

LETTERS

A dishonest HRC defence ...

**Re: Hatred Killed Pamela
Waechter, Bernie Farber
and Len Rudner, Feb. 19.**

In their defence of the current Canadian Human Rights Act, Canadian Jewish Congress officials Bernie Farber and Len Rudner offer readers one of the oldest, and cheapest, debating tricks in the books: an ad hominem melding of two separate and distinct principles, i.e., "criminal activity" and "human rights." Nobody argues that the hate murder of Pamela Waechter in Seattle, or hate-based fire-bombing of schools or the desecration of synagogues and cemeteries in Canada, is acceptable behavior. That's why we have a Criminal Code — to punish such illegal actions.

But that has nothing to do with the current debate over the human rights tribunals. These over-reaching, one-sided, ideologically driven tribunals have evolved far beyond their original intent into arbiters of what they deem to be inappropriate thought, as distinct from criminal actions. That's the difference. And it's disappointing to see two experienced, and normally thoughtful observers, deliberately misrepresent it.

Claire Hoy, Toronto.