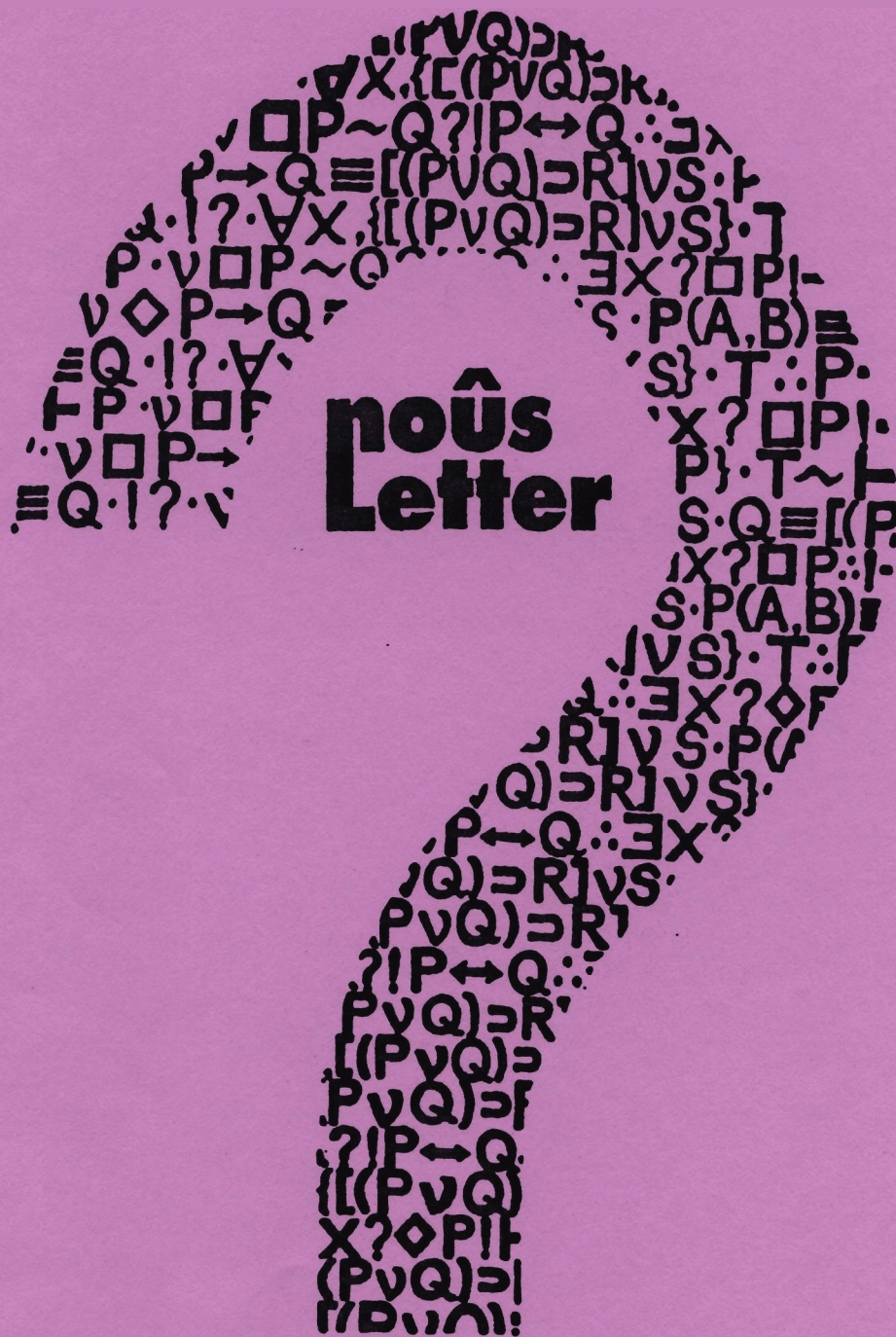


PHILOSOPHY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO



NOÛSLETTER

No. 8

April 1996

Tye Visits UB

The following was written by current graduate student Christine Kirwan after the visit of former graduate student Michael Tye (Ph.D. 1975):

Dr. Michael Tye, philosophy professor at Temple University, visited UB in mid-November to present his latest book, Ten Problems of Consciousness: A Representational Theory of the Phenomenal Mind (MIT Press). The visit was of particular interest to those of us in Dr. Hare's seminar concerning Contemporary Naturalism. Tye's writings comprised a section of the course, although a delay in publishing prevented us from thoroughly assessing his work.

The book itself concerns explicating ten particular problems for theories of consciousness, although Tye was quick to point out that these are merely ten important problems for consciousness, not the only problems. These problems include the problem of ownership, or how come my pain is *my* pain?; the problem of mechanism, or how do neural states generate subjective states?; and the problem of the felt location, or what is it to say that a pain is *in* one's leg? Tye claims to solve these problems by an explication of phenomenal consciousness, all phenomenal consciousness, as representational—that is, visual sensations, sounds, pains, hopes, desires are all representational.

This is a particular problem for Tye, since he is a physicalist. Therefore, the problem of mechanism—from neural states to consciousness—is one desperately in need of a solution. Tye's position is that of a non-reductive physicalist, that is, something can be deemed "physical" if what comprises it is physical, although it need not be reduced to the physical entities which constitute it.

Hence, we can call phenomenal states "physical" since they are realized by physical phenomena.

But how is it that all phenomenal consciousness is representational as well? Tye's proposal is that phenomenal states "track" under optimal conditions—representation is the result of causal covariation. Visual representations are generated via our receptor cells, et al., and produce phenomenal states. Representations of bodily damage generate phenomenal sensations of pain. Under optimal conditions, these phenomenal states track certain features, and therefore, can be said to represent them. It is important to note, however, that these states are distinct from conceptual states; they are pre-conceptual. These phenomenal states provide the input for belief-formation. There is, therefore, a distinction between phenomenal consciousness and higher-level consciousness.

