



EDITORIAL

In place of our regular editorial, below are reprints of exceptional editorials addressing the issue of hate at Ryerson university from two Toronto newspapers - the *Toronto Star* and the *Toronto Sun*.

Articles reprinted with permission.

TORONTO STAR

United against hate

August 13, 2004

A string of abhorrent and despicable acts has struck Ryerson University.

The school's multi-faith prayer room was vandalized in June with anti-Muslim graffiti. Flyers spouting hate against Muslim students were posted last week around the downtown campus.

Now, threats have been made against the president of the Ryerson Muslim Students' Association.

In our multicultural society, it is difficult to imagine that such hatred can exist.

Yet, we have already seen several frightening examples this year, from vandalism at a Pickering mosque to the firebombing of a Jewish school in Montreal. Peaceful and open-minded as Canadians are, people with repugnant attitudes lurk among us.

The very best response to such loathsome acts is for people of goodwill to be vigilant, and to stand together and denounce hate with one voice.

That's the approach the Canadian Arab Federation and Canadian Jewish Congress wisely adopted as they joined Ryerson in publicly condemning these incidents. Their solidarity against those who preach hatred and division reflects the wider community's revulsion, and should inspire us all.

Their decent voices will prevail.

Introducing our Regional Chair



In the first in a series of articles that will introduce the incoming officers for CJCONT, we profile Joel Richler, Chair of Ontario Region.

A partner in the law firm Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP since 1986, Joel was CJCONT's Honorary Legal Counsel from 2001 to 2004, and is a former Officer and member of the executive committee.

Joel has appeared for the plaintiffs in several legal cases involving Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel, and as lead counsel for CJC on the Malcolm Ross case in Canada's Supreme Court. He will also lead CJC's intervention on the upcoming Roma Appeal to the Supreme Court.

Joel Richler

“CJCONT has a key role to play in addressing contemporary antisemitism. Our job is to make sure that the community's concerns are brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities,” Joel said.



Fighting against hatred

August 16, 2004

HATE CRIMES are bad enough. But recent death threats against Muslims at Ryerson University go well beyond that.

The threats contained in a series of flyers posted around campus apply not only to Muslims in general, but specifically to the head of the university's Muslim Students' Association.

An investigator with the Toronto Police Hate Crimes Unit, which is investigating the incidents, calls these threats unprecedented on a Canadian university campus.

It's easy to see why. This is far more serious than run-of-the-mill hate graffiti, which is awful enough.

Some of the death threats have been signed by groups or individuals calling themselves the “Full Blooded Israeli Brigades” and “FBC Ridaz.”

Another anonymously posted letter warns the Muslim Students' Association “your president is next.”

The university's multi-faith prayer room was recently defaced with the words “Die Muslim Die” and a Star of David scrawled on the walls.

As Omar Alghabra, president of the Canadian Arab Federation points out, this goes beyond spreading hate to threatening individuals.

To say it's unacceptable isn't strong enough.

Whoever is behind these incidents is threatening members of a specific group and a specific individual with death.

If they don't realize the seriousness of what they're doing now, we trust the police and criminal justice system will teach it to them when they're caught.

These are offences worthy of serious jail time, not just a lecture from a judge and some community service or sensitivity training.

The Canadian Jewish Congress and Canadian Arab Federation have rightly joined forces to condemn these incidents — anti-Jewish graffiti has also been found on campus — and to call for tolerance.

But tolerance isn't enough in the face of death threats.

What's required is some good old-fashioned intolerance of what is serious criminal behaviour.

Toronto, one of the most multicultural and tolerant cities on Earth, has experienced too many of these incidents lately, particularly aimed at Jews and Muslims.

So far the response from both groups and the broader community has been admirable, whatever differences people may have about issues in the Mideast. In light of these latest incidents, it's important for this mutual solidarity against hatred and hate-mongers to continue.

CONGRESS CONTACT

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NEWS ON THE HATE FRONT

Battling hate at Ryerson University

A chilling wave of racist activity and threats has found its way onto Ryerson University's campus in recent weeks.

Following the discovery of anti-Muslim graffiti at the school's multi-faith prayer room in June, flyers spouting hatred against Muslim and Arab students were found on campus earlier this month. Ryerson's Muslim Students' Association was threatened, and antisemitic graffiti was also found on campus.

