

Canada wide doors slam

OTTAWA (CUP) — Tens of thousands of would-be Canadian students face closed doors this September as record numbers apply for post-secondary education.

Across the country, institutions are raising admission standards or denying financial aid to young people seeking refuge from another summer of 20 per cent plus unemployment.

The crisis is starkest in Ontario, where the University of Ottawa has rejected 2,000 hopefuls, York University has turned away 1,400 and Carleton University has shut its doors to 1,000.

Almost every college and university across Canada is rejecting some students, and most including the University of Alberta, are dealing with the problem by raising admission standards. In some faculties, students with 75 per cent averages can not get in.

Engineering and computer science seem to be the hardest-hit faculties. For instance, 3,126 hopefuls are vying for the 1,200 openings in engineering at the

University of Ottawa, while 1,870 have applied for the university's 150 openings in computer science.

At Trent University, students who missed school for a year or more will be rejected, along with those who did not list Trent as their first option.

Thousands of students are also being turned away from colleges and technical institutes.

Complete enrolment and rejection figures from around the country were not available after the first week of classes, but the situation is clearly the worst it has ever been.

MONTREAL (CUP) — Thousands have been turned away from universities and CEGEPS as Quebec post-secondary institutions were swamped with applications this summer.

Though overall enrolment is down from the last few years, institutions are not equipped to handle the demand, prompting Quebec Education Minister Camille Laurin, to promise emergency solutions.

The real shock comes at the CEGEP level, where so-called "marginal" high school grads are being turned away from all programs.

Ron Harrow, guidance department head at Rosemount High School, says this has changed the original philosophy in the creation of CEGEP post-secondary institutions.

"Anyone should be able to go to CEGEP with a Secondary V (high school certificate)," said Harrow. "This is not at all what it was originally intended to be."

Ironically, Harrow expects his high school to benefit from the increased rejections at CEGEP.

"The chap sitting across from me right now was not accepted at the last minute," Harrow said. "He is returning to get better marks."

Administrators say marginal students squeaked through high school with mickey mouse course credits. Brian O'Boyle, Chaplain CEGEP registrar on the St. Lambert campus, questioned how many of these students are really hurting.

O'Boyle told the *Montreal Gazette* last week these students are weak academically.

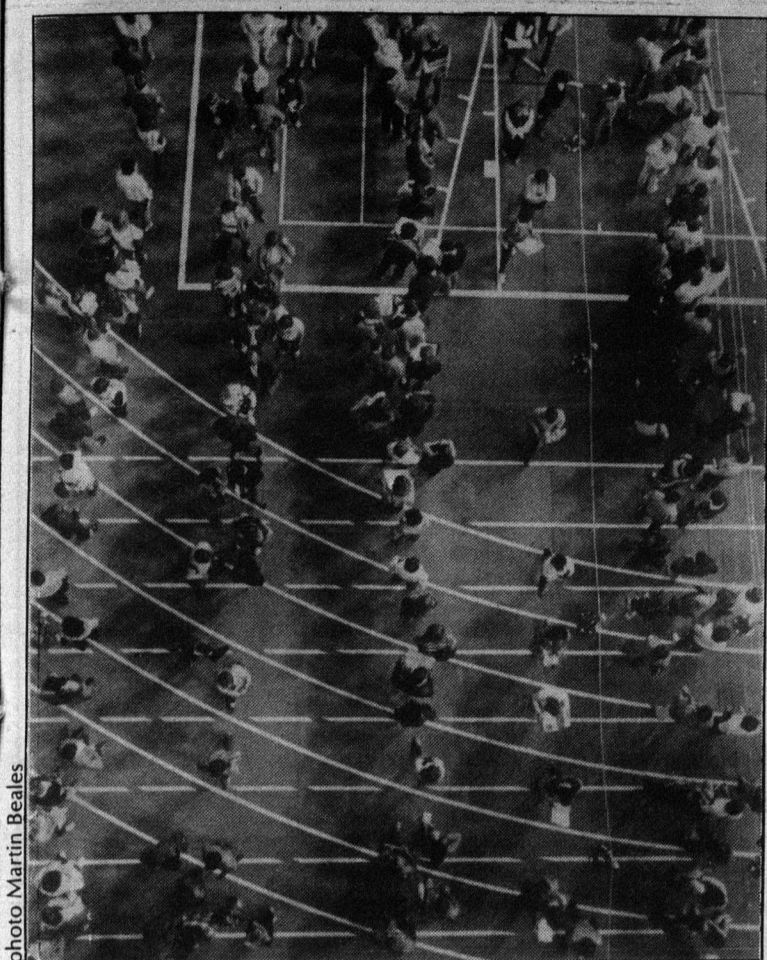


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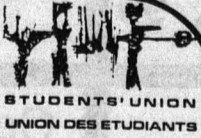
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