

York profs debunk Rushton

By LORRAYNE C. ANTHONY

In order to arm the non-scientist with the knowledge to evaluate Philippe Rushton's work, four York biology professors lectured on genetics and human evolution at Founders College on March 14.

Rushton is a professor of psychology at the University of Western Ontario, whose work states that the human races are organized in a genetic hierarchy. Rushton's theory says that orientals are the most intellectually advanced, followed by whites, then blacks. The data he uses to prove this theory are IQ tests, sexual restraint, sociability and penis length.

Professor Marla Sokolowski joined professors Arthur Forer, Brian Golding, and Joel Shore in order to shed light on the complexities of research in behavioural genetics. Sokolowski, a behaviour genetics biologist said that when she first heard about Rushton's latest theories she chose to ignore them.

"With [Rushton's] mishandling of data I would not have given him a passing grade on a freshman paper."

"I didn't want to dignify his views with a reaction," said Sokolowski.

As his work became more publicized, she felt the need for a reaction. She believes emotional responses, like the one David Suzuki gave at a debate at Western, is useful, but said that it is also important to educate the general public.

She wants people to "be able to identify why Rushton's work is not

detail the basics of genetics. He stressed that genetic transmission is very complicated, not simply a matter of one gene coding for one particular visible trait.

Golding, a population biologist, showed that genetic differences within a race are much greater than the genetic differences between different races. Golding explained that the term "race" has a broad definition and is used in many different ways. He also stressed that evolution is highly branched and not a linear, preordained progression.

Rushton's work revolves around the idea of measuring the heritability — and how this can be only be done with proper experimental protocol. Shore says that Rushton did not follow this protocol.

Rushton's work has also been criticized in other York departments. Four psychology professors, Mike Ziegler, Fred Weizmann, Dave Wiesenthal, and Neil Weiner wrote an eighty-page critique, stating why they believe Rushton's work is fraudulent. They attack his work on the basis of his selective coverage of data to support his model, and his distortion of legitimate research by taking discoveries out of their original context.

Professor of mathematics Lee Lorch is proud of York's biologists and psychologists for responding against Rushton so promptly, and adds, "With his mishandling of data I would not have given him a passing grade on a freshman paper."

"It will help them recognize future Rushtons," said Sokolowski.

Cell biologist Forer outlined in The rules of academic freedom at

York state that "... upholding, protecting, and promoting academic freedom [is] essential to the pursuit of truth and the fulfilment of the University's objectives. Academic freedom includes the freedom of an employee to ... pursue without interference or reprisal ... his/her research ... and to publish and make public the results thereof ... and to be free from institutional censorship."

The only way to prevent bad science is not to fund it.

Traves said, "After a professor receives tenure, it would be hard to fire him, except in a case of gross professional misconduct such as plagiarism."

The only way to prevent bad science from being carried out is not to fund it, Traves said.

Sokolowski pointed out that "Most of Rushton's funding comes from the Pioneer Fund, an organization which was incorporated in 1937 with avowed racist and eugenic goals."

Biology professor Lawrence Packer said, "Universities should set guidelines for accepting private funding. Western's research administration should make the time to screen all the [private] grants."

Rushton taught at York several years ago under a one year contract. He was never hired for a permanent position.

But if Rushton were a professor at York, he would probably not be fired, according to Dean of Arts Tom Traves.

York students charged with mischief at protest

By SCOTT GOODMAN

A preliminary hearing for four York students, charged with mischief in connection with a protest on International Women's Day, was scheduled for this morning in Old City Hall.

At the protest, approximately 50 women held up traffic at the Bay and King intersection for about 15 minutes at 8:30 am.

Deb Ellis, a spokesperson for the group Broads on Bay Street said her group organized the demonstration to protest "the many businesses whose primary interest and function is to maintain the status quo," referring to the banks and other businesses with offices in the Bay and King area.

It gave us space and opportunity

to raise our voices against the many states of women's oppression."

Sergeant Perkins of Metro Police's 52 division, who was at the protest on March 14, saw the event.

"They were blocking traffic and you can't do that," he said.

Ellis, who views the event as a success, said that the 19 women arrested on pleading not guilty to the mischief charges.

"Because of the oppression caused by the male-dominated, patriarchal society we live in, we had no choice but to be there," said Ellis. "The protest did a lot more than stop traffic."

The 19 women, including the four York students, face a maximum penalty of six months in jail if convicted, but Sergeant Perkins said he thinks they will probably be fined.

Rabbi to donate books to Judaic Studies programme

By SCOTT GOODMAN

York's library is receiving a donation of almost 3,000 books from the private collection of well-known author and columnist Rabbi Gunther Plaut.

The books are a welcome addition to York's Judaic Studies program and offers the library some new and unique material as well as some rare copies of early philosophic and trend-setting works.

Ellen Hoffman, York's Director of Libraries, is very excited about the addition to the library and said that she is "delighted at the opportunity to enrich our collection for Judaic Studies."

According to Hoffman, not only did Plaut not want to split the books up among different institutions, he also chose to make the donation to York because he felt that York badly

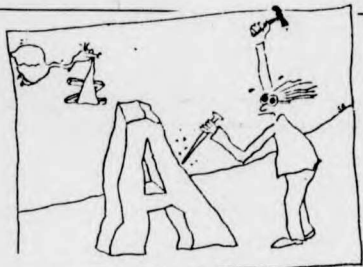
needs the books.

Hoffman also said she has "learned a lot from Rabbi Plaut" and is putting his books to good use. She hopes to rebind the older books and put together a working collection of Jewish fiction.

The books deal with many areas of Judaica but most of the literature teaches classical Jewish studies, especially historical, philosophical and archaeological subjects.

One of the more unique and interesting books is an encyclopedia of anti-Semitism by Isenmenger, circa 1711, which is likely the first gathering of anti-Semitic material into one volume. Most of the book has to do with the Jews' presumed role in killing Christ.

Plaut began donating books in 1987, and the donation will continue over the next few years.



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Excalibur is accepting articles and/or photos for its joke issue. For more information call Adam at 736-5239.

CYSF By-Election

There are 7 constituency rep. positions still available on the 89-90 Council.

Positions available:

- 1 rep. from Bethune
- 2 reps. from Founders
- 2 reps. from Stong
- 2 reps. from Winters

Nomination Period: Mar. 21 - Mar. 28 at 4:30
 Campaign Period: Mar. 28 at 4:31 - April 4 at midnight
 Advanced Poll: April 5 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
 Election Day: April 6 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
 Polling Stations will be in those colleges having elections.

We need Dro's and Poll Clerks to be on-call in case there is an election. Please pick up applications at the CYSF office.

Manus

CYSF is now accepting advertisements for the 89-90 Manus. Please forward them to: 105 Central Square, attention: Christy Vivian.

Part-Time Jobs

CYSF has two part-time jobs available from August 89 - April 90. They are the services and events co-ordinator and the communications co-ordinator. Please submit resumes to the CYSF office.

Student Peer Support Centre is inviting applications for the position of Co-ordinator for the academic year 1989-90. Please submit a resume and covering letter to Derek Lett, 112 Central Sq., no later than April 7, 1989.

Logo Design Competition

The new student run art supply store is coming, but they need a name and a logo for it. Please submit all amazing designs to the Fine Arts Bldg. Rm. 309 by Mar. 31. Please include name and phone number. The winner will receive \$100 in art supplies from the new store.



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