

less other anti-ERA activists all over the country) who, if we were to believe Mr. Broder's implications, apparently are not *women*. Actually, it was men, according to the polls, who were, in their majority, firmly pro-ERA. We know little about the attitudes of children and house pets.

The ERA went down to defeat not because of its substance but because of its image, failing because it became associated with the antinormative ontology and ethics of radical feminism, the permissive subculture of the 1960's and with the elitist behavioral left. As such, it had to be eliminated. Any attempt to revive it with the same rhetoric and in the same sociocultural ambiance is likely to meet the same end.

Commerce and Culture

In June, the American Enterprise Institute held a round-table (actually a square formed by tables) conference on the above subject. The interconnection between commerce and culture was debated for a day and a half under the

courteous, yet firm and insightful, stewardship of Messrs. Michael Novak and Stephen Miller. People from Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Chicago University, the Universities of Virginia, Massachusetts and Maryland and other prestigious sites of higher learning participated, as did representatives from assorted journals of intellectual research and cultural sophistication—*Commentary*, *The New Criterion*, *Newsweek*, *This World*, *Chronicles of Culture*. It was a lively and edifying discourse between gentlemen-scholars, and it affirmed that the bonds between commerce and culture are multiple, complex, seminal, mutually beneficial and firmly grounded in the history of mankind. No one, however, provided a clear answer as to whether a contemporary New York mainstream (*read* liberal) publisher would buy, print and promote a novel about a captain of industry (e.g. capitalist, businessman, entrepreneur) with a heart of gold—a question which seems to us essential in the context of the wisdom and knowledge generated at the conference. □

concept of human rights is the right to squat on a carpet in the royal palace and eat shish kebab with various crown princes. Mr. Dutton claims that he assumed this duty only to defend the sacred principle of evenhandedness in America's foreign policy; the fact that he is being paid millions for his heroic exertions has nothing to do with the nobleness of his intentions.

We would speculate that the Joint Chiefs of Staff are privately delighted at the opportunity to observe the Israeli-manned American-built F-16's in action against the Soviet weapon systems. In public, of course, they arrogantly castigate Mr. Begin's policies, forgetting that according to *our* tradition, on-duty military personnel are forbidden to express publicly political opinions. Whereas the Pope, a man of unquestioned honesty, decency and intelligence, has yet to mention the fact that the Israelis are the only forces that can relieve the Maronite Christians from their dire predicament. In Polish, such silence is called "to have a lot of water in one's mouth." □

JOURNALISM

The Lebanon Obfuscation

As if the situation in Lebanon were not sufficiently confusing, the taking of sides here at home verges on hell'z-a-poppin. *Time* magazine was bitterly anti-Israeli without being able to shape its own sullenness into a cogent argument: one could feel that beneath *Time's* feelings lurks something more mysterious than the pursuit of reportorial truth and the quest for political justice. In glaring contrast, the *Wall Street Journal*, whose very nature might prompt one to suspect some discreet connection with such a hub of modern financial opulence as the Saudis, was rabidly pro-Israel. Does this mean that

at the very bottom, where ideology and morality converge, the organ of corporate financiers is pure at heart while *Time*, the journalistic conscience of The Middlebrow Super Powers That Be, is motivated by greed and impure investments? No one knows, but there's plenty to think about. It's also worthy of mention that *The New Republic*, a staunchly pro-Israeli organ, recently featured a delightful profile of Mr. Frederick G. Dutton, the symbol and shining light of the Kennedy-McGovern wing of the Democratic Party. Mr. Dutton is now a registered foreign agent and ardent lobbyist for the Saudi kingdom, where the

The Proliferation of Punks

The subtle distinction between the terms "new wave" and "punk," we have been advised, is that the former is applied to things with a certain anti-chic that haven't made it into the mainstream while the latter refers to the same that have. As far as journals go, *Rolling Stone* is new wave and the *New York Times* punk. Or so we thought. Peter Bonanni, newly hired publisher of *Rolling Stone*, told *Advertising Age*:

I know this sounds odd, but *Rolling Stone* has a lot in common with the *New York Times*. *Rolling Stone* has the same commitment and intimacy with its audience—and that audience's respect—that the *New York Times* has.

Funny, he's right. □

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