

OTHER VOICES

Quotables

Thoughts from Parker J. Palmer on learning:

"The dominant theory of education is that students are vessels that need to be filled up with external knowledge and wisdom. I want to argue that this a very backwards notion of how we ought to live and how we ought to teach and learn.

The best kind of higher education draws out the wisdom of the students, the pains of the students, and encourages them to live in the world from the inside out."

From an interview with John Teague, Second Monday

Thoughts about human rights and the United States

"America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, it is the other way around. Human rights invented America."

Jimmy Carter

Excerpts

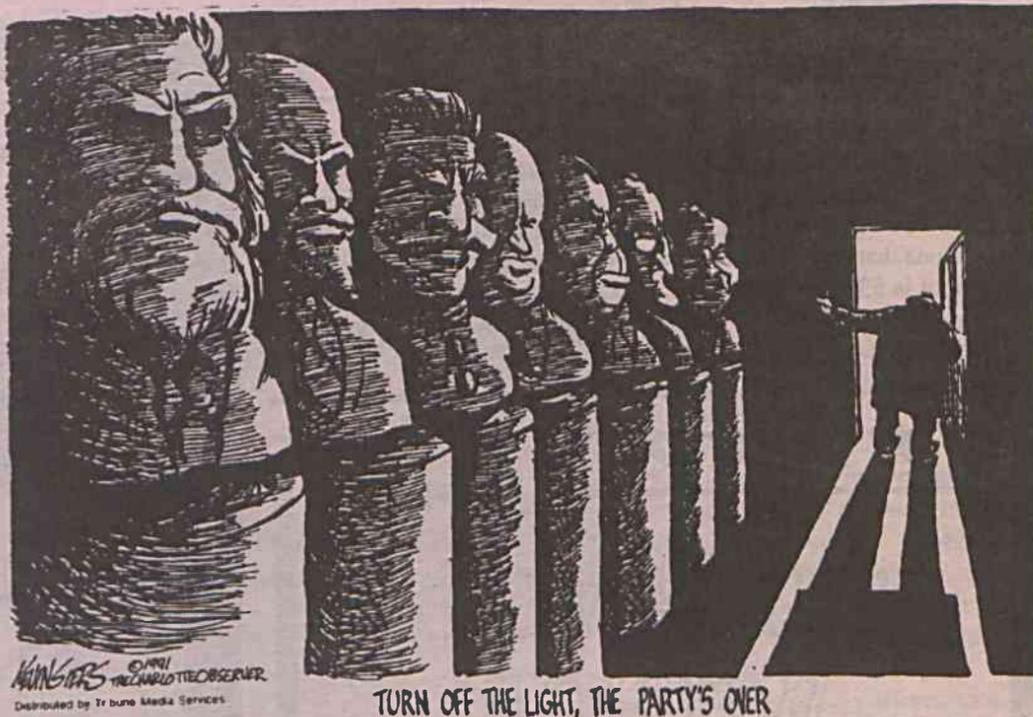
On conservative newspapers on college campuses:

The recent proliferation of conservative newspapers on university campuses has some liberals bothered. Right-leaning editors are challenging such campus sacred cows as non-traditional courses and funding for gay and black student groups.

But if you believe in a free market of ideas -- if you believe, that is, that all voices should be heard and the best ideas will eventually prevail -- then the emergence of competing newspapers can only be considered progress. No one has a monopoly on the truth.

Newspapers have a great tradition as the vehicle of dissent. On college campuses, the greater variety of newspapers, the better. But if campus newspapers -- reduce themselves to a mouthpiece for attitudes rather than living up to their potential as a medium for thoughtful give and take, then they are not making full use of their franchise.

From the Greensboro News & Record



Blondie takes on work world

On Labor Day Morning, 1991, Blondie Boopadop Bumstead, 35 years old and holding, had an epiphany over her coffee cup. Worn out from cooking and cleaning to these many decades, the suburban housewife of comic strip fame suddenly figured a way out of her domesticity. "I could go out and get a job."

Bing! Light bulbs flash! Cameras roll! Sweetheart, give me "The Today Show"!

