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Higher calling

The Guardian, Monday 17 January 2011

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It is sad that Rabbi Jonathan Sacks feels unable to endorse the carrying of organ donor cards ([Report](#), 12 January). Many of the most eminent Orthodox authorities recognise "brain stem death" as death and therefore allow organ donation before the heart has stopped beating. They would therefore allow, or even encourage, the carrying of donor cards under the present system. The decision of the chief rabbi is likely to cost lives. Liberal and Reform Judaism continue to support and encourage the carrying of donor cards. In Judaism, the saving of life is the highest religious duty one can perform, and carrying a donor card allows this to happen.

Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi

Birmingham

• Yet again your movie obituarist Ronald Bergan has excelled himself. On Thursday a glowing tribute to [Jill Haworth](#), whose career ranged from Otto Preminger epics in the 1960s to schlock horror movies in the 1970s, and on Saturday he wrote an insightful piece on actor Hideko Takemine who worked for the great Japanese director [Mikio Naruse](#). Let us hope there is a new biographical dictionary of international cinema, with an emphasis on Hollywood, not far off.

John Springhall

Portstewart, Londonderry

• I looked with horror at the picture of Ipswich, Queensland ([Eyewitness](#), 12 January). Around 50 submerged buildings near the Sunshine Coast, only three showing any indication of solar panels.

Helen Overton-Hore

Romsey, Hampshire

• Oh dear, another cock-up by Boris, this time in Trafalgar Square ([Cock of the square](#), 15 January).

Ron Brewer

Old Buckenham, Norfolk

• Remember the good old days when we used to make fish puns out of stickleback plastic ([Letters](#), 14 January)?

Richard Crosher

Sheffield

• I decided to write in just for the halibut.

Chris Coates

Colchester

• You've got the space so I suppose you have to fillet.

Root Cartwright

Radlett, Hertfordshire

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