

QUMSA newsletter



Queens University
Muslim Student's
Association

07 September 2002

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لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ
الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ وَآتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ
وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُوفُونَ
بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ
صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ

It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces to the East and the West; but righteous is he who believeth in Allah and the Last Day and the angels and the Scripture and the Prophets; and giveth his wealth, for love of Him, to kinsfolk and to orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask, and to set slaves free; and observeth proper worship and payeth the poor due. And those who keep their treaty when they make one, and the patient in tribulation and adversity and time of stress. Such are they who are sincere. Such are the God fearing.

The Holy Qur'an (1:177)

Muslims

and the University Culture!

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Welcome home...



Assalamu alaikum – With the peace and blessings of Allah, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to your Muslim Student Association.

QUMSA is very active at Queen's, and we have a lot of wonderful people dedicated to pursuing their Islamic goals, and making better Muslims of themselves and the community in which they

live. We have regular activities that vary from weekly study circles to cultural dinners and social gatherings. We are a tight knit community that respect and learn from each other and try our best to be the best Muslims that we can.

To help represent the student Muslims of Queen's the QUMSA Executive is here to ensure that QUMSA's day-to-day life is smooth, safe and as comfortable as possible, with the ultimate intention being that the values and concepts of Islam be upheld and firmly adhered to. We, like everybody else, are striving to remain on Allah's straight path, and only by realizing that we are not perfect can we can provide the right resources and programming events to ensure that everyone better understands Islam, and what it means to be a true, practicing Muslim.

One of the many things we have in common is that we are all part of Queen's University. We all came here for a particular reason, and have our own goals and motivations for the time we spend at Queen's. We belong to the university community, and it is important for us to maintain the proper respect to our fellow neighbours, and contribute to the community we live in, in a positive way. Just like we have to be good to our own people, we have been ordered by Allah to do good to our neighbours. That means treating them the same way – with respect, kindness, and gentleness, so that they can look at our religion, and yearn to be among us. It is our responsibility to educate the local community about our religion, and teach them what the true message of Islam is. And only through leading by example can we fully achieve this.

QUMSA stands by the five pillars of Islam, and has taken every means possible to ensure that its constituents can perform these obligations on time, in privacy of their own comfort, and despite the fact that we live and work in a non-Islamic institute. We are fortunate enough to be able to hold Juma'a prayers, have a permanent prayer room, and have halaal meat in residence cafeterias because QUMSA brought it to the attention of the University. And although we thank Allah, first and foremost, for these blessings, it was the dedicated people of QUMSA who made these things possible in the past - and now we need new faces to ensure that these facilities remain in use, and find other ways of making Mus-

lim life at Queen's easier.

It is, after all, for the sake of Muslim Students that QUMSA exists. There is no doubt that, by enlarge, QUMSA is run by students for students. We are here for a higher education - to develop our intellectual understanding, and apply it to various aspects of our life. Just like we learn chemistry, mathematics, Spanish, art, and computers, we must also understand that we are also students of the Qur'an. Hence, we must actively partake in learning from this glorious book, and shaping our lives to follow the guidance contained within it.

As you embark on a new journey in your life, it is also time to start taking the initiative to make a difference. Find out when your Executive is having their next meeting; find out what was discussed at the last one; find out when the next QUMSA event is being held; show active interest; be involved in the daily activities of your MSA; be a part of this growing community, but more importantly, be grateful.. If you have concerns, voice them, if you have good things to say, say them. After all, this is YOUR association.

A few words of advice as you start your new year at Queen's. Ensure that QUMSA stands as one body, show your support for one another, look at your Muslim companion and offer help, and words of advice. Respect your fellow Muslim, smile, give salaam, acknowledge one another and humble yourself. Respect each other's personal space. Recognize all the Muslims on campus, and engage in dialogue. And since Islam is a global religion do not always stick to your own ethnic group. Talk. And most importantly, love one another.

Having said all this, I welcome you to your new home. Once again, I encourage you to actively participate in QUMSA because we are forever in need of people like yourself to help carry Islam's name further and to better and more truthful recognition. We hope that you will pursue the righteous path of Allah – the same path that brought you here in the first place. You can count on QUMSA to help you along the way.

With peace...

