

Where have all the graduates gone?

A CUP special feature.

OTTAWA — A Statistics Canada survey has confirmed what many people suspected for years — women are consistently paid less than their male counterparts, even when they have obtained a post-secondary education degree or certificate.

And the survey results will also shock those who believe that their bachelor's degree will find them a job in their field. Only 42 per cent of the survey respondents with bachelor's degrees said their current jobs are directly related to their university studies. Twenty per cent of the degree holders said their jobs actually had no relation whatsoever to their studies.

The StatsCan survey was probably the most comprehensive examination of the Canadian post-secondary education graduate situation ever done. The pollsters interviewed 29,609 students who in 1976 completed requirements for a university degree or college diploma or certificate. That's about one-third of all Canadian graduates for that year.

The StatsCan interviews took place in June, 1978, approximately two years after the graduates had completed their requirements. Some of the survey's conclusions were:

- Women holding bachelor degrees are being paid from \$1,000 to \$4,000 less than men with the same degree in every field, except fine and applied arts and the humanities, per year.
- Women with a masters degree, except in the humanities field, fare even worse. The survey, which compared median rather than averaged salaries to get a more accurate picture, found wage differences of about \$1,500 per year in mathematics and physical sciences up to a high of almost \$7,000 per year in the health professions field. Differences in salary between men and women with PhDs were similar but because of the small number of women with doctorates the survey could not compile enough results for any conclusions.

- There are more women with degrees or certificates looking for full-time work than men in almost every field.

- Only 42 per cent of the bachelor degree graduates feel their jobs are directly related to their studies. Broken down into

fields, 65 per cent of those in education got directly related jobs at the top of the scale while only 22 per cent of humanities graduates found directly related work.

- Sixty-five per cent of the country's college graduates did find directly related jobs.

- Overall 83.5 per cent of 1976 post-secondary education graduates had found full-time work. The top job-finding fields in university were business management and commerce, health professions and engineering and applied sciences, with about 95 per cent of the bachelor graduates employed by June, 1978. At the colleges data processing and computer science programs are a ticket to sure-fire employment, with more than 98 per cent of those graduating in jobs when the survey was taken. Other fields with more than 90 per cent employment include business management and commerce, secretarial arts and sciences, medical and dental services and engineering and related technologies.

- A masters degree is worth about 38 per cent, or \$5,000 to \$6,000 more per year in salary than a bachelors degree, but a PhD will only garner the graduate an additional 5.5 per cent, or about \$1,000, more than the masters.

- Generally speaking, salaries increase with the number of years of education completed.

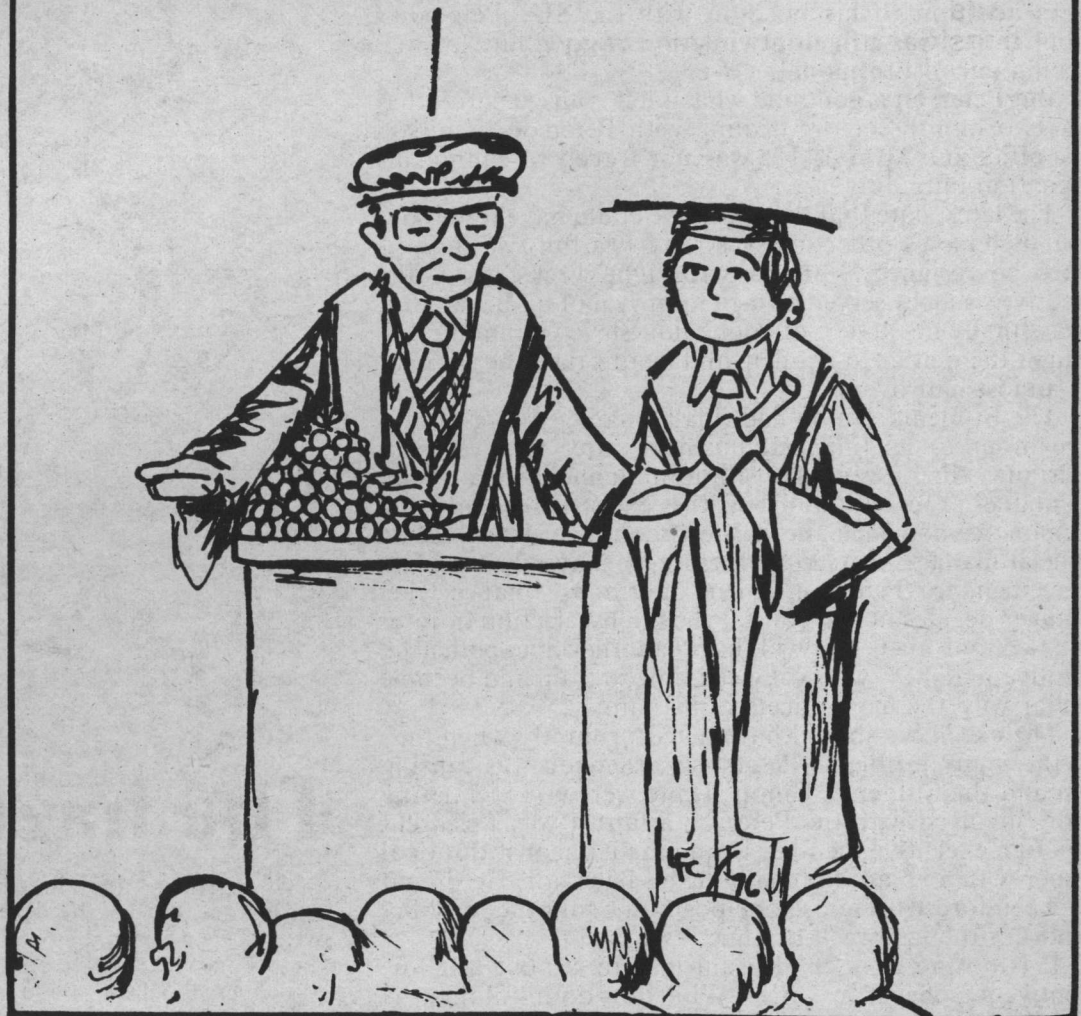
- British Columbia is the most popular place to work among graduates, while Nova Scotia ranks last. B.C. had a net gain in both college and university graduates but N.S. had net losses in both.