Although this is the barest sketch of Tye's position, the panel discussion (November 15) confined itself mostly to the above material. Therefore, I will now simply present some of the criticisms brought forth during the discussion, both by myself and others: (1) The notion that pain is representational was greeted by a round of skepticism. First, it is strange to say that one can feel pain, and yet not be conscious of it (in the higher-order sense of conscious). Second, what of anaesthetics, or aspirin, for that matter? If one still has bodily damage, but takes something to block the nerve endings, is one still feeling pain? (2) The discussion regarding pain led to a discussion of whether one could feel pain when sleeping, or even when deceased. Tye seemed a bit unsure about what to say regarding this issue, but it

was evident that a discussion of pain thresholds was in order. At some point, thirst can wake one up, but what about before that point? Is one still feeling thirst? (3) Tye's notion of representation was also criticized. Tye compares his notion of representation to that of a tree ring tracking a tree's age. If Tye is going to say that phenomenal consciousness is *supposed* to track certain features, then he will have to eliminate the tree ring example (unless he wants to admit a god of tree rings which made tree rings such that they are supposed to track the tree's age). (4) There is some confusion concerning the connection between phenomenal states and beliefs. Misrepresentation can only occur under less than optimal conditions. Although Tye seemed unsure about his position on beliefs, he appeared willing to admit that beliefs, as well, can only be false if generated under less than optimal conditions. Therefore, Tye has fallen square on the sword of verificationism—truth is what we would believe under optimal circumstances.

Despite these criticisms, Tye afforded our department an excellent opportunity to get a sneak preview of his book, and to see the "cutting edge" in the philosophy of mind.

New York Conference on Asian Studies

After a hiatus of 17 years, SUNY Buffalo hosted the New York Conference on Asian Studies on September 15-16, 1995. The conference was ably directed by Thomas Burkman, an historian of modern Japan and newly appointed director of Asian Studies. The Philosophy Department was very well represented. Kenneth Inada conceived, organized and chaired the panel on "The Dynamics of Conflict and Harmony." Patricia Walsh-Frank read a paper, "Compassion: An East/West Comparison." Other papers were "The Prophet Versus the Sage," and "What Price Harmony? Critical Reflections of Nishida Kitaro's Topological Logic." All papers were well received punctuated by critical comments.

Our graduate students, Mark Meli, Jennifer Ralley and Steve Czaki, played important roles in a panel "Early Chinese and Japanese Aesthetics." Mark Meli organized the panel and read the lead paper, "Epistemological Concerns in Heian Aesthetics." Steve Czaki critically evaluated and commented on

the papers, which opened the way for further questions and comments.

The conference was highlighted by a world premier performance of a musical-narrative play, "Chinoiserie," conceived by, directed by and starring Ping Chong of New York City. The focus is on East meets West, from the early opening of China to the West to contemporary times and onward. The ensuing dialogues reveal awkward contacts, misinterpretations, outright discrimination and socio-political actions that border on the comic and the tragic. It goes without saying that the field of East-West contacts is now open for aspiring philosophers.

UB Forum For Real Debate

The UB Forum for Real Debate, founded in 1994 by Professors Hull and Smith of the Philosophy Department and Professor J. Holmes of the Economics Department, continues to present controversial topics. In 1994-96 debates were held, on Affirmative Action, Gun Control and Feminism and Science:

Feminism and Science October 6, 1994

Main Speaker: Susan Haack
Feminist Philosophy of Science: Neither
Sound Philosophy Nor Sound Feminism

Some feminist philosophers of science have claimed the insight that science is social. It is true that scientific knowledge is the product of a partly co-operative, partly competitive venture. It is false that science would be better if social values played a larger role in determining what theories are accepted; false that scientific knowledge is simply the result of social negotiation among members of the scientific community; false that scientific reality is "social constructed". In the sense in which the thesis that science is social is true, there is nothing feminist about it; and in the senses in which there is a connection with feminism, it is false. The

idea that feminism obliges us to "reinvent science and theorizing", as Sandra Harding claims, is neither sound philosophy nor sound feminism.

Susan Haack is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Miami and a leading authority in the fields of epistemology and philosophy of logic. Her most recent book is entitled Evidence and Inquiry (Blackwell, 1993) and she has edited a special issue of The Monist on the topic of Feminist Epistemology: For and Against. Professor Haack is an old-fashioned feminist who thinks academic feminism took a dangerously wrong turn when it shifted its attention from questions of equality and fairness to urging the politicization of inquiry.

Professor Haack's lecture was responded to by a panel comprising Professors Hare and Thalos of the Philosophy Department together with Joan Copjec (UB English Department, author of Read My Desire: Lacan Against the Historicists) and Deborah Modrak (University of Rochester, Philosophy Department, author of Aristotle: The Power of Perception).

Affirmative Action September 14, 1995

Keynote Speech: Jan Narveson, "Why Employment Equity Legislation is a Mistake"

Professor Narveson defended an elaborate theory of discrimination, one implication of which is that justice does not require hitherto persecuted, oppressed, or nonprivileged groups to be given preference in hiring.

Panel: James W. Pitts (Council Member-at Large, Buffalo Common Council); Professor Major Coleman (UB Department of Political Science).

In his commentary Mr. Pitts described Professor Narveson's theory as 'mumbo-jumbo' and sought to place discussions of affirmative action firmly within the context of concrete politics; Professor Coleman sought to demonstrate the need for massive investment in affirmative action policies in order to counteract the structural racism which he sees in contemporary American society.

Jan Narveson is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He has written extensively on Employment Equity and many other subjects of philosophical and topical interest. He is the author of The Libertarian Idea, Moral Matters, and (with Marilyn Friedman) of Political Correctness, and is a member of the Royal Society of Canada. His article, "Is there a Right to Nondiscrimination?" is found in Business Ethics in Canada, a standard business ethics text.

