

Kwantlen criminologist wins achievement award

Kwantlen College criminology instructor Brian MacLean is the 1992 winner of the Distinguished Achievement Award by the Division of Critical Criminology of the American Society of Criminology. This is the highest possible award for a critical criminologist and one of the very few awards given out to North American criminologists.

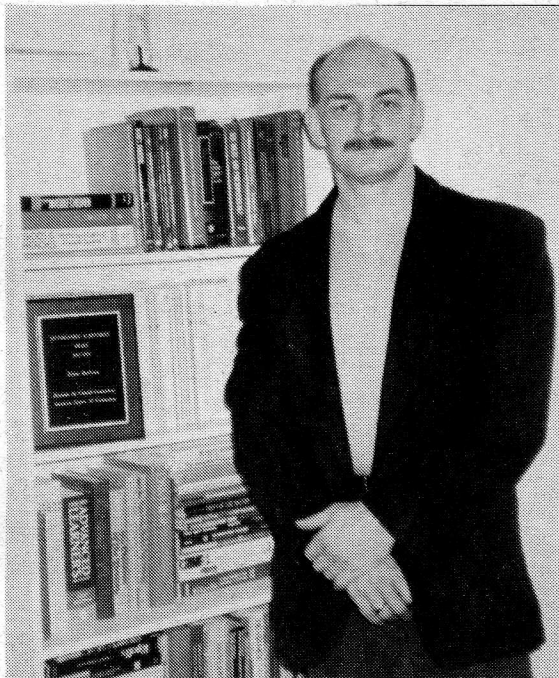
Dr. MacLean won the award in honor of his entire body of work — ranging from specific work on the *Islington Crime Survey*, to continuing work on left realism — an alternative but practical approach which focuses on the victim as the central figure in crime control. The award was also based on MacLean's considerable work editing and publishing criminology journals and for providing an academic platform to encourage younger members of the discipline.

In addition to co-authoring the *Islington Crime Survey*, he is the founding editor of *The Journal of Human Justice*, production editor of *The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*, and with Walter DeKeseredy and Bernard Headley, co-editor of *The Critical Criminologist*.

"These journals give younger members in criminology an opportunity to produce and publish their research," he says. "They create new communications vehicles for students in the discipline. Having work published can be difficult — and with rapidly-changing criminology patterns, can be time sensitive. Some research not published soon enough runs the risk of becoming dated. This way, people who might not otherwise be in print have an opportunity."

Of broader interest and implication is MacLean's area of study — critical criminology, and beyond that to left realism. Based on inner-city British crime research, it provides a completely new

theory of policing, a new way of approaching social policy and a new school of thought in criminology. His work has kindled a new line of debate in discuss-



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ing crime and a fresh approach in the discipline for new students.

"Much of critical criminology has virtually ignored the impact of street crime on its victims," says MacLean. "Left realism reasserts the victim as the central figure. It recognizes the seriousness of street crime for those people victimized by it — particularly women. And it acknowledges that a consensus about the desirability of a core group of laws does exist and advocates various kinds of criminal justice reform and crime prevention strategies."

One of the most important contributions left realism has made to criminological research is the development of local crime surveys which attempt to measure patterns of victimization and policing — and how these are perceived by the general public. Such research

remains largely undeveloped in North America.

"Information from local crime surveys has shown that young people, working class people, racial minorities and women are most likely to be victims of property and personal crime," he says. "Traditional criminology has often viewed these groups as offenders — with the exception of women, who have been largely ignored by criminologists altogether."

"This information has been partially successful in creating more progressive crime control policies. It has helped bridge the gap in Britain between police and the community — generating debate on police accountability. In Canada, it has the potential to do the same for the inner city and native communities."

The Distinguished Achievement Award was presented at the annual business meeting during the American Society of Criminology meetings in New Orleans on November 5.

MacLean received his BA Honors with high honors in sociology from the University of Saskatchewan where he was awarded the gold medal for the most distinguished graduate. After completing his MA in sociology at Saskatchewan, he attended the London School of Economics and Political Science as a Commonwealth Scholar. There he completed his doctorate in sociology/criminology with his work as principal investigator on the *Islington Crime Survey*.

He is editor of *The Political Economy of Crime* with Dawn Currie, co-editor of *The Administration of Justice*, and *Re-Thinking the Administration of Justice* with Dragan Milovanovic, co-editor of *Racism, Empiricism and Criminal Justice* and *New Directions in Critical Criminology*, and, with John Lowman, co-editor of *Realist Criminology*, recently published by University of Toronto Press.