

opinions

Socialists refute racism charges

This article comes as a response to an article appearing in a recent *Gazette* entitled "Anti-Semitism Alleged". Concerns of anti-semitism in International Socialists (IS) literature were expressed to the DSU by the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students' Federation. We delivered a range of our literature to the DSU as requested. The DSU notified us that they had determined there was no sentiment of anti-semitism. Despite this determination, the *Gazette* coverage reopens speculation of anti-semitism within our organization and political tradition. We want to take this opportunity to clarify our firm anti-racist position and corresponding practice.

The International Socialists are not anti-Semitic. We oppose the existence of the state of Israel, and the existence of Zionism, which is used to justify anti-Arab racism. We oppose Israeli, US and all imperialisms, and support all genuine national liberation movements. Opposing Zionism and being anti-Semitic are two very different things; the position of the International Socialists is clear if one reads our

newspaper or peruses our books and pamphlets. Please accept our invitation to view our book table before any one of our regular meetings (Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Room 306 of the SUB).

The International Socialists, and our sister organizations in other countries, have been in the past and continue to be staunch fighters of anti-Semitism and racism. In Britain, for example, our sister organizations have been instrumental in organizing against the rise of fascism and Nazism through the Anti-Nazi League. Jean-Marie LePen, the leader of France's Nazi Front National, was met by thousands of anti-racist demonstrators in Corfu, Edinburgh, Dublin and London (in some cases he did not even dare leave the airport) when he attempted to spread his racist and anti-Semitic ideas. Our sister organizations were there. When it was learned that LePen was planning a visit to Montreal, the International Socialists across Canada helped organize and financially supported a mass protest against his arrival. We began a fundraising campaign allowing us to print posters and

placards, and rent buses to bring members of the IS and other anti-racists from Halifax, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Parry Sound, Waterloo, New York, Providence, and Boston to join the demonstration. Branches of the IS around the country organized petitions in support of the demonstration. Obviously, we take the threat of Nazism and fascism very seriously, and we work hard to fight against their racism and anti-Semitism. For further details, see the October 1993 issue of *Socialist Worker*, page 3 — the article entitled,

"Go for Growth" — and pages 8-9.

The above are just a few recent examples of how the IS in Canada and our sister groups in other countries have fought Nazis and racists wherever and whenever they attempt to organize and voice their message of hate and intolerance. The claim that we are anti-Semitic, therefore, was quite unexpected — and, as surely must be evident by now, quite groundless.

In fact, for those people who would like to actively fight ideas of bigotry and hatred, we encourage you to come

out to picket against the racist anti-feminist, homophobic ideas of the Reform Party as promoted by the *Metro Weekly Telecaster*. Meet next Monday, December 6, at 10:00 at the Dal SUB. As well, all are welcome and encouraged to attend our next branch meeting on fighting the racist Reform Party and building the picket against the *Metro Weekly*, Wednesday December 1, at 7:30 pm, Room 306, Dal SUB.

Carole Kowcun
International Socialists

Reflecting

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violence against women she also reminded the audience it was not only fourteen women who died; it was fourteen wonderful individuals — faces with their own unique stories, memories, loves, dreams and families who miss them. Fourteen spirits who should be celebrated and remembered often. Fourteen spirits who are preserved in Mrs. Laplante-Edward and others who cherish them and continue to work towards a day when we can honor their memory by seeing that violence against women has ended.

Peter Sankoff
1st year Law

Don't cut arts

To the editor:

I have written the following letter to Dr. Allan Shaw, Chairman, Board of Governors, Dalhousie University.

Dear Dr. Shaw:
The disturbing news of the imminent closure of the fine arts and drama pro-

grammes at Dalhousie University has reached me.

Dalhousie University has been for many years a centre of artistic endeavour in eastern Canada, and particularly in the Maritimes. In my frequent visits to Halifax I have always looked to Dalhousie for cultural activity.

The *Dalhousie Review* possesses an enviable and just reputation, both nationally and internationally, as an important literary voice in the western world. It must not be allowed to die.

A sure mark of civilization in a society is its insistence that its arts be sustained. I have no doubt that such will continue to be the tradition of the people of Halifax and all of Nova Scotia. However, I protest in the strongest possible terms the anticipated closure of the region's most prestigious and influential cultural institution.

I protest on my own behalf, as a writer, a student of art and a lover of good theatre and music. I feel that I speak also for the writing community here in central Canada, and for the broader public who may not be aware of the imminent scuttling of an important Canadian cultural resource.

E. Russell Smith
Director
Ottawa Independent Writers



new misty moon
1595 Barrington St.

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