



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

➤ Was PM conned?

One has to wonder about the ABC. Was last Wednesday REALLY such a quiet news day that the best PM crew could come up with was to slake the attention-craving thirst of a pair of nonentities - serial kvetchers Fein and Barnett?

Were we the only ones shocked seeing how F&B were 'featured' on the ABC's PM Report? Of course, as in their blogs, here too they attacked AJN Watch. (We take it as a compliment - as well as proof that our blog is working.)

But how did the national broadcaster allow itself to be so comprehensively conned by these publicity-hungry nobodies - whose connection to Jews and Judaism is almost zilch? Had the ABC done even minimal research they would have realized that the most Jews know nothing - and care even less - about the bleatings of these two individuals - who live on the far, far fringes of the Jewish community (or even beyond).

F&B's sole agenda is criticizing and attacking everyone and everything that doesn't fit into the warped hallucination of their 'Judaism'. Is it PM's role to assist them? Come on ABC, you can do better than that.

Here is a transcript of that PM program with AJN Watch's comments in bold.

ABC Radio - PM Report

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2009/s2688016.htm>

Jewish leaders accused of ignoring homophobia

About Me

AJN Watch

Melbourne, Australia

AJN Watch observes & comments (mainly) on prejudice, misrepresentation and monopolistic abuse of power in the pages of the Australian Jewish News - especially regarding the observant community. The AJN is the main source of information to and about Australian Jewry and often aims to set the agenda and influence attitudes. It is this blog's mission to spotlight errors, expose misrepresentations and vigorously respond to items that malign or defame the Orthodox community.

 [View my complete profile](#)

Recent Comments

Mikey Bear wrote...

granpa, would you like to come along to one of our functions and meet the members?

menashe wrote...

It was their picnic day. The rabbi and his parishioners were hosted for the day by the renowned huge Bendigo reform community - kehilla Sdot Zahav

Alison Caldwell reported this story on [Wednesday, September 16, 2009 18:34:00](#)

MARK COLVIN: A rift is developing in Australia's Jewish community over the treatment of homosexuals.

Rift? What rift? Only in the eyes of Michael Barnett and 2 or 3 of his mates. No one else in the Jewish community gives a continental about this non-issue.

MC: A major gay and lesbian support group claims Jewish community leaders are ignoring discrimination and hate language aimed at homosexuals.

"Major gay and lesbian support group". Major? A group that at best can get a dozen supporters (and not all of them Jewish) to its parades and public gatherings is "major"?

MC: It wants Jewish representative bodies to come up with a clear policy upholding gay rights.

Yeah. Like what?

Alison Caldwell reports.

ALISON CALDWELL: When two young people were shot dead in Tel Aviv last month at a gay and lesbian youth centre, Melbourne-based Michael Barnett wanted nothing more than for the leaders of the Australian Jewish community to take a stand against violence towards homosexuals. But he says his calls for action fell on deaf ears.

Has there EVER been a case of violence in Australia against Jewish gays? Ever? Has any Australian Jew or Jewish group EVER incited violence against gays? Of course not! But that doesn't deter Barnett from his ongoing ad-nauseum campaign.

MICHAEL BARNETT: The Israeli leadership, the Prime Minister, the President of Israel, they spoke out against intolerance and hatred and said you know, everyone deserves respect. Yet in Melbourne where there is the family of one of the two people killed, there wasn't even a single statement from the community leaders.

A 89-year-old great-aunt of one of the victims lives in Melbourne.

<http://jewishnews.net.au/2009/08/07/melbourne-great-aunt-mourns-slain-israeli/6510> Very sad for her. But since when do community leaders make statements for relatives of victims of overseas casualties? There are sadly many murder and manslaughter cases in Israel every year. No doubt some of them also have relatives in Australia. Do you expect John Searle or Danny Lamm to send them all condolences? Is that why they were elected to their offices?

Whv should a gay murder victim be any different?

Single member...

I don't get it. If Rabbi Fred was burying those books in a backyard why the need to troop out all the way to the back of Woop-Woop? Why not in his own back yard?

Rachel W wrote...

Thank you rabbi for your post. Ater reading that article in the Jewish News my husband and I were actually contemplating a backyard burial of several old worn and torn machzors and siddurs which had...

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granpa wrote...

Mikey one needs a lot of faith in you to believe that Aleph actually has more than a handful of followers. Your public gatherings and parades attract very few people and that would include non-Jews...

