



April 4, 2012

BY E-MAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Dr. Richard L. McCormick
Office of the President
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
83 Somerset Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear President McCormick:

We have written to you several times in the recent past to urge you to address the anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation that Aaron Marcus and other Jewish students at Rutgers University has been subjected to on campus. Today, Mr. Marcus was targeted and victimized again. We urge you, once again, to finally take action.

Today, a Rutgers student paper, *The Daily Medium*, published a disgustingly offensive opinion piece entitled “What About the Good Things Hitler Did?” (See <http://issuu.com/rutgersmedium/docs/dailymedium2012print?mode=window&pageNumber=8>.)

The *Medium* falsely represented that the piece was authored by Aaron Marcus. The *Medium* went so far as to publish Mr. Marcus’ name and photo next to the piece. To further encourage readers to believe that this was Mr. Marcus’ opinion piece, the *Medium* also deliberately used the same by-line – “Marcus My Words” – that Mr. Marcus uses when his regular columns are published in the Rutgers student paper, *The Daily Targum*.

Here is a sample of what the *Medium* falsely and offensively attributed to Mr. Marcus. The article begins as follows:

“I will be the first to admit that I am a proud Jew who supports the founding of Israel, the safety and protection of its people, and the rights of Jews everywhere to a comfortable state of living without fear of bigotry and persecution.”

The *Medium* then goes on to falsely attribute to Mr. Marcus the outrageous notion that **“history has given the Third Reich and its leaders a bad rap,”** and that there are many **“good things”** that Hitler has supposedly done, including overseeing the creation of the Volkswagen and helping to create the Autobahn.

The *Medium* further published that according to Mr. Marcus, the “**more important**” accomplishment of Hitler’s atrocities against the Jewish people is the establishment of the State of Israel:

The surviving members of the Jewish faith were inspired by these ‘atrocities’ to move to Palestine and establish the homeland of the Jewish People, an event which I think would not have happened without the help of ol’ Adolf. . . . So the next time you are driving in a car, watching the movie ‘Armageddon’ or walking past Hillel, be sure to give Hitler a little thanks. I know I will.”

The *Medium*’s actions in publishing this piece and attributing it to Aaron Marcus, even going so far as to use his photo, is appalling, defamatory, and anti-Semitic. The students involved in the *Medium* deliberately and specifically targeted a student who is known on campus to be Jewish and a supporter of Israel.

We recognize that the *Medium* is supposed to be a satirical paper. But there are still boundaries that should not be crossed, particularly when a student is singled out, named, pictured, and publicly mocked. The students at the *Medium* used Mr. Marcus in an abusive and insulting way to make light of the Holocaust and the atrocities committed against the Jewish people by a genocidal maniac. They surely hurt Mr. Marcus, as well as other members of the Rutgers community.

As you are well-aware, this is not the first time that Mr. Marcus has been targeted and made the victim of anti-Semitic attacks at Rutgers. Mr. Marcus’ life was threatened by students on Facebook. Rutgers barely responded, conducting little if any investigation into the incident, failing to communicate with Mr. Marcus after he reported the incident, and giving the student who threatened to silence Mr. Marcus with a crowbar a slap on the wrist – simply a warning, when Rutgers’ own policies consider physical threats to be so serious that they justify suspension or even expulsion. Apparently, a physical threat against a Jewish student is subject to a different and lesser standard at Rutgers.

Mr. Marcus was also physically threatened, bullied and subjected to anti-Semitic name-calling on Facebook by a university official – Shehnaz Abdeljaber, the Outreach Coordinator for the Rutgers Middle East Studies Center. Ms. Abdeljaber even tried to incite others against Mr. Marcus, encouraging them to visit a hate page about him. Rutgers never investigated these attacks that she perpetrated. Shockingly, Ms. Abdeljaber is still, according to the university Web site, the Outreach Coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center – a place that most Jewish students reportedly and understandably do not feel welcome.

We strongly believe that Rutgers’ failure to respond appropriately to all these prior incidents against Mr. Marcus is what led to the attack against him today. The university’s inaction when Mr. Marcus -- and other Jewish students -- have been targeted and discriminated against has sent a dangerous and unacceptable message to the Rutgers community: That Jewish

students like Aaron Marcus are fair game at Rutgers. They can be targeted, threatened, maligned and discriminated against, and Rutgers will not only tolerate the behavior but justify it as protected speech.

We hold Rutgers responsible for what Mr. Marcus suffered today and demand that you finally take action. It is your moral duty as the leader of the university to stand up for the safety and well-being of Mr. Marcus and other Jewish students who have been unacceptably victimized on the campus.

Is Rutgers waiting for the day when these verbal threats and attacks escalate into actual physical attacks on Jewish students? Please be advised that if any physical harm comes to Mr. Marcus or any other Jewish student, we will hold Rutgers responsible.

You must call for a full investigation into the *Medium*'s actions and hold the students involved in the publication responsible for harassing a Jewish student and creating a hostile environment for him, in violation of the Code of Conduct.

You must issue a forceful and public written condemnation of what the *Medium* did to Mr. Marcus, and demand that the *Medium* immediately issue a written apology to Mr. Marcus, which must be published in a prominent place in the next edition of the paper. Your statement should also note that the university is undertaking a full investigation into the *Medium*'s actions and that violators of the Code will be disciplined.

We believe that an apology to Mr. Marcus is also due from the university administration. Rutgers' tolerance of the harassment and intimidation that Mr. Marcus has already suffered – not only from other students but also from a university employee – is what led to this latest anti-Semitic attack against him.

As you know, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is currently investigating whether Rutgers violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, by failing to respond appropriately to the anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation of Mr. Marcus, and to the discrimination that Jewish students were subjected to at an anti-Semitic and anti-Israel event on January 29, 2011. We are copying this letter to the investigators at the Office for Civil Rights. They should be aware that Jewish students are still suffering the consequences of Rutgers' inaction in the face of campus anti-Semitism.

We are also copying this letter to state and federal officials in New Jersey. They would certainly want to know that at New Jersey's state university supported by taxpayer money, Jewish students continue to be viciously targeted and attacked, and that to date, university leaders have not effectively responded.

Dr. Richard L. McCormick

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We await your immediate response as to how you will be handling this appalling incident.

Very truly yours,



Morton A. Klein
National President



Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.
Director, Center for Law and Justice

cc: U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights
Governor Chris Christie
U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg
U.S. Senator Robert Menendez
U.S. Representative Robert E. Andrews
U.S. Representative Frank A. LoBiondo
U.S. Representative Jon Runyan
U.S. Representative Christopher H. Smith
U.S. Representative Scott Garrett
U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.
U.S. Representative Leonard Lance
U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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