Aadil Mamuji
QUMSA President
(2001 – 2003)



Br. Aadil just turned 23!!

DID YOU KNOW?

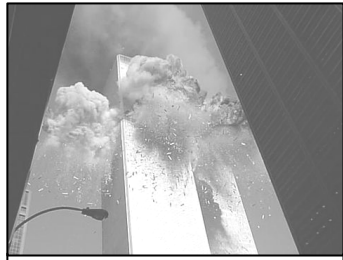
We Must Not Forget

I still remember the day, sitting in anatomy class when a classmate (later friend) of mine came running in and shakily announced that America had been attacked. My first reaction was disbelief, which quickly turned to fear, and worry (as our poor professor droned on about anatomy not knowing what had just occurred not too far away from Kingston). As soon as class ended I ran upstairs to the library to go online and find out what she was talking about...

It is now one year later. A whole year has passed since the tragedy that occurred on September 11. My life went on. I quickly returned to my normal routine after finding out that my loved ones were safe and sound. Yet, that event has changed me forever. The bubble I lived in growing up in Canada has been shattered as this disaster hit too close to home.

Thousands of innocent people lost their lives on that day. Children became father and/or motherless. Spouses lost their significant others. People lost their aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends. For many people this tragedy has for-

ever left a mark on their lives. Some will never have closure as the bodies of their loved ones were reduced to ashes. We must not forget them.



Twin towers minutes after...

This tragedy also had an impact on Muslims. There were Muslims who died that day in the World Trade Center. Their families also suffered and lost loved ones. Muslims were harassed, beaten up and taunted in the aftermath. Even those who were ignorantly mistaken as being Muslims were also attacked. Mosques were burned and defiled. Innocent Muslims were arrested and their civil rights were taken away, all in the name of the "War on Terror." Many re-evaluated how they practiced their faith publicly for fear of repercussions at work, school, on the streets, etc. Despite overt support and condemnation for such acts from many non-Muslims in North America, their struggle still continues today even after much of the initial emotional reactions have died down.

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Ban Righ Cafeteria offers HALAL FOOD:

Once you come into the cafeteria, first go to the Wok (Stir-Fry station), and ask the chef behind the counter to prepare your halal food of the day. This will take about 5 to 8 minutes. While he or she is making it, you may gather your other food items then pick up your halal food once it is ready. *Take advantage of this exclusive opportunity and thank the staff at Ban Righ for accommodating us.*

QUMSA Website offers:

- Our'anic Recitation
- Islamic Lectures
- Islamic Nasheeds
- Videos on Islam
- up-to-date information

Al-Hasan Al-Basri (d.110H) said, "Whoever is content with what he has, Allah will make it enough for him and give it blessing; and whoever is not content, Allah will neither make it enough for him nor give it blessing."

"Islam in China"

How many Muslims are there in China? Really, how many of us know anything at all about approximately 20 million of our brothers and sisters in China? Not much. In fact I was surprised at the population after an article on Chinese Muslims was posted on QUSMANet. So I thought I would try to find out more about them and this is what I found.



A Muslim man in Xian's Muslim food street.

Arab traders and mercenaries were the first to bring Islam into China. In North-west China the Arabs established over-land contact and eventually many of them settled in the region, now the province Xinjiang. The first mosque was built in 627 A.D., only 5 years after Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) death. Chinese Muslims incorporated Islam into their daily lives by using Arabic in all religious ceremonies, separate burial grounds from their Chinese neighbors, and practicing the pillars of Islam. Most Muslims are very poor and make their living through trading and agriculture.

Under the Communist regime of China, the Chinese Muslims have encountered more restrictions on religions than freedoms. The Communists have conceived a two-face policy where they guarantee religious freedom to all minorities and allow them to establish their own regional governments. On the other hand, they also declared that anti-religious propaganda would be allowed against all religions because there is no room for religion in the Communist system. This "two-sided sword" tactic has been put in place to slowly break down all religious groups in China and incorporate them into the Communist society. The United Front Policy has been used to carry out the de-generation of all religions in China. First, the government gives the religious group regional control over government, public works, health, local customs and practices, in a process called unification. While the groups are pleased with the government, the Communists start attacking their less important leaders, but

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Community Column - Environmental Responsibility

By **Mohammad Saleem**

President, Islamic Society of Kingston (ISK)

Canadian summer months provide us an opportunity to see the natural growth of various species which Allah (SWT) has created around us. During these months, children had an exposure to the environment during the daycamp week, and adults had a glimpse of it during the outdoor picnic. Realizing the seasonal preoccupation, the executive committee of ISK did not meet during the month of July, but *Insha'Allah* will have a meeting this month.

