

**AMINTAPHIL: AMERICAN SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR PHILOSOPHY OF LAW AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY**

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NEWSLETTER #4, 2007 - 08

April 2, 2008

This newsletter contains the results of our recent ballots plus further information on our next meeting which will be held from September 25 – 28, 2008 at Villanova University. The topic is **Free Speech in a Diverse World**. The list of sub-topics is in the newsletter and can also be found on our web-site at <http://www.philosophy.utah.edu/AMINTAPHIL/2008conf.htm>.

I. BALLOT

We had votes on two matters, a new at-large delegate to the Executive Committee and the location of the meeting in 2012. Ann Cudd has been elected as the at-large delegate. She replaces Deirdre Golash, who remains on the Committee as Program Chair for the 2008 Conference.

We had received an invitation from Tim Sellers to hold the 2012 conference at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Our vote was to accept the invitation. We now have venues for the next three conferences (!) as follows:

2008 Villanova University,
Philadelphia
2010 Rochester Institute of
Technology, Rochester New York
2012 University of Baltimore
School of Law

**II. DEADLINES AND
MEETING INFORMATION**

Deadlines for papers and commentaries are as follows:

Principal Papers: August 20
Commentaries on Principal Papers:
September 15

In the past papers and commentaries have often come in late. This causes problems both for those trying to read all the papers, and for the Program Committee as it puts together the final program. There was much discussion of this problem at the last meeting in St. Louis (2006). After discussion in the Executive Committee we have agreed that these deadlines are to be considered **hard deadlines**.

Papers and commentaries that come in after the deadlines may play some role at the meeting but they will not be included in the basic program.

The Executive Committee is currently discussing this matter and a more formal policy on late papers and commentaries will be announced in the next newsletter.

A note to new and relatively new members: AMINTAPHIL operates on the **expectation** that all who attend the conference will submit a paper or a commentary on one or more of the papers. This is not an enforced rule, but an expectation.

Papers and commentaries are not refereed. All submitted papers and commentaries are accepted and then made available for members to read through our web site. The Program Committee groups similar papers together and organizes together a number of different sessions. We meet as a group in one session (no concurrent sessions).

Papers/commentaries are not read or presented at the session. Rather, the session moderator provides a brief reminder of each person's work and discussion then begins.

III. HOTEL AND OTHER LOCAL ARRANGMENTS

Sally Scholz of Villanova University is in charge of local arrangements for the conference. Here is the basic information she has provided for you about hotel, meeting venue, travel, etc. If you wish to get in touch with Sally directly, her email address is sally.scholz@villanova.edu.

1. HOTEL

A block of rooms has been reserved at The Radnor Hotel. Please make reservations directly with the hotel. The group rate is \$159.00 per

night for a single and \$169 per night for a double occupancy. When making reservations, please refer to "AMINTAPHIL at Villanova." The reservations department is available from 8 am to 8 pm (EST) at 610-688-5800 or toll-free at 800-537-3000. The hotel address and website are as follows:

The Radnor Hotel
591 East Lancaster Avenue
St. Davids, PA 19087
1-800-537-3000 Toll Free
610-688-5800 Front Desk
<http://radnorhotel.com/>

This block of rooms is being held only until **August 29, 2008**. Please make reservations before that date.

Driving directions to hotel can be found at <http://radnorhotel.com/directions.htm>

There may be some who would like to find a less expensive hotel in the area. Here is a web-site for other hotels, with distances:

<http://www.villanova.edu/studentlife/spe/programs/parents/visit/hotels.htm>.

Feel free to see what you can find.

2. MEETING LOCATION

Conference roundtable sessions will be held in the West Lounge of Dougherty Hall in the heart of Villanova's campus. Dougherty Hall also houses four eating venues: "The Pit"--an "all you care-to-eat" dining hall, the "Italian Kitchen," "The Grill" for burgers and fries, and a faculty dining room. Hours of operation vary. In adjacent buildings, additional eating options abound, including "Holy Grounds" where one can satisfy any caffeine need.

3. TRAVEL FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL

Here are links for travel to and from Villanova University, including maps:

<http://www.villanova.edu/studentlife/speprograms/parents/visit/travel.htm>
<http://www.villanova.edu/enroll/admission/visit/maps/index.htm>

The information on these sites include instructions for arranging a shuttle from the Philadelphia airport to the hotel or campus. Rental car companies are also readily available at the airport.

By far the cheapest way to travel from the airport to the hotel or campus is by regional rail. As of this writing, the train from the airport to Villanova is \$10. Each terminal in the airport has a train station. You can buy the tickets on the train but there may also be machines at the stations in the terminal. Take the train to downtown Philadelphia, 30th Street Station. Once there, get off the R1 Airport and board the R5Paoli/Thorndale train which stops at Villanova (if you arrive during rush hour, please note that some “express” trains skip the Villanova station). Signs from the station will direct you to the conference location in Dougherty Hall. If you wish to take the train to the hotel, simply stay on for one more stop. The hotel is a ½ mile walk from the Radnor train station. Schedules for trains are available on line at http://www.septa.com/service/rr_schedules.htm

If you wish to travel by taxi, Bennett Taxi Service (610) 525-0513

from the airport to Villanova is approximately \$68 plus driver’s tip one way.

