



# Newsletter

January 17, 1986

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## *STV UNDERGRADUATE OPTION GOES AHEAD*

At the UW Senate meeting on December 16th, the proposed new undergraduate option in STV received approval as expected. The six-course interdisciplinary option will be available to students in all Faculties starting in the Winter 1987 term. Three of the six courses--STV 100, 200 and 400--are specially designed for the new program. STV 100 is a team taught introduction to STV issues, while STV 200 and 400 are projects courses. For the first run of STV 100 in Winter '87, Sally Lerner (Man-Environment), Russel Legge (St. Paul's) and Barry Wills (Systems Design) will be the instructional team. The remaining three courses in the option are to be taken from theme packages of courses already offered by various Departments. Theme areas include values and ethics, technological issues in war and peace, impact assessment studies, the history of technology, economic and management issues, and technology and artistic expression.

CSTV members and supporters are requested to begin promoting the new option NOW in their Departments and Faculties so that it quickly becomes identified, among both colleagues and potential students, as a recommended elective alongside those already available. Promotional materials will be produced regularly by the Centre from now on, and will be mailed out in quantity to all members. Your help is solicited in distributing and mentioning these materials to your students and colleagues, and your suggestions for other ways to publicize the option effectively will be appreciated.

## *CSTV EVENTS MAY-DECEMBER 1985*

Since the last Newsletter, the Centre has presented the following events on campus:

- 1 May "The Technological Imperative" (lecture)  
Anatol Rapoport, U of T
- 17 May "Computers, Communication and Decision Making" (lecture)  
Sara Kiesler, Carnegie-Mellon  
(Sponsored by CSTV and Psychology)
- 18 Oct. "Biotechnology: The New Wave" (colloquium)  
Peter Wheale, Oxford Polytechnic  
Ruth McNally, Oxford Polytechnic  
Terry McIntyre, Environment Canada
- 1 Nov. "Regulation and Technological Innovation" (lecture)  
Nicholas Ashford, MIT  
(ES Dean's Seminar Series and CSTV)
- 2 Dec. "Computers and the Globalization of Business" (lecture)  
Abbe Mowshowitz, CUNY

### UTUWCIT (Don't try to pronounce it!)

The University of Toronto/University of Waterloo Cooperative on Information Technology was established in May '84 to "serve as a catalyst and a supportive mechanism for research and study in information technology and its relationship to society". Current chairman is Frank Tompa, UW Computer Science. The UW component of the Cooperative is a CSTV subcommittee, and UW members of the UTUWCIT Steering Committee are: L. Haworth, CSTV; J. Kay, ES; C. Mayfield, Biology; B. Wills, Systems Design; and D. Winter, HKLS. The Cooperative hosted a conference on 19 Nov. at UW on "Image Processing and Vision Modelling". Over 200 attended, and UW participants included B. Wills, Systems Design; C. Mayfield, Biology; E. Jernigan, Systems Design; E. LeDrew, ES; and A. Wong, Systems Design. Scheduled for April '86 at U of T is a conference on computers in the humanities--see *COMING EVENTS* section--and a Brown Bag lunch, lecture may take place this winter at UW. Highlights of the Cooperative's programs will regularly appear in this newsletter. UTUWCIT publishes its own newsletter too, circulated to affiliates at universities and subscribers elsewhere. For details, call Bonnie Kent, UW ext. 3467.

### STUDENTS ISSUE CURRICULUM RESOLUTION

Delegates to "Science, Technology and Ethics: Implications for Canadian Culture and Society", a national students' conference held 27-29 Sept. at UW, issued a strongly-worded final communique calling for significant alterations to the "myopia of narrow disciplines" inherent in the present university curriculum. The resolution urges that students in science and technology programs receive greater exposure to the humanities and that students in arts programs similarly become much better prepared in contemporary science and technology. The full text is given below.

Organized by UW's Canadian Studies Program, the Conference attracted over 40 undergraduate participants from across the country. The keynote public address featured David Suzuki, with a crowd of 4700 filling UW's PAC. UW student Leslie Gulka (Systems Design) won a major prize--a \$3000 Bell Northern Research/Northern Telecom scholarship--for a paper on the sociological implications of office automation technology. CSTV members Larry Haworth, Robin Cohen and Stan Johannesen adjudicated the entries. Top papers will be published this year. Details: Stan McMullin, UW Canadian Studies (St. Paul's College, 885-1460).

