



Newsletter

Number Nine December 1987

COMING IN WINTER '88

- BROWN BAG Noonhour Discussion Series

Following the success of this fall's series, more Brown Bags are being planned for the winter term. Announcements will be mailed to all CSTV Newsletter recipients as soon as details are confirmed. (See page 2 for a report on this term's events.)

- A Major CSTV-Sponsored CONFERENCE

"Professionals and Social Responsibility: Conflict or Congruence?" will be held at UW in March '88. See news item on page 3 and check additional details on the conference flyer included with this Newsletter. Register!

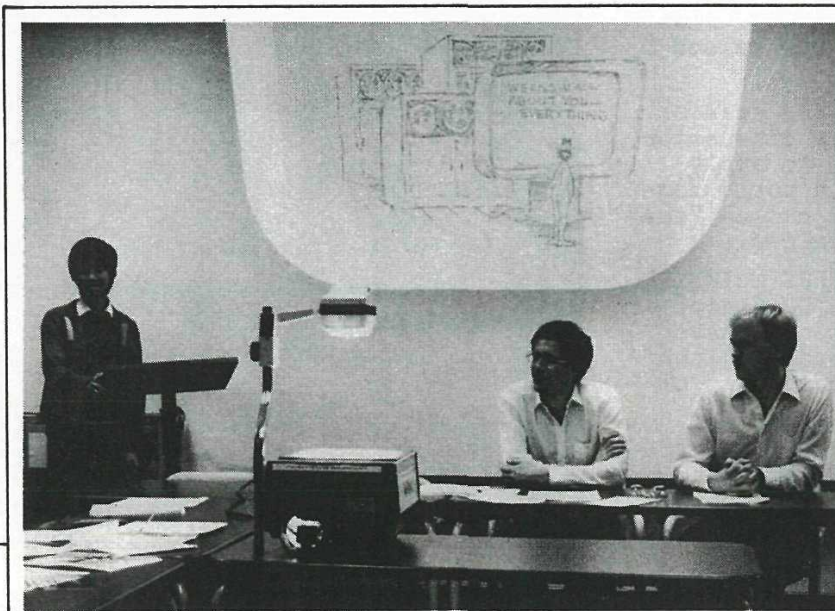
- STV COURSES

The UW Course Information Report shows more than 50 students enrolling in the winter '88 edition of STV 100, the introductory course. To get a glimpse of what students are achieving in these courses, see page 7.

- OTHER EVENTS

At this writing, other events, including campus visits by leading figures in the society, technology and values area, are being scheduled, with announcements slated for early in the New Year.

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!



WHAT THE STUDENTS
SAY (Page 6) ...
AND DO (Page 7) ▶

Brown Bag Series



This fall, CSTV's Brown Bag noonhour discussion series moved to a new location--Campus Centre 110--in an attempt to take the activity out "to where the people are" (especially students).

The move came in response to a survey conducted last year. So far the experiment seems to be working, with attendance for the first two sessions averaging more than 30 faculty, students and staff.

Leading off the series on 1 October was HOWARD WOODHOUSE (left), of UW's Independent Studies Program. Woodhouse discussed "Third World Universities: Gateways for Western Knowledge and Power?"

Woodhouse focused on the African experience and proposed alternatives to the present patterns.

Series organizers hope the events will continue to an informal, accessible to present STV issues to a wide audience.

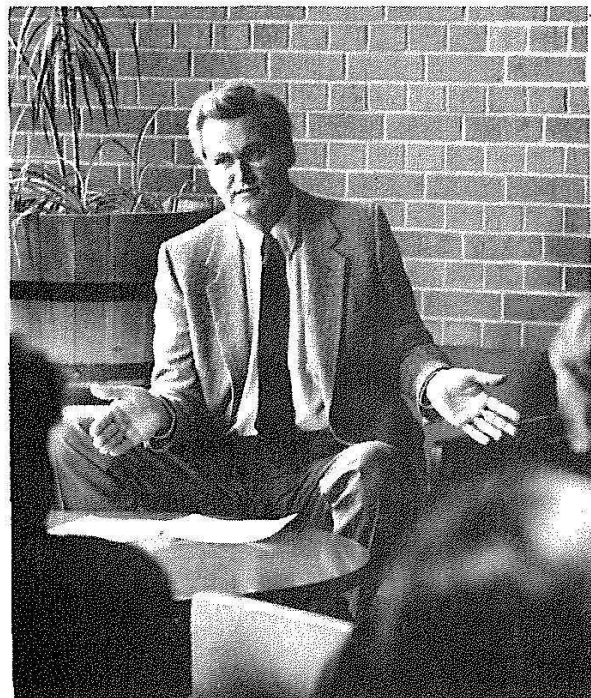
On 4 November, Centre Director RUSSEL LEGGE (right) offered "A Buddhist Perspective on Technology" at the second session of the series.

