

JSAy...

JSA
HILLEL
UOFM | UOFW

The Jewish Students' Association of Winnipeg Newsletter

Israel Apartheid Week

Since 2005, there's been some miseducation occurring on university campuses.

Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) is an annual campaign to link the democratic state of Israel with the apartheid of South Africa. The campaign includes speakers, displays and films. It runs from March 1-8, 2009.

This year, IAW will be held in over 30 cities. Canadian venues include Edmonton, Halifax, Hamilton, Kingston, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Waterloo. Though Winnipeg is not officially included in the event, the JSA will be actively promoting Israel at UofM and UofW.

JSA has tables booked and will be showcasing films, presentations and informational display boards. The information presented each day will build upon the information presented the day before to give students a more comprehensive understanding of the situation. Students are invited to take a moment between classes and stop at our tables – they're not your usual pro-Israel display.

This campaign is fresh. Rather than promote the cultural, technological and environmental achievements of Israel, JSA will use a new strategy. "More Humus, not Hamas" is only one of the new slogans that are sure to have students give Israel another look.



Photo Courtesy of <http://apartheidweek.org>

Speaker Jeff Helper

On January 26th, packed rooms at the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba heard an Israeli academic's analysis of the Middle East situation.

However, Guest Speaker Jeff Halper instead proved to instill further confusion and misunderstanding of one of the most complex and ongoing issues of the past century. Specifically, his 90-minute talk was based on several blatant untruths that oblige clarification.

The event's main question focused on the strategies of the State of Israel, and whether, as the event poster put it, they were searching for peace or apartheid. Halper described Israel at length as a colonial apartheid regime, which discriminates against non-Jews, comparable to the way Blacks were treated in the former South African regime. However, Halper chose to exclude many pertinent details in his indiscriminate categorization of Israel, thus badly skewing reality in order to promote his own allegations.

Jeff Halper's talk was most disturbing in the fact that listeners left feeling "enlightened" on a complex issue, when in effect those in attendance had been fed continuous untruths. While freedom of speech is undeniably an essential principle at the University of Manitoba, Halper's words seemed to only spread libelous accusations. His utter demonization of Israel can not possibly further the interests of peace.

For a full and detailed analysis of Halper's talk, check out Eyal Kraut's commentary @ www.jewishwinnipeg.org.

For More Information Contact:
Samantha Loxton
sluxton@jewishwinnipeg.org