

# Riskin not alone student participation dismal

Gerald Riskin is not the only student rep with a poor attendance record at G.F.C. meetings.

Unfortunately, few people will be surprised to learn that undergraduates in Science, Education, Engineering, Dentistry and Phys. Ed have had only half the student representation at G.F.C. to which they were entitled.

Of the 18 reps for those faculties, only one (Wayne Madden, education) has attended all five meetings which have been held since September. And one faculty, education again, was short one rep all last term.

That deficiency will be corrected when Dan Strathern is officially seated, probably at the next regular Council meeting. According to G.F.C. Secretary Margaret Midgely, Strathern reported to her that he isn't enthusiastic about the idea of sitting on G.F.C., but he was prevailed upon by friends to fill the vacancy. "We've never had a full slate of student reps," Midgely said last week. "It seems incredible, but it's true."

The situation is even less inspiring in Home Ec, and amongst graduate students in Dentistry and Phys Ed. None of these groups has yet elected the one representative to which each is entitled.

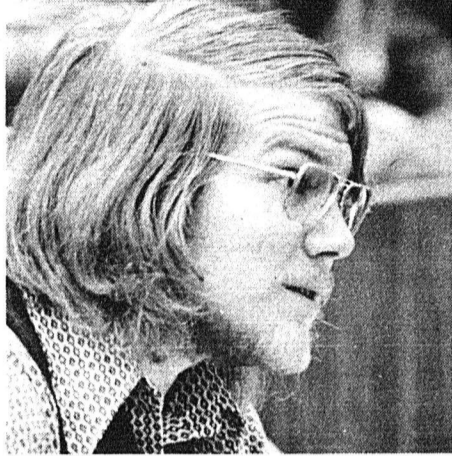


Riskin

Of the large undergraduate faculties, Arts has by far the best record. All six of the reps have attended all the meetings at which they were eligible to sit. But, like Education, Arts has been troubled by resignations: half of the students who were elected to G.F.C. seats last spring, resigned this fall. Because of the time involved in holding elections and regulations for appointing new members, even the well represented Arts students had only three votes at one meeting and four at two others.

Obviously, there is little connection between the number of bodies representing a particular group and the value of what those bodies do and say. With the possible exception of Engineering, none of the larger faculties have effective undergraduate societies; there are no constituent bodies to which G.F.C. reps could refer for advice if they wished to. Conversely, there is no central office through which students can contact their reps. Consequently, those reps who are active in debates have little choice but to voice their own opinions.

Most of the reps don't even do that. Fewer than half of them have made any contribution to the meetings which the secretary thought significant enough to record in the minutes. And at least one



Curtis

rep, a loyal meeting goer, has alienated the rest of the Council by the inanity of what he has to say to the point that his pronouncements are greeted with anticipatory snickers and grimaces of frustration.

Among the most active and effective (of the undergraduate reps.) are Patrick Delaney, a students' council delegate; Frans Slatter, Commerce; Greg Wood and Gary Draper, arts; and Rob Curtis of Law. Besides participating in debates, both Draper and Curtis have introduced motions to the G.F.C. executive requesting action on specific issues.

Their experience suggests one reason that other student reps are unenthusiastic about their participation in G.F.C. Draper proposed that a committee be established to study the Worth Commission recommendations on the shortening of degree programs. Instead, the executive decided to have the Academic Development Committee study the method of studying the problem.

Curtis asked for a special meeting "as early in the new year as possible" to discuss alternatives to the nine-point grading system. Instead, the executive referred Curtis' urgent request on to the Council itself. Presumably it will be considered at the February meeting, but Curtis was warned that no special meeting could be called for about a year.

Frustration with the awkwardness and slowness of university government isn't the only possible reason for disenchantment with the post of G.F.C. rep. Unlike professors and administrators, students have no "job security". Their future is constantly being put on the line. Besides, they are only temporary residents of the university. So they have less time, less commitment to the future of the university and less to gain or lose from many of the decisions that are made—even those that specifically affect students. For by the time changes are made, the students that helped make the decision will probably be gone.

Of all the students on G.F.C. it's two of the grad students (two of the group with the longest experience and most personal interest in the university) — David McMurray and Peter Flynn — who probably have the most influence. It was McMurray, for example, who revealed the application for special constable status for the campus security force which had been made against the wishes of G.F.C. And it was Flynn who introduced the motion which eventually opened the

university to anyone who wished to audit a course, whether they were eligible for official university admittance or not.

