new regulation was introduced: No one could enter the dining halls without having voted in the election. It may have been that year (the dates are blurry in my memory) that we elected Strobe Talbott's sister Page as president, again running unopposed. Her most memorable act was to recommend that Wellesley abolish its single-sex identity. Not long after, Suzanne McTigue (the future Mrs. Ira Magaziner) was shoohed-in to the same post.

At the time, we didn't think these things were very important. Looking back, though, I wonder if Wellesley's singular politics may have given some people an odd idea of how elections are supposed to work.

Mary Elizabeth Podles
Baltimore, Maryland

I am writing in response to George Gilder's "Don't Blame

I.Q." article (SCAN, January/February). Gilder blames the welfare system for "usurp(ing) the male roles of father and provider" and argues the system should be reduced. Has Gilder uncovered a sect of teenage fathers desperately trying to provide for their children but turned away by sneering mothers waving welfare checks? There are valid arguments for stopping welfare payments, but this is not one of them.

Gilder's most blatant attempt to deny women advancement lies in his advocacy of single-sex classes, in which men would apply the "aggressiveness, mechanical aptitude, and mathematical skills that have long sustained the male provider role." Yes, males consistently have higher mathematical scores, but studies show that males receive preferential treatment in mathematics courses. Given equal opportu-

nity, females can match or exceed male mathematical aptitudes. We should focus on developing the strong male and female math students our country sorely lacks.

Amy L. Thompson
Washington, DC

I just finished reading the new *TAE*. Terrific job! If you can sustain this level of quality, I believe you will have a real winner on your hands. I look forward to more in the coming months.

David Blankenhorn
Institute for American Values
New York, New York

In the January/February issue (SCAN) you reported that "hoary chairman of the Government Operations Committee, Jack Brooks [was] among several gun-controlling clay pigeons blasted out of the congressional sky by [NRA] members."

Hoary, perhaps, but definitely not chairman of Government Operations. Gentleman Jack chaired the House Judiciary Committee, which drafted the much-loathed ban on assault weapons. In doing so, Chairman Brooks managed to draw concentrated fire in one of the most gun-toting congressional districts in the nation, becoming one of two incumbent Texas Democrats to lose in November.

Brent R. Orrell
Washington, D.C.

The fine pieces in the "Blueprints for a new world of welfare" section of the January/February *TAE* plangently remind us how well-intentioned government policy can result in major disasters.

Perhaps with 30 years of hindsight on the Great Society we may now recognize the 200-year-old wisdom of Adam Smith:

"The man of system... seems to imagine that he can arrange the different members of a great society with as much ease as the hand arranges the different pieces upon a chess board. He does not consider that... in the great chess-board of human society, every single piece has a principle of motion of its own, altogether different from that which the legislature might choose to impress upon it."

Paul D'Andrea
Chicago, Illinois

CORRECTION: Due to a typographical and then an editing error, the first paragraph of David Henderson's SCAN item in our January/February issue was inaccurate. The article should have begun: "Few now remember that one of the main reasons President Clinton gave for wanting to reform health care was to reduce the growth of spending on Medicare and Medicaid. Government outlays for health care have risen much faster than private spending...." We regret the error.

By Jonathan Schmalzbach

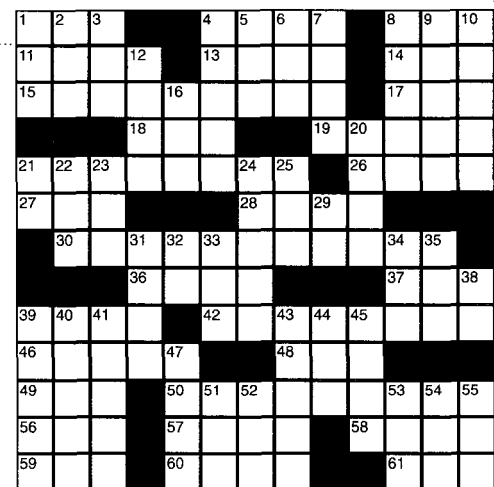
ACROSS

- 1 Loose Buchanan in Republican ragout
- 4 Apt middle name of J.C. Penney
- 8 Fort _____, California
- 11 Harbinger
- 13 Vicinity
- 14 United _____
- 15 Main flavor in Republican ragout
- 17 Zip
- 18 Renowned lexicon: abbr.
- 19 U.S. composer who enlisted in the Marines at age 13
- 21 Aged ingredient in Rep. ragout.
- 26 C-_____
- 27 Kin of POW
- 28 Artificial manner
- 30 Active ingredient in Rep. ragout
- 36 Deep in thought
- 37 Neither's tagalong
- 39 Black Congressman famous for urging "color blind" government; _____ Clayton Powell
- 42 Just a pinch in the Rep. ragout
- 46 Chekhov uncle
- 48 "Bali _____"
- 49 1992 Earth Summit site

- 50 Will serve Republican ragout
- 56 Republicans' least favorite agency
- 57 Barrymore who recently bared more
- 58 George Hormel's canned concoction
- 59 The caustic liquid, not the politician's vice
- 60 Capitol Hill's gentry
- 61 _____-night doubleheader

DOWN

- 1 Virginia Clemm's husband
- 2 Immigrant novelist Tan
- 3 Norman's starting point
- 4 _____ attitude
- 5 We _____ The World
- 6 Emulate Betsy Ross
- 7 Items in Bella Abzug's closet
- 8 Confess
- 9 Glasnost's better half
- 10 Most know Bob Zimmerman by this last name
- 12 American emigrant Queen of the East Bank
- 16 Opposite of masc.
- 20 Greek peak
- 21 Initials of U.S. immigrant author of The Magic Mountain
- 22 Concealed
- 23 Egypt, from '61 to '71: abbr.
- 24 Ross Perot's sucker
- 25 Congressman Leach does it in whitewater
- 29 Initials of President current Americans rank as "best in my lifetime"
- 31 Lifelong employer of the President who warned against "military industrial complex"
- 32 Home to the NEA and Bay of Pigs President: abbr.
- 33 Antonym: abbr.
- 34 What you say after going to ell
- 35 Jersey greeting
- 38 Magazine founded by DeWitt Wallace: abbr.
- 39 Haitian dictator Prospero
- 40 Whey station
- 41 Parris Glendening won by _____



- 43 What a devotee of Wrigley does
- 44 Winding of jazz
- 45 P.J., Flo, and Dave
- 47 What Bill Gates does with his money every day
- 51 Home state of 42 across
- 52 What Communism's first czar would be if he dropped in
- 53 Choose
- 54 Caterpillar nemesis
- 55 1979's disasters were Iran, Chrysler, and _____

The solution for BioGraph is on page 112.