

Opinion

Britain has reason to be wary of EC

There's a map of the world on the wall of my room at home that I hope to pass on to my grandchildren.

I can't remember not having the map. It was my mother's when she was a child. It's the view of the world she grew up with — and most of it is pink.

That's pink for British dependencies and the Commonwealth.

I intend to pass it on to my grandchildren as a symbol of how much things can change in a short time, how nothing is guaranteed to stay the same, how empires of any kind come and go and world power shifts.

I was reminded of the map by a column by University alumnus David Broder. Broder's columns are syndicated by the Washington Post Writers Group. I happened to catch this one in Monday's Charlotte Observer.

There's one of those shifts in world power taking place right now, and Broder was writing about it. I'm referring to the closer and closer union of the 12 members of the European Community.

They've been moving closer ever since the Treaty of Rome, which es-

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Staff Columnist

established the European Economic Community, came into effect Jan. 1, 1958. By 1992 member countries hope to have removed all trade barriers and established a true Common Market.

This has enormous implications for everyone, including the United States, whose economic power will be surpassed by that of the newly united Europe.

Not for the first time in the EC's history, Britain is exercising a great deal of caution in proceeding. The British were late entrants (1973) and now they're worrying about the extent of the changes that must be made for 1992.

Broder mentioned a July 4, 1963 speech by President Kennedy in which the president proclaimed a "declaration of interdependence." The president welcomed the greater economic and political integration of countries

in the world.

Broder then said that Kennedy's speech "stands in clear contrast to the gyrations Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has gone through as she tried to avoid acknowledging the reality of Britain's 'interdependence' with the rapidly forming European economic union."

According to Broder, Britain "lacks the tradition and instinct of federalism, which America was lucky enough to be born with. That concept of shared sovereignty between the states and the national government ..."

Thatcher's gyrations are to be welcomed. She'd be doing Britain a disservice if she wasn't cautious. And Broder's comparison of British and American attitudes to federalism is inept.

Thatcher is resisting a single European currency under one central bank and greater control of the internal affairs of member states by the European Parliament. She's worried that the political goals of the EC may at times not match those of some of its members. She's particularly worried about socialism.

She has reason to be. Broder didn't grow up in the socialist state that Britain had become by the 1970s. I did, and I remember how nothing worked, how there was a pervasive attitude of apathy and hopelessness. I particularly remember the Labour party's total loss of control in the winter of 1978. There was no fire service, no garbage collection, no state schools, substantially reduced hospital services, etc., etc.

It has taken the Conservatives a decade to restore Britain to the point that the country can have some pride again. Strikes are down, productivity is up. Many of the nationalized industries have been privatized. And more and more Americans are buying British cars again.

A single European currency and any further loss of political control could endanger Britain's recovery. And suppose there was a swing to socialism again in Europe? British voters have shown they have long memories in three national elections by making sure that Labour doesn't get a chance to plunge the country back into chaos.

As for Broder's talk of federalism, the comparison is not appropriate. England, Scotland and Wales can be compared to states in the union that is the United Kingdom.

England, Spain and Germany (to pick three at random) cannot be compared to American states. They are three separate countries with different languages, histories, aspirations, lifestyles, political systems and economic structures. They don't share a common history of revolution against a foreign master. Instead, they share memories of the divisions of the First and Second World Wars.

Better to think of the EC as the same idea as Canada, the United States, Mexico, Nicaragua and several other American countries forming a union. And I think we all know what a high view Americans would take of the idea of the Nicaraguan government having a say in U.S. internal affairs, don't we?

Jim Greenhill is a senior journalism and English major from London, England.

Pre-pubescent love from the other side

Regarding my column of June 22 in which I asked for pre-pubescent female crushes, I have just one thing to say about the tens of responses I got:

You women are SICK!

I thought my liking Dr. Joyce Brothers was pretty bad, but really...I just can't fathom some of these things.

Then again, I can't fathom just about ANYTHING attributed to the pre-pubescent mind. Kids don't ever have any motives.

Anyway, I got a few responses in the mail, but most of them were in the form of conversations at bars and whatnot. I was really surprised at how willing some women were in letting me know about their young lust. One poor girl, after consuming waaay too many blue cups at He's Not, literally cried on my shoulder about how Shaun Cassidy never returned her phone calls when she was nine. I referred her to a local mental institution and escaped by jumping over the wall.