When we reflect on nature, we observe Allah's bounties everywhere. The blue waters, lush green trees, multicolour flowers, varieties of fruits, mountains, hills, valleys, insects, and different animals are all creations with unique characteristics. The more one contemplates about nature, the more it captivates and makes us bow to Allah (SWT) for being the sole creator of this universe.

It is He who has created all kinds of plants, trellised and

untrellised, the palm trees, the field crops with produce of different kinds, the olives and pomegranates, similar in kind yet different in taste. Eat of their fruit in their season and give away their Zakah on the harvest day. Do not be spendthrift, surely He does not love the spendthrifts. (Surah Al-An'am 6:141)

Allah (SWT) looks after all his creatures; humans too can enjoy His bounties in moderation and be grateful. We are not permitted to commit excesses and waste. If we indulge in too much greed and wastefulness, then Allah may not like our selfishness.

In the above *Ayah* and others in Qur'an, Allah (SWT) draws our attention toward the bounties but at the same time cautions us about our responsibility on this earth. *Then, We made you their successors in the land so that We may observe how you would conduct yourselves (Surah Yunus 10:14)* In the contemporary world, the distinction between general human needs and greed is being blurred by the powerful

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Knowledge, the key to success

By Sr. Sumayyah bint Joan

The adage that ignorance is bliss could not be farther from the truth when seriously put into practical application. Throughout the annals of time, what great accomplishments has ignorance made? What great empires and what marvels of science and technology now bear witness to ignorance's strength and power? That's right, none. Nothing of true worth is achieved without wisdom and knowledge.

It was with supreme knowledge that Allah, SWT, laid the foundations of the heavens and the earth. It was with wisdom, knowledge and understanding that Soleiman (AS) ruled the greatest empire the world has ever known. Our own Prophet, Mohammad (SAW) told us that acquiring knowledge was a duty placed on each and every Muslim. But the knowledge of what and who, remains the question.

Many of us have used the above saying of the Prophet (SAW), to justify dealing in *riba* (interest), in order to send our sons and daughters to the finest universities to become doctors, lawyers and engineers. We use it to justify sending our children to private schools, because they supposedly have higher academic standing and prestige than Muslim schools. We say we are doing it, because the Prophet (SAW) said to get knowledge, but is this the knowledge he was speaking about?

It is narrated by Abu Musa that the Prophet (SAW) said, "The example of guidance and knowledge with which Allah has sent me is like abundant rain falling on the earth, some of

which was fertile soil that absorbed rain-water and brought forth vegetation and grass in abundance. (And) another portion of it was hard and held the rain-water and Allah benefited the people with it and they utilized it for drinking, (making their animals drink from it) and to irrigate the land for cultivation. (And) a portion of it was barren which could neither hold the water nor bring forth vegetation (then the land was of no benefit). The first is the example of the person who comprehends Allah's Religion and gets benefit from the knowledge which Allah has revealed through me and learns and then teaches it to others. The (last example is that of a) person who does not care for it and does not take Allah's Guidance revealed through me (He is like the barren land.)" (Bukhari).

Through the above narration, the Prophet (SAW) is telling us of the superiority of religious knowledge. This is the knowledge that we should give priority to. All other knowledge will not be of benefit if we do not have this one. First and foremost, comes the knowledge of Allah. Knowing His names and His attributes. Knowing what is expected of us in regard to our servitude to Him, and what mutual rights exist between us.

Secondly, we should strive to know Allah's Book, the Qur'an. We should learn to read it in Arabic, if we don't already know how to do so. We should also be trying to memorize as much of it as possible, and stressing the importance of both of these things to our children. Reading the Qur'an should be something commonplace in every Muslim home, and is an activity that the whole family can, and should participate in.

