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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: HOLLYWOOD STEREOTYPES CAN HURT

Shakir Mustafa, Assistant professor, Boston University, Brighton

Your article on the abhorrent stereotypes of Arabs and Muslims produced by Hollywood was an intelligent response to the politics of demonization ("The Usual Suspects," Page L9, NOV. 25).

Vilification of ethnic groups in pop culture has indeed facilitated transgressions. Those familiar with the troubled histories of African, Native, Asian, Irish, Jewish, Hispanic, and now Arab Americans would most probably agree with that argument.

As Arabs and Muslims, my family and I have been deeply hurt by Hollywood's offensive images. My children who grew up in the United States were often baffled by these images and by the ease with which they slip by even their closest friends. Moral victimization is no less humiliating than physical victimization.