

It's Not Only Prince Harry

January 20, 2005

As I was walking in downtown Wellesley a few days ago, I noticed a car with two bumper stickers. The first bumper sticker had the Christian "fish" symbol but the fish had four feet coming from it and had the name "Darwin" written inside the fish. It was an obvious mockery of the Creationist viewpoint espoused by many Christians. The other bumper sticker simply had the words "Born OK the first time." Once again, an obvious mockery of the central belief of Christianity that we need to be "born again."

Now people are entitled to their viewpoint (freedom of expression) but I wondered what would happen if I put a bumper sticker with a Nazi symbol on it. How long would it be before someone from the Jewish community objected to my callous and tasteless freedom of expression and called for its removal. Look what happened to Prince Harry when he wore a Nazi uniform to a costume party. The world was justly outraged. Or what if I put something equally offensive to the Muslim faith on the bumper of my car. It would only be a matter of time before there would be a cry from the Muslim community about religious bigotry as well they should.

My question is simply this ... why is it that only the Christian faith is allowed to be mocked? Where is the outcry against the type of bumper stickers I saw the other day. I was as deeply offended by those two bumper stickers as any Jewish person would be offended by a Nazi symbol. Yet, in the movies, on the radio, almost anywhere you care to look (including down town Wellesley), Christians are mocked while other religions are carefully protected.

A double standard ... you better believe it. It took every bit of self control for me not to rip those stickers off. Maybe I should have done so anyway ... and when I was confronted for doing so ... I could simply reply, "It's MY freedom of expression!"