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Islamic Knowledge sources

- **The Holy Qur'an**
- **Hadith of the Prophet (saw)**
- **Websites**
- **QUMSA library**
- **Fellow Muslims**
- **Queen's library (Stauffer)**
- **Queen's Religion Department**
- **QUMSA's IAM**
- **Friday Khutbahs**
- **Books**
- **Videos**
- **QUMSA Halaqas (study circles)**
- **Lectures on Campus**

"Islam in China" cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

not enough as to cause the group any alarm. In the case of the Muslims, the Communists established Imam Schools and trained the students with corrupted interpretations of the Quran which incorporated the Communist ideals in it. Therefore, when the imams went back to their communities they spread the Communist thoughts among the Muslims. Thus, the group was remolded to accept Communism. In the end total annihilation will take place when the Communists have eradicated the religious thoughts from the minds of its followers. As Muslims we can never let that happen, if it has not already happened because the Chinese government has well established cover-up methods. Surprisingly, there have been various attempts by the Muslims to derail the Communist program of exterminating Islam. Riots, armed resistance and peaceful methods have been used in the Muslims' struggle. Despite these efforts the stronger Communist efforts are succeeding in their assimilation of Muslims into Communist China. The solutions to the problems of our brothers and sisters in China are up to us to come up with while they suffer at the hands of the Commu-

nists.

Current events have once again brought up front the issues of the Chinese Muslims. The Turkic Muslims in western China have been seeking independence from China for many decades now and their recent resistance activities have been labeled as "terrorism" by China. China has signed onto the "War on terrorism" with a plan, to put down the Turkic resistance with all necessary measures and justify them as fighting terrorism. Such efforts show the ignorance and short-sightedness of the Communist regime. Also efforts are underway to populate the region inhabited by Muslims with Chinese nationals who will cripple the Islamic way of life of the Turkic Muslims.

I hope to have shed some light on the lives and disparity of your brothers and sisters in a land far away. As Muslims we are responsible for raising awareness about their plight and can do so by informing those who don't know. It is up to us to do something, because if not us then who will answer for the departure of Islam from China to the Creator of all, Allah (SWT) on the Last Day.

ISLAMIC QUIZZICAL...

1. Name the great Muslim Scientist on optics who is very well known in Europe as Al Hazen.

- Al Bairuni
- Al Khwarazam
- Ibn al-Haitham
- Al Jabar

2. A famous companion of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) visited Yemen to invite the people over there to Islam. Please name him.

- Ali
- Umar
- Zaid
- None of the above

3. Holy Quran is divided into 30 Surahs. Name the shortest Surah (chapter) of all?

- Ikhlas
- Baqarah
- Fatiha
- Kauthar

QUMSA MEETING INFORMATION

This year all QUMSA meeting will be held in the Musallah (JDUC Rm. 232). Meetings will hopefully last no more than 2 hours and take place bi-weekly throughout the year. Meeting announcements will be posted on QUMSAnet and everyone will be welcome to discuss their concerns.

Also, the QUMSA executive plan to hold regular office hours at the Musallah where students can discuss any issues of QUMSA and provide feedback to us. Sisters will be accommodated through the Sisters Representative as well.

Dr Sir Muhammad Iqbal (d. 1938)

In a speech by this famous Muslim philosopher, as recorded in a weekly paper, the following exchange took place:

"[Dr Iqbal said:] Islam shall never be overcome, but shall triumph.

"Someone objected at this to ask how it could triumph while in the slavery of the British.

"Dr Iqbal replied: Don't you know that the parallel of the Tartars is being revived today? The very nation under whose rule we live shall become Muslim. A living proof of this is that Lord Headley is among us. The powers of Islam are not limited. There was an age of the sword. Today it is the age of the pen. It attacks from within and without, and compels you from every angle to accept it."

(*Paigham Sulh*, 4 January 1928)

This is a twice a semester QUMSA Publication. All submissions require approval of the Selection committee which uses the QUMSA net guidelines to select articles for publication.

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If you would like to submit an article or would like to help out in the upcoming newsletter, please e-mail 0ah9@qlink.

