

Scanned

Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 10:39 PM
 To: Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca
 Subject: Fwd: Response from Ruscitti on reviewing options while under UNDUE pressure
 Follow Up Flag: Follow up
 Due By: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 5:00 PM
 Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Mark:

Here's one of Leila's emails that encapsulates the discussion between her and Joe Ruscitti regarding his failure to publish her rebuttal to Joe Belanger's piece on the Huron University College issue. I called Leila and explained everything and she says she feels no hesitation with you using it. (she said she completely trusts you) and will also send an email giving you her blessings so you have it for your records.

I believe there's another email where Ruscitti says even more clearly that this issue always inspires great passion on both sides and it's simply not worth all the grief and yet, Islam View continues to get published as did the story on the flotilla participants after his refusal to publish Leila's piece and [REDACTED]

With regard to [REDACTED] email, I will check with him and see if he's willing to let you use it but in the meantime, I will send it to you so you can see that it appears Ruscitti is giving any one who challenges him on this issue a similar response.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Leila Paul [REDACTED]
 Date: Wed, Jun 8, 2011 at 3:15 PM
 Subject: Response from Ruscitti on reviewing options while under UNDUE pressure
 To: [REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Leila (Leyla) Paul" <[REDACTED]>
Date: June 8, 2011 3:15:00 PM EDT
To: Joe Ruscitti <Joe.Ruscitti@sunmedia.ca>
Cc: "Sandra Coulson" <Sandra.Coulson@sunmedia.ca>
Subject: Re: Rebuttal to June 3rd Column "So young may understand, Huron should not give in"

I understand and can imagine what it's like with limited resources.

I sent you some questions, before receiving this, that are hard for me to ignore.

7/5/2011

Whatever choice you make, it's your right as editor. But please consider that my concerns are not merely alarmist and that we may be surrendering our way of life too easily.

All things worth having are worth defending.

It sounds like a platitude, but please consider your role as one in a series of steps in defending the right to hold opinions and to uphold the egalitarian values we fought so hard to earn for our society in general and for women in particular.

On 2011-06-08, at 3:07 PM, Joe Ruscitti wrote:

No Leila for two reasons: I'm waiting to hear back from the Muslim community whether they might also write. I am reviewing our thinking in general on columns by local voices on such international issues, not because I do not think them valuable but because each piece we run (news story or opinion) that ventures even indirectly into areas such as the Arab-Jewish issue or Christian vs. Islamic views so monopolizes our resources dealing with the fallout that I'm not so certain any longer that the service we believe we are providing readers by running them is worth the price.

From: Leila (Leyla) Paul
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2011 2:50 PM
To: Joe Ruscitti
Cc: Sandra Coulson
Subject: Re: Rebuttal to June 3rd Column "So young may understand, Huron should not give in"

Has a date been set for my rebuttal to Joe Belanger's column?

On 2011-06-03, at 2:08 PM, Joe Ruscitti wrote:

I'm to meet with some local Muslim leaders next week and I would like to hold this and reserve judgment on using it until then, Leila. It's reasoned and I have a notion if I can get them to write (they are very upset with LFP just now) we could run theirs and your column the same day on the same page, not to say as a point-counterpoint strictly speaking

----- Original Message -----
From: Leila (Leyla) Paul <[REDACTED]>
To: Joe Ruscitti
Cc: Sandra Coulson
Sent: Fri Jun 03 14:01:33 2011
Subject: Rebuttal to June 3rd Column "So young may understand, Huron should not give in"

Please advise at your earliest opportunity when this column will appear.

Leila Paul
[REDACTED]
London, ON, [REDACTED]

LFP's June 3rd column "So young may understand, Huron should not give in" serves an excellent example of what journalism can do. It can enhance understanding and knowledge by revealing what underlies controversial issues.

The headline is somewhat misleading for not just young minds need to understand emerging global issues like the growing influence of Islam. As a 65-year-old I'm once again a student and hope to take some of these courses at Huron. I'm already somewhat knowledgeable on the subject of Islam and how it has interacted with Christianity and Judaism over the centuries. But I'm eager to undertake formal study.

Huron is to be commended for seeking to create understanding of the complex relationships of these three faiths. Politics and rivalries have trod on the sensitivities of their adherents. But if these influences are removed, better understanding can emerge.

The June 3rd column creates the impression the only organizations willing to contribute to an Islamic Studies Chair are Islamic and some of their activities or members are suspected of sympathy or ties to terrorism.

