



# Newsletter

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## LANGDON WINNER TO SPEAK AT CSTV LECTURE SERIES IN MARCH

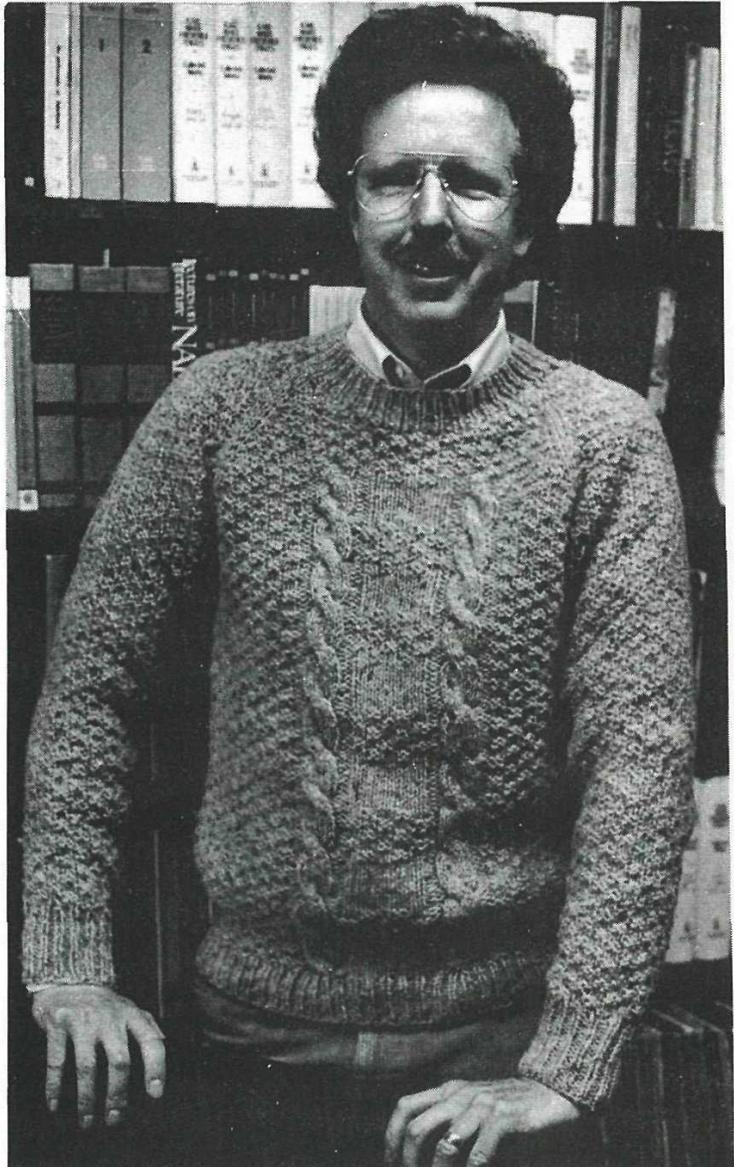
LANGDON WINNER, prominent US political theorist, will give two public lectures at UW early in March as the special guest of CSTV.

The first address is titled "Democracy and Technology: a Clash of Cultures" and is scheduled for Wednesday, 1 March at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of Conrad Grebel College. The second is called "Political Ergonomics: Design and the Public Good" and is slated for Thursday, 2 March at 3:30 p.m. in Siegfried Hall of St. Jerome's College.

Winner is an associate professor of political science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. His recent books, Autonomous Technology (1984) and The Whale and the Reactor: a Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology (1987 paperback), have won wide acclaim and have been used in STV courses at UW.

The San Luis Obispo, California native is currently working on a book on political theory and technological design. He regularly writes columns for Technology Review, and he has written rock music criticism for Rolling Stone and other publications. He was artistic and technical consultant on the film Koyaanisqatsi: Life out of Balance (1983), and he was recently interviewed on TVOntario's Realities program (CSTV has a tape of this interview.)

For more details, call the Centre at UW ext. 6215.



