

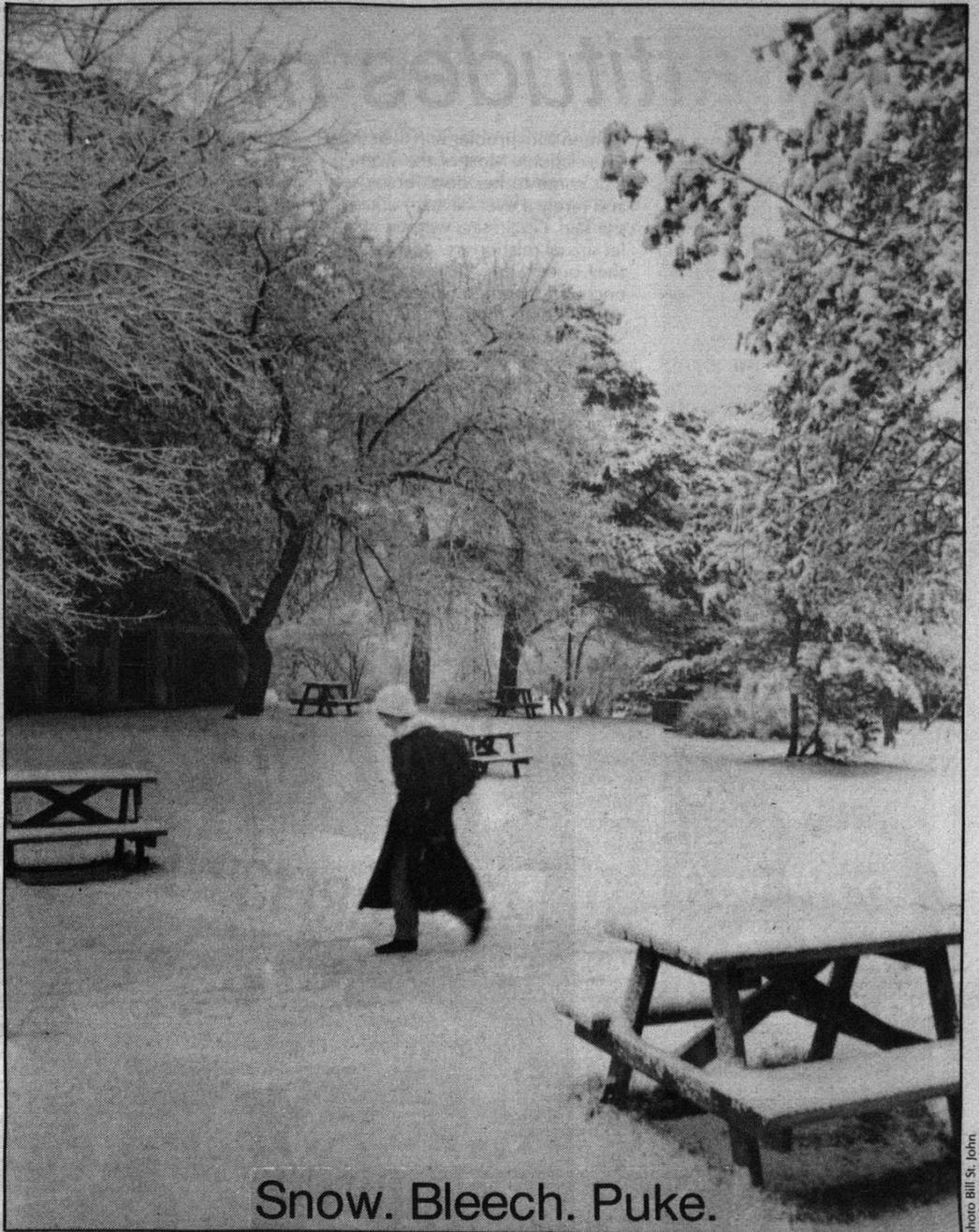
"Originality..."

"...is the art of
concealing
your sources."

Franklin P. Jones

The Gateway

Tuesday, October 29, 1985



Snow. Bleech. Puke.

photo Bill St. John

More WCT hassles

by Bill Doskoch

The policy of not allowing Writing Competence Test (WCT) re-writes until after a person has taken the remedial writing competence course has placed a second-year science student in jeopardy of being forced to withdraw in December.

"I'm supposed to take their (Testing and Remediation's) remedial English," said Chris Dobson, 34, "but they don't have exclusive rights on the English language."

Dobson received advanced placement due to his NAIT biological sciences diploma. Current policy gives transfer students with more than five full-course units, only 12 months to complete their writing competence requirements.

He wrote the test before entering university in 1984 and never got his results because he didn't pay the \$15 fee.

The cost of the exam was added onto his fees this year and he re-wrote the test without taking the remedial course.

Because of that, the secretary in the Testing and Remediation office told him his re-write would not be graded and he might be required to withdraw in December.

Dobson admitted a lot of his problems were his own fault but questioned the need for the remedial course (and the \$60 fee) because he received a mark of 8 in English 210 and had a 7.3 GPA overall.

