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Newsletter

Number 16 January 1990

NEW STV OPTION COORDINATOR SETS TASKS

"Of course it's invasive to peek into other people's classrooms, but I would like to make contact with other (STV-oriented) instructors," says DAVID HURON, the Centre's new STV Option Coordinator.

So, among many other tasks this winter, Huron will be finding out what UW professors are doing in STV areas. He wants to discover how CSTV can be a "teaching resource" for such people, and in turn, he wants to give them a "sense of belonging" to the whole enterprise for which the Centre is an umbrella.

"UW professors have many points of view (on STV issues)," Huron says; some of them may "resonate" with what the Centre is doing, some of them may not.

But that's not a problem. "A strength of this program is its lack of a dominant philosophy." It's not offering "cut-and-dried solutions."

Huron is on an 18-month secondment from UW's Conrad Grebel College, where he's an assistant professor of music. His undergrad degree is from Waterloo--a Bachelor of Independent Studies (1978)--and it involved music, social sciences and physics. Huron then went to York University for studies in the history of ideas (particularly in epistemology and the concept of progress), which took him into even more territories, including philosophy and management science.

In 1989 he received a PhD in musicology from the University of Nottingham. His research centred on musical perception and cognition.

Huron's multi-faceted background includes a strong interest in computers, experience in building pipe organs, and

a year in a creative electronics program at Fanshawe College after finishing high school.

Huron hopes to "broaden the scope" of STV discussion in his new position. Philosophically speaking, the relation

DAVID HURON

"Broaden the scope of STV discussion"



of society and technology is not just an ethical matter, he explains, but also involves both epistemic assumptions (about what the world is and what humans are) and aesthetic assumptions.

Though not teaching any STV courses this winter, Huron will have general input into both STV 100 and 200, and he'll deliver occasional lectures.

One thing he hopes to bring into the courses are "bite-sized chunks" on the history of technology. An example is the introduction of firearms into Japan, where the development of such weapons was rejected by Japanese society (despite a technological

(Cont'd. on p. 6)

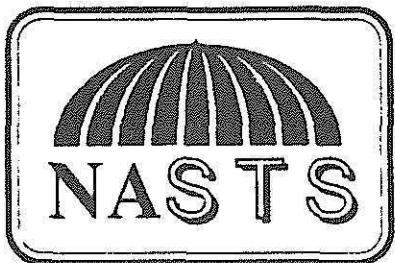
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CSTV REPRESENTATIVES GO TO WASHINGTON

Plans are underway for Centre representatives to attend the fifth annual conference of the National Association for Science, Technology and Society (NASTS) in Washington, 2-4 February 1990.

Themes for the 1990 edition of the yearly "technological literacy conference" are: empowering citizens in a technological world; technology for the globalized economy; Earth Day 20 (20th anniversary of the original "Earth Day" in 1970); parallel approaches to



National Association for
Science, Technology and Society

health; and "cosmos, creation and consciousness." CSTV will have an information display in the exhibit area. Two Centre representatives will attend Conference sessions and report to the Advisory Board after returning to Waterloo.

The UW delegates will also make a presentation at a special one-hour workshop for Canadian STS members that's being arranged by Dr. GED MCLEAN, ex-STVer now with the University of Victoria. McLean wants the session to help "provide a critical mass for the basis of a discussion about STS in Canada." Participants will include Glen Aikenhead of the University of Saskatchewan.

WINTER 1990 STV COURSES

STV 100 E

Society, Technology and Values: An Introduction

7 - 10 T
MC 1056

Instructors: Tim Topper
Daryl Pullman
TAs: Lauren Hodgson
Jean Long

To date, 60 students have enrolled.

STV 200 E

Society, Technology and Values: Group Projects

Time: TBA
MC 404G

Instructor: John Brine
TA: Peter Mulvihill

Eight people have enrolled as of this writing. The course theme is *Cultural Dimensions of Educational Computing*.

STV 400

Society, Technology and Values: Senior Project

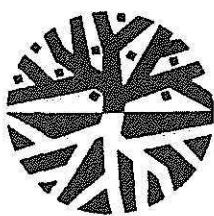
Advisor(s): TBA

To date there are three people enrolled.

For more information, contact Dr. DAVID HURON, Option Coordinator or KATHY SHARPE at UW ext. 6215.