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Mikey Bear wrote...

The reason why so many of the members of Aleph are invisible is because they are fearful to be identified in the community due to the intolerant attitudes such as that espoused in this blog. There...

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Anonymous wrote...

Congratulations to AJN Watch for an excellent job in exposing the AJN's disgusting antifrum bias. Keep up the good work

great syn member wrote...

Let's hope that Zeddie doesn't create too much embarrassment for brother Jeremy.

George wrote...

There goes kamien's chance. (Thanks Heavens for that!)

George wrote...

AJN watch writer a bully?? Where did you see this? i would say that he/she reacts to what is in his/her opinion attacks and anti-religious prejudice.



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ALISON CALDWELL: He says the silence from the Jewish leadership was symptomatic of a much deeper problem.

MICHAEL BARNETT: There's a lot of intolerance of gay people in the Jewish people. Calling gay people perverted and disgusting, comparing gay people to people who commit incest or bestiality, there's all this language that gets used from people like some rabbis in the orthodox world who speak out against gay people.

As he tends to, Barnett deliberately forgets to mention that the designations and comparisons are not *individual* views, but clearly detailed in the Torah. Religiously observant Jews - and indeed members of other faiths who believe in the bible, will state what is written there - as the words of G-d. That is what G-d thinks of such individuals. Sorry about that. Address your complaint to Him - not the ABC.

ALISON CALDWELL: Michael Barnett is the coordinator of Aleph Melbourne, a support group for homosexual people in the Jewish community. He believes representative groups are afraid to express their support for homosexuals for fear of offending ultra-orthodox groups in the community.

He doesn't even consider the other possibility, ie, that representative groups don't wish to waste their time attending to the never-ending demands of a carping whinging micro-group - who don't know what they want and in any case will never be satisfied.

MICHAEL BARNETT: I want every state and national Jewish peak body in Australia to have a specific, unambiguous policy addressing the persecution of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Jews in regard to homophobic hate and intolerance, irrespective of whether it originates from outside or inside the Jewish community.

And that will cure all ills? Who are you trying to kid?

MB: The policies must be enforced with the same zero tolerance afforded to anti-Semitism and holocaust rhetoric and other hate crimes.

You mean we shall no longer be allowed to state that the Torah considers homosexuality as a perversion? And for the weekly Kriat HaTorah in the Shuls, you will demand that the Baal Koreh omits all verses that the Aleph Society deems offensive? Where is YOUR tolerance for freedom of religion?

And in case you wish to learn exactly what the Torah states about your way of life, you can't do better than attend your closest Orthodox Shul this Yom Kippur and listen to the Torah leining prior to the Mincha service. *(For the benefit of the surprisingly large number of non-Jewish followers of our blog - see Leviticus*

➔ [Jerusalem Post](#)

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Recent Posts

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Sep 18, 2009

By Les Rosenblatt on the Galus Australis

site:<http://tinyurl.com/m5km9dLes>
Rosenblatt says:September 16, 2009 at 2:40 pml expect australia's small Jewish community mainly based in melbourne and...

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[Was PM conned?](#)

Sep 17, 2009

One has to wonder about the ABC. Was last Wednesday REALLY such a quiet news day that the best PM crew could come up with was to slake the attention-craving thirst of a pair of nonentities - serial...

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[Sensible Jew blog unhappy with AJN Watch](#)

Sep 16, 2009

Sensible Jew or Superkvetcher Jew blog ?From Sensible Jew blogStrange Connections: Communal Diversity Under Threat?This is not a story for a single post.It's a story about trying to work out exactly...

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[Fred Morgan buries "sacred texts containing G-d's name and words of the Torah"](#)

Sep 13, 2009

Guest Post – submitted by a member of the Melbourne RabbinateThank you to those behind the AJN Watch blog. You are providing an admirable service for the Australian Torah-observing community and we...

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[Editor of London Jewish 'throwaway' confirmed as new AJN chief](#)

Sep 10, 2009

As we reported on Tuesday, Zeddy

18:22-30)

ALISON CALDWELL: Much of his anger is levelled at a Jewish blog which recently described homosexuality as "depravity and debasement" and extolled the virtues of reprogramming homosexuals.

