

Eye on Washington by Dennis Speed

Howard students march on ADL

University President Franklin Jennifer was ousted for not enforcing political correctness, but the students are not fooled.

Student activists from Howard University, the most prestigious African-American institution of higher learning in the country, took to the streets and demonstrated against the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) on April 29. This followed the forced resignation of the university's president Franklin Jennifer, in the aftermath of a media witch-hunt that has attempted to tar the school with the brush of anti-Semitism, and enforce the doctrine of "political correctness" in the process.

Jennifer had defended his university following a March 31 television show by the CBS network. "Eye to Eye with Connie Chung" had run a segment entitled "True Believers," which featured interviews with Howard law student Malik Zulu Shabazz and with Terri Wade, president of the Howard University Student Association, which attacked Jews as having been involved in the African slave trade, among other charges. In a press conference held on April 4, the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jennifer contended that every attempt to include different points of view from the faculty and students was censored by the network.

An April 17 article in *The Final Call*, newspaper of the Nation Of Islam (NOI), stated, "According to Dr. Jennifer, CBS interviewed other students who had varying beliefs on the subject of Black-Jewish relationships, but failed to air them. Dr. Jennifer has asked CBS for an apology." For example, Howard University school newspaper editor Otessa Middleton stated that the views of Shabazz and Wade were decidedly a minority view on the campus. Though she was inter-

viewed by CBS, her remarks were never aired.

Howard was targeted since the appearance there in March of Khalid Muhammad, a former spokesman of the Nation Of Islam, who had achieved notoriety for a speech he had given at New Jersey's Kean College last November. Minister Louis Farrakhan, head of the NOI, dismissed Khalid for his remarks, which he termed "vile," but at the same time attacked the ADL for its spying against the Nation and hundreds of other organizations, including anti-apartheid activists from South Africa, such as Chris Hani, who was assassinated.

After Khalid's appearance, Jennifer defended the right of the students to invite him, though Jennifer stated that he personally disagreed with Muhammad and found his remarks offensive. This caused the ADL, and ADL-influenced media, to fly into action, resulting in productions such as the Connie Chung story. *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen labeled the Khalid Howard appearance a "Nuremberg Rally."

Threats that Howard's federal money would be cut, and that alumni and other private donors would curtail funding, stoked a movement for Jennifer's removal. A board of trustees meeting was called to discuss this. Then, four days before the meeting, on April 19, Khalid Muhammad returned to Howard, after having visited the Holocaust Museum the day before and declaring that the "African holocaust is 100 times greater than the so-called Jew Holocaust." This cast the die for Jennifer's dismissal, but before this could occur, Jennifer was offered

the presidency of the University of Texas at Dallas, which he accepted.

The ADL attack on Howard was not conceived in the wake of the Khalid Muhammad affair of March, or of November 1993, but in November 1991, when ADL spokesmen declared in Montreal that African-Americans were the most anti-Semitic sector of the American people, because they had learned Christianity (which is inherently anti-Semitic, according to the ADL) from their slavemasters.

Present at the 1991 ADL meeting were various press representatives, among them Richard Cohen and Eric Breindel, editorial page editor of the *New York Post*. A few days after Khalid's appearance at Howard, the *Post* tried to defend the media from Jennifer's charges by stating that "the nation's most prestigious black college has decided to play host to weekly Nuremberg rallies led by the likes of Khalid Muhammad and Leonard Jeffries." The *Post* editorial also called for a "full congressional investigation" of the university for its allowing the speakers. The ADL's Abraham Foxman, on April 20, Hitler's birthday, referred to Howard University as the "Harvard of hate," and to the April 19 speech as a "modern day Nuremberg rally featuring an all-star team of anti-American anti-Semites."

Though Joseph Goebbels's "Big Lie" technique, utilizing modern electronic media, has successfully ousted Jennifer, Howard students have not been fooled. The 50 marchers visited the FBI and ADL, and demanded that Congress order the release of the files on the assassinations of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King (who was spied on by the ADL), and John F. Kennedy; that Congress conduct an investigation of the ADL and the JDL; and that NOI leader Louis Farrakhan address the Congress and Senate on racism and anti-Semitism.