LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I read with great interest David J. Zucker's article "What Sarah Saw: Envisioning Genesis 21:9-10" (XXXVI:1, January 2008). I had not previously heard or read about the possible sexual overtones of the word *metzahek*. Clearly, it would explain why Sarah reacted so strongly. Reacting as she did if Ishmael was laughing, playing, or even taunting, would clearly be out proportion to the actions she observed.

In the encounter between Isaac and Rebekah, the Torah states that Isaac *metzahek* with Rebekah. Two people are involved with *metzahek* in a sexual sense. If Ishmael was abusing Isaac, the Torah would have stated that Ishmael *metzahek* with Isaac. Since the account of what Sarah saw does not mention Isaac, it would stand to reason that Ishmael was *metzahek* with himself, an act revolting to Sarah. Aside from this omission, I thought the article was outstanding.

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The ***American Friends of the Jewish Bible Association*** has received a special grant to cover the cost of subscriptions to Volume 36, 2008. Thus, you will **not** receive a subscription renewal form in October – November 2007. You will automatically receive a (paid) subscription for Volume 36, 2008. We hope our loyal subscribers will enjoy their free subscription for 2008.