

Two-day degrees are the easy way

Tired of rising university tuition fees and exhausting course loads? Well, a "legitimate" university degree could be only 48 hours away, according to Derek Sim, owner of Career Counselling Incorporated.

The company, operating from a Scarborough, Ontario post office box, says in its advertising that for \$30 it will supply the names and addresses of American universities providing mail order degrees. "It is possible to get a legal

and quite respectable bachelor's degree from a California university in 48 hours," Sim is reported as saying in a recent *Globe and Mail* report.

Students wishing to spend more time on their education can earn a degree from a state operated university in New York in less than a month, according to Career Counselling's nine page brochure.

The company promises that if there is any work required to get your degree, for a nominal fee, Career Counselling will research and write any essays required.

Sim is also the owner of Custom Essay Service, a Toronto-based essay writing company.

According to Sim, one California institution will send you a degree with gold seal affixed for only \$45 (major credit cards accepted).

Another business, University Novelty and Engraving Company of Tampa, Florida, will provide a degree from the university of your choice for only \$75.

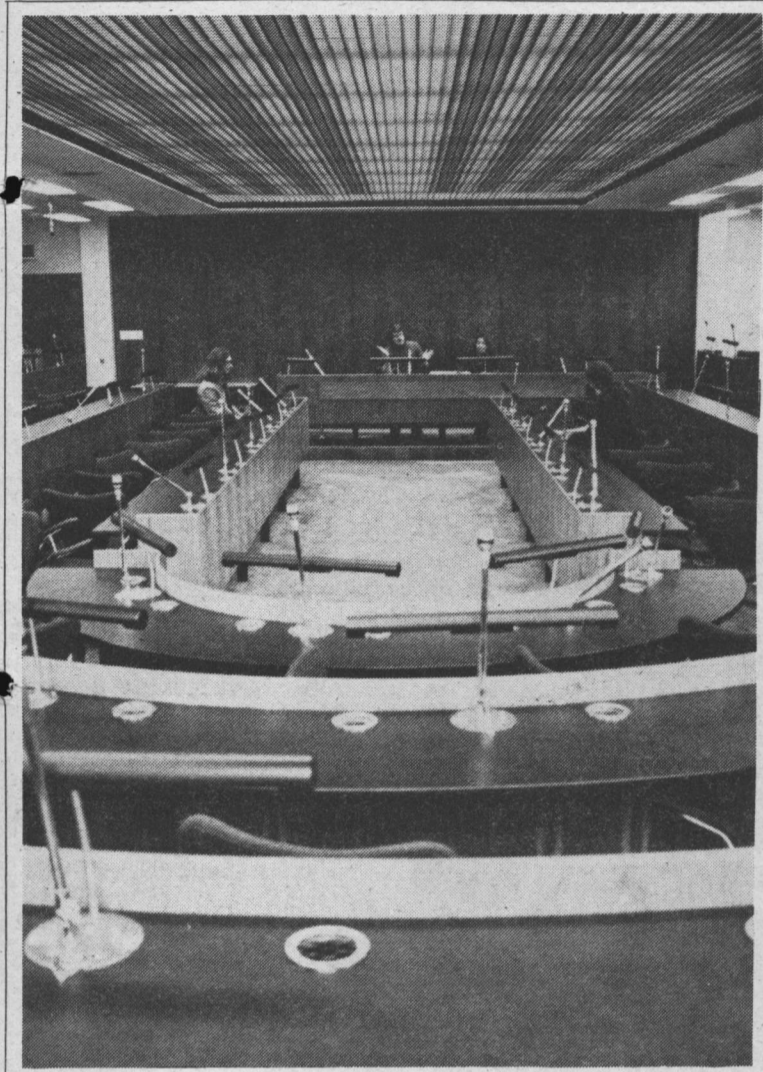
Career Counselling's brochure points out that applicants are required to sign a statement promising not to use

certificates to obtain employment or for any other fraudulent purpose.

