

\$ for "racial betterment" = racism

by Tu Thanh Ha & Cathy Majtenyi

Amid anger and controversy generated by Western psychology professor J. Phillippe Rushton's racial theories, the funding he receives from a conservative American group has gone largely unnoticed.

But for at least four years, some of Rushton's work has been funded by the Pioneer Fund, a right-wing foundation which finances studies on "racial betterment".

Rushton's views first came to public attention on Jan. 19 in San Francisco at the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Presenting a 13-page paper titled "Evolutionary Biology and Heritable Traits," Rushton told 100 delegates at a session of the conference that "Mongoloids" having evolved later than "Caucasoids" and "Negroids" have

they fund," says Rushton. "They don't put restrictions on my research. The Pioneer Fund does not have a political agenda."

Another reference in Rushton's controversial paper mentions a study by A.R. Jensen. Both Arthur R. Jensen and Rushton have received funding from the

Shockley has long claimed Blacks to be genetically less intelligent, a condition which, he says cannot be solved by providing better schools jobs or living conditions.

In 1977, Shockley told a *New York Times* reporter that he believed "that a major cause of American Negroes' intellectual and social deficits is hereditary and racially genetic in origin."

Pearson has written many pro-apartheid, pro-segregation arti-

anti-school integration seminars in Boston and in Louisville, Kentucky.

Until at least 1985, the fund's president was Harry Weyher, a 67-year-old lawyer who represented Wycliffe Draper in the 1950s and 1960s. Weyher is a partner in the New York law firm of Olwine, Connelly, Chase,

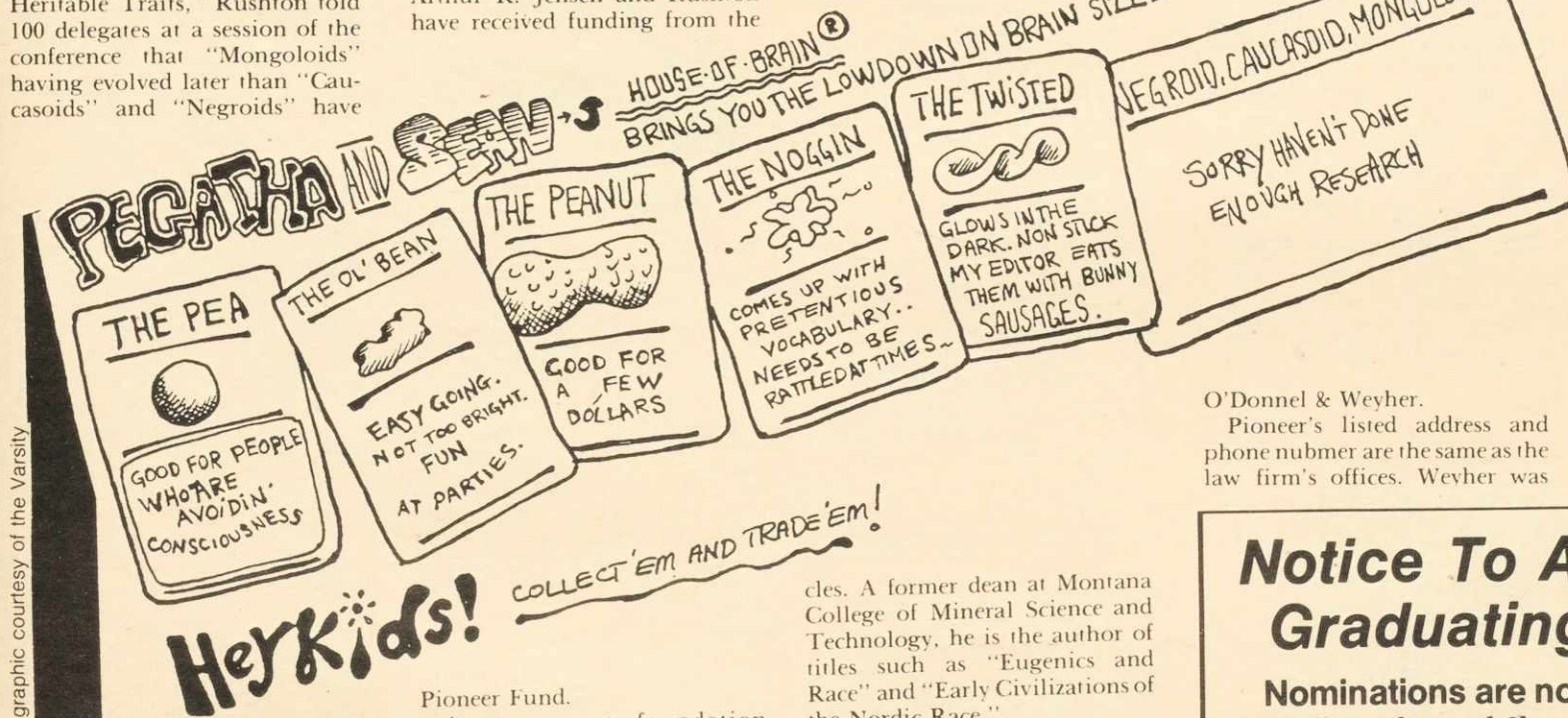
not available for comment when contacted at his Manhattan office and did not return phone messages.

