

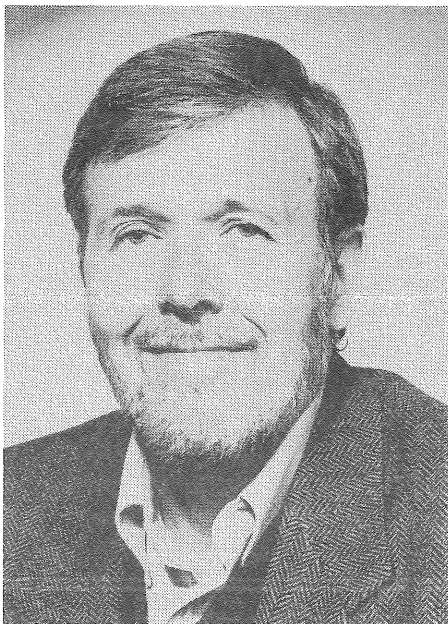


TORONTO PHILOSOPHY NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Vol. 3 No. 1 Fall 1992

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Wayne Sumner, Chair

I return to this position, after a year's hiatus, with a mixture of relief and regret. As for the regret, the memory is still fresh in my mind of how exhilarating it is to do philosophy, and how much more time is available for this agreeable task when one is carrying no administrative duties. But I am also greatly relieved to be reminded that, though Chairs may come and go, the Department remains in the capable hands of an office staff second to none in the University. It is both pleasant and reassuring to be in their midst again.

I am grateful to Frank Cunningham for his very capable stewardship of the Department during my absence. He has faithfully kept readers abreast of departmental news, so I need not recapitulate any of the events of the past year. The last issue of *TPN* reported the death of David Savan in May of this year. On September 24 a Memorial for David was held at University College, which was attended by more than a hundred of his family, friends, and colleagues. It was an opportunity for those of us who remember this wise and gentle man with fondness to celebrate his life, both public and private. The reminiscences offered mixed tears with laughter in a way which David himself would have much enjoyed.

Readers with their own recollections of David may be interested to know that the Department has established a memorial fund in his honour. Inside this issue you will find an update on the planned renovation of our premises at 215 Huron Street, which will include a working library. By agreement among the Department's faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, this has been designated the David Savan Philosophy Library. Graduates wishing to offer their own tribute to David by assisting us in the establishment and maintenance of the Savan Library may do so by sending their contribution to the Department at the address on the bottom of this page. Cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Savan Library Fund, University of Toronto. Be sure to include a

return address, so that we may send you a receipt for income tax purposes.

Sadly, I have another, more recent, loss from our ranks to report. On August 30, George Edison died at the age of 76. George was a mainstay at Trinity College from his initial appointment in 1940 through to his retirement in 1981. An obituary by his longtime Trinity colleague Ken Schmitz appears in this issue. George will be missed by all of us privileged to have been his colleagues.

Staff changes in the Department this year are minimal. We have taken on no new permanent faculty (a reflection of tightening budgetary constraints). However, two job searches will be conducted this year: a continuing search for a position in bioethics, conducted jointly with the Centre for Bioethics, and a new search in the area of environmental ethics. Meanwhile, teaching staff starting a one-year term with us this year include John Russon and Arnold Silverberg (both recent graduates of this Department) and Astrid Vicas (at Erindale College).

Among the holdovers, both Jim Brown and André Gombay have been promoted to the rank of Professor. In our administrative ranks Ronald de Sousa begins a three year term as Graduate Coordinator, while Jackie Brunning takes over as Discipline Representative at Erindale; both will also hold the post of Associate Chair. Jim Brown continues as Undergraduate Coordinator and Associate Chair.

As far as continuing faculty are concerned, Tom Robinson was recently elected President of the International Plato Society. This is a very prestigious post never before held by a member of this university.

Philosophical activities in the Department promise to continue unabated this year. Jackie Brunning has already organized a very successful conference on New Topics in the Philosophy of C.S. Peirce, which took place on October 9 and 10. Inside on p. 7, you will find a full list of Departmental Colloquia for the current academic year. I hope that some of the speakers will tempt you to join us, both at the talk itself and at the reception to follow.

I hope that you will also be tempted to drop a line to *TPN* now and again, with whatever is on your mind. News or comments from our graduates, be they recent or (shall we say) of a certain vintage, are always welcome.

RENOVATION OF 215 HURON

For some years now we have been trying to renovate the Department's rather shabby premises at 215 Huron Street, principally with a view to providing study space for some of our graduate students and establishing a working philosophy library. Last spring we cleared one major hurdle: the renovation has now been authorized by the powers that be in the University, and will probably (though not definitely) be carried out in the summer of 1993.