Prof. G. McCaughey, the English department representative to General Faculties Council (GFC), supported Dobson and had disparaging things to say about the WCT in general.

McCaughey attacked the idea of having a compulsory remedial course, especially if it was operated by the same organization doing the testing.

"You don't put the tester and the remedial program together," he said. "That's like letting the people who test for driver's licenses run compulsory driving schools."

"Where he improved his abilities ought not to matter. I just don't think this has been intelligently thought through at all."

Dr. Lorna McCallum, chairperson of Testing and Remediation, would not comment on this particular situation. "I cannot comment directly on a student's work. That's confidential."

However, she did say the regulations about the test and course came from GFC. "The test diagnoses problems and students take the remedial course to help solve their problems."

She felt any questions about the cost of the course and the testing should be directed to Associate VP Academic Amy Zelmer, whom the Gateway was unable to contact by deadline.

For his part, Dobson remained miffed. "I'm not going to voluntarily back out. A lot of people have been taken for a ride with this damn thing. To hell with that."

Help! We need some bodies

by Suzette C. Chan

If you would like more input into the university community than paying your fees, this week's Volunteer Fair may offer interesting involvement opportunities.

Volunteering can offer "further learning" to students and may enhance "hopes of getting employment" according to students' union Housing and Transport commissioner Stacey Sielski.

She explained that the fair, organized by the SU External Affairs Board, is part of National Universities Week.

"Rather than bringing in speakers [as many other university organizations are doing], we wanted to do something more student oriented," she said.

Among the 21 "student oriented" organizations that are looking to recruit student volunteers are Student Help, the International Student Centre, CJSR and the Gateway.

Sielski said a number of off-campus organizations were allowed to set up information booths because they have historically recruited a lot of U of A students. The Volunteer Action Centre, the Red

Cross, the Youth Emergency Shelter and the University of Alberta Hospitals will be represented.

There are a few SU registered clubs, but Sielski said the organizers of the fair felt most SU clubs were not primarily volunteer related.

Sielski said although groups like the United Way will be part of the fair, there will be no fund-raising attempts.

"The fair is to recruit people, to make students aware that volunteerism exists," she said.

The Volunteer Fair will be held on Oct. 30 and 31 in two locations. Groups participating in the fair will alternate between the main floor of SUB and the foyer between the Business and Tory buildings. Booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

WCT cavalry coming

by Bill Doskoch

The Students' Union and the Engineering Students' Society (ESS) will be sponsoring seminars to help people prepare for the writing competence tests (WCT's) on November 28 and 29.

"We'll be running ours for two hours each night, from Nov. 24 to 27," said ESS president Derek Rytz. "There'll be no cost to the students involved, the ESS is paying for it."

"I am a bit upset our student council reps hadn't told me about the SU's plans (for a similar service) because it would have prevented

duplication."

The Academics Affairs Board (AAB) would be approaching Students' Council tonight for funding writing competency clinics, said VP Academic Caroline Nevin. "Unfortunately we won't be teaching them English, we'll be teaching them how to pass the test."

Nevin didn't have any details on the clinics, but said they would be run by grad students in English and by people who have been successful on the test.

There will be no cost charged to the students requiring the service.

University research needed to maintain sovereignty

OTTAWA (CUP) — There won't be much money for university research unless the federal cabinet approves full funding for the country's three research granting councils soon, says a science policy advisor.

Graham Orpwood, advisor for the Science Council, says the five-year plans for the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council and the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council, as well as the supplementary plan for the Medical Research Council, must all be fully funded if Canada is to remain

economically autonomous from the United States and develop self-sufficient industries.

If Canada continues to rely too heavily on natural resources and ignores the increasing markets for high technology goods and services, the country "might as well pack (its) bags and move to the States. We have reason to be convinced that there just won't be the demand for those resources anymore," he says.

Both the NSERC and SSHRC five year plans also list stronger links between university research and

industries as immediate goals for Canada's economic future.

NSERC president Gordon MacNabb says the council is trying "to show what the university research community can contribute to the economic recovery of the country."

Although Brian Mulroney personally pledged to double R&D spending two years ago, no noticeable increase in funding has been approved. Instead, the task force on programme review, chaired by deputy prime minister Erik Nielsen, has been recommending fiscal restraint for most areas of the federal

budget.

Donald Savage, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, says the Nielsen task force and Conservative R&D policy to date amount to "explicit violations of the promises the Tories made before the election."

Orpwood says the 50 per cent cut to the Science Council's budget this July indicates problems in the cabinet's perception of research. "We're concerned that the (Science Council) cutbacks show a basic lack of commitment to science," he says.

The three research councils provide almost all basic and most applied research funding to Canadian universities. Of the approximate \$500 million allocated to university researchers, 60 per cent is channeled through NSERC, 30 per cent through MRC, and 10 per cent through SSHRC.

The NSERC plan, which proposes that \$700 million be spent on R&D through that council alone per annum by 1990, also calls for attracting more Canadians to graduate schools to develop pools of national

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