

Politics and pornography
have a lot in common...

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...both are shallow, contrived
and degrading to the
participants.

Bill Doskoch

Grim scenario for grads

Forest sector faltering

by Bill Doskoch

Attention forestry graduates:
Research is in, industry is out.

"There has very definitely been an increase in the thrust of research," says Howard Pratley, administrative officer for the department of Forest Science, with forest industry opportunities in short supply.

This trend could be partly attributed to the recent federal-provincial forest renewal cost-sharing agreements, Pratley said, and the continuing slump in the industry.

There were also proportionally more jobs available in research for M.Sc. foresters than for B.Sc. holders, Pratley said.

For industry opportunities, "realistically it won't be very good for the next couple of years," said Les Davies, Alberta operations manager with Woodlands Resource Services Ltd., a forestry consulting firm.

It would be even worse for recent graduates, said Davies, who has 20 years experience in the forest industry. "I personally know several foresters with a couple years of experience who are piling lumber on a green chain (a very low echelon sawmilling job) right now."

It wasn't because of their competence, said Davies, but was a reflection of the present grim economic



Photo Bill Doskoch

realities of the industry (Note: recent federal government statistics indicate that forest industry workers face, at 24.9 per cent, the highest sectoral unemployment in the country).

The federal government would have five to 10 new positions available because of the cost-sharing agreements, said David Kiil, director of the Northern Forest Research Centre.

He did not specify how many of those jobs were at a level where recent graduates could be considered competitive.

However, he was more optimistic than the provincial government,

where job vacancies "are very, very limited," said Terry Seaborne, personnel co-ordinator for the Alberta Forest Service.

Every opening had to be justified or the position was closed, said Seaborne, and very few positions had even come open. Those that had were objects of fierce competition.

"We're getting people with 2-3 years experience applying for summer jobs," Seaborne said.

Out of the 25 per cent of graduates who have already been placed, 85 per cent had previous technical training or work experience, Pratley noted.

But what if a person is part of the 75 per cent who doesn't have a job waiting for them?

Twenty per cent were going into graduate studies, said Pratley. He didn't know of anyone who was going overseas with an organization like CUSO.

As for the rest who presumably want to test the waters of the workplace, "Hustle. Be prepared to get on the street and approach any organization involved with forestry. Don't be fussy about the pay or position, just get your foot in the door and wait for something more permanent," concluded Pratley.



Photo Bill Doskoch

Stephen Lewis, Canada's ambassador to the United Nations, spoke at SUB last night. Story on page 6.

International Youth Year is passing feds by

OTTAWA (CUP) — The federal government has no immediate plans to launch an advertising campaign for International Year of Youth, even though three months of the year have nearly passed.

Youth ministry officials say the delay in advertising stems from a lack of funds and disorganization in the youth portfolio, which has been held by three different ministers since its inception in December 1983.

Brad Mann, assistant director of communications in the secretary of state's office, says youth minister Andree Champagne has only asked for advice on how to launch the year and has yet to approve a budget for advertising.

"There's no decision on advertising because the minister has not yet taken it. We have had such a rapid turnover of ministers and must present a new budget and briefing to each one," Mann says.

"We've had so many changes. It's only normal that the minister would want to become acquainted with her portfolio before making any decisions and would want to make those in an orderly fashion."

Champagne took charge of the youth ministry shortly after the Tories swept into power. She succeeded Liberal MP Jean La Pierre, who held the post since July 1984. The first youth minister was former Liberal MP Celine Hervieux-Payette, appointed in early January 1984 and replaced by Lapierre in the Turner cabinet.

In a speech to the Ottawa board of education in December, Champagne promised to spread information about the year's themes and objectives to the public. And in a speech to the House of Commons in January, she further promised to develop a communication program to heighten Canadians' awareness of young people's contribution to

society.

So far, the youth ministry has produced two bulletins outlining the year's activities, posters and buttons. It has less than \$3 million of promotional material out of a \$22 million budget.

