

Students Receive 'Gamble' Scholarships

By T. JAY MATTHEWS
Collegiate Press Service

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — About 100 undergraduates at Harvard University are the winners in a nationwide talent search, but none of them knows it.

Representing one of the largest collective risks ever taken by a college admissions office, they are the recipients of the so-called "gamble fund" scholarships—grants that since 1957 have brought at least 200 high schools' seniors with rock-bottom college board scores and difficult backgrounds to Harvard.

The students have come from urban slums, unaccredited Southern high schools, and migrant camps. Their parents, in most cases, never finished high school and may even have openly discouraged them from going to college.

Only a few members of the Harvard admissions department know who is receiving grants from the fund. The students are told that they have normal scholarships from Harvard. "Obviously you don't write a boy and say 'Congratulations, you're a terrible risk,'" explains Peter Briggs, the director of freshman scholarships.

Becoming Standard

In 1966, this type of program, reaching out to the deprived student, is becoming almost standard in many of the larger universities. Eight years ago, when the program was started at Harvard,

Athletics . . .

(Continued from page 4)
but who probably wouldn't have gotten an education otherwise." In addition, it was noted by Childs, the athletic department runs a tutor system for freshmen athletes. "It used to be we lost a whole block of freshmen," stated Childs, "now its down to 3 or 5 percent." The fact that the coaches receive twice-a-term reports on each boy's academic progress also is helpful. "If we notice that boy's doing poorly, we bring him in and try to help him out," says Childs. "Overall," maintains Childs, "the boy's desire to compete, and the coaches' emphasis on the importance of education contribute highly to the number of athletes that graduate."

there was almost no systematic attempt to reach this type of student.

It was then that Harvard approached the head of an eastern foundation, who was personally interested in helping disadvantaged students. He agreed to contribute \$50,000 personally for a limited time. He believed that other sources of funds could be easily secured once it was proven that the students he wanted to bring to Harvard could survive there.

He was right. "There are now at least twice as many members of the freshman class who are eligible for the program as are on the actual list of gamble-fund recipients," Briggs said. In fact, the original donor has gradually been reducing his payments and by 1970 will have stopped them completely.

Selection Not Easy

The admissions committee has found that selecting boys with a

potential for greatness in spite of their backgrounds is not easy. However, the committee has come up with some real "winners."

One student out of the first group of 20 (which graduated in class of 1961) had grown up in California's Imperial Valley, where his father made \$4,500 a year icing railroad cars and his Mexican mother spoke little English. Neither parent wanted their son to go to college. The student's Scholastic Aptitude Test verbal score was 415; his math was 452.

The college guide books caution that scores this low often indicate inability to cope with college work. Yet (the boy was first in his high school graduating class, student body president, and a debater.

The same was true in the case of a Negro boy from an unaccredited, segregated Mississippi high school. He was student body president and near the top of his

class, even while working night-ly as the janitor in an office building. Yet, his SAT scores scraped the 400 mark, and his father, a \$4,000-a-year laborer, cared little whether his son went to college or not.

Finding Not Easy

Finding students like these wasn't easy. The admissions department figured that it would get applications from a few eligible students in the course of a year but that the bulk of those really eligible for the program might not even apply to a college, let alone Harvard.

Alumni were informed of the program and asked to contact as many high schools as possible. Other groups, certain national organizations and clubs, helped in the search for promising young men from deprived backgrounds and marginal high school educations.

One big problem was the complete lack of help from the parents, Fred L. Glimp, dean of admissions and financial aids, said. "We'd put an application in a boy's hand, but when he got home his father would rip it up and tell him he'd had a nightmare," Glimp said.

Another problem the committee had to face was the big jump from some place like the Imperial Valley to Cambridge and Harvard. To counter this, 10 percent of the fund was used in putting the students through a New England prep school for a year before they began college. One student liked the small town atmosphere so much after his year at prep school that he turned down Harvard and arranged a scholarship for himself to Amherst.

Despite all of the handicaps,

the students are found and most of them go to Harvard. Though their grade average has lagged behind the overall class average, it has been far ahead of what it was predicted to be. The gamble fund has produced leaders in almost every campus activity; one of the students is a Rhodes scholar.

Twenty years ago, Harvard unofficially brought a "risk" from a small farm in the Midwest to Cambridge. Today, he is a well known Ivy League professor. If the admissions people have their way, college faculties in the next two decades will be filled with the same kind of risks.

Upward Bound . . .

(Continued from page 1)
it's boring now," Ken answered when asked how he liked University social life.

"If they'd make them (the Upward Bound students) feel that they can do the work, they'd do better," said Truman Massey, talking of the attitudes of some of the program's administrators.

Truman, a young Negro who was raised in Chicago, but graduated from high school in Portland in 1964, feels that he and his fellow students may even be getting too much help with their studies.

Should 'Help Kids'

On the other hand, he feels

the Upward Bound staff should "help the kids and make sure they don't fall down."

"I believe that plenty of them will be able to pull up their grades this term," he continued.

Truman has a sister attending Memphis State College and a brother who graduated from Portland State College last year, but he worked for a year in a bowling alley after he finished high school.

"You have to pick a time when you're ready to go to school," he said, when asked if he had planned to go to college before hearing about Upward Bound.

He wants to major in journalism, but doesn't know yet whether or not he will stay in college until he gets a degree.

"I want to, and I think, in time, I will. It'll depend on this term and next term," Truman explained.

The next article will conclude this series and will discuss the views of some of the faculty members, administrators and counselors involved in the Upward Bound program.

Tutorials Listed For Tonight

An expanded program of ASUO tutorials will be held from 7-10 p.m. today, covering six subjects. All tutors are students who have received grade A or B in the subject.

Students may receive free tutoring in the following subjects:
French—215 Allen
Biology—221 Allen
Psychology—231 Allen
Italian—266 Commonwealth
Economics (Principles) — 214 Friendly
Physical Science Survey — 105 Science

PL-3 Program

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19
6:30—HUNTLEY-BRINKLEY REPORT
7:00—EUGENE CAMPUS REPORT
7:05—PSYCHOLOGY FILM: "Our Invisible Committees"
8:00—ECONOMICS 202
8:30—FEDERAL MEDIATION: The Work of the Federal Mediation Service is discussed by FMS Commissioners George Walker, LeRoy Smith and Bob McLeland. Prof. Paul Kleinsorge moderates.

Court Convicts 3 of Cheating

Three students were found guilty of academic cheating by Student Court Tuesday.

Although each hearing involved a physical science exam, the three were not connected. All three violations occurred fall term.

The first defendant, a freshman, was found guilty by admission, and was put on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the year.

The second defendant, also a freshman, pleaded innocent, but was found guilty. The sanction is five terms of disciplinary probation. This student was on disciplinary probation at the time the violation occurred.

The third case was tried in absentia, as the accused is presently attending classes at another state school. The defendant, a sophomore, pleaded guilty, and was suspended from the University until winter term of the '66-'67 school year.

Business Group Elects

Alpha Kappa Psi, professional business fraternity, elected officers on Monday for the coming year. The new officers are:

President, Steve Winfree; vice president, Al Gabel; secretary, Herb Plep; treasurer, John Freeman; and master of rituals, Garrett Goo.

The outgoing officers were Bill Allen, Terry O'Rourke, John Shafer, Hallock Woodworth, and Steve Winfree respectively. The new officers will be officially installed Monday.



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What is EWRDI?

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