

GFC discusses report

## How should we evaluate teaching?

by Loreen Lennon

General Faculties Council (GFC) has taken its first step toward developing standardized evaluation of teaching at this university.

At its regular meeting Monday, GFC accepted a report "Procedures for evaluating instruction in a University setting," heralding a new commitment to the improvement of instruction.

The report, submitted to GFC by its Committee for the Improvement of Teaching and Learning (CITL), tackles the problem of standardizing instructional evaluation. Evaluation procedures do exist, but they are at the discretion of the individual faculty, usually as part of a Salaries and Promotions committee.

CITL suggested that reliance upon individual opinion and judgment is inevitable but "internal and external pressure for consistency and accountability will ensure and maintain viable criteria for assessing the

performance of instructors."

The "Procedures" report outlines four basic methods of evaluation. The report was circulated among a representative sample of faculty, administration and student groups and CITL reached these conclusions about those methods from the responses.

**Student Evaluation**—This was easily the most contentious form of evaluation. However, its usefulness as a reliable guide for instructors was noted, particularly re: achievement of goals and program planning.

**Administrative Evaluation**—This was a generally acceptable form of evaluation but it provided a considerable divergence of opinion. Regarded as too subjective, this method obviously touched on one of the most delectable areas—personal relationships.

**Peer Evaluation and Self-Evaluation**—These were not considered very seriously and, in

fact, the Committee noted that these procedures were often whimsically treated by respondents.

CITL summarize the responses by stating that there is no substitute for careful, concerned evaluation of instruction by careful, concerned individuals. Also it perceived a need for some form of systematic aid in instructional development.

With the CITL observations as a guide, the "Procedures" report will be distributed throughout campus and full discussion of its recommendations encouraged. Faculties are being urged to reply by October 30 whether or not they intend to implement new or continue old methods of evaluation.

Following this broad distribution of the report GRC will deal further with the issue of instructional evaluation and discuss particular recommendations in the fall.

Office of Student Affairs

## DIS (and DAT) ABILITY

Why a column devoted to the physically disabled, you ask? Two reasons — the need for disabled users of university facilities to know what's happening for them — and the need for physically disabled people to be aware of the needs, contributions and attitudes of the physically disabled who use the campus.

Some details . . . the U of A has had a deliberate policy making its facilities accessible to the disabled for some time. A large part, thanks for the policy go to vice president (planning and development) R.E. Phillips, who initiated the project with the Director of Physical Plant. At present there are approximately forty students with recognized disabilities on campus. This includes those with mobility limitations and hearing and vision impairments; not a big number relative to the total student population, but a number which is about to increase.

The Office of Student Affairs, which is the office responsible for dealing with the problems of and services for disabled students on this campus, is getting a lot of inquiries about services available from prospective students across Canada, no doubt due to the wide distribution of their *Information Handbook for Handicapped Students*.

Incidentally, any disabled students who haven't yet obtained a copy of the handbook should contact Student Affairs, Athabasca Hall (432-4145). Also available — campus maps, paraplegic entrances marked and campus office telephone directories.

**NEEDED:** disabled students to work on the Disabled Students Advisory Committee; a chance to help plan and develop programs to insure services for the disabled . . . and . . . volunteer to assist disabled students in getting from one class to another. Contact Student Affairs.

Ever wonder why the wheelchair was chosen as the standard international symbol of access? It is the largest self contained mobile unit required by the disabled; if it can fit through a doorway then almost any other appliance can as well. Also, wheelchair is a symbol populated by a number of disabilities, including victims of multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, quadriplegic and paraplegic disabilities.

Later columns to include . . . more about Student Affairs objectives and programs . . . information about specific handicaps . . . some guides to interacting with someone who happens to have a disability.