Gun Control April 2, 1996

Lee Nisbet (Ph.D. 1974) of Medaille College and Editor of Gun Control, Prometheus Press, 1991, represented the side against gun control, and Kevin P. Gaughan, Esq., Director on Policy, Erie County Legislature, defended gun control. Richard T. Hull acted as moderator of the debate.

Current Graduate Students...

William Irwin lists the following publications: "Sartre, Freedom, and The Gambler" Contemporary Philosophy, vol. 16, 9-13; "Review of Jorge J.E. Gracia's A Theory of Textuality: The Logic and Epistemology," Sorites, forthcoming. Bill also made several recent presentations: "Plato's Two Immortalities" The Mid-South Philosophy Conference at Memphis State University, March 1995; "Intention and Foresight in Criminal Responsibility," The Tri-State Philosophical Association Fall meeting, Erie, PA, October 1995; and "Forget About the History of Philosophy: On the Advantage of Nietzsche," American Catholic Philosophical Association WNY Regional Conference, Niagara University, November 1995. Irwin has accepted a teaching position at King's College in PA starting Fall 1996.

Shannon Eric Kincald presented "The Metaphysics of Democratic Theory: Beyond Taylor's Holistic Social Ontology" at the March 1996 annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy in Toronto and at the annual meeting of the Metaphysical Society of America in New York City.

Jennifer Ralley presented "The Dual Influence of Dependent Origination on a Japanese Aesthetic" at the Asian Conference held at UB in 1995. Ms. Ralley provided a commentary "A Taoist Approach to Morality and an Ethics of Pragmatism" at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy in March 1996.

Gloria Zúñiga has been selected as Bradley Fellow by the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan to conduct research in value theory this summer. Among the approximately eighty applications to the Acton Institute, three scholars were selected. All three Bradley fellows will collaborate in their respective areas of expertise in philosophy and/or economics. The intended goal of such collaboration is to lay the groundwork for a book on value theory to be published by next spring. The thrust of their research will be aimed at tracing the historical and philosophical foundations of those aspects of scholastic thought which exhibit common ground with the value-theoretical ideas of the Austrian school of economics. The latter was Gloria's area of specialty in her graduate work in economics prior to joining the philosophy program at UB three semesters ago.

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Phi Beta Kappa — 1996

William Melanson
Kasey Nye
Kfir Shamir
Jorge Torres Lumsden
Slava Vaynshteyn



Awards...

Herbert W. Schneider Award

In March at the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy in Toronto, Peter H. Hare received the annual Herbert W. Schneider Award "for distinguished contributions to the understanding and development of American philosophy". The citation noted that Hare's development of "Transactions of the C.S. Peirce Society: A Quarterly Journal in American Philosophy" over 25 years is considered central to Hare's contributions.

Hourani Scholarship

Jason Adelt was awarded the Hourani Scholarship for the current academic year. This scholarship is subsidized by the George F. Hourani Memorial Fund, which has been established in memory of former Distinguished Professor and Department chair George Hourani. The scholarship is awarded to an outstanding graduate student who is working in the area of ethics.

Excellence in Teaching Award

Jennifer Ralley received honorable mention in the 1995-96 Excellence in Teaching Award given to outstanding graduate teaching assistants nominated by their departments based on teaching evaluations of their students.

Parry Fellowship

In 1994-95 Karen Iseninger was awarded the Parry Fellowship for outstanding teaching as a graduate student. This award is made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Vera Parry, the widow of our former colleague and Chair, William T. Parry.

Mary C. Whitman Scholarship

Kasey Nye, an undergraduate philosophy major, is the 1995-96 winner of the Mary C. Whitman Scholarship. Kasey, a senior, had a double major in Spanish and is in the Philosophy Department Honors Program.

Faculty News...

Fund Raiser

With South Korea emerging as an industrial power, there have been stepped-up activities among American universities to expand Korean studies, with some funding coming from government and business sources in Korea.

Professor Kah Kyung Cho has been instrumental in attracting funding from LG Electronics, formerly Lucky Goldstar, and from the Korea Foundation and Korea Research Foundation. A total of \$300,000 was raised from these sources, together with some \$150,000 committed to UB's Korean Language and Culture Program by Western New York's Korean community.

August 15, 1995 marked the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japan's colonial rule. Professor Cho was invited to give a concluding address at a Pan-Korean Philosophers Congress in Seoul.

Cho's Japanese friends invited him to Osaka on this occasion and insisted on hearing the same lecture that he gave in Seoul, in an impromptu Japanese version. This was also the occasion for Japanese

phenomenologists to celebrate the publication of Cho's book, Bewusstsein und Natursein, in Japanese translation.

Distinguished Professor

Jorge J.E. Gracia received a well-deserved promotion to the rank of Distinguished Professor this past year. This designation is awarded to individuals who have achieved national or international prominence in their fields.

In March 1996, Gracia was elected President of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, for the period 1997-98. In 1995 Gracia published A Theory of Textuality: The Logic and Epistemology, Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

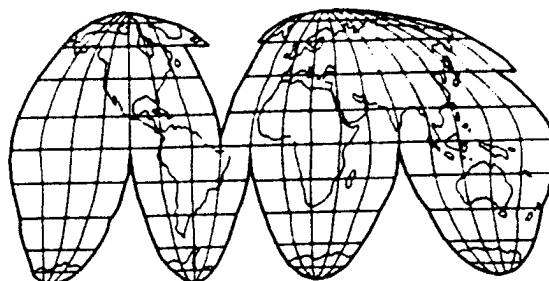
Spanish Conference

John Corcoran and John Kearns were invited speakers at a conference "Truth: Logic, Representation, and World," held January 17-20, 1996 at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Philosophers and logicians from Spain, the U.S., and many European countries took part. The conference was one of a number of events celebrating the 500th anniversary of the founding of the University. Jose Sagüillo (MA 1984) is a member of the Department of Logic of the University of Santiago; he also presented a paper at the conference.

