

do not support, and touches only briefly on the race-IQ question. Nowhere does it go beyond the

generally accepted boundaries of psychometry. The braying in the British press and John Wiley's

astonishing capitulation (see next story) only show how rare good sense still is. ●

Adventures in the Book Trade

The academic publishing house, John Wiley & Sons, has distinguished itself by taking what must be one of the most craven decisions ever made by a publisher. It has withdrawn from the trade and described as "repellent" a study of intelligence that just the previous week it had been calling a "well argued, critical review" by a man "well known for his contributions to research and debate on intelligence." Needless to say, it was the book's straightforward treatment of the black/white IQ gap and resultant hysteria in the press that prompted Wiley's contemptible about-face.

The book in question is *The g Factor*, released in February in the United Kingdom and originally scheduled to appear in the United States in the spring. The author is Christopher Brand, a lecturer in psychology at the University of Edinburgh. Wiley pitched the book in Britain as a semi-scholarly study of intelligence: "*The g Factor* introduces and reviews twentieth-century arguments about intelligence while focusing on recent advances in methods and research. . . . [Offering] a focused review that is succinct, authoritative and up-to-the-minute, this book will be of interest to the general reader, as well as undergraduate students of psychology, education and social sciences."

Like any sensible study, *The g Factor* concludes that intelligence is largely heritable and that the black/white performance gap is probably at least partially genetic in origin. Like any sensible publisher, Wiley tried to get press attention for the book by soliciting interviews with the author. They got a huge amount of press but not, apparently, the kind they wanted.

For two straight weeks, Mr. Brand was on the cover of major British papers, while the chattering classes attempted to digest his views. What seems to have most shocked the properly socialized was Mr. Brand's acceptance of the label "scientific racist," in which he saw nothing in-

vidious since liberals have consistently called even the most eminent IQ researchers "racists." Almost as reprehensible was his suggestion that if unwed underclass girls insisted on going drinking and having sex, they should at least give their resulting illegitimate children a better start in life by choosing high-IQ men as sex partners. Oh dear.



Just one day's front-page headlines included the following: " 'Scientific racist' denies controversy," "Scientific racist sparks row," "Race: New book on IQ claims black people are less intelligent," "Fury at race IQ claims," "Race storm over book," and "Blacks have lower intelligence, claims Scottish academic."

Wiley suddenly detected much that was loathesome in the book it had been promoting, and on April 17th issued the following press release:

"After careful consideration of the statements made recently by author Christopher Brand (as reported in the British press), as well as some of the views presented in his work, *The g Factor*, we have decided to withdraw the book from publication. The management of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., does not want to support these views by disseminating them or to be associated with a book that makes assertions that we find repellent."

The publisher then took the extraordinary step of "depublishing" the book; it stopped distributing it,

withdrew copies from book stores, and canceled a planned release in the United States. Lest American readers think this was a particularly British act of poltroonery, it was the American branch of the company that made the decision. Wiley U.K., though, was already showing signs of the collywobbles by mid-March and appears to have been delighted to follow orders.

Naturally, a blizzard of "refutations" of Mr. Brand appeared in the U.K. papers. One of the more astonishing was produced for the May 5 *Observer* by one Graham Richards, "visiting principal lecturer in psychology at Staffordshire University." He wrote that the race/IQ question is "largely meaningless" because " 'race' is a social, not a biological category," and concluded that it has been known since 1930 that low black IQ scores are due to an "undiagnosed visual impairment."

Meanwhile, at the University of Edinburgh students and faculty were screaming for Mr. Brand's scalp. There was so much potentially violent sentiment that the police assigned him special protection. A month's investigation into whether there might be reason to fire him came up empty-handed. Representatives of the student government eventually began to realize they looked foolish calling for Mr. Brand's sacking on account of a book they had not read and *could* not read, so they decided to demand only that he be barred from teaching. The university duly began an investigation of his "teaching style," and concluded, without being very specific, that it should be changed.

Through it all, Mr. Brand stuck to his guns, giving interviews, appearing on talk shows, and seeming to revel in combat. Belatedly support began to trickle in. There were the usual private congratulations from people who, themselves, never say in public what they actually believe, and a student group even put on a pro-free speech demonstration. Academics are beginning to line up in support not just of Mr. Brand's right to speak but of what he is saying.

On May 20, the National Association of Scholars, an American organization that battles the excesses of university liberalism, issued a statement urging Wiley to "proceed with its original commitment to publish" and warning that withdrawal of a book "chills the intellectual climate, and encourages efforts to suppress opinions of every stripe."

