

LETTERS

READERS WRITE BACK

A CALL TO LEAVE THE HAGIA SOPHIA AS IS

GREAT ARTICLE ("SACRED Wisdom," Fall 2014). As a Muslim and Istanbul lover, I'd like to add a few things. I am a regular mosque-goer and describe myself as a strong believer in the Islamic faith. As part of my belief, I also support the propagation of mosques and masjids.

I will not comment on the political aspects of this article, but looking at the lousy conditions of many mosques across Turkey, one must be seriously blind to believe the government is trying to open up more space for believers by turning Hagia Sophia into a mosque. There are so many hidden mosques, churches, and synagogues in Istanbul that I wish were brought to light and emphasize our multifaceted culture and tolerance, let alone converting Hagia Sophia. I hope our government will realize the value that Hagia Sophia is delivering worldwide and leave this great edifice as is.

BÜLENT KELEŞ (SMG'04)
Istanbul, Turkey

NO MAGIC PILL

VERY INTERESTING READ ("When Good Fat Goes Bad," Fall 2014), but, unfortunately, people are getting away from the basic, simple lives we had two to three decades ago. Things have become very commercial. Big players are marketing junk food, which people walking into the supermarket find easy to pick up and consume. From there, the weight-loss institutes take over: diet



An archaeologist becomes a guardian of Turkey's past, and future / BY SUSAN SELIGSON

therapists, liposuction, teas, capsules. No one is there to guide you to the right food. It calls for a total revolution and education from childhood.

PARSIA SUD
Mumbai, India

SADLY, I SAW NOTHING of any studies to show whether a change in diet and exercise would have the same effect. It seems today that the chemical and pharmaceutical companies are only too happy to find profit-making chemical or pharmaceutical solutions to problems caused by them in the first place. (How much of our food and products we use on our bodies have ingredients that most of us can't even pronounce?)

We are like the experimental rats, and instead of eating foods that have not been infused with chemicals, and exercising, we are only too happy to pay for a "magic pill" solution.

IRENE DELBONO
(LAW'91, GRS'93)
Natick, Mass.

ALUM A LEADER AND A GENTLEMAN

WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE when I saw the article

on Arthur Haake and Ruth Stein Haake (SAR'38) (Giving, Fall 2014). Upon returning from Okinawa in 1964, I was assigned to the Officer Candidate School staff at Quantico, Va. Colonel Haake was my commanding officer. He impressed me as a leader and a gentleman. Ruth was as busy as could be with equestrian duties and charity events. Many thanks for letting your readers know of these two fine folks.

TERRENCE CONNOR
(COM'62)
Beaufort, S.C.

PRAISE FOR BENGHAZI BOOK

I HAVE BEEN CLOSELY following the Benghazi affair since the beginning. I saw the Bret Baier interview on *Fox News* with three of the men on the security team who were in Benghazi during the attack. I also had an opportunity to meet them at a briefing and book signing session in Richmond, Va.

Thank you very much, Professor Zuckoff ("Zuckoff"

Chronicles Benghazi Attack in *13 Hours*," Fall 2014), for writing this book and telling the real story of what happened that tragic night.

GEORGE L. GETCHELL
(ENG'54)
Beaverdam, Va.

TRUSTING YELP?

I KNOW THIS RESPONSE to the article "Yelp Reviews: Can You Trust Them?"

(Winter-Spring 2014) is not timely. But I can tell you that Yelp reviews are not accurate or impartial and it is not due to the businesses that are trying to promote themselves. It is due to Yelp's business practices.

We had an incident with an unbalanced customer who wanted to use her credit in my store for an item four times her credit value. When we refused her request, she wrote a scathing and untrue review of our business. When we tried to contact Yelp to take it down, we were asked repeatedly to advertise with them. When other customers wrote positive reviews, Yelp refused to upload those reviews and again responded by asking me to advertise with them. There was no customer service except to get you to advertise with them. They claim they use logarithms to screen reviews. Their review selections are closer to blackmailing and bullying.

PATRICIA THOMA
(SMG'81)
Kula, Hawaii

WRITE TO US

Letters are edited for clarity, style, and length. Please include your full name and address.

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