

Student College Aid still has money available

By Jolayne Houtz
Of the Emerald

Thousands of dollars in scholarships and loans exist for students who are unaware of the fact that they qualify for them, according to Ed Rosenwasser, owner of Student College Aid, a nation-wide, computerized scholarship-locator service.

Each year, 20,000 to 30,000 students apply to Student College Aid (SCA) for help in locating one of the \$500 million of non-governmental scholarships and loans that are in its data base. About one in five applicants is successful, with an average award of \$1,100, Rosenwasser estimates.

Students who apply are guaranteed five listings, but the average is 12 listings valued at \$12,000. Graduate students are guaranteed three, with an average of seven valued at over \$1,500 each, according to Rosenwasser.

In operation since 1980, the Houston-based company began in a local library researching "every foundation we could find," Rosenwasser says.

Applicants send \$3 to SCA for a packet which contains information and a personalized dataform. The dataform is returned with information concerning major, interests, ethnic origin and other background information. The service fee is \$42 for undergraduates and \$46 for graduates.

Another computerized scholarship company, The Scholarship Bank, offers an economy package for \$45 with a

list of 20 sources, or \$55 for up to 50 listings, with a free update one year later.

Steve Danz, owner and director of the business, also offers a two-for-one deal that allows people to pay one price and receive listings for two people since "the average student only counts 17 out of 50 sources," Danz says.

The eight-year-old, Los Angeles-based service helps over 10,000 students a year with its 25,000 sources, Danz says.

The company started out by looking through the major publications of financial aid sources, "and even now about 80 percent of the money comes from 20 percent of the sources. The rest we find by digging in the trenches, so to speak," Danz says.

Danz estimates that 30 to 40 percent of the applicants receive financial aid through their service, and twice as many receive internships "if they're willing to work," he adds.

Most of the scholarships are typical in their requirements, but some apply to only a small number of applicants, such as lineal descendants of Confederate war veterans, descendants of World War I veterans, and those who apply only as twins or with certain surnames, according to Rosenwasser.

One applicant wanted to major in deep-sea diving, according to Danz, who was able to come up with 36 sources, much to his surprise.

"Most of the scholarships ask for certain ethnic groups, GPA,

affiliations with unions or groups," Rosenwasser says.

SCA also published a new booklet titled "How Students of Middle Income Parents Get Governmental College Aid."

This \$5 booklet explains how all governmental awards are need-based and that in order to receive aid, this need must be displayed in the best light — how income and assets are evaluated, how to move funds into different accounts, and when it is better to be a dependent student as opposed to an independent student.

Another service offered is a "trial run" for the Financial Aid Form (FAF). The applicant fills out the form, and for \$12.50 it is sent through the same computer as the government uses to process the forms. Suggestions are then made that would make the student eligible for more money.

Rosenwasser cited one case of a student who made \$18,000 a year and had also received \$50,000 in a court award for a

job-related accident.

The \$50,000 made him ineligible for governmental financial aid until the money was put into a special account that earned interest. This put the student into a different income bracket, making him suddenly eligible for aid.

According to Director of Financial Aid at the University, Ed Vignoul, "You can get the same sort of thing by doing research on your own or from the financial aid office of the

school you're interested in."

But students are more than willing to pay for such a service, as indicated by the increasing profits and growth of these two businesses.

For more information and a questionnaire, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The Scholarship Bank, 10100 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90067, or send \$3 to Student College Aid, 3641 Deal St., Houston, TX 77025.

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Gallery extends deadline

The Gelhan gallery is extending the deadline for student applicants to its photo exhibit, which will run from Oct. 23 through Nov. 30.

The deadline for the general public is Oct. 1, and the deadline for students is Oct. 14, according to Grant Handgis, owner of the gallery.

"We're hoping for heavy participation from students of photo-journalism, hopefully 80 to 90 percent from the University," Handgis says.

The theme is political and social documentation in the '80s, according to Handgis. "We're striving for the impact of the statement in the entries," he says. Call 683-1497 for more information.

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