

Manning brings Reform message to Halifax

International Socialists disrupt rally but get refund

BY ZACK TAYLOR

Middle-aged and retired Haligonians forked out five dollars and showed up by the hundred last Friday at Queen Elizabeth high school to hear Preston Manning preach the Reform Party gospel.

The rally was part of a week-long campaign to raise the profile of Reform in the Atlantic provinces. In addition to holding the party's executive council meeting in Halifax, party leader Preston Manning met with Nova Scotia Premier John Savage and appeared on radio talk shows. Last weekend, over forty Reform MPs paid visits to ridings throughout the region.

Reform has not steamrolled across the Atlantic provinces unimpeded, however.

Last Friday's rally was picketed by a small but very vocal group of protesters bearing signs supplied by the International Socialists. Marching and shouting slogans through megaphones, the twenty picketers condemned what they felt to be Reform's anti-labour and anti-poor orientation, racism, homophobia, and anti-Québec rhetoric.

Protest organiser Steve Ellis, who claims to "represent the workers of the world", taunted Reform party workers and bystanders at the school entrance, calling them "bigots" and "anti-

union scabs", and denouncing Reformers as practitioners of the "politics of bigotry and hatred." Only one person responded, yelling, "come and look inside - you'll find no racists here."

Despite this distraction, Party leader Preston Manning played to a capacity crowd, including 45 of his own MPs and 30 reporters.

Judging from the applause both to his speech, and to the 20 baton-twirling pre-teen girls who opened the evening with a choreographed routine involving provincial flags, Manning was preaching to the converted.

The speech demonstrated the importance that the party is placing on electoral success in the Maritimes. The Reform Party, formed in 1987 on a platform of Western Canadian alienation, has been working steadily to convert itself into a national alternative to the Liberal and Conservative parties. Reform won 52 seats in the 1993 federal election, all but one in the Western provinces. Reform has made few inroads in the Atlantic provinces, receiving only five per cent of the vote in the last federal election.

Although Prime Minister Chrétien is not obligated to call an election until 1998, Reform's visit is perhaps the beginning of the next federal election campaign in Atlantic Canada.

He elicited cheers from the audience by announcing the as-



Reform leader Preston Manning speaks in Halifax; International Socialists are not thrilled.

signing of MP Randy White as special critic to watch over Cape Breton MP and Public Works Minister David Dingwall. Mr. Dingwall, who is well-known for his political favours, came under fire this summer over the diversion of public infrastructure money into his riding.

Reform strategists hope to woo the Atlantic electorate by promising to:

- put an end to the graft and patronage associated with past Liberal and Conservative govern-

ments;

- decentralize decision-making powers to provincial governments;

- increase trade with the north-eastern United States by building a high speed highway from Halifax to Bangor, Maine;

Self-defense method helps women help themselves

BY ANNE CAMPBELL

Students who enroll in Wen-Do Women's Self-Defense course at Dalhousie University and Mount St. Vincent University will be learning a 15-hour program that has been taught to about 20,000 women across Canada. Wen-Do has been taught across Canada since 1972.

Wen-Do is a self-defense system designed for women. You do not have to be a fitness expert or strong to learn the basic techniques to help yourself escape from an attack. The course covers verbal defense, as well as physical methods for breaking holds and hitting back. All women are encouraged to work at their own level, to learn verbal and physical skills that they can feel confident in using.

Students hear success stories of strategies that other women have used to defend themselves in Halifax and across Canada. The following are a couple of the stories that have been discussed in the class.

INCIDENT #1

It was a sunny afternoon in Halifax. I had gone off on my bike to do a few errands. I was biking up Beech Street, towards Quinpool Road. As soon as I approached the intersection, a blue van pulled up beside me and stopped at the stop sign. A young man jumped out of the passenger door of the van. He quickly pushed open the large side door of the van and then jumped in front of me, straddling the front tire of my bike and holding my handlebars firmly in his hands.

"Get in the van, baby," he hissed.

I looked in the van and saw another young guy in the driver's seat and several empty beer bottles strewn about on the floor.

- put more money in peoples' wallets by reducing the size of government and lowering taxes; and
- reform the Senate to allow the provincial representatives more say in the actions of the federal government.

"We would be more than happy to represent you in other parts of Canada. We can sell [these policies] in Western Canada; we can sell that in Ontario; we can sell that in the Canadian parliament," Manning told the crowd.

Halfway through the two hour event, while Manning was promoting the downgrading of prisoner's rights and a referendum on the death penalty, several protestors led by Ellis entered the back of the hall. After a brief attempt to shout Manning down, they were ejected by Reform organizers.

