

The Ambition Toronto

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The First Journal for Young Muslims in Canada (since 1987)

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Gay Education in Public School

Toronto School Board is Poised to Adopt Pro-Gay Curriculum

by Joel Winter
TDMEA Representative

Recently, the magnitude of the problem of homosexuals and the number of Muslim students attending the public school system

(at least 20%) is what led the Toronto District Muslim Education Assembly (TDMEA) to publish this article. Students in the Toronto District School Board soon face the possibility of receiving lessons advocating a homosexual lifestyle. The Toronto Board is currently being railroaded by a number of groups which are pro-homosexual in nature. They are trying to promote an 'equity for all' policy, which promotes homosexuality, and attempts to push gay values on children inside the classroom.

The homosexual and pro-homosexual groups seem to be exerting all the pressure they can muster, only because the majority is not aware of what is happening, and 'political correctness' has now become the bandwagon for opportunistic (vote-maximising) politicians. TDMEA warns that the majority of people must begin to be organised and make their voices heard, or else the vocal minority will ultimately succeed in imposing their deviant values on the entire community, by fully utilising the public education system at their disposal. This spectre is of immense concern to all parents, especially members of the Muslim community.

The main group in the pro-homosexual effort is the Multicultural Educators Network of Ontario (AMENO). Presently, no real counter-force to AMENO is available. There are only a few

concerned groups from the majority of citizens which have become organised in order to provide a counter-weight to the pro-gay agenda in public education.

TDMEA is critical of the likely adoption of any policy in the public education system which does not respect and take into consideration the sensitivity of ethnic groups and religious communities. As part of the newly constructed 'Equity Committee,' TDMEA hopes to play a constructive role, and voice its concerns on behalf of the Muslim community in Toronto on the issue of what is morally right, not necessarily political, expedient, or opportunistic.

Members of TDMEA stressed that "political correctness must be brought in line with moral correctness for it to have any validity in society, that academic excellence alone does not contribute to the realisation of a truly civilised and sound society, and that a sound education system is the foundation of attaining correct values and the highest standards becoming of a sound society."

Since its involvement in this issue, TDMEA has come to realise that many Muslims are unaware of the danger and gravity of this situation to introduce homosexual subjects and workshops as integral parts of the public school curriculum.

"Muslims like all the other major ethnic and religious groups are

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Islam: 24 Hours A Day, 365 Days A Year

There is a set time for our arrival into this world and a fixed time for our departure therefrom

by Munawwar Merchant

Islam is a perfect religion. Allah (swt) says in the Qur'an: "Truly, the religion with Allah is Islam" (Qur'an 3:19), and in another verse: "This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion" (Qur'an 5:3).

What makes Islam the perfect doctrine? The answer to this question can only be gleaned when you take some time to digest the Qur'anic message. When you do that you will see that Islam is that divine message that is in perfect harmony with the laws of the universe and indeed with the laws of a perfect system of justice.

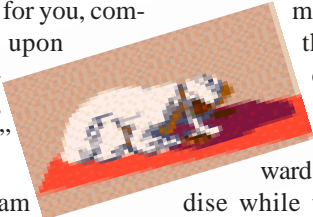
The Qur'anic teachings show you the way for each and every facet of conducting life as a human during one's time on this Earth. They reveal the method of dealing with everything that you will encounter during your sojourn through life, from your duties to Allah (swt), your duties to your parents, your duties towards your spouse and children and about obligations towards all of His creations. Allah's Message further sets out what is good from what is

not and then prescribes in detail as to how to distinguish between good and evil.

Having given us the perfect religion, Allah (swt) expects us as Muslims to abide by His commands and the body of the Qur'an itself has defined the consequential rewards and punishments. The reward is eternal bliss in Paradise while the punishment is a never-ending agony in Hell. Where we end up is strictly up to how well we act in accordance with His requirements during our journey through this duniya (world).

There is a set time for our arrival into this world and a fixed time for our departure therefrom. In between, there is a span of time over

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From Kosova to Canada

Her faith in Allah gave her inner strength and dignity.

Reported by Sister Wilma

They stood there, their delicate faces sombre and still. Unable to communicate in English but willing to talk. They were brought to me by a Kosovar acquaintance at TARIC Islamic Centre's picnic

held in honour of the Kosovar refugees at Rowntree Mills Park on Sunday, June 13, 1999.

Their eyes spoke volumes, their stories waiting to be told . . . these ladies who had suffered much at the hands of the Serbs.

Probing but gentle questions brought forth words which tumbled out of their mouths as the floodgates of vivid memory opened the dam of feelings and emotions inside them, which needed to be released.

Zejnepe, a lady from Feriza, which is a medium-sized city in Kosova, spoke first:

"All Kosovar refugees, of which I am one, experienced the war first hand. Most of the refugees were forced by the Serb police to leave their homes immediately, leaving everything behind, even family members who were not at home at the time. Me, personally, I had to leave my brother there

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Editorial

Islamic School Principal Charged with Sexual Assault

So you thought it could never happen? Unfortunately, it has. The Toronto Sun (June 29, 1999) reported that the principal of Madressa Ashaful Islamic School on Byrdon Drive, near Kipling Avenue and Albion Road (Etobicoke) has been charged with four counts of sexual assault and sexual interference. The boys, aged 9 and 11 told police they were assaulted in the last year during school hours.

We must remember that this person has only been charged with these offences, not convicted. Although the allegations are of sexual assault on children, they also suggest homosexual behaviour. Nevertheless, we must be aware that in regulating the sexual drive Islam has prohibited not only adultery and all paths that lead to it, but also any sexual deviations. Homosexuality is a corruption of the natural order intended for mankind and a crime against the rights of females. Therefore, Islamic Shari'ah (Law) strictly prohibits the practice of this perverted act.

The spread of this depraved practice in a society disrupts its natural life pattern and makes those who practice it slaves to their lusts, depriving them of decent taste, decent morals, and a decent manner of living. The story of the people of Prophet Lut (Lot) as narrated in the Qur'an is the best example to learn from. Lut's people were addicted to this deviant behaviour, abandoning natural, pure, lawful relations with women in pursuit of this unnatural and illicit practice. That is why their Prophet, Lut (pbuh) told them: *Of all the creatures in the world will ye approach males. And leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your mates? Nay ye are a people transgressing (all limits)!*" (Qur'an 26:165-166). In another verse, Prophet Lut (pbuh) asks: *'Do ye indeed approach men and cut off the highway? And practice wickedness (even) in your councils?'* But his people gave no answer but this: they said: *'Bring us the Wrath of Allah if thou tellest the truth'*" (Qur'an 29:29). And so Allah (swt) gave them the punishment they deserved: *"We rained down on them a shower (of brimstone): and evil was the shower on those who were admonished (but heeded not)!"* (Qur'an 26:173).

The strangest expression of these peoples' perversity of nature, lack of guidance, depravity of morals, and aberration of taste was their attitude towards the guests of Prophet Lut (pbuh), who were angels of punishment in human form sent by Allah (swt) to try these people and to expose their perversity. The Qur'an narrates the story in Surah Hud, Verses 77-81.

Just as a person who has a sexual urge should not satisfy it by committing adultery, a person who has a perverted thought should not act upon it. The jurists of Islam have held different opinions concerning the punishment for such abominable practices. Most Muslim scholars have ruled that the punishment for such acts should be the same as for adultery. While such punishments may seem cruel, they have been suggested to maintain the purity of the Islamic society and to keep it clean of perverted elements.

The pressing need to relieve oneself of sexual tension may drive one to commit indecent acts against children or with those of the same sex. But we should remember that the Prophet's advice to those who are unable to marry is to seek help through frequent fasting, for fasting nurtures will-power, teaches control of desires, and strengthens the fear of Allah (swt). The Prophet (pbuh) said: *'O young people! Whoever among you can marry, should marry, because it helps him lower his gaze and guard his modesty (i.e., his private parts from committing illegal sexual intercourse, etc.), and whoever is not able to marry, should fast, as fasting diminishes his sexual power'* (Sahih al-Bukhari).

Many reasons can be suggested for why a person in a position of authority would commit such indecent acts against children. Perhaps he was molested as a child or it's his way of abusing his power to feel even more superior than those under him. Although we can keep speculating, the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on child pornography certainly does not help the current state our society is in.

Insha-Allah, The Ambition will be following the trial of the Islamic school principal closely and will be reporting as new developments arise. We should pray for this man, to help him through his ordeal, whether he committed such acts or not.

Muhammad Basil Ahmad

Our Mail

What's Happening to Our Youth?

A distraught mother's question

Are we losing them to materialism and secularism?

Why is it difficult for a practising Muslim youth to find a friend who is the same? Why is it often necessary to choose friends who are non-Muslims over those who are Muslim in name only?

Why do we see young people who change their Islamic names into short forms in order to fit in? Is it because they are ashamed of their Islamic identity?

Where are the young people? The mall is somewhere you

might find them. The library is another place. They may be at a friend's house, on the street corner or on the phone for hours at a time. E-mail and the Internet have become another form of hanging out as well.

What do they do when they hang out together? Are they like the unbelievers who check out the opposite sex? Do they succumb to peer pressure to have a drink or a smoke or to take drugs?

This world is filled with temptations for all age groups but the

Campus Life

It's that time of year again.

Either you or someone you know has received acceptance letters from universities and colleges that had been applied to, and now it's a matter of making a choice where to go and writing back to them. But there is another decision that needs to be made - if it had not been made yet. The decision is about whether to stay in the residence.

Although what goes on at ALL campuses the world over is not the same, there DOES seem to be an unprecedented parallel between many of the campus residences in North America.

I had stayed in residence during my first year of college. During the week before school, the week of orientation, there were several parties where most of the residents drank themselves into a stupor.

Many post secondary schools have a bar on campus. One day of the week, such as Thursday, is reserved as "Pub Night" where students are able to go to the bar and have drinks. There are also activities and get-togethers arranged at the bars.

However, there are, and probably always will be, students who do not want to wait until either of these activities come to pass before they drink.

