



Letters to the Editor

Nuclear Fallout

I was generally very pleased with Steve Byas' excellent article revealing many of the myths regarding nuclear power ("Nuclear Power: The Promise vs. Irrational Fear," June 3 issue). But I have to note one error that appeared in the article a couple of times, as in the caption for the photo of post-blast Hiroshima. He states: "The bombs killed many thousands, in the blasts themselves and the ensuing fallout." This triggered my memories as a nuclear weapon operations and safety officer in the Air Force.

There were *no fallout casualties* in either Hiroshima or Nagasaki. While there were many *radiation casualties*, these were all from exposure to the flash, which emits instant and intense radiation.

There is a simple reason for this: Fallout consists of vaporized and condensed material that is actually in contact with the fireball of the nuclear explosion. The 20-kiloton bombs over Japan were "air burst" attacks, designed to maximize blast and fire effects. They detonated at an altitude where the fireball did not contact the ground — so the only solids consumed and lifted in the mushroom cloud were the bomb's own components. There was no mass of solids from buildings and such sucked up, and then dispersed downwind ominously as tiny particles of dust. So there were zero fallout casualties in Japan from the atom bombs we dropped.

That has happened, though, with actual ground bursts, particularly in a 1954 test around the Marshall Islands, where bad planning exposed downwind islands and their inhabitants to serious fallout from a ground burst in our early testing.

Hal Rounds
Somerville, Tennessee

Not Fixing an Illness

The general argument used to support an abortion is that a woman has the right to use her body as she sees fit. The shortcoming of this position is that once she becomes pregnant, her body now possesses a creature independent of the body's normal functioning, with the woman's body acting as a vessel. This vessel's primary function is to protect and nourish this separate entity until birth, now considered a child.

When an abortion is performed, it is not the same as, for example, removing a lung, kidney, or any organ from the woman's body. Rather, the operation is exclusively done to kill and remove the living child from the womb, while not disturbing any other function of her body. After the abortion, the woman's body returns to the state it had been in prior to pregnancy.

Remember, for a pregnancy to occur, a male sperm is needed, and this further complicates the naked position that it is solely the woman who is affected when a child is aborted.

Lou Colombo
New Bern, North Carolina



Written by [Staff](#) on August 5, 2019

Published in the August 5, 2019 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 35, No. 15

Benefits of Diversity?

Currently there is a big push to teach “diversity” in our schools. Our students are being educated about people different than themselves, but it seems there is no point of reference. Speaking to students, I have found that this often causes them to band together into their different groups and separate, instead of causing them to be accepting and congregate. Diversity is causing further division. It seems that we *were* on track to being colorblind. Now we have been derailed.

Shouldn't we instead be teaching how people are alike? The United States became the big melting pot and created one of the most successful nations to exist in modern times. As human beings we have much in common: feelings, love of family, friendship, education, love of country (though this is being distorted by some groups), and many other aspects.

William F. Hineser, DPM

Sent via e-mail



Written by [Staff](#) on August 5, 2019

Published in the August 5, 2019 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 35, No. 15

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