



# TORONTO PHILOSOPHY NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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## From The Chair

This past term has been dominated by several events, and one non-event, of note. In January the David Savan Philosophy Library and our refurbished Computer Centre opened for business. Elsewhere in this Newsletter I have reported on the fundraising campaign which we have undertaken in order to make these facilities fully functional.

Besides the seventh annual Book Launch and the second annual Joint Symposium with Holy Blossom Temple, both of which are covered elsewhere in this Newsletter, the other high-profile item on the Department's calendar was a conference in early May on the theme of "Memory, Repression, Desire: Nietzsche and Freud", which was organized by **Rebecca Comay**, **André Gombay**, and **Amy Mullin**.

The non-event was the postponement of the 1994 Simon Lectures, which were to be delivered in March by **David Kaplan** of UCLA. For personal reasons, Professor Kaplan was forced to ask that the Lectures be rescheduled to the spring of 1995. In order to get the biennial series back on track, the subsequent set of Simon Lectures will be given in 1996, as scheduled.

By way of consolation, in April we were treated to a very stimulating lecture by **Charles Taylor** on the topic of "Leading a Life". Professor Taylor spoke to an enthusiastic audience of about two hundred at University College.

Finally, this will be the last message to alumni/ae from this particular Chair. My term of office ends on June 30, when I will be passing the torch to **John Slater**, who will serve as Acting Chair during the 1994-95 academic year and who will in turn pass it on to **Mark Thornton**, the next Chair for the term 1995-2000.

I have felt it a great honour to serve as Chair of this distinguished Department and have particularly enjoyed the contacts which have been developed with alumni/ae over the past few years. I am grateful to the many graduates who have demonstrated their loyalty to the Department by helping us with the projects we have undertaken. I can assure them, and all of our alumni/ae, that the Department will be in good hands through to the beginning of the next millennium.

Wayne Sumner

## RACE AND THE City

The Philosophy Department and Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple conducted their second joint Symposium May 2 and 3 on aspects of race and racism. Following an inaugural Symposium last year which interrogated aspects of modern urbanity from theological and philosophical points of view, this year's event specifically addressed racism in contemporary city life. Focussing mainly on Toronto, the 40 participants in the Symposium frankly addressed racist attitudes and racial tensions within and among the city's several communities.

In addition to the core of participants from last year's symposium — including city planners, architects, social activists, and journalists as well as others from the Temple and the University — leading members from Toronto's Black, East Indian, and Chinese communities and leaders from the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith joined this year's roundtable discussions. Keynote public lectures were given by former U. of T. student **Charles Mills** of the Philosophy Department, University of Illinois at Chicago, and by **David Novak**, Edgar M. Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies at the University of Virginia. As well, **David Goldberg**, author of *Racist Culture*, from Arizona State University and **Judy Oberlander**, Director of Simon Fraser University's City Program, contributed their special expertise.

The Symposium's organizing group included **Joseph and Sandra Rotman** (who also continue to provide financial support for the series), **Dow Marmur** of the Temple, and from the University, **Frank Cunningham** and **Katherine VanUum** of the Department, Chancellor **Rose Wolfe**, and **Darlene Frampton** of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Symposium interventions bore out the organizers' anticipation that this would be less abstract than last year's discussions in virtue of the immediacy of their topic, and because of current tensions between some from Toronto's Black and Jewish communities.

In his public talk at the University Professor Mills employed a critique of Kantian social ontology to frame an account of similarities between Blacks and Jews, mainly due to their histories of exclusion and discrimination, and of differences between them, principal among which is that Blacks remain socially and politically subordinated. He concluded by calling on the Black community "to condemn anti-Semitism and re-direct anger against systems of racial exclusion" and by exhorting the Jewish community to "throw its influence behind needed social reforms." Professor Novak, lecturing the next evening in the Temple,

deployed impressive scholarship to demonstrate that far from sanctioning exclusionary behaviour, traditional tenets of Judaic religion clearly condemn it.