Education must be free from suspicion or political objectives. As a former journalist who's reported in Israel-Palestine for an ABC-TV affiliate in New Orleans, I know something about the preceding organizations that gave rise to those funding the Islamic Chair.

So I'm eager to know what methodical, investigative steps Huron has on record regarding its assurance that these organizations have charters compatible with Huron's educational obligations within the Canadian context.

Claims of due diligence by Huron would be comforting if that diligence is described. But nowhere have I seen any description of what diligent investigations have been undertaken.

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) makes distressing claims that offend me as a Christian and a woman. The International Institute of Islamic Thought also causes me some trepidation. I will be reassured once I see the details of what specific investigations have been undertaken in Huron's due diligence.

Universities teach that contentions must be backed up by research with citations to prove their credibility. If I wrote an academic paper making assertions without evidence and citations, the lecturer would reject the paper or grade it very poorly.

The LFP now can describe to taxpayers and help Huron College report its diligence so taxpayers, whose funds support both Huron College and the University of Western Ontario, can take comfort in knowing the donors are not tainted by terrorist sympathies.

Taxpayers and students need to be assured the honourable objectives and reputation of Huron will not be innocently affected by tainted funds in its eagerness to accommodate a worthy program of study.

Those who proposed the Islamic Chair must be known to both be and be seen to be free of any association with terrorists. Most importantly, they must be known to never have expressed sympathy with terrorists.

Funding should be sought from other sources besides Muslim organizations which may be suspicious or whose objectives isolate their Muslim youth. The MAC should open wide its own program to non-Muslim youth. In the true spirit of Canadian egalitarianism, the MAC should encourage interaction between boys and girls of all three faiths in joint activities rather than retain gender segregation.

When the MAC shows that it's open and welcoming to non-Muslims it will go a long way to reassuring Canadians that its objectives in funding the Islamic Studies Chair are honourable and encourage harmonious interactions and understanding among the three

faiths.

Then, young minds - and older minds - may find there's more inclusiveness in Islam than appears to be the case now.

Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca

From: Leila (Leyla) Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 10:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca Mark Vandermaas
Subject: My consent to use email exchanges between myself and Joe Ruscitti

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Thursday, July 07, 2011 5:00 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi [REDACTED] Mark.

Thank you both for asking me and I'm happy to say that I trust you completely to use the emails to benefit freedom of speech and our right to have access to information.

Most importantly, I think we've got to make this a public issue in order to protect our only daily newspaper. The London Free Press is all we've got. It's dedicated to our community and is our primary source of information.

I can understand that someone like Ruscitti has enormous responsibilities that require his attention and the Muslims harass him to the point it distracts him from other issues. I do not think it is right, but I can sympathize with his dilemma.

I dislike when he characterizes our objections as hysteria because the defence of free speech and information must have adamant and even ferocious advocates. We must never yield and that should not be characterized as hysteria. Efforts to prevent information from being discussion by the public and resorting to hysteria is a Muslim tactic with which I am very familiar.

And yet even that is not hysteria - it is cold blooded calculation to intimidate and enforce compliance with their wishes. It is a small taste of what we will all endure if we do not stop them NOW.

Thank you for your efforts Mark at the mosque. I wish I had the physical ability to be out there with you, but I hope you'll forgive my absence and I thank you for acting on behalf of all of us.

Leila

Information from ESET Smart Security, version of virus signature database 6111 (20110510)

The message was checked by ESET Smart Security.

<http://www.eset.com>

Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca

From: Leila (Leyla) Paul [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 2:52 PM

To: Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca

Cc: Blazing Catfur [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Peter Worthington column in Sun!

I've known for too long and remained silent for too long. I'd prefer to live a quiet life, retired from all that's out there in the real world. But unfortunately, the reality keeps knocking on the defenses of my mind. Whatever happens, it must not be because I failed to tell what little I know. I'm hoping others will come forward from within the Islamic communities.

leila

Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca

From: Leila (Leyla) Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 3:05 PM
To: [REDACTED] Mark Vandermaas, Editor - VoiceofCanada.ca
Subject: Fwd: Peter Worthington column in Sun!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Leila (Leyla) Paul" <[REDACTED]>
Date: July 6, 2011 3:03:53 PM EDT
To: Blazing Catfur <blazingcatfur@gmail.com>
Subject: **Re: Peter Worthington column in Sun!**

Thank you for helping me do my long overdue duty. If I'd spoken out before with the right perspective, as a loyal Canadian rather than a misguided "Palestinian", things might not have gotten so far out of control, for these radical Islamists have been emboldened by a near complete capitulation by those obligated to defend our country and its values.

Leila