APA Board of Officers

Peter H. Hare has recently been appointed to the national Board of Officers of the American Philosophical Association with responsibility for career opportunities. This is the first time UB's philosophy department has had someone on the Board since Marvin Farber in the 1950's.

Dr. Hare's wife, Daphne Kean Hare, M.D., died August 3, 1995. A medical administrator and professor of medicine and biophysics, shortly before her death she received a \$2.4 million USAID grant in support of her longstanding project to reform medical education in Russia and the Ukraine. This project is being continued by the organization she set up.



Full Professors

Carolyn Korsmeyer has been promoted to full professor effective Fall 1996. In 1995 Korsmeyer coedited with Peggy Zeglin Brand Feminism and Tradition in Aesthetics, University Park, PA: PA State University Press.

Richard T. Hull was promoted to full professor in Fall 1995.

During his sabbatical leave last semester, Dick joined the staff of Buffalo General Hospital as Scholar-in-Residence. His responsibilities included writing a casebook on cases considered by the Ethics Committee, cross-indexed so as to permit drawing on recommendations and their rationales to facilitate decisions in future cases; to assist in institutional policy development; to conduct institutionally-based seminars in biomedical ethics for medical students, interns, residents, and members of other professions; to create a clinical bioethics program for advanced undergraduates and graduate students majoring in philosophy (and perhaps other disciplines as well); and to create and conduct community outreach programs to improve the public's grasp and use of such devices as advanced directives and designation of medical decision making agents or proxies.

Retirement

Lynn Rose retires at the end of Spring 1996 and plans to move to San Diego, CA. A retirement party is to be given in his honor in May. We all wish him the very best in his future.

News About Our Graduates

John Lincourt (Ph.D. 1972) is now Director of the Center for Professional and Applied Ethics, and **Bonnie E. Cone** Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The Center will be enhanced in 1996 and 1997 by two endowed chairs, the Suitman Distinguished Professor in Business Ethics and the Mecklenburg County Medical Society Distinguished Professor in Health Care Ethics.

Ludlow (Bud) Brown (Ph.D. 1975) writes: "I am professor of philosophy at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA where I just celebrated my twentieth year of teaching. For the past five years I've been directing a blossoming and ever-challenging Honors Program with a strong interdisciplinary focus. Directing the program has meant tremendous autonomy. Last summer I sent myself to the annual meeting of the Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology and the Life Sciences at Johns Hopkins University; I recently delivered a paper on chaos, self-organization, and reductionism in a seminar designed by an honors student here; and I am about to moderate an honors student session: "Determinism, Responsibility and Escape into Virtuality: John Calvin, Thomas Hobbes, Calvin & Hobbes." After many years of chairing the Department and/or the Division of Humanities and coming to the conclusion that administration (a performing art) is not

always pretty, the fun I'm having in this position is a welcome surprise.

Best wishes to everyone, especially Peter Hare, to whom we are grateful for taking such excellent care of a fine Department, and John Kearns who will certainly continue the tradition of quality which includes Handy, Madden, Parry, and Hare."

Zosimo Lee (Ph.D. 1990) wrote last month: "At the moment, I'm getting involved with preparation for an Amnesty International-sponsored International Conference on Human Rights in China scheduled for August this year, which will gather around one hundred people (both local and foreign) to discuss the situation in that huge country. The issue is definitely very political and controversial. Initially, I was inquiring into the possibility of a co-sponsorship with a human rights program of the UP, but the authorities did not feel it prudent to give official sanction to a meeting that will definitely arouse the antagonism of Chinese officials, and so it has to become a meeting sponsored by individual faculty members (meaning me and a few other brave souls perhaps).

Dennis Patterson (Ph.D. 1980), now Distinguished Professor of Law, Rutgers University School of Law (Camden), has recently published his book *Law & Truth* with Oxford University Press. He has also received this year a two-year Humboldt Fellowship and a Fulbright Fellowship for research in Germany at the University of Göttingen.

Law & Truth addresses the question, "What does it mean to say that a proposition of law is true?" He takes the position that "in law, legal forms of argument constitute the terms for appraising the truth of propositions of law. Nothing makes our legal utterances true." Rejecting the view, basic to both realists and anti-realists, that the meaning of a proposition of law is a matter of the proposition's standing in a certain relation to some state of affairs (for realists, moral essences; for anti-realists, the fact of communal agreement), Dennis defends the view that normativity, or intersubjective linguistic practice, is what makes agreement possible. "The essence of law is legal argument: the forms of legal argument are the culturally endorsed modes for showing the truth of propositions of law. It is in the use of these forms that the practice is to be understood. Their use in practice is the law." Dennis characterizes his

work as "post-modern," and takes on the views of Weinrib, Brink and Moore, H.L.A. Hart, Ronald Dworkin, and Stanley Fish. The book abounds with applications of Wittgenstein, Dummett, Putnam, and Rorty, and one reviewer has described it as "one of the best overviews of the important recent debate over legal justification...."

Paul Penner (Ph.D. 1994) has had a book (based on his dissertation) published by Rodopi. Title: Altruistic Behavior.

Neal Radice (B.A. 1979). The following appeared in the Buffalo News on April 5, 1996. "For years Neal Radice's Alleyway Theatre has done its best to encourage new works for the stage by premiering plays and musical shows. This devotion to new work has established the Alleyway as a welcoming place to go for writers around the country. Another side to Radice's endeavors is less well-known. He often contributes incidental music to theater works, and some years ago wrote several musicals. Now it is his turn. Radice has teamed up with one of the playwrights he has championed, Gordon Farrell, to write "Sherlock in Love," a musical. Farrell has prepared the book, based, of course, on Sherlock Holmes and other characters from Arthur Conan Doyle's immortal stories and adding a femme who may be fatale, thus the title. Radice has written the music and the lyrics, something he did for "Beowulf: The Rock Opera" and "Peer," a musical based on Ibsen's "Peer Gynt." Radice will direct the show, which opens this month..."