Statistician Bob Cornish, who compiled and analysed most of the survey's results has some other observations about the post-secondary graduate situation.

Cornish says that after seeing the survey he believes that for the university student a masters degree is the best investment to make. In terms of cost effectiveness the masters gives a student a higher salary for the additional time spent at university and also a better chance at finding a related job, he said.

Cornish said another observation from the survey is the incidence of masters degree holders "bumping" those with

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8.9 G.P.A., SOUND IN WIND AND LUMB,
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bachelors out of jobs. He found that 70 per cent of those with masters degrees did not need that level of education to meet the job requirements. Consequently employers with a choice between applicants will pick the masters graduate.

Those considering that a PhD will get them a higher wage than a masters should also remember that the four years extra studies will mean a wage loss of about \$80,000, Cornish says.

PhDs also have another problem — overeducation. Cornish says employers are reluctant to hire someone who is over-qualified for a job and this has led to PhDs actually hiding their degree from an employer to get

hired.

Another part of the survey showed that 50 per cent of those in the humanities and social sciences expected to be able to find work in their field, a completely unrealistic dream, according to Cornish. He says people should examine the job situation in a field before entering it if they hope to find work related to their studies.

Cornish advises students to:

- Take summer or part-time work in your field if possible in order to learn what the job would be like and make contacts for the future. "I can't stress its importance enough," he says.

- Take aptitude tests and get professional career guidance. "It's worth every penny spent at

the entrance level," he said.

- Look at trends in the business world to get an idea where jobs could lie in the future.

- Sell yourself to an employer, going back a few times to convince the employer you really do want the job.

- Start looking for a job mid-way through the year, when many employers make decisions on hiring later in the year.

- Finally, use all the information available. The StatsCan survey, titled Employment of 1976 University and College Graduates, can be obtained for free simply by writing to: Statistics Canada, Education, Science and Culture Division, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0T6.

SU tells NUS to cough up \$3000

by Keith Krause

The National Union of Students (NUS) has defaulted on a \$3000 loan made to them four years ago by the U of A's Students' Union.

The loan was to be paid in full by July 5. By that date, though, only \$500 had been paid — enough to cover the interest on the loan.

A June 26 meeting of Students' Council voted to ask for half of the loan July 5, with the other half and accrued interest to be paid later this year. When no money was forthcoming, the decision was made to call for all the loan.

"If they're going to be that irresponsible with our money, we want it back," said Sharon Bell, vp internal.

NUS has promised to repay the money as soon as possible.

The money will be borrowed from the U of Regina, a NUS member. The U of A is not a member of NUS. Membership was voted down in a referendum last year.

"We don't have any money now because not enough new members joined last year," said

NUS fieldworker Bryan Bedford. "We need 20,000 new members each year to break even," he said.

The loan was originally made to aid the financially-troubled organization in 1975, during Graeme Leadbeater's term as SU president. The executive that year voted that the U of A had a responsibility to

keep NUS from bankruptcy, even though a NUS referendum was voted down by students that year.

"NUS had a financial crisis due to overextended services at that time," said Brian Mason, vp

executive in 1975-76. "We recommended lending them the

money to keep our option of membership open."

Bedford said future financial prospects for NUS were good, and that the loan from

Regina would be paid back without problem.

"We have lots of room for expansion in B.C. and Alberta," he said. "Most large universities here are not yet members."

Horowitz new U of A president

Dr. Myer Horowitz will be officially installed as the ninth president and vice-chancellor of the University of Alberta on Thursday, September 13.

The one-hour installation ceremony is open to the public and will begin at 8:30 p.m. in the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

Free tickets for the events can be obtained from the university's Office of the Registrar, telephone 432-3723, or at the door.

John Schlosser, chairman of the university's Board of

Governors, will present Dr. Horowitz and administer the oath of office and Chancellor Jean Forest will formally install Dr. Horowitz as president.

Following his investiture in the robes of office, Dr. Horowitz will deliver an inaugural address.

Dr. Horowitz came to the presidency August 1, 1979. He had been vice-president (academic), the senior vice-president of the university, since 1975.

He succeeded Dr. Harry Gunning as president. Dr. Gunning retired from the post after



one five-year term and is now president of Chembiomed Ltd., a small pharmaceutical company located at the university.