WORD FROM THE WEST

DAVE LONG, formerly an STV instructor at UW and now on the faculty of the King's College in Edmonton (see Newsletter 15), reports not only that he's finished revisions to his PhD dissertation and has his teaching "finally under control" but also that he's proposed two STV-type courses at the College. Both courses were accepted, and he'll be co-teaching one of them with a chemistry professor. Long promises to send CSTV "information on or from" the courses.



APPLIED ETHICS CONFERENCE AT UBC

The University of British Columbia will host an international conference in June "on the present and future state" of applied ethics in business, medicine and environmental policy.

Keynote speaker at the three-day event is UW philosophy professor Dr. MIKE MCDONALD, who is gaining a reputation as the leading Canadian expert in the field.

Themes include the relation between applied ethics and ethical theory, the influence of applied ethics on self-conceptions and professional roles, and the interaction of applied ethics with social policy.

Other speakers include Langdon Winner (see previous CSTV newsletters), Peter Singer, Alison Jaggar and Kenneth Goodpaster.

Organizers are accepting paper drafts and abstracts (750 words) for review until 1 February. Topics can include "any topics relevant to ethical issues" in the three main areas designated.

See Calendar section of this Newsletter for contact details.

JBE PUBLISHER FOLLOWS THROUGH

Kluwer Publishers of Dordrecht, Holland, have followed through on their decision to reprint the *Journal of Business Ethics* issue (8:2 and 3) containing proceedings of the 1988 CSTV conference on professionals and social responsibility. As noted in a previous Newsletter, there was a major problem with the first printing. The reprinted issue arrived in the CSTV office in November, and copies have been mailed to conference participants.

WIEGAND AWARD 1990

ROBIN COHEN of Computer Science, SALLY LERNER of Environment and Resource Studies and ED JERNIGAN of Systems Design Engineering--all members of the Centre's Advisory Board--have been busy sorting through this year's nominees for the WIEGAND AWARD FOR CANADIAN EXCELLENCE.

Cohen reports that the eighteen nominees represent a fair mix of academics and non-academics with a broad range of interests. The nominees hail from as far away as Calgary and Saskatchewan and as close as Toronto and Guelph.

Cohen, Lerner and Jernigan have narrowed the eighteen down to a short list of approximately six nominees. The committee will reach a final decision early in the New Year.

A tentative date of Thursday, March 15 has been set for the Award presentation. The committee is hoping to invite Dr. Ursula Franklin, the first recipient of the Award, to participate in the ceremony.



Wiegand Award: Last year's winner Dr. Ursula Franklin with Dr. Fred Wiegand

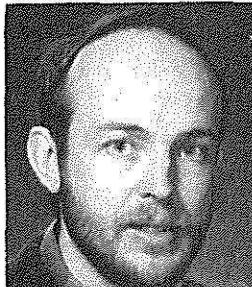
STV TEACHING TEAM

In DARYL PULLMAN (PhD Waterloo, 1989), the Centre is gaining a man of considerable STV-related experience. He'll be the co-instructor of STV 100 with veteran Tim Topper this winter.

Pullman has taught courses for the UW Philosophy department and for two UW colleges (Conrad Grebel and Renison). The topics of these offerings have ranged from "ethics and life sciences" to "critical encounters with the nature of man."

"I do a lot of (STV-type) things in these other courses," Pullman says. So it's really "no leap at all" for him to get involved with STV, something he regrets not having done sooner.

Pullman is just starting to reap benefits from some of his other recent activities. He was the research



**DARYL
PULLMAN**

*"The kind of
thing we
should be doing"*

assistant to UW philosophy professor Dr. Mike McDonald and Laval bioethicist Dr. Marie-Helene Parizeau on a widely-publicized SSHRC research project on applied ethics. He made many valuable contacts while on that project.

Pullman wants to help heighten awareness of STV issues not only among students but among faculty as well. "We need people who are excited (about researching and teaching in the STV area). This is the kind of thing that a university should be doing."

Members of the STV teaching team began planning the Winter '90 courses late last fall. The new co-instructor says he's enjoying "the different approach to things" that his non-philosopher colleagues bring to the discussions.

At Christmas, Pullman attended the American Philosophical Association's annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, scouting job opportunities. Are you listening, Canada?

"I feel strongly that students in a high-tech setting such as Waterloo should be ever more challenged to examine their belief structure, their motivations, and the world unfolding around them. It is disconcerting to realize that many technically trained people enter the "real world" without being challenged to examine their own motives and the impact of their future actions."

