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Holocaust 'revisionist' starts feud on the Upper West Side

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A rumble is brewing on the Upper West Side between members of the militant Jewish Defense Organization and a self-described Holocaust "revisionist."

For 20 years, Michael Santamauro has lived in a rent-controlled apartment on W. 72nd St. He runs a small Internet business, room-matefin-ders.com, while writing and disseminating articles that deny the Holocaust.

Recently, he began organizing Holocaust denial lectures in the neighborhood — one of them featuring David Irving, an infamous

English Holocaust denier.

"There is nothing kosher about a neo-Nazi headquarters on the Upper West Side," Jeffrey Silver, an organizer with the Jewish Defense Organization, told amNewYork.

Silver said he learned of Santamauro's links with Holocaust deniers last week and embarked on a campaign to get him evicted. Since Santamauro runs a business out of his home, Silver said, he violates the lease.

Although Santamauro's Web site posts virulently anti-Semitic messages on the discussion board, he denied being a neo-Nazi or hating Jews.

"Every time I dabble into anti-Zionist politics, they have a death threat on me,"

Santamauro told amNewYork, referring to Jewish groups.

He espoused the writings of the California-based Institute for Historical Review — a group the Anti-Defamation League called "the foremost Holocaust denial organization in the United States."

When asked if he believed that six million Jews were killed in concentration camps, Santamauro said, "I think people play with numbers. Whatever you can get away with."

Silver compared Santamauro to Thomas Zibelli, the Bronx man accused of recruiting neighborhood kids with booze and porn to take part in neo-Nazi activities.

"We want them all out," he said.

The Jewish Defense Organization has already plastered the neighborhood with fliers calling Santamauro a "Nazi pig" and demanding his eviction.

The group will stage a protest outside the building in two weeks.

A spokesman for West Pierre Associates, the owner of Santamauro's building, was not available for comment yesterday. But the doorman said Santamauro has "always been a gentleman."

One concerned neighbor, Andy Moskowitz, said he doesn't want Nazis in the neighborhood, but added, "If a guy invited people to his apartment to discuss Holocaust denial, it seems to be okay."