Newsletter Staff:

- Ayaz Hyder
- Mahir Hasan
- Shariq Lodhi
- Israr Ahmed
- Aadil Mamuji
- Maimoon Sahi
- Sadiya Kukaswadia

Events

QUMSA EVENTS:

- **Sunday (Sept. 8th):**
Meeting in the musallah for all Brothers to discuss what social, outdoor, and educational events you may want to organize. **Participation is crucial.**
- **Saturday (Sept. 21st):**
1000 Island Boat Cruise. *Please sign up, if interested in going, with Vajid Khan at vajid@canada.com*
- **Coming Soon:**
Islam Awareness Month. More details to follow.
- **Coming Soon:**
Semi-Formal Dinner. This event can have an elegant flair to it, complete with guest speaker and snazzy environment. Stay posted for this special event in the near future.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- **Saturday (Sept. 14th):**
Community Dinner at the Islamic Center of Kingston (ICK). Further details will be available through QUMSA net.
- **Men's Qur'an Halaqa:**
Every Thursday after Maghrib.
Contact Br. Hafizur Rahman at 634-0149
- **Women's Tafseer Halaqa:**
Alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
Contact Sr. Hoda Bayoumi at 389-7613
- **Alternate Wednesdays:**
Women's Tafseer Halaqa at 7:00 PM
- **Qur'anic Arabic for Brothers & Sisters:**
Every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.
Contact: Br. Moustafa Fahmy 546-5018

Survey

(please complete, cut along dotted line and give to any QUMSA Executive member)

- 1) How many QUMSA events do you attend, or plan to attend? _____
- 2) What do you think of QUMSA? How could it be improved?

- 3) What are some of the events you would like to see QUMSA organize?

Comments and Feedback

Assalamu alaikum

This is the first newsletter for Muslims on campus in a long time so we greatly appreciate any comments or issues with the material in this publication. Please send all comments and feedback to 0ah9@qlink.queensu.ca. The staff would also appreciate volunteers to work on the next issue. We also require urgent funding support so please donate generously in the donation box at Juma'a or at the musallah.

Walaikum assalam
Newsletter Staff

“Knowledge...” cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

Thirdly, we should know about the Prophet Muhammad, sallallaahu alayhe wa sallam, and his companions. It's by reading their stories that we learn of their bravery, love for the Deen and their complete devotion to Allah. It's by knowing them that we grow to love them, and through loving them, we strive to become more and more like them. This is especially true, when most children nowadays want to be like Mike (Michael Jordan) or Janet Jackson or some other celebrity. They want to emulate these people, because they know so much about them. It then becomes increasingly important for us Muslims to introduce our children to our heroes. Who were braver in battle than Umar and Hamza; who was more wise and gentle than Abu Bakr (RAA); and which women were more graceful and honourable than the wives of the Prophet were? Yes, in these times of increas-

ing technology and information superhighways, it is important to obtain secular knowledge. Also, as a nation, we do need doctors, lawyers and engineers. But we need people who are knowledgeable of their religion first and foremost. What good will it do us to have a nation of professional people who do not know how to make the salah, or to calculate the zakat, or how to perform Haj?

Ignorance is not bliss. Through it runs the deviant courses of innovation, shirk, disunity and hatred. Knowledge is the key to our success. It give us the power to govern ourselves, our households, and ultimately our communities. A nation, which forgets why it was founded, who it serves and what its responsibilities are, by embracing ignorance, is a nation destined to fail.

“We must not forget” cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

We must not forget them. Half way across the world, this tragedy also had an impact. In Afghanistan, a country torn apart by war for over two decades saw more innocents die. Again, children became father and/or motherless. Spouses lost their significant others. People lost their aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends. Families split up as thousands became refugees. We must not forget them. To remain quiet while an injustice takes place is the equivalent of being an active participant in that injustice in

Allah (subhana wa ta alla)'s eyes. To attack innocent people working at the World Trade Center was unjust. The ignorant, highly emotional reactions against innocent Muslims (particularly Arab Muslims) or against anyone mistaken for a Muslims that have occurred in the past year, are an injustice. The killing of innocent Afghanis in war and poverty ravaged Afghanistan is an injustice. And yet, as an Ummah we still remain quiet. Whether injustice is being committed against our brothers and sisters in Islam or against non-Muslims, we need

A Muslim at Queen's - what should you do...?

