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Cleaning up the mess will require nerves of steel. I believe Makgoba is our man! -- *Nombeko Mbava, Cape Town*

After his verbatim reply the week before, the Mail & Guardian gave further extensive space to Makgoba to put his case last week.

During the same period, UKZN was crippled by a massive strike that brought out thousands of disaffected workers over two weeks in defiance of management. Student registration was disrupted and the lecture programme halted. The M&G's silence on these events was deafening.

Though management has now climbed down from its initial intransigence, many staff believe this was merely a first battle in a long war. Perhaps that will provide the M&G with the opportunity to redeem its reputation! -- *Tony Moodie, Pinetown*

Please can the M&G assure readers that no more than 5% of the paper will be devoted to Makgoba's self-promotion campaigns this year? -- *Michael Brett, Hartebeeshoek*

Makgoba suggests that reporting on the Desai case has been racialised. But the only writer, white or black, in print or on radio, to conjure the spectre of "anti-African Indians" or "anti-Indian Africans" is Makgoba himself.

Perhaps he wants to tell us something, but finds it more expedient to lay his prejudices at the door of journalists. -- *Raj Patel, Centre for Civil Society, UKZN*

Why drag in the Jews?

Why is it that the attempted genocide of the Jews is dredged up by Muslims in response to the Muhammad cartoons? From the Iranian president sponsoring a "Holocaust cartoon-fest" to your correspondents Jeenah, Amjad-Ali and Valley, who write: "What would the Jewish reaction be to a cartoon of a Jew in the 1930s dreaming up a scheme to relocate European Jews to Palestine imagining the Holocaust as the way to do it?" (February 10.)

There is a disconnect here: the cartoons did not call for the mass slaughter of Muslims -- they called for a cessation of murder, however crudely. And, more significantly, the Danish newspaper that printed the cartoons is not a Jewish publication; it is staunchly Christian, with a devoutly Christian readership, in a fervently Christian country. So, what's this with the Jews?

Please leave the Holocaust to the Israelis, who never miss an opportunity to raise the Nazi spectre in maudlin attempts to justify their actions (especially against the Palestinians) whenever they are criticised, and in so doing commit a sacrilege against Holocaust victims.

By gratuitously dragging in the Holocaust, Muslims entrench the stereotypical caricature of themselves as homicidal "infidel" hunters. -- *Laurence Berman, Pretoria*

At a time when cartoons have convulsed the world, I remember with affection a "nightcap session" with some of the world's best cartoonists. It took place at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. It was a treat to listen to Cappatte (Switzerland), Gado (Kenya), Heng Kim-Song (Singapore), Michel Kichka (Israel), Salih Mememcan (Turkey), Patrick Oliphant (United States), No-rio Yamanoi (Japan) and Zapiro (South Africa) reflect on their work.

They discussed just how far a cartoonist can go in pushing social critique



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