

Free Speech Monitor

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B'nai Brith Calls for More Gags on Free Speech

Once again **B'nai Brith's Annual Audit of Anti-Semitic (2004)** incidents has been released and the press, like so many slack-jawed morons, are treating this overblown document of numerical hocus pocus as profound gospel. **B'nai Brith** is calling for more repression and restrictions on free speech, including a ban on "racist" groups and symbols. "**B'nai Brith** called on the federal government to tighten federal hate crimes laws and urged police departments across Canada to form hate crimes units." (*Toronto Sun*, March 15, 2005) Those "hate crimes units", as we've seen from Edmonton to London to Vancouver, are just political police who harass dissidents, spy on citizens and enforce political correctness. **B'nai Brith** also wants to make "holocaust denial" a crime, taking us back to the times of a state religion, when heretics and dissidents were exiled, executed, branded or burned at the stake. As the politically correct organize to silence Christianity, it seems that a new religion is being elevated to take its place.

You have to watch **B'nai Brith's** methodology. There's been a rise in "anti-Semitic" incidents, the **Audit** thunders. You might well imagine that synagogues are going up in flames all over the country, Jewish businesses being bombed, rabbis assassinated: in short, the Blackshirts are back in town. In truth, the reality is much less dramatic. Only 31, a tiny 3.6% of 857 "anti-Semitic" incidents were violent. Even there, the definition of violence, in addition to actual assault, includes "threat of violence against a particular group or person where there is reasonable cause to believe that bodily harm is imminent." In other words, hot air.

Harassment

The Audit tallies 457 incidents of "harassment" or 53.3% of the total incidents, **The Audit** defines "harassment" thus:

"Harassment refers to verbal or written actions that do not include the use of physical force against a person or property. It includes, but is not limited to:

- * verbal slurs, statements of hate and bias, or harassment
- * stereotyping of Jews, such as the airing on radio talk shows of comments on 'Jewish characteristics'
- * systemic discrimination in the workplace, schools or campuses
- * hate propaganda and hate mail via the **Internet**, telephone, or printed material
- * verbal threats of violence, where application of force does not appear imminent, or no weapon or bomb is involved."

Basically, "harassment" is criticism of Jews or nasty comments directed in their direction. Of course, "hate propaganda" is whatever **B'nai Brith** says it is. It's not limited to the minuscule number of cases where at least a court has made such a finding.

The Audit tallied 369 incidents of vandalism or 43.1% of the total. Again, when we look at what **B'nai Brith** considers vandalism, the report contains more smoke than fire. "Vandalism refers to physical damage to property. It includes, but is not limited to:

- * posting of graffiti, swastikas and similar racist emblems and slogans, at times accompanied by other criminal acts including thefts and break-ins
- * damage to religious objects such as *mezuzahs* on the door posts of private homes, hospitals and other facilities
- * desecration of cemeteries and synagogues

* fire bombing, arson." While we can certainly agree that firebombing, arson and damage to graveyards is vandalism, most of the incidents are nothing more than a racial comment or slogan scrawled on a public hoarding or posted in a washroom.

Homosexual Lobby Seeks To Silence Calgary Bishop

A decade ago, we tried to warn the churches that they were next. Once the thought police had gotten the **Doug Collins** and **Ernst Zundels**, their next targets would be the churches. The powerful homosexual lobby has been salivating at the opportunity to shut up and shut down their critics. **Barbara Kulaszka**, the gutsy Eastern Ontario attorney who has acted for us on occasion, repeatedly warned fellow lawyer **Gwen Landolt** of **Real Women**, that religious groups like **RW** would be next. Intelligent self-interest might have dictated that groups like **RW** join us and intervene for freedom of speech in the Zundel case. They didn't.

Now, the churches – at least those who believe in anything more than God being some touchy feely fem – are on the firing line. The less than candid federal politicians assure churches and other religious leaders (Sikhs, Hindus and Moslems) not sold on marrying Bruce and Barry that they'll never have to perform gay marriages, if that violates their religious views. The kicker is that it's the provinces, not the feds, who actually have jurisdiction over marriage. Provincial human rights commissions have been targeting Christians for over a decade. Christian mayors (Hamilton, St. John) have been fined or forced to declare Gay and Lesbian Pride Days. Men like **Scott Brockie** in Ontario were fined by the **Ontario Human Rights Commission** for refusing to print letterheads for a homosexual archive group. Don't believe the assurances.

