

# CROSSCANADA

## Hate groups increasing

TORONTO (CUP) — There are nearly 200 hate groups operating in the Toronto area with up to 1,500 active members, Toronto police members told a conference on hate groups this week.

The organizational structure of hate groups has changed, becoming decentralized, regional and difficult to track, said detective sergeant Wayne Cotgreave of the intelligence unit.

Cotgreave's findings were announced as part of a day-long conference on the rise of international right-wing extremism in Toronto. The conference was organized by B'Nai Brith to announce the findings of its ongoing research project on the rise of racism in Europe and North America.

White supremacist groups have made an unprecedented effort to recruit young people by infiltrating high schools, Cotgreave said. They also have moved into the realm of hate music and comic books in an attempt to recruit young people.

Toronto police are hoping to set up partnerships with other organizations and government so they can deal with hate proactively, Cotgreave said.

If the police don't join forces with civilian anti-racist groups, they will waste too much energy being reactive, with hate groups on the leading edge.

## Clinic combats racism

TORONTO (CUP) — A new legal clinic, designed to combat institutionalized racial discrimination, has opened up to serve Toronto's African-Canadian community.

The cases the clinic will handle have more to do with latent forms of discrimination than outright hatred, said Davies Bagambiire, executive director of the African-Canadian Legal Clinic.

"School board rules, police board rules, educational institutions such as universities on the face look neutral, but they have an impact on African-Canadians and people of colour," he said.

Rather than functioning as a front-line clinic serving individual members of the African-Canadian community, the clinic will adopt cases that will benefit the community as a whole.

The clinic will take on test cases that confront systemic racism with the goal of setting legal precedents, said Bagambiire. By proving such policies invalid, discriminatory practices — and therefore racism — could be eliminated.

U of T students said the new clinic was a good idea. Nicole Minerve, a member of U of T's African-Canadian Students' Association, says that the clinic's goals are valid.

In her high school, guidance counsellors were known to advise African-Canadians students having academic problems to transfer to lower-level classes.

"It was not seen as discriminatory or racist," Minerve said.

## New group supports wrongly convicted

OTTAWA (CUP) — Being held prisoner by our own government sounds absolutely impossible. Yet this is exactly what a new organization says is happening in Canada.

The Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted is an organization with a mandate to support and lend free legal advocacy to those that are convicted unjustly in murder cases.

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter — a founding board member — was a black rights activist and famed middleweight boxer in the 1960s.

His career was suddenly cut short by his arrest for the murder of three people in a New Jersey bar. He was convicted on questionable evidence with racial overtones. Finally released in 1985, he spent almost 20 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

"Certain absolutes are supposed to keep you from being sent to prison: One, don't commit a crime. Two, tell the truth," said Carter in a University of Ottawa speech.

"The reality is that there is no place in prison for innocence. So if we hear of people who year after year maintain their innocence, then we have to listen," he added.

It was with this in mind that Joyce Milgaard also helped start the association, which is funded mainly by law associations. She is the mother of David Milgaard, one of Canada's most famous wrongly convicted.

Sent away at the age of 17, David Milgaard spent almost 23 years in prison for a murder he also did not commit. Recently released, his case has been the centre of much media attention.

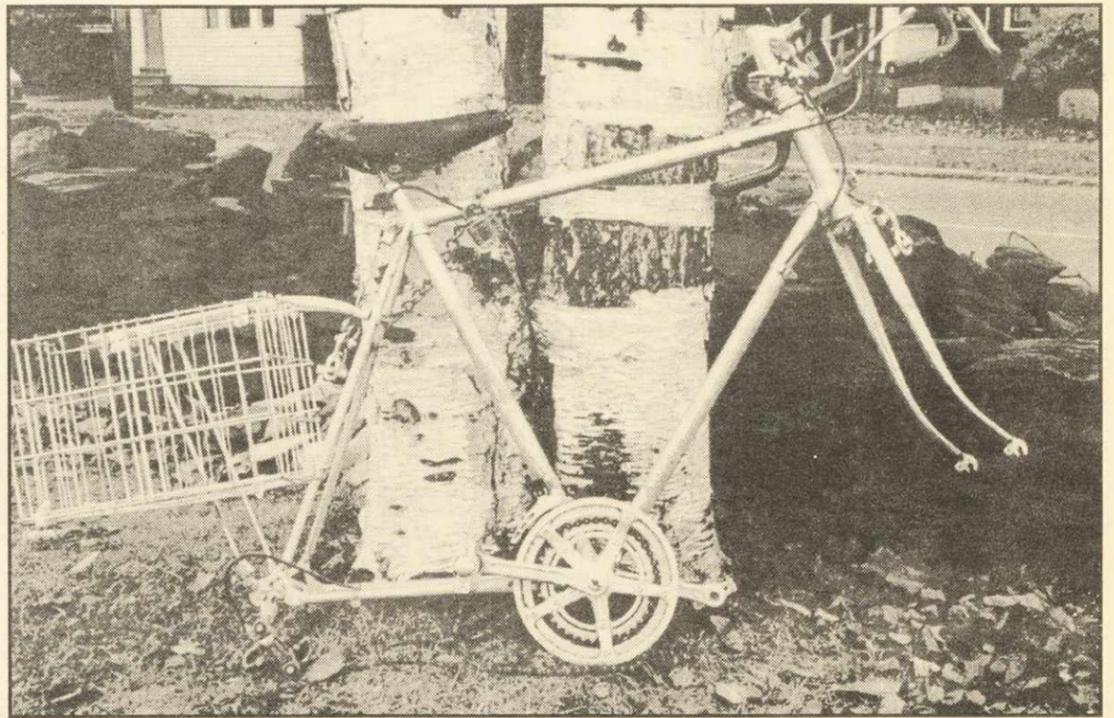
"When I finally got David out, I promised that no other family would have to go through what we did. There was nothing out there to help us. This association is like a dream come true for me," commented Milgaard.

