



## Comment on the Commentary of the Day

by

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**Disclaimer: The following "Letters to the Editor" were sent to the respective publications on the dates indicated. Some were printed but many were not. The original articles that are being commented on may or may not be available on the internet and may require registration or subscription to access if they are. Some of the original articles are syndicated and therefore may have appeared in other publications also.**

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23 March 2008

Editor, The New Yorker

Dear Editor:

I'm outraged that Hillary Clinton promises, if elected president, to help people (in her words) "quit smoking, to get more exercise, to eat right, to take their vitamins" ("The Iron Lady," March 17). Perhaps I'm overreacting because I buried my mother on Wednesday, but neither Uncle Sam nor Mrs. Clinton is my parent. That role was performed remarkably well and lovingly by the persons who had responsibility for it: my father and late mother. I, like any self-

respecting adult, resent beyond words the impertinence of any stranger presuming to possess the moral authority to intrude into my affairs.

To my own dying day, I will live by the creed instilled in me by my parents: My life is my own, and just as I have no right (or wish) to meddle in the affairs of others, no one - regardless of how exalted her status or how large her electoral majority - has the right to meddle in mine.

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10 March 2008

The Editor, New York Times

229 West 43rd St.  
New York, NY 10036

To the Editor:

Gov. Eliot Spitzer says that his patronage of prostitutes is a "private matter" ("Spitzer Is Linked to Prostitution Ring," March 10). He's correct; that matter is between himself and his family and is no one else's business. I wish only that Mr. Spitzer understood that many of his most famous crusades - for example, against musical-recording companies aggressively marketing their products, against banks lending money to lower-income consumers, and, indeed, even against prostitution

rings(!) - were crusades against behaviors that in each case is a "private matter."

If Mr. Spitzer wants us to butt out of his private affairs, he should from here on in set an example by butting out of everyone else's private affairs.

10 March 2008

The Editor, New York Times  
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To the Editor:

Beth Feehan writes that "Despite demand from an awakening public asking for more local food, the corporatized system of commodities is strangling the small family farm" (Letters, March 10).

Blaming corporate villains for market outcomes that one dislikes is common but typically wrongheaded, as is the case here. If enough people really demand more local food - meaning, if enough consumers will pay the higher prices that even the most efficient methods of local food production might entail - then the profits in such food production and distribution would be ample. The "corporatized system of commodities" would be no more successful at preventing the growth of local foods than the corporatized system of newspapers were at preventing the growth of the Internet.