

“SLATE” HIJACKS VIRGIN MARY IN MUSLIM STORY

On June 10, the *Wall Street Journal* ran a story about Muslim women in France who have lost their virginity and have then elected to have their hymens surgically reattached; Muslim men expect their brides to be virgins and do not look kindly on those who are not. The next day, the *New York Times* ran a similar story. It was followed the same day by an opinion piece about the two news stories written by *Slate* correspondent William Saletan.

On the home page of *Slate*'s website, Saletan's column is flagged by a picture of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; below the photo is the inscription, "A Defense of Virginity-Restoration Surgery."

Catholic League president Bill Donohue commented on what happened:

"Once again, in a story that has absolutely nothing to do with Roman Catholicism, we see a gratuitous attack on Catholics. Are there not suitable Muslim photos that *Slate* could use to draw attention to Saletan's article? The fact that they didn't choose Islamic iconography suggests not a lack of interest, but will: They don't have the guts to offend Muslims."

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