and well prepared for the questions about nuclear weapons. When I asked about the possibility of F-35s carrying nuclear weapons, I received exactly what I expected: “There is no plan at this time for nuclear capability for the F-35.” As a Vietnam-era veteran, I have heard this kind of language before. I immediately wondered when that plan would change. Perhaps the Guardsmen were unaware that the U.S. Department of Defense stated in its 2018 Nuclear Posture Review: “We are committed to upgrading the DCA [dual-capable aircraft] with the nuclear-capable F-35 aircraft.”

The people in our communities have spoken on numerous occasions. In May, the Vermont Senate passed a vote for no nuclear weapons in Vermont. I personally do not want the F-35s in our community or our state. They belong on a military base that is not set in the most populated county, next to an international airport. So when the plan changes to have nuclear capability, the aircraft will already be where they belong.

**Sally Millichamp**
SOUTH BURLINGTON

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**THAT’S LIFE**
[Re Off Message: “Vermont to Enact Abortion Rights Law, Gov. Scott’s Aide Says,” May 20]: So let me see if I understand. The whole narrative about endangered reproductive rights, intrusion on the integrity of a woman’s body, the “right” to excise an intrusive growth, etc., has prevailed. The proposition that we are endorsing the extermination of a class of unwanted, well, future Vermonters has not been the view of the legislative majority. Is that it? And we are proud to be enlightened compared to much of the rest of the country. Right?

Does it occur to my fellow citizens that we are echoing the argument for property rights voiced in the South Carolina legislature in 1860? We eventually came to see that slaves are not property. They are people — citizens. When will we come to see in utero “growths” as people, too?

**Vincent Hunter**
BOLTON

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**DREAM JOB?**
[Re Off Message: “At Homecoming Rally, Bernie Sanders Thanks Vermont,” May 25]: Where can you find a job you really enjoy, work three days a week, and be respected and treated like royalty with no chance of being fired? This job includes three to four months off per year with pay, free travel and a lucrative pension vested after 10 years. You’ll also have the freedom to look for a better job, taking all the time off you need in seeking it, and draw a full salary and benefits without being penalized. Your health care is the best — often called the “gold plan,” with no co-pays or deductibles. If the new job search is fruitless, you can reclaim your old job without penalty, or loss of seniority or status.

As taxpayers, we’re being taken for a ride, because every senator or congressperson running for president in 2020 has the above job description. We’re a bunch of chumps to allow this to happen. We get what we accept.

**Frank Mazur**
SOUTH BURLINGTON

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**POPULATION IS A PROBLEM**
[Re Emoji That, May 22]: You make a declining birth rate in Vermont sound like a bad thing; it is not! It means Vermonters see the degradation that is happening all around us and we care about the environment, not just what the humans can exploit. We are No. 1 on the awareness list. Those who want to live with more crowding have plenty of other options.

Even here, we can’t seem to get our legislators to act on climate change. The surest way to reduce one’s carbon footprint to zero permanently is to have no children.

**David Tier**
MIDDLEBURY

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**CORRECTION**
Last week’s story “Squabbling Legislators Squander Chance to Deliver Democratic Deal” mistated when Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe (D/P-Chittenden) received a letter from House Speaker Mitzi Johnson (D-South Hero). The letter was delivered to Ashe as he presided over the Senate, and it was released to the media shortly after.

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