The main features of the renovation are indicated on the accompanying floor plans: the David Savan Philosophy Library in the southeast corner of the ninth floor; a large conference and colloquium room on the ninth floor; the graduate study room, with carrels, in the southeast corner of the tenth floor; a new computer facility adjacent to the study

room; additional office space in the southwest corner of the 10th floor; and a refurbished lounge.

Those who remember, all too clearly, the present state of our premises will appreciate what a difference the renovation will make, both to their appearance and to their efficiency. Our primary aim has been to improve the services we can offer to our undergraduate and graduate students, and to make 215 Huron a more attractive place to them to spend their time. Their presence will in turn serve to make the Department a friendlier and less forbidding place.

However, official authorization for these plans is just the beginning, since the renovation itself will merely create the physical space(s) we need. It does not cover the cost of furnishing the conference room, the graduate study room, or the lounge, nor (more importantly) the costs of establishing and maintaining the Savan Library. These expenses we must somehow meet ourselves in order to make the new plan, and especially the Library, a reality. The latter is the big-ticket item here, since we must somehow find the funds not only for acquisition of books and journals but also to pay for someone to supervise the Library and keep up the collection.

A planning group has started making concrete plans for the library, and drawing up a detailed budget. But it is already obvious that the Department must somehow raise a very substantial sum of money to be able to support this venture. Which takes us inevitably to our next topic.

FUNDRAISING

For obvious reasons, 1992-93 is going to be fundraising year for the Department. The Savan Library Fund is already off to a good start. David Savan very generously bequeathed his collection of philosophy books to the Depart-

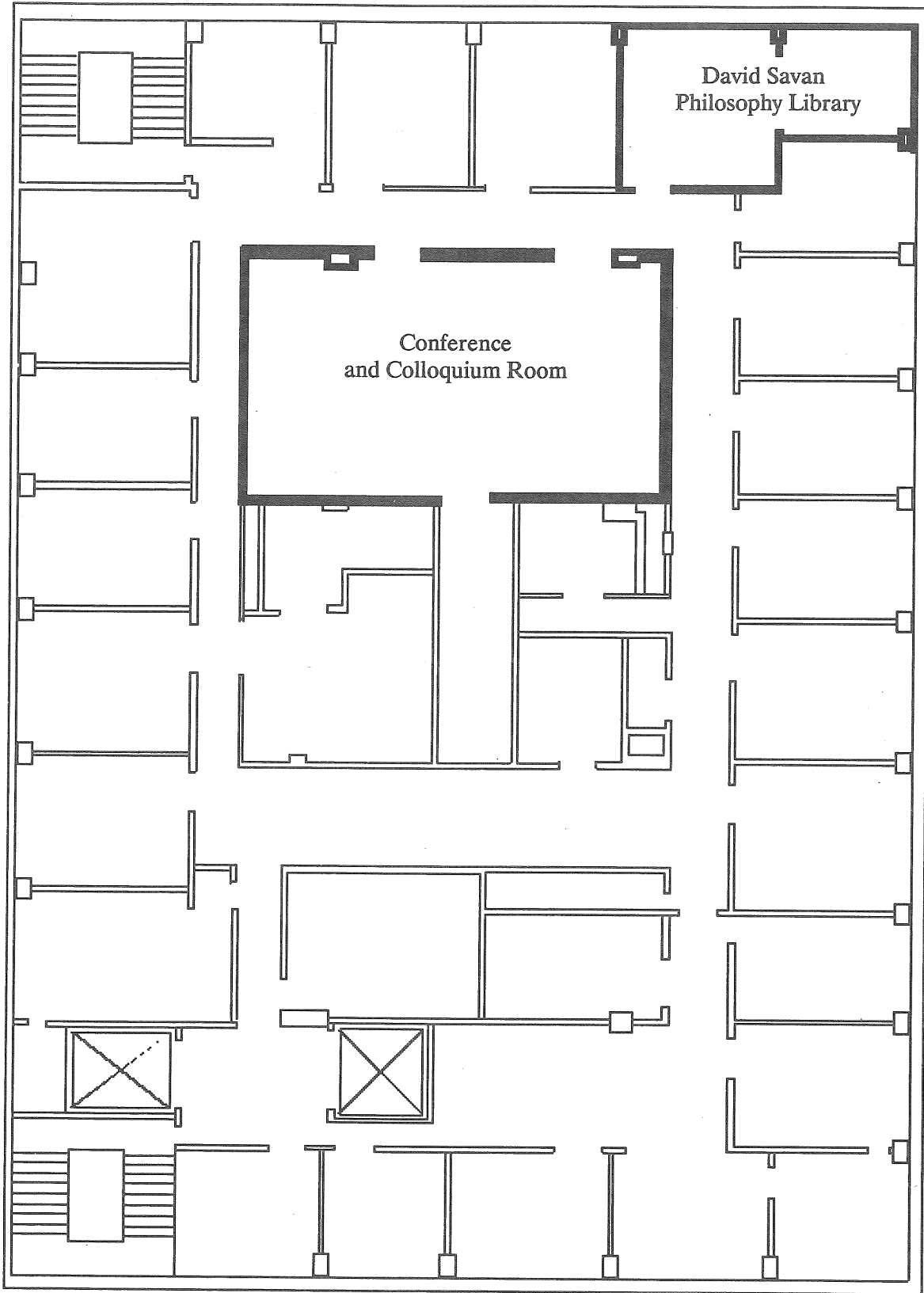
ment. While we have been able to make use of some of them for the library, most have been sold, with the agreement and assistance of David's daughter Beth, to a dealer in England who specializes in philosophy books. This sale will realize a return to the Department of some \$10,000. This benefaction becomes the initial nest egg for the Library Fund. It must be multiplied many times over in order to make the Library a reality, but it gives us a nice base to build on. John Hunter has also donated books to the Department, which were sold to the same dealer for an as yet undetermined amount. This sum too will be added to the fund. Other faculty members have indicated that they intend to do likewise with their own academic libraries.

