A German proverb, Useful Idiots, and the Futility of Reviving a Corpse by Transfusions

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The BGU (=Ben Gurion University) department of G&P has been found by the Committee to lack academic balance (a politically correct manner of saying they did not teach a politically neutral curriculum). The committee gave BGU leadership (President Rivka Carmi and Rector Zvi Hacohen) and the G&P a chance to straighten up their act, including a generous allotment of tenure track slots for hiring new faculty.

My mother always warned me of bad company, reciting the German proverb "mitgegangen, mitgefangen, mitgehangen" which roughly translates (I am trying to preserve the rhyming) as "with them flocked, with them stopped, with them conked"... you go with them, you are caught with them, you are hanged with them.

For a while this hot subject is argued back and forth by Israeli Academe. My take on the subject is: Everybody involved is a culprit of the anti-Israeli anti-Zionist pro BDS (Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel and Israeli Academe) voices emanating from this environment, either directly or by association, by not raising their voice against pseudo academic political actions in the guise of legitimate academic activity … mitgegangen, mitgefangen, mitgehangen…

The futility of reviving this corpse by blood transfusion, hiring new academics with the aid of the BGU leadership, is now widely accepted. The new G&P members are considered by many to be "more of the same". Are we surprised? Think whom will the G&P try to recruit into their camp, their opponents? And think who will be willing to join this ailing department? Certainly not young academics planning a career unsullied by such a scandal.

In my opinion, it follows that the department must be closed down, and persons transferred to other departments, according to their areas of activity. And what if the host department refuses to accept some of the BDS ilk? Well, this is the problem the UI (=Useful Idiots) will have to solve, because they did not deal with the problem when there was still time to do so.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot to acquaint you with the UI. To be sure, far be it from me to call President Carmi and Rector Hacohen idiots. But in this opéra bouffe they play the part. The term UI was coined by the communist regime, referring to idealistic people abroad who provided help, believing they are doing it for a just cause and in reality cutting the branch they are sitting on (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Useful_idiot). How sad to realize that the leaders of BGU act as UI, and very energetically! Rumors are they plan to sue the CHE in court. Of course, the MALA"G, being an extension of the state executive, can only be appealed in the Supreme Court while presiding as the BAGA"Z (court of appeal against the state executive). Can you imagine the title "BGU versus State of Israel"? Brrrrr… a nightmare.