Letters to the Editor

DAWN Magazine welcomes letters expressing all viewpoints. Letters must include signature and mailing address. Names may be withheld for adequate reason. The editor reserves the right to condense letters. Address all correspondence to DAWN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21203.

NEW YORK, NY — Rafat Habib, you have an Arabic name. But your Arabic name is no indication as to whether you believe in Allah, our Creator, and His Last Messenger, Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. And after reading your article in Dawn Magazine, I can plainly see that you are one of those to whom Allah refers in His Last Message, The Qur'an, as a disbeliever, or people of the Hell Fire.

First of all, Allah did not reveal His Last Religion as being entitled "Mohammedism." Allah revealed it as The Religion of Islam, which means submission to the Will of our Creator. So you are attempting to mislead many people by your concept of the way things should be interpreted.

I have read Chapter 53 in the Qur'an and see no mention of the words "There are exalted females whose intercession verily is to be sought." What you are referring to is the implication by some Christian writer named Muir. The whole chapter speaks against idolatry, now why would Allah, Who needs no idol, or anyone or anything to exist, make a compromise with idols.

ABU JAMAL

BALTIMORE, MD — For centuries conspirators against the faith of Al-Islam have attempted to spread the idea that Muslims worshipped Muhammed, whose religion was called Mohammedanism and whose followers are known as Mohammedans, knowing full well that Muslims worship Allah and Allah alone.

The proper name of our faith is Al-Islam, it's inherents are called Muslims. The word Al-Islam means submission to the will of Allah. As defined in the Holy Qu'ran and demonstrated by the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Sunnah, any human being who submits himself to Allah is therefore a Muslim. Thus, in the Holy Qu'ran Abraham and all the righteous prophets are called Muslims.

RONALD SHAKIR

BROOKLYN, NY — What appears at two points in Mr. Habib's narration are the two favorite events that the critics always gravitate towards. One deals with a lie, explaining the return of some emigrants from Abyssinia.

Mr. Habib accepts the standard, critical, European prefabrication for an explanation and the other deals with the battle of Uhud, where the Muslims were supposedly "routed."

Because of his passionate disbelief in Al-Islam, Mr. Habib becomes a ready receptor for misinformation and inaccuracy that feeds the flame of his scorn for the religion.

Mr. Habib's explanation is that Muhammad had injected his own verses into Divine revelation which allegedly conceded to the Quraish their idol gods as intermediaries. And this news carried the emigrants back home to Mecca.

However, according to a retired Muslim judge and historian, Hafiz Ghalim Sarwar of India, Mr. Habib is inaccurate. The fact is, the disputed chapter (53rd) was revealed after the return of the emigrants in the tenth year of Muhammad's mission.

Q. NAOIR SAAFIR

LOS ANGELES, CA — Most of our ancestors who first came to America to trade with the Indians were Muslims from West Africa. Timbuctoo was a Great Islamic University that had no rival in Europe and other parts of the world.

When our forefathers were kidnapped and brought in chains were Muslims. We saw that in "Roots," Kunta Kinte was a Muslim, long before what Elijah Muhammad and Farrakhan came on the set!

And that picture about a Muslim sister in Arabia (Mecca) is prescribed for Hajj (Pilgrimage) is despicable. On the Hajj (Pilgrimage) women and men wear all white and if a woman chooses to wear a veil, she must disrard it when making the Hajj (Pilgrimage).

MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH

MONTCLAIR, CA — The article in question seems to have been written when there were only 400 million Muslims. Today there are 1 billion plus. For a current update contact any one of the 200 Masajid Muhammad and American Muslim Mission Centers in North America or read Bilalian News soon to be renamed World Muslim News, 7801 So. Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago 60619 (312) 651-7600.

KHALIL ABD'ALLAH SALEEM

WASHINGTON, DC — The concept that the Hanafi Mussulmans of America are a splinter group of the Nation of Islam is without firm foundation or truth! History verifies this by documentation of Muhammad Ibn Abdullah (S.A.S.) being of the "Hunafa's" in un-adulterated books (as far back as 611 A.D. and earlier). Also I must bring to your attention the fact that the greek word ortho is directly from the Arabic word Hanif, and both mean of the correct opinion or application.

Thus . . ., your writer has given a false account of Islam (not Mohammedism) and the meaning behind Hanafi! One further point I must express is this . ., Abu Hanifa did not institute analogical deduction (Qiyas) as advocated by the unlearned. This concept comes from the Qu'ran and existed before the birth of Abu Hanifa (Qu'ran 5:51). So again . . . you have nothing valid to stand - on!!!!

IMAN ALI ABDULLAH AKBAR

CHICAGO, IL — There are some important concepts of my religion that I wish to clarify for you and your reading audience. As a muslim, I am committed to the worship of Allah, the Mighty Creator. As a muslim, I recognize that Muhammad was the slave servant and messenger of Allah. As a muslim, I recognize and perform the prescribed prayers at the five prescribed times daily.

As a mulsim, I observe the holy month of Ramadan (ninth lunar month) by abstaining from food, drink, sex with my spouse, obsenities, etc. from before sunrise to sunset. I also reread the Holy Koran in its entirety for the renewal of my commitment to Allah and to gain better knowledge of his Holy word.

As a muslim, I plan to make the pilgrimage to Mecca at the prescribed time at least once in my lifetime. These are the five pillars of the religion of Islam. This religion is not complicated. This religion is clear.

