

Manpower says ...

## Job Situation Improves

Alberta students can look forward to a pretty good summer job situation this year, says Wayne Swimmer, regional economist for the Canada Manpower Centre in Edmonton. However, if you're looking for a permanent job, you'd better look hard, because according to Mike Zuk of the university branch of the CMC, recruitment at the university is down about 30 per cent from last year.

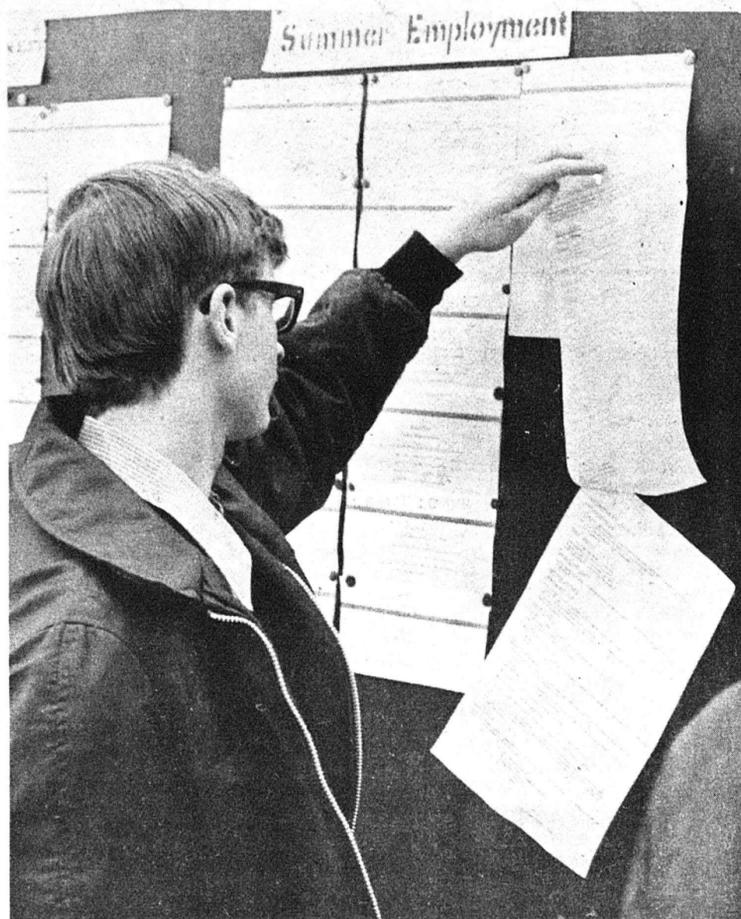
Swimmer explained that the summer employment picture in Canada as a whole is rather bleak, "especially in Ontario and Quebec which have large student populations and which are largely controlled by industry, which is rather reluctant to hire students these days. However, Alberta has a bustling construction industry, and tourism and agriculture are also fairly healthy; so the job situation is much better here.

"This is not to say that students can get whatever job they want this summer; on the contrary, very few will be that lucky, the rest having to content themselves with minimum-wage jobs that might not be very interesting.

"A fair number of jobs should be available in construction this summer, because construction, which lagged in 1970 and early 1971 because of the poor economic situation, has not yet fully made up for lost time and will be extremely busy for some time to come.

"As for tourism, there should be more tourists coming to Alberta this summer than last, and that will mean more jobs in the tourist industry. Also, the increased number of tourists will mean greater business in trade, and this too will provide additional jobs."

"The industry part of it isn't too good, because business and



Doug Kellough photo

Before I came to the University they only wanted a High School Diploma

industry are still examining the implications of the tax reforms and are reluctant to hire until they figure out what's going on. It's quite possible, though, that this will improve before the summer."

According to Zuk, uncertainty over Edgar Benson's tax reform bill is also the reason for the decreased number of companies wanting to hire students on a full-time basis. "However," said Zuk, "the tax reform bill has been passed now, and perhaps the companies have had a chance to examine it and decide how it affects them. If this is the case, recruiting should pick up pretty soon."

Neither Swimmer nor Zuk had any information about the 1972 edition of Opportunities for Youth. "We're always the last people to find out about things like that," noted Zuk. "For instance, last year Opportunities for Youth was explained to the media and immediately made public, whereupon we were deluged with phone calls requesting further information. But details were sent to us by airmail, and took awhile to get here, so consequently we were unable to help them until we got the information by mail. I expect the same thing will probably happen again this year."

Swimmer summed up the situation by commenting, "In general the jobs are there for the taking, but students can't expect anything glamorous. If they don't mind working for the minimum wage, though, they should be able to get a job this summer. Actually, I'm quite optimistic about the summer job situation this year, in contrast to my pessimism of last year."

by Dave McCurdy

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