#### *Text of National Student Conference Communique*

(Addressed to university administrators and provincial education ministers)

"Canada's university system faces a very serious challenge. The value of critical thought has been supplanted by an emphasis on the technical, mechanical and managerial skills needed for the marketplace. Undergraduates seek out fields of study which are economically viable. Rarely is there any attempt to look at fields of study beyond the limited confines of particular fields. We move horizontally towards the completion of a degree and arrive in the professional work world with a very limited conception of ourselves and the world around us.

As delegates to the National Student Conference on Science, Technology and Ethics, we declare our belief in a more legitimate professionalism. Today's professionals must not be content to labour away in their own little corner of the world, impervious to the trends which are occurring in society. It is our duty to sift through the information which saturates our society and to establish a link between our own professional activities and their effect on the world around us. Moral distance is the greatest danger which faces today's professional. This distance must be combatted through the implementation of a more broadly based undergraduate program.

*Resolution:*

We consider the educational system as inadequate in its excessive and almost complete disregard for the importance of ethical considerations in all disciplines and for the unreasonable obsession with specialization skills. We feel that all Canadian students in their respective disciplines should not only be encouraged but required to break the myopia of narrow disciplines. As [students of x university], we strongly urge you to encourage and/or implement programs to answer this need expressed by Canadian students. We, the delegates of the National Student Conference on Science, Technology and Ethics, submit this recommendation which was unanimously accepted in principle and passed on the last day of the Conference, September 29, 1985."

***NEW OED CENTRE HOLDS FIRST CONFERENCE***

The UW Centre for the New Oxford English Dictionary held its first conference 7-8 Nov. "Information in Data" featured John Simpson, the Centre's new words editor, as keynote speaker. Conference sessions dealt with lexicology, linguistics and knowledge databases. Proceedings will be available: \$10 in Canada; \$12 outside of Canada. For details of 1986 events, call the Centre's office at UW ext. 6183.

***CSTV BROCHURE AVAILABLE***

If you would like copies of the CSTV general information brochure for distribution to colleagues or new contacts, call Ann Dunnet, UW ext. 6215.

***THIRD CINEMA FESTIVAL '85***

Several CSTV members were involved in this event, held 30 Oct.-3 Nov., which featured films and videos from the developing world and from "Third Cinema". One discussion panel focused on technology exchange in the communications area.

***CANADIAN STUDENT PUGWASH--UW CHAPTER***

A UW chapter of this national organization, devoted to "the survival and betterment of the human race, and the avoidance of war and conflict", has recently been formed. CSTV members Larry Haworth and Russel Legge addressed the local group's first two meetings. For information on Pugwash aims and programs, contact student organizer Tom Green (Independent Studies), or see the 13 November 1985 *UW Gazette*.

*COMING EVENTS*

All at UW unless otherwise noted. Call UW ext. 6215 for more details.

11 March            *"The Victorian Steam Locomotive"* (lecture and film)

Colin Russell (History of Science and Technology,  
The Open University), 1986 Pascal lecturer

11:30 a.m. Location TBA

21 March            *CSTV-McLuhan Program (U of T) Joint Workshop*

1. "The Impact of Communication Technologies on  
Human Self-Understanding" (Morning workshop by  
the McLuhan Program: David Olson and Frits van Hothoorn)

2. "Technology and Autonomy" (Afternoon workshop  
by UW) Langdon Winner (Science and Technology  
Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic, Troy, NY); Albert  
Borgmann (Philosophy, U. of Montana); and Larry  
Haworth (CSTV/Philosophy, UW)

Times and locations TBA

15-18 April        *Computers in the Humanities* (conference)

Text retrieval systems, editorial and publication  
utilities, lexicographical databases, information  
networks, and more.

Co-sponsored by UTUWCIT  
Held at U of T

Details: Bonnie Kent, UW ext. 3467

25 April            *"Can Technology Be Too Good? Good Technology  
and Alienation"* (lecture)

Robert Whelchel (Dept. of Electrical Engineering,  
Tri-State University, Angola, Indiana)

Time and location TBA

*Editor's note*

Brief news items and announcements from CSTV members and supporters are welcome for the next issue of the Newsletter. Pass along your material to Ann Dunnet, ES1--Room 301, UW ext. 6215. Deadline for next issue: 28 February 1986.

Newsletter Production: Stephen Jones, Ann Dunnet