- Look both sides before crossing the street
- Be proud, yet humble
- Live, Learn, Lead,
- **QUMSA musalla is located in Room 232 of the JDUC**
- We are a community of more than 200 students
- There are 12 different nationalities represented within our Muslim community
- If you are harassed for any reason what so ever, talk to your Executive - they are here to help
- Say no to drugs and alcohol
- Allah is always watching over us
- **QUMSA website: www.myams.org/qumsa**
- Smile
- **QUMSA phone number: 533-6000 ext. QUMSA**
- Volunteer your time within your community and outside
- Pray 5 times a day
- Respect the environment, and all creations of Allah
- Go to all your classes
- Make good friends
- Grow
- Respect your elders and respect your younger
- Be involved

EVENTS IN ISLAMIC HISTORY

800 CE, 184 A.H Scientific method is developed. Algebra is invented by Al-Khawarizmi. Ibn Firnas invents eyeglasses. Paper starts being produced in large quantities in Muslim lands.

900 CE, 287 A.H Pendulum developed by Yunus Al-Masri.

1000 CE, 390 A.H Al-Haytham discovers that white light consists of various rays of colored light. The building of the

to be strong in our faith and not be afraid to speak up. For to remain quiet while an injustice takes place is the equivalent of being an active participant in that injustice.

History has seen many injustices take place all over the world and we will continue to see them if we do not speak up and act decisively. May Allah (subhana wa ta alla) grant us the knowledge and strength to speak up and act to help ease the hardships of people all over the world, regardless of ethnicity, creed, religion or sex.

Great Mosque of Cordoba is completed.

1100 CE, 493 A.H Al-Idrisi constructs a mapped globe and disc-shaped map of the then known world for Roger II of Sicily. Both were made of silver. Muslims introduce negative numbers. Al-Khazini creates a balance scale which is extremely precise and finds the weight of objects within micrograms. (This level of precision was only surpassed in the 20th century.)

1200 CE, 596 A.H Irrational numbers introduced by Kamal Ad-din.

Muslims and the University Culture!

By AB Khan

When a Muslim a North American university or college for the first time, he or she comes into contact with a community whose culture and lifestyle are diametrically opposed to the Islamic way of life.

The culture of Western universities can only be described as hedonistic, nihilistic and narcissistic. That is to say, many inhibitions are let loose and individual whims and fancies run wild. The freshman year itself begins with orientation, which while supposedly a process of introduction and transition to the university for the first-year student, is an opportunity for most participants to drown themselves sometimes literally) in alcohol and pursue sexual opportunities.

This sets the stage for the school year. On any given school day, a student can

choose to go to class, sleep in and skip the whole day, drink, party, or study, all depending on how he or she feels at that moment. Individual desires become the first priority and everything else takes a back seat.

The uncontested reign of individualism is also reflected in the values promoted by student councils and governments. All lifestyles, especially those furthest from religion, are promoted. Illicit, unlimited sex is seen as something to be sought and a basis for building a macho reputation (as long you can avoid



Muslim students on Queen's main campus

sexually transmitted diseases - for which purpose condoms and condom machines proliferate around campus). Homosexuality is something to be proud of and promoted as a viable alternative. Student campaigns and marches are organized against those who dare to speak out and challenge this value structure; these challengers are regarded as reactionary, undemocratic and of course, religious extremists and fundamentalists.

fore, the self is god, and everyone loves this god and engages in daily worship, and obeys the laws that this god creates, and everyone adjusts as these laws change on a daily basis.

Declaration About the Sunnah

by Imam Ash-Shaafi`ee

Shaafi`ee said: [Al-Bayaan] includes all that the Apostle has provided in the sunna concerning which there is no [legislation in the] Book. There is in this book - concerning God's favoring mankind [with the ability] to understand the Book and Wisdom - a proof that Wisdom is the sunna of the Apostle of God.

Included in what I have stated concerning God's command to His creatures ordering obedience to the Apostle and specifying the place it has in religion, is a proof of the precise definition of the duties stated in the Qur'aan, which consists of the following categories

The first category is what the

Book has laid down with such clarity that nothing further - in addition to revelation (tanzeel) - was needed.

The second category consists in what is clearly stated in the obligation imposed [by God] ordering obedience to the Prophet. The Apostle is his turn precisely stated on the authority of God what the duties are, upon whom they are binding, and in what circumstances some of them are required or not required, and when they are binding.

The third category consists in what [God] has specified only in the sunna of His Prophet, in the absence of a textual [legislation in the] Book.