During my stay in residence, I

lived on an 'all girls' floor. But this did not guarantee that there would not be male visitors.

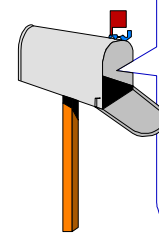
Three of the girls on the floor were engaged. During the weekends and holidays, either the girls visited their fiancées, or the fiancées visited them. Knowing western culture and society, things happened. One of the girls got pregnant from her fiancée. All three of the girls were still in the process of planning their wedding when I last saw them. A girl who lived at the other end of the hall

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Sister wants to get involved with the Muslimahs in Prisons

This is in response to the article "Muslims in Correctional Institutes" by F. Jabaney in the May - June 1999 issue. I am wondering about the pen-pal program that was mentioned and how I can be a part of it. I wish to write to Muslim sisters that are in the pen-pal program who would like to correspond with a sister on the outside. I would appreciate it if you would let me know how (and if possible) to do so. Thank you. Please contact me c/o The Ambition.

Lucinda Holcroft



Letters to the editors are published unedited regardless of the paper's policy. We entertain all letters except ones with impolite language. Please include your name, address and telephone number. Only names are published.

young are more vulnerable to peer pressure, especially when they may feel inadequate and insecure as their physical, emotional, and mental state changes from one stage of life to another.

When they do venture into an Islamic gathering, either in the Mosque or elsewhere, how do we treat them? Are we welcoming or do we criticise them on their appearance, their manners, their lack of Islamic knowledge and, in general, make them feel as if they are not welcome?

Are our words and actions driving them into the arms of other religions and even the religion of this world of materialism?

Young people need each other and a place they can call their own, where they can hang out in an Islamic atmosphere and have fun. Would it not be a possible solution to have a centre for young people, perhaps in an already established mosque with a gymnasium where they could play sports, have discussion groups, talk out their problems with trained counsellors and learn useful things which would be of help to them in their future.

Yes, it would cost money to run this program. Money and time and skilled people would be needed.

We have the skills in the community and the money. It does not need to be elaborate but it does need to be a welcoming place to encourage the young to come.

Who will come forward and organise it? It only takes one to start something worthwhile. Could it be you? Talk about it, think about it, visualise it. It can happen if we work towards it, trusting in Allah every step of the way.

Our children are worth it, don't you think?

Name withheld

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Remembering the Muslim Victims of Massacre and Genocide

On July 15th, Muslims should remember the 1099 Jerusalem massacre as they are living new ones in Kosova in 1999

From CIC

Jerusalem was stormed after a month's siege. The slaughter was terrible. All of the 70,000 inhabitants were killed. The overwhelming majority were Muslim. The victims included Jews. Crusaders riding on horseback were splashed by the blood in the streets. The massacre was accompanied by looting. Houses were set on fire. At nightfall on July 15, 1099, the Crusaders had fought their way into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and overcome all opposition there; blood-stained, weary,

and sobbing from excess of joy they knelt down in prayer. Corpses were piled in the streets.

Chronicler Raymond of Aguilers recorded: "Wonderful things were to be seen. Numbers of Saracens (name given to Muslims) were beheaded. Others were shot with arrows, or forced to jump from the towers. Others were tortured for several days, then burned in flames. In the streets were seen piles of heads and hands and feet. One rode about everywhere amid the corpses of men and horses. It was a just and

marvellous judgement of God, that this place should be filled with the blood of the unbelievers."

"Muslims everywhere should remember the 1099 Jerusalem massacre as they are living the 1999 fresh and new ones in Kosova," the CIC said in a statement. "We call on peace-loving people, Muslim and non-Muslim to work together to make 'Never Again' a reality. We urge Imams to hold special prayers for the Muslim victims of genocide throughout history. Friday Khutbas should address these events."

Muslim Victims of Massacre and Genocide

1. All 70,000 inhabitants of Jerusalem, mostly Muslims, were massacred by European Crusaders on July 15, 1099; "the blood was ankle-deep."

2. After the massacre of Antioch by European Crusaders in June 1098, "no Muslims was alive." Massacres of Muslims happened also in Asklan (1099), Aka (1104), Antioch (1098), Beirut (1110), and Tripoli (1102).

3. During the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal, the choice for Muslims were to "leave, convert, or be burnt at the stake." The decree was only suppressed on July 15, 1834 after all Muslims were killed or left. Massacres of Muslims happened in Toledo (1085), Lisbon (1147), Cordoba (1236), Seville (1248), Maria (1266), and Granada (1492). "Promises of religious toleration were not kept."

4. The Mongols slaughtered millions of Muslims (1219-1260) in India, Persia, Iraq, and Central Asia, including the Abbasid Caliph and his officials. The Sack of Baghdad (February 13, 1258) and the massacre of its population lasted more than 17 days and an estimated two million Muslims were slaughtered in Baghdad alone.

5. Millions of Muslims civilians were massacred by the Imperial powers of Europe in Africa and Asia (1500's to 1900's).

6. Some 15 million Africans were taken as slaves to the Americas and more than 3 million perished at sea. More than half were Muslim.

7. From 1932-1957, at Russia's Arctic Vorkuta concentration camps a total of 6 million died, more than one third were Muslim.

8. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims were massacred during and prior to the partition of India in the 1940's.

9. Following the Deir Yassin Massacre in Palestine (April 9-10, 1948), where 250 were killed by armed Jewish settlers, hundreds of thousands left their homes in fear. Today there are over 3 million Palestinian refugees and exiles.

10. Israeli Lieutenant Dunhan reported to the command officer, after the October 29, 1956 massacre of Kafr Qasem, where 43 were shot by the army: "Minus 15 Arabs . . . it is difficult to count."

11. From September 15-18, 1982, Israeli-backed Phalagist militia massacred an estimated 50,000 Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon.

12. On March 16, 1988, the Kurdish town of Halabja, Iraq (population 45,000), was bombarded with chemical weapons. An estimated 5,000 died and thousands were seriously wounded.

13. On February 25, 1994, a Jewish settler shot dead in cold blood 60 Muslim worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Thirty more died when they demonstrated against the massacre.

14. On April 18, 1996, over 100 Muslims were massacred in the UN compound in Qana, Lebanon by the Israeli army.

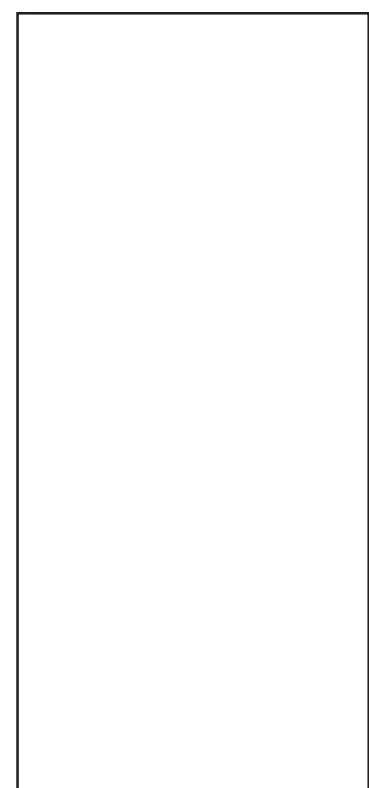
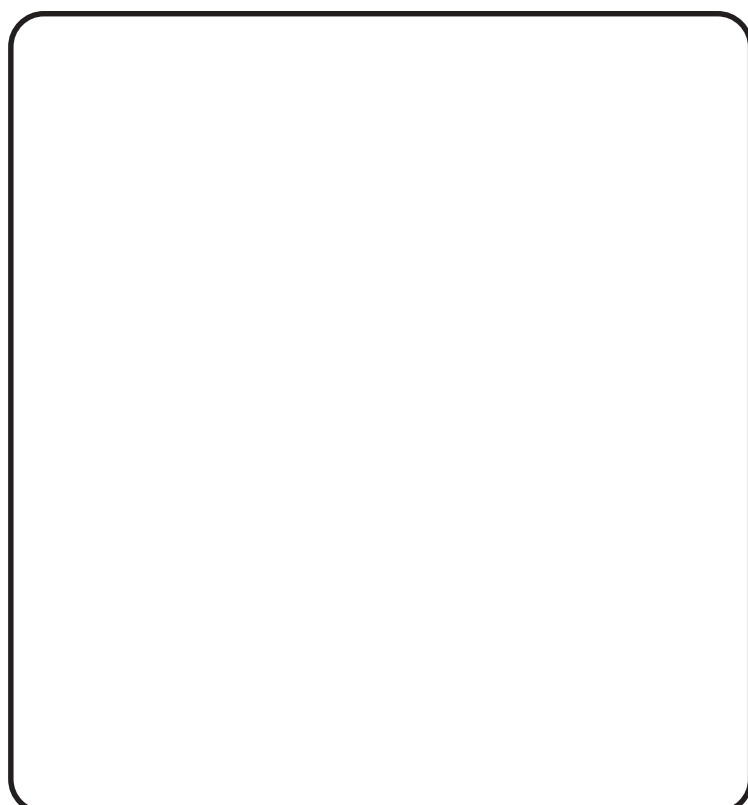
15. Thousands of Muslim civilians were victims of Israeli bombings and shelling in South Lebanon for the last 26 years. Hundreds of thousands were displaced.

16. Several thousand Muslims were massacred in the Philippines, Kashmir, and Thailand (1970's-present).

17. For the past 8 years, the entire population of Iraq has been subjected to brutal sanctions. As a result over 1 million died including 575,000 children.

18. In Bosnia, Chechnya, and Kosova (1992-present) more than 200,000 Muslims were massacred and over 1.5 million Muslims were wounded, became homeless, or were exiled. Over 50,000 Muslim women and girls were raped.

(For references used in this article, please contact Canadian Islamic Congress or The Ambition.)



Campus life

continued from page 2

had stopped going to school about halfway through the semester, and had moves out of residence as well. A few weeks before she left, I found out that she was a lesbian. Her 'partner' has stayed over for a while as well.

