

GRE, ETS, SOL

Cheating on exams can be easy. Cheating on the GRE is a tad more difficult, unless you take it by computer. That's what Kaplan, a test preparation company, found out when it sent 20 people to take the computerized Graduate Record Exam, distributed by Educational Testing Service, and asked them to memorize questions. Kaplan then presented its test-takers' version of the test to ETS, the only GRE testing service using the computerized test, and exposed how easy it is to cheat on the computer exam which doesn't shuffle questions as much as the paper version.

"The whole point [of the investigation] was to emulate what any college student could do — remember questions from the test," says Kaplan Educational Centers spokesperson Ann Mecca.

Even though Kaplan said it had no intention of sharing test questions with its clients who are preparing for the GRE, ETS filed a lawsuit. It cited Kaplan for violation of the federal electronic communication privacy act, copyright laws, breach of contract and fraud.

"ETS is trying to divert attention away from [its] security flaws," says Jonathan Grayer, CEO of Kaplan. "Suing us doesn't stop the fact that the test is easily compromised."

ETS introduced the computer test in late 1993 and planned to use it exclusively by 1997. It hoped to render the paper-and-pencil test obsolete but has delayed the project until 1999.

ETS reinstated some of the computer test sites in early January after limiting the number of test dates, widening the question pool and changing the question pool.

Ray Nicosia, spokesperson for ETS, says it is always looking for ways to increase security. "The computerized test is secure overall compared to the paper and pencil version. You're not sitting next to someone else, and you can't copy off someone's paper."

Some worry that Kaplan's tactics produced negative results. "Kaplan has given ETS a lot of ammo against test preparation services," says Andy Lutz, head of GRE programs at Princeton Review, the only company offering test-preparation courses for the computerized GRE. "Now we look like bandits.... It's a black eye on test preparation."

But Princeton Review has its own beefs against ETS. It claims the service is abusing student rights in its attempt to convert all GRE tests into the computerized format. It cites "lurking" in student Internet conversations to see if they are trading test questions, the steeper price tag — \$96 instead of \$56 for the written version — and a limited number of testing sites as reason enough for an overhaul of ETS.

ETS admits it did monitor electronic bulletin boards to see if students were sharing information about the GRE but found no significant cases of cheating.

"[Princeton Review is] not against computer testing.... The test is coming out too fast, at the expense of students," Lutz says. "ETS has tremendous incentive to move forward. [Computerization] ensures it'll have a monopoly."

■ Marc Peterson, *Crimson White*, U. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Anti-anti-immigration

Students from Yale to UCLA are developing bold and imaginative ways to combat Proposition 187, the anti-immigration ballot initiative passed by California voters in November. The state law now denies welfare, education and non-emergency health care benefits to illegal immigrants. To date, California courts have refused to allow the implementation of 187.

Many college organizations and coalitions have formed to prevent laws similar to 187 from passing in their own states or on a national level. In Philadelphia, students at Haverford, Bryn Mawr and Swarthmore colleges formed the Tri-College Coalition Against Xenophobia. In Denver, students joined a rally on the steps of the Colorado capitol denouncing 187 and calling for a boycott of California products.

At the U. of California, Berkeley, two groups have formed to oppose the initiative. Grads Against 187 and Students Against 187 are working together to make their college a place of noncompliance to 187.

"We have 60 faculty members, 200 graduate students and 2,500 undergraduate students who have signed pledges not to comply with 187," says Leslie Salzinger of Grads Against 187.

At Purdue U., 12 students from the Leftist Student Network joined a nationwide hunger strike Feb. 16-18. "We want to educate people about social issues and Prop 187," says Robin Cain, a Purdue sophomore and member of the Leftist Student Network.

Metropolitan State College in Denver faced a different challenge concerning 187 last December. The campus-wide distribution of 24 fliers titled "Stop The Mexican Invasion," which contained

racially derogatory language, sparked a firestorm of controversy that continues to burn.

The college, a local daily newspaper and a Colorado-based public-policy think tank organized a forum to discuss 187 and events surrounding the flier. Colorado congresswoman Patricia Schroeder forwarded a copy of the flier to the attorney general's office, which determined that the flier did not present a "prosecutable violation of federal civil rights laws."

Students are using the Internet to post updates, distribute press releases and keep a running electronic conversation to heighten awareness, says Amanda Rieder, a junior at Haverford College and a member of the Tri-College Coalition Against Xenophobia.

Rieder says this helped her initial efforts to organize East Coast colleges. In December, representatives from 13 colleges and universities met to form the East Coast Student Movement Against Proposition 187. Schools included Yale, Georgetown U., Villanova U., George Washington U., Princeton U. and Brown U.

"In terms of off-campus organizing," Rieder says, "the Internet has been an invaluable tool in this movement."

■ Louis A. Landa, *The Metropolitan*, Metropolitan State College of Denver



MisTRUSTing Government

Do you trust the government with your money?

TRUST, (Tuition Reserves for University Students of Tomorrow), an investment plan presented by the Arizona Students Association, would allow Arizona residents the option to purchase tuition to any of the three state universities in advance. No matter how much higher the tuition costs will be in the future, parents would pay only the current rate.

Is it the greatest investment since the blue chip — or just a junk bond?

Parents could potentially break down the hefty \$7,312 figure for a four-year degree into installments — as low as \$34 a month over 18 years.

Money would be refunded to students who attend other schools or never attend college. The payments would be put in a secure trust, to be invested under state supervision. A similar plan has succeeded in Florida — and failed in Michigan.

Despite the options the plan offers, some students are skeptical — or outright derisive. Although built-in safeguards promise to keep nimble fingers out of the

tuition pie, cynics point out that plans like this have fallen through before.

"Safeguards never work," says Arizona State U. junior Tim Baxter, who pays his own tuition through loans and the GI Bill. "Social Security was supposed to have safeguards, but [the government finds] ways to spend that money. Down the line it's 'Sorry.' They raise taxes to cover any loss, and you pay for it twice."

Student body president, ASU grad student and plan supporter Alan Frost counters that the plan offers new opportunities to pay for an education. "It gives people another option. It's like braces. Who can afford buying their kid braces in one installment? It's easier to pay a little each month. It's an investment in the future."

Cynicism aside, most students just don't care — since the proposal won't affect cur-



Who knows? Your kid could be the next Doogie Howser. Start saving now.

rent university or high school students.

"If I had to vote on it, I'd vote against it," says ASU grad student Kurtis Potterveld. "It's probably a good idea, but I get nothing out of it. I'm in college now; I don't have kids. What good is it for me?"

■ James Frusetta, *State Press*, Arizona State U.

Mark Kramer, *State Press*, Arizona State U.