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Laurier to host public forum on Rushton's theories

A forum to help the public assess the theories of Philippe Rushton will be held at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo on March 19.

Entitled "Science or Racism? Rushton in Perspective," the forum will examine the history of scientific racism, the validity of Rushton's claims and the positive work done by psychologists and others to promote better race relations.

The three faculty members or community workers to present these topics, as well as a high-profile speaker who will make additional comments, are yet to be announced.

The forum has been organized by several psychology professors at Laurier and the University of Waterloo in response to the recent controversy surrounding Rushton.

A psychology professor at the University of Western Ontario in London, Rushton created public outrage in January when he read a paper at a San Francisco conference. In part, his theories state that evolution has contributed to blacks being intellectually inferior to whites and whites inferior to Orientals.

Doug McKenzie-Mohr, a psychology professor at Laurier, said the forum is being held to help the public put Rushton's theories in perspective.

"It's hoped that this forum will provide the public with the opportunity to critically assess Rushton's theories as well as promote more positive race relations in Kitchener-Waterloo."

The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions following the formal presentations.

The forum will begin at 7 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium, located off University Avenue.

Admission is \$2. Tickets are available at the Information Centre at WLU; WPIRG and the Federation of Students office at UW; Provident Bookstore, 117 King St. W., Kitchener; and Words Worth Books, 88 King St. S., Waterloo. Tickets will also be available at the door.

- 30 -

For more information, contact McKenzie-Mohr at (519) 884-1970 ext. 2854 or (519) 749-1681.

Seating will be reserved for members of the news media covering the forum and news kits will also be available.