

Past haunts U of A psychology departments

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intelligent than whites. "Times do change," Ogloff said. "It never makes what happened in the past right."

Psychological ethics became much more closely adhered to after the Second World War. But indications are that the Eugenics Board paid scant attention to such issues. "I think it's a horrible thing," Ogloff said. "We wouldn't want someone's memory to live on who was involved in this."

While the decision to strip MacEachran of his honours is widely supported, it is not universally accepted.

"I think it's a stupid and ridiculous," Charles Crawford, professor of evolutionary psychology at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., said. "It's trying to rewrite history. There were all sorts of

eugenics people around at the time. Most of them were not Nazis."

"The University of Alberta has become one of the most politically correct universities in the country," said Crawford. Crawford completed his undergraduate and masters' degrees at the University of Alberta between 1957-63. "It's a tragedy," said Crawford. He added that he is writing to the university's administration to protest the decision.

Crawford likened the difficulty in making decisions about the merits of eugenics, as practiced by the board, to the more modern questions surrounding euthanasia, or some new reproductive technology. The lines, he said, are not cut and dry, and to arbitrarily condemn some areas of genetics is wrong. Some of the problems faced by modern

society, he explained, could find their solutions in areas which have been criticized in recent years.

Crawford is highly critical of those who condemn past actions without considering the context of the time. MacEachran acted according to widely accepted in the 1930s. Now we know some of those actions are wrong, but is it fair to condemn MacEachran based on today's standards?

Crawford suggests that the university, and Wahlsten, whom he describes as "an extreme leftist," should consider how far they plan on

taking the revocations.

According to Harvard University professor Richard Lewontin, it is uncommon, or even unique for a eugenicist to be stripped of such honours, with the exception of the Nazis after the Second World War.

"MacEachran was typical of a large group of geneticists and psychologists who thought that everything bad was in the genes and that we needed to save the human race by preventing the breeding of the unfit," Lewontin wrote in an e-mail response to queries. "If we expunged the name of every one of these people from the

various honours, Royal Societies, lectureships, etc. that they have been awarded, we would reduce the list by a considerable amount."

But University of Victoria professor Janet Bavelas said she would not want to participate in a lecture bearing the name of someone like MacEachran. "I would be personally offended to continue to see that name on a lecture series. The 40 years includes some very recent times. Those were completely scientifically unjustifiable decisions."

PROFESSOR PROFILE

Interview with Professor Dubois

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comes out in this other form. **How long did the whole project take?**

From 1985 to 1997. We had a lot of [class] work. I had to get my Spanish up to speed, for example. And it took me a year to find a field site. People don't necessarily want anthropologists hanging around. Then it took me a while to write. I was back in December of '92 [and] it took me five years to write, two of which I was teaching here full-time.

What is the best thing about Dalhousie?

I like the students. I think the students are both friendly and smart, which is always a pleasure... they're interested in learning things and are engaged in ideas... people are genuinely interested.

How about the worst thing about Dalhousie?

The general pressure that everyone feels to cut corners, but that seems to be going on everywhere in the

world. We're doing a moderately good job of resisting that here, I think.

What annoys you most about teaching?

Well, this isn't annoying... more like amusing. When you're teaching a class, students don't realize that the

What do you think is the most important application you can make in Social Anthropology?

The most concrete difference I think I make is teaching, because I think that it's valuable. There are things you'd learn to think more critically about in the world [through my class] in a certain way that would stand you in good stead, just as a citizen. I think Anthropology has a lot to contribute in terms of... helping us understand... how the world works in this increasingly multicultural society.

Do you have any advice for students today?

I believe that people get really wrapped up in what they think they're supposed to be doing in terms of careers and so on. If you do the things that you love, then that's what you're going to be best at. Somehow, that's how you're going to end up being successful.



WEEK OF REFLECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Nov 25** - International Day to End Violence Against Women. Table in SUB with information and videos being shown.
- Nov 26** - Coverdale Courtwork Services Presentation and Discussion. Peace Bonds, Restraining Orders, How to press Common Assault charges, and Criminal Harassment (stalking) Room 307, SUB, 7:00- 9:00 pm
- Nov 27** - Movie Night: "The Colour Purple" Room 218, A&A, 7:30 pm. Popcorn Provided!!!
- Nov 29** - Jan Tait, Trager Movement Education Workshop. Reduce Stress through Moves. YWCA 1239 Barrington, 1:30-3:30 pm
- Dec 1** - Jen Bowers, Women's Self-Defense Workshop YWCA, 1239 Barrington Street, 7:00 - 9:30 pm
- Dec 2** - Panel Presentation: Avalon Centre, Adsum House, Stepping Stone, and Bryony House. Room 224, SUB, 6:30 -8:00 pm.
- Dec 3** - Open Mike Night at the Grawood. Proceeds to a local Women's Organization. Please come and support us.
- Dec 4** - Verona Singer, Halifax Regional Police, Victim Services Council Chamber, 3rd Floor SUB, 3:00- 4:45pm
- Dec 6** - Event Marking Montreal Massacre. Women's Only Speak Out at 6:30 pm. Main program, open to all, 7:00 pm. Green Room, SUB. Music, readings, speaking, singing, candles and roses.

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