

June 10/94

Sandra Elgie, 32, of London, right, receives her degree in science from the associate dean of science, professor Roland Haines, during convocation ceremonies held at Western's Alumni Hall on Thursday. Soon after entering part-time studies in 1987, Elgie received an injury that left her with chronic pain in her shoulder and back. The single mother is also raising two special needs children, a 10-year-old son with asthma and a nine-year-old daughter with Down syndrome. The next step for Elgie is to travel across the country following job leads in agricultural research.

SUSAN BRADNAM / The London Free Press



### BACHELOR OF ARTS

#### PROFILE

**Peggy Clark Novak**, bachelor of arts, general (248 graduating).

**Age:** 33.

**Home town:** RR 1, Ravenna, (near Collingwood).

#### Memorable experiences:

Her education interrupted by pregnancy about 13 years ago after one and a half years at Western, Novak resumed studies in 1989. She took two courses extra-murally, signed up for two more, but didn't have the money to pay for them. "I said a prayer that it would work out. Later that day, I had to find my health card and in the bottom of a drawer were old lottery tickets. I had won \$937 which would be enough to cover the two courses and have a little left over." Her husband and sons, aged 12 and nine, will be at graduation so the boys can see the culmination of



hard work.

**Job prospects:** She has been supply teaching at the elementary school level in the Collingwood area, mainly core French. She would like to study medicine at McMaster, which accepts mature students.

#### JOB OUTLOOK:

Nancy Kendall, career counselor at Western, says while general arts degrees are not designed to train students for jobs, in tough economic times employers emphasize "flexibility," which is what these students tend to have. Financial constraints forced UWO to stop doing follow-ups of graduates in the work force, but the latest study (of June, 1990, arts grads a year after leaving school) showed that about half were employed full-time, 20 per cent continued in school, less than 10 per cent were unemployed and most of the remainder were in part-time or temporary employment.