That's what LAUREN HODGSON wrote in a letter to the CSTV Director last year. And it's not just an idle sentiment. He takes the lack of such an examination of motives and impacts to be "a very serious problem."

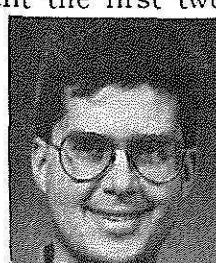
Hodgson is a PhD candidate in the Systems Design department of UW's Faculty of Engineering. Both here and at the University of Calgary, where he received his BSci in 1982, he says he's often been surrounded by "technoids" who have "no idea of the impact of technology."

"Some superb students are fully qualified (technically)," he says, "but they don't think about the greater questions."

Hodgson is at UW on a four year Bell Northern Research scholarship and is on leave from his job at Bell Northern Laboratories. He spent the first two

*Examining beliefs,
motivations and
the world*

**LAUREN
HODGSON**



years of the scholarship in Electrical Engineering at UW.

Hodgson is a person of many interests and talents. Prominent among them are music and the "aesthetics of technology".

What Hodgson wants to bring to his STV TA-ship with Tim Topper and Daryl Pullman is, among other things, "a certain amount of experience in a high-tech industrial setting." And what he'd like to provide is an opportunity for students to participate in the kind of critical thinking he sees as crucial to an adequate university education.

JEAN LOCK, who's a new STV teaching assistant this winter, says sociologists can't afford to be narrow in their approach to social issues. She sees herself as being "somewhere in between" the social scientists who are



"A greater breadth of understanding"

**JEAN
LOCK**

preoccupied with statistical data and those who focus more on actual individuals living in society.

So Lock is hoping her experience in the STV course will give her a greater breadth of understanding and that it will help her continue to develop her own perception of "society and values."

Lock is a PhD candidate in UW's sociology department, where she's assisted in various courses and given guest lectures since 1986. She has an MA from U of T and a BA from the Shanghai Foreign Language Institute.

In 1987, Lock gave a paper on political ideology and gender roles at the Third International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, held in Dublin, Ireland.

Here at UW she's co-authored, with former UW professor Dr. Susan McDaniel, a study on the educational aspirations of women students, and she's also served as a researcher both with TRACE (UW's Teaching Resource Office) and the Institute for Risk Research.

One of her research interests has been the impact of reproductive technology on social values. Her focus was on "the origin of and the controversies over" birth control pills from the 1960s to the present.

Lock will be assisting instructors Tim Topper and Daryl Pullman (see related stories) in STV 100, the Centre's introductory course in Society, Technology and Values.

"The computer IS here to stay," says new STV 200 instructor JOHN BRINE, "but let's think about its underlying characteristics and about how our culture (is being) shaped by this particular tool."

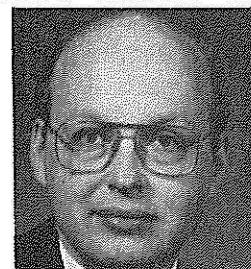
A self-confessed computer addict, Brine is at UW on a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship. He's joined up with CSTV this winter and at the same time is maintaining his connection with UW's Philosophy department.

Brine wanted to spend time in philosophy in order to further his exploration of issues surrounding the use of computers in education.

Both Brine and his wife received SSHRC post-docs in 1988. Their grant application linked their interest in computers with Brine's interest in

**JOHN
BRINE**

Computers and the shaping of culture



Japan (he'd spent three years there earlier).

While in Japan, they were based at the Tokyo Institute of Technology and met with Japanese education ministry officials, talked to software developers and visited schools.

"You can't make just a straight comparison" between Japan and Canada on the use of computers in education, Brine cautions, because the political context differs greatly in the two countries.

Brine is concerned about wholesale shifts in policies about computers in education. He sees "bursts of enthusiasm" rather than reflective thought propelling administrators and school boards into poor decisions.

In preparing the STV 200 course, the new instructor has given it the working title "Cultural Dimensions of Educational Computing." Other technologies besides computers may also be discussed.

STV TEACHING TEAM

"If you haven't challenged people, you haven't done your job," says PETER MULVIHILL. Mulvihill will be working this winter with the new STV instructor John Brine (see related story) on the 200 group projects course.