LANGDON WINNER

INSIDE: \* *STV course instructors talk about goals*  
\* *Liberal Science: the process is working*

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## NEW STV 100 CO-INSTRUCTOR IDENTIFIES SOME GOALS

DAVID LONG, 30, who will get his PhD in the sociology of religion at UW's May 1989 Convocation, will join GED MCLEAN as co-instructor for the Winter 1989 version of STV 100, the introductory course in the STV option. Long has taught numerous regular and extension courses for UW, Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Western Ontario.

One of the many things STV 100 can offer, Long says, is a chance to correct an imbalance that easily occurs when university students become engrossed "in very theoretical studies" that are "divorced from the real world."

"Technology as a co-operative human artifact" is a theme that Long will explore in the course, while automation is one that his co-instructor identifies as giving equal shape to the syllabus. Both themes will offer ways for students to reach an understanding of crucial issues, to discuss various positions and the tensions between them, and to become aware of their own biases.

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*"Technology is a  
co-operative  
human artifact,"  
says instructor  
David Long.*

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"I'm really excited about (the course having) somebody formally trained in the social sciences," says Long's colleague Ged McLean. McLean, 29, who also expects to get his PhD in May, has been involved in several STV courses. In his view, Long will provide welcome depth in social issues, concepts and theories

"We want students to think critically," says Long, "and we mean that in the sense of 'getting at the root of things'." And along the way, he'll try to get students to "listen to each other," which is fundamental to any progress in thinking about society and technology

McLean says that STV 100 is evolving over time--for instance, fewer guest lecturers are scheduled this time--as more of a "core curriculum" develops. But audio-visual materials, including "Connections 10" from the BBC/Time-Life Series and "The Morgentaler Affair" will still play a role. McLean says the course clientele has changed too, with more first year students enrolling now.

Pre-registrations as of early December totalled 46, with 65 to 80 students expected ultimately to enroll.

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## CSTV OFFICE LIBRARY GROWS

One benefit of having our new office is the space it provides for a growing collection of STV-related library materials. Along with periodicals and A-V items, the office library contains an archive of STV student course projects and recently published books in the field. Recent book acquisitions are listed below. Drop by the office to sign out materials.

Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine (2nd ed.), John Arras, Robert Hunt, (Mayfield 1983); Work, Culture and Society, Rosemary Deem and Graeme Salaman, eds. (Open University, 1985); The Social Shaping of Technology, Donald MacKenzie and Judy Wajcman, eds., (Open University, 1985); Science Under Siege, Beth Savan, CBC Enterprises, 1988); Genethics, David Suzuki and Peter Knutson, (Stoddart, 1988); In the Age of the Smart Machine, Shoshana Zuboff, (Basic Books, 1984).

# Brown Bag Series

## CANADIAN THINKER GEORGE GRANT SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION

Canadian philosopher and social critic George Parkin Grant, who died last fall, was the subject of the final CSTV Brown Bag discussion of the term on Tuesday, 13 December.

Prof. JAMES REIMER of Conrad Grebel College discussed "George Grant, Technology and the Love of Fate" at a session held in the Campus Centre.

Grant has been described as one of Canada's "few authentic luminaries" whose "robust intellect and gargantuan presence" will be sorely missed on the Canadian scene. He is perhaps best known for his books Lament for a Nation (1965) and Technology and Empire (1986)

Reimer outlined three stages in Grant's thought--his early, "liberal" phase, his middle, Red Tory phase, and his final, "classical conservative" phase. In the last, Grant continued his struggle against "the modern vision" that sees technology as a panacea for all social life.

The late Canadian philosopher, said Reimer, calls people "to remember, to desire, to think--and to philosophy" in order to uncover "intimations of how we've been deprived" (by 'modernity') and to recapture "the experience of transcendence."

Questions centred on comparisons between Grant and Albert Borgmann, Grant's view of history, Grant's involvement with the political left, and "where do we go after Grant."

Reimer, a religious studies professor at Grebel and an adjunct professor with the Toronto School of Theology, has published several articles on Grant



George Grant  
(1918-88)

Earlier Brown Bags, both held in November, were "Technology and the City: a Reprise" with former STV option co-ordinator ERIC HIGGS (now at New York's Polytechnic University) and "How to do Impossible Research" with UW ERS prof JOHN ROBINSON who discussed his "sustainable society" project.

