

# Ben Thompson writes letter to Khomeini; hopes it is the last

Dear Editor:

I hope this is my last letter to Mr. Khomeini before our people come home.

Thanks for sharing my thoughts with your readers.  
Ben Thompson

Dear Mr. Khomeini,

The phase of moon that was beginning when I last wrote you has now come to completion. Tonight the moon is full, a magnificent sight to behold. Some would call it the "harvest moon," a time of year when all the summer crops are harvested and hauled to market. A time of first frost when the ground begins to harden and the leaves, though dead, are beautiful beyond description. The entire length of Marietta lies along the Susquehanna River. Along the other side of the river is a ridge of hills that seems to control the mood of Marietta, sometimes cold and naked, sometimes lush and alive, and sometimes, like now, warm and peaceful and somber.

How goes it in your corner of the globe? During these troubled times I doubt that many of your countrymen are concerned with the full moon and foliage. The news we get from Iran is so inconsistent and unreliable that we cannot know what is real and what is not. We have been disappointed many times with false hopes for the return of our people. Your government not only speaks with a forked tongue but with many voices as well. We won't be fooled again with promises that

never materialize.

I just finished reading a newspaper article that calls you a "cunning lunatic." The writer describes you as "hard, scheming, brutal and uncompromising, acting not as a dedicated man of God who believes and lives by the gold rule, but as a conscienceless cutthroat." Obviously you are not losing any sleep over the American view of you, and certainly this could be a biased statement, but if only one person thought that of me it would give cause for a close self-inspection. What say you to that, Mr. Khomeini? Are you so in tune with Allah that even He would look the other way while you continue to desecrate His creation? Or have you lost touch with Him altogether?

You can depend on it, Mr. Khomeini, your day of reckoning is fast approaching. You will discover soon enough that you can push this country just so far. Your on-again, off-again release of our people has fractured the emotions of many of us, but we still have hope and we believe that our government will work out a solution to your evil scheming. Had you been dealing with people like yourself, you would have been blown away long ago. Consider yourself lucky that we are not like you. You are your own worst enemy as well as that of Iran. You have led your country to the brink of destruction.

Even so, one can always change, and we are ever hopeful that such a change will soon take place with you. Despite what you have done to our people we are still the best friend you have, maybe the only one, and that is because we are big enough to forgive. There is encouraging news that our people are about to be

freed. Think twice about how you plan to release them, Mr. Khomeini. Think twice also about having any public trials and holding

some of them back. We will settle for nothing less than total, unconditional release of every one of them, together. Grab this chance,

Mr. Khomeini. Let us be rid of this onerous problem that prevents our friendship. Send our people home. . . then let us get about the

business of rebuilding Iran and restoring peace to the world.

Salaam Aleichem,  
Ben Thompson

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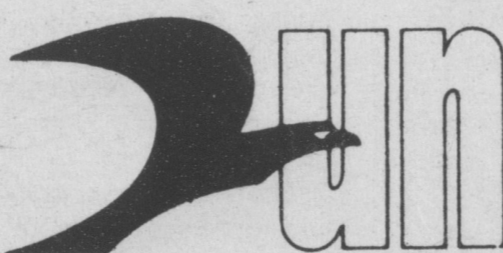


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### John Hayman West Chester Bio-marathon winner

John Hayman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren L. Hayman, 301 North Barbara St., Mount Joy, won a Bio-marathon held at West Chester State College recently.

Participants in the Bio-marathon had to run five miles to bikes, get on their bikes and ride 12 miles to a swimming pool where the finished with a half mile swim.

John's time was one hour, 12 minutes and 22 seconds. He is captain of his swimming team.