Not since Nora left the Doll's House, has one wife's change garnered quite this much attention. But Nora was ahead of the time. Blondie isn't exactly a trendsetter among her peers. More than three quarters of the women in her age group (where she has lingered longer than Jack Benny) are already in the workforce.

Nevertheless, this is something of a landmark. Blondie began comic strip life over sixty years ago as a gold-digging flapper. Back then, Dagwood Bumstead was the daffy heir to a railroad family that owned, as it was said, the right side of the tracks, the wrong side, and the tracks themselves.

When the Depression deepened, these true lovers got married despite Poppa Bumstead's disapproval. Disinherited, Dagwood got a job. They moved to the suburbs, had two kids, a dog and remained in their 30s ever after.

In some ways the Bumsteads have been emblems of the American family and the American economy. Dagwood, for all of his ditziness has had one job his entire work life. Even in the '80s, as other American companies downsized and streamlined, this long-abused white-collar worker kept his job. While other companies were being taken over, Dithers and Co. dithered along. Even Dagwood's metabolism and eating habits managed to stay the same.

As for Blondie, over the years this white-collar wife also kept her supportive role. She never did get proper credit for her invention of the Dagwood sandwich. She never got any kudos for getting her husband out of the house

ELLEN GOODMAN

Washington Post Writer's Group

every morning and into the carpool.

But now that she's decided to get a job, she's doing the "nets," making all the talk shows. Even the secretary of labor is interested in how this newest entry will fare in the workplace: "Some of the skills Blondie had will have to be re-honed." Indeed.

Once again, Dagwood and Blondie are getting back in touch with what's happening to the American family that lives paycheck to paycheck: two paychecks.

How then can we help Blondie to mark her momentous entry into the working woman world after all these years? A few tips and tidbits are in order.

The good news is that things are better for working women. The gap between male and female wages has narrowed. The bad news is that one reason it's narrowed is because men's wages are falling.

Despite all those years at home with companies. These were scattered Dagwood and the kids, Blondie's earning across the United States. They capacity won't be much worse than that of ranged in size from 8,000 other women. If she is typical, her earnings employees to more than 300,000 will peak at about age 40-45 at \$22,000. This employees, but they showed an is, however, just about what the average man identical pattern. Within these earns between 25 and 29.

On Sept. 9, this longtime kitchen worker into artificial barriers that prevent decided -- at least for the moment -- to them from advancing to top become a caterer. She will be joining the positions in management. the fastest growing part of the American economy, women-owned small businesses.

This will supply her with a lot a organizational. Most top executive and Cookie get home from school or from the jobs are filled from within, and mall. But she'll get none of the perks: most promotions depend heavily on vacations, pensions, health insurance. If tenure. Typically, a high-ranking executive will have served 25 years with a company. Promotions also

See Goodman, Page 4

Employers ignoring women

In recent weeks we have heard a great deal about the dismal prospects of the United States in the next century. Our high school

students fare poorly in international competition. Their Scholastic Aptitude Test scores are dismal. Everything is getting soft, and the country is going to the bow-wows.



JAMES KILPATRICK
Universal Press

Maybe so, but a couple of reports from the U.S. Department of Labor suggest that not all is lost. American employers, for the most part, are overlooking a resource that could make a tremendous difference over the next 40 years. They are ignoring women. This is, when you think about it, a thoroughly dumb thing to do.

Last month's report on the "glass ceiling" in business and industry has been well-publicized. An earlier report by Clifford Adelman, "Women at Thirtysomething," provides an abundance of facts to support the thesis. For a variety of reasons, well-qualified women tend to rise to a certain executive level -- and there they stop.

The glass-ceiling study looked closely at nine Fortune 500 companies. These were scattered employees, but they showed an identical pattern. Within these companies, qualified women run into artificial barriers that prevent them from advancing to top positions in management.

Some of the barriers are organizational. Most top executive jobs are filled from within, and most promotions depend heavily on tenure. Typically, a high-ranking executive will have served 25 years with a company. Promotions also

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