

LOGOS

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A NEWSLETTER FROM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Michael Friedman's Visit

Professor Michael Friedman of the University of Illinois at Chicago was in residence in our department during the week of May 9-13. During his visit he conducted two seminars, offered a formal colloquium presentation, and met for discussion with faculty and graduate students. Friedman has worked extensively in the history and philosophy of science, philosophy of language, logic and the philosophy of mathematics, the history of modern philosophy, and epistemology. His recent book, *Foundations of Space-Time Theories*, was the recipient of the Matchette Prize.

Friedman conducted two seminars dealing with Carnap's articulation and defense of a new

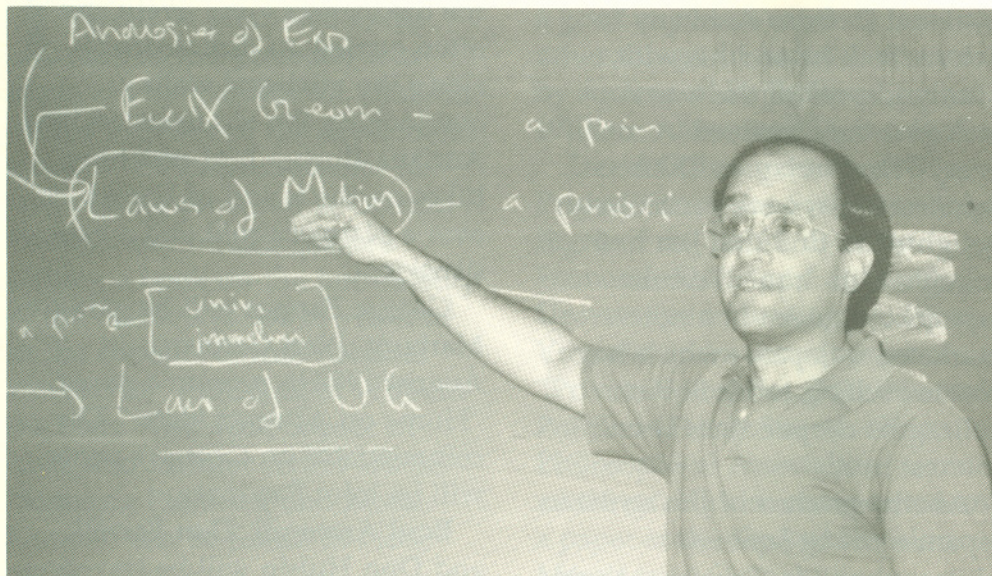
conception of scientific objectivity. Carnap's book, *Der Logische Aufbau der Welt*, is often regarded as the greatest work of twentieth-century positivist thought. Friedman suggested, however, that the significance of the work is frequently misunderstood. The *Aufbau* is generally regarded as important because of its rigorous attempt to provide a phenomenalist reduction; it embodies the radical empiricist desire to show that meaningful scientific statements can be translated into statements that deal with immediate experience. Friedman argues that this construal does not exhaust the significance of the *Aufbau*. Carnap was really pursuing the far more general program of "construction theory"—that is, he sought to exhibit the logical interrelations among all scientifically legitimate concepts. Constructional systems, *Continued on page 5*

Words from the Chair

As I reflect back on this academic year, I cannot recall another which has been so busy in so many different ways. We have had an extremely profitable colloquium series, including a week-long visit this spring by Michael Friedman (University of Illinois at Chicago). Also in the spring we enjoyed the presence of Simon Blackburn (Oxford), who conducted lively sessions on a variety of topics, ranging from realism to folk burglar prevention (a little known area of philosophy of mind). We welcomed Calvin Normore into the department as well.

In addition to all these philosophical activities, the department has been engaged throughout the year in a search for a new senior colleague. This appears to be a competitive time among departments, particularly in senior recruiting. We are confident, however, that it will not be long before there is interesting news for us to pass along on this topic.

Another major item that faces the department is a complete review of the University's basic education requirements and a resulting new curriculum. Although this review is not yet complete, it is clear already that the new basic education curriculum will include a



Michael Friedman

significant dose of humanities, including philosophy. We expect, for example, that courses in critical reasoning will become prominent in the undergraduate curriculum. It may be that the structure of our courses will look quite a bit different from the days when some of you were students here, and we will try to keep you posted as these changes become reality.