Stuart Shapiro (Ph.D. 1978) and Michael Tye (Ph.D. 1975) have each been offered positions at St. Andrews University in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Walter Simpson (M.A. 1975). The University at Buffalo's continuing conservation and energy efficiency effort has been highlighted in a new National Wildlife Federation book about environmental stewardship on the American campuses.

UB's energy program is described as progressive and successful in Ecodemia: Campus Environmental Stewardship at the Turn of the 21st Century.

"While Congress, for example, seems incapable of formulating a far-sighted and economically smart policy to promote energy efficiency, administrators at SUNY Buffalo have developed their own," Oberlin College professor David W. Orr notes in the book's foreword.

"As a result, the University will save \$3.2 million per year, equal to 15 percent of the present energy budget," he added.

UB energy officer Walter Simpson, who guides the conservation effort, said the program involves a network of conservation contact persons in every campus building, department and office.

Boosted by a \$4.3 million incentive from Niagara Mohawk's "Power Partner Program," the UB effort is self-financing and functions as a partnership between UB, the utility, and a Houston-based energy conservation firm called CES/Way International Inc.

The project has cut UB's energy-related air pollution by 15 percent, slashing such acid rain elements as sulfur dioxide by 70 tons and nitrogen oxide by 107 tons.

Energy costs also have been cut by the university's "Green Computing" program, which promotes energy conservation through measures ranging from turning off computers during lunch breaks to eliminating screen saver programs that have moving images.

Reported in The Buffalo News, 11/11/95

Joel Tierno (Ph.D. 1993) has had a book, Descartes on God and Human Error, (based on his dissertation) accepted for publication in November 1996 by Humanities Press International.

Conferences...

Farber Conference

"Can Epistemology Be Unified?"

This conference, sponsored by the Marvin Farber Memorial Fund, the Philosophy Department and the Center for Cognitive Science, SUNY, is scheduled for September 27-29, 1996 at UB.

In recent years epistemological inquiry has gone in a bewildering variety of directions. This conference will address the question of whether these myriad

inquiries can be unified. How far are the many types of epistemology trying to solve the same problems? In so far as the same questions are being addressed, how far are the answers given incompatible, how far are they complementary? What sense can we make of the entire epistemological scene? What lessons can be drawn for use in future inquiry?

Additional information can be obtained from Peter H. Hare, Philosophy Department, Baldy Hall, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260. Voice mail: (716)645-2444, X774; E-mail: phihare@ubvms.cc.buffalo.edu.

Graduate Student Conferences

The UB Graduate Student Philosophy Conference took place on Friday, February 9, 1996. The following current graduate students presented papers.

Time and Emptiness in the Chao Lun, by Michael Berman; *What is Dialogue for Gadamer?* by Seon-Wook Kim; *The Metaphysics of Democratic Theory: Beyond Taylor's Holistic Social Ontology* by Shannon Kincald; and *Fiction as a Clinical Tool* by Charles Jack and Sarah Worth.

The Fourth Annual SUNY at Buffalo Graduate Philosophy Conference (open to other colleges and universities) took place on March 30, 1996. The keynote address was presented by Nick Griffin of McMaster University with John Kearns of SUNY at Buffalo providing a commentary. UB graduate students Daniel Barwick and Michael Berman commented on papers presented by Bruce Dutra of Purdue University and Bo Mou of the University of Rochester, respectively. The conference was sponsored by The Graduate Philosophy Association, The Graduate Student Association and The Graduate Linguistics Association.

Seventh Annual Undergraduate Conference

The Western New York/Southern Ontario Seventh Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference is scheduled to be held at UB on April 27, 1996. All papers and commentaries will be presented by undergraduate students. Sarah Fagnan, a SUNY-Buffalo undergraduate will provide a commentary to the paper "Heidegger and the History of Being," presented by Malanie Alfred of the University of Guelph.

Hourani Lecture Series

Shelly Kagan, the Henry R. Luce Professor in Social Thought and Ethics at Yale will deliver the first George Hourani Lectures in Moral Philosophy in Fall 1996. The title of these lectures is "The Geometry of Desert." Prof. Kagan will visit the campus twice next fall, and deliver two lectures on each visit scheduled on October 16th and 18th, and on November 20th and 22nd. On the day following each talk, there will be a period when anyone who attended the talk can meet with Prof. Kagan and discuss issues covered in the talk or issues related to material in the talk. The Hourani Lecture Series is made possible by an endowment from George and Celeste Hourani.

Averroes Conference

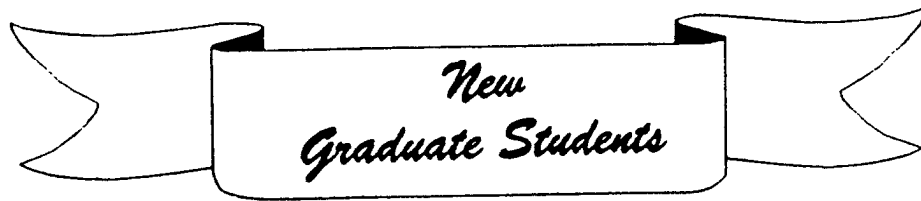
A conference on Averroes took place on April 12-13, 1996 at the Center for Inquiry in Amherst. An important theme of the conference was George Hourani and his scholarship concerning Averroes, especially George's translation and commentary on The Harmony Between Religion and Philosophy. Speakers included: Alfred L. Ivry, NYU; Jorge Gracia, SUNY-Buffalo; Richard Taylor, Marquette; Parvis Morewedge, SUNY-Binghamton; Therese-Anne Druart, Catholic University; Michael Marmura, University of Toronto; Charles L. Butterworth, University of Maryland at College Park; Ghazala Irfan, University of the Punjab; Mourad Wahba, Ains Shans University; Mona Abousenna, Ains Shans University; Ionna Kucuradi, Hacettepe University. The conference was sponsored by the Philosophy Department and Paul Kurtz's Center of Inquiry.

