

Dalhousie Student Movement presents forums

"Three categories of sociologists" — Fredericks

by Ken MacDougall

On Wednesday, March 14, Professor Larry Fredericks of Acadia University's Department of Sociology addressed a small group of students in Room 316 of the SUB. His topic of discussion was "The Left in Sociology."

Fredericks catalogued the varying degrees of sociologists in North America, and then fielded questions from those in attendance.

Fredericks divided North American sociologists into three categories: the bourgeois professional sociologist, the sociologist of the New Left vogue and the true sociologist, who analyses society in terms of class struggle. Fredericks places himself in this final group.

The bourgeois professional sociologist denies the colonial aspects of Canadian identity, Fredericks maintains. Their work not only masks the presence of American imperialism in Canada, but in fact contributes to the further Americanization of our country.

The second group are the followers of the doctrines of Marcuse and Trotsky. Their contribution to the revolutionary cause has been to conclude that there can be no revolution in North America, because the working class has been bought off. These sociologists have either joined the ranks of the unions or have become card-carrying members of the NDP or the Parti Québécois. Fredericks labels these two political parties as fascist in policy and procedure. The third group, he states, not only recognizes the existence of class struggle, but is busily supporting the working classes of this country in their revolutionary endeavours.

Fredericks came under some criticism for his labelling of the NDP and the PQ as fascist. He stated that both these parties promote the racist views of two nations and two classes.

With regard to the Parti Québécois, Fredericks maintains that all this group wishes to do is trade off the English middlemen for French. He criticised their running of a recent convention as undemocratic and repressive. The convention had traffic lights, which told speakers at the convention when they could start speaking and when they must stop.

The NDP only wishes to increase the bureaucratic control of our lives, and implement "bandaid" welfare programmes that do little more than further oppress the working classes. Fredericks maintains that the NDP is primarily funded by unions, which are chiefly American run and American funded. As such, the NDP is furthering the cause of American imperialism in Canada. He cited a recent trip to Washington by B.C. Premier Barrett to plead for the building of a pipeline through B.C. as an example.

Barrett isn't interested in ecology or seagulls, Fredericks believes. Barrett is only interested in the royalties that a pipeline could bring to that province. Barrett has also

suggested that the B.C. railroad could ship the oil to its American destination. Economists don't think Canada, much less the B.C. railroad, have sufficient numbers of oil tank cars to handle the quantities of oil that a pipeline could ship.

Fredericks also attacked the pushers, Jesus freaks, and return-to-nature people. He maintains that these cults, which do little to help further the cause of revolution in this country, are aided and encouraged by imperialists.

Behavioural psychologists and biologists also received scathing condemnation from him.

The lecture and discussion period, which lasted for more than an hour and a half, is part of a continuing group of forums being presented by the Dalhousie Student Movement.



Ted Coldwell/Dal Photo

Prof. Larry Fredericks addressed Dal students concerning "The Left in Sociology" on March 14.

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