

Letters can't.

Christian indignation

In response to the September 24 article "An informal chat with Jesus Christ, citizen", I found the article to be in appallingly bad taste to say the least.

As a Christian, I was personally insulted by the flippant tone of the piece. God is not someone to be treated with the blatant disrespect shown there. The article in essence made fun of Christ, and therefore Christianity, by presenting the idea that God has human ideals, shortcomings, and downright peculiarities.

How *The Gateway* or its writers can condone such a piece of trash to be printed is beyond my understanding. You, who are so eager to support the causes of so many other groups on campus, and yet are content to see another group (Christians) and their beliefs trampled into the dust. Mr. Simao probably composed the article with the shortsighted plan of getting a few laughs. Well sir, I for one am not amused.

Philip Taranger
ARTS III

the Islamic faith, than the barbecuing in Christendom of scientists, astronomers, and miscellaneous other disagreeable persons at the stake (before making saints of them) is a practice contemned by the Christian faith.

It would take me too long to dwell on the true status accorded to women by Islam. There are books on the subject for those interested. Suffice it to say that the sitting of the Privy Council as late as the 20th century to determine whether women were "persons" within the meaning of the law and earlier findings of the learned judges of our Supreme Court that they were not, would come to Muslims as something bizarre and fantastic.

One cannot blame Mr. Savard for falling victim to an old slander. He has been insightful and acute enough to note that under Islam, women have long (in fact, for 1400 years) enjoyed the right to own property and run businesses, rights which are only decades old in our part of the world. That notwithstanding the wilful slander, distortions and misrepresentations indulged in by a bigoted and hostile press and media in this continent, he has been able to do this and risen above prejudice to see the good wrought by a system different from his own is as remarkable as it is unusual, and deserves every credit.

Muhammad Abdul Malik,
Member Muslim Students Association

L'ecole pour femmes - non

Dear Sir/Madam,

In his otherwise thoughtful and thought-provoking letter in *The Gateway* of Sept. 24, while describing strategies he feels have been used to deprive women of their rights and freedom of choice, John Savard mistakenly accuses Islamic countries of "drafting women into marriage, say while they were 12-year old girls, with no opportunity to withhold consent."

It is up to the writer to substantiate with facts and figures which "Islamic" countries these are which "draft" women into marriage at any age (let alone 12 years) and how and whether they in fact deprive such "draftees" of their right to refuse and how many such cases occur both in absolute and percentage terms, and all said and done, whether such countries claim to be Islamic at all, in any sense of the term.

The truth of the matter is that such marriages, if at all they take place, are null and void under Islamic law and there are many decisions and rulings of the Prophet Muhammad on record to precisely that effect. Perhaps the writer is confusing the practice of "betrothal" or engagement, done when the children are minors by the parents on both sides, (in a society where arranged marriages are the norm and the intermingling of the sexes is frowned on) — which betrothal is not binding on the parties when they grow up — with the marriage per se. The reason for such a practice is not to "draft" women or deprive them of a choice as Mr. Savard wrongly infers, but simply springs from the anxiety of parents on both sides to do as much as possible to ensure the marital happiness of their children by arranging for a compatible match with a person of acceptable family background — and making "advance reservations," so to speak, of the same.

While I make no claim as to whether women reach or fail to reach maturity at 12, it must also be remembered that they often reach their physical maturity at different ages in different climes and cultures depending on several cultural, environmental and demographic factors (such as lifespan, etc.). It should therefore come as no surprise if women in other lands reach maturity at what we would consider comparatively younger ages than in North America (where the age of marriage is being postponed) and assume adult roles and responsibilities. The luxury of adolescence — a middle stage of carefree irresponsibility between childhood and adulthood — is a very recent North American phenomenon (an "invention" — as your paper's recent article on James Dean terms it).

The compelling of women to marry without their consent, even if it occurs in some isolated instances in Muslim countries, is no more a practice condoned by

Abortion contortion

Dear Editor,

I have recently been very disturbed by the attitudes of feminists who claim that abortion should be every woman's right. This worries me first because if women have only one claim to the male dominated past it is that all of the great people who have ever lived had a mother. Many women will instantly take offence at this but only because they feel that being a mother is a lowly position. I disagree. There are few privileges that come close to sharing in the creation and education of a human life. However, now mothers-to-be can simply go to the hospital, remove some unwanted fetal matter, and come out "liberated women" free to pursue the more "important things in life." The problem is that the fetus is an individual with its own unique genetic code.

This makes the abortion of babies on the grounds that they will not be loved ludicrous because even if we ignore the fact that there are numerous couples who would love to adopt, then is it not better to at least give them a chance to be loved? Or to put it more simply if you knew a lonely person would you put him out of his misery?

Another question to ask is who decides between the wanted and unwanted child? If women can be convinced to abort their babies (and society reject the sanctity of human life) what's to stop others from convincing us that Utopia can be obtained if we just make some laws that stop unwanted people from existing? (Impossible? Remember Hitler.)

Until now the silent partner in this "slaughter of the innocent" has been ignored but if we are talking about responsibility the fathers of these children must acknowledge their part. This means that they should be made responsible to support the mother until the pregnancy is over at which time the child could be adopted or kept.

Women's libbers may have been successful in getting equal rights with men but is it not just the same old story of Adam and Eve in reverse when women strive to be as irresponsible and uncaring as their male counterparts? Abortion is not an alternative, it is murder.

Doug Smith
Science II

Letters

Letters to the editor should be no more than 250 words long, typed (or at least neatly written), and include the writer's name and program to be printed. *The Gateway* reserves the right to edit for libel and length.

2 cactii and three nines

2 CACTII & THREE NINES TAKES YOU TO...
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