Drugs Conference

A conference "Morality, Legality, and Drugs" was held in September. The conference was organized by Pablo DeGreiff and sponsored by the Philosophy Department, the Bavaria Foundation, Conferences in the Disciplines Program, Conversations in the Disciplines Program, The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, the Lindesmith Center, and the Mitchell Fund of the Law School. This was the first academic conference ever devoted to exploring ethical issues associated with legalizing or decriminalizing drug use.

Prior to the conference, a community forum was held in downtown Buffalo and featured R. Gil Kerlikowske, who is Buffalo's Police Commissioner, together with a number of other community leaders and several faculty. Speakers and commentators at the conference included Jon Elster (Columbia University), Thomas Pogge (Columbia University), J. Donald Moon (Wesleyan University), Douglas Husak (Rutgers University), John P. Walters (The New Citizenship Project), Michael Moore (University of Pennsylvania), Guyora Binder (UB Law School), Samuel Freeman (University of Pennsylvania), Marcia Lynn Whicker (Rutgers University), William Connolly (Johns Hopkins), Jan Narveson (University of Waterloo), Anita Allen (Georgetown University), Pablo DeGreiff (UB), and Jaime Malamud-Goti (University of Arkansas).

Different viewpoints were represented, ranging from those who favored increased efforts devoted to the war on drugs to those in favor of decriminalization or even legalization of drug use. Those who favored relaxing legal restrictions did not support drug use, but argued that current law and policy causes problems that are worse than the problems they are intended to prevent.



Yishaiya Abosch	B.A. Princeton (1988) M.A., SUNY Buffalo (1991), J.D. Vanderbilt University (1994) Interests: Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Law, Ethics
Jeffrey Andrusin	B.A. William Patterson College (1994) Interests: Ancient Philosophy, Pragmatism, Phenomenology
Laura Arcilla	B.A. University of Los Andes, Bogota (1985), M.Ed. SUNY-Buffalo (1992) Interests: Logic
Kevin Boylan	B.A. SUNY Albany (1992), M.A. SUNY Albany (1995) Interests: Philosophy of Psychology, Cognitive Science
Mark Bross	B.A. Seton Hall University (1995) Interests: Epistemology, Metaphysics, Continental Philosophy
David Garren	B.A. SUNY Binghamton (1986), J.D. Brooklyn Law School (1989) Interests: Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Philosophy and Literature
Scott Harrigan	B.A. SUNY Oswego (1990), J.D. Widener University (1993) Interests: Philosophy of Law, Applied Ethics
Chad Hickox	B.A. Albertson College of Idaho (1993) Interests: Hermeneutics, Phenomenology, Existentialism, Eastern Philosophy
Leonard Jacuzzo	B.A. SUNY Fredonia (1993) Interests: Logic, History of Philosophy
Ashutosh Kalsi	B.A. Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (1994) Interests: Eastern Philosophy, Ontology, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Literature
Robert Kleffer	B.A. SUNY Buffalo (1991) Interests: Ethics, Ancient Philosophy, Eastern Philosophy
Hae-Jin Kim	B.A. (1984) and M.A. (1987) Kyungpook National University Interest: Philosophy of Science

Insu Kim	B.A. Seoul National University (1988) Interests: Logic, Ethics
Eric Little	B.A. University of Wisconsin at Green Bay (1994) Interests: Phenomenology, Logic, History of Philosophy
Adrianne McEvoy	B.A. SUNY Buffalo (1992) Interests: Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Eastern Philosophy, Feminism, Ancient Philosophy
Christopher Pacyga	B.A. SUNY Brockport (1995) Interests: Aesthetics, Ethics, German Philosophy
Jeffrey Runnels	B.A. University of Wisconsin (1994) Interests: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, Semantics, Philosophy of Science
Robert Sedlacek	B.A. SUNY Buffalo (1994) Interests: Ethics, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Philosophy of Science, Eastern Philosophy
David Toscano-Cantaffa	B.S. Muhlenberg College (1994), M.S. SUNY Buffalo (1995) Interests: Biomedical Ethics, Philosophy of Science, Ethics, Feminist Philosophy
J. Lenore Womack	B.A. Morehead State University (1994), M.A. Baylor University (1995) Interests: Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Language
Henri Wright	B.A. Southern Methodist University (1993), M.A. Baylor University (1995) Interests: Aesthetics, Philosophy of Language

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J.F.K. Assassination

Thomas J. Donahue (Ph.D. 1985), Associate Professor of Philosophy at Mercyhurst College, writes about his work on the J.F.K. assassination:

In the past several years, I've attempted to apply the tools of the philosopher to various issues involved in the J.F.K. assassination. In some cases, this has produced fresh insights on long-standing issues.

In "A New Type of Argument Against the Single-Bullet Theory" (The Fourth Decade, January, 1994), I demonstrate that the Warren Commission's own reconstruction photographs (i.e., photographs of their own reenactment of the assassination based

principally on the Zapruder film) imply that the single-bullet theory is false and hence that there must have been more than one shooter. I show this by establishing that these reconstruction photos can be used to show that there is no self-consistent scenario under which both the timing discrepancy issue (involving the temporal gap between the reactions of President Kennedy and Governor Connally to their wounds from the alleged single-bullet) and the issue of lateral bullet trajectory/lateral alignment of wounds can be successfully addressed by the single-bullet theory even if you give the Warren

Commission the benefit of the doubt on every point (i.e., on both the lateral trajectory issue and the timing discrepancy issue) considered individually.

In "Another Argument Against the Single-Bullet Theory Using Logical Connections Between Issues" (The Fourth Decade, September, 1994), I use a similar approach to show related inconsistency in the Warren Commission's case.

Finally, in "Gaeton Fonzi and Anthony Summers on "Maurice Bishop" (The Fourth Decade, May, 1994), I bring together and attempt to coherently evaluate and summarize information from various sources which strongly suggests that there was a meeting in September of 1963 between Lee Harvey Oswald and David Atlee Phillips, a high CIA official (Chief of Covert Action in Mexico City for the CIA from 1961 through the Fall of 1963 and Chief of Cuban Operations in Mexico City for the CIA at the time of the J.F.K. assassination).

