

UNB, STU to host Atlantic Philosophers' Conference

Mike Campbell
Brunswickan News

"The Philosopher as Citizen: Philosopher's Role in Today's Society" — this will be the theme of the Atlantic Philosophers' Annual Conference, which will be held on the UNB and STU campuses during the weekend of October 13 and 14.

This is the twenty-fifth year that the Conference has been held and the third time that UNB and STU have hosted it.

"The basic purpose of the thing is simply to allow philosophers from Atlantic universities to read papers on their current research," Professor Neil MacGill, Professor of Philosophy and Conference Convener at UNB, told *The Brunswickan* in an interview Wednesday.

Papers on a wide variety of subjects within the philosophical realm will be presented throughout the two-day event including papers written by philosophy graduate students such as UNB's very own James Steeves. In all, Professor MacGill estimated that approximately thirty-two papers would be presented at the conference with about ten of the papers centralized around the conference theme.

Three keynote speakers from across Canada will attend the Conference, present papers, and participate in an open panel discussion based on the Conference theme. Dr. Thomas Hurka from the University of Calgary will, on Friday, October 13, be presenting a paper entitled "A Unifying Theory of Virtues and Vices." Dr. Hurka is known for his weekly ethics column that appeared in the *Globe and Mail*.

Dr. Frank Cunningham from the University of Toronto, who was a key player in introducing a high school philosophy curriculum into Ontario secondary schools in 1994, will be holding a workshop on Friday, October 13, entitled "Philosophy in High Schools—Is It Teachable?"

Dr. Peter March from St. Mary's University will also be a keynote panelist at the open panel discussion on Saturday with both Dr. Hurka and Dr. Cunningham. Dr. March is known for his Socratic style of "philosophical busking" which has brought philosophy into the shopping malls of Halifax. Invitations have also been sent to various educational figureheads throughout the province including the Minister of Education and the Principal of Fredericton High School.

The conference will begin at 9:30 AM, on Friday, October 13, with Dr. Cunningham's workshop in D'Aray Hall, Room 225. Later that day, at noon, registration for the conference will be held at St. Thomas University with papers being presented throughout the day until 4:30 PM. To end Friday's activities, Dr. Hurka will shift to the UNB campus where the discussion of the remainder of the papers gets underway in Carleton Hall, room 106, chaired by UNB

Philosophy Professor Jan Zwicky. The conference will wrap up Saturday night with a banquet dinner for conference participants at the UNB Old Arts Building.

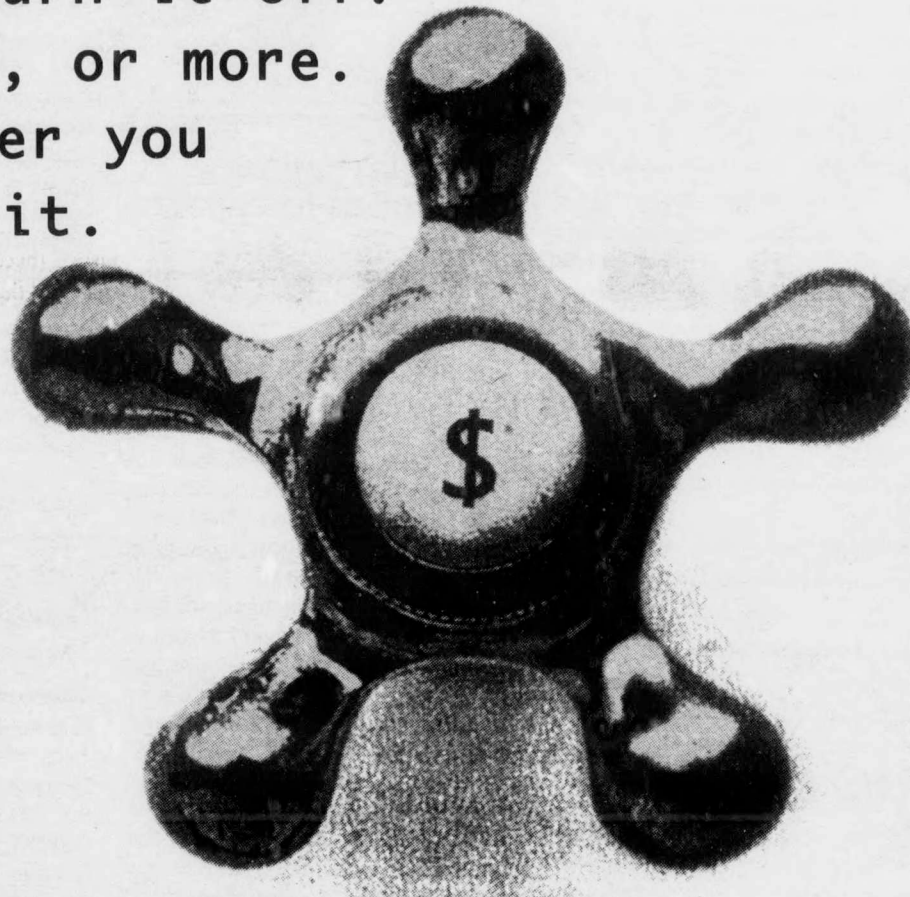
For information on registration fees, schedules, and other general information pertaining to the conference, interested persons are requested to contact the UNB Philosophy Department at (506) 453-4762 or to e-mail Professor MacGill at nmcgill@unb.ca.



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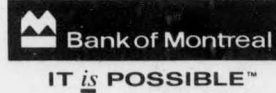
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