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Letters

# I did not advocate harassing Muslims

Friday October 12, 2007  
[The Guardian](#)

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Terry Eagleton inhabits a parallel universe of groaning and blundering factoids. His Comment piece of October 10 (Rebuking obnoxious views is not just a personality kink) begins: "In an essay called The Age of Horrorism ... the novelist Martin Amis advocated a deliberate programme of harassing the Muslim community in Britain."

The essay, which was published over a year ago, contains none of the sentences that Eagleton goes on to quote. The "vile views" he instances come from a newspaper interview I gave in the summer of 2006, a day or two after the exposure of the plot to blow up 10 transatlantic commercial jets. And my remarks were preceded by the following: "What can we do to raise the price of them doing this? There's a definite urge - don't you have it? - to say ... [etc, etc]."

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I was not "advocating" anything. I was conversationally describing an urge - an urge that soon wore off. And I hereby declare that "harassing the Muslim community in Britain" would be neither moral nor efficacious. Professor Eagleton is making a habit of this kind of thing. A marooned ideologue, he has submitted to an unworthy combination of venom and sloth. Can I ask him, in a collegial spirit, to shut up about it?

**Martin Amis**

London

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