

UCI Students Join Fight Against Campus Gestapo

by Nick Walsh, LaRouche Youth Movement

As part of its nationwide assault on the John Train/Lynne Cheney campus gestapo, LaRouche Youth Movement members from Los Angeles intervened at the University of California at Irvine in the days before the election, culminating in a wild scene with Yaron Brook, executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute, who spoke on campus Nov. 6. The key characteristic of the LYM interventions was an increased engagement of the student body itself in the political fight against the right-wing gestapo.

On Nov. 3, two LYM organizers briefed an impromptu 20-person Muslim Students Association meeting, concerning Brook's speeches calling for the mass murder of Muslims. Then, just before the Brook event, a LYM organizer spoke to 100 members of the African Student Union, telling them of Brook's views, and asking why there was such a political vacuum on the campus, including this group itself.

Early on Nov. 6, twenty LYM organizers saturated the campus with copies of the "Is Joseph Goebbels on Your Campus?" pamphlets. Posters at our table attacked Governor Arnie, Lynne Cheney, and Yaron Brook. One poster featured the head of Brook (who lisps) on the body of Elmer Fudd, saying, "Be vehwy, vehwy quiet, I'm hunting Muslims."

At the noon hour, the LYM chorus sang, as organizers handed out a leaflet entitled, "Join the LaRouche Youth Movement in Ridiculing Nazi Fascist Yaron Brook Off UCI Campus!" As a result, when the event began, there were 150 people there, about two-thirds of them youth, including many Muslims—surely an unprecedented number and demographic for the Rand Society, which has only one student member on this campus! To welcome the audience, this one member began by warning that anyone who "stands up, speaks, or sings" would be immediately dragged out. This strange introduction was backed up by ten police officers, standing ready around the room, with more outside guarding the doors, and four squad cars visible near the entrance. Throughout the event, affiliates of the Rand Society youth video-recorded LYM members, and would walk over to police officers to show them photos of whom to watch.

Brook seemed rattled to have so many students there. His speech was as rabidly anti-Muslim as usual. At one point, when Brook said, "If you don't believe me, weed the Wahhabite literature, weed Osama bin Laden, weed..." When laughter broke out, he demanded, "What's so funny?" A LYM member responded, "Weed's not good for you."

Music vs. Madness

At another point, when Brook said that the Koran teaches Muslims to stone women who are bad, he was met with laughter from Muslim women students. Later, when Brook unleashed another tirade against Muslims, two LYM women stood and began to sing a political canon. As they were dragged out, two more stood to sing the second part. And as they were, another stood to enter at the third part. This created a beautiful effect on the audience, and people listened well to the words. Brook said, "What a shame such nice voices go to such waste!"

As these LYM members were arrested, others consecutively challenged Brook. Four LYM sang the "You're out, Yaron" canon, and then two more LYM sang "Yaron Brook, his lips did kiss, Cheney's ass he could not miss!" to the tune of "O How Lovely Is the Evening." In all, 13 LYM organizers were arrested for "Disturbing the Peace on a Campus." The atmosphere was so charged that even a student reporter for the campus paper was threatened with arrest while trying to cover the event.

Audience members, other than the old, cranky Rand ideologues in front, increasingly warmed to the LYM approach, and were emboldened by our courage. For example, at one hilarious point, Brook, because of his speech impediment, instead of saying, "We need the right culture, the right society, the right morals," ended up saying, "We need the white culture, the white society, the white morals," provoking much laughter from the audience.

During the question period, many students, mostly Muslims, joined in the challenge to Brook. One Muslim woman asked, "Could you quote the passage in the Koran where it says to stone women?" To which Brook said: "I haven't read the Koran. I don't know where it says that, I don't care what the Koran says." The woman then said, "Before you label a culture inferior, you should do some reading on that culture." Another student said, "Do you think you used 'sufficient reason' to detain these people outside?" To this, Brook rambled, "If you came in my house, and tried to impose your will on me. . . ." At that point, another student in the audience shouted, "This is not your house, this is our campus!"

A number of LYM members also effectively intervened, and by the last question, concerning Socrates, Athens, and truth, a majority of the audience applauded, overwhelming the hisses and boos of the fascist Ayn Rand crowd.

Afterwards, in the cognitively churned-up environment, some students were grappling for the connection between Ayn Rand's philosophy and nuclear war. Four students, earlier skeptical of the LYM's accusations against Brook, left with complete certainty that this man is a nut case. Two other students questioned the coordinator of the event: "So, you're saying there's nothing we can do about people on campus inciting violence against a religious group?" Another student was overheard saying, in discussion about the event, "Thank God for LaRouche!"