



“Where You Best Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself”

Cartoon of Gourmet Heaven Manager Muhammad

Angers World’s Muslims

By Jacob Abolafia
STAFF REPORTER

A recent cartoon in the regular Yale Daily News feature “Artists’ Alley” has sparked widespread protest across the Middle East and Europe.

The cartoon, which caricatures Gourmet Heaven late shift manager Muhammad wearing his signature “number two” sandwich as a head-dress, has been called “disgusting” by Muslims around the globe and “vile, [day shift manager Zachary] Bryanist propaganda,” by many leading clerics.

“Never in the history of grocery stores on Elm Street has there been a man more dedicated to a pleasant and convenient nighttime shopping experience than Muhammad,” said Egyptian cleric Safwat Hijazi in an address to his Cairo mosque, “To imply otherwise is an affront to our

religion at the highest level.

“There is no convenience store like Gourmet Heaven and Muhammad is its manager,” he added.

The cartoons themselves poke fun at what is, for many Muslims, the core of a sensitive spiritual debate: Muhammad’s ability to make a delicious turkey-apple-brie sandwich at any hour of the night. This concept along with availability of Gatorade and Japanese gummies, plenty of upstairs seating, a well-stocked hot food bar, and impunity for Yale athletes who drunkenly careen through its windows are often referred to, collectively, as the five pillars of Gourmet Heaven.

In parts of Iraq and through much of the West Bank and Gaza, protests against the cartoons have turned violent. Effigies of Yale President Richard Levin were burned alongside those of YDN editor-in-chief Sarah

Mishkin MC ’08 and the New Haven municipal flag.

“Although there are no Gourmet Heaven franchises in the Middle East, other overpriced American niche grocery stores overseas will feel the brunt of our rage,” said Hijazi. “We have already forced the shutdown of the Whole Foods in Tehran, and are planning a boycott of the Fallujah Trader Joe’s. None will escape responsibility for this nefarious libel of the great one.”

Others in the Muslim community are expressing their anger less aggressively. Iran is sponsoring a “Bryanist Deli Owner Caricature Contest,” while some Muslim-Americans have proposed a boycott of all New Haven-made products, including Winchester Firearms, Eli Whitney Cotton Gins Inc. and Pepe’s Pizza.

“To be honest, we are struggling to find healthy, vibrant businesses

in New Haven of whom a boycott would be significantly detrimental,” said Iranian government spokesperson Faizan Diwan. “But I think either way, our voice is being heard.”

Cartoonist David Muenzer MC ’09 said the comic was meant to depict “the more humorous aspects of shopping at one of our most beloved grocery stores,” not to offend anyone.

“Whether caricaturing a well-known campus personality, lamenting the bygone (but still plainly relevant) exclusivity of the Berkeley Dining Hall, or cracking wise about the humorous deficiencies of Morse and Stiles, my only goal is to make people laugh,” Muenzer said. “If one billion Muslims think I haven’t achieved that, then perhaps its time for them to start re-examining their beliefs.”

Child of Immaculate Conception Born with Flippers

By David Newman
STAFF REPORTER

Agatha Munroe of Divine Grace Exaltation Sisters, a convent based in Nebraska, gave virgin birth last week to a nine pound, one ounce male infant bearing flippers in place of arms and a distinguishable dorsal fin protruding from his upper back.

Munroe is believed to have been cloistered in her room for solitary meditation for the past year and a half, and her fellow Sisters deny any possibility of the child’s conception, however unusual, having been maculate.

“Our Lord is the progenitor of all creatures,” said official Vatican spokesman Father Antonio Sabatini, Chief of Theological Obstetrics. “His Spirit contains the DNA of all

the creatures of the world, human and cetacean alike. Consider that when the Holy Spirit entered the Virgin Mary, God was only 4000 years old, barely into His middle age. Now, 2000 years later, you could say that birth defects, which we like to call ‘backhanded miracles,’ are more likely to crop up from time to time.”

When asked if the child might be the second coming of Jesus Christ, Sabatini declined to comment.

“This child is the Holy Spirit made flesh, no matter his shape,” said Bill Eaton, founder of the group Worshipers of Holiness in Ineffable Manifestations. “And there has to be a reason for the dolphin motif, right? Aren’t they

supposed to be the second-smartest species? Maybe the Son has come again to save them as well.”

Stanford geneticist Dr. Gerald Parker affirms that the child is, in fact, human. “It’s true that dolphins are very smart, but people can be pretty stupid,” Parker said. “It was a tough call, but in the end the lack of a blowhole was a dead giveaway.”

His Grace, the Archbishop Connor Donovan, strictly warned the laypeople of the Catholic community against making judgments in advance of the Vatican’s ruling. “There has been much talk of whether or not this child is a divine gift,” said Donovan. “But let me remind you that it is the office

of the Mother Church to interpret the messages of the Lord, who has come, of late, to work in increasingly mysterious ways.”

“It is all a part of the Lord’s miracle,” Monroe said, dressing the child in his swaddling clothes, split down the back to accommodate his gigantic, razor sharp dorsal fin. “Every time I gaze upon my beautiful boy, his almond eyes tearing slightly at the sight of his own hopelessly contorted limbs, his head halfway submerged in a bucket of ice water to accommodate his hybrid lung/gill breathing apparatus, I reach closer to Him.”

When asked her opinion of the stunning occurrence, American Atheists president Ellen Johnson replied, “I don’t believe this shit.”

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