4. TRAVEL BETWEEN HOTEL AND CONFERENCE SITE

A shuttle will be provided in the mornings and evenings to facilitate travel between the hotel and campus (and possibly lunches). The shuttle will be free to conference attendees and their guests. If you want to incorporate some walks into your travel, the train is always an option as well. Although the hotel is only about 1 mile from campus, there is no pedestrian friendly route.

5. BANQUET:

The banquet will be held in Picotte Hall at Dundale, a beautiful old mansion on campus (<http://www.villanova.edu/advance/develop/aboutus/dundale/>).

6. REGISTRATION FEES

The registration fee is has not been officially set, but it is likely to be \$100, including the banquet. You will have the option of paying for the meeting but not for the banquet. Please do not pay yet. Final fee information will be announced in the next newsletter

7. BASEBALL

Sally points out that the Philadelphia Phillies are playing at home on September 26 and 27 in the evening and September 28 in the afternoon. This may be of interest to AMINTAPHIL

members (like me) who are baseball fans but live in major league deprived cities! Further information can be found at http://philadelphia.phillies.mlb.com/schedule/index.jsp?c_id=phi&m=9&y=2008

IV. DUES

There are still some AMINTAPHIL members who owe dues for 2007 – 08. Dues are \$30. If you are unsure whether or not you have paid your dues, please send me an email and I will let me know. Dues can be paid by credit care at <http://www.philosophy.utah.edu/AMINTAPHIL/members.htm>.

Our membership list includes a number of people who have not been

active in awhile. We do not drop people for non-payment of dues (we do not even drop people who are deceased unless we happen to find out about that!). If you have become inactive and no longer wish to be on the membership list (and receive emails), feel free to let me know.

V. PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

This is the fourth newsletter for 2007 – 08. If you have missed any of the earlier newsletters you can find them at <http://www.philosophy.utah.edu/AMINTAPHIL/news.htm>.

VI. CONFERENCE SUB-TOPICS

The conference theme is **Free Speech in a Diverse World**. Below is the list of sub-topics put together by the Program Committee. You can also find these on the web site at <http://www.philosophy.utah.edu/AMINTAPHIL/2008conf.htm>.

Given the topic, you might want to think about the fact that the next IVR meeting is scheduled to be held in Beijing, China, in 2009. Free speech has not recently been doing well in China with respect to issues about Tibet and the Olympics.

Topic Outline: Free Speech in a Diverse World

- I. The value of free expression (in a diverse world)
 - a. Liberal view
 - i. Individual self-fulfillment
 - ii. Value to audience
 1. Marketplace of ideas
 2. Mill's argument
 3. Does pluralism conflict with the idea of one emergent truth?
 - b. Communitarian view
 - i. Teleological value?
 - c. Comparative value of free expression
 - i. As it conflicts with, e.g., peace, prosperity (when resources used to guarantee safety of Nazi marchers), harmony, civility, promotion of tolerance

- II. Value of diversity (as it relates to freedom of expression)
 - i. Which forms of diversity are valuable and why?
 - 1. political
 - 2. cultural and artistic
 - 3. commercial interests
- III. Diversity as a reason for promoting free expression
 - i. Pornography
 - 1. as affirming sexual diversity
 - a. sexual minorities: gay, lesbian, polyamorous, BDSM
 - 2. as providing catharsis for undesirable sexual urges
 - ii. Rap music
 - 1. voice of disenfranchised
 - iii. Political expression
 - 1. Constructive critique of policies
 - 2. Fomenting needed rebellion
 - iv. Critique of “political correctness”
 - 1. Firing of radio personalities (eg Don Imus)
- IV. Diversity as a reason for limiting free expression
 - i. Hate speech
 - 1. individually directed (“assaultive speech” per Lawrence)
 - 2. public, e.g., lecture promoting racist ideas
 - ii. Pornography
 - 1. as denigrating women
 - a. true of all/some/none?
 - 2. as promoting sex crimes (rape, pedophilia)
 - iii. Silencing effects on disempowered groups
 - iv. Group defamation
 - v. Rap music
 - 1. misogynistic
 - 2. promotes violence
 - vi. Religious offensiveness
 - 1. Danish cartoons
 - 2. Teddy bear named Mohammed
 - 3. Salman Rushdie
 - 4. Pisschrist
 - vii. Political expression
 - 1. Destructive critiques: flag burning, Farrakhan, Hitler, Holocaust denial
 - 2. Promoting intolerance; spreading falsehood (Rwanda)
- V. Role of government in limiting (or guaranteeing) expressive rights
 - a. Can forms of expression (e.g., expletives) be limited without limiting content?

- b. Limits of government right to limit speech to preserve itself (sedition, incitement to riot, incitement to revolutionary action)
 - c. Toleration of intolerant expression
 - d. Language restrictions: “English-only” or requirements to provide multiple translations
- VI. Individual responsibility: ethics of expression
- a. Duties of individuals (that may exceed government-imposed limits):
 - i. Duty of civility
 - ii. Duty of truthfulness
 - iii. Duty of respect to other cultures
- VII. Access to means of expression
- a. If it’s important to consider all points of view, should we guarantee that all points of view get, e.g., equal airtime?
 - b. Should media make more of an effort to give fair and even presentation of other side of international disputes?
 - c. To what extent does the advent of the Internet tend to equalize access to public audiences? Can websites compete with network news? What about the technology gap? To what extent does the enhanced ability it provides to filter viewpoints further entrench existing attitudes?
- VIII. Public reason
- a. What limits on free speech are compatible with public reason in a diverse society?