



# RUTGERS

THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY

Richard L. McCormick, President

April 11, 2012

Mr. Morton A. Klein  
National President  
Zionist Organization of America  
Jacob and Libby Goodman ZOA House  
4 East 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10016

Dear Mr. Klein:

I received your April 4 letter regarding an article falsely attributed to Aaron Marcus that appeared in a student publication called the Medium. I read the article and found it to be inappropriate, and particularly despicable given Mr. Marcus's Jewish heritage. No individual student should be subject to such a vicious, provocative, and hurtful piece, regardless of whether the First Amendment protections apply to such expression. On Friday April 6, I issued a public condemnation of the article published by the Medium; my statement is enclosed.

As you probably are aware, the Courts have extended broad protection to the First Amendment rights of student publications, particularly satirical publications like the Medium. Nevertheless, the incident is under investigation.

Thank you for expressing your concern.

Sincerely yours,

Richard L. McCormick

Enclosure



## Media Relations

### STATEMENT

CATEGORIES: Students; University News

**Statement by Richard L. McCormick, President, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey,  
Condemning an Offensive Parody of Student Aaron Marcus in the Publication the Medium**  
April 06, 2012

Federal courts extend broad protection to student media. However, a recent article in the Medium, purporting to be written by student Aaron Marcus and using Mr. Marcus' photograph, is extremely offensive and repugnant. No individual student should be subject to such a vicious, provocative, and hurtful piece, regardless of whether First Amendment protections apply to such expression. The Medium's article was particularly despicable in light of Mr. Marcus' Jewish faith.

Rutgers University is investigating the incident as a bias incident under the university's anti-bias policies.

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