

**THE BISHOP AND PRIEST:
TOWARD A POINT-OF-VIEW BASED EPISTEMOLOGY
OF TRUE CONTRADICTIONS**

**Eric DIETRICH
Philosophy Department
Binghamton University, New York**

Abstract: True contradictions are taken increasingly seriously by philosophers and logicians. Yet, the belief that contradictions are always false remains deeply intuitive. This paper confronts this belief head-on by explaining in detail how one specific contradiction is true. The contradiction in question derives from Priest's reworking of Berkeley's argument for idealism. However, technical aspects of the explanation offered here differ considerably from Priest's derivation. The explanation uses novel formal and epistemological tools to guide the reader through a valid argument with, not just true, but eminently acceptable premises, to an admittedly unusual conclusion: a true contradiction. The novel formal and epistemological tools concern points of view and changes in points of view. The result is an *understanding* of why the contradiction is true.