

"I can hear a man better..."

The Gateway

Thursday, October 31, 1985

...if he takes off his sunglasses."

Hugh Prather

SU quibbles over WCT

by Bill Doskoch

Funding for SU-sponsored writing competence clinics is still not guaranteed and an attempt to develop an SU policy on the Writing Competency Test (WCT) was tabled in council Tuesday.

The cost of the clinics was estimated by VP Academic, Caroline Nevin, to be \$1,200.

They would be run from Nov. 18-20 by T.A.'s in graduate English, and would be three hours in length. Two hours would be technical instruction and one hour would be a practice exam, which the T.A. would go over with the student before the actual WCT.

An attempt to secure funding would be made at the Administration Board meeting tonight, Nevin said.

The Administration Board considers all such funding requests and makes recommendations to Students' Council, which then must ratify the recommendations.

The next council meeting is Nov. 5, seven working days before the proposed clinic and fifteen before the first WCT.

Support for the clinics is not guaranteed.

"We must make sure the clinics are worthwhile," said SU president Mike Nickel. "They should actually help people and not give them a false sense of security."

"Our decision to run clinics was made independently of theirs (the SU)," said Engineering Students Society president Derek Ritz, "and it's a damn good thing too."

The engineers decided to hold their clinics on Nov. 24 to 27.

Two engineering reps, Kent Richardson and Kurt Kufeld, made a motion in council to have the SU pay all the salary costs for faculty associations sponsoring their own tutorials. But, surprisingly, Ritz didn't want the money.

"To be really boastful, it would be good if we weren't funded. It would prove we could take care of our own without the SU."

The policy developed by the Academic Affairs Board (AAB) with regard to the overall writing competence issue was tabled.

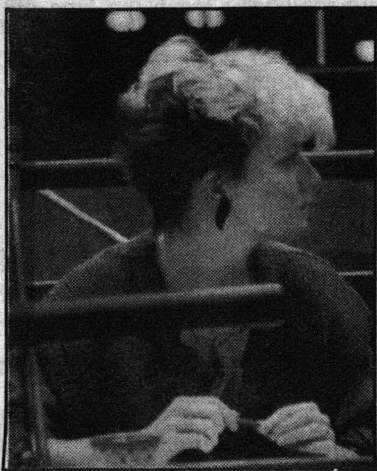
"There's no plan of action, no outline of costs, no anything," said science rep Ken Bosman, who led the opposition. "It was slapped together two hours before council. It's just Caroline covering her ass."

"The whole issue isn't exactly a surprise, the VP Academic and the Academic Commissioner (Connie Uzwyshyn) have been asleep at the switch."

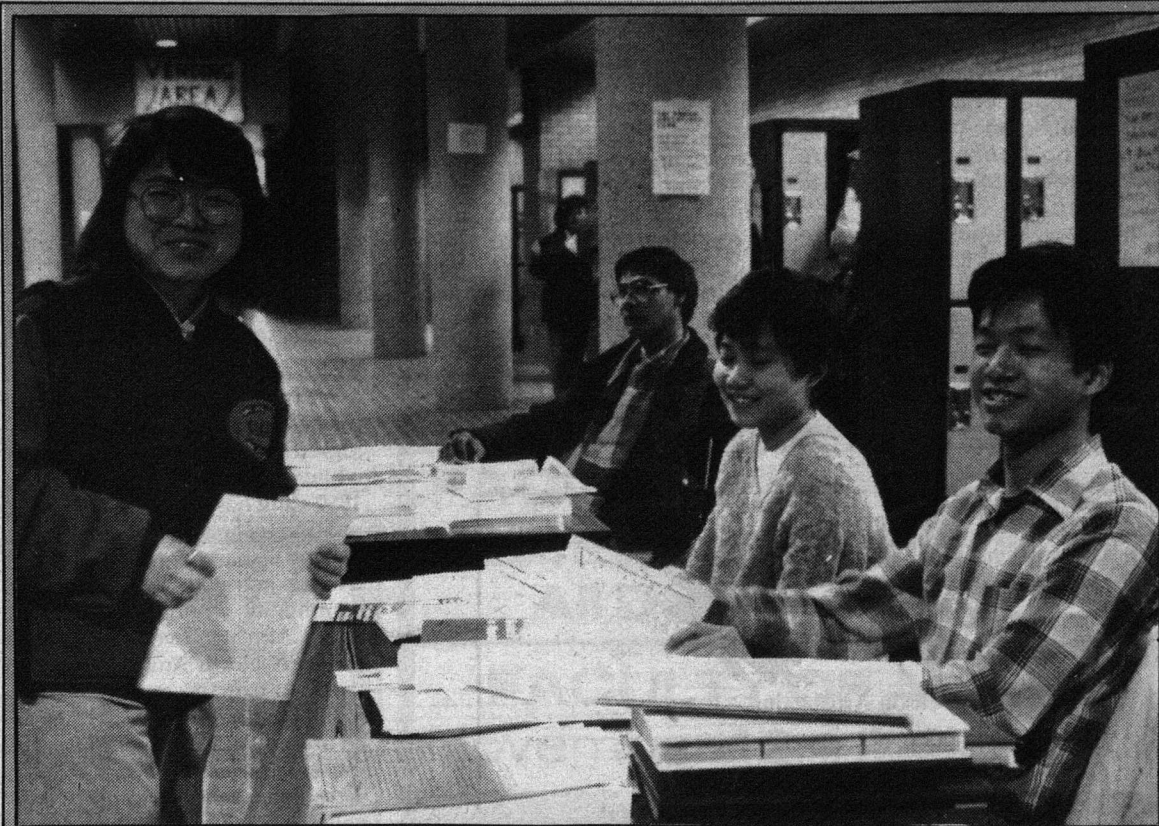
"Oh my, isn't that cute," responded Nevin, and pointed to the clinics as a concrete plan of action.

