

## *Letters to the Editor of The Times*

Sullivan County than in other conglomerations of several hundred thousand people. After all, about ten people die of unnatural causes every weekend in our nation's capital, a 500 per cent greater total than at the festival.

If, as you suggest, the conditions at the festival which brought meaning and fulfillment to untold thousands may be described as a "nightmare," what unspeakable word will describe the daily state of our nation's largest and most cosmopolitan city? Perhaps we should say, in fair comparison, that the festival was beautiful and New York is bearable.

RALPH B. LEVERING  
Princeton, N. J., Aug. 18, 1969

### **'Beautiful' Festival**

To the Editor:

Many of those who attended the Bethel Music Festival—including the entire family of the writer who has just been made indignant upon reading your Aug. 18 editorial "Nightmare in the Catskills"—imbibed no narcotics nor even marijuana, did not find the sanitary conditions or the mud intolerable, and considered the number of cars and general traffic conditions in Sullivan County to be far superior to those which daily characterize New York City. Even with the bands, there was far less noise pollution than is the regular fare for city dwellers, and there was no air pollution.

To be sure, one person died of a drug overdose and one was run over, but is that any reason to condemn the festival? Surely conditions were far safer in