We have also begun an internal fundraising drive, which was kicked off on October 1 by a party and auction in the tenth floor lounge. Our appeal for auction prizes met with an overwhelming response on the part of the Department's faculty, staff, and students, as well as University administrators and Friends of Philosophy. Our guest auctioneer was Jack Layton, who kept the audience in a convivial but competitive mood in order to drive the bidding as high as possible.

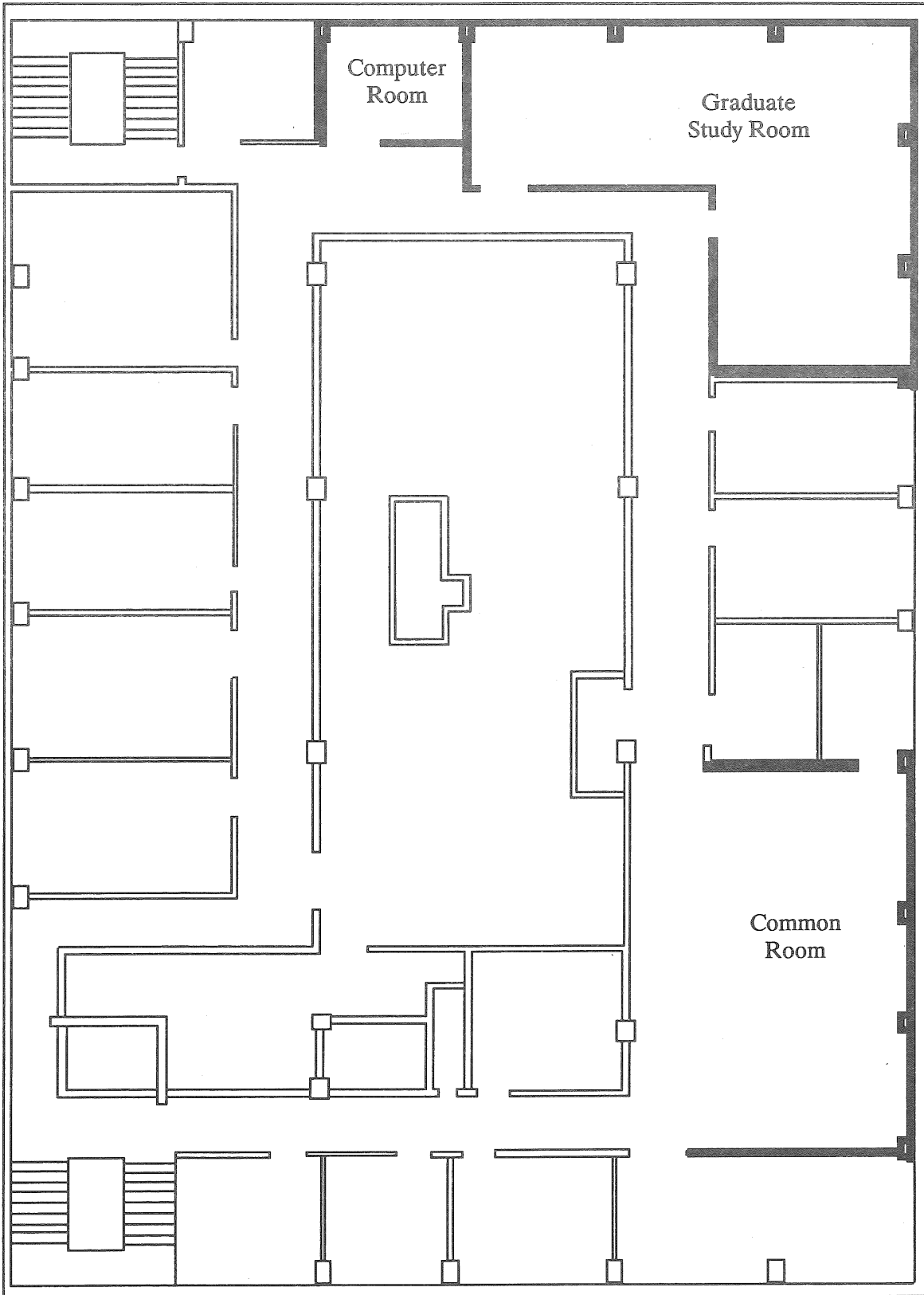
In the end, more than fifty items were sold for a total of \$4,000, which will be added to the Library Fund. Among the most popular items were gourmet meals, weekends at country homes, and a pair of Blue Jay tickets for opening day of the 1993 season. Besides benefiting the Library, the event was just plain fun.

