

## WRITING COMPETENCE PETITIONS: NOTICE TO STUDENTS

This notice is intended for students who have not met the University's writing competence requirement and whose deadline for meeting that requirement occurs on or before September 1, 1987. Students who do not pass the writing competence test by their deadline will have their registrations cancelled prior to the start of classes unless granted an extension by the GFC Writing Competence Petitions Committee (WCPC).

If your deadline is May 1 or July 1 and you plan to register in the Spring term or in a subsequent session, you may petition or re-petition the WCPC for permission to continue your registration, provided that you are currently registered and have written the writing competence test at least once.

If your deadline is September 1 and you plan to register in the Fall term or in a subsequent session, you have the option of petitioning the WCPC either in March or in July provided that you are currently registered and have written the writing competence test at least once. Students with a September 1 deadline who will be out of the city July 28-31 may wish to consider submitting a petition in March. Students in this category should first consult the student advisers or student ombudsmen.

Students are urged to seek advice on preparing their writing competence petitions. Such advice can be sought from the Student Ombudsmen, Room 272 Students' Union Building, or the Student Advisers in the Office of the Dean of Student Services, Room 300, Athabasca Hall. The regulations and procedures used by the GFC Writing Competence Petitions Committee are available in either of these offices.

Petitions must be received in the University Secretariat, 2-5 University Hall, by Thursday, March 19, 1987, 4:30 p.m.

# Discounts tax budgets

by Jeff Cowley

Consumers dealing with tax discounting services should be aware of their protective rights, says the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Discounting is the practice of exchanging or "selling" a tax refund for a reduced rate in order to avoid the 6 - 8 weeks the government requires to process rebates.

Because spring time can be a financially dry time of the year, many students are drawn to the lure of instant cash provided by discounts.

"Consumers thinking of going to discounters should consider carefully the cost of getting quick cash," said Harvie Andre, Federal Minister of Consumer Affairs.

According to government figures, last year some 720,000 Canadians spent 48 million dollars on tax discount services.

Although the government realizes the need for services provided by discounters, it has employed

strict legislation in order to control the percentage discounters may claim from a tax return.

The Tax Rebate Discounting Act was established in 1978 in response to concern over the amount discounting services could claim from refunds.

Before the legislation was introduced, consumers were more or less left at the mercy of discounters, often losing up to fifty per cent of their refund.

Under the Rebate Discounting Act, discounters are limited to 15 per cent on the first 300 dollars of an early refund, and 5 per cent on the remainder.

For example: if a person had a tax refund worth 1000 dollars, he would receive 920 dollars after taking it to a discounter.

"Discounting is more expensive," said Sylvia Horning of Campus Income Assistance, "I've suggested that some students go borrow from their parents so they can wait for

the entire refund."

But discounting isn't the only way students can get scalped at tax time.

According to Horning, many students preparing their own returns lose money by wasting basic deductions such as tuition, moving expenses, rent and Alberta Health Care.

"Students can't afford to go to major tax centers such as H&R Block, and they lose money that they could have deducted," said Horning, "Because students are away at University, and their parents had always prepared their tax returns, we try to protect and educate them."

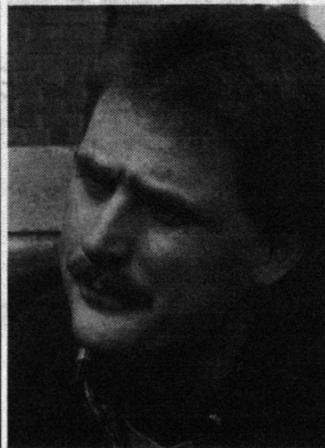
Campus Income Tax Assistance suggested that students preparing their own returns pick up information about deductions unique to university students at Revenue Canada.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK!!

Do you intend to inform yourself and vote in this year's SU election?

Yes.

Susan Hall



Yes, I do, it's very important that everyone does so. I'm disturbed that the people running for office in the Students' Union feel that they have to run on a slate.

I don't feel all students' concerns will be represented by one ideology coming out of one faculty.

Lee Neville

Yeah, I think I probably will because I'm in poli-sci and I think it's probably a good idea. I don't really know much about anyone who's running, but I should really find out.

Alexandra Parr



Yeah, probably, I haven't really investigated all the candidates. I'll try and get a better idea.

Doug Burden

When is it? Sure (I'll vote).

Cathy



I'll think about it first, I'm not sure.

Stephen Yip



I would if I had the time, I'm just so bogged down. I really haven't got the time.

Lindsay Allan

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### S.O.S. INFO CORNER

## Student Ombudsman Service

G.F.C. 52.4.1(b) The instructor should mark and return to students **with reasonable dispatch** all term examinations and, provided the students submit them by the due date, all course projects, papers, essays, etc.

All projects, papers, essays, etc., should be returned **on or by the last day of classes** in the course, with the exception of a final major project or paper (which may be due on the last day of classes), which should be returned by the date of the scheduled final examination or, in non-examination courses, by the last day of the examination period. (GFC 28 APR 1975)

#### Office Hours in Room 272 SUB

<b>Pat Perron</b>	<b>Shawna Stonehouse</b>
M. 12:30 - 4:00	T. 1:30 - 3:00
W. 8:30 - 10:30	Th. 2:00 - 5:00
F. 12:30 - 3:00	F. 11:30 - 1:00

If you are unable to meet during these times, please leave a message to set a convenient time by calling 432-4689 (24 hrs.).

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