



TORONTO PHILOSOPHY NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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From The Chair

This has once again been a busy academic year for the Department. Since the main public events of the past few months are chronicled elsewhere in this newsletter, I will focus on the item which is currently preoccupying us.

The long-awaited renovation of our 215 Huron Street premises is finally scheduled for this summer. *TPN* readers will recall from the last issue that our plans include the David Savan Philosophy Library, a graduate study room, a conference room, an expanded computer centre, and a refurbished lounge. If all goes well, by September the space for all these facilities will at last be ours.

Of course, we then have to fill it. The startup costs of furnishings, equipment, books, journals, and personnel are dauntingly high. That is why we have turned to you for support. By now you should have received a letter from me inviting you to help us launch this important venture. To those of you have already responded with very generous contributions to the Savan Library Fund, let me once again express our appreciation. These are very difficult times in which to appeal for donations, and we are very touched by the loyalty which has been demonstrated by our graduates.

To those who have not yet responded, let me say only that the need continues. We

have come a long way toward achieving our goal, but we still have a long way to go.

A final note. As part of the renovation project, the ninth floor of 215 Huron is about to be entirely cleared in order to carry out asbestos removal. As a result, for about a month the Department administrative offices will be relocated to the tenth floor (from which the asbestos

was removed last year). During the relocation we will be functioning at a somewhat lower level of efficiency than normal. We ask you to bear with us if this causes you any inconvenience.

As always, we would still be delighted to hear from you.

Wayne Sumner

CONFERENCE ON THE CITY CONFERENCE ON THE CITY

The Department of Philosophy and Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple launched the first of an anticipated annual series of jointly planned events last month with a Symposium entitled *The City: Philosophical and Theological Perspectives*. Some thirty participants met in four sessions during May third and fourth to discuss aspects of urbanity in the late 20th Century, and to hear keynote talks by **Marshall Berman** of the City University of New York and **David Ellenson** of the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles.



Round table session opening day

The Symposium was organized by Rabbi **Dow Marmur** of Holy Blossom and **Frank Cunningham** of our Department, with the able assistance of **Maira Dossetor** (a Philosophy graduate student) and in consultation with Chancellor **Rose Wolfe**, Temple Education Director **Robert Tornberg**, **Darlene Frampton** from the Faculty of Arts and Science, and **Joseph Rotman** (whose generous support made the event possible).



Joseph Rotman and Rabbi Dow Marmur

Sessions were held both at the University and at the Temple. In addition to focused discussions, there was ample opportunity for informal interchange during lunches and dinners held during the Symposium, as well as at a reception at the home of **Sandra and Joseph Rotman** on the evening preceding the Symposium.

Graeme Nicholson and **Amy Mullin** animated the first day's sessions by introducing the themes, respectively, of *Metaphysics and the City* and *The Self and the City*. The second day's sessions were animated by **Jim Lemon** of the Department of Geography, who initiated discussion on city planning, and by **Rabbi Marmur**, who discussed Jewish theological perspectives on the city.

In addition to attracting professors from a variety of Departments at the University of Toronto (Joe Boyle, Bill Dunphy, Alkis Kontos, Detlef Mertins, Arthur Ripstein, Barry Wellman, and Joe Whitney, among others) and members of the Temple's congregation, including Bob Tornberg and Gunther Plaut, the Symposium was attended by Professor **Harry Arthurs** and **Howard Adelman** of York University, Catholic activist **Mary Jo Leddy**, architect **Jack Diamond**, planner **Ken**

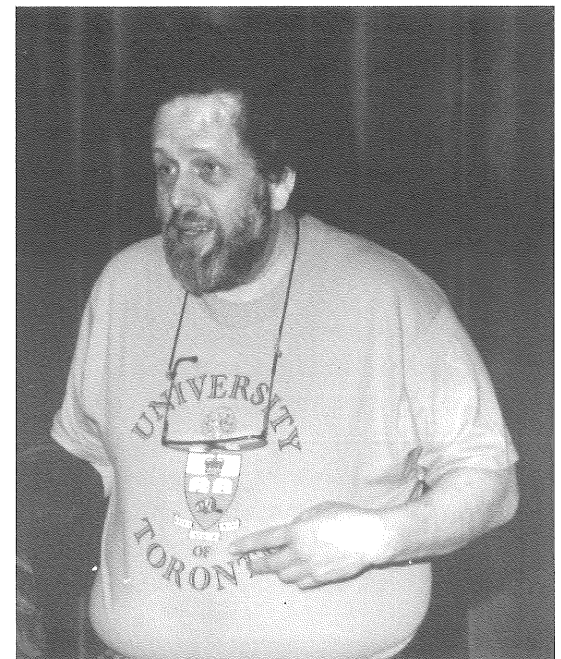
Greenberg, city politician **Richard Gilbert**, and journalist **Robert Fulford**.

