

The Gateway

Tuesday, November 19, 1985

God created an idiot for practice...

...then he created a students' council.

Mark Twain

WCT deadline extended

by Bill Doskoch

Major changes were made to various aspects of the writing competence policy by General Faculties Council (GFC) yesterday.

The most important change is the date for the 503 students currently facing expulsion to pass the test has been rolled back from Dec. 1 1985 to Apr. 30, 1986 — provided they take the Nov. 28 and 29 series of tests.

The following changes — mostly based on recommendations from the SU Academic Affairs Board and approved by the Academic Development Committee (ADC) — were also made:

- The \$60 remedial course is no longer a prerequisite to re-writing the WCT
- Past performance in other courses, especially English courses, plus relevant extenuating circumstances, particularly for international foreign students whose visas may be terminated if they are not permitted to re-register at the univer-

sity must be considered in any appeal.

In addition, there will be a committee established by GFC to hear appeals or petitions regarding the WCT, instead of letting the 17 faculties set their own policies.

- A copy of a student's exam will be provided to the student upon request; the actual marking criteria will be made available to students through their faculty offices.

Another important recommendation made by the ADC was inviting other groups to put forward suggestions on developing alternative ways to meet and measure the writing competence requirement.

"The WCT was meant as a temporary diagnostic measure," said university VP Academic Peter Meekison, but then pointed out that income tax introduced in 1917 was also a 'temporary measure'.

He said some alternatives that would be looked at included "a certain performance level in the English 30 departmental exam," a

university level English course — possibly English 210 or 214 — or samples of in-class work were alternatives he anticipated examining.

One professor, Dr. Gerald McCaughey of the English department, promised to fight for abolishment of the WCT, calling it a "mare's nest" and "any test that fails 38 - 51 per cent deserves to be questioned."

Although Meekison foresaw a diminishing role for the WCT, he did not feel total abolition would be necessary or recommendable because of factors like differing provincial education systems.

On Nov. 15, the students' union issued a press release stating they were considering an injunction against the university to prevent them from cancelling the registration of the students affected; however, SU president, Mike Nickel, indicated before the meeting that if the ADC recommendations went through, the injunction would not be necessary.

Morals make the man, says chancellor

by Jeff McDonald

Students should learn more about morals, says the outgoing Chancellor of the U of A.

"All students should have to take a core course on ethics, no matter which faculty they are in," said Peter Savaryn. "I think that the University must teach students more about values, and less about success and materialism."

Savaryn's four year term will expire on June 30, 1986. "My proudest accomplishment is the Task Force on Ethics that the Senate produced."

The report recommended to the General Faculties Council (GFC)

that "the university require all first year undergraduate students take a course with an ethical component."

The responsibilities of the Chancellor's position include acting as Chairman of the Senate, serving on the Board of Governors, and presiding over convocation to confer degrees.

He represents the university at ceremonial functions, conferences, and seminars, and speaks to groups on and off campus. In addition, he maintains contact with alumni, and solicits donations from them.

Nonetheless, he has enjoyed his term "very much".

As his appointment draws to a close, Savaryn commented on the

need for Canada to produce more university graduates. "We must double the number of people graduating from universities; as a percentage of the population, the United States produces twice as many as we do."

"But the irony is that we can afford to produce more. Why can't banks and large corporations contribute more money toward education and scholarships? Education must be spread to all costs, because without it, we'll go back to the trees."

Savaryn's opinions are not restricted to the university and education.

When asked to discuss the current situation in South Africa, Savaryn said, "Apartheid is terrible, should not work, never will work. But what about the system in Russia, which is far worse? There, you have the ultimate outrage, the exploitation of man by man. No system is as bad as the Soviet one; why should they single out South Africa?"