In a very recent development, Jim Scanlan has accepted a position as the director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies here at the University. Although we will miss having Jim as a full-time colleague, he will continue to teach his specialty courses in Russian and Marxist philosophy for the department.

This edition of our newsletter is, once again, edited by Richard Garner. His work has received high praise from near and far, and I am delighted to report that he has agreed to continue as editor for another year.

Marshall Swain
Chair

Words from the Editor

Once again I must thank those students and faculty members who wrote and helped with the features in this newsletter. Special thanks go to Robert Kraut, who prepared the feature on Professor Friedman's visit, and to Jim Scanlan, who wrote up a report about his trip to Japan almost as soon as I asked him.

Voyagers

Jim Scanlan has returned to the department from an 11-month research stay at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan, where he worked on a book on recent developments in Soviet-Marxist ideology.

At Hokkaido University Jim was a foreign visiting fellow at the Slavic Research Center, an interdisciplinary research institute that is the principal center for advanced Russian and East European studies in Japan. The Slavic Research Center draws specialists from around the world for stays of a few days to a year. The other fellows for the past year were two Soviet economists. "While writing on the thinking behind *perestroika*," Jim observed, "it was very convenient to have a Soviet economist in the next office."

In addition to his research activities at Hokkaido University, Jim presented papers on Soviet ideology at a number of other Japanese universities and at the National Defense Academy in Tokyo. Both he and his wife, Marilyn, speak of the warm welcome they received everywhere in Japan. Their Japanese hosts were particularly delighted to find that Jim had brought with him a Toshiba laptop computer—one not marketed in Japan—which he resisted selling to his Soviet colleagues despite their keen interest in it.

As a by-product of Jim's visit to Japan, a young Japanese philosopher, Mr. Takafumi Kudo,

accompanied by his wife, will spend a year at Ohio State as a visiting scholar in the department to improve his background in Western philosophy before he begins a teaching position at Sapporo University.

Andy Oldenquist went to Dubrovnik Yugoslavia in March of 1988 to present his paper, "Community and De-alienation" at a conference of the Alienation Research Committee of the International Sociological Association.

Sandy Mitchell presented a paper, "The Causal Background for Functional Explanations," at the annual Philosophy of Science conference in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. The conference was held from April 4–15 at the Inter-University Center for Post Graduate Studies and was attended by philosophers from many countries, including China, the Soviet Union, Canada, South Africa, the Netherlands, Korea, Bulgaria, Rumania, Poland, England, Spain, Germany (both East and West), Hungary, and the United States. Sandy reported that the discussions were lively and often carried on during strolls along the medieval walls overlooking the old town and the Adriatic, during bird-watching hikes on the island of Lopud, or over a plate of squid and a glass of slivovitz.

George Pappas will be going to Marburg, West Germany, in August 1988 to present a paper, "Hume on Abstract Ideas." The commentator on George's paper will be John Passmore.

Brad Armendt, Dan Farrell, and **Don Hubin** will be traveling

to Scotland this September to deliver papers at a conference on Contemporary Moral Theory, to be held at the Center for Philosophy and Public Affairs at St. Andrews University. The title of Brad's paper is "Impartiality and Causal Decision Theory," Dan's paper is called "Intention, Reason, and Action," and Don's paper is named "Irrational Desires."

Dan Farrell Promoted to Full Professor



Dan Farrell

In April the department's recommendation that Dan Farrell be promoted to the rank of full professor was approved by the provost. Dan has been a member of the department since 1971. Autumn quarter he was visiting professor at Oberlin College, and he is at present writing a book on the justifiability of the threat and use of violence in the conduct of international affairs. His "Punishment Without the State" will soon appear in *Noûs*, and another recent article, "Strategic Planning and Moral Norms," can be found in *Public Affairs Quarterly*.

Words from the Graduates

Springtime always seems to rejuvenate the world of philosophy. There are conferences and conventions, papers to be read and published, and, of course, too little time to do it all. This year, graduate students have been particularly active. Many attended, participated in, and/or interviewed at the Central Division Meetings in Cincinnati; others attended the Ohio Philosophical Association Meetings in Wilberforce; and a few attended the International Conference on the Philosophy of Quine in St. Louis.

