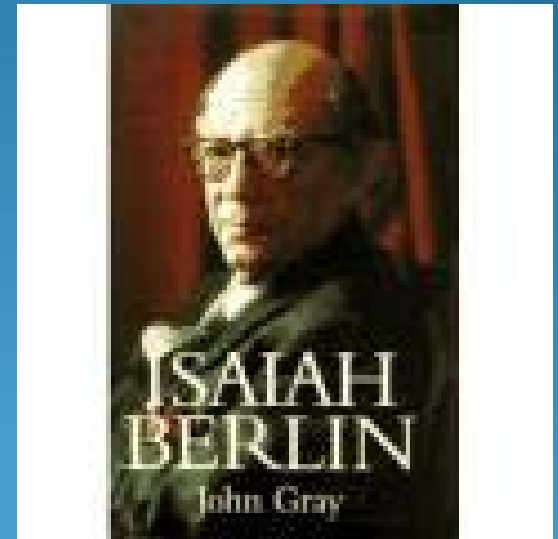
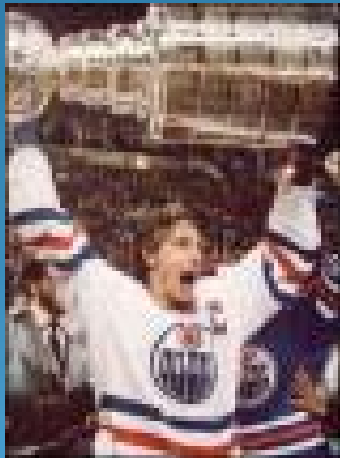


Fighting Hate and Bigotry on the Internet

Raphael Cohen-Almagor

The Internet

The Internet contains the best products of humanity •





Worse of Humanity

Unfortunately, the Internet also contains the worse products of humanity:

- Child Pornography, Pedophilia
- Terror
- Racism, Hate speech and **Holocaust denial**
- Crime-facilitating speech

Lecture Plan

- Introduction: Definition, Line-drawing
- Moral and social responsibility
- Targets of hate
- Practical proposals

Argument

- Socially responsible people should not stand idly by while others are abusing the Net to discriminate and victimized their targets for hate.

Definition

- Hate speech is defined as a bias-motivated, hostile, malicious speech aimed at a person or a group of people because of some of their actual or perceived innate characteristics.
- It expresses discriminatory, intimidating, disapproving, antagonistic and/or prejudicial attitudes toward those characteristics which include sex, race, religion, ethnicity, colour, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