Roundtables addressed themes, each animated by one or two participants. **Harry Arthurs** of York University initiated the first theme, "The Heterogeneous City," which linked this year's Symposium with discussions of last year. **Martha Ayim**, a graduate student in the Philosophy Department, presented an introspective account of her own experiences as one of the Department's, and indeed the country's, very few black philosophers to introduce a discussion about the nature of "Race and Racism." Among other virtues of her presentation, its form encouraged subsequent participants to share personal experiences, thus enriching the discussions and making them more concrete.



Joseph Rotman, Dow Marmur, David Novak, Charles Mills, Frank Cunningham

**Joseph Boyle**, of our Department and Principal of St. Michael's College, inaugurated discussion of "Toleration and its Limits," by bringing philosophical analytic tools to this thorny topic. His clarification of thought about such things as when censorship is justified helped advance productive debate about a problem with no easy answers.

In the final roundtable session **Fred Case**, Principal of New College, and Rabbi **Gunther Plaut** of the Temple addressed "Black Anti-Semitism and Jewish Racism." Professor Case bluntly described negative attitudes toward the Jewish community on the part of young Blacks in Toronto. Rabbi Plaut reminded participants about measures to combat racism and to build bridges with Toronto Black communities by Jewish institutions, including Holy Blossom Temple itself. Nearly all participants agreed with Professor Case that structural problems including poverty and entrenched educational, media, and other biases make discussion among mutually respectful discussants insufficient to combat racism in Toronto. However, most came away from the event persuaded that such discussions are nonetheless necessary.

Asked about implications of the event for Philosophy, Professor Cunningham noted the relative silence of philosophers at the Symposium, which he attributed to a larger silence in the profession. Not only are there very few philosophers of non-European descent in North America, but only a handful of philosophers engage the question of racism philosophically, in the way, for example, of Professors Mills and Goldberg. He concluded that our Department should consider measures it might take to remedy this situation. Suggestions from readers of *Toronto Philosophy News* are most welcome.



Participants at one of the roundtables

# Fundraising: The 1994 Campaign

In January of this year the Philosophy Department launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in its history. Our target in the campaign is to raise \$120,000 to equip and furnish four of the student facilities which we have developed over the past year: the David Savan Philosophy Library, the Computer Centre, the Meeting Area, and the Conference Room.

Because the most important part of our mission is to encourage the development of inquiring and critical minds, we have a special need for space in which our students can explore, share, and challenge ideas. For the past thirty years we have been unable to provide adequate facilities to support these vital activities.

The renovation of our central premises at 215 Huron Street, which took place last summer, created the physical space necessary to house these facilities. Since then we have been able to open the Graduate Study Room, with its thirty study carrels, and the Philosophy Library, with its reference collection of books and journals. The Computer Centre and a refurbished Meeting Area are also now available to students, while the Conference Room functions both as a classroom and as a venue for colloquia.

However, we still lack the equipment necessary to bring these facilities into full operation. While the Graduate Study Room is completely functional, the Computer Centre is running with obsolete equipment and the Meeting Area and Conference Room remain to be refurbished. Above all else, the Library needs equipment and furniture, and a budget for acquisitions. The collection we have been able to assemble so far is incomplete in a number of vital areas and needs to be greatly expanded over the next couple of years.

Meeting these various needs will cost money--much more than we have available in our meagre equipment budget. Over the past two years fundraising within the Department has raised an initial \$50,000 from students and faculty--the capital which enabled us to complete the Graduate Study Room and stock the Library with its present collection. The \$120,000 target in our current campaign is the sum needed to finish all of the student facilities.

Since the campaign got underway in January, we have received \$20,000 in pledges or contributions from philosophy graduates, leaving us still with \$100,000 to go. This is where you come in. To raise this sum we have nowhere to turn save our alumni/ae. With this Newsletter you will find a pledge form and a self-addressed envelope. We would be most grateful for any support you can offer.

## Honors and Awards

**Tom Robinson** has been elected Honorary President of the International Association for Greek Philosophy, while **Fred Wilson** has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. **Jim Brown**, **David Dyzenhaus**, **Cheryl Misak**, and **Wayne Sumner** were all successful in this year's competition for Research Grants from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. In addition, **Peter Apostoli** is co-investigator on a SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiatives Grant for a project on "Canadian Studies in Paraconsistent Logic".

