As you can see, this is my first post on lawstudents.ca. I've never been a "regular" here, but as a student who sits on the admissions committee, I came on here out of idle curiosity, to see how our admissions decisions were translating "on the ground", as it were. I was hoping to read about people's excitement at getting admitted, and instead I found this mess of misinformation and neuroses. This is the first time in my life I've ever been so outraged by something on the internet that I've felt compelled to join a message board and post a rejoinder.  
  
So, here is my rejoinder to basically every thread in this forum (Effie & Jiffin, if you're reading this, please don't tell on me...):  
Sweet Christ on a cracker, where the hell are you people getting these ideas? Let me be very, very clear: do NOT rely on the admissions information you've been receiving on this board. Don't even read the admissions information on this board. Why, why, WHY, would you think that anonymous strangers on the Internet are more reliable than official law school policy regarding admissions? If you want to know the answers to your questions, just read the website. Email the admissions office. 99% of the questions I've seen asked on here are answered on the website. There is nothing - absolutely nothing! - secret or misleading about the admissions process. Everything is EXACTLY as it is purported to be.  
  
To wit: the Admissions Committee is looking for good students who will be positive additions to the student body. There are NO absolute standards for who gets in and who doesn't, but high grades and a high LSAT mark obviously demonstrate that you are a good student. The numbers posted on the website are good goalposts for the sort of numbers which are competitive. LSATs are not averaged, and only the highest mark is looked at. Grades are considered in the context of factors, including, notably, rigorousness of program, course load, progressive trends, extenuating circumstances, etc.. YOUR BEST THREE, FULL YEARS OF UNDERGRAD ARE CONSIDERED. Studies beyond undergrad are certainly considered, but won't get you in if your undergrad is truly irredeemable.  
  
The committee reads your personal statement. The committee reads your references, if you provide them. The committee reads your autobiographical sketch. They wouldn't ask for the damn things if they didn't matter. If it was all a numbers game, I (and every other member of the admissions committee) wouldn't have to spend hours sitting and reading the damn files - a computer would just spit out acceptances based on a formula and I could take a nap. But there is no formula, and I don't get to nap. For those with exceptional numbers, an average personal statement/autobiographical sketch will suffice. For those with less exceptional numbers, a strong personal statement and autobiographical sketch can make a difference. So. Don't half-ass your application, and for God's sake, don't LIE. **Whoever suggested that somebody else make up a fake excuse for not taking a full course load, you're an idiot. Any misrepresentations in your application mean that your offer can be revoked. Aside from being dazzlingly unethical and just really, mindnumbingly stupid.**  
  
Does all this sound familiar? It should. It's all on the website. And it's the truth. I don't understand why everyone here seems to have an almost pathological distrust of the official admissions policy. When we sat down for "training" prior to beginning our work, all we basically did was study a print-out from the website. It is the authority which guides admissions decision-making, and what it says is how things actually are. The rest of the process is simply the judgment of individual committee members, who will weight different factors differently. There is nothing more useful that anyone on this board can tell you about admissions, so please, please don't take people seriously on here when they assert that "soft factors don't matter" or other similar bullshit (particularly when they aren't even law students).