**TONIGHT**  
come dance to the  
Sounds of

**ONE HORSE  
BLUE**

8 pm \$3 HUB Box Office  
Door

**What's that?!**

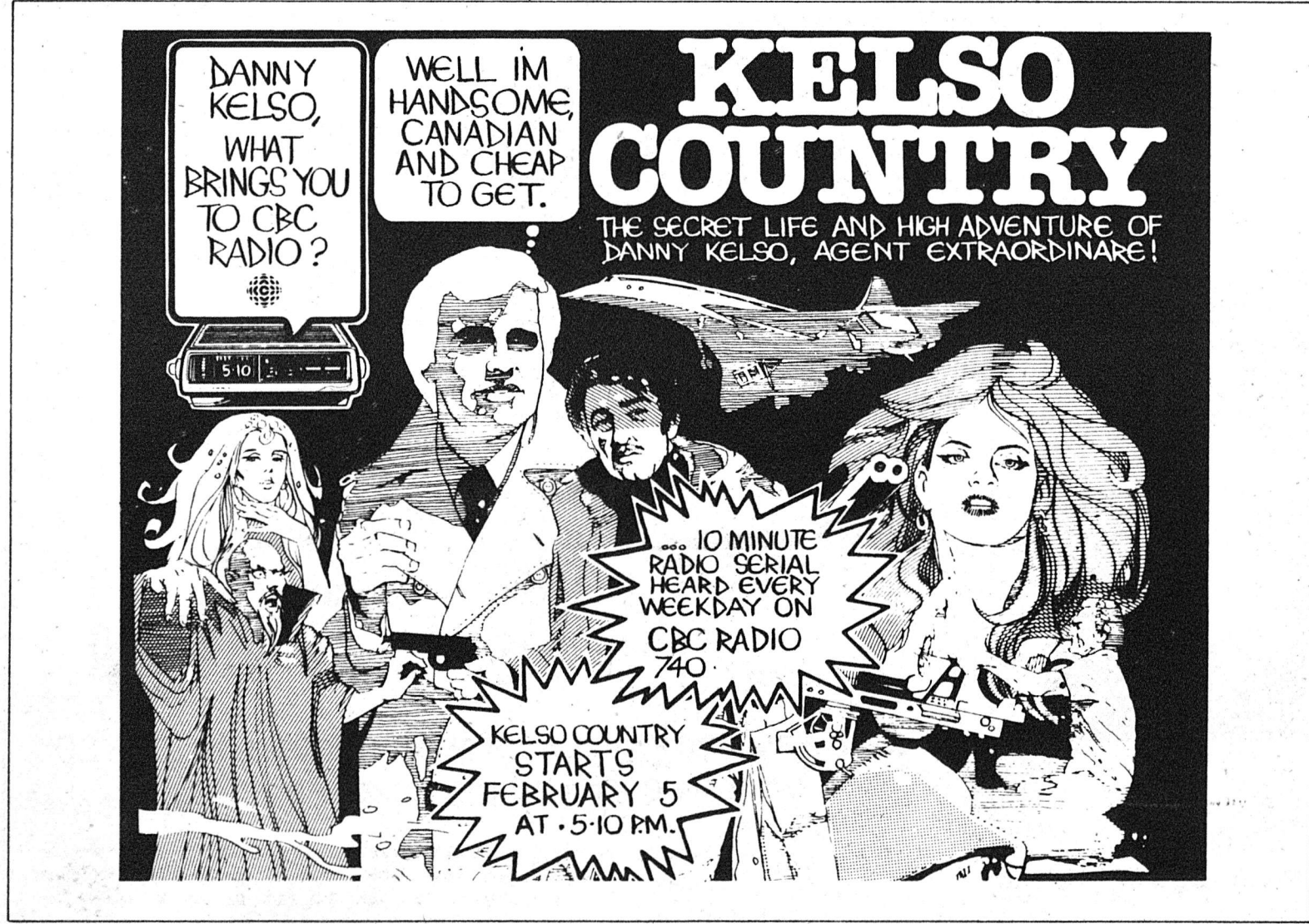
The Jan. 26 issue of the *Gateway* incorrectly reported that *Branching Out* had a \$2,800 grant from the Secretary of State for a fifth anniversary party. The grant was for the enlarged issue of *Branching Out* that is due out on Feb. 2, and not for the celebration. We apologize to *Branching Out* for any inconvenience or embarrassment the error caused.

- SPORTS QUIZ ANSWERS**
1. Keith Allen (now the G. Vic Stasiuk).
  2. a) Red Kelly (Detroit-1927) c) Frank Nighbor (O. Senators-1925) d) Nighbor (1924)
  3. a, b, Boucha, Provost. (Provost holds the record for the fastest goal from the start of a period, 4 seconds)
  4. a) Tracy Stallard b) Downing (Vic Raschi gave Aaron's first home run) c) Branca
  5. Enos Slaughter (Cardinals/Yankees); Roger Maris (Yankees/Cardinals); Robinson (Reds/Orioles); Skowron (Yankees/Dodgers)
  6. Andy Hebenton (630 games) Johnny Wilson (580 games)
  7. a) true; b) false, he started his career with Detroit; c) false, Seaver won the Cy Young award in 1973 with a record of 19-10
  8. Rob Ramage, G. Gingras, Pat Riffin, Vaive, Michel Goulet, Hartsburg.
  9. b - 8 times.
  10. (i) Jerry Holland, Rodgers; (ii) Richard M. Norm Gratton.

**NASA seeking arbitration**

The University of Alberta Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) has applied to the Public Service Employment Relations Board for the appointment of an arbitration tribunal to resolve the issues in dispute in the current round of negotiations with the Board of Governors.

A meeting to ratify NASA's decision to request the establishment of an Arbitration Tribunal will be held on February 6, 1979, in the Education Building.



**DANNY KELSO, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CBC RADIO?**

**WELL IM HANDSOME, CANADIAN AND CHEAP TO GET.**

**KELSO COUNTRY**  
THE SECRET LIFE AND HIGH ADVENTURE OF DANNY KELSO, AGENT EXTRAORDINAIRE!

... 10 MINUTE RADIO SERIAL HEARD EVERY WEEKDAY ON CBC RADIO 740

**KELSO COUNTRY STARTS FEBRUARY 5 AT 5-10 P.M.**