SAMELLA B. ABDULLAH, Ph.D.
Bilalian News

BALTIMORE, MD — Mr. Habib apparently has taken on an European analogy of the Religion of Al-Islam. Unlike Christianity Buddhism and Confucianism, Al-Islam was not named after the prophet who bought the message.

The Holy Quran says that "This day have I Allah, perfected your religion and completed my favor on you and chosen for you Islam as a religion (5:3). The term "Mohammadism" and-or practice can neither be found in the Quran or sayings of the prophet (Hadith).

The writer said also that Prophet Muhammad compromises with the Quraish by saying that idol worship was allowed. We know that this is against the very teachings of Al-Islam. The biographers, the writer says are reliable, i.e. Waqidi and Tabri, are not reliable at all.

IMAN DELMAR TAUHEED

DAWN MAGAZINE December 1981 Vol. 8 No. 11

JOHN MURPHY III
Board Chairman

KENNETH O. WILSON
Vice President-Advertising and DAWN Operations

BOB MATTHEWS
Executive Editor

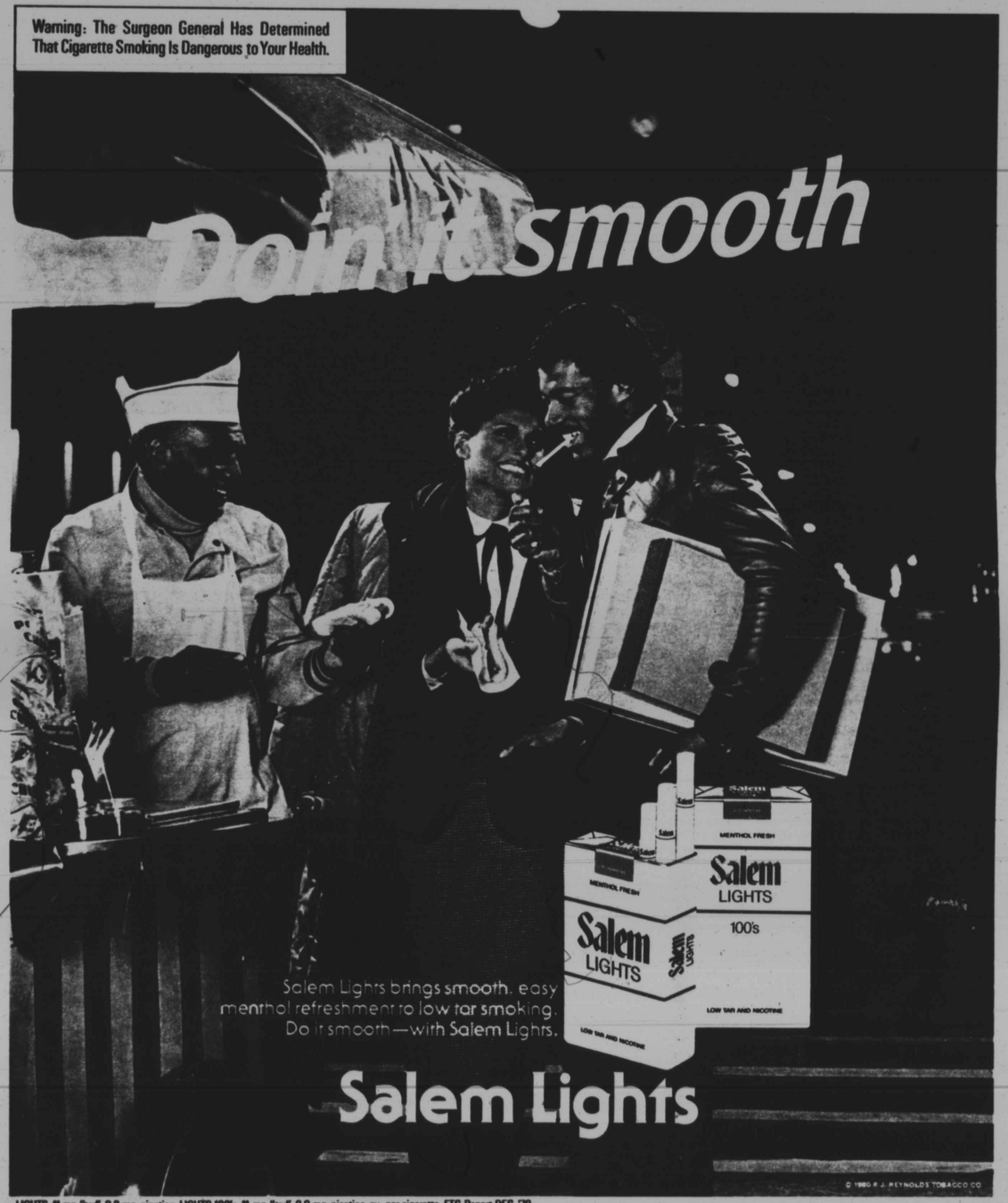
APRIL WASHINGTON
Production Coordinator

NEW YORK OFFICE:
Percell L. Johnson, Jr.
N.Y. Senior Resident Agent

LEWIS F. BARNES JR.
Account Executive

DAWN Magazine Offices:
628 N. Eutaw St.
Baltimore, Md. 21203
(301) 728-8200

N.Y. Offices:
295 Madison Ave., Suite 623
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 679-5152



LIGHTS: 11 mg. "tar", 0.8 mg. nicotine, LIGHTS 100's: 11 mg. "tar", 0.9 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette, FTC Report DEC. '79.