

Prep course may help students

by Elisabeth Eid

"Preparatory courses have destroyed the myth put forward by educators that Law School Admission Tests cannot be prepared for," says Doyle Raglon, executive director of the Canadian Home Tutoring Agency.

Raglon believes the LSAT is a legitimate exam which effectively measures aptitude, however he insists there is an advantage in prepping for the exam.

The Law School Admission Service's Manual states that the LSAT is "designed to measure certain mental abilities important in the study of law... The questions yielding the LSAT score are designed to measure the ability to read, understand, and reason."

The Canadian Home Tutoring Agency feels this is not all the LSAT examines.

Raglon insists there is another component part of the exam which encompasses basic "teachable" skills. Skills such as time management or proper assessment of questions gives the applicant a distinct advantage when writing the LSAT.

"The new LSAT put out in 1982 is tougher," says Raglon. He adds that although the math section has been omitted, a challenging logic games and reasoning section has been added.

The LSAT counts for 33 per cent of the admission requirement for Canadian Law schools and up to 50 per cent for American schools.

In view of the 800 people writing the test last year and less than two hundred being accepted into the faculty, a good LSAT could be a crucial deciding factor.

Raglon says "the LSAT makes or

breaks you," and in that respect preparation for the exam is of supreme importance.

He says the CHTA prep-course is designed to give students extensive practise in areas tested in the LSAT. It is a 32-hour course spread over a number of weeks, as opposed to the popular "cram course."

He says the CHTA course features small personalized classes and well-screened, qualified teachers. In addition the use of tapes as well as a home-study package are available for study outside of class.

The CHTA prep-course costs \$395.00

CHTA is modelled after the Stanley Kaplan Tutoring Agency, which operates mainly throughout the United States. Raglon says Kaplan completely dominates the tutoring field, offering every kind of prep-course imaginable — with some of his courses dangling the price tag of

\$1300.

CHTA is following suit by offering a diverse range of prep-courses, including prep-courses for the University Writing Competency Exam and the High School Diploma exam. Each costs approximately \$300.

Raglon says the success of Stanley Kaplan is frowned upon by educators.

Educational institutions view tests such as the LSAT as standardized aptitude tests which need not be prepped for.

F.D. Jones, the Dean of Law says that "testers claim prep-courses don't influence the results of LSATs."

Raglon rejects this idea, and further sees the Law Institution in some respects as "high priests." "The Law school knows you can and should prepare for the LSAT but won't admit it, because they want to conserve their sacred institutions."

Guild revived

by Shona C. Welsh

Every school year sees the formation of new clubs on campus. This year, one such club is the Guild for Mediaeval and Renaissance Studies.

Originally formed in 1960, the Guild is not exactly new to the university, but it has been inoperative for the last two years.

As Acting Convenor, the philosophy department's Dr. Richard Bosley is anxious to revive the Guild.

His interest in Aristotle's Doctrine of the Mean — which purports that life takes a middle course between two extremes — prompted the revival.

"The doctrine is the fabric from which a lot of thinking and writing has been done" says Bosley.

Works by Dante, Shakespeare, Moliere and Saint Thomas Aquinas were inspired by Aristotle's doctrine and today, various professors will continue that tradition by giving lectures through the Guild.

The Guild's lecture series could be a valuable supplement to anyone studying the history of European thought and literature.

Bosley has scheduled an organizational meeting for October 11 at 3:30 pm in L-2 Humanities Centre.

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