

NEWS

Interview with the York International Socialists

by Brent Poland

With the escalation of the Persian Gulf war, one of the more vocal but little known groups among the Coalition for Troops out of the Gulf is the York International Socialists (IS).

Throughout the York campus, the IS members have been holding workshops rallies and actively supporting the Troops-Out coalition in an attempt to voice opposition to the Gulf War.

Who are these young men and women who are constantly seen in Central square, pushing copies of the *Socialist Worker*, handing out pamphlets and who often feel the need to rebuke and refute the numerous letters and opinions in the campus papers justifying the war.

As opposed to regional democratic socialism, the IS believes that socialism is not possible in one country or government, only as a world wide system. "Capitalism is still very young and ill" said David Camfield a member of the International Socialists.

Formed in Great Britain in 1951 and Canada in 1975, the IS is a polit-

ical movement that believes in the theory of "socialism from below," Camfield said.

Why does this group believe that the war in the Gulf is an unjust war? Phil Jackson and David Camfield of the York based IS presented several answers to that question.

"Poor people with little control over their society, killing each other in the interests of their respective ruling classes," said Phil Jackson. "This is what we mean when we say this is an imperialistic war."

Camfield and Jackson backed up their convictions with a plethora of information.

According to Camfield and Jackson, the IS try to put the Gulf war into perspective and offers an alternative view point to that presented by the mainstream media.

According to Camfield and Jackson, the Gulf war takes on a new light when one considers that Iraq was occupied by England until the 1930s and that it was a British general who drew the line in the sand to form Kuwait.

The International Socialists believes that the US is in a position to

extend its influence and one of the reasons for the war is to show smaller nations that it can enforce its power on a global basis, along with its traditional interest in oil.

Opponents criticize the IS as being anti-patriotic and feel that most Canadians should support the troops fighting on behalf of Canada. But Jackson and Camfield insist they are not against the troops, but against the war.

"It's about seeing them (soldiers) as people, conscripts for the army

are generally from the impoverished area and minorities," Camfield said. "We don't condemn people who join the army, but feel that they should be given the opportunity for jobs before army recruitment."

Jackson, who emigrated from England, says that York is known for its left-wing stance abroad. Because of its political science programs, renowned speakers and a vocal minority, Jackson says that York has a radical left element, but

apathy is still the rule of the day.

And how do the International Socialists feel about the recent election of Premier Bob Rae's NDP government?

Although the IS does not follow the NDP party policy they believe that a defeat for the Liberals by the NDP gives heart to people who are fighting for change.

"But Bob Rae is going to spend more time on Bay Street than anywhere else," said Jackson "They are in office, but they're not in power."

Student employment given boost

Philip Lee-Shanok
The Newspaper

In an attempt to alleviate the impact of the recession on student employment this summer, the federal government has announced a two per cent increase in subsidies for student wages.

Youth Minister Marcel Denis recently announced an increase of \$3-million bringing the total funding for the government's Challenge '91 program to \$143 million. The program offers student business loans, native internships, counselling and wage subsidies for employers hiring students.

The two per cent increase will go directly towards the wage subsidy program, SEED (Summer Employment/Experience Development), bringing funding for this portion of the program to \$80 million.

Conservative MP John Bosley stated that the increase is to "offset cuts in student jobs caused by the recession."

The allocation of the funding increase specifically for SEED is the "best use of funding because it helps employers to do more with the resources available to them," Bosley said.

SEED will provide a \$2.50 per hour subsidy for private sector companies employing students and \$4.50 per hour for public and non-profit employers. Bosley pointed out that last year SEED was used by 29,000 employers and created 54,000 jobs.

But New Democrat Dan Heap called the two per cent increase in SEED funding "a sarcastic joke."

Heap pointed out that the increase comes after a 35 per cent cut in the program's funding last year.

The two per cent increase is actually a cut that will result in less or lower paying jobs this year, Heap said.

According to Heap, the government is implementing a policy of

phasing out the program gradually. By providing subsidies rather than grants, the government is cutting back on direct assistance to students.

"This increase doesn't even keep pace with inflation," Heap concluded.

SEED representative Krista Slade called the two per cent increase "inadequate."