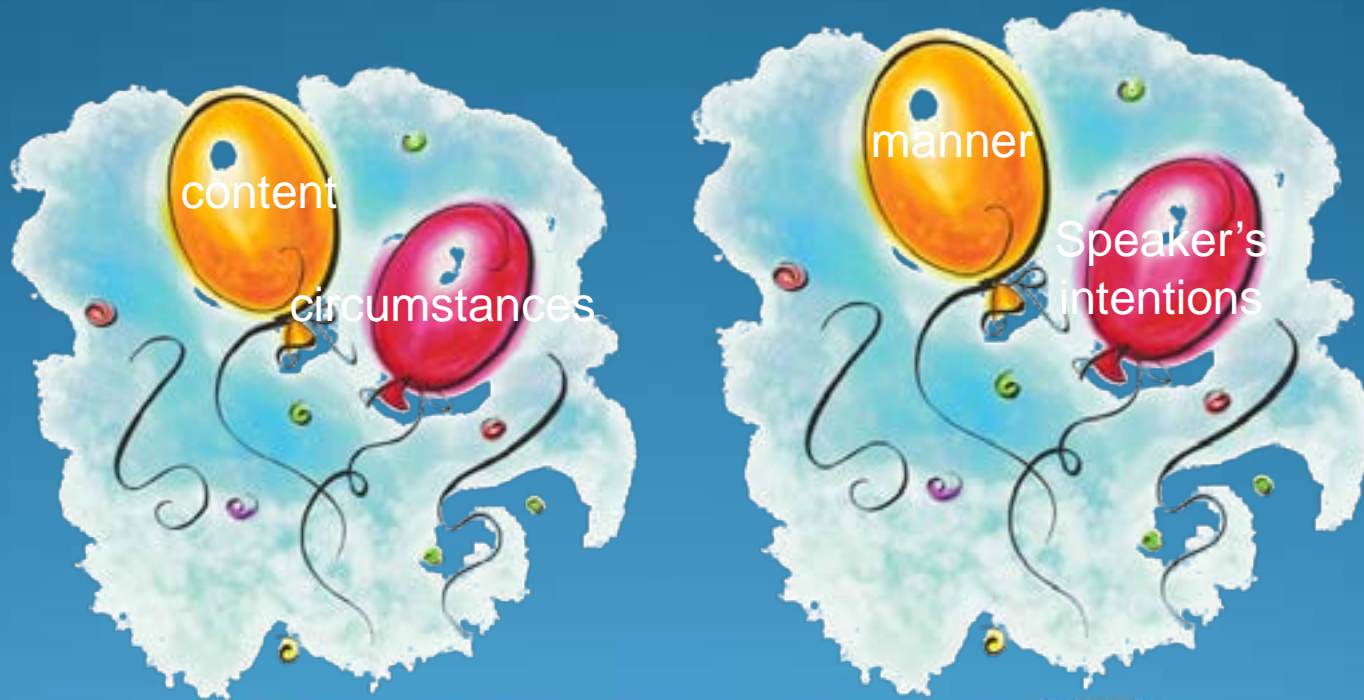
Aim of Hate Speech

- Hate speech is aimed to injure, dehumanize, harass, intimidate, debase, degrade, and victimize the targeted groups, and to foment insensitivity and brutality against them.
- Hate **site** is defined as a site that carries hateful message in any form of textual, visual, or audio-based rhetoric.

Line Drawing

- The line-drawing of what constitutes hate is not always simple.
- Statements that assert “Jews are money hungry,” “gays are immoral,” “abortionists are murderers,” “Israel is an apartheid state,” “niggers return to Africa,” and calls to boycott Israel are all unpleasant yet **legitimate** speech.
- On the other hand, calls that incite violence against target groups fall under the definition of **incitement**.

practical test



speech



Line Drawing

- Hate speech is fuzzier than incitement and concretely more damaging than advocacy.
- Hate speech creates a virulent atmosphere of “double victimization”: The speakers are under attack/misunderstood/marginalized/delegitimized by powerful forces (governments, conspiratorial organizations); the answer to their problem is the victimization of the target group.
- Their victimization is the speakers’ salvation.

Relevant Theories

- Moral and Social Responsibility
- Moral panic
- The "democratic Catch"
- Incitement
- True threats
- Intimidation

Relevant Factors

- History
- Culture
- Morality
- Law

Moral and Social Responsibility

- In moral responsibility, the personal responsibility of the agent to conscience is at issue, with appeals to moral consideration.
- Social responsibility relates to the societal implications of a given conduct.

Aristotle

- If one is acting out of coercion one cannot be held responsible for one's deeds.
- One is responsible when one is informed, aware of what one does, and capable to make decisions.
- A decision is a particular kind of desire resulting from free deliberation, one that expresses the agent's conception of what is good.
- Choice is important, to have desirable ends and relevant means to pursue the end.

Aristotle

- One is an apt candidate for praise or blame if and only if the action and/or disposition is voluntary.
- A voluntary action or trait has two distinctive features: the action or trait must have its origin in the agent. That is, it must be up to the agent whether to perform that action or possess the trait — it cannot be compelled externally.
- And the agent must be aware of what it is she is doing or bringing about.

Moral Responsibility

- Thus, by moral responsibility it is meant that autonomous agents have the understanding of the options before them, have access to evidence required for making judgments about the benefits and hazards of each option, and able to weigh the relative value of the consequences of their choice.