Pun-ic Wars

You will recall that in our last issue of the Newsletter (January 1995, No. 7) we featured the first portion of the Pun-ic Wars that occurred in the department and were faithfully recorded (and constantly rekindled) by Richard Hull. It continues...

...End-of-semester woes fortunately aborted this line of drivel, and it wasn't until well into the second semester that I received this from Charlotte:

I was going to bring you a clipping from Saturday's paper I thought you might have missed—a picture of a Pole vaulting—but I forgot it. There is another in the paper that is so bad it makes me Cisek—both were so terrible you could hardly Piccone over the other. They really should have said it was a Pollock vaulting. (This is what comes of going over old class lists.)

My retort was instantaneous, although apologetic:

Well, I think the latter caption would be appropriate only if the device used to secure athletic equipment had been photographed going over the bar (i.e., a pole-lock vaulting). You must have searched over near vale and Farley to find such a clipping, and I can only hope you're able to Czech the impulse the next time you're Hungary for a hot, cross pun. (Please don't let my Angleterre you up, however.) I am sorry this effort doesn't show more Polish.

Little did I imagine what I was to provoke:

Dear Dick,

Iran all the way to the office to reply to your latest installment in our Syrial, so please don't give this a Chile reception. If Iraq up a few points for myself, it will Sweden my disposition, but, as you say, it Turks a great deal of ingenuity to Thailand to puns. Thinking of any more at the moment will Rumania hopeless task, in my Canada pinion. Perhaps you Canada better. (That last should never have seen the Wight of day.)

That was too much. I gave forth with what I considered to be my greatest effort:

Italye, Charlotte, you're becoming more Capricious every day. Your stock of puns is Mozambique—it's enormous and threats to Lapp me. Yugoslaving so hard at this, while I feel Sicily. Of Corsican either decide Algeria, Denmark the result, or decide Togo around with loud Wales. But either would rouse your Elre. I do hope we continue, for I intend to out-Libya by showing that Yemen are better at this and women ought to stay in Dahomey.

In retrospect, however, I fear that I had overstepped the bounds of the permissible, for this was followed by a note that a departmental historian will no doubt view as an explicit surfacing of her intent to resign at the end of the year:

Hawaii? Java good week-end? You look a little Sikh. Sumatra with you? If it Spain in your back, I can recommend a good Austriapath, or you Congo to a Cairopractor. Ethiopia up, Kenya sue for malpractice? Be sure you don't go to a woman. As the old saying goes, don't Senegal to do Oman's job. All of a Sudan I feel a bit Pali myself—I seem to be Caspian for breath. Probably just a case of Malaysia, but I wouldn't care Tibet on it. (Well, Molucca nother time.) In closing, may I just add, "Honi soit qui Mali pense?"

Lest readers think that the disease was contained amongst the foregoing sufferers, I include for the record another exchange or two. There was an invitation issued by Terry O'Connell and Jim Nelson to a send-off party for John Sutula, who had resigned because he thought it immoral to have a graduate program when we couldn't guarantee graduates jobs. The full text of the invitation has, alas, been lost, but the following fragment will give a sense of its irritant power:

Bring you own booze; Chisholm yourself.
 Marshall your forces, this Swain to Jim's Lehrer.
 Sosa, Russell 'em up; all are Malcomed.
 [Ed. Note: there was also a pun on 'defeasible', but it is
 not feasible to produce it here.]

My records contain the following copy, dated 5/15/78:

A Frivolous Memo to Terry O'Connell, Jim Nelson, et al.:

When I held your invitation, I almost draw Leblanc. Your
 range of epistemic puns was so Broad, I feared I could
 think of no Moore than Blanchards. But, since I Lovejoy,
 am a bit of a Cornman myself, and don't mind paying the
 Price, I decided to see what I could Polyani.

I think John Sutula is a Goodman, Nelson, and I'll bring
 the gin to toast him if someone else will bring the
 Quineine. While I may question the Wisdom that made
 John Flew, Alston by his right to go Firth into the Black
 night. I've got a Hintikka he feels, and I understand how
 he could get Ryled up Anscombe to his decision.

So, I'll try to Popper into my Austin, and make my way to
 the Sellars of Jim's Berg, mann. If I get tired on the way,
 I will Locke up Descartes and take a Car nap. And if I
 Kant come and you are wondering "Que one c'est?", it's
 because I got Schlick.

In 1992 I had written Terry O'Connell to see if he had retained
 a copy of his and Jim Nelson's invitation. I got this shameless
 indulgence back shortly after it was mailed 2 September 1992.
 It demonstrates that the disease is one of those nasty ones,
 that, like malaria or perhaps Schickle-cell anemia, recurs
 throughout one's lifetime at the least provocation:

Dear Dick,

Your Eruigena letter Occam today. ibn Rushd a reply,
 Marsilius that imaginable.

Aristotled to see that Judy had ex-lumed that memo long
 Burdian time. ibn Sina for a long while. Although you've
 been Meinong puns for many years and mine Will Paley in
 comparison, I'd like to Pla,too. I used to indulge but I
 gottfried and barus away and rene from this silliness, but
 now I pierre to Gassendi again. You've antoined me in
 your treacherous bramble which nic holes with its Mal
 branches. Nevertheless, I silhelm the ship, Past all cal,
 and de la Forge on, even if it sinks in a blaise of
 ignonimity. There are nauld limits to this game, Erasmus
 as an undecided tiebreaker in that sport royal, denis.
 Diderot for you. I'd better Bayle out, or rather, vault into
 the aire like an arouet while you're still Fontonelle people
 you know me. I Condillac you, too. Apropos of nothing,
 Condors say, "Show me a crooked valley and I'll show you
 a Mount askew." Baron of good puns, I should Hartley
 Montaine dignified silence.

