

# Seth Fisher, Don Whiteside talk about democracy



THE PROBLEM PROFS...  
Drs. Whiteside and Fisher

By INA VAN NIEUWKIRK

With only two of the invited speakers present and a yellow, wrinkled flag of hope draped over the speakers podium, the Student Christian Movement held a forum on the question "Is the university authoritarian or democratic?"

The two speakers not present, Dean Douglas Smith of the Faculty of Arts and Dr. Hirabayashi of the Department of Sociology sent letters to explain their absences at the meeting Friday noon.

Speaking to a packed house were Dr. Don Whiteside, who was recently recommended to be denied a renewal of contract and Dr. Seth Fisher, who was recommended to be denied tenure at this time.

In his comments Dr. Whiteside clearly stated that he felt the university was authoritarian.

"To be a democratic university we need viable and independent groups and we don't have this with this administration," he said.

Dr. Whiteside said the admini-

stration will deal only with the chairman of a department and there are no measures of restraint that can be enforced upon the chairman except those moral restraints placed upon him.

He added there were no moral restraints operative and therefore there was no way for the faculty to deal with the administration. He explained there were no restraints because of desires for personal security and the rewards system.

"Any suggestion for change is seen as a dire threat," he said. "All we're trying to do is get business done."

"If you want to talk about radicals you don't want to talk about Whiteside," he said, explaining that although he wants change, they are not radical changes.

In his comments, Dr. Fisher stated there was an aspect of authoritarianism in every area. He believed the students, faculty and administration are three distinct interests. There are no

guidelines set on the departmental level, he said.

Carl Jensen, in stating the SCM viewpoint said, "I'm probably not going to sound very impartial. This is not a democratic place. The question is—do you like living in an authoritarian place? I happen to have come to a position that I don't like it."

Questions from the floor prompted much reaction from the speakers. In answer to a remark made concerning due process and its functioning Jensen said, "Maybe there has been no break in due process and if that's true then it's damn well time we had a look at due process."

"I think we should be damn thankful we have two people with enough guts to tell us what it's all about."

When asked what to do about the Whiteside-Fisher case, Jensen added, "If everybody here would follow me then I'd say get up and take over the most important building on campus."

Leavitt  
can't

## The Gateway

Leave it  
alone

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# Emergency GFC meeting may be called

## Students, Max Wyman discuss the tenure issue; demands presented by Student Defence Committee include opening of "secret" files

By DAN JAMIESON  
Gateway Staff Writer

A week of protests may have paid off for the Students Defence Committee Friday, when Dr. Max Wyman, U of A academic vice-president agreed to try to call the General Faculty Council into an emergency session to negotiate SDC demands.

Students marched from a rally in SUB theatre to the Arts building to see D. E. Smith, Dean of Arts, and then to the Tory building, to find Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi, head of the sociology department. Neither was in.

### AT UNIVERSITY HALL

Almost 100 students then marched to University Hall in hopes of finding an administrator to whom they could read their demands. Dr. Wyman agreed to meet them and hear their demands, and invited them into the GFC chambers.

After nearly two hours of discussion with Dr. Wyman, the students made the following demands:

- rejection of the recommendation of Prof. Gordon Hirabayashi, head of the sociology department, regarding Professors Seth Fisher and Don Whiteside.
- opening of all secret files to the individual to whom the files refer.
- parity student-faculty representation on all committees.

### ACTION REQUIRED

Some action on these demands is required by March 7, "or we will have to plan on some unilateral action at that time."

In the interim, the Arts building will continue to act as a censure for discussion groups. Seminars planned for the open classrooms by the SDC will go on as planned.

Though some of the students used the meeting as an excuse to harass Dr. Wyman, the meeting

was orderly and most of the students were polite.

"It's like a bunch of high-school kids being allowed to tell off the principal," said one observer. "You can hardly blame them for taking advantage of it."

Dr. Wyman said that he was in favour of changing the university structure.

"One thing that we must be sure of is that we can change," he said. "We must be sure that the university does not become so rigid that it grows old and dies of rigor mortis."

### TENURE TO GO?

He said that he would like to see the present tenure system replaced by a system in which a professor here permanently be given a permanent contract "from the very first day" and people here temporarily be given temporary contracts.

Such changes would take two or three years to come about under existing regulations.

### JUSTICE FOR SURE

Dr. Wyman assured students that professors Fisher and Whiteside would get justice from the faculty tenure committee.

"The present system was established so that not even a vindictive department head could have a professor removed without just cause," he said.

"They (Fisher and Whiteside) will be shown all of the criteria that Dr. Hirabayashi used in making his recommendation," he said, when asked about secrecy of the files.

One student, asking what students could do to aid Drs. Whiteside and Fisher complained, "we're powerless, absolutely powerless."

### STUDENTS POWERLESS

"Yes, that's correct," replied Dr. Wyman. He went on to explain that The Universities Act was written largely by the faculty and the administration, with few legitimate

avenues for student involvement left open. He said that the act could be re-written, to allow the

students greater involvement in university affairs.

The meeting broke up with stu-

dents leaders feeling that they had, if not an ally, at least a friend in the administration.



SAY, DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT...  
the sociology department?