Also, almost EVERY woman made a point of letting me know that she was an ARDENT FEMINIST. I thought this was hysterical, but it also gave me comfort in the knowledge that, yes, some feminists do have a working sense of humor, something we males tend to forget.

Well, then. Shall we begin?

From E.B., Chapel Hill: "I think

John Bland

Less Filling

that rock stars and hippies really played a part in the female fantasies of that era...We all had things for Davy Jones from the Monkees, young (read pre-surgery and pre-feminization) Michael Jackson, Arlo Guthrie and Jim Morrison. I think the last two on this list probably brought out our budding maternal instincts...I mean seriously, look at pictures of Jim Morrison in his early days or Arlo Guthrie on the cover of 'Alice's Restaurant.' You just wanted to feed them."

Arlo Guthrie? ARLO GUTHRIE? (I know you threatened me with castration if I ran part of your letter, E.B., so right now I'm hiding somewhere in the Andes and you'll never find me never never never.)

Anyway, Davy Jones was on everybody's list. We guys thought Davy Jones was a wimp. We liked Mike, because he had the nerve to wear his blue toboggan ALL THE TIME, which got us thrown out of Mrs. Ragan's third-grade class on more than one occasion. Plus, Mike had sideburns down to his navel, and we all waited for the day when we had facial hair and could do the same.

Some of us are still waiting.

M.S. and J.H. of Chapel Hill literally sent me a grocery list. Like, what am I supposed to do, run down to the Food Lion and pick up these guys for you? These men are not pieces of meat! Among their early favorites were such fairly obvious ones as the Fonz and Potsie from "Happy Days" and Wally Cleaver, along with some truly bizarre ones like Mr. French from "Family Affair" and Buck Owens, of all people.

It seems to me that girls at that age had things not only for the heroic, sturdy types like Captain Kirk and Superman, but also for guys who were not the most masculine in the world, like Davy Jones, Radar O'Reilly, Gopher from "The Love Boat" and the Professor from "Gilligan's Island." In fact, the Professor actually TOPPED every list. Must have been the size of his brain.

Michael Landon of "Little House on the Prairie" was also at the top of the lists. Yuck. K.M. of Durham said: "I used to run up and kiss the television screen when he came on. Perhaps some brain damage was done."

She added: "I have to admit I was infatuated with Capt. Kirk — that is, until 'Star Trek 27' came out and he had to wear Depend undergarments." You know they make those things in a low-rise bikini style now, don't you?

Perhaps the most interesting comment about male-female relationships came from the aforementioned E.B., who said: "When I was young, the feminist movement was still in its infancy, and we infants (or young children) of darkest suburbia were still indoctrinated with the thought that we had to get married. While we all wanted to 'be something' when we grew up, crushes naturally led to thoughts of domestic bliss. Did little boys do this, too? Would you admit it if you did?"

No, I never experienced these fantasies, and I think that they were purely a female trait. I just couldn't, at that age, picture myself coming home from a long day at the office, walking in, setting my briefcase down and asking the Catwoman, "What's for dinner, honey?" Somehow it ruined the whole effect.

But it's an interesting point, and I

think it says a lot about the incongruities of our relationships. Did we males only want to "Love 'em and leave 'em" back then? Did you females only want to hear the words "I do"? And is it still like this?

Reading these letters and listening to these conversations made me understand two things. One, I'm no closer to figuring women out now than I was before I started this whole mess; and two, we're a lot more alike than we'd like to accept.

So keep those cards and letters and conversations coming, folks. Maybe together we can figure this thing out and make a whole lot of money off of it.

John Bland is a senior English major from Charlotte who's really pissed that he had to work on the Fourth of July. But Dave, Sarah and I brought in beer, a barbecue grill, bottle rockets and a truckload of sand, so it could have been worse. And when the fire department showed up to put out the fire started when Sarah shot a bottle rocket at Dave, they gave us an ocean for our beach.

LETTERS POLICY

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- All letters and columns must be typed and double-spaced for ease of editing.
- All letters and columns must be signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter or column.
- Students should include name, year in school, major, phone number and home town. Other members of the University community should include similar information.

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