A very broad range of topics was approached and a variety of views were expressed about the quality of life in the contemporary city, including prospects and dangers. While there was no effort to reach consensus, participants did not challenge Graeme Nicholson's opening endorsement of Aristotle's view that the city has the potential to enable people to be their best. Rather, they examined impediments to the realization of this potential in a city such as Toronto comprised of a multiplicity of cultural communities.



David Ellenson and Robert Fulford

Symposium participants enthusiastically supported the idea that future Department-Temple events maintain a focus on the city, isolating specific features for in-depth attention. With continuing support from the **Joseph Louis Rotman Charitable Foundation**, the Temple and the Department are now planning next year's symposium with this advice in mind. Suggestions from readers of *Toronto Philosophy News* will be most welcome.

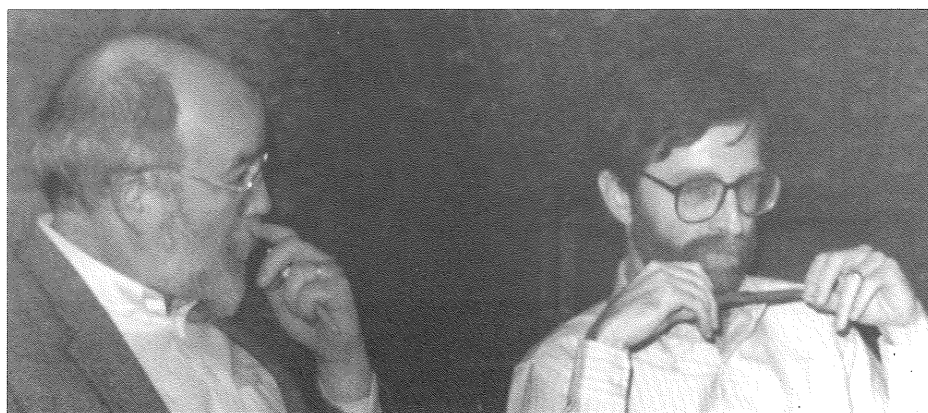


Marshall Berman

Explaining the Mind: Normativity and Naturalism

This conference, organized by **Sonia Sedivy**, took place at the Scarborough College Principal's Residence during the weekend of April 17th and 18th. The aim of the meeting was to provide a structure and setting for focused and intensive debate.

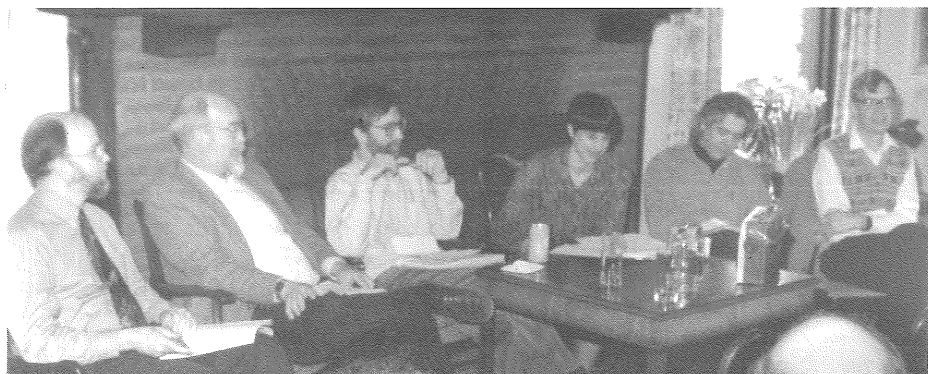
Ronald de Sousa got it off to a rousing start on Saturday by voicing his perplexity as to what the problem was supposed to be anyway, all the while providing an incisive yet wickedly humorous outline of the issues. **Gary Hatfield** followed with a paper which illuminated the current debate by considering the historical division between the *Geisteswissenschaften* and the *Naturwissenschaften*. The afternoon session began with **Jennifer Hornsby**'s development of a position which she called *naive naturalism*, which she defended by detailed critical contrast with the view advocated for many years by **Daniel Dennett**, who happened to be next on the program. In his presentation, Dennett focused on the notion of *memes* as the way to think of the norm-governed aspects of culture 'infiltrating' into and 'proliferating' across our 'minds'.



Dan Dennett and John McDowell

perhaps interrogatory glare -- almost the entire discussion focused on John McDowell's paper, a fact which suggests that it stood out as the most intriguing or controversial contribution of the weekend.

In respects non-philosophical, the weekend seemed to be a success. The weather held, the food was good and the participants enjoyed the ravine setting even though spring was hardly to be felt. Most importantly however, discussion was intense throughout the weekend thanks to the participation of many faculty members from our neighbouring philosophy departments, many of our own as well as visiting graduate students, and our own faculty members.



