

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mormon Straight/Gay Marriages

I've just had a look at the Fall 2005 issue. I commend you on the way you handled the Ben Christensen/Ron Schow/Marybeth Raynes material ("Getting Out/Staying In: One Mormon Straight/Gay Marriage," 38, no. 3 [Fall 2005]: 121-51) relating to homosexuality in a Mormon context.

These perspectives make a valuable contribution to the dialogue on this subject now available to Latter-day Saints by recognizing the complexity of the interface between doctrine and real experience and by illustrating the damage potentially resulting from oversimplification. Such honest discussion is much needed in the Church. In thus promoting it, your journal lives up to its name.

I like very much your decision to give Ben Christensen the last word. Situated as he is in the existential soup, he deserves it. His response does him credit. My heart goes out to Ben and Jessie (and others like them) and I wish them well.

Wayne Schow
Pocatello, Idaho

Correction of Wording

I wish to comment on the call for papers "on the prospects and problems of persons with disabilities" (*Dialogue* 38, no. 1 [Spring 2005]: 195, and *Dialogue* 38, no. 2 [Summer 2005]: 204). I'd like to point out that the wording in the first sentence, i.e., "the disabled," is

considered offensive by many. *Disabled* encourages other people to see the disability, not the person.

The preferred term, which was also used several times in the call, is "persons with disabilities," or "people with disabilities." As a somewhat pedantic English major, I prefer the latter; however, the author of that call seems to think that "the disabled" is interchangeable with "person with disabilities." The terms are not interchangeable.

Whatever term is chosen should put the emphasis on the person, not the disability. I hope that when these issues of *Dialogue* are published, people who are educated about these issues will be called upon to make sure that you've got it right.

Paula Goodfellow
Encinitas, California

Fairness to FARMS

I recommend that *Dialogue* stay away from the view that seems to be common among some in the LDS intellectual community that FARMS is *a priori* wrong about everything it touches. An embarrassing example of this attitude occurs in Bill Russell's review of Dan Vogel's *Joseph Smith: The Making of a Prophet* ("He Was 'Game,'" *Dialogue* 38, no. 3 [Fall 2005]: 188-92).

Russell writes: "Vogel has not written an anti-Mormon book. Contrary to the reviews published in FARMS, Vogel's book is moderate and bal-