

Jody Diamond and Larry Polansky  
52 Green St  
Lebanon NH 03766

June 3, 1993

To the Valley News;

With regards to your May 31, 1993 editorial by William Murphy ("Adults Show Love and Courage By Saying No to Premarital Sex"), we would like to call attention to the repeated, and we feel somewhat mistaken, use of the term "biological family".

Mr. Murphy is trying to show the influence of divorce on the current values of adolescents when he says things like "I don't see very many young people in church or in families that include both biological parents," and "I believe that the most important reason for this trouble among young people is the breakdown of the traditional biological family." Perhaps what he really thinks important is familial stability, specifically of the two-parent flavor.

We'd like to point out what the organization PACT (An Adoption Alliance) and others in the adoption community have termed *adoptism*: "A belief that forming a family by birth is superior to forming a family by adoption" and "A belief that that keeping a child with his/her biological parents is inherently better than placing a child for adoption." (Pact Press, Spring 1993, Vol. 2, Number 1). There are many types of families in which biology is not a principal connection. Whether one agrees or not that changing family structures are the principal cause of what is "wrong with American society" (which we don't by any means), it seems misguided to claim that stable, healthy and loving adoptive families are a factor in this perceived general degradation.

Jody Diamond  
Larry Polansky  
Lebanon

## The Forum

### Don't Slight Adoptive Families

To the Editor:

With regards to your May 31 editorial by William Murphy, "Adults Show Love And Courage By Saying No to Premarital Sex," we would like to call attention to the repeated, and we feel somewhat mistaken, use of the term "biological family."

Mr. Murphy is trying to show the influence of divorce on the current values of adolescents when he says things like, "I don't see very many young people in church or in families that include both biological parents," and "I believe that the most important reason for this trouble among young people is the breakdown of the traditional biological family." Perhaps what he really thinks important is familial stability, specifically of the two-parent flavor.

We'd like to point out what the organization PACT (an adoption alliance) and others in the adoption community have termed adoptism: "A belief that forming a family by birth is superior to forming a family by adoption" and "A belief that keeping a child with his/her biological parents is inherently better than placing a child for adoption." (Pact Press, Spring 1993, Vol. 2, Number 1). There are many types of families in which biology is not a principal connection. Whether one agrees or not that changing family structures are the principal cause of what is "wrong with American society" (which we don't by any means), it seems misguided to claim that stable, healthy and loving adoptive families are a factor in this perceived general degradation.

JODY DIAMOND  
LARRY POLANSKY  
Lebanon