Winter '89 events will be announced early in the New Year.

## U OF T/UW INFO CO-OP PRESENTS WORKSHOP

On 20 January, the U of T/UW Co-operative on Information Technology will hold another of its "research challenges" workshops. The theme is "Hypermedia: Software for Simultaneous Access to Different Databases." For more information, call Prof. BRENT HALL at UW ext. 2399 or 3467.

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## LIBERAL SCIENCE COURSES SLATED FOR WINTER '89

MYRA PERLIN, a grad student in UW's School of Urban and Regional Planning, is the co-ordinator of "Scientists and the Scientific Community" (Sci 265), one of the Liberal Science courses to be given in the Winter '89 term.

Her course will bring together nine UW lecturers--CSTV director RUSSEL LEGGE, JUDITH SEGAL (English), HOWARD WOODHOUSE (Independent Studies), BARBARA HANSON (Sociology), CONRAD BRUNK (Conrad Grebel College), STEVE SMITH (HKLS), GEORGE SOULIS (Engineering), JOHN HEPBURN (Chemistry) and KEN WOOLNER (Physics).



PERLIN:

*"A  
different  
perspective"*

Many speakers are already familiar with the course, either having helped plan it or teach it in previous years. Topics will include the ethics of scientific decisions, scientists as employees and employers, science and the state, values in science, and the rhetoric of science.

"My aim is to give science students a different perspective," explains Perlin. She wants to help them see "how scientists interact with each other and with the community."

There are 17 students already registered, close to the ideal number for a comfortable class, given Perlin's favoured teaching format. Small group discussions, a poster session, a film and student projects are all on the agenda.

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UW Optometry professor Dr. DAVID WILLIAMS, who has served as the Liberal Science program's associate director since July, will be "facilitating things" and providing "background support." Both Perlin and Williams are concerned that the course not merely "string together guest lectures," and they're confident that the themes and topics selected, plus the preparations made by the speakers themselves, will provide the necessary coherence.

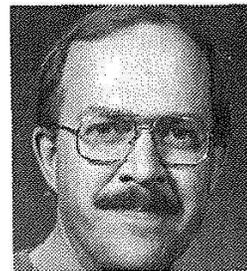
Liberal Science was established in 1985, and like other novel programs at UW, it's had its share of ups and downs. But Williams is optimistic about its future. Especially significant, he says, is the fact that the Program will soon graduate its first students. "This shows that the process is working," Williams notes. One student is expected to graduate in May '89, and another next year.

Besides Perlin's course, other Liberal Science offerings slated for the Winter term are Science of the Senses (Sci 250) and Models in Science (Sci 261).

Myra Perlin was a TA for "Scientists and the Scientific Community" a year ago, and her enthusiasm for the course is obvious as she gets ready for the Winter '89 edition. Says Perlin: "I just hope that students learn as much as they can--and gain that 'different perspective'."

The first class is on Thursday, 5 January 1989 at 7 p.m.

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WILLIAMS:

*Optimistic  
about the  
process*

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## UW PUGWASH CHAPTER GETS UNDERWAY

UW Pugwash co-ordinator HU MACDONALD, shown in the photo during student club days at the Campus Centre in September, strove mightily last fall to revitalize the local chapter of the national organization. MacDonald screened a number of thought-provoking films in a Wednesday evening film series. Attendance was sparse for a couple of films but quite respectable for several others--and the discussions, under MacDonald's masterful stage direction, could never be called dull. The co-ordinator says his Fall '88 experience clearly showed him "the difference between the optimum and the reality."

For details of the Pugwash program schedule, call the CSTV office at UW ext. 6215.



## CSTV CO-SPONSORED EVENTS IN FALL 1988

In the Fall term, the Centre continued its practice of co-sponsoring campus events with other UW departments and programs.

In October, CSTV joined with Independent Studies, the Academic Committee on Human Resources, Women's Studies and the Department of Philosophy in co-sponsoring a lecture by Prof. Nel Noddings of Stanford University's School of Education. She discussed "A Feminist Perspective on Euthanasia" and also lectured on the impact of feminism on the professions.

