

## Psych research racist

by Bruce Gilchrist

Widely criticized psychology professor Philippe Rushton was the target of a seminar on racism in psychology held at Dalhousie last Saturday.

Rushton, a professor at the University of Western Ontario (UWO), is primarily known for his controversial publications on the genetic difference between whites, blacks, and asians.

American professor Dr. Leon Kamin, of Northwestern University, conducted the seminar that refuted Rushton's genetic theories.

Kamin, a self-described psychology watchdog, dissected Rushton's assertions that blacks were genetically less advanced than whites.

Kamin said he became interested in Rushton's work when he received a letter from the professor outlining his research. Kamin

decided to investigate the "research" in detail.

Rushton's work states blacks have low birth weights, high infant mortality and shorter life spans, and cites this as evidence proving blacks have a genetic sexual program less highly evolved than whites. Kamin refuted this theory, explaining the differences in the statistics was a result of public health problems.

Kamin also challenged the data upon which Rushton has based his theories. Citing the example of blacks leaving home earlier than whites, which Rushton states is the result of blacks being more "sexually precocious" and "less restrained" than whites, Kamin noted many of the blacks in the study had left home early because both their parents had died.

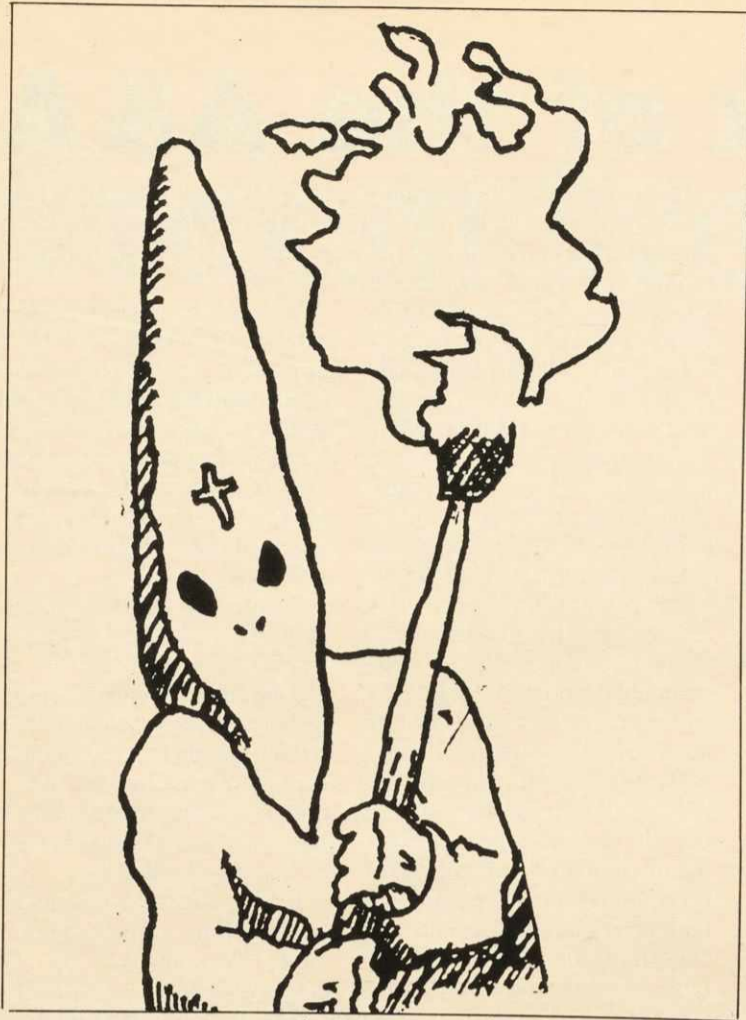
Part of Kamin's talk focussed on other "scientific" authors who have published generally condemned papers on genetic differ-

ences. Arthur Jensen, best known for a paper published in the Harvard Educational Review in the early '70s, was also a target for Kamin's attack on racism in psychology. In his article, Jensen claimed the statistical differences between the average I.Q. of black Americans and white Americans was genetically based.

"Intolerably racist research like this should be called by its proper name," said Kamin.

Dr. Bruce Moore, a psychology professor at Dalhousie, said "if the things Rushton said were true he would have every right to say them, but that clearly isn't the case. I think any examination of Rushton's work should focus on the question of his competence."

As a result of the controversy surrounding his theories and the anger they have generated in the community, Rushton is now teaching his classes at UWO via video tape.



## Quebec students question reps

**MONTREAL (CUP)** - Quebec's largest student federation - traditionally Canada's most militant education lobby - is being challenged by a new provincial group.

