

In a Brunswickan interview, Mike Dolan explained that he left university because he had a better opportunity offered to him outside the university. Currently, Mike, the son of a dentist, is serving an apprenticeship as a dental technician, and is being paid as he learns.

"I wasn't getting anywhere," he commented on his experience at university. "I just thought that I was wasting my time and my money. I had a good understanding with the Registrar's office when I left, and I will go back (to university) if this doesn't work out."

Howard Allen completed his BSc degree, and returned to university to get an Arts degree. He was required to take six courses, and he found it was just too much, especially since he found himself to be in the wrong courses. "I found my studying days were over," he said.

Howard has not yet got a job, even though he has his BSc degree. He has no plans for the future, although he would like to. He has been watching advertisements in newspapers, but so far, nothing has turned up.

"You are not really put ahead with a degree," he said, "because someone going to technical school enjoys an advantage because they don't have to pay him so much. I am willing to work for \$5000 per year. Beggars can't be choosers, especially if you've been out of work for some time. I tend to feel bitter--I'm wasting my life sitting."

Alton Sutherland left university because he had the opportunity to travel. "I am taking advantage of the fact that I can go back," he commented in an interview. "I took a break. Intersession and Summer School are of tremendous advantage. There isn't that five month lag anymore. I am working right now to have something to do. I will have no trouble getting back in -- the credits are there."

Linda Sebastyen left university because she felt it wasn't going to lead her where she wanted to go. "I took up secretarial work," she said when interviewed. "It was more satisfying. I really went to university to get my Senior Matrics -- grade thirteen. I tried it for a few months but I didn't feel that it was relevant to a life where you are making money. I don't know - it just wasn't relevant."

Rita Dillon had a different problem. Her husband was in post-grad work while she was in second year. Her student loan was insufficient to cover her own university costs, and with two children, she was forced to withdraw. "My husband is working now," she said, "but he is paying back \$75 per month for the next 7 1/2 years for his student loan. My student loan is an additional \$30 per month. We had no choice -- we knew that we would have to pay back the loans. What bugs me is that so many people going through on bursaries -- there are so many abuses. There are needy people who need the money who aren't getting it." Rita intends to return in a year and finish her B.A. as soon as she can afford to.

John Ferguson states that "personal reasons" caused him to withdraw from UNB. He doesn't have anything to say against the university system, and feels that he may

return sometime in the future. "I am only 19 now," he said, "and I have lots of time. I don't know what will come up." Currently, he has a job at a local service station.

Some students feel particularly disillusioned by their experience at university. "I didn't like the subjects," said one such former student. "They were just throwing numbers and letters at me. Coming out of high school I didn't know what to do. There were two guidance counsellors for 423 students at high school." His father was an engineer, so he decided he would try survey engineering as well, not knowing what else to do. He found he wasn't suited to survey engineering, but decided to give it another try anyway. Just a few days before the commencement of classes in September, his father died. There is no room for personal crises in university, and again, he had difficult problems with his studies.

"In first year engineering, most of the classes are of 100 students or more," he said. It is very hard to see a prof if you need help. Most of them when you're not doing so well don't even want to look at you sideways. But if you've got an average of 85, then it's different. The textbooks were definitely bad -- I had to buy two complete sets for the two years I was at UNB, and I couldn't even sell them back to the bookstore at the end of the year. I feel that they cleaned me out -- they

they made all the money off me that they could." Currently, he is taking a Basic Art course at the high school Adult Education programme. He intends to try something in the future, maybe tech school or something like that. In his own opinion, he has "wasted two years" of his life.

Many former students at UNB have dropped out to attend other universities, while others have dropped out to work. One of the latter is currently employed as a Toronto policeman, while another is working in London, England. Medical reasons forced one student to withdraw, while another dropped out to get married.

Many of these so-called "drop-outs" are bitter about their failure at university. They had been pushed into college by their high school teachers or parents, even though they were either disinclined or unable to complete a university education. They have been disappointed, disillusioned, and disgusted. Although some of them have been able to recover, and have gone on to find jobs or other pursuits, others haven't. To these, their failure has been the most humiliating experience of their lives. Their self-confidence has been shattered, perhaps irreparably, and they have become partially alienated from society. What do you say to them?