But despite the half of student reps who attend meetings conscientiously and the handful who are skilled at debate and meeting procedures, faculty members tend to speak more often, and with more conviction. And when the issue is a "hot" one like tenure, they also speak in concert.

Students seldom do. Professors are simply a more homogenous group than students are, for although our present experiences are similar, our futures will be divergent. Delaney's attempt earlier this year, to encourage reps to collaborate on a student strategy for the tenure debate was met with resentment from some reps and indifference from others.

Here is the attendance record for all undergrad reps for the five meetings held first term:

ARTS Denise Guichon 2, David Ross 2, George Mantor 4, Colin Inglis 5, Greg Wood 5, Gary Draper 5.

SCIENCE Brian McLaughlin 0, Eugene Brody 3, Thomas Thackeray 4, David Longworth 4, Ann McRae 2, Duncan Hill 1.

EDUCATION Dave Mahoney 4, Wayne Madden 5, Dan Magnan 3, Glenn Cleveland 1, Joseph Prins 2, Craigh Hiebert 1, Gayle Prosser 1.

ENGINEERING Lynne Boettcher 2, Hal Williams 3, Jim Carter 3.



Flynn

MEDICINE Paul Thiessen 5.  
AGRICULTURE Jim Spencer 5.  
DENTISTRY Lawrence Tessari 2.  
LAW Robert Curtis 5.  
LIBRARY SCIENCE Linton Delaney 3.  
NURSING Vicki Thomas 5  
DENTAL HYGIENE Wendy MacKinnon 4.  
PHARMACY Gary Falkenberg 5.  
REHAB. MED. Laurie McNeil 4.  
COMMERCE Frans Slatter 4, Charles Hall 4.  
PHYS. ED. John McBeth 3.  
STUDENTS' COUNCIL Patrick Delaney 5, Gerald Riskin 1. cs

## underground reading room upstairs



photo by Michel Ricciardi

How do you react to the *Georgia Straight* to the *Berkeley Barb*, or to the *Poundmaker*? With a retch or a "right on!"? To phrase from Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*, we are often so isolated by our own perspective that we cannot help feeling a sort of disgust with other viewpoints, and that is why we are so angry when people remind us of them.

Perspectives, viewpoints, biases—inescapable elements of both the Establishment press and the Alternative press. Inescapable but not necessarily detrimental, unless the perspective to which we are exposed is isolated and insulated. Continuous exposure to an isolated view-point breeds that incestuous syndrome—the parochial perspective.

As part of its continuing crusade for combatting constricted consciousness, the *Gateway* has brought together in its offices a sumptuous collection of periodicals of the alternative press.

So, fellow students, forsake the parochial perspective! Come on up to the Upstairs Underground Reading Room in the *Gateway* offices of SUB. Browse through papers from other places. Sample the underground press, the college rags, political sheets and other imags.

Peruse the *Georgia Straight*, or its

breakaway alternative the *Grape*. Keep up on the news and views from Canada's campuses with the student press—from U.B.C.'s *Ubessey* to Memorial's *Muse*. Red in the *Black Panther* of these militants' new twist to "pork barrel" election campaign tactics—10,000 free bags of groceries to ghetto voters. Or, see for yourself why prison wardens across the continent are so concerned about the *Penal Digest International*, an organ of the inmates' inter-prison Church of the New Song.

If you want to expand your mind today, don't smoke an underground paper—read one!

## Delaney cuts budget

Patrick Delaney, students' council vice-president academic, has requested that his budget be cut by approximately \$5,000.

In a memo to Garry West, v-p finance and chairman of the administration board, Delaney estimated that expenses in his division would be about 40% of the original allotment of \$12,600.

"With the resignation of the Research

Assistant, the staff costs will be halved and with such things as the tenure debate and G.F.C. elections now taken care of, I do not envisage any major expenditures in the remaining expense categories of my budget," Delaney predicted.

The budget cuts has been requested despite the purchase earlier this year of the controversial \$2,000 tenure study.

## Stein - Worth bout postponed

Yes, Alan Stein still intends to sue Walter Worth. The trial, concerning Stein's firing from the Worth Commission, has been set back to the week of April 30. Stein says the reason is a large backlog of cases. kc