Some highlights of these and other adventures included a presentation by Scott Davison at the Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Scott presented a paper entitled "Theism and Epistemic Ambiguity." He reports that it was a good experience, which, among other things, included comments by such notable philosophers as William Alston and Steven Evans.

David Gilboa presented "The Private Enterprise System and the Right of the Public to Make Economic Decisions" at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, and a second paper, "Private Enterprise, Equality, and Political Liberty," at the Ohio Philosophical Association meetings. He also commented on a paper at the Central Division Meetings in Cincinnati.

Erdinc Sayan published an article in *Philosophy Research Archives*. His article, "A Closer Look at the Chinese Nation Argument," provides a criticism of the position taken by the Churchlands in "Functionalism, Qualia, and Intentionality."

Congratulations must also be extended to Mitch Flower and Bambi Robinson, both of whom will be leaving Ohio State in order to enter the world of teaching. Mitch has accepted a position at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. He will be teaching two courses in ancient philosophy, one interdisciplinary course in medieval philosophy, and a seminar in aesthetics. Bambi has accepted a position at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. She will be teaching several introductory courses, as well as an upper-level course in medical ethics or professional responsibility. Both Mitch and Bambi are, needless to say, very excited about beginning their new careers in philosophy.

Richard H. Severens

The department was saddened to learn of the death of a former colleague, Richard H. Severens. Dick died in his cottage in Vermont on May 8 at the age of 54. The Richard H. Severens Fund has been established at the University of Georgia to aid needy honors students, and contributions are being accepted by the University of Georgia Foundation, Athens, Georgia.

Visit by Calvin Normore

On April 8, Professor Calvin Normore, who holds our newly instituted joint appointment with the University of Toronto, was the featured colloquium speaker. The title of his presentation was "Medieval Connectives, Hellenistic Connections." In the paper, he traced the sources of Descartes' theory of logic to peripatetic and medieval discussions of conjunction. Following a spirited discussion, a group gathered at the Siam for a post-colloquium dinner. A department party was then held in Calvin's honor at the home of Tamar Rudavsky.



Calvin Normore and Robert Kraut

Last Minute Good-News Flashes

In addition to the good fortune of Mitch Flower and Bambi Robinson mentioned in "Words from the Graduates," several other graduate students from the department have accepted positions for the coming year. Marty Rice will go to Rice University (really), David Drebusenko will be teaching at Central Michigan University, and Rick DeWitt has accepted a job at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Ken Jones will be joining IBM as an information developer at the Santa Teresa Lab in San Jose, California.

Conference on the Foundations of Evolutionary Biology

Ohio State will be hosting a conference on the foundations of evolutionary biology funded by the National Science Foundation and the University's Program for Foundational Studies, July 11-15, 1988. Sandy Mitchell, a member of the conference steering committee, is coordinating local arrangements for the 11 philosophers of biology and 11 biologists who will participate. The workshop format of the meeting is designed to encourage an intense discussion

amongst the participants of key issues in evolutionary biology. These issues will include gradual vs. punctuated modes of evolution, the importance of selection, the role of development in evolution, the concepts of fitness and adaptation, and the units and levels of selection. Philosophers attending the conference are John Beatty, Robert Brandon, Richard Burian, Marjorie Grene, James Griesemer, David Hull (co-chair), Elizabeth Lloyd, Sandra Mitchell, Michael Ruse, Elliott Sober, and William Wimsatt. Biologists attending are John Damuth, Michael Donoghue, Niles Eldredge, Douglas Futuyma, Stephen J. Gould, Paul Harvey, Stuart Kauffman, Rick Michod, Michael Wade (co-chair), G. C. Williams, and David Sloan Wilson.