On many occasions, there were arguments; someone was not talking to someone else for some reason. People played pranks on each other.

There were people who were tied up, painted and / or decorated in some other way, and put on the elevator for a ride. After an escalation of pranks, the people involved ended up in a shaving cream fight on the floor I had lived on. They hurried to clean it up before security made on the floor and furniture.

There had also been flashing of body parts through the windows of lounges and other rooms. Also, there is no guarantee that one would get on a same-sex floor.

After all this is said and done, are you sure you would want to be in such an environment?

Saadia Hussain

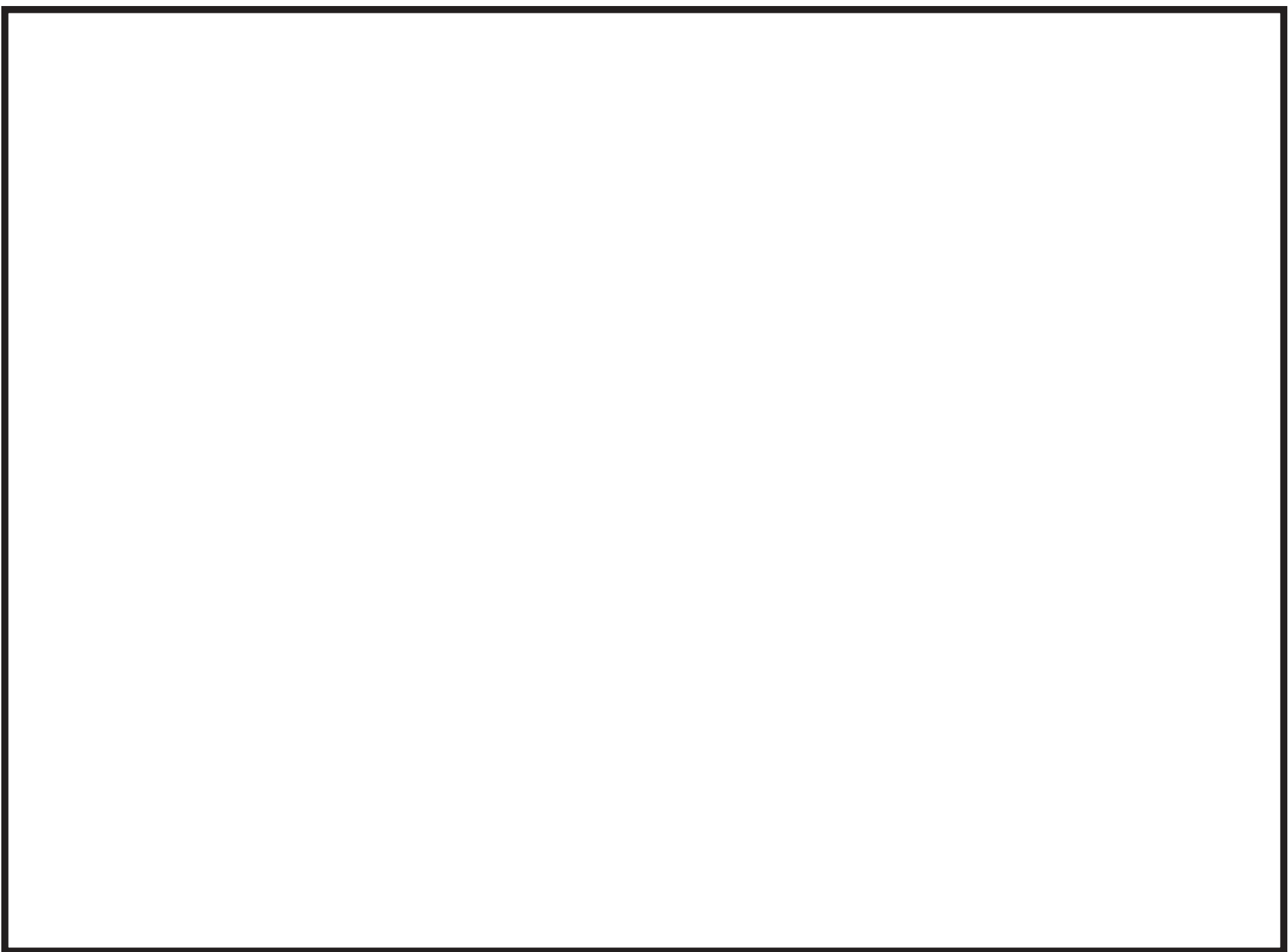
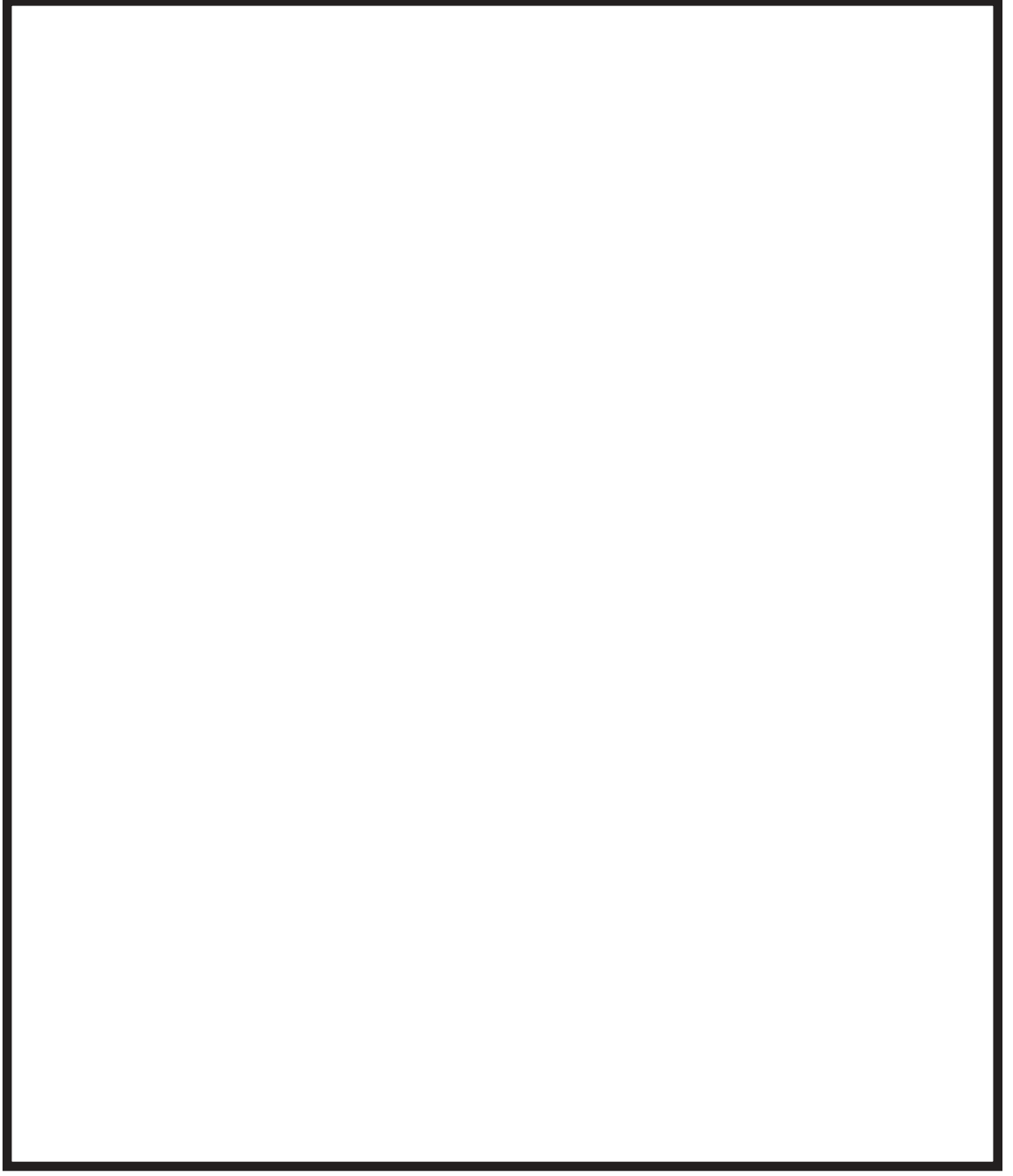
Looking Forward

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girls. In both cases I think the students attending the schools are able to recognise that there is something meaningful being undertaken in their classrooms, by teachers and administrators, and that they have an opportunity to be a part of that experience. Both art and religion aim in their ideals to be inclusionary; and both, although striving to move the spirit, do not presume to overlook the everyday.

In other words, within these schools there is the possibility that communities can be formed. When students can be made to feel that their education is meaningful because it is aware of the reality of their lives, and the need to work within a structure which will provide insight and discipline, then we will be able to write of future success stories.

Aneesa Lakhi interviews sisters who have made a difference in their lives and contributed to the community while proudly keeping their Islamic identity intact. She is a U of T graduate in English Lit. and a qualified OTC teacher.



The Ambition Picnic 99

from our reporter

The Ambition's third annual picnic was held on Sunday, July 4th, at Rowntree Mills Park which is located at Islington and Finch Avenue West in North York. The event was organised by Mr. Syed Ashar Warsi and attracted a crowd of over two hundred people who came out to beat the blistering heat of this hot and humid day of the summer. It was a very well organised picnic with lots of food and fun.

Aneesa and Amina arrived at the park early to help Warsi with set up. Soon other committee members started to arrive and everybody took their charge. Irfan Syed and Yasmin Syed, Reema Kamboh, and then Ahmed and Nosheen Mian, and all volunteers came one after the other. Sister Wilma was at the front desk, ready to help people with tickets, stamping their hands and making them name tags.