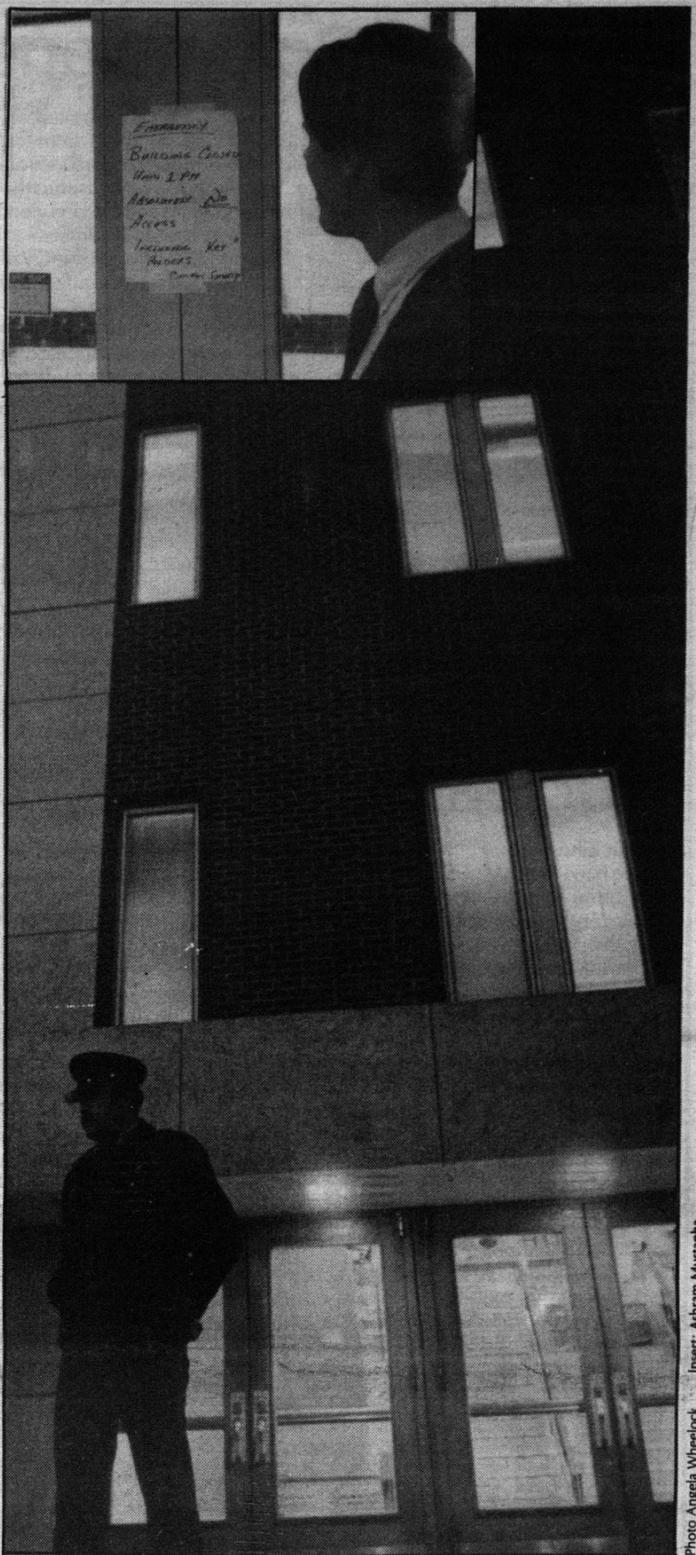
The university has formed a search committee for the new Chancellor, and is inviting nominations. The committee is looking for a Canadian citizen who has a concern for the university and the community, is experienced in organizational processes, and can devote adequate time to the position.

Nominations should include the names and addresses of two nominators, the signed consent of the nominee, and the nominee's resume, and must be received by the Senate by December 16, 1985.

The new Chancellor will be appointed by the Senate in February, 1986 and will resume office in July 1, 1986.



Outgoing chancellor Savaryn: more morals, less materialism



This picture was first used March 29, 1984. It has since become our standard-issue dramatic Tory bomb threat photograph.

Bomb threat a bluff

by John Watson

A bomb threat forced the evacuation of the Business and Tory buildings Thursday.

A call was "received at the Business switchboard shortly after 8:30 am," said Daid Langevin, head of campus security. "It was an unspecified threat that a bomb would go off sometime after 10:00 am."

Both Business and Tory buildings were evacuated immediately, and not re-occupied until 1:00 pm.

"A copy-cat threat" was received at NAIT shortly after the radio reported the U of A threat. "They received a call from a female saying there was a bomb in the tower," said Langevin.

NAIT did not evacuate. Their policy is to inform the instructors and search the building.

The NAIT threat was not reported on radio to avoid other copy-cat threats.

Langevin would like to see the same policy at the U of A. "There have been 4 (threats) in the 14 months I've been here. Unless there is something more to it than that — the caller is excited or tells some story — we can be 99.9 per cent certain there is no real threat."

If the person receiving the call believes the threat may be serious the building would be evacuated and the police notified.

We're selecting delegates for the
CUP CONFERENCE
on Thursday, Nov. 21, 4 p.m., rm 282 SUB.

Gateway staff and volunteers interested in going should submit letters of intent by NOON, WED. NOV. 20. (See Suzette Chan for more details). Those who aren't interested in going to CUP 48 should be present to vote on who should attend. (Three contributions to the Gateway gets you voter status. Complete voter's list in Thursday's issue.)