Friedman

Continued from page 1

according to Carnap, might be phenomenalistic or materialistic—the foundation on which they rest is unimportant. Since Carnap believed, as did Kant, that every meaningful concept has a definite place within a unitary system of concepts, his notion of objectivity is connected with the notions of logical form or structure. He believed that all objects could be characterized through merely structural descriptions, and thus that all scientific statements could be transformed into purely structural statements. Upshot: Science deals only with the description of structural properties of objects. Whatever is not structural rests upon ostensive definitions, which provide no basis for intersubjective meaning. Objectivity requires the possibility of a unique system of structural definite descriptions. As Friedman put it: “It is only if all concepts are part of a single interconnected system of concepts that we can hope to do what, according to Carnap’s new conception of scientific objectivity, we must do: discriminate all concepts from one another solely on the basis of their purely formal or structural properties.”

According to Friedman, Carnap’s project has less affinity with traditional empiricism and more with Kantian and neo-Kantian conceptions of knowledge. However, this conception of objectivity requires a clear distinction between form and content, between purely structural properties and merely

“material” or subjective properties. It is in this connection, Friedman urged, that Carnap encountered the difficulties that ultimately undermined his project. This became especially clear in his attempt, in *The Logical Syntax of Language*, to characterize logical truth and analyticity. These problems formed the basis of Friedman’s second seminar.

Friedman’s colloquium presentation, “Newton and Kant: Why Gravity Is Essential to Matter,” further pursued Kantian conceptions of objectivity. Kant was impressed by our ability to distinguish absolute from relative motion, and believed that this could be explained only on the assumption that matter is susceptible to gravitational forces. Indeed, according to Kant, this assumption was required to ensure that matter is a possible object of empirical experience. Kant was thus led, given his concern with the relation between objects and our cognitive faculties, to regard gravity as essential to matter. Friedman offered a rigorous and fascinating portrayal of the technical and historical considerations that led Kant to oppose Newton on this point.

Four Awards

Diana Raffman has been awarded a University Seed Grant which will relieve her of teaching duties for two quarters. She plans to complete the manuscript of a book to be titled *Language, Music, and Mind*. The book is an application of recent cognitivist theory to several traditional problems in the philosophy of art. **Allan Silverman** has been awarded a junior fellowship from the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington D.C. He will be in residence at the center from September 1988 till June 1989 and plans to work on his book, *Plato on the Separation of Knowledge from Belief*. **Sandy Mitchell** has been designated a 1988 College of Humanities Virginia Hull Scholar. Virginia Hull has donated money to the College of Humanities to promote research efforts of female faculty. **Don Hubin** and Alan Randall (agricultural economics department) have been awarded a National Science Foundation Grant of \$134,000 to study the ethical foundations and implications of cost-benefit analysis.

Autumn Visitor

Professor J. David Velleman of the University of Michigan will be visiting the department the week of October 31–November 4. He will deliver two lectures to a reading group of graduate

students and interested faculty, carry on discussions with students, and present a colloquium paper to the department. Professor Velleman works in ethics and the philosophy of psychology, and his book, *Practical Reflection*, will soon be published by Princeton University Press.

The Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

The Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference was held this year on April 30 and May 1, and the ceremonies were graced by the presence of Daniel Dennett, who delivered the keynote address and participated in the sometimes lively discussions. On Saturday, sessions began with coffee and a welcome ceremony. Three papers were then presented: Edward Pollak (University of Pennsylvania) read "Suicide, Self-Sacrifice, and Human Dignity in Kant," Paula Bapka (Ohio State at Mansfield) presented "A Romantic Versus Classical Distinction: Benedetto Croce and Immanuel Kant," and Marcel Duhamel (Case Western Reserve) presented "Justice and the Morality of Class: Locke, Rawls, and Gilligan."

On Saturday evening the participants assembled at Dirk Baltzy's home for a dinner party, after which a number of students, faculty, and distinguished guests continued the celebration at Crazy Mama's.

On Sunday morning, after coffee and doughnuts, Stephen Brodsky (University of Pennsylvania) read his paper "Nietzsche's Individual." That afternoon, Professor Dennett presented a lively and far-ranging talk, "Consciousness as Software,"

and the conference ended with Christopher Fitzmartin (University of Pittsburgh) reading his paper, "Possibility Discourse and the Problem of Free Will."

Words from the Alumni

Raymond F. Mikesell (M.A. 1935) won the Bingham Award in Philosophy in 1935 and went on to earn a Ph.D. degree in Economics in March 1939. He has taught economics at the University of Washington in Seattle, the University of Virginia, and the University of Oregon. He reports that he still does research and teaches part-time at the University of Oregon.