In November, the Centre co-sponsored two events--a colloquium by Prof. Ron Ragsdale (OISE) on artificial intelligence (with Philosophy and Independent Studies), and a lecture by H.H. Chartrand of the Canada Council on "The University in the Information Economy" (with five other UW divisions).

## STV 200 INSTRUCTOR FLIES SOLO THIS TIME

TIM TOPPER, 28, a PhD candidate in Systems Design Engineering at UW, will be on his own as an STV course instructor in the Winter 1989 term. An experienced STV co-instructor (with Ged McLean) and formerly a TA, Topper will be handling STV 200.

This course is project-based, with student projects closely following the course theme. Just what the theme will be in Winter '89 is not decided yet--that decision is usually made by each class early in the respective term.

Whatever the theme turns out to be, various topical readings will be featured, and "quality discussion" (but not many A-V items, which Topper feels can be "too passive") will be central to the weekly sessions.

"The goal is to give students a chance to apply what they've learned in STV 100 to actual situations," explains Topper.

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## PROFESSIONALS' SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: THEME OF FALL '88 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

On Wednesday, 30 November, students in STV 200 presented their group projects at the final class of the term. In the audience were CSTV Director RUSSEL LEGGE (the course instructor), ERS professor GREG MICHALENKO, and special guest WILLIAM ABRAHAMSON.

The course theme was "professionals and social responsibility": earlier in the term students had watched a number of videotapes from a conference on that theme held by CSTV last spring.

Students DURREL SCOTT BOWMAN and ANDREW SCHEIFELE presented an exploration of the Manhattan Project, calling it "Progress is a Comfortable Disease: Nuclear Weapons in the 1940's," borrowing part of the title from poet e.e. cummings. They used original music and overheads to complement their outline of developments leading to the atom bomb.

Guest William Abrahamson was on hand to answer questions posed by Bowman and Scheifele. Now retired from a career that has included teaching at Columbia University and the University of Guelph, Abrahamson worked on the Manhattan Project as a junior scientist.

Abrahamson observed that wartime is really "a different state of consciousness" and that developments leading to nuclear weapons could only have been "postponed, not avoided." As is often true of technology, he noted, the Manhattan scientists became "victims of our own creation."

Bowman and Scheifele concluded by offering several recommendations, including the creation of an international organization for

scientists working on sensitive research, better education for future professionals, and the development of an international code of ethics for scientists.

Students D. GREG CLOW, MICHAEL DUFFY, and ANDREW KYLE took genetic engineering, especially human genetic engineering, as their topic. Like their classmates, they gave an historical outline of the subject, and then they went on to discuss varieties of "gene therapy" now in use or under development. And they too offered recommendations on "Roles and Responsibilities for Professionals."

Though the class--and the audience for the presentations--was small, the lively discussion brought out well the many complexities that arise in the interaction of highly-trained professionals with the society in which they conduct their activity.

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## TWO NEW COURSES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Women's Studies is offering two new courses for the Winter '89 term.

At the undergraduate level, Dr. Cherry Clayton, a visiting professor from Johannesburg, is teaching WS 365, a special topics course focussing on South African women writers.

The first graduate level course in Women's Studies, Advanced Feminist Theory (WS 601) is also being offered. The course will be team-taught and is co-ordinated by TRUDI BUNTING and LINDSAY DORNEY, Director of Women's Studies.

For further information contact Lindsay Dorney at UW ext. 2880

## WHAT THE INSTRUCTORS SAY

If you ask three STV instructors what they think STV courses provide for UW students, you'll get quite a bit of unanimity in their replies--but individuality happily shines through as well.

As GED MCLEAN, TIM TOPPER and DAVID LONG were preparing for the Winter 1989 term, they talked about what STV 100 and 200 have to offer.

For Tim Topper, who'll be the sole instructor for STV 200, the courses give students the chance to "cross Faculty lines" and to put what they're getting in their other courses into a broader context.