If prospective students want to cash in on this deal of a life time, they'd better move quickly.

If a bill introduced in the Ontario Legislature on March 13 by Education Minister Bette Stephenson is passed, Career Counselling could be out of business.

The bill prohibits the advertising of courses leading to a degree from a foreign institution without the consent of the minister.



Empty Council Chambers will soon be filled with the raucous ribaldry of Council changeover. See Dean Olmstead get his walking papers next Monday evening.

Work abroad for the summer

by Alison Thomson

If shearing sheep in New Zealand is your idea of an interesting summer job, the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) may be just the thing for you.

New Zealand is a "very beautiful and different" country, and the SWAP program is the only way in which Canadian students can obtain permission to work there, according to Judi Kempthorne, representative of the New Zealand program.

SWAP in Canada is run by the Association of Student Councils (AOSC) through its travel offices, one of which is to be found in the U of A Students' Union Building.

Exchanges are available for Holland, Belgium, Ireland and Britain, as well as New Zealand. The programs are one of the few ways to avoid many countries' increasingly restrictive immigration laws and at the same time to afford to stay abroad for any length of time.

Kempthorne was at the U of

A Friday to discuss the New Zealand program with interested students. Participants in the program leave together from Los Angeles, although they may return whenever they like, and Kempthorne described the possible routes from New Zealand to Canada, including visits to Australia and South East Asia.

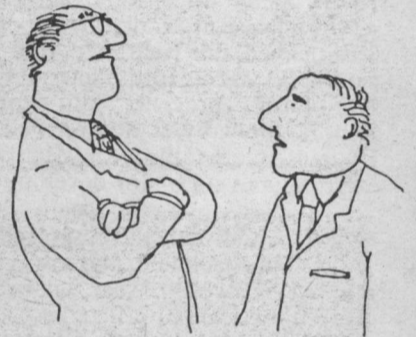
Students generally are employed in hotel and other seasonal work, she said. They don't compete with New Zealand students for the jobs, though, because the seasons are reversed.

The program includes an orientation in Auckland, and help with job hunting and accommodations. Kempthorne says everyone always finds work, usually within a few days of arriving. A 50 per cent discount on domestic flights is also arranged for participants, to make it easy to see the country.

The Ireland, Britain, Holland and Belgium programs are similar, offering various different lengths of time and more specific work experiences.

It's an exciting way to spend a summer — but a word of warning. Not all these countries enjoy a North American standard of living, and all are different from what most Canadian students are used to.

To avoid problems arising from students' unrealistic expectations of travel abroad, the program will require a reference from applicants.



"Could I express that in lay terms? I don't know any lay terms."

Students starve for funding

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton University is starving for funding and to draw attention to the situation a group of students is starving for food.

A dozen students have been on a hunger strike since March 23, in an attempt to publicize the March 27 rally at the Ontario legislature protesting tuition fee increases and education funding cutbacks.

The students, mostly members of the Carleton Univer-

sity Students Association (CUSA) are having only juice until the fast ends.

Liz Altorf, the CUSA journalism representative, said they are trying to illustrate the idea of the starving student.

"Bette Stephenson (Minister of Colleges and Universities) said we had to tighten our belts and the only way we can do that is to go on a hunger strike," she said.

Peter Behie, an arts

representative, said he sees this as a media ploy. "Hunger strikes have been a symbol through history. We've tried other means of protest and now we're doing this, we feel the system is starving, and this is a gesture, a symbol."

Behie said there was no time to involve more students because the idea was only suggested at a CUSA council meeting a few days ago.

Religion is a part of university

by Bruce Pollock

A non-sectarian university is impossible to uphold, according to university president Dr. Myer Horowitz.

Speaking at a U of A Chaplaincy Association forum Tuesday evening, Horowitz said decisions can never be made entirely free of religious ideas and values.