The Jewish blog being referred to is indeed AJN Watch. (Thanks for the publicity, it would have been nice had you mentioned our name.) We wonder if Alison Caldwell checked us out before making the above statement or did she simply believe F&B? We had another look but couldn't find any reference to 'reprogramming homosexuals'. We would appreciate if Ms Caldwell can point it out to us. Not that we have anything against such an idea - if it works. Of course only upon request. However a far better idea would be to give publicity-sick homosexuals psychological/psychiatric help to get over their mania of non-stop public blabbering of their proclivities and their incessant provocation of normal people. Maybe a brainy doctor could cure this malady and counsel them on ways to live their personal lives - privately.

AC: In July, a Sydney rabbi wrote to the Australian Jewish News, comparing homosexual intercourse with adultery, bestiality and incest.

Actually he was quoting the Torah. That is what rabbis are expected to do.

JOHN SEARLE: If it's a matter that's guided by religious laws, then those laws will presumably be applied. Now I can't say very much about those because I'm not an expert in those areas.

ALISON CALDWELL: John Searle is the president of the Jewish Community Council in Victoria. It describes itself as the roof body of Victorian Jewry. On its website, it says it shows zero tolerance towards anti-Semitism and racism but it has nothing to say about supporting or protecting gay or lesbian people within the Jewish community.

It also says nothing about supporting Jewish diabetics, asthma sufferers or road accident victims. There are enough organisations - government and voluntary - that help such people. There is no need for duplication. Especially in this case, seeing that there are so few of them anyway.

JOHN SEARLE: If we need to rewrite a policy that was written some time ago, we can certainly look at that and if it needs to be adjusted in any way, we can adjust that.

ALISON CALDWELL: John Searle says he's against vilification of any sort.

JOHN SEARLE: The JCCV has issued statements condemning

As we reported on Tuesday, Zeddy Lawrence of London will be taking over the AJN following the dismissal of editor Ashley Browne. "It can't get worse", seems to be the general commentary in a quick...

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[Kamien's \[3-year-old\] scoop...](#)

Sep 10, 2009

Looks like Adam Kamien was running short of his typical showbiz crud this week - managing only 2 smutty pictures. So how does he fill the slack? The lazy man's way, of course. Sloppy trawling of the...

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[J-Wire tips new AJN editor](#)

Sep 08, 2009

From J-Wire: Zeddy Lawrence tipped to be new AJN editor by Henry Benjamin. Informed sources have told J-Wire that Zeddy Lawrence, editor of the London Jewish News, is tipped to take over the role at the...

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[A new low for Kamien's Shmooze column](#)

Sep 04, 2009

Not enough for Adam Kamien that he dedicates his weekly page-2 Shmooze column to the grubby and sordid alcoholic and drug-induced adventures of showbiz drekerati. Nor his recent despicable piece...

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[A keen Hamodia reader in New York](#)

Sep 02, 2009

Maybe if the AJN also had such dedicated and ardent readers, it's circulation figures would improve and not require lame excuses. see <http://tinyurl.com/nn9mlp>

[Ashley Browne: Was he pushed or was he sacked?](#)

Aug 30, 2009

Can anyone make head or tail of this? Nice to see that the Sunday Age is now following the blog.

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vilification of all minority groups, including vilification based on grounds of sexual orientation, sexual preference.

ALISON CALDWELL: He says the council has sought advice from numerous sources on how to be more inclusive and will invite gay and lesbian support groups to events in the future.

Michael Barnett says it's not enough.

MICHAEL BARNETT: Lip service, motherhood statements, platitudes, rhetoric, anything but "yes, we're going to do this and take it seriously".

JOHN SEARLE: I reject the allegation or assertion that inviting people to participate in community events is simply lip service.

ALEX FEIN: My blog is called The Sensible Jew.

(Some may say that it's not very sensible and definitely not very Jewish...)

ALISON CALDWELL: Jewish blogger Alex Fein has written about the issue in recent weeks. She says the vast majority of Jews support homosexuals and describes those who don't as minority extremists. But she says groups like the Jewish Community Council of Victoria need to be more proactive.

ALEX FEIN: It's not enough to say that homophobia is problematic. I think all people of good faith would like to see concrete action.

"Concrete action"? Like banning Torah quotes?

MARK COLVIN: Alex Fein the author of the blog known as the sensiblejew.wordpress.com, ending Alison Caldwell's report.

at 11:45 PM 

Labels: [ABC](#), [alex fein](#), [alison caldwell](#), [JCCV](#), [john searle](#), [mark colvin](#), [Michael Barnett](#), [PM](#)

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