

## Islamic group opposes 'South Park' creators

by **John Climer**  
 Managing Editor

Last week, Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the co-creators of the popular animated series "South Park," may have finally crossed a line they shouldn't have crossed.

During last week's episode, Stone and Parker used images of several different prominent religious figures (Jesus, Buddha,

Joseph Smith, etc.) as members of a band of superheroes that combine their powers to fight evil across the world.

They may have taken it too far, however, when they included the Muslim prophet Mohammed in their show.

Stone and Parker, abiding by censorship regulations, were not allowed to portray

the prophet physically, so they circumnavigated this rule by first showing the prophet as a large, black bar that read "censored."

As the show progressed, the prophet was shown dressed in a bear costume and later being hauled around in a U-Haul truck, so as to again prevent him

from actually being shown.

To most, representing prominent and powerful religious figures in this manner would seem to be only somewhat offensive, while also humorous (after all, most religions contain some concept of turning the other cheek).

However, a group known as Revolution Muslim didn't find the shows portrayal of Mohammed funny at all.

The group holds that according to Muslim tradition, it isn't allowed to show a visual depiction of Mohammed.

The group has also started an internet blog in which it promotes members of Islam offended by the television program to write their reactions to the show; the group went on to say that it in no way endorsed violence against anyone affiliated with the show.

Although this isn't the first time South Park has stirred up controversy, it is most certainly the largest outcry it has received from one of the worlds largest religious movements and the repercussions from the controversy will be interesting to watch play out.



*The Muslim prophet Mohammed as depicted in last week's South Park episode*

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