

# Summer job situation dismal already

OTTAWA (CUP)—Many students have already made a trip down to their local Canada Employment Centre to fill out the usual forms for summer employment.

But registering early does not guarantee a head start. Ottawa's downtown centre has been receiving between 800 and 1000 applications per day, says supervisor Louise Lacelle, and the summer job situation is "not too, too optimistic."

One Carleton University engineering student went to the centre in mid-January but found the job board dismal.

Another Carleton student Brian Cullinan, just started his summer job-hunt. "It's pretty tough to get something full-time in the summer. You're lucky if you get part-time," he said.

About 6,000 of the 20,000 students registered at the centre last year were placed in jobs, said Lacelle. Most of these jobs were not career oriented, but were in recreation, service, sales or domestic areas.

Bruce Tate, a Canadian Federation of Students researcher, says people 18 to 24 now account for half of the total unemployed.

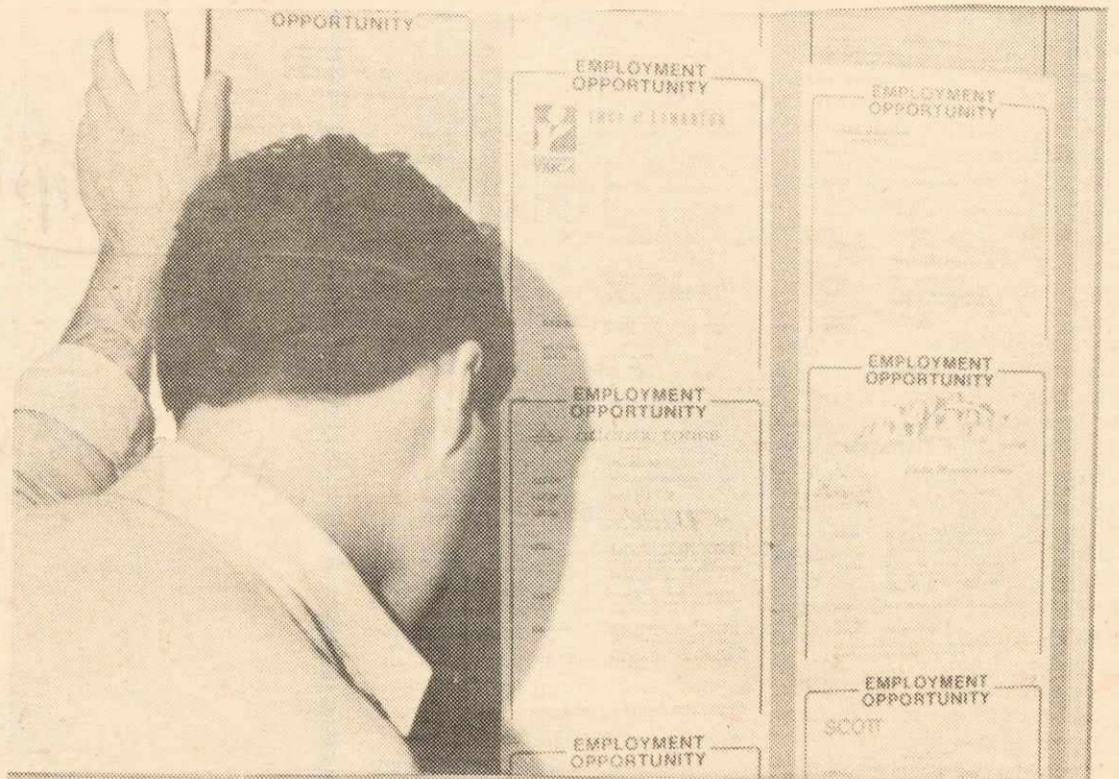
Last summer, student unemployment hit a record high of 19.3 per cent in July, compared to 11.5 per cent the previous year. Tate predicts the rate for this summer will climb even higher.

This summer, students will have to compete not only with thousands of other students to find jobs, but with thousands more laid-off workers.

"The job situation won't get better until general unemployment does," said Tate.

The federal government has so far announced plans to spend about \$120 million on student employment programs this summer. According to a November 1982 CFS conference report, the government would have to spend \$154 million to compensate for inflation over the past year.

The director of the Summer Canada program, Germain Laporte, had no comment.



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