Everything [in the sunna of

(Continued on page 9)

sexually transmitted diseases - for which purpose condoms and condom machines proliferate around campus). Homosexuality is something to be proud of and promoted as a viable alternative. Student campaigns and marches are organized against those who dare to speak out and challenge this value structure; these challengers are regarded as reactionary, undemocratic and of course, religious extremists and fundamentalists.

In the university community there-

Into this atmosphere arrives the Muslim, who may or may not be practicing Islaam to the best of their ability. The practicing Muslim (and even the not so observant Muslim) knows that Allah is the Creator and that the Qur'an is His Word. And according to that Word, He has 'created death and life, that He may test you which of you is best in deed.' (a-Mulk (67:2) Also, He says, 'And I created not the jinns and humans except to worship Me' (adh-Dhaariyaat (51:56). So the purpose of the Muslim's existence is clear.

The conscious Muslim makes every attempt to, while pursuing his or her studies, increase their knowledge of Qur'an and Sunnah, so that they may better understand and apply the faith. The structure of this Muslim's day is around salaah, and this person juggles and adjusts their daily schedule and makes every effort to insure that the five daily salaah are performed on time. Similarly, this individual understands the approach of Ramadaan and prepares for it, again making the necessary ad-

(Continued on page 9)

“Muslims and the University Culture” cont’d

(Continued from page 8)

justments in order to make sure that they are on top of their studies, that assignments are being handed in, that the best marks are being achieved, all while the requirements of the daily fasts are being met.

For the Muslim, Islaam is never an excuse for slacking off, whether in academics or with respect to other responsibilities. As well, the observant Muslim may choose to participate in those clubs, activities and aspects of university life that do not contradict the Qur'an and Sunnah and do not place the Muslim in positions where he or she must compromise the faith. Thus, the conscientious Muslim enters the University atmosphere and struggles constantly to maintain a structured set of

priorities. He or she follows Allah's order: "So strive as in a race in good deeds." (al-Maatidah, 48). On the other hand, there is also the borderline Muslim, who knows his or her identity but whose consciousness of Islaam, due to upbringing or experience, is not terribly strong. This individual is on the 'borderline' because they are pulled one way by their understanding of Islaam and in the opposite direction by the powerful pressures of the university culture. Is it at all surprising that many Muslims who are on the borderline succumb to the pressures of the atmosphere around them and become, at best, part-time Muslims?

At the end, the chal-

lenge is great. All Muslims in the university community have to struggle in order to maintain their Islaam. Those who are practicing, committed and understand the objective of their existence have further duties. They must invite the borderliners with hikmah and understanding but with firmness as well. And they must inform the university community at large about Islaam in the different ways that are available. Yes, of course the challenge is great. But in shaa' Allah, the reward is much greater.

“Community Column” cont’d

(Continued from page 4)

marketing forces. At times, reckless drives for control of natural resources, make us oblivious of our vironmental responsibilities.

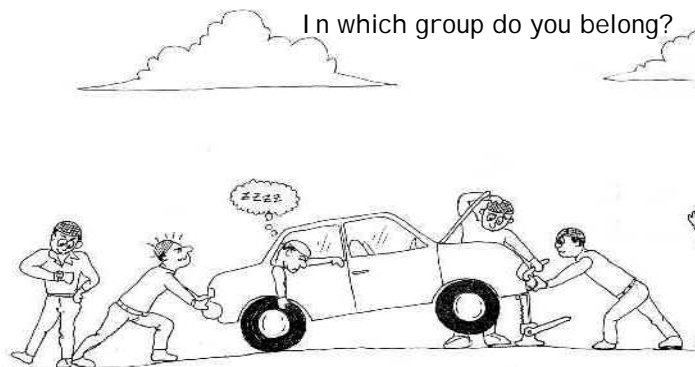
A recent United Nations study reveals that a three kilometre thick toxic pollution cloud, consisting of ash, acids and particulate, is looming over South Asia and could kill hundreds of thousands of people prematurely and could also cause deadly flooding and drought in that part of the world. Pollution is a regional as well as global menace and it if it is not checked, its impacts will worsen over the next decades.

sustainable development was held in South Africa on the 26th of August. This follows a previous UN Conference in Rio de Janeiro held ten years ago. Experts, including many Muslims, deliberated on the progress (if any) made on the environmental front during the past decade. At this juncture, we Muslims also have individual and collective responsibilities to Allah (SWT) to envision the deterioration of the environment and to make efforts to do something about it. May Allah (SWT) give us wisdom to comprehend His creations and guide us toward their proper use and protection. *Aameen.*

A world summit on

Your submission could be here...
(but hopefully you'd need more space)

The Ummah is a stalled car.
In which group do you belong?



