If Johnny can't write now, he had better learn!

By Anita Stork

The addition of a writing test to the College Entrance Examination Board's (CEEB) Achievement Test has been suggested by several Ivy League college deans, according to Albert Sims, vice-president of the New Jersey-based CEEB.

In response, CEEB has proposed four essay tests to be considered by board members and teachers at six regional meetings, Sims said. The first meeting was during January in San Diego and the others will be in February, he said.

The four proposals are:

—A 20-minute one-topic essay and a 40-minute objective test. The essay would be graded by teachers who will be specially trained in uniformly grading tests.

—Replacing the objective test with a 60-minute essay examination covering two or three topics. Grading would be done by the specially trained teachers.

—A writing "sample" with students writing for an hour on several topics. Instead of CEEB grading the essays, colleges would get them for inspection and use.

—CEEB would give 6 to 8 essay topics to high school English Depts. so students could write in class throughout the year. Teachers would grade the tests and forward them to the board for additional corrections and comments. Eventually the essays would be returned to the high schools.

At the regional meetings, specific recommendations on the proposals will not be made, Sims said. Instead, they will be discussed and questionnaires on the proposals completed, he added.

Sims said the first proposal is the most likely to be approved.

"The board will make the final decision in September 1976," Sims said. "The earliest possible date for implementation of the essay is the 1977-78 school year."

Sims said essay tests were a part of achievement tests until 1971, but were discontinued "for financial reasons."

"Our finances are better now," Sims said. "We've improved our management skills."

Money comes from fees paid by students taking the test, Sims explained. Achievement tests cost $11 to take and Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) cost $6.50.

Sims said the fee students pay to take the achievement test probably will increase if the essay tests are added because the essays are graded by hand, not computer.

The cost might be met by spreading costs over the entire admissions testing program (including SAT and achievement tests) by the students taking the achievement tests, Sims said.

"We see a growing need for a writing skills test," Sims said. "Teachers tell us writing is not emphasized in high school, especially because it is not included in the college admission tests."

If essays prove to be successful, colleges may ask that written sections be added to the SAT exam, Sims said.

ACT, not SAT, used

The possibility of adding a written essay to the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and achievement test means little to UNL because the examination used as the university's basis for admission is the American College Test (ACT), according to Admissions Director Al Papik.

"We accept SAT scores, but Regents Scholarships are determined now from ACT scores," Papik said. "This is the second year UNL has given Regents Scholarships from ACT tests.

"Prior to that we used the SAT for resident scholarships and admission," he said. "Non-residents need SAT scores and achievement tests for admission."

UNL switched from SAT because "the services ACT offered were better," Papik said. ACT gives a more complete composite of the student by showing his interests and strong points, he said.

"Surveys show that students in this area (Midwest) generally score higher on ACT rather than SAT tests."

tid bits

If food be the music of love eat on and on and on...

By Lynn Roberts

There's no doubt about it—ours is a country that relishes food.

Whether your food budget allows you to live high on the hog or doesn't amount to a hill of beans, one thing is certain—whatever you can afford certainly will add to the spice of life.

It doesn't matter if you are bananas over eating or hog wild over cooking, your contribution can put the frosting on the cake for some special occasion.

The next time you're out making hay while the cook is in the kitchen, remember to try a little buttering up and see what a honey of a meal it can get you.

And although eating usually is considered the fun part, cooking can be a real piece of cake if you learn to let yourself go in the kitchen.

Some who try their hand at culinary delights for the first time turn out to be as slow as molasses, while others come away from the heat of the stove looking as cool as a cucumber.

If you're a novice and your first attempt at the stove turns into a real melon, don't despair. With a little experience you'll be hamming it up with the rest of the pros.

Remember to keep your wits about you if you get into a real pickle. If you don't turn chicken, most mistakes can be remedied by beefing up your act a little.

Although even the best of coverups will not remedy some situations (the smell of a rotton egg is pretty hard to cover), most of us can learn to fudge our way through any situation.

If all else fails, and you've got the bread, there's nothing wrong with making a hasty exit to the nearest restaurant.

The most important thing to remember is it is not what you eat or where you eat, but who you eat it with.

With Valentine's Day coming up, why not treat your sweetie to something edible that will make you the apple of her eye.

Just remember to pick the right person. You wouldn't want to spent the sweetest day of the year with a real turkey.