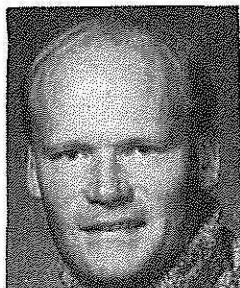
Mulvihill returned to UW several years ago after about five years of being "underemployed" in public and private sector jobs. He came back "with renewed passion." He received a BES in 1988 and is now working on an MES in Regional Planning.

His field of interest is "adaptive environmental assessment" in Canada's North, and he's especially interested in "institutional redesign." He's made a number of trips to the Arctic over the past couple of years, working as a consultant for the NWT government.

Western science, in Mulvihill's view, is almost fatally "reductionist" and ignores other forms of knowing. He sees

Unparalleled opportunities, formidable barriers

**PETER
MULVIHILL**



much that's valuable in native people's cultures and in their ways of seeing and understanding.

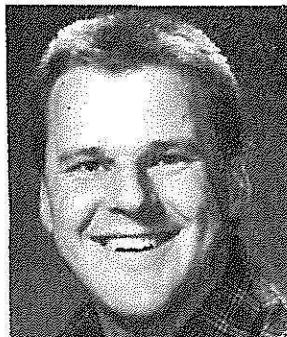
"The North is a crucible" where planners and citizens "have the opportunity to do things right for the first time."

And what about CSTV activity, here at this university in southern Canada?

"I fancy STV as a radical entity," says Mulvihill. The Centre still seems to be "a bit of an upstart" in his view, and is still in the process of gaining legitimacy within the University. He regards the Centre as facing both "unparalleled opportunities and formidable barriers." But, characteristically, he says "pessimism is useless."

**TIM
TOPPER**

Veteran and valued STV instructor



Mentioned in several of the foregoing pieces on the new teaching team is the Centre's veteran and highly regarded instructor TIM TOPPER. He's returning this winter to co-instruct in the introductory STV 100 course. Look in the next issue of this *Newsletter* for a story on or by Tim on his experiences in the program.

(*Cont'd. from p. 1*)

infrastructure being available to produce them.)

These and other examples from both the ancient and the contemporary world "refute the idea of technological determinism" and suggest that societies can indeed find ways to manage technology in accord with social values.

Case studies of this sort "can bring forward certain important lessons," Huron notes.

As for the Centre's role in research, Huron hopes to encourage professors to use the Centre as a springboard for their own STV-related proposals, perhaps with the possibility of employing STV students as research assistants.

Meanwhile, he's working on a book-length manuscript for publication. It's on musical idioms and musical values, and contains, Huron promises, "a theory of technological change that goes beyond music."

ON MY MIND

Trying to create a risk-free society is one of today's fashionable and expensive activities. At the same time, our society seems to want to stretch individual liberty towards an almost anarchic libertarianism. As one of the *STV* teaching team says, 'We seem to want all the rules for things and no rules for people.'

We don't want unsafe materials used in our foods and drugs. Who could challenge that objective? After all, our Victorian ancestors were victimized by manufacturers who used copper arsenate--that's 'Paris green' bug killer--to dye wallpaper (which liberated poisonous arsine gas if it grew mold) and to colour green candles.

So we encourage governments to build us a safety net of rules and standards. We require testing and licencing of new drugs and agricultural chemicals. Ever more sensitive tests for hazardous substances are invented, and ever more stringent criteria for acceptance are set for products under test. If technology contributes to the problem, technology also contributes to the solution.

A few years ago at a meeting of Canadian chemists, the research head of a major agrichemical producer said his company could only afford to develop products for three crops: wheat, corn and rice. No other crop offered a large enough market to recover the costs of development and approval. What is to happen to other crops?

Similarly, pharmaceutical makers now talk about 'orphan drugs' which are vital to sufferers from certain diseases. No one can afford to market them, because the demand will never be great enough to cover the costs of the testing needed for licencing. Possibly, some suggest, each drug maker could adopt a

few unprofitable 'orphans', but that would still leave many unavailable.

In these cases, regulations designed to control things to do us good seem to be creating problems.

Not all sources of risk created by technology are as carefully controlled. We allow the marketing of the Ruger semi-automatic rifle, which for a modest price allows an angry man to kill a person every few seconds. Powerful lobbyists present the buying and selling of such weapons as a fundamental right. They imply that Canadians have adopted the romanticized myth of the American frontier, where every man was his own judge and jury with a licence to kill.