People started trickling in around 1:00 p.m. At 1:25, Muhammad Basil, the Editor, called the Azan and arranged for the prayer. Shortly after that, food was put on the grill and the atmosphere was filled with the delicious aroma of BBQ. Guests started appeasing their taste buds with the chicken, burgers, hot dogs, cholay (spiced chick peas), samosas, and other items. People also heaped their plates with salad greens to counteract the spices from the meat. Cold drinks were also in abundance and everybody did full justice to the ice cream served after the lunch.

As the picnic was in full swing, Aneesa Lakhi and Nosheen Warsi, two of our very active members, started games for children. They had some races, quizzes, and spelling bee competitions. Prizes were given to the winners and children cheered each other.

A little later, there was a short ceremony of which Br. Abdullah Sabree was MC. He gave a little background of *The Ambition* journal and asked more people to join hands in making the paper a success. Asma Warsi, the Publisher of the journal told the crowd that the paper does not have financial support from any government or organisation. "It is run and delivered to the community on a totally volunteer basis. Our resources are advertisements, subscriptions, and some occasional donations," she said. She thanked the committee members and especially Warsi for organising the picnic. Finally, many door prizes were given out to the participants and were very much appreciated on this sweltering and sticky day.

In attendance were many politicians such as Mr. Roy Cullen, MP; Mr. Gurbax Singh Mulhi, MP; Mr. Leon E. Benoit, MP; Mr. Deepak Obhrai, MP; Mr. Mario Sergio, MPP; and Councillor Judy

Sgro. Rose and Joanne represented Councillor Elizabeth Brown. The Consul-General of Pakistan, Mr. Iftikhar Arain and Mrs. Arain also honoured *The Ambition* with their presence.

Among the notable community figures were Saleem Janjua of the National Federation of Pakistan, Qamar Sadiq of the Multicultural Association of Pakistani Canadians, Zubair Choudhry, Co-ordinator of the Reform Party for GTA, Azhar Shaikh of Muslim Friends, and Tarek Fatah of the NDP.

Local media were also present: Shehla Hasni of Watan Newspaper, Latafat Siddiqui of Asian News, Darakhshan and Adeel Siddiqui of Alumni Magazine, and the Indo-Canadian Voice, made their appearance.

It was a beautiful and truly multicultural event where people from different Muslim countries gathered together and had a good time. There were Somalis, Egyptians, Filipinos, Pakistanis, Indi-

ans, Syrians, West Indians, and other nationalities enjoying spicy Pakistani food and sharing their similar heritage of being Muslim. There were also some Hindu, Sikh, and Christian friends who seemed to like the welcoming atmosphere of *The Ambition* picnic. Nidhan Singh Banwait, President of the South-Asian Seniors' Centre, Rexdale and Sam Chopra, Chairman, South-Asians in Ontario, were among some prominent figures.

People ate to their hearts' satisfaction. In the end the organisers announced that the participants were free to take home the leftover food. Many people filled their bags with chicken, meat, buns, etc. and went home with smiling faces. This was a picnic to be remembered for a long time.

Thanks for the Greetings... ...but we missed you at the Picnic.

Many dignitaries who could not come, sent us their greetings. Among them are Honourable **Sergio Marchi**, MP, Minister of International Trade; Honourable **Steve Gilchrist**, MPP, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Honourable **Tony Clement**, MPP, Minister of Environment; Honourable **Chris Stockwell**, MPP, Minister of Labour; **Mr. Surinder Singh Gill** from Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration; **Mr. Rahim Jaffar**, MP; **Mr. Jason Kenny**, MP; **Mr. John Hastings**, MPP; **Mr. Alvin Curling**, MPP; **Mr. David Caplan**, MPP; **Ms. Marilyn Mushinski**, MPP; **Ms. Marian Minna**, MPP; Councillor **Khalid Usman**; Councillor **Peter LiPreti**; Councillor **Nancy Branscombe**.

A Muslim Volunteer at Camp Borden

Reported by Ayesha Khan

The Kosovar-Albanians, a people whom we may not have known much about before the "ethnic" cleansing began in the former Yugoslavia, have now reached our shores as refugees.

A people whose lives and families have been shattered by unbelievable violence perpetrated against them, simply because they are Muslims. Their need is great, their loss is intense. Some came to our shores without their children, who were missing and their whereabouts not known.

The mood at Camp Borden is sombre and depression seems to be very evident. The men sit around and smoke and discuss their situation, while the women remained indoors mostly. There were very few people except the interpreters who spoke English which in itself presents a challenge.

The children, being more resilient, seem to have bounced back somewhat.

These, our fellow Muslims, have not been very much exposed to Islam under communist rule. The time to share the love of Allah and do Da'wah work amongst our fellow Muslims is now, while they are receptive and before the life of this world distracts them away from Allah. We need to be ready to share our faith in spiritual and practical ways.

We need to remind them that Allah has promised that after every hardship He will give ease and that we all need to have "sabr" or patience. From belief in Allah and His Holy Qur'an, and our application of it in our daily lives, comes faith, something that our brothers and sisters need right now.

At Jumu'ah prayer, while I was there, I was saddened to see only

a handful of people in attendance. Approximately thirty people turned up out of the thousand refugees who were at Camp Borden at the time. If our Kosovar brothers and sisters in Islam really knew Allah and the power Islam has to rejuvenate them, they would have been packed inside the prayer hall, begging and weeping before Allah and asking for His Mercy.

As Muslims in Canada, what is our accountability to Allah in this matter? What should the established Muslim community here in Canada do to help these physically and mentally traumatised Muslims of Kosova?

We need to ask ourselves if Allah is putting us through a great test here. What are we doing to bring these refugees closer to Allah in order for them to really heal? It is not their fault that they do not know where to turn in this tragedy. Could it be that they are more amena-

ble at this stage to any Da'wah offered to them? What are we doing about it? We have only a few short weeks to forge links with them before the lure of this Duniya traps them again. We need to do several things urgently:

1. Go to Camp Borden and to the Army base in Trenton to join the Red Cross as volunteers and work with the refugees.

2. Call the Kosova hotline at 1-800-410-0009 or consult the Citizenship and Immigration Internet site at <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca/> to sponsor refugees. (There is no monetary commitment involved in this.)

Allah is giving us a chance to do what HE has commanded us to do in the Holy Qur'an. I pray that we all manage to fulfil this responsibility to our Kosovar brothers and sisters. We may, Insha-Allah, be instrumental in bringing them and us back into the fold of Islam.

Kosovars Get a Taste of Muslims Love and Hospitality

A picnic arranged by TARIC was enjoyed by all

by our Staff Reporter

The buses arrived late but the welcome was warm for our brothers and sisters of Kosova who came from Camp Borden to visit with their host, TARIC Islamic Centre and its congregation in Toronto.

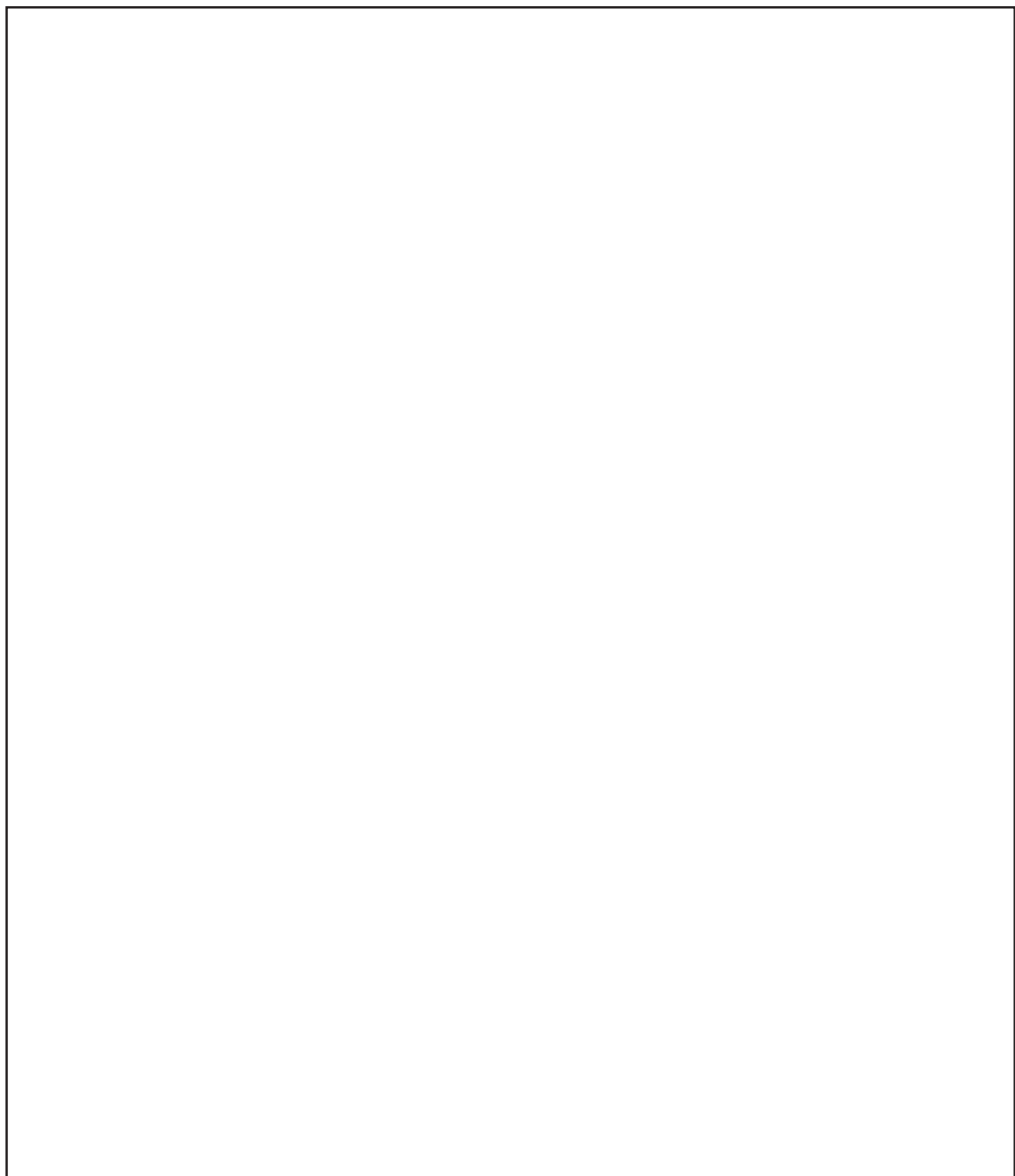
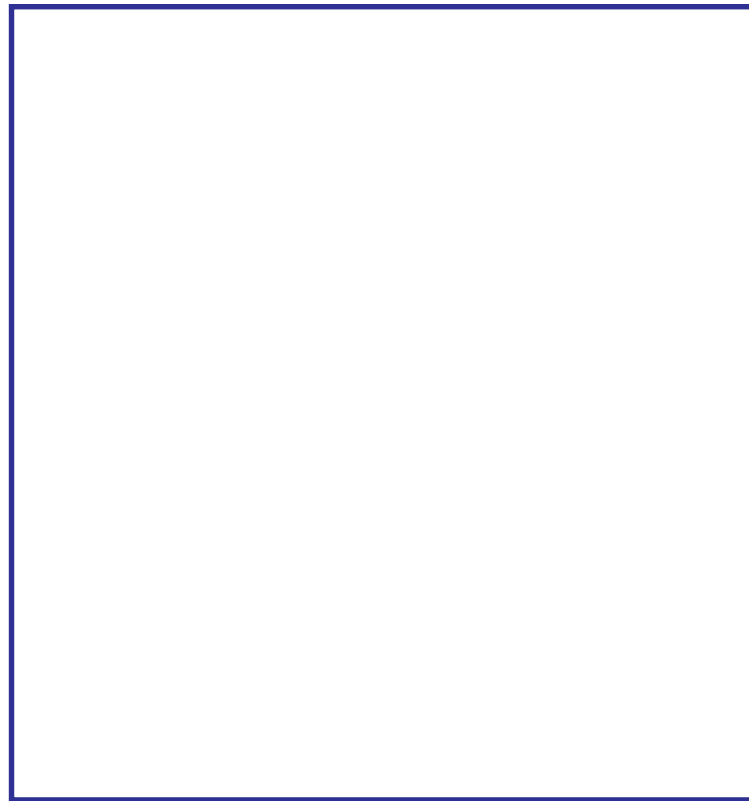
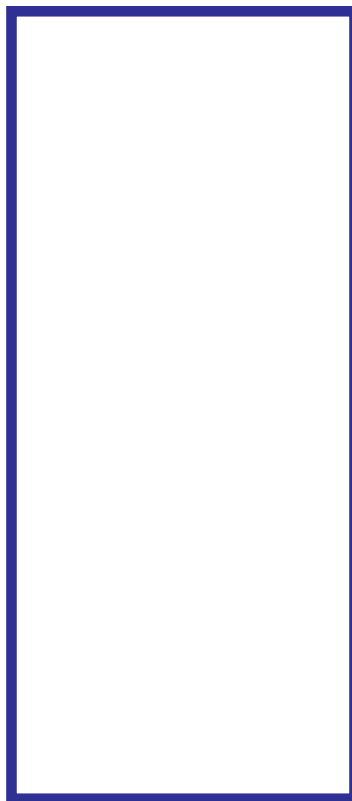
A delicious buffet dinner was served by willing hands to the invited guests and all those present at the Centre who wished to partake in it. Smiles, waves, and salaams were given by those present