Social Responsibility

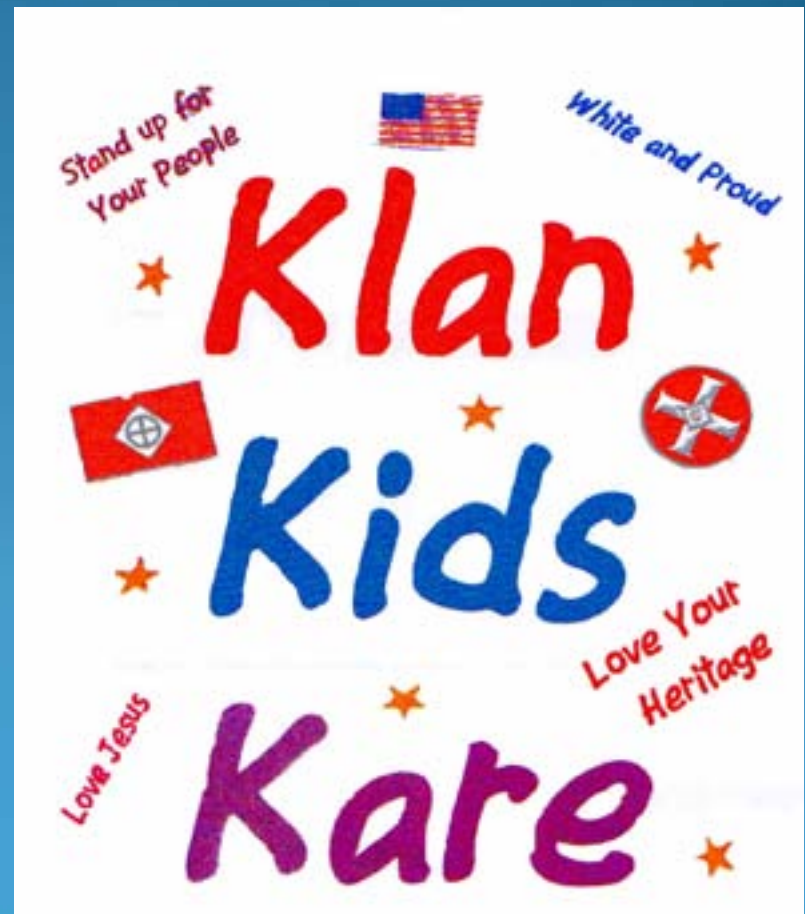
- The accompanying concept of social responsibility refers to the responsibility of individuals, groups, corporations and governments to society.
- People are not islands to themselves. We live within a community and have some responsibilities to it.
- The responsibilities are positive and negative.
- We have a responsibility to better the society in which we live, and a responsibility to refrain from acting in a way that knowingly might harm our community.

Social Responsibility

- There are many ways to better society but the responsibility is always ethical in nature.
- We are rewarded by the social framework in which we live, we care about society, would like to maintain it and to contribute to it.
- The contribution is proactive.
- We take active steps to do good and to avoid harm.
- We care for one another, communicate with respect and do not stand idly by while seeing that others might be in danger.
- Both the private and the public sector are morally accountable.

Racism

- Thousands of racist and hateful sites



Stormfront

- The story of hate on the World Wide Web began on January 11, 1995 when **Don Black** established his **Stormfront** site.
- **Black** said: “The Internet is that opportunity we’ve been looking for ... We never were able to reach the audience that we can now so easily and inexpensively”.
- By 1997, **Black**’s site became home to the Web pages of other extremists, such as **Aryan Nations**.
- **Martinlutherking.org**.

Religion

- Many of the hate sites are very religious in nature.
- Religion is perceived as the rock around which life should be organized.
- Religion provides the answer, indeed the only answer. The argument is that we have little choice in making decisions as everything has already been decided for us by God.
- It is far better to trust the consistent and enlightened almighty who knows all than to trust reason of fallible humans.