John H. Ramey (B.A. 1947) spent a year doing graduate work in philosophy and then, thanks to a combination of experience working for the YMCA and for the Big Brothers, and in part because of his study of social science in our department, he transferred to social work. He received his Master of Arts in Social Administration in 1950, and since then he has served as field supervisor and part-time instructor for undergraduate and graduate schools of social work, health, and theology in Chicago, Hartford, and Cincinnati. He is currently teaching at the University of Akron. He was president of the Undergraduate Philosophy Club in 1945-46, and has played in every Ohio State Alumni

Marching Band reunion and most of the Concert Band reunions. He currently plays the baritone horn in Akron's Screammers and Lyric Brass Band. He lives in West Akron with his wife, Carol, and has two married children and two granddaughters.

Bernard Baumrin (B.A. 1956) went on to earn his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins in 1960 and his J.D. at Columbia School of Law in 1970. He has taught at Butler University, Antioch College, the University of Delaware, Washington University in St. Louis, and since 1967 at the City University of New York, where he is currently professor of philosophy at the CUNY Graduate School, Lehman College, and Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He is also a member of the Bar of the State of New York, the United States editor of the *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, and a member of the American Philosophical Association's Committee on Philosophy and Medicine.

Al Flores (Ph.D. 1974) is now a professor of philosophy at California State University at Fullerton. He teaches courses in ethics and applied ethics (particularly medical ethics), aesthetics, philosophy of law, and philosophy of mind. He has recently published *Professional Ideals*, an anthology of articles on professional ethics, and spends time running, gardening, and reading.

Dale Lichtblau (Ph.D. 1976) is currently working as a management consultant in information systems. He has just

John Nolt (Ph.D. 1978) is currently associate professor of philosophy at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. For the past four years he and his wife, Karen, have been living in and renovating an old elementary school, which they plan to open

Mark Sherouse (Ph.D. 1979) served four years as assistant to the chancellor at the Ohio Board of Regents. In 1983 he became special assistant to the president at Southern Methodist University, where he wrote the university's board and athletics reform plans and learned more about governance, intercollegiate sports, crisis communications, and human

Deborah Layne (B.A. 1984) has now completed an M.A. in history and philosophy of science at the University of Pittsburgh. She is now working as the programming coordinator (cocurricular activities and advising, not computers) for the University Honors College at Pitt, and is also teaching a recitation for introduction to philosophy at Carnegie-Mellon. She plans to devote this summer to studying Latin.

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What's new with you? Whether or not you decide to become a member of the Friends of Philosophy, please inform us of your current whereabouts, your work, career changes, promotions, publications, etc. In future issues we will continue to devote a section to news about alumni (whether holding advanced degrees or not).

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Calendar of Events for Spring 1988

April 8: Department Colloquium with Professor Calvin Normore of The Ohio State University and the University of Toronto: "Medieval Connectives, Hellenistic Connections."

April 27: Professor Terrence Parsons of the University of California at Irvine: "Inferring the Nature of Events from a Theory about Language."

April 29: Department Colloquium with Professor Geoffrey Sayre-McCord of the University of North Carolina: "Deceptions and Reasons to Be Moral."

April 30-May 1: Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. Featured speaker: Daniel Dennett of Tufts University: "Consciousness as Software."

May 9-13: Visit by Professor Michael Friedman of Harvard University

May 9 "Carnap's *Aufbau* Reconsidered."

May 11 "Truth and Analyticity in Carnap's *The Logical Syntax of Language*."

May 13 "Kant and Newton: Why Gravity Is Essential to Matter."

May 6: Professor Alexander Nehamas of the University of Pennsylvania: "Nietzsche and the Greeks."

May 18: Aesthetics and Arts Colloquium with Professor Michael J. Parsons, chair of the Department of Art Education at

Ohio State, discussing his book, *How We Understand Art: A Cognitive Developmental Account of Aesthetic Experience*.

May 20: Department Colloquium with Professor Frank Jackson of Harvard University: "In Defense of Folk Psychology."

June 3: Professor Merrilee Salmon of the University of Pittsburgh: "Style and Function in Archeological Explanation."

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