Other donations from within the Department have put the Library Fund over the \$20,000 mark. But we need more—much more. That is where you come in. We would not ask you to support any venture which we are not prepared to support ourselves. But we cannot do it alone. With your help, the Savan Library can be a feasible project in the near future for the Department.

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PROPOSED NINTH FLOOR

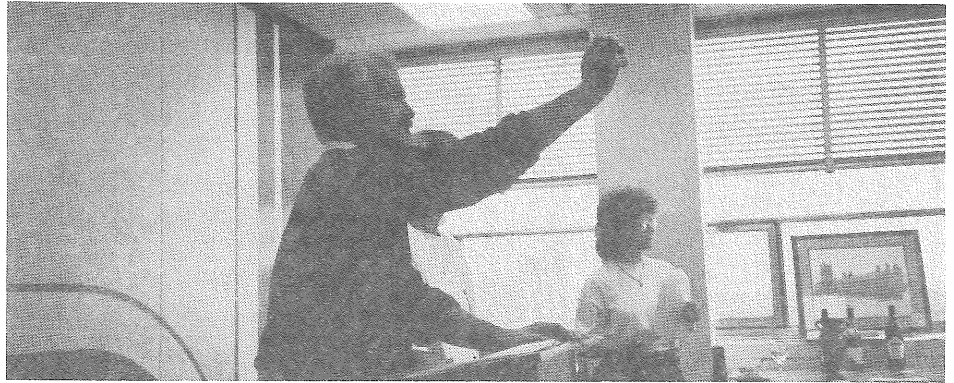


PROPOSED TENTH FLOOR

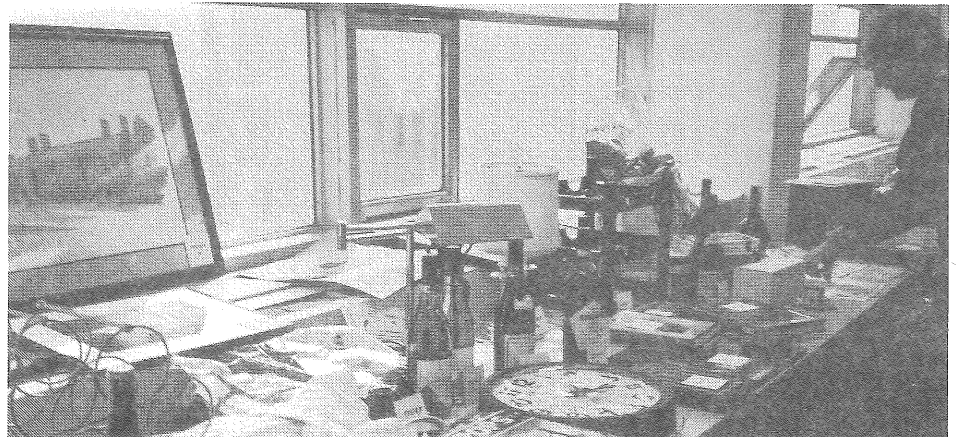
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There are two ways in which you can offer this help. Many of you will be contacted, at some point during the year, by canvassers for the Annual Fund. This year for the first time, in addition to contributing to your College or to the President's Fund, you can support the Philosophy Department through your Annual Fund donation. All such contributions will be added to the Library Fund. However, you can also support the venture, at any time, simply by making a direct contribution to the Library Fund. Details on how to do this can be found in the Message from the Chair in this issue. Needless to say, all contributions are tax deductible.