Targets

- The Afro-Americans are depicted as the enemy.
- They are brutal, primitive, biologically inferior whose presence represents a corrosive element for the whole American society.
- In Africa, they were eating one another.
- They bring their jungle culture to America.
- They are referred to as niggers, “mud people,” source of social pollution and cultural decadence which clashes with the ethnic, civil and economic superiority of the whites.

Targets

- Some of the anti-Black sites are also anti-immigration (especially Latino), and anti-Muslim.
- Minorities endanger the position of whites in the United States.
- They increase their numbers by tempting white women.
- **Interracial marriage** is one of the ideas, arguably *the* idea that most upsets racists on the Internet and is likely to drive them too advocate anti-Black hate crime.

Targets

- A second hated group on the Net is the homosexuals.
- They are portrayed as seeking to sexually trap young white males.
- Gay behaviour is as contradictory to nature, perverted, sinful, morally abominable, threatens to undermine the religious values of the white community.
- Homosexuals do not reproduce and thus threaten the survival of their own race.
- They spread contagious and deadly diseases and are no less than angles of death.
- They should be hunted down in the same way witches were once hunted in Europe.

Targets

- The third most hated group is the conspirators, i.e. the Jews.
- The Jews are situated in power positions in society.
- The Jews are united by a secret pact to set in motion a global conspiracy to rule the world.
- The Jews lie in order to achieve this aim and are successful in brainwashing the minds of Christian-Americans. They control the academia, the media, the banks, MTV, the feminists.
- There are sites to educate you how Jews look like, their power, how they control America and the world (**ZOG**=Zionist Occupied Government).

Use of Internet by Hate

Mongers

- Providing Information (English, German, other languages, according to the audience)
- Facilitation – like us, racists use the Internet to organize their travel, to communicate, to find information.
- Seeking Legitimacy
- Propaganda – use of cameras, chat rooms;
- Seeking support

Use of Internet by Hate

Mongers

- Socialization and motivation - use chatrooms to create virtual community, and motivate people to take violent actions against the “other”.
- Instructions and online manuals
- Planning of meetings, activities and coordination
- Raising cash
- Recruitment

From Speech to Action

- Three Aryan supremacists, **Benjamin Smith**, **Richard Baumhammers**, and **James W. von Brunn** who in 1999, 2000 and 2009 respectively went on racially motivated shooting sprees after being exposed (**von Brunn** also contributed) to Internet racial propaganda.
- **Smith** regularly visited the **World Church of the Creator** website, a notorious racist and hateful organization.
- He said: "It wasn't really 'til I got on the Internet, read some literature of these groups that... it really all came together."

The Zundelsite

- “Women Dined and Danced in Auschwitz”
- No gas chambers ever existed
- People died in WWII, some were Germans, some Jews



Racism & Holocaust Denial

- In Canada, the Zundelsite and other hateful sites were shut down.
- Is law the appropriate way to fight against such speech?
- Education?
- What about accessing such material in libraries and schools?
- The importance of historical context

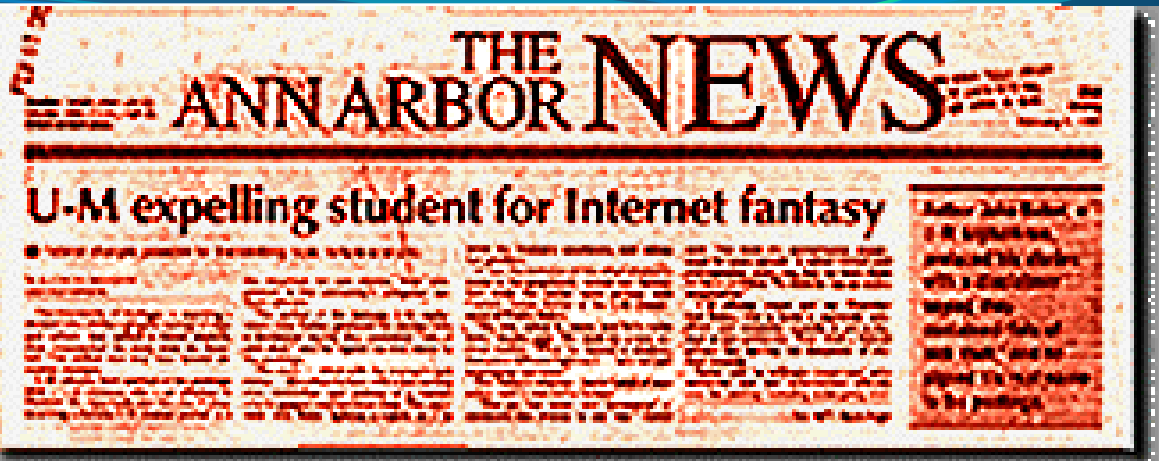
Historical Context and National Boundaries