Columnist **Lorne Gunter** writes: "Since the adoption of the Charter 20 years ago, courts – and the well-financed activist groups that use them to advance their causes – have established a hierarchy of rights. On this new totem pole, protection of religious belief is at the bottom (right next to property rights)." (*National Post*, April 11, 2005) In fact, strong reason to question the assurances has arisen in Alberta. No less than his **Grace Bishop Fred Henry** of Calgary is now being dragged before the **Alberta Human Rights Commission** for a pastoral letter, no less, to his own flock reminding them that the Church's doctrine on the sanctity of marriage means a man and a woman, not Bruce wedding Barrie, or Nora having nuptials with Nancy. He also invited them to involve themselves in the political process, as the **Liberal Party** revolutionaries, aided by the **NDP** and the **Bloc** intend to redefine marriage. For voicing his religious views – supposedly protected under the Charter – the Calgary cleric now finds himself in peril of fines or other punishment. The bishop is a fighter and has answered his critics: "My rights to freedom of religion and free speech have been violated. Those that support same-sex marriage want to shut the churches out of this important debate. Those who favour same-sex marriage have been given full opportunity to state their views on this issue. But now they are saying that anyone who speaks out against same-sex marriage is discriminating against homosexuals." (*LifeSiteNews*, March 30, 2005)

The Holocaust Made Me Do It

Canada has the native discount, the Jamaican drug mule welfare mother discount and now there's the holocaust discount -- all great excuses to limit the culprit's responsibility for the crimes she committed. "A prominent Jewish spokesman who defrauded an

Edmonton non-profit organization says she was depressed because her parents were Holocaust survivors. **Shoshana Szlachter**, the western regional director of the Edmonton-based Jewish human rights group **B'nai Brith**, yesterday pleaded guilty to one count of fraud over \$5,000. Court heard she defrauded the **Alberta Underwater Council** of nearly \$8,000 between Jan. 1, 1999, and Oct. 31, 2002, while she was working as their executive director. Provincial court Judge **David Tilley** gave Szlachter, 54, a suspended sentence and placed her on 12 months of probation. If she breaches the probation, she could be jailed. [**Brad Love** who only write letters to MPs got 18 months.]

Defence lawyer **Simon Renouf** said Szlachter was 'under a great deal of emotional and financial pressure' at the time because child-support payments coming from her former husband were reduced because he had a stroke. Renouf also cited a written report from Szlachter's psychologist in which it says she suffered depression as a result of her parents being survivors of the Holocaust.

That doesn't sit well with **Tom Davies**, the president of the **Alberta Underwater Council**, the governing body for underwater sporting activities in Alberta. 'That's pretty hard to eat for me,' said Davies yesterday. 'That to me is a real cop-out,' he said. 'I find it hard to believe that she would blame her crime on being the child of Holocaust survivors.' Davies said the theft caused the volunteer organization a lot of hardship, including making them unable to fund the 2002 underwater hockey world championship in Calgary. The council has also launched a civil lawsuit against Szlachter, alleging she actually stole closer to \$40,000, and seeking the balance between that number and the \$7,927.43 she repaid in court yesterday.

Crown prosecutor **Joan Blaine** told court Szlachter's duties with the council included running the office, paying bills and keeping track of gaming accounts. In October 2002, she was let go due to 'poor work performance,' and a review of the books revealed she had been writing herself extra cheques for unauthorized items. The cheques were made out to cash and the money went into her personal bank account, said Blaine. As well, Szlachter made numerous long-distance calls on the office phone, bought furniture from **Office Depot** which she used in her home, and billed the council for a water cooler in her home as well as delivered water. Szlachter's **B'nai Brith** office is in the building owned by the **Jewish Community Centre of Edmonton**. However, nobody with the Jewish Federation wished to comment. (**Edmonton Sun**, February 25, 2005)