We have never before asked our graduates for financial support for a Department project. We do so now with some diffidence. But our situation is plain: we cannot make the Savan Library a reality without your help.



Jack Layton in action.



An abundance of prizes to bid on.

GEORGE EDISON (1915-1992)

George Edison died at his home near Elora on August 30, 1992 in his seventy-seventh year. George was born September 30, 1915. He spent his undergraduate years at the University of Toronto, as a Trinity College student, and received his B.A. in 1938 in the former Honour Course in Philosophy, English and History. Professor Brett, the University's distinguished Head of Philosophy at the time, described him as the most successful student in the course. He received the Trinity College Prize in Honour Philosophy in three successive years and the Moss Scholarship from the University in 1938. It is not surprising that in the following year he was appointed Canadian Scholar in Philosophy at Columbia University. There he studied at the Union

Theological Seminary and, within the year, completed a Master's degree with a thesis on "Causality and Determinism in Modern Physics", which he wrote under the well-known Columbia Professors Pepperal Montague and John Herman Randall, Jr. In 1940 he returned to Trinity College and took up an appointment as Lecturer in Ethics. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1942, with a dissertation entitled "An Ethics of Means: A Methodological Essay."

In the following year he served on the Wartime Information Board in Ottawa. During the other years of the war he was "loaned" by Trinity to our Department. In 1946, at the insistence of Trinity's Provost, he returned to the College, with an appointment to the permanent staff. He was appointed Professor of Ethics in 1948 and, in 1974, under the terms of the Memorandum of that year,

Professor of Philosophy with a cross-appointment to this Department.

His service outside the classroom was manifold. He served as Trinity's Registrar from 1953-55, as Vice-Provost of the College from 1952-63, as Acting Provost in 1957, and on major and minor College and University committees too numerous to list. For years he was a member of comprehensive-examination committees in our department, and when the Department's Personnel Committee was established, in 1969, he served on it as Trinity's 'assessor'. His longest service was as Head of Trinity's Department of Ethics, from 1950 to 1974. From then until his retirement he was the College's Discipline Representative for Philosophy.

What so many students will remember, however, is the brilliance of his teaching. He had a fine sense for a good example and a good story - with a point.

His lectures were finely crafted, delivered with a rare eloquence, and frequently enriched by deadpan witticisms. The attractiveness of his teaching was noticed early. In an exchange between the Head of the Department and the Provost of Trinity (1946), re read that "Edison himself does not want to break the cordial relations he has had with your department, [but] he feels he owes it to the College to come back now . . . [despite the] disappointment to you." The reason given was the sharp decline in enrolment in the Ethics course at the College due to George's absence. One Provost after another expressed appreciation for this continuing connection with the College. An Executive Committee Resolution of 1964 expressed satisfaction that through his efforts the first-year course in philosophy was brought to Trinity. Among the many courses that he offered, the introductory course received his most assiduous attention, and it led many students into a life-long love of philosophy.

His service to the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies ought not to pass unmentioned. More than one graduate student, including the present writer, not so much younger than the young professor, crossed Queen's Park to audit one of his courses on Aristotle. The class would often begin with a Greek term written upon the board and the interpretive dance would begin, the teacher judiciously adding now one term now another, until the sunlight of understanding broke through and the learner came away in possession of a more intimate insight than he or she might have hoped for.

Broadly learned in the sweep of Western philosophy, and in the more technical aspects of recent philosophy of language, George had a particular passion for the philosophy of Aristotle. From the time of his appointment as Commonwealth Fellow at St. John's College Cambridge in 1954, he taught, translated and interpreted the Greek philosopher for countless students at Trinity and at the University. His colleagues, too, drew upon his learning and his judgement. The

justly acclaimed translations of Plato by the late Professor Grube of Trinity College benefited from his editorial hand. The work was generously given, much of it left unrecorded except in the gratitude of those who received its benefits. He is remembered as colleague, philosopher and kindly friend.