as people tried to communicate their welcome. Good will abounded as salaams were returned.

After the welcoming dinner, people piled into cars and school buses and went to Rowntree Mills Park for an afternoon of fun and fellowship under the huge sheltering trees which shaded the picnickers. Tables laden with more food was available as the guests and the congregation mingled to-

gether and formed new friendships. Little children frolicked together, language being no barrier to them. Elders and youth mingled freely, stopping only to worship God amidst the beauty of His Creation. All in all, a positive and uplifting time was had by all those present. The hard work and dedication of those who organised this well run event should be commended highly. May Allah reward them.

We have only a few short weeks to forge links with them before the lure of this Duniya traps them again.



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A Journey Through Life

Abdullah Sabree shares his experience of Hajj at Da'wah Night

Reported by Sister Wilma

The audience was attentive, the atmosphere friendly as the Da'wah Night at TARIC Islamic Centre opened with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an.

The Master of Ceremonies, Br. Suliman favoured us with a short talk on Hajj as well as Umrah. He mentioned that the intention to please Allah is the reason to make Hajj; the physical motions are not enough. One can make a spiritual Hajj internally as well, by thinking of Allah constantly and restricting ourselves from what He has forbidden. He stated that Shaitan is well described in the Qur'an and that he ambushes every Muslim. We humans are prone to error, and

as such, we should examine ourselves daily in the light of what Islam teaches us. His thoughtful words were well received by those present.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Br. Abdullah Sabree. His powerful voice, at times strong and forceful, at other times soft and gentle, held those present spellbound. In his topic, "A Journey Through Life," he talked about the many trials and tests from Allah which we will all have. He mentioned that we will be tested over and over again during our lives. However, he said that Allah has promised that with struggle comes ease.

It is necessary for each one of

us to examine our purpose in life, and we all should strive to keep on learning until Allah calls us. Upon death, our actions will stop and we will be judged by what we have done on this Earth. Allah has created us to worship Him. This is contrary to what many people think. There are those who believe that pleasure is all that is important and that anything goes.

Br. Sabree spoke specifically on his experiences while making Hajj. It was very interesting to note that he had asked Allah all during the month of Ramadan to help him to make this trip possible. However, it looked like it would not come to pass as there were too many obstacles in the way. He asked Allah

again and the affirmative answer came when Allah removed all the obstacles.

The experience of Hajj was so incredible to him that it was difficult to describe in words. He stressed the wonder of seeing all of humanity coming together, from all walks of life, the rich, the poor, the sick, the able, all joining together in humility to worship Allah. The Ka'bah, which can hold 5 million people, was packed to capacity with the overflow of devotees praying on the streets. All were alike, no rich, no poor. Tears ran down their faces as they stood side by side, all dressed alike, no difference in race, class or position in life. All there with the intention of worshipping Allah.

On the spot near the Ka'bah where Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) left his wife Hajar and their son Ismail (pbuh), one can see to this day the spring which Allah provided for them. This spring (Zam-Zam) provided for all the watering needs of the pilgrims. People were even able to bring bottles of it back to their countries.

One of the great lessons he learned from this Hajj experience was not to permit the distractions of this life to take us away from Allah. The closer he got to the Ka'bah, the greater the distractions he found. The call of the world is insistent and strong, but we must put things into perspective and strive always towards the straight path which leads to Allah. None of us should go through life without being productive and producing good for humanity. Our lives are a gift from Allah, and this life is only a preparation for the time we meet our Lord and the life to come.

After Salat, a lively question and answer period was held which caused many of those present to laugh. All in all, a very valuable and uplifting time was had by all who attended.

From the Qur'an

"And as for the two of you who are guilty thereof, punish them both. And if they repent and improve, then let them be. Lo! Allah is Relenting. Merciful.

(4:16)

Miracle Or Coincidence? It's Your Call

by Sister Wilma

It happened again, something so inconceivable that it has to be accepted on faith alone. A person near and dear to me whom I trust implicitly, was once again healed by the power of God the Saviour, through prayer.

The circumstances were almost a repeat of what had happened to her in 1994. At that time, a diagnosis of severe heart problems was confirmed by a cardiologist who warned her to get her affairs in order and to make a will. Due to this diagnosis, she requested her friends to pray for her healing.

Shortly after seeing the cardiologist, a heart attack happened in the middle of the night which was so severe that she was unable to call for the ambulance. Even though she was in intense pain, a strange calm came over her and she knew that she would either die or God would heal her. She

felt absolutely no fear and accepted God's Will, whichever way it went. Time seemed to have stopped as the attack continued but the absolute calm remained until finally, out of total exhaustion, she fell asleep.

After the attack, her only sign of it was the exhaustion and weakness she experienced which took several weeks to overcome. At her next appointment with the cardiologist, she told him what happened and he sent her for more tests. These tests proved that she had been healed, as there were no further signs of heart problems.

Five wonderful years passed since that time. Her health was excellent.

In 1999, the signs of a heart problem again appeared and she underwent more tests. Knowing that God had healed her, she could not understand why this was happening. Her condition worsened and she was in a deep sleep

when chest pains awakened her. She found herself unable to breathe, perspiring profusely. She was weak and the pains were so intense that she cried out but nobody heard her. The pains continued for what seemed an indefinite time, never-ending, relentless, and harsh. She continued to believe that God had healed her before and He would do it again. As had been the case in the previous attack in 1994, she had asked for friends to pray for her healing and they had done so.

After the pain subsided, she slept from utter exhaustion. Within a little more than a week, her energy had returned fully and she was able to do everything by herself again. She is happy and looking forward to her future. A future that God has graciously given her back with this second healing.

The reason for the second heart problems? Only God knows, but

Continued on page 9

From the Hadith

Abu Bakar As-Siddiq said: "O people, I heard Allah's Messenger as saying: 'Verily when the people see the evil but make no effort to change it (to good), Allah may inflict upon all of them His punishment'."

Ibn Majah

The Ambition is distributed free of charge every two months at several mosques in and around Metro from as far as Kingston & Oshwa in the east to Brampton, Burlington, Kitchner and Hamilton in the west. You can also pick up your copy at some Muslim grocery stores.

Newsroom

American Muslims Launch Internet News Publication Providing Islamic Perspectives on World issues

From CIC Bulletin

On May 21, 1999 iViews.com announced the launch of an Internet news publication (<http://www.iviews.com>) which will focus upon timely news reporting and insightful analysis and commentary on issues of importance to Muslims.

The publication will be written from an American-Muslim perspective. "It will strive to add balance, objectivity, and fairness to an otherwise homogenous American media pool," said Ali Asadullah, editor of the publication.