- **Yahoo!** maintained auction sites via which third parties offered, among other items, Nazi memorabilia for sale.
- In 2000, anti-hate campaigners based in France commenced legal proceedings against **Yahoo!**, alleging violation of French penal laws prohibiting the public display of Nazi “uniforms, insignia or emblems” within French borders.
- The Supreme Court of Paris asserted jurisdiction over **Yahoo!** because its auction sites could be accessed in France;
- The court ruled that the US company must “take such measures as will dissuade and render impossible” access to auction sites selling Nazi paraphernalia and any other sites containing pro-Nazi propaganda, and awarded civil damages to the organizations that instigated the action.

American Legal Boundaries

- True Threats, intimidation
- Incitement to murder
- How the Internet is used to scare people?
- Case law

Date: Fri, 20 Sep 1996 10:58:
From: "Mother Fucker (Hates



Grand jury sets
new indictments
against writer

By STEPHEN CAN
what then again

Internet sex fantasy writer Jake Baker was indicted
by a federal grand jury in Detroit late Wednesday on
five separate counts that he "knowingly transmitted
communications in interstate and foreign commerce
containing a threat to injure another person."

The detailed new charges,
which replace a one-count grand
jury indictment issued Feb. 15,
only rely on a series of private
computer e-mail messages trans-
mitted between Baker and a Cana-
dian resident who uses the pen-
name of "McClur Gorda."



BAKER

Gorda, who the FBI has not
been able to identify, also was
named on three of the counts in
the indictment. He is believed to
be a university student from On-
tario.

Baker, 21, a suspended University of Michigan soph-
omore who is currently living at home with his mother
in Boardman, Ohio, is scheduled to be arraigned in
front of U.S. District Judge Anne Colby in Detroit at 1
p.m. March 24.

The superseding indictment represents the U.S. Jus-
tice Department's attempt both to refine its charges to

See BAKER, Back Page

to pr
Shit

me, l

h more popular campus. You are responsible for ALL the
pus. YOU are responsible for the campus being all dirt.
E. That's why I want you and your stupid ass comrades to
F you don't I will hunt all of you down and Kill your stupid
I personally will make it my life career [sic] to find and kill
personally. OK?????? That's how determined I am.

Fucker (Asian Hater)



Shutting Down Websites

Jouhari v. Wilson

- *US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, Jouhari and Pilar Horton v. Ryan Wilson and ALPHA HQ, July 19, 2000*



Jouhari

- Next to Jouhari's picture, the **ALPHA HQ** website stated, "Traitors like this should beware, for in our day, they will hung from the neck from the nearest tree or lamp post."
- The website referred to Jouhari's daughter as "mongrel," listed various types of guns, information where to obtain various weapons, and provided a bomb recipe under the picture of Jouhari's office.

<http://www.hud.gov/utilities/intercept.cfm?/offices/oalj/cases/fha/pdf/wilson.pdf>

Jouhari

- **Wilson** was charged by the Pennsylvania Commonwealth's Attorney General with threats, harassment, and ethnic intimidation.
- The site was removed from the Internet, and the court issued an injunction against the defendant and his organization barring them from displaying certain messages on the Internet.