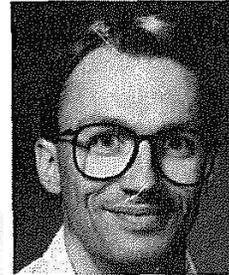
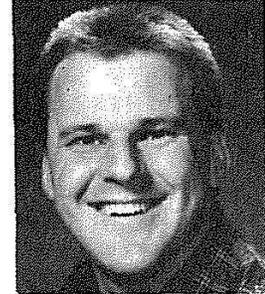
For Ged McLean, who'll be co-teaching STV 100 with David Long, students gain an opportunity "to start thinking about things," a preparation that they'll find useful--not only during their stay at UW but after they graduate. STV courses, says this instructor, keep students from maintaining emotionally-based opinions and help them develop reasoned approaches to technology and society issues.

New STV 100 instructor David Long says "students need to realize that there is a real world which they'll have to confront and where they'll have to make decisions." STV courses can enable students to see that "people themselves create the (technological) environment," a reality that Long wants to bring to "conscious awareness."

Tim Topper observes that students have "generally enjoyed" the courses given so far, and McLean notes that in every class there always seems to be at least a core group who "become very committed" to the kind of probing that STV courses encourage.

### TOPPER:

*"A broader context"*

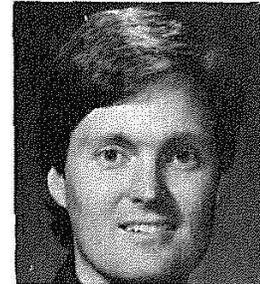


### MCLEAN:

*"Start thinking about things"*

### LONG:

*"Conscious awareness of reality"*



At first, though, students may be surprised to find that they won't just be getting a chance to sound off, says Topper. "They come to see that there are argued positions on STV issues," he explains, and they soon begin to subject their own views--and their classmates' views--to closer scrutiny.

And in the process, they get to look at what McLean and Long describe as "the philosophical underpinnings" of important issues and concerns.



### CSTV TAKES PART IN DAVIS CENTRE OPENING

CSTV had a share of the program for the opening of UW's newest building, the Davis Centre, on Thursday, 10 November. Along with having a display in the Davis lobby, CSTV sponsored a talk by CALVIN C. (KELLY) GOTTLIEB. "Do we have real choices in adopting computers?"

The choices we have, said Gottlieb, are not at the level of whether we'll have computers at all--we will, it's inevitable--but at the level of "quality of life" issues. In the past, some bad choices were indeed made about computers and their social consequences, but now "we have a pretty fair idea of what we're looking for."



GOTTLIEB:

*Real choices  
in adopting  
computers*

Gottlieb, whose talk was written up in the 16 Nov. UW Gazette, has, as the Gazette story put it, "been involved with computers from the beginning" in a career that started in the late 1940s. He has worked with CSTV in various ways, most recently as the catalyst for the "Professionals and Social Responsibility" conference held at UW earlier this year.

### WIEGAND AWARD RECIPIENT TO BE NAMED

The first recipient of the Wiegand Award for Canadian Excellence, a new award administered by the Centre, will soon be announced. Nominations have been received from across Canada, reports Award committee chair RUSSEL LEGGE, and a final decision is imminent.

The Award is for Canadians or permanent residents who have made "an outstanding contribution to our understanding of the human dimensions of science and technology" or to "making technology more human." (See story in CSTV Newsletter #11.) The Award's cash value is \$2,500.

The recipient will be honoured at a special banquet at UW on Thursday, 2 March 1989. Complete details will be announced in the UW Gazette early in the New Year and by flyer to everyone on the CSTV mailing list.

Other members of the Award committee are UW professors ROBIN COHEN (Computer Science) and KEITH WARRINER (Sociology), and JEFFREY WIEGAND of Alton Geoscience in Irvine, California.

### CONFERENCE PAPERS COMPLETED

Thirteen papers from the 1988 STV conference on "Professionals and Social Responsibility: Conflict or Congruence" have been edited and submitted to the Journal of Business Ethics for publication.

#### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Steve Jones, Kathy Sharpe

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Photo of Langdon Winner courtesy  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.