Gilles Leveillee, youth ministry chief of staff, says Champagne may allocate more money for promotion at the month's end and that ministry officials are examining the effectiveness of advertisements in student newspapers and on the radio, two forms of media that reach thousands of young people.

"I'm just trying to see the best way to spend our money. I'm for advertising but we have to find the best way to reach youth with the money we have," Leveillee says.

"It's a matter of having to split the pie when the pie isn't very big at all."

Leveillee says the youth minister has not yet conducted an information blitz through the media because she changed the criteria for grant eligibility in late November, two months before she actually launched the year in her House speech. The criteria changes include accepting applications from organizations, instead of just individuals, and including partial salaries as part of budgets for grants.

Opposition MPs say they are not surprised that Champagne has failed to advertise the year, which they say has been a sad joke played on young people since its beginning.

"No advertising budget is fairly consistent in regard to the government's initiative for youth. Not much is going on anyway," says Howard McCurdy, NDP education and youth critic.

"I don't know if Champagne has made very many decisions. I don't see that she's doing anything at all."

Liberal youth critic Sheila Fines-tone says the year is the "biggest secret in town" and has turned out to be one "big birthday party" for the minister, her staff and young people not bothered by social problems.

"She's the minister of one fat big

party and should change the title of her ministry to the ministry of untroubled youth," she says. "Either youth have a voice that has an impact in the highest levels of government, or the ministry should be cut out and the farce be stopped."

Gov't does good

by Mark Olyan

According to Linda Laing, Youth Consultant of Alberta Manpower, the response the Alberta Youth Employment and Training Program has been excellent.

"We're getting at least as many calls from employers as from youth," said Laing. "A lot of private agencies encourage business to call us since they could end up with a graduate from NAIT, the U of A or Grant MacEwan."

The program is broken into two distinct parts.

The first part of the program is designed to aid post-secondary graduates who are currently unemployed or working in jobs unrelated to their education, to get an opportunity to work in their field.

The second part involves hiring young Albertans between the ages of 18 and 24, with preference for high school graduates.

For the post-secondary students, the Alberta government will reimburse employers for 50 per cent of employee wages, up to \$3.75 per hour or \$7,800 per year.

If the employer offers full time training, however, he is entitled to \$25 per day, up to 75 per cent of training related costs.

In the 18 to 24 age group, the Alberta government will again reimburse employers for 50 per cent of the employees wage, up to \$3.50 or \$7,280 per year.

Fifteen dollars per day will be provided to an employer for full time training or up to \$75 per week for the duration of the training.

When asked about the prospects for graduates from the U of A, Laing said "they (the students) would have good opportunities, it depends on the area they're in, but some businesses could use them. For example, companies are looking for people to do research for them. Also, sociology or psychology degrees can be important in child care institutions."

Any young Albertans eligible for the Internship program can call the Edmonton Career Centre at 427-5659. Potential employers can contact Alberta Employer Development at 427-8517.

Cultural expo

by John Watson

The Students' Union is sponsoring a Multicultural Expo Mar. 20 to 21 in SUB.

Billed as a mini-heritage days, the expo will include displays from 25 campus clubs, all will have a booth in SUB.

The local theatrical group Laughing Stock will give a performance on the subject of racism in SUB Theatre Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m.

Paul Alpern, SU VP External, hopes the expo will demonstrate the 'very large diversity' of ethnic groups on campus.

Many of the groups will be offering food samples, some free, some not, as well as video and film

displays.

The SUB Theatre is booked for Wednesday and Thursday. After Laughing Stock, the Philipino Students Association will perform with dance and music.

The Chinese Library Association will be showing a film on Thursday between 7 and 11 p.m.

In Dinwoodie the Punjabi Students Association will stage a theatrical performance and the Caribbean Students Association will perform a dance.

"The whole lobby area should be alive with music and color," according to Alpern.

For more information on the expo, call Paul Alpern at 432-4236.

JUDITH HAIVEN, author of *Faith, Hope, No Charity*, will be speaking about her book and other topical topics at the Gateway (rm 282 SUB) at 12:30 p.m. on Thurs., Mar. 21.
C'mon down! Everyone welcome!