



Gratz Insider, April 2012 - Story Continuation

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The University's War Against Israel & Jews

A Princeton University professor emeritus accused Israel of perpetrating a new genocide against the Palestinians. The Muslim Student Union at the University of California at Irvine referred to Israel as the “4th Reich” and invited an imam as a guest speaker who described the Jews as the “new Nazis.” Isolated instances? A study by the Institute for Jewish & Community Research suggests otherwise. Forty-three percent of the Jewish students polled as part of this study acknowledge incidents of anti-Semitism in college.

So what's going on here? According to Dr. Richard Cravatts, the rise in such incidents on campus is largely caused by a phenomenon dubbed the “new anti-Semitism,” which is a more insidious, nuanced version of the old in-your-face Jew-hatred. Manifesting itself as opposition to Israel, this new anti-Semitism dons the appearance of acceptability.

Cravatts attributes the germination of this sentiment on some American college campuses to factors such as outspoken Muslim student organizations with radical Islamist connections. He also points substantial blame at liberal faculty members who have adopted the Palestinian narrative of victimhood, “cloaking it with academic legitimacy,” and at college administrators who have failed to take a stand against anti-Jewish hate speech.

Cravatts is concerned about the intimidating effect of this new anti-Semitism on Jewish students, particularly when they try to express pro-Israel views. As an academic, he also attacks what he describes as “the degradation of academic integrity where Israel is concerned.”

Cravatts is on the pulse of this worrisome development through his role as president of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East and as board member for both the Investigative Taskforce on Campus Anti-Semitism and the Louis D.

Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law. His prolific writings on this topic also include a new book, *Genocidal Liberalism: The University's Jihad Against Israel & Jews*.

At the Shusterman Distinguished Scholars Lecture at Gratz on Thursday, April 26th, Cravatts will share his accumulated insight on this troubling issue, as well as suggestions for combating the problem. Underscoring the importance of his message and its potential future ramifications, Cravatts says, "We have a very difficult task ahead of us. What is alarming to me is the level of anti-Semitism. The tidal wave of this pro-Palestinian, anti-Semitic activism is appalling. But we can't let the other side inculcate our children with a false narrative of what Israel is because one day our children are going to become diplomats, parents and voters."