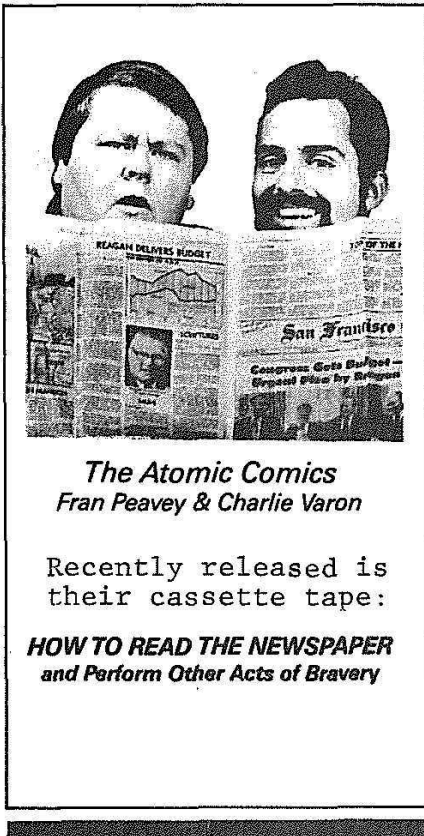
Taking his cue from a remark made by E. F. Schumacher in his book Small is Beautiful, Legge suggested some ways Buddhist teachings "might help us with some of the values questions raised by the new technologies."

As in the first Brown Bag session, this one produced a lively discussion. Questions centered on how to apply Buddhist perspectives in a world dominated by what one person called "the harsh realities" of capitalism.

Later in the month, TERRY McINTYRE, a graduate student in the UW School of Planning--he's on educational leave from Environment Canada--took a look at federal government sponsorship of high technology.

McIntyre's talk was entitled "Promising Precedent or Pipedream?" and his emphasis was on the latter term. □





Recently released is
their cassette tape:

HOW TO READ THE NEWSPAPER
and Perform Other Acts of Bravery

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, THE HUMOUROUS APPROACH

San Francisco-based FRAN PEAVEY and CHARLIE VARON of the Atomic Comics visited UW on 24 November to deliver some of their patented environmental humour. That's NOT a misprint: Peavey and Varon have a unique, thoughtful outlook on environmental and social issues that sees wit and hilarity as absolutely essential.

In her (rather serious) presentation, Fran Peavey described a grassroots campaign, in which she has participated, aiming to save India's Ganges river. Begun in 1982, the campaign has already achieved marked success.

Her partner Charlie Varon, as the advertising poster says, is "a very funny person." In a free-wheeling lecture/presentation on comedy and environmental change, Varon lead his attentive audience through bizarre "what if" brainstorming exercises. A highlight: a proposed "Environmental Abuse Day"; the audience had to suggest possible benefits such a heretical idea might have. (To their chagrin, they had no difficulty doing so!)

Varon also included several delicious performance pieces from his regular stage show.

The campus visit was co-sponsored by CSTV, the UW Faculty of Environmental Studies, and the UW Department of Environment and Resource Studies.

For more information on the Atomic Comics, consult Eric Higgs (UW ext. 3063), who organized the visit. □

MAJOR CONFERENCE SET FOR 16 - 18 MARCH AT UW

As you will see from the flier/poster enclosed in this mailing, the CSTV Conference scheduled for March 1988 and called "PROFESSIONALS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: CONFLICT OR CONGRUENCE?" has acquired definite shape and structure.

This major conference, the first of its type in Canada, will take place on 16 - 18 March. All sessions will be held in Siegfried Hall at St. Jerome's College on the UW campus.

The Conference offers a three-part program: Ethical Codes for the Professions (Thurs., 17 Mar. morning); Global Peace and Human Rights (Thurs., 17 Mar. afternoon); and Activist Groups (Friday, 18 Mar. morning).

Keynote speaker on the Wednesday evening before the sessions begin is Dr. Jack Stevenson, a philosophy professor at the University of Toronto and the author of Engineering Ethics, Practice and Principles (1987).