Planned Parenthood v. American Coalition of Life Activists



Legitimate v. Illegitimate Speech

*Give Me Liberty,
Don't Give Me Death*



The Deadly Dozen

GUILTY
OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

ABORTION WAS PROPOSED AS A CRIME FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN 1903 BY THE GREAT BRITAIN SOCIALIST PARTY, AND WAS PROSECUTED DURING THE 1920S AND 1930S UNDER THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT, 1927 AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT, 1933.

THE DEADLY DOZEN

| NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|
| Dr. J. H. H. H. | 12345 Main St. | 123-4567 |
| Dr. J. H. H. H. | 12345 Main St. | 123-4567 |
| Dr. J. H. H. H. | 12345 Main St. | 123-4567 |
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| Dr. J. H. H. H. | 12345 Main St. | 123-4567 |

\$5,000 REWARD
 FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO ARREST, CONVICTION AND
 REVOCATION OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE

ABORTIONIST
 THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LIFE ACTIVISTS
 12345 Main St.

The Nuremberg Files

ABORTIONISTS: the baby butchers

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lawson Akpalonu (CA) | Ben Graber (FL) | Norman M. Neches (DC) |
| Edward Allred (CA) | William Graham (LA) | James Newhall (OR) |
| Kevin W. Alexander (DC) | Marshall Grandy (TX) | Richard S. Newman (DC) |
| Eduardo Aquino (TX) | Richard P. Green (DC) | Mark Nichols (OR) |
| Gostal Arcelin (FL) | Thomas H. Gresinger (VA) | Mario Ochoa (TX) |
| (SEND US MORE NAMES!) | David A. Grimes | (SEND US MORE NAMES!) |
| Carl L. Armstrong (OH) | Jay M. Grodin (MD, VA) | Soo-Young Oh (MD) |
| Ali Azima (FL) | David Gunn (FL) | Tati I. Okereke (NY) |
| (SEND US MORE NAMES!) | R.V. Guggenheim (OR) | (SEND US MORE NAMES!) |
| Fritz Bailey (CA) | Tom Gunter (CA) | Kathleen A. Olson |
| Carlos Baldocedas (IL) | Moshe Hacamovitch (TX) | G.W. Orr (NE) |

Remedies

- **Speech v. Speech**
- Education (like the **Partners Against Hate** program)
- Promotion of tolerance
- Exposing of hate
- **Hate watch**
- **Citizens' initiatives to combat hate – “Coloradans United Against Hatred” (CUAH)**
- **Net users' initiatives against hate (Facebook **United Against Hate**)**

Remedies

- Parental Supervision
- Filters
- Install computer blocking programs at work and school
- Denying Legitimacy
- ISPs Liability
- Provide a uniform channel for user complaints Omit or at least label hate websites from search engines
- Labelling, naming and shaming

Remedies

- International cooperation between governments as well as between governments and Internet Service Providers: **Working Group on Internet Governance**; **Jugendschutz.net** in Germany; **Stichting Magenta** in the Netherlands; **International Network Against Cyber Hate**
- Publishing overviews and reports on a regular basis
- Business Ban

Remedies

- **Law and adherence to international conventions:** *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948); *The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*; *The U.N. International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination* (1969); *The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* (1950); *The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* (1948); *The Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime* (2003)
- **Introducing a different rationale:** Instead of free highway, social responsibility

The Threats of the Internet



From **Alberto Ríos/In Us This Day**

Sometimes, we are brutal and dark green.
We are the fishhook thorns on the wild cactus.
But sometimes as well, we are the sky itself,
That great blue living room filled with endless space
In every direction there is to see.
We are,
As things turn out, the answer and the problem both.
Every day we must choose our suit of clothes.

We are in a border time,
The border between countries, between centuries,
The border between yesterday and tomorrow,
What we have been and what we are going to be.
We are a state of many languages, many cultures.
We must translate this into a state with many ideas.
Let us choose the best from this treasury of dreams.
Let us create a future
We would want to speak in any language.
We should not try to predict the future—
Instead, let us make it, and let us make it our own.

**On the occasion of the Inauguration of Janet Napolitano
Governor of the State of Arizona
January 2003**

Thank you

