



Letters

Abortion not murder

To the Editor:

Amidst all the controversy on the meaning of abortion, it is important to note that there is a very real difference between a human embryo and a human being.

Anyone who witnessed the death of a loved one knows that it is the consciousness of that person that has given life and that it is the consciousness of that person that leaves when death occurs. After death the body is still present; consciousness is not.

Birth is similar, but reversed. Consciousness is not present until the embryo is fully developed, that is, at the time of birth, shortly before birth or shortly after birth. This is because there is no need for human consciousness to be present while the physical body, in utero, is developing. Abortion is *not* a form of murder. Rather it prevents the process of bringing a new person into the world. Prevention is significantly different from murder.

In a world where thousands, even millions, of children are daily victims of starvation, violence, torture and abuse, one wishes that those devoted to the "right to life" would channel their protective and humanitarian instincts into saving the real child victims of this world and give up their mistaken and self-righteous fight against abortion.

ROXANNE L. NAGORKA
Albany

Our purpose is peace

To the Editor:

Amen to Norman J. Gendron's letter, "Cause of our woes," in *The Times Union* on Jan. 13. Man inherited the earth, blessed with

Letters to the Editor
The Times Union
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Brief letters will be edited least, although all letters are subject to editing for taste and accuracy. Include daytime phone number. Only letters written specifically to *The Times Union* will be used — and only if the writer's name can also be published.

Reviewer responds

To the Editor:

This is in response to Nancy Wilder's critique of my "The Heart of the Country" book review, wherein she accused me of "callous disclosure" of the book's ending.

Having reviewed books for this paper for the past three years, I am well aware of literary criticism's "cardinal rule" regarding not giving away the "denouement." Had Wilder read the book before terming my final paragraph "careless," she would have realized that my disclosure of the narrators' refusal of marriage proposal was incidental to the book's climax — hardly tantamount to "(stealing) the expected reward."

An asbestos question

To the Editor:

The federal and state governments have determined that airborne asbestos is a carcinogenic, and we taxpayers are spending millions of dollars to remove it from our schools, prisons and government offices. Asbestos is classified as a hazardous substance and cannot be removed except by trained, licensed handlers. Asbestos waste cannot be disposed of in normal landfills, but must be shipped hundreds of miles to special disposal sites.

In view of this, I was amazed to read the legal notice in the Jan. 16 *Times Union* which states that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has made a determination that the discharge of 2.65 tons per year of asbestos to the atmosphere from the Bendix plant in Green Island will not have a significant adverse environmental impact. Just how much asbestos does EnCon feel that Bendix can send into that great landfill in the sky without impairing our health?

MARVIN I. HONIG
Albany

Obituary unjust

To the Editor:

The John Donohue family and countless others who are dear loyal friends of the late Sen. Lloyd Paterson felt your obituary of Dec. 28 was unjust and below the level of journalism expected from our *Times Union*.

Nothing in your obituary gave the beloved Lloyd Paterson any recognition for the