John Trevor, the fund's treasurer, is a founder of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, a conservative lobby group. Testifying in 1965 against adopting more liberal immigration laws in the U.S., Trevor said he feared such policies would create "a series culture decline".

Thomas Ellis, a former Pioneer director, was a political strategist for senator Jesse Helms, a famous conservative Republican from North Carolina.

In 1983, Ellis resigned from a U.S. federal broadcasting board when it was revealed he opposed school integration, stating that the real goal of desegregation was "racial intermarriage and the disappearance of the Negro race by fusing into the white."

In 1976, while working for Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign in the North Carolina primaries, Ellis tried to discredit Gerald Ford by claiming that Ford would select a Black running mate if nominated as the Republican presidential candidate.



O'Donnel & Weyher.

Pioneer's listed address and phone number are the same as the law firm's offices. Weyher was

cles. A former dean at Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, he is the author of titles such as "Eugenics and Race" and "Early Civilizations of the Nordic Race."

Jensen is a University of California psychologist who came to national attention in the U.S. in 1969 when he published an article and because of that has received extensive funding from Pioneer ever since, says Barry Mehler, a history professor at Ferris University, Michigan.

"Jensen is at the forefront of this movement," says Mehler, who has written a PhD thesis on racism in academia. "He is riding on the tidal wave of eugenics."

While Porter mostly finances studies in genetics, it has on at least one occasion given money to a Northern Iowa University professor to prepare anti-busing and

Pioneer Fund.

A tax-exempt foundation incorporated in New York, the Pioneer Fund is financed through an endowment started in 1937 by Wycliffe Draper, a reclusive Massachusetts textile manufacturer who died in 1972.

In its incorporation certificates, Pioneer states that it funds research in to "racial betterment", says David Vise, a Washington Post business reporter who has reviewed the fund's records.

Records from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service show that between 1982 and 1983, Pioneer gave nearly \$700,000 for research in eugenics and dysgenics, Vise says.

Eugenics is the discipline which tries to improve human genetic traits. Dysgenics is the study of the deterioration of hereditary characteristics over time.

In 1984, the Pioneer Fund had nearly \$5 million (U.S.) in assets, and gave research grants worth up to \$95,000 (U.S.) according to the N.Y. Foundation Directory, which lists major U.S. foundations.

Since the 1960s, the Pioneer Fund has given money to controversial researchers, such as William Shockley, Roger Pearson and Jensen, who have been criticized for linking intelligence to heredity. None of the three is a geneticist. Neither is Rushton.

A Nobel prize-winning professor at Stanford University — for the development of the transistor

larger brains and scored higher in intelligence tests.

Among the scientists cited in Rushton's paper, at least one — Christopher Singer, a paleontologist at the British Museum — says that Rushton has misunderstood his findings. Of the 21 other works mentioned in the paper, half were written or co-written by Rushton.

According to Ross Bellant, a Detroit author who has written about right-wing groups in America, grants from Pioneer are usually handed to a small number of recipients. In 1982, eight grants were given. In 1984 there were 18 grants.

"The money goes to people who are at least connected to universities — whether it is legitimate university research is another question," said Bellant.

Associating the projects it finances with a university professor is a way for Pioneer to gain credibility, he said.

Bellant said he believed Rushton was the only Canadian researcher financed by Pioneer, but added more recent records that the fund is required to file with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service have not been made available yet.

Rushton declined to reveal the exact amount he is receiving from the Pioneer fund, saying only that he has been funded for "about four to five years."

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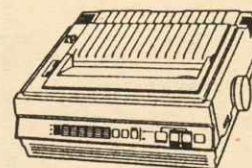
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