

Couple frauds universities

TORONTO (CUP) — A Kitchener, Ont. couple are to appear in court this month in connection with a \$175,000 student aid fraud that spanned two years and five provinces.

Ontario Provincial Police arrested Paul and Lena Schuler in December and charged them with fraud.

The investigating officer, Corp. Nelson Kinkaid, said the pair are suspected of swindling \$108,000 in Ontario student grants and \$67,000 in Canada Student Loans between 1981 and 1983.

Kinkaid said a man and women forged the high school transcripts of 60 living people, then registered at 23 universities and applied for student aid. Thirteen of the universities were in Ontario, with the remainder in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Police say the pair visited the universities twice — once to register and once to pick up their student awards. They did not attend classes but were former students at the University of Waterloo — ironically, one of the two Ontario universities not used in the scam.

The Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities grew suspicious when several people approached about overdue loan payments were able to prove they had never applied for the money. Police tracked down the suspects using duplicate student photos kept by some of the universities.

Because of the theft, the ministry's student awards branch is reviewing the method used to hand over aid money to students.

"Nobody's ever considered that

people would go to this limit (to defraud the programme). . . but now that it's happened, we've got to take a close look at it," said Doug Anderson, the manager of the branch's verification section.

He said students will probably have to give university student aid officers more identification before being able to receive their money.

Anderson said he knows of only one similar case of fraud. However, in that instance, which happened several years ago and ended in a two-year jail term, the scope of the operation was considerably smaller, Anderson said.

Of the \$175,000 taken, a portion was paid in fees to the universities. Police have not been able to recover the rest.

A whole new beginning...

by Bill Doskoch

You may find this hard to believe, but it's been only 348 days since the last Students' Union election!

And if that seems like yesterday to you, it's only another 49 days until we get to play *Let's Pick Some Hacks* all over again!

What do you have to know if you want to play the game?

"Nominations for positions will open on Feb. 6 and close on Feb. 28, with the election held on March 13 and 14," says Chief Returning Officer Paul Pallister.

There are eight positions open, said Pallister: President, Vice-President, VP Internal, VP External, VP Finance, VP Academic, Board of Governors representative, and Presidents for men's and women's athletics, respectively.

To be eligible for nomination, you need a letter from your faculty showing you are in good standing academically, be a full member of the SU, and have paid your Athletics Board fees if running for an athletics position.

You must convince 25 other SU

candidates of your worthiness so they'll sign your nomination papers (which are available from Pallister in his office in rm. 234 SUB or from the SU offices in rm. 259 SUB) plus you must put up a \$25 deposit.

If you don't want to scramble for the power and the glory but would like to participate in the officiating side of this democratic struggle, Pallister said he will require a deputy CRO and up to 130 people to staff polling stations on Mar. 13 and 14.

If you're sick of conversing about game shows, beer, and cold sores, come to the *Gateway* meeting at 4:00 today. We'll give you topics you can talk about like...
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