


The Holocaust Historiography Project

Remarkable Nonsense about the Holocaust


Newspaper ad attacks Art Butz



Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg
College of Arts and Sciences
Northwestern University

Department of Religion
Crowe Hall 4-136
1860 Campus Drive
Evanston, Illinois 60208-2164

religion@northwestern.edu
Phone: 847-491-5488
Fax: 847-467-2062



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

February 9, 2006

A Letter from the Religion Department Faculty

Last week, Arthur Butz, a professor at our university, once again asserted the odious lie that the murder of six million Jews in Europe did not happen. His action brings disgrace to Northwestern.

Our university president, Henry Bienen, has issued a powerful denunciation of Butz's words and deeds while rightly making it clear that the administration must support the legal processes of academic tenure and free speech. It is unfortunate that Butz abuses the institution of tenure so crucial to the pursuit of knowledge. His words damage scholars throughout this country.

While this is not the first time Butz has spread his lies, we think that today's context is significantly altered. He offers his remarks to support recent comments made by the President of Iran, whose regime displays increasing extremism even as he publicly advocates "wiping out" the State of Israel. Our academic disciplines remind us of the violent forces people like Butz can unleash, for we know the power that hateful speech can have.

As scholars we must denounce faked data in every context where it surfaces, whether in a lab making false claims about cloning or in a website making counterfeit pronouncements about history. This is not a matter of a professor with unpopular opinions; this is a matter of a professor who has promoted fraud and allied himself with forces of hate.

As members of Northwestern's faculty, we rise to say clearly: Arthur Butz is a moral and intellectual failure. He is not a scholar, and we do not regard him as a colleague. We look forward to the day when he leaves our university and stops debasing its name.

Sincerely,

The Religion Faculty George Bond Rochelle Elstein Jacob Lassner Barbara Newman Rüdiger Seesemann Sarah McFarland Taylor Sara Anson Vaux	Souleymane Bachir Diagne Richard Kieckhefer Beverly Mortensen Stuart Sarbacker Benjamin Sommer Cristina Traina Laurie Zoloth
--	--

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Webmaster note: Apparently, the history department has nothing to say to contradict Dr. Butz' thesis, so the faculty turned the matter over to the appropriate persons in the religious studies department, where so much of traditional Holocaust scholarship belongs.

You gotta love the imagery of Art Butz unleashing violent forces. One hopes, though, that even the signatories of this execrable advertisement realize this is hyperbole.

This appeared in the February 13 issue of the *Daily Northwestern*.

Send all questions and comments to webmaster@historiography-project.org.