Tell Jorge that I Suarez not to repeat this
 performance. And tell Peter that I would be
 Madden to try to get another in Ed-wise. Me
 casa, Ducasse. (By the way, should I purse my
 lips or pierce my ears?) Please tell Carolyn that
 de Souza I scratch this itch, I'll amelie-orate my
 condition. Anyway, none of these Shafts bury
 very deep. Thales I say the beta! Maimon is
 going blank.

I suppose this is a harmless Hobbsy, Ricardo,
 but Gibbon an inch and they'll take a Mill. On a
 Hutcheson, I Bentham a chocolate Malt, thus:
 Shelley win, God willing, or I'll Owen. But I won't
 Hegel if I receive low Marx.

(I have no idea what I'm saying! I hope that my
 dissertation makes more sense!)

My pun muscles have atrophied, hence no
 trophies. Nobody's Parfit! I'll be the Balguy!

I normally make it a rule not to engage in punful
 exchanges with students writing dissertations: the
 inevitable result will be a crushed ego, and there is
 also the danger of puns creeping into the text itself.
 [For those who doubt this, see O'Connell's Opus,
 infected despite my forbearance in not deigning to
 reply to the above tripe.]

I have now (thankfully!) come to the end of my
 essay. Much of the history of the department,
 indeed of the profession, is captured in the above
 strings. Let the more scholarly members of each
 provide the footnotes: it will be a neat trick to identify
 all the punned names, particularly since O'Connell
 introduced the variant of not always capitalizing the
 name when it is buried. It is to be hoped that, sated
 with the excesses of the foregoing, the reader will
 not be responsible for another breakout of the
 disease. It is true that we have a number of new
 names in the department, both faculty and graduate
 students, since the generations which the above
 stand as records. Nonetheless, although I am sure
 we could have a Mariam old time if we tried to
 Rapaport or two, we'd soon be Barryd in more chain
 punletters and that would surely bring us all to
 Degreiff. So, although we're on the Eva nother
 breakout, let us resist, remain Soper, McNamara
 better day, and count our Blessings in Paradise.

Editor's note: Perhaps one last word (at least for
 now) comes from Co-editor Eva Koepsell upon
 receipt of the above text.

Dear Dick,

Your piece for the Noûsletter hit me like
 Corcoran punishment. In fact, I'm Baumered. I

could deSmith this as an unexpected reKearns of silliness, but it made me feel sorry for Charlotte. No wonder Sriram as fast as she could from this Hulloish Barberism, as Hareish as that sounds.

The End
(for now)

>>>>>

Kurtz/Kevorkian

As reported in the Buffalo News on 2/7/96, Paul Kurtz, the internationally known Amherst book publisher, said Tuesday that he will appeal a court order directing him or another representative of Prometheus Books to testify in Michigan at the upcoming criminal trial of Dr. Jack Kevorkian in an assisted-suicide case.

Kurtz, whose company published Kevorkian's book on planned death five years ago, said he will ask the court to overrule the order issued Friday by State Supreme Court Justice Christopher J. Burns.

"They don't leave us much time, since we have been ordered to be in Michigan on Feb. 14, but this is a violation of the First Amendment and will have a chilling effect on all publishers," said Kurtz, a University at Buffalo philosophy professor-emeritus and founder of Prometheus Books.

Kurtz said his company published Kevorkian's "Prescription Medicine: The Goodness of Planned Death" and "is perhaps the leading publisher of assisted-suicide literature," with about a half-dozen similar books on its roster.

"Mr. Jack Kevorkian has never denied that he wrote the book, and there is no reason why they have to drag his publisher there," Kurtz said. "This seems like a violation of free speech."

Kurtz said he also sees the Michigan prosecutors' efforts to force someone from his firm to testify "as a kind of inquisition."

He said the prosecutors' action "affects the very framework" of free expression and comes at a time when "the court of public opinion supports Kevorkian."

During Friday's hearing on the Michigan prosecutors' request, Joseph M. Mordino, deputy Erie County district attorney, said prosecutors in Oakland County, Mich., want someone from Prometheus to authenticate the Kevorkian book under oath.

Mordino said the authentication is needed so the book can be used as evidence against Kevorkian at his trial for an assisted suicide he conducted several years ago.

He added that the Michigan prosecutors will pay all the necessary expenses of flying a Prometheus representative to Pontiac and housing and feeding that person for the two days he is expected to be needed there.

(Note: The Michigan prosecutor decided to quash the subpoena, saying that the appearance of a representative from Prometheus "was no longer necessary.")

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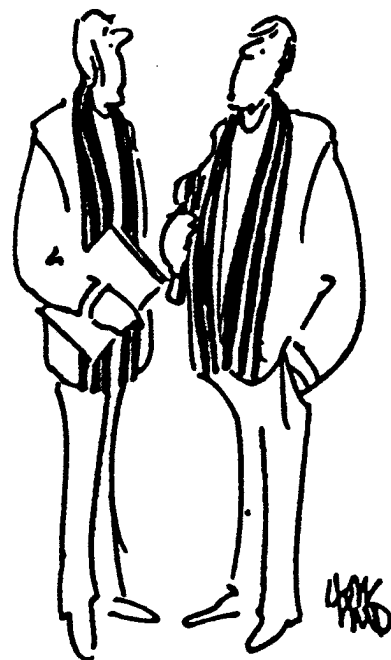
We wish to thank all those who have supported this department through their donations to the various funds: Farber, Hourani, Perry, Steinberg, Donovan, and the Philosophy Department Resource Fund.

Please send material you wish to be included in future Noûsletters to: The Philosophy Department, 607 Baldy Hall, SUNY-Buffalo, Amherst, NY 14260

CREDITS

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Editors: John T. Kearns, Eva M. Koepsell and Peter H. Hare.



"I'm reading Philosophy on the basis that it will help me to accept not being able to get a job when I've graduated."