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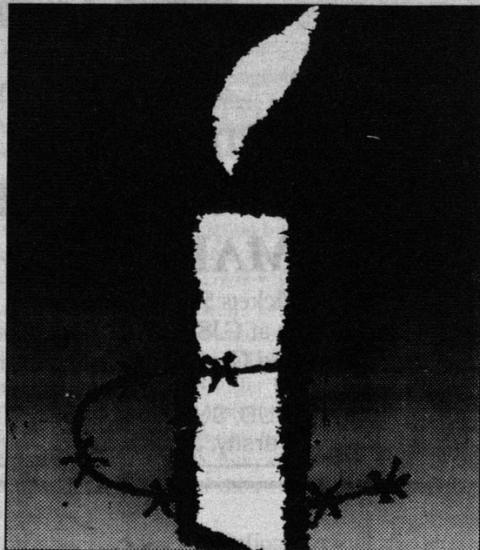
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**Cold water poured
on Rushton's theories**

by Cathy King

The growing controversy surrounding University of Western Ontario professor Phillip Rushton's theories on genetic and racial differences prompted the department of Educational Foundations to present a seminar on March 10 that featured Dr. Douglas Wahlsten, visiting professor from the University of Waterloo.

Wahlsten is Canada's premier behavioral geneticist, and as such was able to study and evaluate Rushton's theories.

Wahlsten feels Rushton's research is scientifically invalid. He stated that psychologists take pride in proper research design, statistical analysis, and interpretation of experiment results. Because Rushton failed to follow proper methods and documentation, he is "an embarrassment to our profession," Wahlsten said.

"The argument that there are genetic reasons for racial differences is not new, but because of the widespread publicity this controversy is receiving, there is a great potential for harm," said Wahlsten.

Wahlsten reviewed Rushton's theories at the seminar and then showed why they were faulty. Rushton, using emergence theory about evolution of the races, claims there are three races in the world, Black, White, and Oriental, that sprang from a common evolutionary line at different times. According to Rushton, Blacks emerged first and therefore exhibit more primitive traits than Whites or Orientals.

Rushton concluded that because Whites and Orientals migrated northward where life was

more challenging and were able to accumulate genes for bigger brains, higher intelligence, and greater sexual restraint, 50 percent of group variations are due to genetic differences.

Wahlsten, upon examination of brain weight statistics as applied to Rushton's theories, suggested that Rushton's figure of 50 percent "was pulled from thin air."

Wahlsten pointed out the flaws in Rushton's research by saying the idea of emergence of races is a nineteenth century idea which has now been completely discredited.

"Rushton simply does not know what he is talking about on this issue. Rushton makes a direct correlation between brain size and degree of intelligence, and that is debatable," Wahlsten said.

Wahlsten also stated that Rushton seemed to be very selective, picking out information that would help his theory and ignoring the rest, such as the fact nutrition and socioeconomic status may

Grapevine

Grapevine

Native students at the University of Alberta are getting set to fight against "unfair" economic conditions on campus. Members of the U of A Native Student Association are preparing to rally next Wednesday against proposed changes to native funding policies. Interested students are urged to show up at Athabasca Hall Saturday at 1 pm to help make up placards for a protest march scheduled for next Wednesday

have caused variances in the groups that were investigated.

Rushton also appeared to take figures from the discussion sections of other papers even though their authors cautioned that the numbers were inconclusive.

Such negligent research techniques concern Wahlsten when the results are passed off as fact to an unsuspecting public.

"This is not a matter of controversial opinion, or of the offence of the rich and powerful, but a question of fraud and professional ethics," he said.

What is a Cariboo Watch?

Good question.

Find out at the next Gateway meeting. Newspaper staff will be gathering this Thursday at 5:00 pm in SUB 282 to endure some serious headaches over constitution bylaws, and to make plans for a staff party.

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