"I strongly believe that it is not desirable to remove religion from the university scene," Horowitz told the 30 member audience.

Horowitz stressed the importance of religious freedom saying it was his aim "to make a wider array of religious communities feel comfortable on campus."

As well, he said he would like to involve more representatives of various religious communities in the ceremonies of the university.

Horowitz also spoke at length on the religious tradition at the U of A.

He said land has been made available to denominational communities almost from the university's beginning.

The university now has two affiliated religious colleges, St. Joseph's and St. Stephen's Colleges which provide theology courses for U of A students.

Soviet specialist to speak

William Mandel, an American educator, author, broadcaster and specialist on Soviet affairs will be speaking on campus this week.

Mandel, author of *Soviet Women, A New Look at Russia and Soviet Far East and Central Asia* will be making a slide presentation on Soviet Women Friday, March 28 at 8 p.m. in Tory Lecture Theatre 11.

Mandel, currently on a lecture tour of Western Canada will also be speaking on current international affairs developments at the Executive

"There is a great need on the part of people to find out about religion," said Horowitz.

"Young people, and those of us not so young, need to be helped to reflect on who we are, where we are, where we are going, and what it is all about."

House Inn (Board Room) at 10155-105 St. Saturday, March 29 at 8 p.m.

Mandel will wrap up his visit to Edmonton with a discussion on nuclear disarmament after the film presentation of *War Without Winners*, produced by the Centre for Defense Information. The film will be shown in the Citadel's Zeidler Hall on Sunday, March 30 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$2.75 regular and \$2.00 for students.

Mandel hosts the radio program *Soviet Lives* originating in Berkeley, California.

Kirk

Kirkwood

You know what's wrong with this city and particularly this campus, don't you? It's not urban sprawl and faceless mobs of people. It's not uncontrolled growth and annexation of surrounding communities. And it sure the hell isn't overcrowded, impersonal classes and cramped study halls. This place isn't too big; it's too damn small.

Oh ya? Then why am I constantly running into people I don't want to see? If this were a real "big city" I'm sure we could keep intolerable chance meetings down to tolerable levels. Here, I seem to meet up with these dimbulbs and dipsticks every day.

Look I am going to pay that guy back. It's just that things have been pretty tight the last couple months. It annoys the hell out of me though, that he stops me every time I walk through HUB and reminds me about it (and none too kindly anymore either). Wouldn't it be nice if we could live on opposite sides of town, say Oakland and San Francisco?

Or if you skip one class, one lousy class. Sure enough your prof is going to sit at the next table from you at lunch. That's embarrassing enough; he doesn't have to shift his eyes like he was crossing out your name with a heavy black marker.

It is possible to avoid these people. Of course you have to live like David Janssen in *The Fugitive*, always checking over your shoulder, taking back alleys and dimly lit hallways. There are people you can't avoid. These are the clods who sat five rows behind you in Economics 201 three years ago and think they are your best friends. They can recognise you from three blocks behind and sneak up on you before you have a chance to get lost in the crowd or jump in front of a moving bus. Why do these people keep bothering me? How many times do I have to tell them? I do not want to play racquetball this Saturday, we should not get together for a beer some time, and I have no interest in any of your diseases, operations, relatives, pets, hobbies, or personal lives. Just get the hell away from me!

And please, where ever you go, take that ex-girlfriend of mine with you. Oh, no, I don't mind seeing her. The cold sweat, the stomach cramps, the hyperventilating — those are just symptoms of an anxiety attack; it's probably not the real McCoy. This sort of thing wouldn't be a problem in a big city. One of us would have been killed by a mugger long before now.

Ya, the bigger the better, that's how I see it. After all, no matter how big a city is you can still find your friends. The people you want to see are just a phone call away. Well, lately they haven't been returning my calls but they're probably just sore at me. Look, I will pay you guys back; it's just going to take awhile. I wonder if that guy still wants to take me for a beer?