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To the editor:

The recent death of Erich Fromm, just a few days before his 80th birthday, marks the end of a great, productive life.

Fromm's distinguished career as teacher, philosopher and theologian made him a legend in his own time. He was readable. He broke the language barrier that so often denies access to all but the most scholarly types. Fromm spoke from the heart as well as the head.

His classic book, "The Art of Loving," remains one of the best guides for marriage partners and parents and teachers and any people who are trying to learn how to treat one another with care and respect.

His work on the Old Testament, "You Shall be as Gods," is the most readable, informative and exciting piece of literature I've seen on the Bible.

"Escape From Freedom," is a book that challenges those of us who lay claim to the value and privilege of freedom. "Man For Himself," is equally provocative and challenging.

Fromm showed that the science of psychology and the study of religion can be mutually beneficial and need not be antagonistic. His book, "Psychoanalysis and Religion," is a penetrating suggestion that, "...the question is not whether man returns to religion and believes in God but whether he lives love and thinks truth."

Fromm's book, "The Heart of Man," is an affirmation of life. In his book, "The Revolution of Hope," Fromm says, "Faith, like hope, is not a prediction of the future; it is the vision of the present in a state of pregnancy." One reads Fromm with a feeling of

expectancy.

Erich Fromm was an exceptional man, full of hope and devoted to a scholarly and scientific approach to life without losing the human touch. He was a warm, compassionate man who leaves a treasure for us in the form of his writings. His nontheistic approach to religion was sensitive and inoffensive, leaving room for the conservative as well as the liberal approach to religion.

A service in memory of his life and works will be held at Murray Universalist Church on Sunday, March 30 at 10 a.m. to which all are invited.

(Rev.) Frank A. Hall
Murray Universalist Church, Attleboro