

Say No to Cruises! By Bradford Plumer

Brian Beutler [notes](#) that the *National Review* is going on a little cruise with wealthy donors to raise money, and wonders why no liberal political journals (apart from [The Nation](#)) do the same. Well, not to be super-sanctimonious or anything, but I don't think any progressive organization should *ever* go on cruise ship vacations to raise money. Those boats tend to dump [millions of gallons](#) of waste water into the ocean, usually [aren't regulated](#) very well, and are often staffed by Third World workers earning rock-bottom wages and vulnerable to exploitation.

Maybe *The Nation* has found itself some nice eco-friendly cruise line, but I doubt it. From [the website](#), it looks like they're using Holland America. Here's [one account](#) of how HA treats its workers. (Short answer: not well.) In 2004, the line paid a [large fine](#) for dumping 20,000 gallons of raw sewage into a harbor in Alaska. In 1998, the line had forked over [another \\$2 million](#) after it got caught illegally dumping waste. Sadly, giving passengers the option of buying a few carbon offsets doesn't make it all okay.

Okay, that *was* super-sanctimonious. Sorry! I'll try to write some more reasonable posts soon enough. But seriously, surely there are cleaner ways to do fund-raising...