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Sept. 20, 2002
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NEWS RELEASE

**AUTHOR AND COMMENTATOR DENNIS PRAGER
TO PRESENT UD'S SECOND ANNUAL GUTMANN LECTURE**

DAYTON, Ohio — Dennis Prager, described by New York's *Jewish Life* as "one of the three most interesting minds in American Jewish life," will present "A Jewish View of the Arab-Israeli Conflict" at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom at the University of Dayton.

It's the second annual presentation of the Max and Darlene Gutmann lectureship in Judaic studies at UD.

Admission is free, but tickets are required in advance by calling the Kennedy Union box office at (937) 229-2545. Seating is limited, and doors will open at 7 p.m.

Prager is an author, lecturer, teacher and theologian with a nationally syndicated radio talk show originating from Los Angeles on KRLA-AM. His most recent book, *Happiness is a Serious Problem*, was published in 1998. The long-awaited book, about which he has lectured worldwide for 10 years, appeared on the *Los Angeles Times* best seller list the week of publication.

His views on morality, ethics and values classify him as a self-described "passionate centrist," he said in a *Los Angeles Times* article. "That means that I care far more about good and evil than about conservative and liberal. My great parting with conservatives is over this question. Conservatives generally ask 'What is good for America?' I first ask, 'What is good?' If you're concerned only with what is good for America, then how are you morally any different

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from an Iraqi who asks, 'What is good for Iraq?'

"One of the reasons that I have a different view of the world than a lot of people is that I assume rottenness is normal," he said. "I am so amazed that societies have been created that are democratic, that have abolished a lot of poverty. Take poverty, for a moment. It was pointed out to me by a Catholic theologian that poverty is universal and natural; affluence is created by people. The same thing with morality. Miserable conduct — mass murder, rape, torture, everything — strikes me as very much part of the human species. Democracy was created; abolishing slavery was created. Slavery is natural — 'I'm stronger than you, you work for me.' It makes perfect sense.

"Most people assume goodness is normal, and then they look in bewilderment at all the terrible things that were done. So, my question is not 'How much bad did these groups do?,' which is a very important question, but 'How come any good developed out of this particular civilization known as the West?'"

He has written four books and almost a thousand articles. Prager's opinion pieces appear frequently in *Los Angeles Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, and he has lectured in 45 U.S. states, nine of Canada's 10 provinces and on seven continents.

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For an electronic photo of **Dennis Prager**, contact Pam Huber at (937) 229-3241.