Conference organizers are delighted that virtually everyone who

was invited to come consented enthusiastically to do so. Speakers and presenters are all listed on the flier. Note that Stephen Unger (speaking on Ethical Codes in Engineering) has informed us that he is NOT the chair of the IEEE membership conduct committee but rather a recent past president of the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology.

Registration fee for the entire Conference is \$120.00, which includes all sessions and a Thursday banquet.

The flier doubles as both a poster and a registration form. If you are planning to attend, check off the appropriate boxes on the form, enclose a cheque payable to "UW STV Social Responsibilities Conference," and mail it TODAY to the UW CSTV office--PAS 2061.

Registration details and other Conference matters are being handled by ROMANY WOODBECK, who has joined the Centre as a part-time Conference assistant. She's a fourth year student at UW and will be graduating with a BES degree in the Spring 1988 convocation.

Getting the word out about the Conference continues to be an important task. Several mailings went out in early November to potential registrants, appropriate organizations and institutions, and the like. YOUR HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED as we carry this process on.

Please pass along names of organizations, associations and individuals--as well as your own requests for more copies of the flier--to Romany Woodbeck at the CSTV office (UW ext. 6215).

And don't forget to register!

ADVERTISING STV COURSES

Shown at right is a photo-reduced copy of an ad that CSTV ran in a recent issue of Imprint, UW's student newspaper. The ad produced a number of responses, and the idea may be tried again. The STV Promotion Committee (Eric Higgs, Sally Lerner, Steve Jones) has several strategies under discussion for the winter 1988 term.

Newsletter Production

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Steve Jones, CSTV

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UW Central Photo



COURSES/OPTION



What impact are modern technologies having on society's well-being?

How can people guide technology so that it will contribute to human betterment?

Who should make the choices about how new technology is used in the workplace?

What values shape - or should shape - the direction and pace of technological change?

These are some of the questions explored in the University of Waterloo's undergraduate courses in Society, Technology and Values, now commonly known as "STV." You can take these courses individually or as a regular Option. Either way, you'll enjoy an opportunity to examine and discuss an important, exciting range of crucial issues and specific problems. Courses are open to students in all UW Faculties - Arts, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Human Kinetics and Leisure Studies, Mathematics, and Science.

Winter 1988

STV 100 T 7-10
Society, Technology and Values: An Introduction
STV 200 tba
Society, Technology and Values: Projects

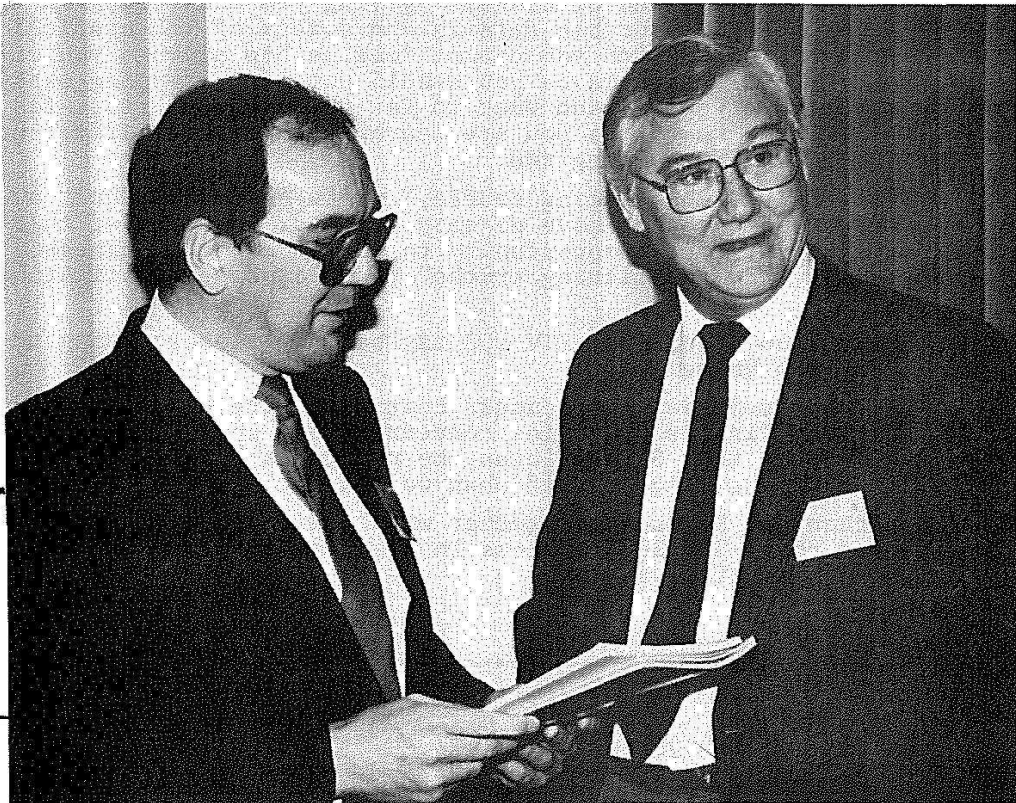
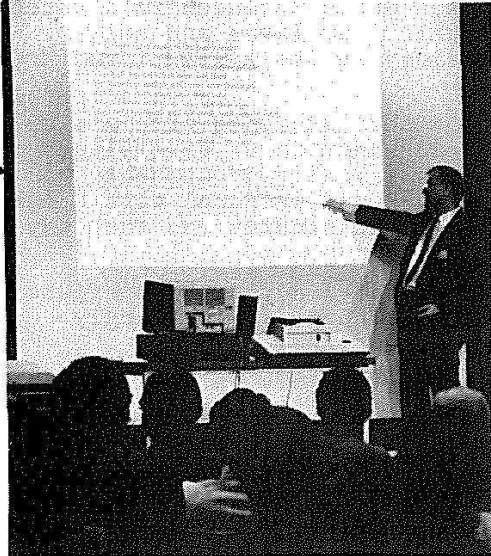
For more details or to pre-register, contact