The extent to which we choose to control the risks relating to new technological products depends on values--our own values, or those of our elected representatives and their appointed regulation writers, or those of the lobbyists whose business is to make some voices heard more than others.

University students, as potential future leaders of society, should examine the complicated forces of values systems and technological progress which swirl around them even within the university community. Should the university encourage research in one department which may reveal hazards that threaten the market for a material developed in another department? If the university has a stake in the production of the material, should it even allow the other research? What values does the university espouse? Or are only individuals allowed to have values?

George A. H. ...

CALENDAR OF CSTV EVENTS--WINTER 1990

JANUARY

9

Tuesday
7 p.m.

STV 100-First meeting, MC 1056

9

Tuesday
5:30 p.m.

STV 200-First meeting, MC 4044

16

Tuesday
12:30 p.m.
DC 1302

PRIVACY IN THE INFORMATION AGE: DO YOU HAVE ANY?"

Brown bag discussion with Prof. VINCE DINORCIA,
visiting professor in Management Science

Co-sponsored with UW Student Pugwash

24

Wednesday
Time TBA
Humanities
Theatre

"CITIZEN ACTION"

Public address by US consumer advocate RALPH
NADER

Co-sponsored with other UW offices and WPIRG

FEBRUARY

2-4

Friday -
Sunday

ANNUAL NASTS CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, DC

(CSTV representatives will participate)

9

Friday
3:30 p.m.
HH 334

**"COMMUNICATIONS, POWER AND TIME" (on Canadian thinker
Harold Innis)**

Colloquium with Dr. VINCE DINORCIA, visiting professor in
Management Science

Co-sponsored with UW Department of Philosophy and UW
Canadian Studies Program.

Date TBA

Location TBA

"REASONABLE DREAMS" (on Technology and society)

Public address by Dr. NORMAN BALL, Northern Telecom
Professor of Engineering Impact at UW

Co-sponsored with UW Faculty of Engineering and Northern
Telecom (tentative).

MARCH

15

Thursday
Time TBA
Location TBA

1990 WIEGAND AWARD PRESENTATION (Tentative)

Presentation and public address--details TBA

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Fifth Annual Technological Literacy Conference
2-4 February 1990
Washington, DC

Organized by National Association for Science, Technology and Society (NASTS)
 See story this issue.

Info: CSTV, UW ext. 6215

Conference on Participatory Design
31 March - 1 April 1990
Seattle, Washington

Sponsored by the Computers in the Workplace project of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR)

Info: CPSR Workplace Project
 PO Box 717
 Palo Alto, CA 94302
workplace@csli.stanford.edu

Moral Philosophy in the Public Domain: Applied Ethics in Business, Medicine, and Environmental Policy
7-9 June 1990
University of British Columbia

Keynote speaker: Dr. Mike McDonald, UW

Info: Linda Darling
 Conference Coordinator
 Philosophy Department
 UBC
 Vancouver, BC V6T 1W5

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

- **Steve Jones**
- **Kathy Sharpe**

Photos by UW Central Photographic

CSTV RESEARCH DIRECTORY DEADLINE EXTENDED

Readers may recall that in the last Newsletter we announced the Centre was beginning to collect data on UW professors who are interested in, or involved in, research in the society-technology-values (STV) area.

Responses have been light so far--distinguished, of course, for their quality if not their quantity!--and thus we're going to extend the information request and the deadline until everybody has had a fair chance both to learn of the project and to respond.

So, on the back page of this issue you'll find a blank questionnaire, which you are invited to complete. Please take a moment to read it over, make appropriate entries, add any other documentation that you wish, and send your material back to KATHY SHARPE in the CSTV office by the date indicated.

Graduate students are also invited to reply. The first edition of the Directory will be published in the spring 1990.



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

For: DIRECTORY OF STV ACTIVITY AT UW

Name _____

UW Department _____ UW Ext _____

Use additional pages or excerpts from CV if convenient.

CURRENT OR RECENT STV-TYPE AREAS OF RESEARCH

OTHER STV -RELATED INTERESTS

PUBLICATIONS IN EITHER OR BOTH OF THE ABOVE

Please * key items, especially those which have attracted public interest.

TEACHING INTERESTS

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION OR COMMENT

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

Return completed sheet to:

Kathy Sharpe
CSTV
MC 4049

by Monday, 22 January 1990.