

"Grumbling..."

The Gateway

Thursday, November 7, 1985

...is the death of love."

Marlene Dietrich

"Go ahead! Just try to wipe this smile off my face!"

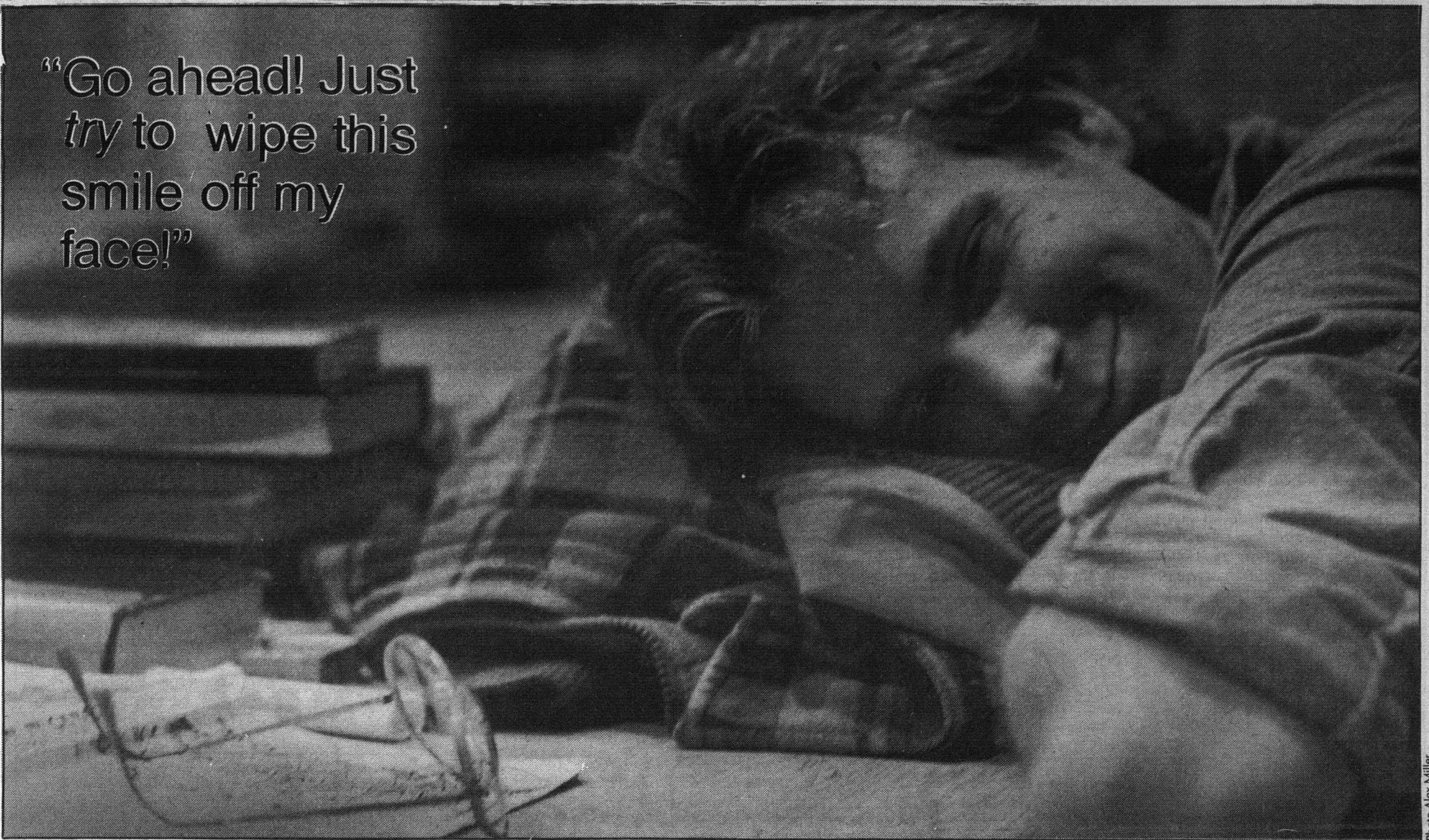


Photo Alex Miller

Council not impressed with Nevin

by John Watson

VP Academic, Caroline Nevin, came under fire last night for lack of action concerning the Writing Competency Test, and SU president, Mike Nickel, has been asked by council to send Nevin a letter of censure expressing council's discontent.

The original motion asked Nickel, SU president, to ask for Nevin's resignation, but that did not receive a second, and was not debated.

The amended motion, asking for the letter of censure, passed with a

vote of 12 for, 7 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

According to Business rep, Rick Nickel, the intent of the motion was to show that "we are dissatisfied with (Nevin's) work at this time. I in no way expect her to resign."

Included in the supporting documents supplied to council were two letters, one from the Arts Students' Association (ASA) and one from the Undergraduate Science Society (USS), expressing displeasure over the SU's inaction on the WCT.

