

Letters *to the* Editor

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King's legacy

Jewish boy won the Martin Luther King Jr. award for best high school prose. The Mellon University and sponsor, President, is said to "celebrate his writing and the spirit of Dr. King."

Living Dr. King's spirit, though, profaned his legacy by promoting what he fought so hard to eliminate.

It is said that Jews consider themselves smarter than everyone else. "I love my wonderful religion," it begins. "A religion that allows those of us who are the greatest people in the world to live at the same time. Once, I lived in this world of security, self-pity, and a perfect moral aesthetic." But the result of such an ill-willed "Self-Choice"

is the purported cause of his disfigurements, which are rightly attributed to Mellon, as a response to surgeries, were described as "genocidal racial supremacists," a group lacking intelligence and reason."

Such noxious rhetoric, which appears on a white nationalist hate site, will be the piece that deserves its place in the contest and, more disturbingly, that a Pulitzer award-winning entry, undermining Dr. King's legacy, 44 years after his death.

They have recalled his opposition to apartheid, his strong support for Israel, and the tensions between Israeli security and the Jewish people.

Dr. B. Jones, scholar in residence at the Center for Jewish Research and Education Institute, one of his closest advisers, and I have said that Martin abhorred anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism."

It is up to the Jewish people, and not the world, to hold the fair name of the Jews – not to be an affront to us all."

A disciple of Dr. King's and himself, he defended not only the state of Israel but the continuing struggle to maintain it. "He consistently reiterated his belief in stating 'Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.'"

It is time to come to the Middle East, the

Torah declaration is not 'anti-gay'

Editor's note: The following letters were written in response to the Jan. 20 article "Two from area sign anti-gay statement." The statement, "Declaration on the Torah Approach to Homosexuality," is posted at TorahDec.org.

How should Jews properly deal with homosexuality? A bold statement answering that question was released last month and signed by an international coalition of more than 200 Orthodox rabbis, respected Jewish mental health professionals, and community leaders.

The document, "Declaration on the Torah Approach to Homosexuality," clarifies the theological understanding of homosexuality and how it dovetails with modern psychological understanding. The statement strongly refutes and repudiates the liberal Jewish political correctness and misinformation regarding homosexuality. It re-states the plain fact that no one is "born gay" and that same-sex attractions can be modified and healed – which is supported by medical experience around the world. Conversely, the false message that "no one can change" has caused untold misery and even suicide.

The declaration was written during a year-long process by a 25-member committee, which included Orthodox rabbis, parents, former homosexuals and others currently struggling with homosexuality.

Unfortunately, the reaction by liberals has mostly been name-calling ("anti-gay", "bigoted", "hate group"), intimidation and even attempts to get signers fired from their jobs, which has happened to at least two rabbis recently.

The vicious suppression of anyone challenging the "born gay" myth has been going on for years and is unconscionable. It is time to speak the truth without fear, say the signers. And why shouldn't people who seek health and wellness have the opportunity to at least hear both sides?

Last week the *Advocate* published an insulting and hostile article attacking the declaration and its signers that outraged many people.

A final point: It's a sad (and humiliating) fact that Christian America sees Jews as prominent

in promoting destructive pathologies, from abortion and pornography to socialism and attacks on religion. As this document has become widely publicized, there's a sense of pride that Jews are publicly seen doing something positive. I couldn't agree more.

You can read more about the declaration at TorahDec.org.

BRIAN CAMENKER
President of Mass. Resistance, Waltham

Statement calls for compassion

As the press representative for the Committee for the Declaration on the Torah Approach to Homosexuality, I am writing to express the committee members' outrage at *The Jewish Advocate's* portrayal of their document as "anti-gay." While the Torah Declaration does not accept homosexuality as an appropriate, Torah-sanctioned behavior or lifestyle, it most assuredly demands respect for all people and love and compassion for those individuals who find themselves with unwanted same-sex attractions.

The declaration insists that the Jewish community create an atmosphere in which a confused and frightened individual who is struggling with this issue can speak freely to a parent, rabbi or mentor and be treated with love and compassion. Then, the declaration says, these individuals with unwanted same-sex attractions who yearn to live lives in consonance with the Torah can be guided, with a combination of therapy and teshuva (repentance), and the loving, compassionate support of the Jewish community, toward a path of healing and overcoming their inclinations.

The committee, which consists largely of individuals who have themselves overcome unwanted same-sex attractions or are currently engaged in therapy, sees the declaration not as anti-anything, but, rather, as pro-love, pro-support and pro-affirmation of life-giving, eternal Torah principles.

SUSIE ROSENBLUTH
Englewood, N.J.

Unfair attack on AJC

In his recent article about the regrettable treatment of women by some elements of the Orthodox establishment in Israel, the *Advocate's* editor, the

It is appropriate for journalists to call attention to problems and social inequities in Israel and elsewhere. Charles Radin seems to believe, however, that when journalists and newspa-

pers of that night, but rather the beauty and importance of Louis Lewandowski's music.

For very young children, hearing this music played on the organ at the synagogue was