A less militant student federation is gaining momentum in the province and may represent over 100,000 students by the end of this semester.

The upstart Federation des Étudiantes et des Étudiants du Québec (FEEQ) is hoping to replace the 15-year-old Association des Étudiantes et Étudiants du Québec (ANEEQ) as Quebec's student voice.

Students at six universities will be holding referendums this semester to decide whether to join FEEQ, including McGill University and the universities of Montreal, Sherbrooke, Laval, Chocoutimi and Trois Rivières.

If those universities join FEEQ, the federation will represent more than half of the province's undergraduate university students.

"I think we're getting more and more popular because ANEEQ hasn't been able to adapt to the new needs students have," said FEEQ official Nicholas Plourde. "We feel we're the organization which represents student needs right now."

Both organizations oppose the Quebec government's decision to raise tuition fees for the first time in 20 years this fall. But, while ANEEQ's platform calls for free university education, FEEQ accepts that students should shoulder some of the cost of their education.

FEEQ's political platform revolves around a "new partnership" between students, government, and business, Plourde said.

The best way to offset Quebec universities' \$300 million deficit, is to ask students to pay a special post-graduation tax, Plourde said.

"Our goal is to implement measures that won't hurt accessibility, but that will still help solve the underfunding problem," he said.

ANEEQ, which launched many bitter, drawn-out strikes over its history, has been credited with upholding Quebec's 20-year-old tuition fee freeze.

But the organization has been losing membership over the past decade. At its peak, it had over 30 members. Today, only two university members and 18 college members remain.

Concordia, one of the two university members, will be holding a referendum this semester to decide whether to continue its membership. The other university, l'Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM), is boycotting ANEEQ meetings because it feels the federation is too centralized, although it is not considering pulling out.

ANEEQ official Stephane Lessard said the new student organization may split up the student movement at a time when it desperately needs unity.

"They're just playing into the government's hands," Lessard said. "There's nothing more those in power would like to see than a lack of solidarity among students who are undergoing hard economic times."

Lessard said FEEQ's platform is towing the government line and ultimately goes against students' interests.

"The moment you ask students to pay more, you're going against their interests," Lessard said.

He said the only way to solve the underfunding problem is to force corporations to pay a one per

cent education tax.

ANEEQ said the new federation is not going to have much success.

"Twice in the 80's, organizations have tried to set up rival student organization, but they've always failed because of lack of conviction for basic principles," Lessard said.



## Ontario wants zero tuition

by Karen Hill

**TORONTO (CUP)** - Ontario's student lobby group got a much-needed shot in the arm recently when the province's faculty association came out in support of free tuition.

The Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) has been advocating the elimination of tuition fees since 1972. On Sept. 18 it was joined by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA), which represents teaching, research and professional library staff at all Ontario universities.

OCUFA is calling for a reduction in tuition fees, and announced a timetable for their abolition.

OFS official Greg Elmer said OCUFA's announcement shows that student lobbying against tuition fees has been successful.

"It's told people that students aren't whiners, and they have responsible positions on issues in the [post-secondary education] community," Elmer said.

Elmer said that OCUFA's an-

nouncement was well-timed, coming just two weeks before Ontario's new NDP government enters the provincial legislature.

Although Premier Bob Rae didn't take a stand on post-secondary education issues during the recent election campaign, the NDP has as one of its long-term goals the elimination of university tuition fees.

OCUFA's policy statement also called for the elimination of higher fees for international students, an increase in aid for under-represented students such as natives and people with disabilities, a increase in living expenses provided under Ontario's student loan system, and the elimination of the cap on grants and loans.

But University of Toronto professor David Stager, the author of a 1989 Council of Ontario Universities report recommending increased tuition fees, says OCUFA's ideas are out of date.

"I think it's irresponsible in the budgetary constraints of the 1990's," Stager said. "I'm disappointed in my colleagues as schol-

ars. There isn't much hope for a decrease in fees."

OCUFA official Bob Kanduth said the proposed changes could take up to eight years to implement, at a cost of \$400 million.

And, he added, Stager is the one behind the times.

"He's more concerned with the bottom line. We want to talk about people. He is looking at this from an economist's view."

One of OCUFA's main arguments is that high tuition fees serve as a deterrent to students, particularly those from disadvantaged groups.

But social and cultural factors play a much greater role in deterring non-traditional students, rather than high tuition fees, according to Stager.

And, he said, it is inefficient to eliminate tuition fees. Instead, he suggested increasing fees for all students, while boosting aid for under-represented groups. The possible deterrent of increased fees could be offset by the creation of new categories of student loans, Stager said.