One of the group's proposals is the creation of an independent review board to hear and decide upon cases of those that say they have been unjustly convicted.

"People have to be aware of the pain and agony that goes on. The federal government is going to learn that [the association] is not going to go away," Milgaard said.

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a national organization made up of over 40 student papers from St. John's to Victoria. CUP enables student papers to exchange stories and ideas through the wire service, regional and national conferences. As a founding member of CUP, the Dalhousie Gazette makes sure that our university news becomes national news.

# news



Dal needs more bike racks...

## Dal cyclists search for parking Trying to rack'em up

by Jennifer Peddle

The director of the physical plant at Dalhousie University says there aren't enough bike racks around campus because maintenance can't afford them. But some students don't even like the bike racks the university does manage to provide.

"We receive money from the government and the government is not interested in providing parking whether it's for cars or for bikes," says Bill Lord.

He says the university never budgeted money specifically for the maintenance and installation of bike racks. Lord says the money to finance them comes from a budget surplus and parking revenues.

Over the last two to three years, he says the university has installed more than 15 of the new wave-shaped bike racks to accommodate the growing number of students cycling to school.

The racks outside various buildings around campus hold up to 200 bicycles. Lord says maintenance plans to install two additional racks near the Life Science Centre this week. These racks will hold about 12 bikes each.

Lord says he chose the wave-shaped racks because he thought they were durable.

"They're made of stainless steel, they're very heavy duty and also everything around campus takes a bit of a beating so we wanted to put in something that will last many, many years," he says.

But some students dislike the new racks.

Cyclist Michal Kapral, who rides his bike to the university every day of the year, says the bike racks are inadequate, tiny, rusted hoops sticking

*"The bike racks belong in a museum of bike-rack history."*

out of the ground.

"I think the bike racks belong in a museum of bike-rack history," he says. "I mean, they're rusted and they're from another generation. A time when people only had to lock their wheels and that was enough. Nowadays, we like to lock our frames too, and those just don't do it."

Wayne Groscko, a member of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NS PIRG), says there's a need for more bike racks because

more people are using bikes instead of cars to travel to school.

"I think that the population at the university is somewhat shifted towards younger people than the general population," he says. "And I think younger people will have a higher level of awareness of environmental issues. I think definitely it's a factor in a lot of people's decisions these days."

Groscko says NS PIRG conducted a survey last year on bicycle use. He says most cyclists who responded to the survey wanted more racks around campus.

The lack of bike racks poses problems around campus because cyclists lock their bikes to other objects, such as trees and fire exits, Groscko says.

"When there's not enough bicycle racks, sometimes people lock their bicycles to disabled access racks," he says. "This causes difficulties for disabled people."

Lord concedes that the lack of bike racks around campus causes problems, but says the university will never be able to meet the requests for more.

"It's like the law of supply and demand," he says. "We seem never to be able to meet the demand. I think as we provide more bike racks, people will be encouraged to use their bikes and it's a vicious cycle."

## Students protest reforms

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Jean Charest also appeared at the rally to condemn Axworthy's proposals.

"There's one problem with the Liberals' speech: it wasn't what they were saying when they were in the opposition, and it wasn't what they were saying in the last campaign," said Charest.

But the crowd wasn't fooled by Charest's sudden interest in post-secondary education, Spanglett said.

"Everyone pretty much realized Charest was just trying to get what he could out of the moment," said Spanglett.

The protesters were also addressed by MPs Svend Robinson from the New Democratic Party and Antoine Dubé from the Bloc Québécois, who

both denounced the federal government's cuts.

Many were ecstatic about the large number of students who took the day off to protest in Ottawa.

"This is the biggest student protest since 1968," said Spanglett.

*This protest is far from over*

Sonia Garcia, a student at the Heritage College in Hull, said she and several friends planned to camp out in front of the Parliament buildings. For Garcia, this protest is far from over.

"I want to prove to them that

we're still fighting; that we're not giving up," Garcia said.

"How are we supposed to make a future for the generation that comes after us with \$60,000 of debt?"

Student protests are planned to run until Jan. 25, when a national student protest will be held against the cuts.

Spanglett said the Ottawa protest, if nothing else, will help build student momentum to oppose Axworthy's proposal.

"I think we accomplished a lot. The main idea behind it was to communicate that this is something very real. It will help build momentum as it will be a combination of things, both by student politicians and activists, in order to stop the cuts," he said.