- Eric Higgs, STV Option Co-ordinator
ES 1, Room 201; UW ext. 3063
- Sally Lerner, Environment and Resource Studies
ES 1, Room 222; UW ext. 3060

A Good Choice for YOU!

**VISUAL DATA REPRESENTATIONS:
COPING WITH OVERLOAD AND
IMPROVING OUR INSIGHT**

The U of T/UW Co-operative on Information Technology held a Research Challenges workshop (the title's above) at UW in November. Seen below (from top left) are ROBERT LILLESTRAND (VP, Control Data, Minneapolis); ANNE SCHABAS (U of T), welcoming participants; and UW's BARRY WILLS and Robert Lillestrand with issues of the National Geographic featuring the Columbus cartographic project.



STV COURSES: WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE SAYING

"STV 200 is one of the most rewarding courses I have encountered at this University," says Alexandra Macqueen, a student in the Fall 1987 initial version of the course.

The course offers "perspectives on some of most salient problems and opportunities we face," wrote Macqueen in a recent testimonial, "namely the ways in which our lives and self-perceptions are mediated by technology in its myriad forms and function."

Macqueen says STV 200 brought together students with a wide range of experience and from a cross-section of disciplines. The small, informal class (nine registrants) allowed students to consider, "sometimes in very immediate and personal ways," issues that lie at the heart of their technical studies and that may be "passed over in other classes."

"This class is a good example of what I hoped to experience as a university student," concludes Macqueen. "I strongly recommend it to students from any discipline."

Macqueen has decided to pursue the full STV option.

Her sentiments are echoed by classmate Mark Anderson, who wrote an article last summer for the Iron Warrior, a UW student newspaper, on his experience in the introductory STV 100 course.

Here's part of what Anderson wrote then for his fellow engineers:

If you are tired of classes "giving you knowledge" in the form of immeasurable details and dozens of theoretical techniques, which you cannot imagine how or when you will ever use again, maybe you should consider stepping back a couple of hours each week to get the big picture... to see how the things you are learning can really affect our society in the long run.

"STV 100 is a challenging course," wrote Anderson, "that asks a lot of questions that have no easy answers." He added that the course provided an opportunity to "explore the balances, compromises, and conflicting truths" that comprise civilization's progress.

In Anderson's opinion, STV 100 may be "the closest thing to wisdom" taught in the University.

Anderson reminded his readers that there are no engineering fields where "issues of social concern do not apply." The kind of basic issue that STV explores, he noted, is "when we are helping the world in the long run and when we are not."

