

Job prospects look grim

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Women students seeking jobs in the 80's face bleak prospects because most are not geared to work in highly technical fields, says a counsellor for women at the University of B.C.

Nancy Horsman, who recently compiled two reports on women in the workplace, says women's failure to enter traditionally male-oriented disciplines means they will either find unsatisfying work or end up unemployed.

"Women will be segregated into a ghetto employment situation in offices and banks," she says.

One of her reports, based on figures from the Economic Council of Canada, says women should enter faculties such as science, commerce and medicine and gain knowledge about computers if they expect to work in highly paid areas.

Horsman says faculties overflowing with women students, such as nursing and the arts, will likely provide few jobs. New jobs are mostly emerging in areas changing with new technology, she added.

But the counsellor does not blame women students themselves, saying parents and teachers at all levels of education fail to encourage women to explore male-dominated fields.

Women should be helped to overcome mathematics anxiety, encouraged to take up science and when they are competent chosen for teaching jobs and administrative positions, she says.

"The counselling should begin at the secondary level to encourage women to go into sciences and industrial education. The counselling is almost too late when women reach (university)."

According to the reports, women constitute 40 per cent of the work force but 50 per cent of them fail to return after a bout of unemployment. The largest labor force increase for women is expected to be mostly in the 25 to 44 age group, although 80 per cent are slated for mundane clerical jobs. □

Students for more housing

OTTAWA (CUP)—Students in Ottawa are joining forces to push for more student housing and their rights as tenants.

Student unions at Carleton University, the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College have formed a student tenants' association and plan to lobby landlords who refuse to rent apartments to students.

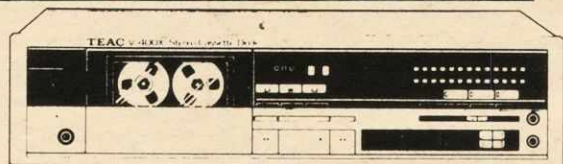
"Landlords still think that students are radical revolutionaries and they can't trust them," said U of O representative Vital Adam.

"If we prove to people that we're more responsible, maybe they'll be more open."

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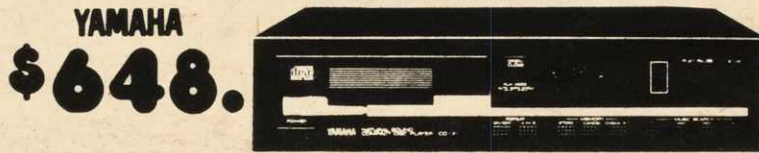
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