The Sunday afternoon round table

John McDowell started discussion on Sunday morning with a paper entitled *Naturalism and Cartesianism in the Philosophy of Mind*. **Tom Baldwin** was the last speaker with a paper which used a sensitive and forceful presentation of the considerations which suggest that reason can't be "naturalized" to set up his attempt to do precisely that.

The concluding afternoon session consisted of a round-table discussion with all of the speakers. Despite his courteous attempts to step out of the limelight -- or

Where Are They Now?

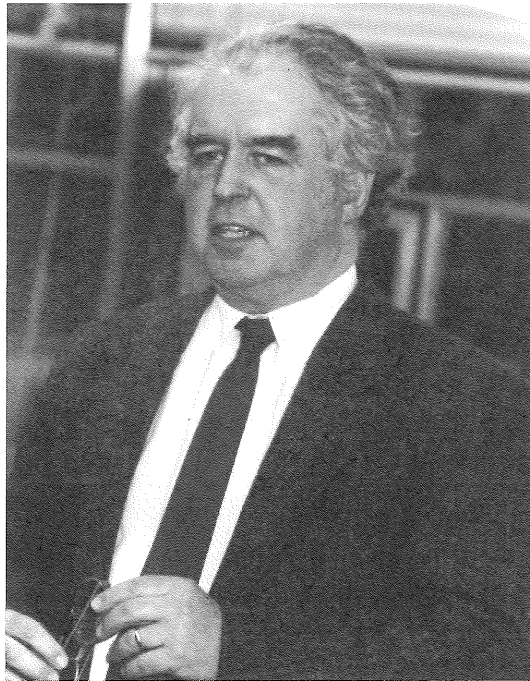
Philosophers have a reputation for often being unintentionally funny. **John Morreall** (Ph.D. 1975) has taken advantage of this fact in an unusual way. While holding a regular position as Professor of Philosophy at Rochester Institute of Technology, on the side he does consulting work on humor. Under the trademark of HUMORWORKS, John specializes in seminars on Humor in the Workplace. His clients have included many corporations, institutions, and associations in both Canada and the United States. John has also written two books and over two dozen articles and reviews on the topic of humor. For him, clearly, it is a serious business.

Philosophy Book Launch!!



On Thursday, March 4 the Department held its sixth annual Book Launch. The eight books in this year's launch brought the total in the series so far to sixty, an impressive output for any group of philosophers.

The big winner in this year's event was **Graeme Nicholson** with three entries: *Illustrations of Being, Fackenheim: German Philosophy and Jewish Thought* (co-edited with **Louis Greenspan**), and *Hans-Georg Gadamer on Education, Poetry, and History: Applied Hermeneutics* (co-edited with **Dieter Misgeld**). Dieter, who is cross-appointed to the Department from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, also contributed *Pragmatismo y Pensamiento Utopico, Democracia Social y Derechos Humanos*.



Graeme Nicholson

Another cross-appointment, this time from East Asian Studies and the Centre for the Study of Religion, **Julia Ching** was represented by *Moral Enlightenment: Leibniz and Wolff on China*.



Father Joseph Owens

Finally, the roster of full-time Department members was completed by **Donald Evans** with his *Spirituality and Human Nature*, the ageless **Joseph Owens** with *Cognition: An Epistemological Inquiry*, and John Slater, editor of *Logical and Philosophical Papers 1909-13* (volume six of *The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell*).

The usual quantity of drinks and munchies was ingested by the assembled crowd.

In Brief

This past year has seen an unprecedented shower of teaching laurels for U of T philosophers:

Gordon Nagel was the winner of the 1993 Scarborough College Teaching Award.

On the St. George campus, **Rebecca Comay** won the SAC-APUS Teaching Award in the Humanities, while **Derek Allen** won the inaugural Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award for the Humanities.

That was just the beginning for Derek. Last month he was announced as a winner of one of this year's OCUFA Teaching Awards. Only ten of these awards, conferred by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, were given out across the whole province. Derek's was the only OCUFA Award won this year by a University of Toronto faculty member. He joins **Kathryn Morgan**, **Jack Stevenson**, **Bill Graham**, and **Jackie Brunning** as U of T philosophers who have won the awards.

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At the same time the Department has continued its excellent research record:

Ian Hacking and **Fred Wilson** received two of the four Connaught Research Fellowships awarded this year in the Humanities. Each Fellowship provides six months of release from other duties in order to pursue a specified research project.

An even bigger prize was landed by a team consisting of **Brian Baigrie**, **André Gombay**, and **Calvin Normore**. Their project, on the works of René Descartes, was one of four awarded a Connaught Transformative Grant. The funding for this project covers a three-year period, leading up to the 400th anniversary of Descartes' birth in 1596.