

Dirty linen . . .

Sociology profs "raped democracy"

By DAN JAMIESON

More than 400 students listened for four hours to the sound of clashing opinions in SUB theatre as sociology professors aired their department's dirty linen before an open meeting of the Student's Emergency Action Committee, Tuesday.

Four of the department's old executive committee, Professors Fisher, Hobart, Krotki, and White-

side, complied to the demands of the Action Committee by attending the meeting. Two of the professors on the committee, Gordon Hirabayashi and Abu-Laban, did not show up.

No members of the new five-man executive showed up.

The meeting consisted largely of attacks and counter-attacks by the members of the faculty of the sociology department.

Professor Hobart kicked off by accusing professors Seth Fisher and Don Whiteside of holding up business in the department and wasting the time of the staff.

Whiteside countered by describing the faculty as a "bureaucracy", and Fisher claimed that "We can suffer some inefficiency for democracy."

Sociology professor Lyall Larson delivered a first-class display of revival meeting oratory in which he accused Whiteside of flaunting democracy by refusing to accept the majority decision, and of making a staff issue into a campus issue.

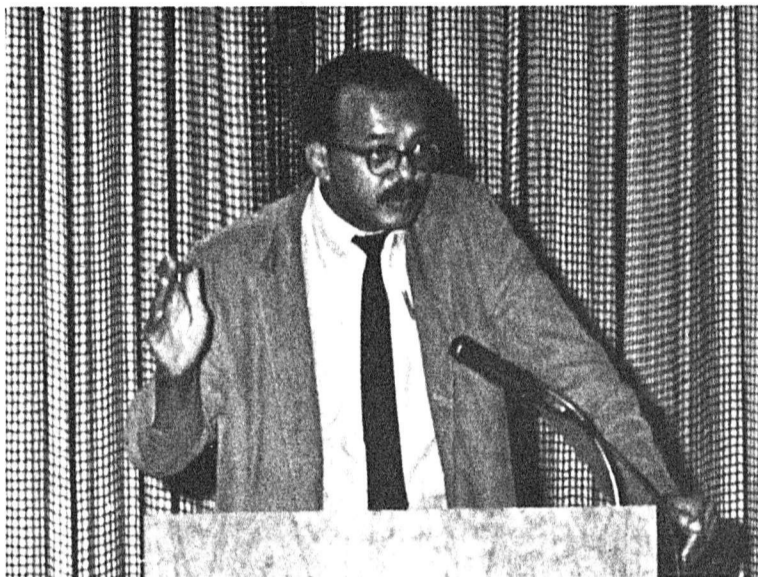
He said "a few professors raped democracy" within the sociology department, and went on to say that grown men in the department had "thrown temper tantrums" when they did not get their own way at staff meetings. He accused a few members of the department of "taking advantage of their colleagues to advance their own ends."

"Professor Fisher and Professor Whiteside believe in weighing down the committee until everyone agrees with them," said Professor Krotki. He further described Whiteside's methods as a "filibuster", and accused both professors of "sharp practice" in their handling of the issue of grad student representation.

Whiteside replied with a lengthy defense of his filibustering, and went on to state that the staff meeting in which the new executive was voted in was a "farce".

After several such opinions and viewpoints had been voiced, one girl in the audience complained that she was surprised to see sociologists, supposedly experts at objective analysis of social problems, tearing into each other in a display of everything but objectivity.

The most rational statement made in the course of the meeting was the one read by Grad student Moussa Khalidi which was signed by 20 sociology grad students. In it was an expression of appreciation for the concern shown by the



SETH FISHER

Action Committee coupled with a plea to leave the grad students to work out their own problems.

The meeting passed a motion demanding that the new executive committee of the sociology department make its recommendation for the restructuring of the department within five weeks.

It was decided after lengthy discussion that another meeting should be held Friday at noon in the SUB theatre for the general purpose of discussing the democratization of the Faculty of Arts generally, and the department of sociology in particular.

During the course of the discussion of the motion to hold a second meeting, the question was called several times, but Ron MacDonald, the chairman of the meeting was not about to risk having the meeting described as a "railroad job",

and allowed several speakers to talk after the question had been called.

At one point in the discussion, Jon Bordo was asked if he would object to a change in a motion that he had made.

"Did I move that?" was his initial response.

The out-come of the meeting was probably increased confusion over the issue that the meeting was called to clarify. Very little that isn't already known about the issue came out, and with the conflicting views of what is going on that were expressed at the meeting, it is difficult to say what is fact and what is fiction.

"First they talked around in circles one way, then they stopped and then they talked around in circles the other way", said one observer.



K. J. KROTKI

Kicked out—again

The Gateway does not appear to be overly popular in the intimate faculty circles.

Upon receiving a "hot" tip from a member of the faculty of the sociology department on Monday, The Gateway reporter and a student radio newsman rushed to a sociology faculty-grad student meeting.

The naive reporters arrived gasping and perspiring.

The reporters were not acknowledged. They were forced to hesitantly ask the nearest cool face who was in charge of the meeting.

The face points a finger. The reporters approach the raised eyebrow.

"Ask them." The head points.

"May I . . . uh." Louder.

"May I report this meeting in The Gateway."

No movement. Many eyes narrow.

". . . could . . . uh . . . we have a vote."

More eyes glint.

"How many for."

No movement.

Weaker. "How . . . uh . . . many against."

All hands raise.

Who the hell tipped us off? He might have at least voted for us staying.

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