Asadullah added that through

expanded news coverage of the Muslim world, in-depth analysis of national and world issues and enlightened intellectual perspectives, iViews.com will work to place onto the American agenda issues and stories that might receive only a cursory attention from typical media sources. iViews.com has a full-time staff comprising editors, writers, and software engineers.

For more information, contact Fouad Khatib, General Manager at fkhatib@iviews.com or (408) 727-6230. His postal address is 3000 Scott Blvd., Suite 105, Santa Clara, CA, 95054.

CIC National Secretary Honoured

From CIC Bulletin

Dr. Ahmed Muneeruddin was selected to be in the International Who's Who. He is a Senior Systems Engineer at the Space Systems Division of SPAR Aerospace. His technical interests include system/software architecture and design. He was heavily involved in the definition and development of a Digital Private Automatic Branch Exchange (DPABX) and the T-1 multiplexers in the telecommunication industry, before joining the International Space Station Alpha's Data Management Architecture team at SPAR. His contributions to the Canadian portion of the International Space Station's data architecture earned him a place in the International Who's Who directory. He earned his B.Eng. in Electronics and Communication Engineering with Distinction from Osmania University, India, and his MSEE and Ph.D. from the University of Denver, Colorado, USA. He was initiated into the Tau Beta Pi Society for academic excellence. He developed the structure of a Digital System Design Language as a part of his Ph.D. dissertation. He has the ITT Quality Award to his

credit for his contributions to the ITT Telecom Software and Quality Standards. He is a member of the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO), International Council of Systems Engineers (INCOSE), and a past executive of the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute (CASI), Toronto Branch. His Islamic interests include establishment of mosques, Islamic schools, and Islamic organisations. He was a founding member of the Islamic Center in Denver, Colorado. He was a founding member and the past chairman of the Islamic Centre of Cambridge and the Islamic School of Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. He is a founding member and the first National Secretary of the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC).

Abdul Hai Patel Appointed to OHRC

Abdul Hai Patel has been appointed as a member of the Ontario Human Rights Commission by the Premier of Ontario. Patel is a long serving member of the Muslim community. *The Ambition* congratulates and wishes him the best in serving Ontarians in his new position.

Reacting to Anti-Islamic Websites

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has received many complaints about a particular web site that attacks Islam and the Prophet Muhammad. They have released the following suggested guidelines for dealing with any anti-Islamic websites:

1. Anti-Islamic individuals or groups may seek to intentionally provoke a response from Muslims in order to publicize their sites. We should not assist them by reacting emotionally.

2. Information on the Internet can easily be moved to other locations. If a site is removed from one place, it will quickly appear at another. Spending time and effort shutting down a site is an unproductive use of limited resources.

3. Muslim interests are best served through a proactive campaign in which accurate information about Islam and Muslims is offered to counter inaccurate, stereotypical or offensive material.

The Solution is to double your efforts to spread the truth about Islam. For more information, visit <http://www.cair-net.org/>.

SOLUTIONS to the riddles

(from page 11)

1. The man is very, very short and can only reach halfway up the elevator buttons. However, when it's raining, he will have his umbrella with him and can press the higher buttons with it.

2. The surgeon was his mother.

3. It was day time.

4. At the time she went into labour, the mother of the twins was travelling by boat. The older twin, Terry, was born first early on March 1st. The boat then crossed a time zone and Kerry, the younger twin, was born on February the 28th. Therefore, the younger twin celebrates her birthday two days before her older brother.

5. A square manhole cover can be turned and dropped down the diagonal of the manhole. A round manhole cannot be dropped down the manhole. So for safety and practicality, all manhole covers should be round.

6. The poison in the punch came from the ice cubes. When the man drank the punch, the ice was fully frozen. Gradually it melted, poisoning the punch.

7. He recognised Adam and Eve as the only people without navels. Because they were not born of women, they had never had umbilical cords and therefore they never had navels. This one seems perfectly logical but it can sometimes spark fierce theological arguments.

8. They were two of a set of triplets (or quadruplets, etc.). This puzzle stumps many people. They try outlandish solutions involving test-tube babies or surrogate mothers. Why does the brain search for complex solutions when there is a much simpler one available?

9. The man had hiccups. The barman recognised this from his speech and drew the gun in order to give him a shock. It worked and cured the hiccups, so the man no longer needed the water.

Jami Mosque - A Memorial Event

Reported by Sister Wilma

The feeling was warm, the hugs full of emotion, the delighted looks as brothers and sisters in the faith spotted those they had not seen for a very long time and renewed acquaintance. The event which caused all this happiness?

The memorial dinner to commemorate Jami Mosque's long and fruitful years of service to God and the community, was held on June 5th, 1999 at Michael Power/St. Joseph High School in Etobicoke.

Dr. Mohammad Jinnah, President of Jami Mosque spoke warm words of welcome to the assembled guests. He mentioned that it is a very rare thing for Jami Mosque to hold a fundraising event, but the purpose of the evening was to raise money for renovations so that people with disabilities could be better included in the life of the Mosque as well as to upgrade the funeral facilities and extend the Library and Bookstore.

As part of the programme for the evening, the recognition of people's good deeds and actions was done as well. Guest speakers included Dr. Jamal Badawi, Dr. Aslam Abdullah, Br. Haroon Siddiqui, and Br. Ezz E. Gad.

Among the many excellent points the individual speakers made were that Muslims now make up the second largest religious group in Canada. Historically, the first Muslim settlers were said to be 13 in number and at the last Canadian census of 1991, the number of Muslims living in Canada were 253,000 people. Although there are so many Muslims here, the fact is that they earn 27% less than the average Canadian due to under employment.

Muslim immigrants suffer the same type of problems as other immigrants to Canada but with a greater degree of isolation due to religious reasons and the many Haraam things going on in this society. This causes them to retreat into themselves, thus isolating them more from society at large. We should look at the example of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who initially lived in a non-Muslim society. We should be more expert at living among non-Muslims. Canadian ideals are basically Islamic ideals. For an example, Freedom of Religion. Islam teaches that there be no force in religion. Another example is racism: Islam

is against racism. All of us should be ambassadors of Islam in our daily lives, realising that our first and foremost duty is to give gratitude to Allah.

The discrepancy between the rich and the poor is great with the resources controlled by only a few, even though all resources belong to Allah. In spite of this discrepancy, it is incumbent on all Muslims to aid the sick, the poor, the refugees, the widow, the orphans, the destitute, and the illiterate.

All Muslims must show respect to all people, no matter from

Jami Mosque has been in operation since 1973

what race or religion. It is not important how many Muslims are in this world, but what matters is their sincerity. Only Allah can take care of all the needs of the world. Special interest groups only think of their own point of view as we have seen time and time again. Whereby, we, as Muslims, must think of all people and their needs. We must look at Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and follow his good example on how to treat people.

Muslims, as religious people, are assaulted from all directions by worldly forces, leaving them with a feeling of hopelessness and despair. All types of propaganda to lure people away from Islam are created, however, the light of Allah cannot be extinguished, and ultimately the Deen of Allah will prevail. We have so much to be grateful to Allah for, as there is a revival of Islam throughout the world.

After the first three guests had spoken, Br. Shabir Ally helped raise funds for the Mosque. The amount needed was \$300,000. Jami Mosque had \$160,000 already and the renovations should be finished by mid-August. For those who wish to donate for this worthy cause, please call the Mosque office at (416) 769-1192 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week.

A break for prayer and dinner was made and then the event continued with recognition given to those who had been instrumental in the work of the Mosque over the years. It was a well organised event and most worthy of Jami

Islamic Education at TARIC Islamic Centre

Reported by Sister Wilma

The Education Department of TARIC Islamic Centre was the host to the many invited guests who enjoyed the delicious dinner and well-run program held on May 9, 1999. The celebration was for Eid-ul-Adha and the continuing success of the Education Department.

The orderly program started at 3:30 p.m. sharp with a Qur'anic recitation by Br. Adnan Siraj-ud-Din that was translated by Br. Musheer Saffie. Shaikh Faisal Abdur-Razak welcomed the guests to the event and spoke briefly on man and his

Mosque.

Jami Mosque has been in operation since 1973 when \$135,000 was sent by the late King Faisal to help buy the former church. Since that time and continuing to this day, the Mosque has been very active.

There are various programs and services available such as daily prayers, including Jumu'ah, Taraweeh, and Tahajjud. Eid prayers are held at a different location in order to accommodate the many thousands of people who attend Jami Mosque on a regular basis.

Among the programs is the Islamic School which is held every Sunday to teach children the basic Islamic beliefs and practices and the Arabic language.

The Muslim Youth Dialogue Group meets every Saturday from 10:30 to Zuhr prayer to discuss Islamic perspectives on current issues and Islam in general.

Services provided by the Mosque include Da'wah, counselling, marriages, information services for the public and the media, the distribution of Zakat and Sadaqa, the Book Service and Funeral Services.

Jami Mosque is a home away from home for many Muslims, some who have moved away and go to other Mosques but who hold fond memories in their hearts of great spiritual moments as well as happy times spent there among the congregation.

duty to Allah. Br. Haroon Salamat also spoke on how our lives should reflect our Islam so that we would be a positive example to all who see us.

Among the speakers were Br. Kaiyoom Khan and Br. Fuad El-Ghluagi and Br. Shaukat Husain. Each one in their own fashion stressed the importance of Islamic education both for the adult and the child. Parents should be an example to the children. There is nothing sweeter than understanding what one recites and, for this, Islamic education is necessary.

Historically, Islam has strongly encouraged the acquiring of knowledge and it is the duty of every Muslim to keep on learning all through life. Muslim parents should spare no effort to get the best education, both Islamic and secular for their children. Young people should see, through the practical application of their parents' example, the many benefits of living an Islamic lifestyle.

On a lighter note, Br. Adnan Siraj-ud-Din demonstrated an Islamic song in a powerful voice with the accomplishment of a "duff." It

was very melodic and uplifting and was very well received by the audience.

