

The Edmonton Journal staff writer **Matthew McClure** will be presenting a seminar on **newswriting**, January 19, 1989, at 4:30pm in the L'Express overflow lounge (SUB). Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Dog Darwinism developed?

by Kevin Stewart

The origin of dogs is a controversial subject, especially with dog owners.

Several species have been proposed as ancestors. For various reasons, foxes, coyotes, and jackals have been ruled out. This leaves the wolf.

Dogs most closely resemble the extinct Chinese Short-faced Wolf, *Canis lupus varibus*. Also, behavioral and morphological characteristics suggest that dogs are neotenic (resembles young) wolves.

The Domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) shows remarkable variety. There may be as many as 800 breeds, including the Basset Hound, American Staffordshire

Terrier, Rhodesian Ridgeback and Chihuahua. These come from three basic types whose ancestry is uncertain: the Spitz, the Mastiff, and the Saluki.

Andrew Eisenhower, a science student in Population Genetics, is working on the answer by looking at the genes of dogs and their closest relatives.

However, the fossil record does not provide the resolution needed to determine where dogs originated. The main taxonomic problem is if dogs were domesticated once or several times. Also, there are questions about breeding with other species and origins from other species. To investigate these problems, Eisenhower is looking

at their DNA.

Restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLP's) are differences in the cutting sites of restriction enzymes. After DNA is extracted from a blood sample, it is treated with different restriction enzymes and is separated on a gel. The RFLP's, which show up as bands, are probed with a gene to determine where that gene is found. Using this technique, one DNA molecule can yield over 300 pieces of information.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) provides excellent information about descent because it is passed on mother to offspring. Also, when out-crossing occurs, as in Eskimo Sled Dogs, it usually involves a female dog. Over time, the mtDNA is unaffected, while the nuclear DNA becomes difused.

Another way to examine the DNA is to look at gene frequencies. Different populations have different alleles in different frequencies.

The Israeli Wolf, for example, have a unique -globin gene. If this gene is found in all dogs, then dogs originated from this population. However, if it is not present in all dogs, then separate origins or out-crossing is suggested. The relationships of dogs and different wolf populations can be established by comparing sets of alleles.

The department of Population Genetics is looking for a few good dogs to take part in their research. Owners of dogs related to older breeds of canine or from isolated geographical areas are encouraged to bring their pet by the Population Genetics department to donate some of the dog's blood for research.

Fightin' words from Alberta Liberal leader

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we get away from the dependency on oil and gas and agriculture?"

"A Tory always believes the sun will shine tomorrow. A Liberal is not afraid to engineer the economy and create jobs," he said.

Drawing on a traditional Alberta theme, he maintained that "there has to be a new role for Alberta in Confederation". He asked the audience to imagine the potential if a Senator was elected by Albertans in the next election. "Think of the power... the influence that person would have in Ottawa."

A question from the floor after his address centred on the lack of environmental impact information available on the recently

announced pulp mills, prompting Decore to promise more environmental "watchdog agencies".

"We've got to protect the air, the water, and the ground that makes Alberta truly unique and wonderful."

Other questions concerned his support for free trade and his opposition to the Meech Lake Accord. Both stands are at odds with the national Liberal party policy. Decore outlined his support for free trade as being a good thing for Alberta and suggested that "Meech Lake is a mistake in process and in substance."

Event organizers were satisfied with the turnout, and hope for a similar response to next month's visit by Grant Mitchell.

New degree to focus on natives

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allow development of research capabilities to address problems of current native interest, with the ultimate goal being the establishment of grads in native communities.

There will be four areas of study involved in the program. Language and culture, land and resources, self government, and community based and applied research will develop skills suited to dealing with native problems.

Price listed education as one aspect of community based research. "One clear area of research is the whole area of native education. For example the percentage of natives graduating high school is significantly less than other groups," he said.

Along with the native BA major, Price hopes to develop minors in different fields to supplement the curriculum, such as history, anthropology, and home economics. "We are also trying to work out minors with agriculture/forestry and we want to work with business. It (business) is a quota faculty, but we are hopeful for a minor," he said.

"We would also like to see a new degree program with education, such as a five year com-

bined BA program in native studies and education," Price said, noting all faculties have been receptive and open to combined program possibilities.

Price estimates enrollment in the first year of the program at about 20 students. "We will grow over a period of time of course; in five years the target should be 125 students."

Getting the program started has not been easy, mainly due to provincial government heel dragging. Price credits university president Myer Horowitz and vice president Peter Meekison for pushing the program forward. "They took the bull by the horns and provided money before the provincial government did," he said.

Cheesecake challenge

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said, noting that because of similarities, confusion over the matter was possible. "The public should be able to see the difference," he said.

The University of Calgary newspaper *The Gauntlet* rejected advertising for the calendar because the pictures in the calendar were found to be offensive. Co-editor David Gazard said a staff meeting was held and a majority ruled against running the ads.

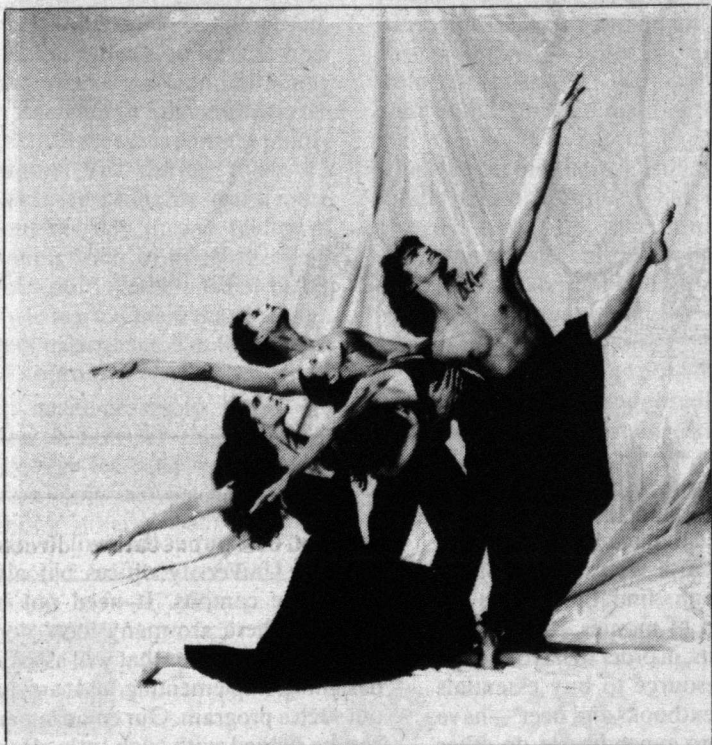
"Now we are catching hell from U of C students in the form of letters to the editor," said Gazard. "They're calling it reverse sexism."

Pantheon Publishing ran ads for the calendar in *The Gateway*.

Other campus outlets, such as Varsity Drugs and Extra Extra in HUB Mall, are selling the calendar. Sue Suan Soh, who works part time at Extra Extra, said, "People like the cover, but once they flip through it, they realize it is no better than Playboy. The girls look like strippers, not university students."

Paul Szabunid, a customer at Extra Extra, said he bought the calendar because he found the cover 'provocative', but when he flipped through it he asked for his money back. "The inside photographs are tacky and tasteless," he said. "It doesn't reflect properly on the actual university. It is a totally unrealistic portrayal of the female population on campus."

TORONTO DANCE THEATRE



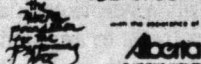
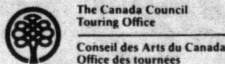
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