

Letters

Writer misses point of film

Editor:  
Robert Gehrke accuses Spike Lee of misrepresenting the message of Malcolm X ("Spike Lee doesn't tell whole story of Malcolm X's racial philosophy," Nov. 25). The quality of the movie aside (I rather liked it), Gehrke misses the issue. The underclass in our society are given few means to achieve justice. In addition many messages in our culture underscore the acceptability of violence as a legitimate method to establish personal or social goals. When our leaders fail in diplomacy they send in troops. If civilians are killed it is OK because our ideals were threatened. We demand the right to use the worst imaginable violence—nuclear war—to achieve our ends, even though this would destroy us. This is the ultimate

perversion. In the reality of cultural morals, we should not be surprised when others wish to imitate this behavior. We should criticize the norms which sanction this behavior. Malcolm renounced racial separatism which, it should be noted, was a product of the times. Blacks were routinely denied even the pretense of equal protection. The quote of Martin Luther King's ("I have a dream") is obviously more palatable to many non-marginalized members of our society, but as Langston Hughes asked, "What happens to a dream deferred?" Even Luther King wrote, "The riot is at bottom the language of the unheard." If Gehrke wants peace he should work for justice.

Pete Kolbenschlag  
graduate—political philosophy

Ute mascot increases pride

Editor:  
Regarding Jim Packard's editorial, "New Mascot" (Nov. 23) advocating the changing of the University of Utah's Runnin' Ute mascot, I would be interested to know if Mr. Packard has any tribal affiliation. I do have Native American ancestors and background and I find nothing offensive in the use of a Native American mascot. On the contrary I feel the use of a strong Native American mascot brings honor and encourages pride among Native

Americans. After all, the Ute mascot was chosen to show bravery, strength and determination, not weakness. Perhaps Mr. Packard and others concerned with the "political correctness" of the Ute mascot should concentrate on more important violations of Native American rights.

May Thomas  
member—Potawatomi tribe of Oklahoma  
junior—geology

'The Chronicle' should be ashamed

Editor:  
This is not written for average Americans whom I have had the fortune and privilege of living among for the last few good years of my life. However, it is written for the editor of the *Chronicle* and her twisted-minded, ignorant associate, Mr. Steven Miller, who apparently had too many Miller times in his miserable life before writing his article of Nov. 12, 1992, "Nutty Iranians..."

I have been living in this country for many years and haven't seen anything from Americans but kindness, gentleness and caring. But just once in awhile I have seen or heard something that reminded me of my father saying to me, "Son, even in the God's heaven, you should expect to see a few rotten apples that have given a bad name to all other heavenly things." Now I can see for myself so vividly that Mr. Miller fits that description.

People like him definitely give a bad name to all Americans and their culture, unfortunately. He, not like a true journalist (!!!), stereotyped, generalized and judged (a big no no, even in this culture) 60 million

Iranians based on his own limited understanding and knowledge (camels, savages, barbarians...).

He didn't even stop there and went on to insult us, insult our great 26-century-old-minus-12-years civilization and insult our very culture. He, just like an ignorant, penciled soldier of fortune, tried to describe us as barbarians, savages and many other four-letter words that, unfortunately, I am too much of a gentleman to mention. Shame on you, Mr. Miller, for acting so irresponsibly. Same on the *Chronicle* for having such an associate editor and shame on the University of Utah for having such a staff member.

I, like millions and millions of other Iranians, believe in freedom and democracy and thirst for it. I strongly believe in Thomas Jefferson and James Madison's ideas and definition of freedom and democracy. Those great men always emphasized that these should be the very foundation of our humanity and mentality. I agree with the freedom of thoughts, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and freedom of press. But it's neither right to put a price on one's head for his writings, nor is it right to

write to insult and bash other's culture and civilization (using four-letter words!!!!).

Simply insulting, simply bashing and simply hurting (Yes, a lot of us, along with our American and non-American friends truly grieved) others just because it feels good, gives satisfaction and fulfills one's daily duty (an article a day or week) must not be the policy of a university newspaper and its staff. To us it sounded very much like older days' japan-bashing, jew-bashing, Mormon-bashing....

A nation and a civilization cannot and must not be judged by the actions of their government (especially a new government resulting from a revolutionary upheaval). I strongly believe it is morally wrong, historically incorrect and ethically distasteful. People like Mr. Miller make life a little harder and a little harsher for all of us, regardless of our race, our culture and our national background. Today he does it easily to Iranians, tomorrow only God knows who or what.

F.H. Afghan  
Ph.D. engineering candidate

Mayor contradicts self with housing issue

Editor:  
Wednesday, in a secret meeting, Norm Bangerter offered LDS leaders \$55,000 in federal tobacco funds to put a smoking room in the newly remodeled Hotel Utah. Okay, I changed the names a bit but the problems in this scenario are the

same as in the real-life events that occurred this week. Deede Corradini, the same official who wanted to put a skating oval where a low-rent housing project was sited, met with leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church to offer them \$55,000 in federal housing

money to keep open six low rent apartments. Just because Mayor Corradini is a Democrat is no reason for the ACLU to file suit against her.

Neil Christiansen  
senior—geology

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