However, she admitted a lot of the proposals were "reactive" but said the AAB had been working on the issue since "the summer."

The policies proposed by Nevin will be outlined in a Gateway ad in the Nov. 5 issue. There will also be a public hearing held (for whatever reason) on the policy and the whole writing competence issue on Thurs. Nov. 7 at 6:00 p.m. in Rm 270A SUB.



Nevin: I am not a wanker!



Volunteer turnout fair

Potential volunteers were rare as the students' union's first Volunteer Fair got underway yesterday. The fair is the SU's contribution to university week. The goal is to make students more aware of involvement opportunities on and off campus, but the number of interested students milling around booths in the Business Building foyer and in SUB was disappointingly low. Nevertheless, organizations like Alberta Culture, Student Help and the Canadian Mental Health Association will be recruiting volunteers and disseminating information today. The Gateway will be set up on the main floor of SUB today.

Photo Tim Hellum

Why are you still in Science?

OTTAWA (CUP) — Philosophy, Greek and history programmes are more popular at universities across Canada this year than biology, physics and chemical engineering.

Five schools in different regions are reporting the same thing: enrolment in arts programmes is up, while enrolment in sciences and engineering programmes is down from last year, or has changed.

Last year, eight first-year students signed up for Greek at Carleton University in Ottawa. This year, 34 signed up for Greek.

At Dalhousie University in Halifax, this year there are 637 first year bachelor of arts students, compared to 568 last year. However, there are just 113 first-year engineering students, down from 179 last year.

Arts enrolment is up at Dalhousie, the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, the University of Western Ontario in London, and the University of Calgary. Of those schools contacted, only McGill University in Montreal showed no noticeable change in arts enrolment.

"We've had a thundering great increase in arts," said Naomi Griffith, Carleton's dean of arts.

"As a general rule that seems somewhat true for our university as well," said Paul Allen, associated registrar at UWO. "There is a demand in the arts and social sciences where it has leveled off in the sciences."

At the University of Ottawa, enrolment of new students in the faculty of arts is up about 30 per cent from 1984, while engineering and science programmes both show a 10 per cent drop in popularity, said Gregory Marcotte, director of admissions.

At the University of Calgary, "General studies students are transferring into social sciences at a faster

rate than before," said Judy Roach, a statistics analyst.

Griffith attributes the new attraction to arts to two things. "People coming to us are very clear that university isn't a real guarantee of employment, so people come to get the courses they really like," she said.

Also Griffith said students are becoming more conscious of continued media reports that corporations are looking for students who have a general humanities basis.

"Patients are asking 'will doctors please have some idea of ethics?' and that's awakening in students an awareness that they should get some humanities training," Griffith said.

"I only hope we can give these students the care and attention they need," Griffith said.

Because of criticism they are not preparing students for the changing job market, universities have been funding job market-related studies more than arts in the past few years.

Griffith said two things threaten the quality of an arts degree. First, universities are underfunded generally. Second, administrators prefer to spend money on machinery (necessary in science and engineering programmes) than on people (necessary for humanities.)

"Because humanities degrees aren't expensive in equipment we've been sometimes short-

changed," Griffith said. "It's easier to get funding for equipment than people."

She said administrators see people as expensive and long-term commitments. But she said Carleton's humanities get a lot of support, compared to what she heard about other Ontario universities.

A similar trend follows at the U of A.

The number of full-time arts students increased from 4503 last year to 4747 this year while the number of science students decreased slightly, from 4494 to 4408. However, the number of engineering students enrolled this year is 2205, up from 2149 in 1984-85.

Commerce kids plan party

by Suzanne Lundrigan

In an unprecedented move, the U of A Business students are leaving the library and abandoning their books to become dissolute and irresponsible PARTY ANIMALS.

When asked what precipitated this break with tradition, Business Students Association V.P. (Social) Kathy Engel explained, "Business students are reputed to be a staid and studious lot. During Commerce Week (Nov. 4-8) we'd like to change that image."

Commerce Week opens with a Lip Synch contest at the People's Pub Nov. 4 at 7 pm.

Wednesday at 12:30 pm in the Atrium between Tory and Hub Mall there will be a Mr. and Ms. Business pageant.

Engel dispelled all rumors that this will be a beauty contest. "The entrants will be judged on the basis of what they will be wearing. We

present the most business-like image. Apparel is the sole criterion."

An Executive Auction and Yuppie Day round off the week's activities. Engel counsels those unsure about what Yuppies are "Watch Alex in *Family Ties* and you'll do fine."

Commerce Week ends Friday with a Car Pub. All interested students are welcome with the stipulation that there be at least two Busi-

ness students per team.

Though Business students are no prodigious party people, "about 200 of the 2,000 students come out to the socials," Engel is optimistic.

"This year we've chosen a week which doesn't interfere with mid-term, and all the weekday events are a maximum of two hours long. Everybody should be able to leave the books for two hours."

Those ever pragmatic Business Students.

Layout worshippers!

The high priest of the *Edmonton Journal*, Roy Wood, will be performing an incantation in rm 282 SUB at 4:30 p.m. today.