Both letters were addressed to Mike Nickel, but he claims never to have seen the final drafts. "I don't have these letters in my office...I've seen rough copies." Nickel claimed "We knew it was there (the discontent), we recognized that fact."

The material was supplied to council by Rick Nickel, "I received this package from Ken Bosman and Jayson Woodbridge and wholeheartedly agreed with it."

VP Finance, Rob Splane, questioned Woodbridge about how he had obtained letters addressed to Mike Nickel. Woodbridge warned

him that "you are touching very tenuous ground for a law suit."

A.S.A. president, Lance Yuen, said, "Ken Bosman received the letter at the end of Oct.--between the 27th and 30th. I wasn't sure what was going to happen to them, but I didn't expect them to show up in council." The letters were not written "to point a finger at any individual," he said.

Nevin's only complaint was that she was not given any advance warning of the motion or the letters. "If there are concerns that I am to act on, then it seems obvious that they should be addressed to me personally," she said. "It doesn't seem to serve any other end in this case than to run a political-smear campaign."

"We should also reprimand ourselves," said Agriculture rep, Kupe-ri, "we had a chance to act on this issue and we didn't".

An executive committee meeting this morning decided to hire a lawyer to look into the feasibility of getting an injunction placed against

the University to stop the possible expulsion of people who have not passed the WCT in December.

Council also gave business manager, Tom Wright, the go-ahead to deal with a prospective buyer of Store Plus More. A Mr. Dvorkin approached Wright about buying the store: "Tom Wright gave him a ridiculously high number and he essentially said 'okay,'" said Rob Splane.

The selling price is not less than \$90,000. An additional \$30,000 per year in rent is about equal to the profit made every year by the store.

The S.U. missed an opportunity to make \$12,000 last week because Wright needed council approval to flip bonds. Because council only meets every two weeks, the opportunity to make 23 percent on the money was lost and the S.U. had to settle for 11 per cent.

"The S.U. now has a great deal more in bonds (about \$425,000) and such a missed opportunity again could cost about \$50,000," said Wright.

More money for ideas

by Ann Grever

In an effort to give students more choice and wider possibilities the university announced a re-allocation of \$500,000 towards the development of new academic programs.

The "New Initiatives Program" allows faculties and departments to submit proposals on new ideas.

Ten proposals were given approval. The accepted proposals came from all over the campus, said Amy Zelmer, the Associate Vice-President, although the Faculty of Arts was quite "active in submitting proposals."

The \$500,000 will be split up as follows:

- \$100,000 to the Department of History, Philosophy and Sociology
- \$82,650 of Departments of Civil Engineering and Clothing and Textiles for an interdisciplinary research program.
- \$143,350 to the Animal Science Department and the Department of Genetics and Microbi-

ology for animal and cell biotechnology

- \$50,000 to the Faculty of Education for a compulsory course on computer applications
- \$14,000 to a Drug Information Centre for dental clinics operated by the Faculties of Dentistry and Pharmacy
- \$35,000 to the Department of Comparative Literature and East Asian Languages and Literature for a new academic position
- \$20,000 to the Faculty of Arts for sessional replacements in Women's Studies.
- \$5,000 to the Department of English for a graduate course for teaching assistants called "Teaching Freshman English"
- \$50,000 for Faculty Enhancement to allow faculties to correct a gender imbalance greater than 75.25 by paying a percentage of the wages of the minority.

The money for these proposals is

out of the Budget Adjustment fund, that is normally used to fund special concerns or problems. For instance, a large sum was earmarked this year, said Myer Horowitz, the president of the U of A, to the Faculty of Science for computer science, and to the Faculty of Arts to deal with the dramatic increase in enrolment.

However, this year "we recommended a portion of the fund not be allocated" said Horowitz, to give the faculties and departments an opportunity to submit proposals.

"I'm excited about what we did" said Horowitz. "It is difficult to introduce new programs at a time of budget problems."

Terry White, the Dean of Arts thinks the program is "neat for students. . . This is an opportunity to develop knowledge, and for the faculty to become a resource base."

The program also gives the faculty a chance to develop "interfaculty contacts" and a larger range of inter-disciplinary departmental courses.

WCT cuts only 22

by Bill Doskoch

The number of people affected by the writing competence deadline has been revised upward to 503, but only 22 of those have actually failed the test three times.

A further 63 of those people "have decided to not take the test at all so far," said Registrar, Brian Silzer.

This information was released at a press conference held yesterday to "counter the rumours and misinformation about the test," said Associate VP Academic, Amy Zelmer.

One of the terms being used that they were unhappy with was "expulsion".

"That's much too heavy," said Silzer. "We prefer to think of it as 'discontinuing one's studies'."

"Anyone who fails the test and is required to withdraw is free to come back after they complete the writing competence requirement. All their credit coursework would be intact."

Some examples of exams that failed were shown by Dr. Lorna McCallum, chairperson of Testing and Remediation.