When notified about the flyers by a Jewish person from the Ryerson community, CJCONT immediately contacted the university to make sure it was aware of the hate crimes and to ensure the security of Muslim and Jewish students on campus.

“These actions were clearly meant to drive a wedge between Jewish and Muslim students at the university, and create ill will between community groups. And yet, the result was the exact opposite,” said Joel Richler, CJCONT chair. “The statements on the flyers, and the incitements to hatred and violence, are criminal and abhorrent, no matter to whom they are directed.”

CJCONT representatives met with officials from Ryerson and the Canadian Arab Federation, after which a joint statement was released decrying the hateful acts and condemning the perpetrators.

“We haven't seen this kind of racist threat on a university campus in our country before. We hope the Toronto Police take this case very seriously, and that those responsible are held accountable,” added CJCONT executive director Bernie M. Farber.

Markham man arrested in graffiti case

York Region Police recently arrested an 18-year-old Markham man in connection with a rash of antisemitic vandalism in Unionville in late June, where a series of antisemitic messages, including swastikas, were found spray-painted on businesses, residences, vehicles and



Unionville resident Mano Parandian cleans a swastika off his car.

other public property. The man has been charged with mischief, and the Crown Attorney's Office is considering whether specific hate charges will also be laid against him. “This case is being taken very seriously, and the arrest is a clear indication that our city won't tolerate this kind of racist behaviour,” said CJCONT chair Joel Richler. “This kind of criminal activity shouldn't be taken lightly, and we hope the Crown Attorney carefully considers the nature of the crime when making the decision about charges of hate motivation,” he added.

Former CSIS mole Bristow tells his story

Former CSIS informant Grant Bristow, the man credited with bringing down white supremacist group the Heritage Front in the early 1990s, is finally telling his side of the story to the public.

In an article in *The Walrus* magazine by journalist Andrew Mitrovica, Bristow breaks his 10-



Grant Bristow

year silence about his experience as an undercover operative for Canada's spy agency. Bristow told his story a year ago to the CJCONT executive in a private meeting.

“Grant Bristow's courage and willingness to help in the battle against racism and antisemitism, at great personal cost, has made Canada a better place,” said Ed Morgan, CJC national president.

Taking a stand on Sudan

In the face of a continually deteriorating human rights situation in Sudan, Canadian Jewish Congress has urged the Canadian government and the international community to take immediate action to prevent further bloodshed and ethnic violence.

CJC sent a letter to Prime Minister Paul Martin urging his government to take the plight of the Sudanese people very seriously, and requesting decisive action. CJC is seeking an unambiguous denunciation of the Sudanese government; a call for the immediate

disarming, disbanding and withdrawal of militias from both sides of the conflict; and the implementation of measures to protect, assist and repatriate civilians displaced by the conflict.

Last month in New York, Ed Morgan, CJC national president, and Manuel Prutschi, CJC national executive director *pro tem*, met with Ambassador Gilbert Laurin, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, to discuss the worsening situation in Sudan. The ambassador was receptive to CJC's concerns, shared the steps Canada has taken to date, and committed to continuing the dialogue on this issue.

BRINGING FAMILIES TO ISRAEL



Left: The Farbers enjoy a moment at the Western Wall (l-r): Karyn, Zachary, Max, Bernie and Gillian.

As part of the UJC Family Mission, the group visited Masada (below). Afterwards, some of the younger participants enjoyed the pleasures of the Dead Sea (bottom left).



Left: The Farbers plant a tree through the Jewish National Fund in honour of Karyn's sister, Joanne, who died of cancer last year.



Far left: (l-r) Zachary, Max, Karyn and Gillian Farber at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv.

Left: Climbing in the caves at Beit Guvrin was one of many exciting adventures the Farber kids experienced during the United Jewish Communities mission.



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SURVIVOR FAMILIES: FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

A conference for adult children of Holocaust survivors and their partners

October 31, 2004
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Baycrest Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave.
\$36 pre-registration only

Sponsored by:
Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region

Join other children of Holocaust survivors to explore family issues, understand the links between the past and the future, and learn how to teach our children about our painful history.

For further information or to register, contact:
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416-785-2500, ext. 2853
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Registration deadline: October 22