

Ex-student perfect on physics test

With only a few hours preparation, 19-year-old Doni Howard of Georgetown scored perfect on a Canada-wide physics test.

Even after being away from his physics courses for close to a year, Mr. Howard received a perfect score of 52 on the 1990 Sir Isaac Newton Examination.

Mr. Howard, who completed his studies at Georgetown District High School in January, was working as a computer programmer for a local business when he decided to take the test.

Although he was taking three math courses in his last semester of school, he hadn't practised his

marking results.

He is still amazed at doing so well after being away from school. When he took the test a year before, still involved in physics courses, he said his marks weren't nearly as successful. He thought he would have lost at least some of the information from the courses.

The test was interesting to write because the creator had a "twisted sense of humor," said Mr. Howard. Reading from the test he said, one question involved lowering water levels at Meek Lake because of difficulty with Wells. Other questions included such prominent persons as "Ryan Baloney," said Mr. Howard.

He said he enjoys reading ahead of class instruction because it is easier to learn in class when already familiar with the material. "I don't really need guidance, I just need a lot of time to work through problems," Mr. Howard said.

He believes his problem-solving techniques are successful because he never gives up on a question but comes back to it later. "I don't let the problem get the best of me," Mr. Howard said. "I always try to learn," he said, adding that cramming the night before a test is ultimately unsuccessful.

Mr. Howard will be taking a five-year Systems Engineering course at Waterloo next September.



Dan Howard

formulas and theories for some time. "I just re-read my Grade 13 physics notes and worked through some problems," said Mr. Howard.

Actually, he admitted he was lucky to receive a perfect score because he did have one wrong answer. The two-hour, 13 multiple choice question test on May 3 was initially marked by computer but the top 200 were scored by hand, Mr. Howard said.

After discovering one of his answers was not among the multiple choice answers provided, he picked the closest figure. He also joked that he was running out of time and made an educated guess when he came to the last answer. He said he was still given a perfect score but he hasn't heard the hand

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