Cotler Plans to Give Canadian Dissidents the Zundel Treatment

Having successfully frog-marched publisher **Ernst Zundel**, who was not a Canadian citizen, out of Canada, after 25 months of solitary confinement and the abusive process of secret hearings, **Israel Firster Irwin Cotler**, **Paul Martin's Justice Minister**, is mulling using the same tactics on Canadians. "Canadian citizens with suspected terrorist ties could also be subjected to so-called 'control measures', such as house arrest, ... **Justice Minister Irwin Cotler** said [March 23]. ... Authorities currently have a never-used power under Canada's 2001 terrorism law to arrest and jail citizens, with a judge's approval, if they have grounds to believe the detention would prevent an imminent terrorist attack. But adding so-called control measures such as house arrest and electronic ankle bracelets would expand the arsenal available to deal with terror suspects who are Canadian citizens when there is not enough evidence to convict them of a crime." (**Globe and Mail**, March 24, 2005) As we've seen in the Zundel case, "terrorist" has been stretched to mean a dissident with no history of violence. Mr. Zundel was alleged to be a "terrorist" and, therefore, a threat to national security.

You Don't Say

George Orwell repeatedly explored themes of words criminalized or withdrawn from circulation to deprive people of the tools to express troublesome ideas. If you're paying attention, you already know that Ottawa prefers *migrant* to *immigrant*, a term verging (or so the brain trust on the Rideau believes) on the abusive, while *migrant* is freighted with pathos (gnarled, weather-beaten hands of the exploited migrant worker) and connotations of natural law (majestic herds of migratory caribou sweep across the tundra). Canadian officialdom has come to regret the rather silly appellation *visible minority* (we've always disliked a term that presupposes an *invisible majority*). *Coloured people* is patronizing or worse, but *people of colour* is an inoffensive modernism, if you can overlook the impossibly awkward construction. The revision of terminologies is old hat, or do we mean *ancienne chapeau*? *DP* was official post-war terminology for a displaced person, until officials changed their minds. *WOP*, vaguely recalled now as a shockingly abusive slur, was likewise official terminology for *Without Papers*, until officials again changed their minds. The point, if it is possible to focus on one as the political quicksand pulls you under, is that a nation so stunningly susceptible to rewrites should be the last place on earth to level the **Criminal Code** at people expressing last month's perfectly acceptable sentiment.

Send "Scurillous Mail" to an MPP, and You Go to Jail?

Mr. Brad Love, my client, is in jail awaiting trial. He has been in custody since March 2, 2005. His crime: allegedly sending non-threatening racist letters, mainly to **MPPs**, complaining about crime and immigration policy. He was denied bail [March 10.] Mr. Love, who is 46 years old and is steadily employed as a construction worker, is charged with multiple counts of violating his probation for sending non-threatening mail containing expressions of political opinions on issues such as crime and immigration policy (albeit racist and disgusting opinions) to politicians (primarily **MPPs**) and to the **Canadian Jewish Congress**. None of the contents of any of the mail was threatening. Mr. Love is not accused of telephoning anyone or personally contacting anyone or doing anything apart from sending mail. The mail in question dates back to June 7, 2004 and continues up to February 2005, during which time Mr. Love was at large and nothing happened apart from more non-threatening mail being sent. There are real issues as to whether Mr. Love violated the relevant term of his probation, which reads "not to communicate, publish or disseminate material in the nature of that which is the subject matter of these convictions: i.e. scurrilous or hateful messages". The probation term was imposed on July 28, 2003 because of earlier non-threatening mail sent by Mr. Love, for which he was convicted, *inter alia*, of multiple counts of wilful promotion of hatred; There are real triable issues as to whether the non-threatening mail in question was "scurrilous" or "hateful", whether Mr. Love believed it to be "scurrilous" or "hateful" and whether this term of his probation was unconstitutional as a violation of Mr. Love's freedom of expression. Mr. Love is also now charged with criminal harassment of **Mr. Len Rudner of Canadian Jewish Congress** for alleging sending 8 pieces of mail to the **Canadian Jewish Congress**, which mail was opened by or passed on to Mr. Rudner, which mail was not addressed to Mr. Rudner and which mail did not refer at all to Mr. Rudner (it does not appear to be suggested that Mr. Love even knew of Mr. Rudner's existence). There are thus real triable issues as to whether Mr. Love criminally harassed Mr. Rudner. Mr. Love has never been found guilty of failing to appear in court or of failing to comply with bail and he is not currently on bail for any other charges. -- **Peter Lindsay, B.A., LL.B.** After nearly seven weeks in prison for writing letters to elected officials, Canada's second most famous political prisoner will be seeking bail, April 22.