



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
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Dear Vic:

Right after our debate (when was it, '75 or so?), I decided I would participate in no more such. They only reinforce people's existing prejudices and don't change a thing. I would counsel you not to get in a dialogue with the two people you are referring to. Swan is a very skillful and snobbish put-downer (I think I quote him accurately as follows: "I can't abide simplistic approaches to complex problems.") And Corday hits below the belt and kicks in the crotch, a totally disreputable debater and an incorrigible ideolog. He is also not beyond doing a real disservice to another's reputation. There is no way you are going to "improve on" their naivete. On the other hand, if you are simply addressing some of the issues and arguments they raise you will be doing the scientific community a service and less a disservice to yourself.

It would take many hours of dictating to list all the arguments against prevention that they and others raise. I am sorry that I've never really put them all down in any place with any degree of completeness. There are snatches of arguments in the enclosed, which I think you've probably already seen. Be sure to send me anything that you write on the subject. We all need to borrow ammunition.

I have come to the view that the main cause of unnecessary controversy is the failure to differentiate between the individual need and approach and the population need and strategies. I don't think there is much to be gained by arguing with people who simply will not see beyond individual variations and genetic determinism.