Two of the Department's undergraduate specialists have also had conspicuously successful years. **Philip Doyle** was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, while **Stephanie Reibetanz** was one of two co-winners of the John H. Moss Scholarship awarded by the University of Toronto Alumni Association to the top graduating student in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Like Philip, Stephanie plans to pursue her graduate studies at Oxford University.

## Parages

On June 30 **Tom Langan** will retire after a teaching career spanning twenty-seven years in the Department. Tom came to us in 1967 from Indiana University and has been variously based at 215 Huron Street, New College, Trinity College, and (since 1978) St. Michael's College. He has been one of the mainstays of the Department's flourishing continental philosophy programme and will be much missed by his colleagues.

At the opposite end of the career path, a baker's dozen of our graduate students successfully defended their doctoral dissertations during the past academic year:

**Brad Abernethy**, "Content and Supervenience: A Fresh Look at Putnam and Burge" (Supervisor: W. Seager).

**Donald Dedrick**, "Color Language, Cultures, and Color Science" (Supervisor: I. Hacking).

**David Elliott**, "Moral Character and Consequentialism" (Supervisor: W. Sumner).

**Patricia Glazebrook**, "Heidegger's Philosophy of Science" (Supervisor: G. Nicholson).

**Deborah Knight**, "Narrative Constraints and the Interpretation of Agents" (Supervisor: L. Forguson).

**Sinclair MacRae**, "Defending A Consequentialist Decision Procedure" (Supervisor: W. Sumner).

**Hugh Miller**, "Proving God and Proving Man: The Idea of God in Hegel and Levinas" (Supervisor: G. Nicholson).

**Sean Mulrooney**, "Boethius on Person" (Supervisor: J. Rist).

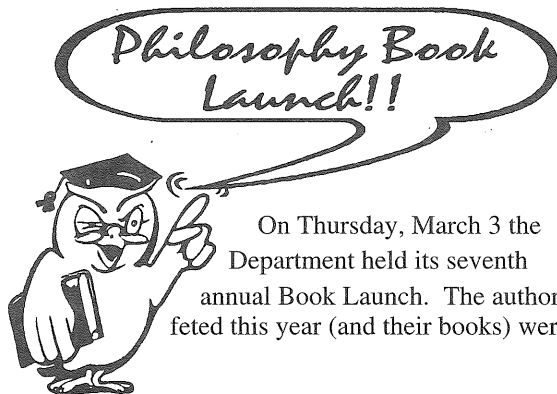
**Judith Pelham**, "Russell on Propositions and Objects" (Supervisor: A. Urquhart).

**Pamela Reeve**, "The Noetic Dimension of the Return to God in Thomas Aquinas" (Supervisor: K. Schmitz).

**Peter Simpson**, "Hegel's Transcendental Induction" (Supervisor: R. Comay).

**Marina Vitkin**, "Knowledge and Alterity: Towards a Methodology of Intercultural Understanding" (Supervisor: G. Nicholson).

**James Wong**, "On the Very Idea of the Normal Child" (Supervisor: I. Hacking).



Lloyd Gerson, Francis Sparshott, Bob Tully, Wayne Sumner and Frank Cunningham at the Arts & Science Book Fair

**Jim Brown**, *Smoke and Mirrors: How Science Reflects Reality* (Routledge).

**Jack Canfield** and **Stuart Shankar**, eds., *Wittgenstein's Intentions* (Garland Publishing).

**Frank Cunningham**, *The Real World of Democracy Revisited* (Humanities Press).

**Ian Hacking**, *Le plus pur nominalisme* (Éditions de l'éclat).

**Armand Maurer**, tr., *Christian Philosophy: An Introduction* (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies).

**Fred Portoraro** and **Bob Tully**, *Logic with "Symlog"* (Prentice-Hall).

**Francis Sparshott**, *Taking Life Seriously: A Study of the Argument of Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics* (University of Toronto Press).

**Alasdair Urquhart**, ed., *Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell, Volume 4: Foundations of Logic, 1903-05* (Routledge).

These authors and their books were also featured in the Humanities and Social Sciences Book Fair, held on Wednesday, May 4 by the Faculty of Arts and Science.