

Appendix S

**Letters from Associate Professor Knuefermann
and Mr Franke published in
the April and May 2000 issues of *Nexus***

A. Professor Knuefermann

About two years ago a staff member raised with me allegations of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial on the part of Mr Kupka, a student in our Department. Given the seriousness of the allegations I immediately asked for relevant documentation. Following repeated requests some two pages of evidence were eventually produced. They did, however, not substantiate the allegations made.

At that point I referred the matter to the Dean of Humanities for further investigation. I made it clear that given my role as likely future supervisor of the candidate I wanted justice not only to be done, but also seen to be done: For that reason I would not want to be part of the Dean's Committee, and I would abide by the findings of his investigation. The Dean, after considering the two pages of evidence supplied to him by the staff member, concluded that the candidate could not be prevented from pursuing his studies on the grounds of the evidence produced.

A number of staff then raised the issue with the Campus Mediator, who in turn took the matter to the NZ Human Rights Commission. On that occasion substantial additional material was submitted by the complainants. It is my understanding, that the Commission on its part referred the matter to the Race Relations Office. You will be aware of their assessment. The University's final report was based on this assessment, and it recommended that the candidate be allowed to proceed with his research.

My position has at all times been transparent and in compliance with University policy and procedures. All parties did have the opportunity to present their evidence and due processes were observed. It is my view that any disagreement with the final report of the Race Relations Office, which formed the basis of the University's response, should similarly be resolved through due process.

Response to professor's statement

Dear Editor

It was with considerable surprise that I read Assoc. Prof Knuefermann's public statement about the Kupka case in Nexus VI, 2000, in which he claims that "some two pages of evidence" were produced to him as evidence of Kupka's anti-Semitic internet postings. I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight.

More than two years ago, I fully informed Assoc. Prof. Knuefermann about Kupka's views, recently judged as anti-Semitic and "revisionist" holocaust denying by international experts. I provided him with written copies of a sample of Kupka's statements and wrote letters of concern in which I included examples of Kupka's internet statements and provided the message IDs of his postings.

These details would have given Assoc. Prof Knuefermann the means to access more than 150 pages of Kupka's statements, including his defamation of the Nobel Peace Prize winner and sole survivor of an entire family murdered in the holocaust, Elie Wiesel.

As late as the spring of last year however Assoc Prof. Knuefermann maintained that quotes from Kupka which he had seen "could in no way be interpreted as even being remotely right-wing or worse: They are utterly harmless comments!"

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