

Post grad exam tutors helpful.

continued from p. 1
make exam day as untraumatic as possible. Other services include a "Phone-A-Question" service, application review services, and, in the case of Sexton, the option to repeat the course free of charge up to one year later.

In the final analysis, admission exams probably measure test-taking skills, and how students handle pressure as much as anything else.

Scholarships that never were

by Phil Tank

Fifteen University of Regina students found out that recently they had won scholarships worth \$569 each for their academic achievement.

But shortly after, they were told their scholarships were cancelled.

The university rescinded the scholarships because it miscalculated the amount of money available by \$10,000.

"I kind of had plans for that money," said Kirsten Jewitt, a journalism student and one of 15 who had the scholarship pulled out from under them.

"It just means I'll have to get a bigger (student) loan."

Jewitt said she received a letter Jan. 29 telling her she was chosen to receive a scholarship worth \$569, which covers almost one semester tuition.

Two weeks later she got another letter from the university saying an error had been made and she would not be receiving the scholarship.

"I was kind of ticked off," said Jewitt. "Are they so incompetent that they can't even get their spen-

Moreover, most exams, especially the LSAT, examine basic mental skills and do not presuppose any specific knowledge on the part of the student.

One should also remember that for many schools, admission exams are only one of the considerations for entrance to the faculty. In general, the GPA is still the most important factor, and students with a very high or low GPA will not

ding right?"
Clarence Gray, assistant awards officer for the university said "human error" was responsible for sending out notices for scholarships to 341 students instead of 326.

"It was an error made in this office," admitted Gray. "I'd rather leave the person (responsible) unnamed."
The 15 students deprived of the scholarships had the lowest averages in their faculties of the 341 originally notified.

"The problem I have is that I don't have any money left," said Gray.

"It's a very unfortunate situation," agreed University vice-president Reid Robinson.

Robinson, who helps decide which students get scholarships, said he thought the 15 were informed of the error within two days.

But Gray said it took about two weeks.

The error was discovered Jan. 31. The letters telling the 15 they weren't getting the money were mailed Feb. 15.

greatly influence their entrance possibilities by their performance on the admissions test.

However, this does not mean that preparation courses are of no use. Indeed, admission exams are anything but IQ tests, and student who have mastered the mechanics of the questions and are familiar with the test format will likely perform better than those who don't.

A general conclusion from the "Sexton course I took is that the preparation familiarizes the student with the test format and provides strategies which result in the confidence to achieve good results. In my case, I believe the course made a difference.

If you are planning to write an admission exam and are seeking similar instruction, hunt around for the course that suits your schedule and budget. Also, be prepared to pay anything from \$225 to \$400 for a course.

Ontario student loan frauds face crackdown

by Lynn Marchildon

TORONTO (CUP) — It will be harder to cheat on student loans if the Ontario ministry of colleges and universities follows up on its auditor's advice.

Douglas Archer recommended last fall that the ministry crack down on people who underestimate the value of their houses and cars on applications for loans under the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

In his November 28 report Archer stated that market values of houses on many OSAP applications are understated by at least \$100,000.

"Two applications had market

values of houses in Metropolitan Toronto at less than \$6,000 while houses on the same streets were sold for more than \$120,000," the report said.

He said Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) officials should look more closely at the estimated incomes and assets of all student applicants.

"It's not that we haven't done it in the past, we haven't done it as universally as he (the auditor) might have wanted," said Doug Anderson, the ministry's verifications director for student awards.

In their review of 27 OSAP fraud

cases, the auditors concluded that 14 cases — totalling approximately \$231,000 — could have been prevented had there been stronger controls in areas such as monitoring academic progress and class attendance, and proof of identification.

Anderson said his department verifies students' and parents' income and assets. But the process is delayed because they sometimes have to wait up to two years for actual income data from Revenue Canada.

Anderson says OSAP officials are just starting to process applications for the '86-'87 school year, adding his department reassesses between 6,000 and 7,000 requests a year.

Archer also said that students often fail to list cars on applications forms. But the department checks whether the student owns a vehicle valued at more than \$1000 as part of any routine investigation.

But Anderson said students aren't really getting away with a lot.

"People like to try to pretend that they're beating the system," he said, adding that it's hard to estimate an actual rate of OSAP abuse.

"I don't think it's gone up or down. It seems to be fairly constant," said Anderson. "In my opinion the vast majority of students are honest."

One of OSAP's most spectacular cases involved two individuals who impersonated 60 people to obtain \$175,000 over a three year period. One received a suspended sentence and the other was sentenced to nine months in jail, but permitted a daily absence to work at his own business, said OSAP investigator Dave Payne.

Payne added other examples of OSAP fraud include students applying for a loan and never going to school, or altering their loan application to increase the amount of a loan or change their loan procedures.

Payne said the penalties are inconsistent, but the average sentence is a two-year probation with 150 hours of community service work plus an order by the court to repay the cash.

The report also said the ministry paid approximately \$26 million to lending institutions for defaulted student loans between 1978 and 1986.

Director of Student Awards Rick Kleiman said the ministry expects to collect 80 per cent of that \$26 million. He said 85 per cent of students arrange to repay their loan within six months of leaving school and only three per cent of students never repay their loans.

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