

## The “wisdom” of the *New Criterion*

David Benatar

In my response to your earlier comments about my book, *Better Never to Have Been*, I noted that “valuing existing life ... does not entail creating new life”, thereby correcting your earlier confusion of (a) the claim that for everybody it would have been “better never to have been”, with (b) the claim that we would all be “better off dead”. I make the former claim, but not the latter. Your smug response begins with the assertion that “Professor Benatar thinks you’d be better off dead”. This insistence on mischaracterizing my position suggests that you are either fools or knaves. Which is it?