

J. P. Das a big winner

by Greg Lockert

Educational psychology professor, Dr. J.P. Das, was a recent recipient of the University of Alberta Research Prize for his work in the field of educational psychology.

The award followed a lengthy and ongoing project begun fifteen years ago by Das concerning human intelligence from a neuropsychological perspective.

According to Das, the concept of human intelligence (a difficult field at the best of times) has been oversimplified and compartmentalized to the point where our intelligence tests measure only one facet of what he considers to be a multi-faceted ability. In other words, where many people, experts and laypersons alike, view intelligence as a single, basic ability, Das views it

as a diverse series of abilities. The result is that widely used intelligence tests such as the Stanford-Binet and the Wechsler, measure only a small percentage of a person's total intelligence. Thus the tests fail students, teachers, and parents alike.

Das embarked on a program in which he intended to uncover and study the multiple abilities associated with human intelligence. Literally hundreds of school children from such diverse cultures as Canada, the United States, England, Australia, and Africa took part in the fifteen year study. Included in the study were children with learning disabilities and mentally handicapped individuals.

During this period Das studied how humans think and process

information. He attempted to ascertain how the information processing parts of our brains are aroused and motivated to attentiveness to some cue in the environment; how our brains store and retrieve the information received; how we formulate plans and make decisions; and which areas of the brain are associated with such activities. Answers were also sought for interesting and unanswered questions such as why some intelligent children cannot read, and why some borderline students accomplish great intellectual feats later on in life. These are questions that Das believes force us to consider alternative views of intelligence.

Das' research on intelligence is an ongoing project and one that he hopes will prove that intelligence is not one ability, but rather many diverse abilities. And in the long-run he believes that such an understanding will lead to far more comprehensive and useful testing of our uniquely human abilities.

Calgary freezes staff

CALGARY (CUP) — The University of Calgary has announced a hiring freeze effective immediately as the first step in a program to reduce operating funds.

Associate Vice-President Academic Lorna Cammaert said the administration is also looking at ways to change its early retirement program to give professors incentive to retire before the age of 65.

Cammaert said early retirement and other possible changes are now negotiated with the U of C Faculty Association.

The hiring freeze applies to positions that are now vacant and to additional vacancies which may

occur this year. The freeze does not apply to new academic positions funded by new program development grants, said Cammaert.

Sessional instructors are not affected by the freeze. Any vacancy left by a retiring professor will be filled by a sessional.

In announcing the freeze, Vice-President Academic Peter Kreuger said the university is trying to protest funding for graduate students.

"Our first priority is to prevent the decline in graduate programs and in graduate student support," he said.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



COORDINATOR OF COURSE/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

Purpose:

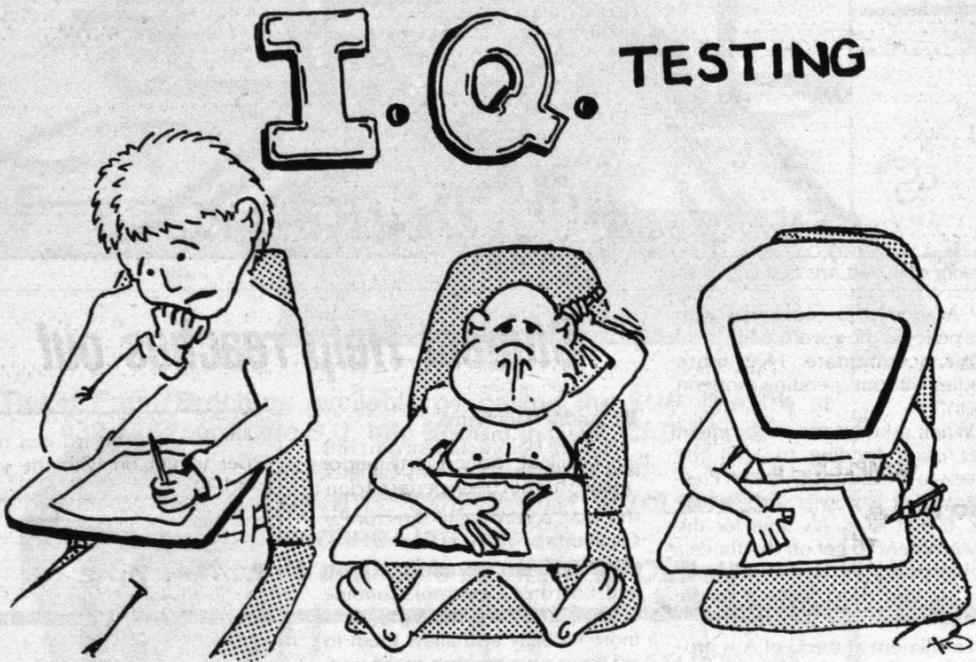
To establish campus wide course/instructor evaluations that meet with the Students' Union's goals and University Administration's goals for quality instruction.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. To work with the University Administration, particularly the Committee for the Improvement of Teaching and Learning (CITL), in establishing a campus wide course/instructor evaluation programme.
2. To work with the Students' Union Vice-President Academic in establishing long and short-term goals for the programme that best suit the Students' Union and University Administration.
3. To implement the programme and coordinate its administration to campus.
4. To report regularly to the Vice-President Academic and monthly to Students' Council on the progress of the project.
5. To be a special member of the Academic Affairs Board.

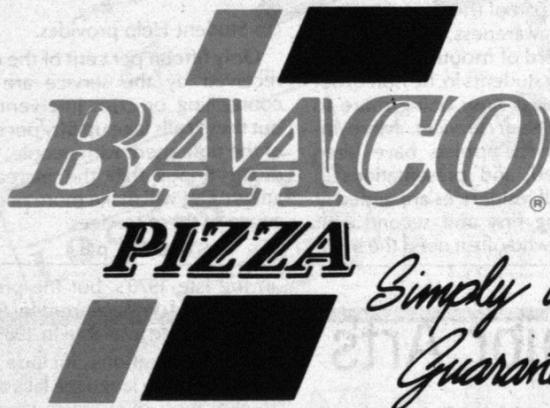
Application forms available in Room 259 SUB.

Application Deadline: Friday, September 25, 1987 - 4:00 p.m.



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