Although it was a joyous event for those present, we were reminded of our brothers and sisters in Kosova who are suffering greatly. The care and generosity of the students of the Education Department was shown in a practical way as they presented a cheque for \$45,000 for the Kosovar people. Br. Zakariya, who accepted the cheque on their behalf, gave a brief and enlightening talk. Since 1980, one million Kosovar-Albanians left their country, leaving behind all that was dear to them. Currently, incredible acts of cruelty too vile to mention in a family journal have been perpetrated on the Kosovars.

Br. Zakariya stressed that we will be all asked on the Day of Judgement what we did to help our brothers and sisters in their time of need. He asked all those present to give as much financial support as possible and thanked the students of the Education Department of TARIC for their generous response to this need.

Mosque Approved Despite Objections

From Our Correspondant

Markham council, north of Toronto has approved (11 to 2) plans for a mosque over the objections of some local residents who say the building will bring bad luck, death and disaster. "According to feng shui, those who live behind any place of worship will become poor," Mr. Jo said last Tuesday in an interview with the Toronto Star. "Unfortunately, our whole community lives behind the mosque," said Mr. Jo.

The site at Denison St. and Maddlefield Avenue had been approved for building a mosque on the request of the Islamic Society of Markham several years ago in 1980s and all that was left for the council was to approve the changes made to the site plan.

Mayor Don Cousens pleaded for understanding from those who opposed the mosque. "We have to understand the changing nature of Canada", he said to loud applause and cheers from about 500 people packed into the council chambers and spilling out into the hall." reported the Toronto Star.

Tarek Fatah, a member of the 4,000 strong Muslim community in Markham, said the controversy highlights the growing rift between various ethnic communities in Toronto. "There is no inter-connection," a frustrated Fatah said. "There is no effort on the part of each community to get together, so each community thinks that when they sort out their issues with the mainstream, their problems are over. And of course, they aren't," reported the Toronto Star.

"It is shocking that one cultural community in Canada does not understand another", said the Canadian Islamic Congress in a statement, "We thank the Mayor of Markham and its council for rightly approving the plans for the needed mosque. We hope that Canadians, through education, bridge the gaps in a multicultural Canada."

The Ambition strongly believes in building bridges between communities while keeping their own identity. "Our mosques can play a very positive role by inviting different ethnic groups and exchanging information about Islam and Muslims. Events should be organised to involve Muslims and non-Muslims to come and do things together in order to establish good communication," said Asma Warsi, the Publisher of the Ambition, in a telephone interview from her home."

Miracle or Coincidence

Continued from page 7

out of this came the opportunity to share publicly what God had done. This lady, who out of shyness and not wanting to be in the spotlight, has agreed to have her story published in The Ambition on the condition that only the publisher and the staff reporter know who she is. She states that all the praise and the glory belongs to God and that she is sharing this in order to encourage people to hold fast to their faith in Almighty God and to actively seek His healing.

A coincidence? I think not! A bid to gain fame? Definitely not!

As the staff reporter, and knowing this lady very, very well, I see it as a gracious act of God, Who is Merciful, Compassionate, and Loving to His creation and who is always willing to help us through both our good and bad times. Let us take heart from this sister's experience and hold fast to our faith in Almighty God, always thanking Him Who cares for us.

From Kosova To Canada

Continued from page 1

and together with his wife, we had to leave.

"We were forced to walk for a very long time until a bus driven by the Serb police picked us up and took us to the Macedonian border. They told us that Kosova is not our country and that we must go to Albania or Macedonia. The Albanians who lived in Macedonia went to the border to help us but the Macedonians were not very pleased to have us, for whatever reason.

"Our new 'homes' were tents in a refugee camp with no running water or washrooms until after NATO soldiers arrived to construct them. In comparison to the war, life in the camp was good. However, everyone in the camp felt alienated, there was no privacy and there was nothing to do, but pray and hope. For one month my sister-in-law and I remained in this camp. We are very grateful to NATO. These days since leaving Kosova, we will never forget."

Bedrije spoke next, her sad eyes looking directly into mine. Her loss intensified as she spoke of her 25-year-old daughter and her grandson who are missing. Her faith in Allah gave her inner strength and dignity. Her intense wish to find her missing family was evident as she spoke in her quiet and gentle way.

The talk became general as our interpreter attempted to keep up with the questions. The Kosovar women explained that other countries in Europe and even as far away as Australia offered to help the refugees. This generous offer was deeply appreciated but the majority preferred to remain in Europe in order to return home easier once NATO secured the land.

Some, however, had to leave Europe and come to Canada. They are very grateful to Canada and find the Canadians very hospitable and helpful. It was a very pleasant surprise how warmly they were welcomed. Understandably, though, the general feeling is that they want to return home and find their relatives.

Life at Camp Borden is good overall. One sad fact which was mentioned in passing was the situation of a 13-year-old girl who was in the Camp alone and who shares a room with two other girls at the Base. The tragedy of a child alone in a foreign land speaks volumes of what atrocities were committed by the occupying force: separation of families, deaths of parents and children, and widespread torture in barbaric fashion brings this war closer to our own shores and to our own families as we listen to their experiences. It is easy to relate to them in their personal tragedies.

An interesting thing to note

was that Muslim and Roman Catholic Kosovar-Albanians were treated the same by the Serbs. Even Roman Catholic Kosovars were persecuted and driven from their homes.

When the question of the peace process was brought up, the Kosovar ladies felt that the Russians who went before the NATO forces were hand-in-hand with the Serbs and the peace process may not be as solid as it should be, due to this fact.

They spoke very warmly of the hospitality shown to them by the Muslim community from the TARIC Islamic Centre and even though they could not communicate, they felt the love which was shown to them by their brothers and sisters in Islam. We all enjoyed mingling among the guests and gave our Salaams and smiled at each other. Little girls tugged at our Hijabs (head coverings), wanting to have them for themselves. Adults tried in their own way to communicate even with a smile and a nod.

Full, happy, tired but content, the resilient people of Kosova boarded the waiting school buses which were to take them back to Camp Borden and their lives there. It was a special day, one of new friendships, new understanding of the situation in Kosova, and Canadian Muslims working together to help their brethren.

Islam: 365 Days a Year

Continued from page 1

which we have control. It is during this so-called span that we encounter all kinds of hardships and obstacles. Some are of our own making and some over which we have very little power. The Shaitan (devil) for instance, is ever present in making us digress from the straight path. So we really have to be on guard at all times if we are to escape from the wages of sin and the resulting eternity in Hell.

Allah, our Creator, is All-Knowing. He is aware of what we will go through. Consequently, He is the Most Merciful and Oft-Forgiving. There are, in the Qur'an several verses which attest to this and one only need look through the index of the Qur'an to find them.

"And whoever does evil or wrongs himself but afterwards seeks Allah's Forgiveness, he will find Allah Oft-Forgiving, Most-Merciful" (Qur'an 4:110). Allah's Mercy will forgive anything if one truly repents during his life and before the throes of death set in. The only thing that will not be forgiven is setting up a partnership with Him, as He has revealed.

So then, can a man keep on doing evil and keep on asking for forgiveness? That is hardly what He intended or even expects. And besides, how does one know when death is to come? If a person is perhaps terminally ill, he may have that opportunity of repenting. However, death can come without any notice such as in the case of heart failures, accidents, etc. So then what?

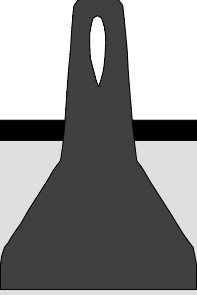
Islam is quite simple. It is not hard to follow because Islam is the natural religion. It is a simple religion in its purest form. So practice Islam at all times during your life and remove the guesswork of what it will be: Heaven or Hell?

Gay Education

Continued from page 1

clearly and categorically opposed to the idea of introducing sexual orientation in the public school system," members of TDMEA declared. TDMEA believes that there is a great deal of deception and masking going on. The term 'sexual orientation' is another convenient mask which is being used as politically correct in order to legalise the homosexual agenda in the public school system. The public has a right to know how the majority of people are being systematically undermined, only because they are either ignorant or not organised, while a tiny vocal minority is now poised to set the agenda for Toronto's public schools.

The entire public is urged to immediately contact their local trustees, MPP's, community leaders, and religious bodies in order to stop the introduction of pernicious, obscene, unnatural, deviant, and immoral conduct in our



Matrimonials

1. Brother seeks for Sunni Muslim sister, Canadian Citizen in late thirties, educated and employed a practising Muslim male, single or divorced. Inquiry # 89.

Matrimonial ads are published for your service but **The Ambition** does not take any responsibility of any sort.

Address your responses to **Matrimonials c/o The Ambition** and include the inquiry # on the outside of the envelope.

The Ambition accepts Matrimonial ads at \$15 for 3 lines per single insert. Additional lines are extra. They must be pre-paid by cheque or money order. To place an ad call Sister Wilma at (416) 247-0948.

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Pen is Mightier than Sword.

So why not write?

We invite writers, interviewers, community news reporters, story writers for children, etc. to send us their contributions.

Please send your articles by July 31st, 1999 to be included in Sept. '99 issue.

We welcome new and budding writers

Include your full name, address, and phone number. You can send your picture and a little introduction about yourself if you wish.

public school system. All concerned members of the local communities can also contact TDMEA for more information by telephone (416) 245-0696, fax (416) 744-4360, or e-mail assayed@hotmail.com.

Kids' Korner

Islamic Quiz

Question 1

Was the first mosque built by the Holy Prophet

- Masjid-e-Nabawi
- Quba
- Masjid Al-Aqsa
- Masjid Al-Haram

Question 2

Adhan was introduced during the first year of Hijrah.

Who was appointed as the first Muezzin?

- Salman
- Ammar
- Bilal
- Abu Dhar

Question 3

Muslims had defeated the army of infidels in the battle of Badr, which occurred in the second year of Hijrah. A total of _____ were killed

- 14
- 313
- 70
- 25

Question 4

He was an assistant to Prophet Musa?