Mr. Brand is considering legal action against Wiley, and there have been indications that other publishers are interested in the book. In the

meantime, *The g Factor* continues to be unavailable except in a photocopied edition (the truly committed can get one by sending \$75.00 to Stuart Whiteside, 71 South Clerk Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9PP U.K.). Mr. Brand also has a web page, which summarizes the book and reports the latest developments in this sorry story (<http://www.cybersurf.co.uk/johnny/chris>).

Mr. Brand is doing exactly the right thing. He is not giving an inch and is broadcasting the facts as widely as

possible. In cases like this, it is *crucial* to stand up to the yahoos. Retraction is death. The cringing and the penitent are held up to public humiliation and then cast into outer darkness. The stalwart can not only face down the full fury of the media; the longer they stand firm and the harder they fight, the more support they gain. We hope to report presently that *The g Factor* has been taken on by another publisher, which plans to distribute it in the United States. ●

O Tempora, O Mores!

Victims All

Col. Frank Scotti, a 52-year-old white man, is an ROTC instructor at Roosevelt High School in the District of Columbia. On Jan. 30, he heard a commotion in the hall outside his classroom. When he went to investigate, he smelled marijuana and told three blacks who were not even students—one was 20 years old and the others were 19—to stop smoking and go away. A short time later, they attacked him, beating him bloody and unconscious, while a group of students laughed and cheered. Col. Scotti suffered a broken eye socket, a concussion, and permanent sensory loss in his face. The three blacks were convicted of aggravated assault.

At a recent sentencing hearing, D.C. Superior Court Judge Harriet Taylor could have sent the three criminals to jail for 10 years. Instead, she sentenced them to five years each in Youth Rehabilitation Center, and suspended all but 16 months of the sentence for two of the criminals and all but 24 months for the third. Judge Taylor [race unspecified] remarked that the three defendants "need a great deal of help," adding, "there are more victims than Colonel Scotti in this case." (Amy Korval, Judge Decides Against Regular Jail for Attackers, Washington Times, May 25, 1996, p. A1.)

Dispatches From the Front

In May, a black Dayton man shot and killed a white delivery man in an

unprovoked attack and then opened fire on a group of white policemen, killing one officer before he was shot and killed. Twenty-four-year-old Maurice Fareed had long had a grudge against whites. As his mother explained to reporters, "The last couple of days he said there wasn't no hope and white people were going to keep black people in slavery." (Reuter, Dayton, Ohio, May 24, 1996.)

In April, another black, Michael Whitener, was sentenced to concurrent 60 and 45 year sentences in Goshen, Indiana for killing one white and attempting to kill another. Mr. Whitener admitted that he had simply killed the first whites who came along. He was angry because earlier that day a white detective in Elkhart, Indiana had shot and killed a black man. (105 Years Imposed in Murder, The Elkhart Truth (Indiana), April 18, 1996.)

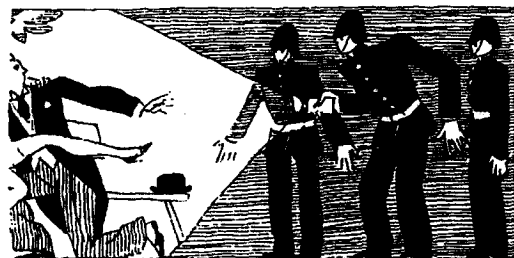
In Sacramento, California, two blacks have pleaded guilty to kidnapping a white woman from an apartment complex, terrorizing her, and forcing her to drive them around town while they looked for people to rob. The men said they had put the woman through the eight-hour ordeal as revenge for 400 years of slavery. (Roland Sweet, News Quirks, Northern Express (Traverse City, MI), May 1, 1996, p. 26.)

African Law-making

The West African nation of Benin has recognized voodoo as an official religion along with Christianity and

Islam. In the past, Marxist leaders tried to suppress voodoo, but contemporary reports indicate that 60 percent of the population are believers. President Nicephore Soglo has acknowledged the "injustice" of the old Marxist government and declared a paid national holiday for voodoo observances. (Voodoo Reborn as an Official Religion in Benin, Chicago Tribune, Jan. 11, 1996.)

The Ivory Coast has proposed a law that would give a man the right to



divorce his wife for adultery should he catch her so much as having an intimate conversation with another man. For a woman to get a divorce for adultery, she must catch her husband having sex in their house with the same woman *at least twice*. (Howard W. French, For Ivory Coast Women New Battle For Equality, New York Times, April 6, 1996.)

That Old Black Magic

In April, the son of Joshua Nkomo, vice president of Zimbabwe, died of AIDS. In his funeral address, Mr. Nkomo said that AIDS had been brought to his country by whites in