

National Context of White Supremacy: Campus Incidents 2016-2017

[U.S. News & World Report, August 18, 2017, Charlottesville Exposes New Threat for College Campuses](#)¹

- “Last school year, racist flyers popped up on college campuses at a rate that experts call unprecedented. The Anti-Defamation League counted 161 white supremacist ‘flying incidents’ on 110 college campuses between September and June.”
- “On college campuses, white supremacists and other far-right extremist groups see fertile ground to spread their messages and recruit followers....The rally in Charlottesville left universities across the U.S. bracing for more clashes between extremists and protesters who oppose them. It also left schools in an increasingly tight bind as they try to ensure campus safety in the face of recruiting efforts by white nationalists and neo-Nazi groups that have escalated beyond campus flyers and online messages, and to balance that with freedom of speech.”

[Newsweek, April 28, 2017, The Plot to Paper College Campuses with Racist Posters](#)²

- In late January 2017, Jared Taylor of the nonprofit New Century Foundation (a pro-white group) and **American Renaissance**, a white supremacist organization, launched a “white consciousness campaign” to “inundate college and university campuses with white propaganda.” His website offered 13 tips on how to hang racist propaganda without getting caught and linked to “15 downloadable posters (<https://www.amren.com/printable-posters>) that co-opt some of the most powerful images of the 20th century.”
- Since fall 2016, white supremacist groups have put up flyers and posters on 90+ college campuses in 32 states, according to the Anti-Defamation League. The ADL found 126 incidents, of which 86 occurred since January. Two groups are behind most of the poster campaigns: **Identity Evropa** (founded by Nathan Damigo in early 2016; it launched ‘Project Siege’ to “speak directly to students”) and **American Vanguard** (also created in 2016).³

[CNN, February 15, 2017, ‘A Resurgence of White Nationalism’: Hate Groups Spiked in 2016](#)⁴

- “Across the country, flyers are showing up on college campuses. Some promote blatant neo-Nazi rhetoric, others are much more subtle. ‘Protect your heritage.’ ... ‘Our future belongs to us.’ They represent a less extreme white supremacist movement targeting the young and educated. ‘They’re racist, but they have fancy new packaging,’ said Brian Levin, director for the Center of Hate and Extremism at Cal State Bernardino. ‘They learn to downplay the swastikas and get a thesaurus, so instead of white supremacy they use words like identitarian.’”
- A report by the Southern Poverty Law Center found that the number of U.S. hate groups increased from 784 in 2014 to 892 in 2015 to 917 in 2016.

[ABA Journal, February 8, 2017, Indiana Law Profs are Among those Targeted by White Supremacist Group](#)⁵

- “Professors at Indiana University’ Maurer School of Law were among academics targeted by a white supremacist group on that campus and as many as 30 universities across the country. Indiana University contacted the FBI after fliers were posted on campus that were ‘clearly meant to intimidate, threaten, scare and provoke anger,’ ... The fliers were posted on office doors of ‘faculty members of color or scholars of race and ethnicity,’ [Lauren] Robel [Executive Vice President and Provost] said.”

[Mary Hui and Susan Svrluga, March 29, 2016, Washington Post, Hacker Sends Anti-Semitic Fliers to Network Printers at Princeton, Many Other Colleges](#)⁶

- During March 2016, the printers and fax machines at more than a dozen universities (including UMD) were hacked to print an anti-Semitic, white supremacist message that called for people to join “the struggle for global white supremacy at the *Daily Stormer*.” Andrew Anglin, creator of the neo-Nazi website, identified Andrew Aurenheimer as the hacker.

¹ <https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2017-08-18/colleges-brace-for-more-violence-amid-rash-of-hate-on-campus>

² <http://www.newsweek.com/2017/04/28/alt-right-poster-art-propaganda-white-nationalism-586355.html>

³ <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-white-supremacists-making-unprecedented-effort-on-us-college-campuses-to>

⁴ <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/15/politics/hate-groups-spiked-in-2016/index.html>

⁵ http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/indiana_university_law_profs_are_among_those_targeted_by_white_supremacist

⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/03/29/hacker-sends-anti-semitic-fliers-to-network-printers-at-princeton-many-other-colleges/?utm_term=.2c69d53814d0

- In 2015, Anglin's followers began planting false stories about White Student Unions being founded on U.S. college campuses. However, not all of these stories were false: a chapter at Cornell University received a stipend from the *Daily Stormer* to promote its racist agenda."⁷

Ugly Incidents on U.S. Campuses

- **American University, May 1, 2017:** Bananas found hanging from string in the shape of nooses were found at three locations on campus, marked with the letters "AKA" a day after the first black student (a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority) was sworn in as student government president.⁸ This incident was reminiscent of several incidents in September 2016 in which someone threw a rotten banana at a black student during class and another Black woman student found a rotten banana placed at her dorm room door.
- **Old Dominion University, February 21, 2017:** A student wearing an ODU sweatshirt tweeted a music video called "white power" that spread around campus.
- **Central Michigan University, February 10, 2017:** An anti-Semitic Valentine's Day card was distributed to some students by a member of the College Republicans; the person responsible for producing the card was not a student and members of the group were not aware of the card when the bag containing it was handed out.⁹
- **East Tennessee State University, September 28, 2017:** A white former student, Tristan Rettke, walked out of a building barefoot, wearing overalls and a gorilla mask, and carrying a burlap sack with a Confederate flag; he interrupted a Black Lives Matter student protest taunting racial slurs, and tied a rope around a banana, dangling it in the face of a sophomore student.¹⁰
- **Eastern Michigan University, September 20, 2016:** a racial slur was spray-painted in red, white and blue on the side of a campus building with "KKK" in large letters.¹¹
- **University of Michigan:** students found posters on campus warning white women not to date black men.¹²

Athletics Protests

- As reported in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 26, 2017: athletes at Knox College, University of Arkansas, and University of Oklahoma have staged protests following those by University of Missouri's football team that led to the ouster of its president.

UMD Campus

- March 2017, white supremacist posters were found at the Chemistry Building, Jeong H. Kim Engineering Building, A.V. Williams-Computer Science Instructional building courtyard, and on a dumpster outside Symons Hall.
- April 27, 2017, Phi Kappa Tau chapter house, noose hanging in kitchen.
- May 10, 2017, Black Lives Matter protesters were locked out of Main Administration.
- May 20, 2017, Bowie State student 2LT Richard Collins III stabbed by UMD student.

⁷ <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2016/04/04/white-supremacists-seek-spread-hate-college-campuses>

⁸ <http://wjla.com/news/local/racist-incident-involving-bananas-hanging-from-nooses-reported-at-american-university>

⁹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/02/09/a-hitler-valentines-day-card-was-handed-out-on-campus-university-officials-want-to-know-why/?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.6f72702a2051

¹⁰ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/10/07/slurs-blackface-and-gorilla-masks-the-academic-year-opened-with-racial-ugliness/?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.c4756edf5eed

¹¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/09/21/students-protest-after-kkk-and-racial-slur-are-found-spray-painted-on-campus-wall/?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.f0cd16da6a91

¹² https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/09/26/racially-offensive-fliers-found-at-the-university-of-michigan-why-white-women-shouldnt-date-black-men/?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.95da52a62093