

Jim Townshend, Undergraduate Employment Co-ordinator for Agriculture.

Photo Bill Doskoch

Job openings limited

by Bill Doskoch

Permanent jobs exist for agriculture graduates this year but mainly in technical sales.

According to third-year agriculture student Jim Townshend, the undergraduate co-ordinator for summer work experience, it's a good place to start.

"Technical sales are an excellent place to start for anyone interested in working for an agribusiness company. Most people who rise to upper management positions in those companies started in sales," said the 36-year-old Townshend, who has fifteen years experience in the agriculture industry. He is attempting to get into veterinary school.

"Companies feel if you can't function in a job where you have to interact with people, you're not much good to them," continued

Townshend. "In fact, the reason most people don't ascend the career ladder is because they just can't communicate."

Strangely enough, despite the apparent career advantages, not many agriculture students have been applying.

"We've had 21 companies and government agencies recruiting on campus this year. They haven't received the response they anticipated," said Roland Morin, employment counsellor with the campus Canada Employment Centre.

Companies expected 50 to 60 applicants, said Morin, but many received as few as 12 applications.

Morin felt the problem was the fact the jobs were in sales and not more technical or scientific in nature. "The salaries can't be holding them back. They are competitive with other industries," he said.

One industry representative felt the jobs may have been insufficiently advertised.

Bill Chahley, sales manager for Shur-Grain, said his company made an effort as they were on campus three times this year recruiting but they still didn't get the response they'd hoped for.

The jobs require university-level training, Chahley emphasized.

"You are dealing with trained people in the field and you must be able to talk to them at their level," he said.

The federal government apparently shares the same problem with

the companies in recruiting agriculture students.

"We maintain a national list of prospective candidates in Ottawa," said Pat Henderson of Agriculture Canada, "and we always have a small number of applicants from Alberta."

They have a new pesticide program commencing soon, said Henderson, and attrition through retirement should also create openings over the next one to three years.

In contrast, the provincial department of Agriculture doesn't have any problems with applicants, but then again, they don't have any jobs available.

Other possibilities, such as self-employment as a consultant or working overseas with an organization such as CUSO (Canadian University Students Overseas) either provided limited opportunities or weren't seriously considered, said Townshend.

With regards to CUSO, Townshend said it would provide a "hell of an opportunity. You'd learn what real problems are and how to develop solutions that fit the people involved."

Surprisingly, few were going back to the family farm, said Townshend.

A lack of interest, not enough income available or the fact that fewer agriculture students come from farms (and thus had no farms to go home to) were all factors, said Townshend.

by Hans Beckers

Quebec students get break

MONTREAL(CUP)— Quebec university students won't see an increase in tuition fees next year, no matter who's in power in Quebec City.

The Parti Quebecois minister of higher education, science and technology, Yves Berube, announced last week university tuition fees will remain at about \$570 a year, the rate they have been since 1969. Quebec has the cheapest tuition in Canada.

And Quebec Liberal party delegates decided in their annual congress March 2 that maintaining the tuition freeze will be part of their electoral platform.

The youth wing of the Liberal party showed its strength at the congress, also persuading the party to support welfare parity for Quebec residents under 30 and achieve this in the first two years of its mandate. Currently those under 30 receive \$156 a month, while those over 30 get \$430.

A provincial election in Quebec is expected this spring or next fall.

Quebec Premier Rene Levesque hinted recently it will most likely be in the spring.

Berube's announcement on the freeze may have been a response to the new Liberal stance, as a way of holding ground in the P.Q.'s battle for public support.

Pierre Antcil, former Liberal youth president, who fought for the new policies, said: "I know that the freeze of tuition fees is an important issue for students and social aid parity is important for young people. I hope they put their X in the right box though it wasn't done for that reason."

The Liberal congress also committed a Liberal government to open special employment centres for youth, co-ordinated with federal centres, and to create a "consultative council for youth."

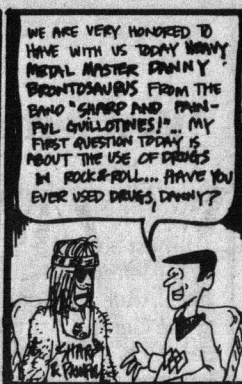
In his statement on tuition fees, Berube said "a rigorous examination of the whole problem (of higher education financing) is needed and because this reflection has scarcely begun, I am not in a posi-

tion to recommend, for the next academic year, changes in tuition fees."

Two weeks ago, students demonstrated at the National Assembly in Quebec City against the possibility that fees would be raised in September.

In their declaration on tuition fees, the Liberals said "education must be accessible to all and all obstacles still in this path must be progressively removed."

Yard Apes



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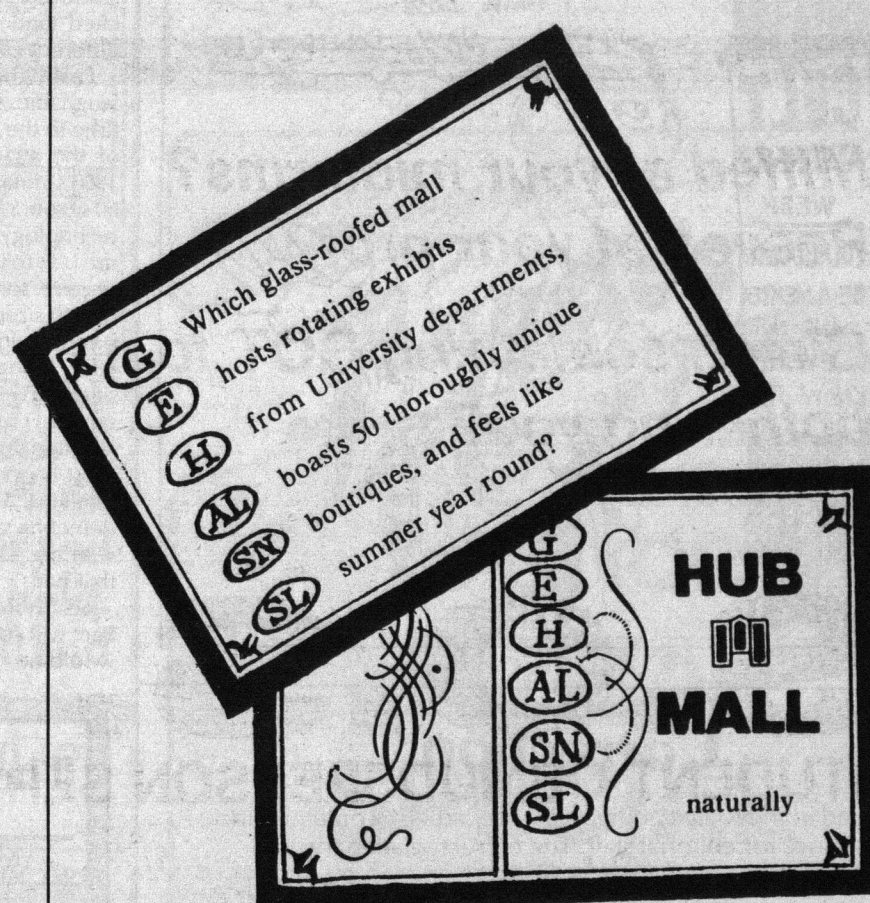
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