



Librarians and other hate mongers

Chuck Brooks

IT IS deeply disturbing to discover that the Gold Coast Library Service has purchased, and is prominently displaying, well-known anti-semitic hate literature: namely, the proven forgery, *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*.

It is equally worrying to learn one of our universities has been involving itself in a secretive relationship with the Saudi Arabian Government, especially considering 15 of the 19 mass murderers on September 11, 2001, were from that country — as is Osama bin Laden.

Should we be asking ourselves the question if the expression “moderate” Muslims is practically an oxymoron? Certainly, what we are learning about the activities of the Islamic Research Unit at Griffith University is worthy of close scrutiny; namely their acceptance of funds from Saudi Arabia.

These funds are supposedly to educate Australian and foreign students in moderate Islam — with big oil money — from one of the least modern and moderate states on the planet.

Why has Griffith no Christian Unit on offer?

Griffith's Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor has said he's fine with taking finance from

the Saudis because he previously has accepted money from the Catholic Church and Buddhist groups. But his moral equivalency argument has no merit: When Catholics and Buddhists start attacking our friends and allies all over the world, or blowing up people in Bali, we will act appropriately. Until then, we should concern ourselves with the enemies we actually have.

The Vice-Chancellor assures us his Islamic Unit will accomplish spectacular achievements and contribute to “interfaith dialogue”.

Such bull sessions are as useful as the verbal diarrhoea we get out of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

They are simply — in psychiatric terms — nothing more than confabulations; that is, replacing the gaps left by a disorder of the memory with imaginary remembered experiences persistently believed to be true. In other words, believing in Oscar Wilde's comment on a second marriage: “The triumph of hope over experience.”

The Saudis should retain their excess petro-dollars, applying the proceeds to such dainty dialogues in Jedda, Riyadh, Medina and Mecca — with Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and women of all faiths.

The important point is that no foreign government, and no Australian university, should put itself in this position — to accept questionable funding.

It might behove our universities to follow the example of former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, who knocked back \$10 million from a Saudi prince who had insulted the innocent dead at Ground Zero — including 400 slaughtered Muslims.

Only the unicorn of moderate Islam will explain to its students and the wider Australian community why there is more anti-semitic commentary in the Koran than can be found in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

One does not expect to enter a Gold Coast city library and see hate material, which historically has been a catalyst for racial vilification, prominently displayed as a new book in the New Arrivals section.

Four copies of this mendacious, mischievously malicious muck has been placed in four Gold Coast libraries.

And in the rest of Queensland and Australia?

Our libraries, like our universities, should pursue the truth — not undermine it.

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