

If you really want to...

You too can avoid writing exams

by Marc Huber for Canadian University Press

As your first day of the new university year comes to a close, you look around and notice the leaves are turning brown, the winds are blowing more briskly, and the sun is setting earlier and earlier.

And you know this means that you can look forward not only to autumn, and eventually Christmas holidays, but also to mid-terms, and eventually Christmas final exams.

Most students view the entire process with a certain sense of inevitable doom; yet, these same students continually fail to offer any creative solutions to their perennial plight.

It is surprising that in an institution where reasoning is supposed to be encouraged, only a few budding geni have deduced an alternative to sleepless, book-filled nights. The solution is a relatively simple matter — don't write them.

Not writing exams is a lot simpler than it sounds. In fact, it's an art which is easily mastered. The neophyte should undertake a serious practice schedule by not writing a few tests. Merely being absent from school on the date of the scheduled exam or test will not suffice. Obviously, it's the excuse which determines your dispensa-

tion.

A note from the friendly people at Student Health Services stating that you were too ill to take the exam will suffice. Dull and perceptive faculty members alike are taken in at once. It should be noted also that any doctor can become friendly with the presentation of annual Christmas gifts such as bottles of fine wine or aged scotch.

Once the first test has been missed, the novice practitioner may progress to the ultimate goal, which is not writing exams. Some pros argue that students who are stupid enough to take courses with exams should not be privy to the secrets of the elders. On the other hand, I am in favour of democratizing the process to enlighten the masses of ignorant students.

An ancient avoidance tactic is having a friendly medical student wrap a cast around your arm; thus, preventing the escatic scholar from writing the exam. With cast in hand, the dejected student would then travel to their professor's office and inform him/her of their problem. This is akin to winning the battle but not

the war, as this tactic will not ensure the success of the final strategy. Chances are quite likely that the sympathetic professor

will offer to conduct an oral examination for the 'injured' student. But it must be granted that an oral exam is much easier than actually writing one.

Yet our goal is not merely an easier exam, but no exam at all. My favourite method is a variation of fakelitis. Recently, I checked into a hospital complaining of numerous symptoms ranging from stomach cramps to morning sickness while I was actually in perfect health. The hospital's emergency staff gave me a preliminary examination where they probed various locations of my body. Only a minimal amount of acting talent was needed to convince the doctors of my agony.

My case baffled the doctors. Since they couldn't diagnose my illness, they thought it was contagious. Therefore, I was put in an isolation room while I received intra-venous feeding. This was an excellent opportunity for me to relax in a private suite and lose weight at the same time. After my last exam, what the medical profession terms a miracle occurred. I was allowed to go, as I

appeared to be fully recovered. After my bags were packed, the administrators were only too happy to write a medical certificate explaining my unexplained absence.

If one's acting talent is negligible there is another way to enter the sanctuary of the hospital. Unfortunately, this scenario only applies in cold weather. Last winter, a perceptive friend of mine decided that writing exams was only for mortals and not the gods themselves. He then went outside in a bathing suit and rolled in the snow for twenty minutes.

My friend then drove to the nearest hospital dressed in the same attire, with his car windows open. Upon arriving at exam haven, he got dressed and went to the emergency area. Without any acting ability, he was shaking for no apparent reason during the doctor's examination. The conscientious doctor attempted to alleviate the patient's suffering by assigning him a bed in the hospital. His remedy appeared to work because after his exams were over, yet another medical miracle occurred.

This year, I have arranged with a friendly court clerk to be assigned jury duty during the examination period. I have explained to my professors that my country is calling and that it is my duty to serve. Being patriotic

Canadians, my professors were more than happy to excuse me from my examinations. Besides, it was one less paper to mark for them.

One professor singled me out in class for my sense of civic responsibility. He called me a true asset to the University. Jury duty is even better than a brief sojourn at the hospital. You get paid and if you're lucky, you can relax in a hotel room if the case is sequestered.

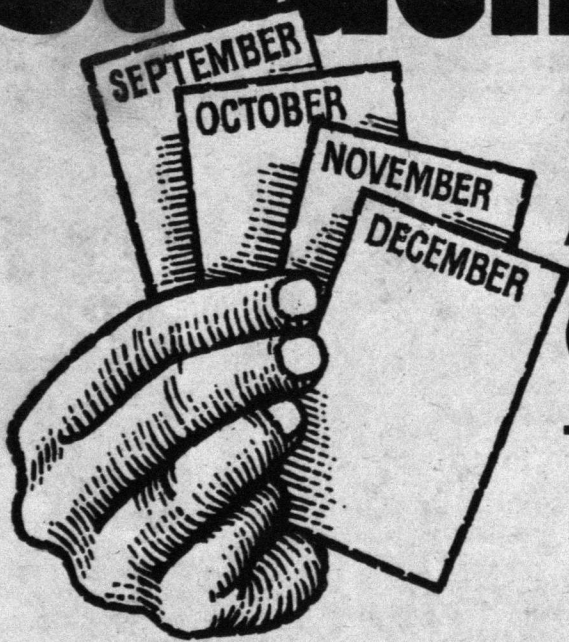
With these examples as guidelines any student can prepare to embark on a life free of exams. To justify your new found freedom one must always remember these words of wisdom: it is better to have passed and faked, than never to have passed at all.

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