Anderson and Macqueen, together with their other classmates, presented their STV 200 projects in class on Friday, 4 December--see photos in this issue. ▶

STV 200 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

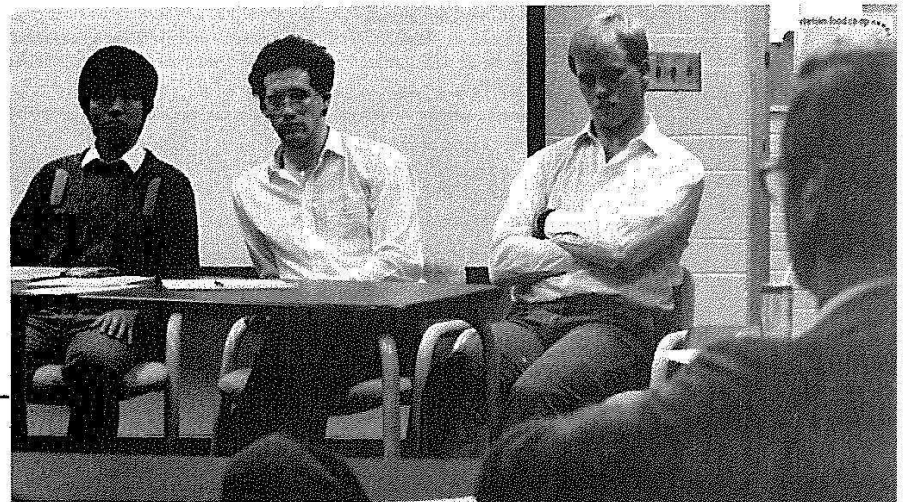
STV 200 students presented and discussed their group projects at the final class this term. Interested members of the audience included instructor ERIC HIGGS and other STV advisors. Project titles and group members:

The Politics of Computerization at the University of Waterloo (Alexandra Macqueen, Scott Bridgeman, Lindsay Patten); A Study of the Student Computer Room and its Environment (Kent Fung, Lyndon Kouch, Matt Leitch); Privacy, Security, and the Computerization of Student Data (Mark Anderson, David Kayll, Philip Yeung)



Photos, clockwise from top right:

Patten; Kouch, Bridgeman, Leitch; Yeung, Anderson, Kayll, Legge; Macqueen





What is Canadian Student Pugwash?

Canadian Student Pugwash is a university-based, educational organization concerned with social and ethical issues arising from science and its technological applications. By fostering discussion of these issues among students, scientists, and the general public, it promotes the responsible use of science and deepens the understanding of students from all disciplines who will become tomorrow's researchers and decision makers.

Canadian Student Pugwash is an outgrowth of the International Pugwash Movement, sparked in 1955 when Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein called upon the scientists of the world to meet in conference to discuss

the threat of nuclear weapons. The first such conference took place in the small town of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, in 1957. Since then, this informal movement has grown worldwide, and its interests have broadened to include the sources of international conflict and the social responsibilities of scientists. The principal goals of the Pugwash movement are the survival of the human race, the betterment of the human condition, and the avoidance of war and conflict, especially nuclear war.

Canadian Student Pugwash is established on a national basis. Through a variety of activities in universities across Canada, local organizations encourage study and discussion of the relationship between science and

society. The National Office in Ottawa coordinates local and national activities, and ensures the continuity and consistency of the organization's programs and objectives. Publications include a quarterly newsletter, proceedings of national conferences, and directories to information sources on science and society issues.

Canadian Student Pugwash depends on financial contributions from government departments and agencies, corporations and foundations, as well as on private donations. All donations are tax deductible, and cheques should be made payable to "Canadian Student Pugwash." Student, individual and group memberships are available from the National Office.



BECOME A MEMBER OF CANADIAN STUDENT PUGWASH
DEVENEZ MEMBRE DE PUGWASH ÉTUDIANT DU CANADA



Members receive: / Chaque nouveau membre recevra:

- (1) a membership card / une carte de membre plastifiée;
- (2) a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *Pugwash Papers* / un abonnement à notre bulletin trimestriel *la revue Pugwash*;
- (3) an Annual Report / un bilan annuel;
- (4) an invitation to attend our annual general meeting; and / une invitation à l'assemblée générale annuelle des membres; et
- (5) a 10% reduction on all CSP Publications. / 10% de réduction sur les publications des Éditions PEC.

Yes, I would like to become a member of CSP for the 1987/88 year.
 Oui, je désire devenir membre de Pugwash étudiant du Canada pour l'année 1987/88.

Check appropriate box: / Cochez la case appropriée:

\$6 student \$12 individual \$20 group or association donation of \$ _____ (tax-deductible)
6 \$ étudiants 12 \$ particuliers 20 \$ groupes ou associations don de _____ \$ (déductible d'impôt)

I have enclosed a cheque or money order to the amount of \$ _____.

Ci-joint un chèque ou mandat-poste au montant de _____ \$.

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Send to: / Envoyez à:

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