When the Reformers tried to hustle them from the lobby, the International Socialists explained that they had tickets. The organizers then cited fire regulations to eject them.

After a brief media scrum, Ellis demanded and received a refund.

At this point, I was overcome by a powerful feeling of rage. I stared at the guy opposite me with such hatred; I was shaking with anger as I yelled at him to let go of my bike! I jerked the bike away from him and sped up onto the sidewalk. I quickly rode along the busy sidewalk, knowing that the van wouldn't be able to make as good time as me because of the Saturday traffic on Quinpool Road.

INCIDENT #2 (Toronto area)

I have faced an attacker and emerged unscathed. No, I wasn't in a bar; I was on the street where I live. No, I don't live in a section of town reserved for singles. I live on a tree-lined residential street which houses families with young children. No, it wasn't 3 a.m., it was only a little after 10 p.m. on a pleasant autumn evening. No, I wasn't wearing a plunging neckline, nor a mini skirt. The weather was pleasant but it was late October: I was wearing slacks and a leather jacket.

A fellow approached me, asking for directions, and then grabbed my neck. He threatened to kill me. I punched him in the stomach and he ran. No, I probably didn't hurt him; he was also dressed for the weather, with a corduroy jacket. But I was not hurt either. That is the important point. And no, I am not the common image of a strong woman. In fact, I stand only 4' 9 and weigh about 100 pounds. If I can defend myself successfully, so can you.

The next Wen-Do class at the Dalhousie Student Union Building starts on Tuesday, September 26. It will be held on six Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.. For more information, please call 422-4240. To register, please bring your Dalhousie Student ID card and \$25 to room 222 (Student Union office) in the SUB.

Women's Centre relocates

BY STEPHANIE PIERI

The Dalhousie Women's Centre was resituated this summer and is now located on 1229 LeMarchant Street, while its former locale on 6143 South Street was torn down and turned into parking spaces.

The Women's Centre — which was founded on March 8, 1993 by a group of concerned women — has grown quickly in the services that it provides. Due to the support of the Dalhousie community and good relations among the faculty and staff, the Women's Centre has been able to offer a wide variety of services, from crisis intervention to a reference library.

The centre liked its original location on South St., but knew that their time there was lim-

ited. When they moved there, the Women's Centre expected to be at the South St. location for only one year, due to a motion passed by the Board of Governors (BOG). This motion encompassed a long-term plan to eliminate a lot of houses on campus and replace them with more modern structures. These aforementioned houses were old and it was thought that they would be very expensive to make accessible. The Women's Centre was one of the first to be scheduled for demolition.

Though the lot is now used for parking, there are plans for it, and other houses in the South/LeMarchant St. area, to be turned into an "L-shaped" residence. However, in order to do so, the university would have to sell Fenwick Place.

When asked about the reaction of the Women's Centre to the move, Heather Gibson, the Centre's programming director and founding member, said, "I think that it (the reaction) was mixed, in that people were disappointed that we were losing that house. But, by and large, we are happy with the new location, though we have had some problems in the last month-and-a-half with the place itself. We've had some problems with the actual structure getting built and getting the work crew out of there. A couple of mistakes were made but quickly corrected. Give us a month to settle in and everything will be fine."

The centre is sharing its new accommodations with the Dalhousie Staff Association and the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

Costume Studies program expands

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an additional \$500 to take their courses. This is comparable to the auxiliary fee that other students who take practical theatre courses are required to pay.

The new space has provided opportunities for more people to choose to take the Costume Studies diploma. First-year enrollment in the program has nearly doubled, from 15 last year, to 29 this year. Sorge attributes the change to the new location.

"It makes a big difference," she said.

The new location has also allowed the program to expand in other ways. There is now the opportunity for students wishing to continue in third year for their advanced diploma to concentrate on areas other than simply costume design. The third year of costume studies now

offers a choice between design, wardrobe management/cutting, film co-ordination/continuity, or museum studies.

Although the new location takes the costume studies program to a space downtown, there does not appear to be concern within the department that students will feel removed from the campus atmosphere.

"They don't want to be down there and be completely isolated and forget there's a university," said Sorge. "To date, there doesn't seem to be a sense of isolation."

Interaction with campus is impossible for costume studies students to avoid. Costume courses are still offered on the Dalhousie campus, and members of the Costume Studies program will continue to be responsible for the costuming of shows presented by Dalhousie Theatre Department Productions.