- Jesus (Isa)
- David (Dawood)
- Issac (Ishaq)
- Aaron (Harun)

Question 5

Wudhu has to be performed by using water. If water is not available, what is the alternative?

- Perform Ghusl
- Do Tayammum
- Wipe yourself dry
- Do Prayers without it anyway.

Question 6

Prophet Muhammed was born in year?

- 1 A.H.
- 570 B.C.
- 570 A.D.
- 560 A.D.

Question 7

It is during this month that it becomes obligatory upon Muslims to fast?

- Ramadhan
- Rajab
- Shaaban
- Zilhajj

Question 8

The seat of Abbaside Caliphate was in?

- Damascus
- Kufa
- Baghdad
- Medina

Question 9

Mentioned in Quran as _____, Allah protected them from the evil ruler and put them to sleep in the cave for several hundred of years.

- Abraha
- As-hab-e-Suffah
- As-hab ul Kahaf
- Muhammed

Question 10

During the first three years the Prophet secretly and had very few followers. How many followers did he have?

- 40
- 41
- 37
- 63

Classic Lateral Thinking Exercises

Get your thinking cap on! Try these to loosen up the ol' brain cells. The Solutions to the riddles are somewhere else in the paper but do not rush to check the Solutions.

1. There is a man who lives on the top floor of a very tall building. Everyday he takes the elevator down to the ground floor to leave the building to go to work. Upon returning from work though, he can only travel half way up in the lift and has to walk the rest of the way unless it's raining. Why?

This is probably the best known and most celebrated of all lateral thinking puzzles. It is a true classic. Although there are many possible solutions which fit the initial conditions, only the canonical answer is truly satisfying.

2. A man and his son are in a car accident. The father dies at the scene, but the child is rushed to the hospital. When he arrives, the surgeon says, "I can't operate on this boy, he's my son!" How can this be?

3. A man is wearing black. Black shoes, socks, trousers, jumper, gloves, and balaclava. He is walking down a black street with all the street lamps off. A black car is coming towards him with its headlights off but somehow manages to stop in time. How did the driver see the man?

4. One day Kerry celebrated her birthday. Two days later her older twin brother, Terry, celebrated his birthday. How?

5. Why is it better to have round manhole covers than square ones?

This is logical rather than lateral, but it is a good puzzle that can be solved by lateral thinking techniques. It is supposedly used by a very well-known software company as an interview question for prospective employees.

6. A man went to a party and drank some of punch. He then left early. Everyone else at the party who drank the punch subsequently died of poisoning. Why did the man not die?

7. A man died and went to Heaven. There were thousands of other people there. They were all naked and all looked as they did at the age of 21. He looked around to see if there was anyone he recognised. He saw a couple and he knew immediately that they were Adam and Eve. How did he know?

8. A woman had two sons who were born on the same hour of the same day of the same year. But they were not twins. How could this be?

9. A man walks into a bar and asks the barman for a glass of water. The barman pulls out a gun and points it at the man. The man says, "Thank you," and walks out.

This puzzle claims to be the best of the genre. It is simple in its statement, absolutely baffling, and yet with a completely satisfying solution. Most people struggle very hard to solve this one, yet they like the answer when they hear it or have the satisfaction of figuring it out.

The Gossip-Monger

A woman repeated a bit of gossip about a neighbour.

Within a few days the whole community knew the story. The person it concerned was deeply hurt and offended. Later, the woman responsible for spreading the gossip

learned that it was completely untrue. She was very sorry and went to a wise old sage to find out what she could do to repair the damage.

"Go to the marketplace," he said, "and purchase a chicken, and have it killed. Then on

your way home, pluck its feathers and drop them one by one along the road."

Although surprised by this advice, the woman did as she was told.

The next day the wise man said, "Now go and collect all those feathers you dropped yesterday and bring them back to me."

The woman followed the same road, but to her dismay, the wind had blown the feathers all away. After searching for hours, she returned with only three in her hand.

"You see," said the old sage, "it's easy to drop them, but it's impossible to get them back. So it is with gossip. It doesn't take much to spread, but once you do, you can never completely undo the wrong."

The Ambition Annual Writing Contest '99

It's that time again!

*We are inviting you to write for **The Ambition** and win awards and **CASH Prizes!***

*Yes. There are **three prizes** to be given out.*

Children between the age of 10 - 16 are allowed to enter the contest.

First Prize: \$50

Second Prize: \$30

Third Prize: \$20

Put your thinking cap on. Get your pen and use your Summer Holidays to do something worth your while.

*Send your submissions to: **The Ambition Writing Contest '99.***

All entries must reach us by August 15th.. Write your name, age, tel. and address. You may include your photograph if you wish.

If need more info, Call (416) 740-1491

Community in Action

Camp Al-Mu-Mee-Neen: Summer Program for Muslim Youth

by Ahmad Muinuddin

It's that time of year again: school is out till the fall and now everyone is making plans for their summer vacation. If you want to enjoy the great outdoors, make new Muslim friends, and reinforce your Islam, then Camp Al-Mu-Mee-Neen (Camp of the Believers) is just what you asked for.

Camp Al-Mu-Mee-Neen is a volunteer-run organisation which has served the Canadian Muslim community for 25 years. The purpose of this organisation is to provide a summer Camp for Muslim youth (ages 7-15 years) that combines all the outdoor enjoyment, games, and learning experiences of a camp within an Islamic atmosphere. The Camp aims to show youth with various levels of Islamic knowledge how to apply their beliefs in this society.

Ever since the age of 9, when I first attended Camp, I have always looked forward to it. Following a travellers schedule for per-

forming the five daily prayers, the schedule at camp is packed with periods. The outdoor activities include swimming, canoeing, nature hikes, and many other sports. Last year's theme in Arts & Crafts was the Mosque, its role in society, and its architecture. Prayer rugs, tasbeeh and a mahrab were just some of the crafts campers created.

While the Islamic classes for the younger campers involve instruction in the basics of Islam and stories from the Qur'an, older campers participate in discussions regarding issues which face Muslim youth today in North America. To ensure that the campers don't get too tired, a rest period is also scheduled into the busy day.

The highlight of the fun-filled week is Friday. Many campers wear traditional garments from their cultural backgrounds to the Jumu'ah prayers where the Imam gives an inspiring Khutba. Jumu'ah prayers are followed by Olympic Day where groups com-

pete in many "sports" events including the obstacle course, water-balloon toss, and the ever-so popular donut-eating contest.

Throughout the day, a positive Islamic environment is created by the campers who have the opportunity to learn and sing Islamic songs and create skits to share at nightly social hours and camp fires. Olympic Day is co-ordinated by the Leaders in Training (LIT) and Counsellors in Training (CIT). The LIT (16 years +) and CIT (18 years +) program are offered to interested youth in order to help them develop the interpersonal, organisational, and leadership skills needed to become the future leaders of the Muslim and the larger Canadian community.

The week ends with Awards Day where campers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, co-operation, and performance are recognised and presented with prizes. It's not only the campers, but also the Camp staff, most of whom are volunteers, who make camp a success. Staff are carefully selected from among experienced men and women who understand the needs of young campers and are capable of instruction, guidance and leadership. Adult supervision is provided by an Imam, and other adult volunteers. Moreover, all counsellors have first aid training and qualified lifeguards are also on site for the duration of the camp, making Camp Al-Mu-Mee-Neen a safe and successful pro-

gram.

At Camp Al-Mu-Mee-Neen I have had the privilege of meeting Muslims from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In fact, some of my closest friendships were formed at Camp Al-Mu-Mee-Neen. Insha-Allah, you too will have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and participate in this worthwhile camping program this summer.

Ahmad Muinuddin is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Toronto and is on the organising committee of Camp Al-Mu-Mee-Neen. Ahmad can be contacted at (416) 512-2106 or by e-mail at ahmad007@yahoo.com. Check out the Camp website at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/tin.foil/> (see advertisement on page 12).

LOOKING FORWARD

Students attending the schools recognise that there is something meaningful being undertaken in their classrooms

by Aneesa Lakhi

Having spent some time over the past twenty months meeting and speaking to Muslim women who would tell us their success stories, I have had the opportunity to encounter many people who have been inspiring and challenging. There have been a number of pleasant discoveries along the way.

Initially, I had been quite concerned that there would be a wariness on the part of interviewees, that my questions, although fuelled by curiosity, would seem presumptuousness, too personal, and yet one of the goals of this segment is to allow young Muslims a glimpse into the lives of their adult counterparts, so that parallels could be drawn between the struggles and successes of different generations and different experiences. My experiences in conducting these interviews has been that there is a tremendous openness and warmth in the way these women allowed me to speak to them and with them. I was no longer conducting an interview, rather I was engaging in an intense and meaningful conversation. The confidence, humour, optimism, and strength of these women continues to stand as a model for my own development.

Recently, I have had the chance to work with teenage Muslim girls and women in a high school environment. These girls, ranging in age from fourteen to nineteen, come from different corners of the globe, they speak a

variety of languages at home and at school, their clothing is different, as is their hair colour, eye colour, and skin colour. Their personalities are similarly varied: They are not all optimistic, or ambitious, or outgoing. And they are teenagers so they are often angry, upset, giddy, reserved, or all of the above within one afternoon.

I mention these girls and their behaviour because in the wake of the necessary, yet often misinformed discussion recently about the nature of the social hierarchies within high schools, and their negative effects on teenagers, it is impossible not to be more attuned to the social dynamics of any given situation involving young people. The focus of these discussions, more often than not, is on the vagaries of being young, the often vicious, unforgiving nature of youth, and/or external influences such as television, movies, music, etc. What must not be forgotten, however, is that these young people do not grow, or learn, or act within vacuums. They are influenced by what they see and experience in their immediate environment.

Thus the two schools in which I have worked which have had the most positive atmosphere in terms of the relationships which the students developed with each other, were both governed by ideals higher than themselves. One was an Arts school and the other is the Islamic school where I worked with the above-mentioned teenage

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