According to Slade, "In the past SEED was a good opportunity for students to get career related experience."

However, she said, "With the summer job market already looking bleak, it just doesn't do it."

Slade pointed out that for many students a summer job is an economic necessity to help fund their education.

"By cutting university funding the government expects us to pay more and more for education, but without the tools to do so," Slade said.

Perhaps most importantly, SEED is not really targeted toward university students.

Bosley admitted that the program is mainly aimed at high school students whom he called "the largest group of the unemployed."

The bias this year will once again be toward this group, Bosley said.

Price of glasnost too high for some

by Josh Rubin

A conference on *glasnost* kicked off at York last week, but not without controversy.

Ticket prices for the four-day conference were too high according to YFS President Jean Ghomeshi.

Ghomeshi said the conference was all but inaccessible to the average student.

"They (conference organizers) could have had a reduced ticket which wouldn't have to include all the receptions," Ghomeshi said.

Ghomeshi's grief was undermined somewhat, however, by the price list.

Although full-day passes were over \$100, admission to the various individual workshops was only \$10.

There was also a student discount for attending the entire conference. While the regular fee was \$260 for all four days, students could get in for \$144.

The conference ran pretty smoothly for the approximately 500 delegates.

With lectures and workshops on topics ranging from global ecology to ethnic nationalism, there was some pertinent food for thought.

The nationalist forum sparked some fiery debate on the conference's first full day.

An Armenian panelist angered some audience members when he suggested the rights of Russian minorities must be protected in all the republics.

A Baltic delegate was infuriated by the remarks.

"We see how Gorbachev protected the Russian's rights in Lithuania with tanks," screamed the delegate. "Do you want him to protect Russian's rights the same way in the other republics?"

Another conference highlight came on a panel looking into the effects of *glasnost* on Soviet performing arts.

Cultural ministry spokesperson Melitina Kotovskaya assured audience members that things would work out.

But Canadian director Guy Sprung and Soviet emigre Vladimir Mirzoev were not so sure.

Both agreed that with state subsidies being slashed across the board, artists are feeling the pinch more than ever.

Excalibur's editorial election March 6, 2 p.m.

Eligible Voters List

Jeannine Amber
Bruce Adamson
Kathryn Bailey
Robert Cabral
Frank Cameron
Trevor Campbell
Mary Cerisano
A. Clive Cohen
Ed Drass
Patrick Follens
Brett Gellert
Jessica Goldman
Garth Hagey
Hugh Hardy
Jim Hoggott
Jim Hounslow
Mary Jankulak
Alex Joritsmaa
Daniel Judd
Boris Koechlin
Faisal Kutty
Brett Lamb
Jennifer Lim

Azed Majeed
Laura Martins
Merle Menzes
Patty Milton-Rao
Ira Nayman
Salman Nensi
Sue Pennypacker
Stephen Perry
Robert Pincombe
Brent Poland
Almeida Quinn
Mike Raycraft
Peter Roe
Josh Rubin
Jim Russell
Riccardo Sala
André Souroujon
Peter Stathis
Sally Teodoro
John Vink
Joanne White/Switch
Chris Wodskou
Kim Yu

If your name does not appear on this list and you feel it should, please contact Peter or Jim by Monday, March 4.

ATTENTION

Undergraduate Students

in the Faculties of Arts, Education, Fine Arts,
Glendon College, Pure and Applied Science

The academic deadline for withdrawing from Winter Term courses without receiving a grade has been changed. **The deadline is Friday, March 8, 1991** (not March 1, 1991 as published in the Undergraduate Calendar).

Office of the Registrar
February 8, 1991

The pleasure of your company is requested at the sixth
ROBARTS LECTURE

"English Canada and Quebec: Avoiding the Issue"

by

KENNETH McROBERTS

Professor
Department of Political Science, York University

Author of
Quebec: Social Change and Political Crisis

Tuesday, March 5, 1991

4:00 p.m.

Moot Court

(Osgoode Hall Law School of York University)

CENTRE
ROBARTS
CENTRE

Reception to follow, Faculty Lounge
(2nd floor)

For more information, please call 736-5499