By: Tony Tommasi

(based on the article written by Sr. Nausheen) - <http://www.icna.com/youth/>

“Declaration...” cont’d

(Continued from page 8)

the Prophet] is a clear explanation for the [divine communication in the] Book of God. So he who accepts the duties to God [laid down] in His Book should accept the sunna of the Apostle by God's command ordering His creatures to obey the Apostle and to have recourse to his decision. For he who accepts [a duty] on the authority of the Apostle accepts it from God, since God has imposed the obligation to obey [the Prophet].

The acceptance of [all the duties] laid down in both the Book of God and the sunna of the Apostle means the acceptance of each one as imposed by God, despite the differing reasons for the acceptance of what He permitted or prohibited, commanded, or punished in various ways as He pleased, glorified by His praise. For He said, "He will not be questioned about what He does, but they will be questioned." [21:23]

Politically Incorrect



Adventures of Little Toby...

Little Toby and the "Electronic" Man

Little Toby came home and sat, pouting, at the kitchen table.

"What's wrong with you, sourpuss? His mother asked.

"Mommy, I wish we had more electronic gadgets! All of my friends have e-mail, and buy their toys on e-bay! I even have a friend with a real, honest-to-goodness, electronic man!"

"An electronic man?" his mom asked, "what makes you think your friend has one of those?"

Little Toby replied, "He said he had a strong e-maan!"

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QUMSA Executive

President

Aadil Mamuji
7aam1@qlink.queensu.ca

Vice President

Ayaz Hyder
0ah9@qlink.queensu.ca

Treasurer/Secretary

Rami Abu Kamil
9rma@qlink.queensu.ca

Education Coordinator

Hassan Khan
9hrk@qlink.queensu.ca

Special Programs Officer

Vajid Khan
9vak@qlink.queensu.ca

Publicity Officer

Harshad Haroon
harshad32@hotmail.com

First Year's Rep.

(to be elected in Fall Semester 2002)

Sister's Representative

Kirstin Dane
7ksd@qlink.queensu.ca

Brother's Representative

(to be elected in Fall Semester 2002)

Undercover Executive

Roshan, Sadiya, Sajida

General Contacts and Resources

Emergency: 911
Campus Security: 533-6111

Health Counseling and Disability Services

Health: 533-2506
Counseling: 533-2893
Special Needs: 533-6467

Residence Contacts:

Main Campus
Residents' Council: 533-6216
Jean Royce Hall Council: 533-6000 ext. 74254
Residence Life: 533-6790
Residence Services: 533-2529
Sodexo Menu Hotline: 533-6676
Respective Front Desk: 0

Queen's Offices:

Registrar's Office: 533-2040
website: www.queensu.ca/registrar/
Student Awards: 533-2216
email: awards@post.queensu.ca
website: www.queensu.ca/registrar/awards

Alma Mater Society (AMS): 533-2725
website: www.myams.org

Faculties:

Applied Science Office: 533-2055
email: appsci@post.queensu.ca
website: www.appsci.queensu.ca

Arts and Science Office: 533-2470
website: www.queensu.ca/artsci

School of Business: 533-2330
email: Info@business.queensu.ca
website: www.business.queensu.ca
comsoc.queensu.ca

School of English: 533-2472
e-mail: soe@post.queensu.ca
website: www.queensu.ca/soe

Miscellaneous:

International Centre: 533-2604
website: www.quic.queensu.ca

Walk Home Service: 533-9255

Physical Education Centre (PEC): 533-2500

Student Services:
website: www.queensu.ca/dsao/resource.htm

UBS exchange:
website: www.ubsexchange.com

The Writing Centre: 533-6315
email: writing@post.queensu.ca

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the production of this QUMSA newsletter, especially our photographer, Osama Survery, who generously supplied us with loads of pictures.