Written for the Corporation of Trinity College by Kenneth L. Schmitz and edited for this newsletter by Derek Allen.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Ontario will break new ground in the English-speaking world by integrating a course in philosophy into the standard secondary school curriculum. A recent decision of the Ministry of Education provides for a free-floating (or "Stand Alone") course at a senior level, unattached to any already existing secondary school department and able to be taught by any qualified teacher regardless of departmental affiliation. In accord with Ministry procedures a "Curriculum Guideline" will be prepared such that a course taught in a secondary school in accord with the Guideline will be an Ontario Academic Course (OAC), that is, one which gains college entry credit.

The initiative successfully concludes forty years of lobbying by Ontario philosophers, who have seen no reason why students in Ontario would not, like peers in many countries, profit from systematic study of philosophical topics and history and from the critical thinking skills that philosophical study imparts. The first effort in the 1950's ran afoul of fear that philosophy might undermine religion. Since leading members of all religious denominations now support the project, this concern has ceased to be an impediment. A second attempt in the late 1960's and 1970's was met with apprehension from within the secondary

schools that the plan could detract from established courses and require special training. The third attempt, which began with the formation of the Ontario Secondary School Philosophy Project 1986, included the participation of several secondary school teachers. Also, Ontario university departments of philosophy will work with schools of education to help phase in qualified instruction.

The Ontario Secondary School Philosophy Project was initiated by the Committee of chairs of Ontario Departments of Philosophy, to which it has regularly reported. Its membership is comprised of 16 professors of philosophy, including at least one from each university in the Province and six philosophically trained teachers in public and private school. Its co-chairs are Frank Cunningham from this Department and Ian Winchester from the Department of History and Philosophy at the O.I.S.E. In the course of their several meetings the Committee produced a sample Guideline which included provision for both critical thinking and applied ethics, on the one hand, and traditional topics (epistemology, logic, metaphysics, etc.) and the history of philosophy, on the other. Noting that philosophy has been successfully taught at all levels of pre-university schooling, including in primary schools, committee members see a potential for eventual expansion of courses in philosophy after the grade 12 course has been put in place.

The Ministry is now in the process of putting together a Committee that will produce a Guideline for use in secondary schools and looks to complete its work by the early Spring. Committee members to date are: Frank Cunningham, Toronto; André Gombay, Toronto; Ian Winchester, O.I.S.E.; and Michael Bales, Toronto French School. Still to be appointed are three secondary school teachers to be named by the Teachers Federation. The Committee will be headed by Mr. John Samuel of the Ministry of Education. Membership on the Committee is from the Toronto area primarily to keep down costs. (The cost of

producing a Guideline was the major obstacle to the 1986 initiative.) However, the Guideline Committee will have the advantage of work already done by the earlier Project Committee, which

included members from all regions of the Province. Also, it may solicit advice. Recipients of *Toronto Philosophy News* who have suggestions for the Committee may send them to any of its members.

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DEPARTMENTAL COLLOQUIA, 1992-93

ALL TALKS AT 4:00 P.M.

Thursday, September 17	Jonathan Lear (Yale University) Room 161, University College
Thursday, October 22	Richard Boyd (Cornell University) Room 161, University College
Thursday, November 19	Peter Railton (University of Michigan) Room 161, University College
Thursday, December 10	Sandra Bartky (University of Illinois, Chicago-Circle) Room 140, University College, Reception Room 240
Thursday, January 21	Margaret Wilson (Princeton University) Room 179, University College
Thursday, February 11	Adriaan Peperzak (Loyola University) Room 179, University College
Thursday, March 18	Amelie Rorty (Radcliffe College) Room 179, University College
Thursday, April 1	Drucilla Cornell (Cardozo Law School) Room 179, University College

Everyone welcome

Reception to follow each talk
at Croft Chapter House

T-SHIRTS!

MUGS!

**The Department of Philosophy now has
T-Shirts and Mugs for sale!**

**The T-Shirts are Hanes Beefy-T T-Shirts
in a Light Grey Colour with a Royal Blue Emblem
available in Medium, Large or X-Large**

**The Mugs are a 10 oz. size, with a blue lid, base
and of course our Emblem printed on both sides.**



T-Shirts - \$15.00

Mugs - \$6.50

All proceeds go to the David Savan Library Fund

**Call us at 978-3311 or drop by the office at
215 Huron Street, 9th Floor**