

## Is university worth it?

Reprinted from THE GEORGIAN  
By CATHY SMITH

University education is under attack - students are questioning the value of a university degree.

High unemployment rates and heavy competition in the labour market force people to reassess the importance of a post-secondary education. If a degree is not a guarantee of a job, many say, maybe the time and money are not the good investment we imagined.

In the not so distant past, while reasons for attending university differed widely, one thing was known, staying in school would help you get, and in some cases guarantee, a job. That has become less and less true. The realities of the job market have brought about a shift in student attitudes.

Ted Maroun, director of counselling services at McGill University said he feels there has been a decided shift in student attitudes.

"Ten years ago people felt they could get a job because of a university education," he said. "Now they know what they want to study but are worried about getting jobs."

Rita Lee, academic advisor at Champlain College, says students are choosing courses based on their practicality. "What they are saying is that they won't study certain things because they won't lead to a job."

At McGill, Maroun believes the shift in student attitudes accounts for the increase of students in management and other business courses. The Faculty of Education, on the other hand, has experienced a drop of almost 50 per cent in the last six years. Although he knows there are many reasons for this decline, Cran Bockus, associate dean (student affairs) in the Faculty of Education, knows this is due in part to students' realistic attitude.

Bockus and Lee believe these realities have had at least one good side effect - the students in

university today are more career oriented and serious about their studies.

"They are not just filling in time - they really want to study," said Bockus. "They are much more serious."

Students in career programs at Champlain are more serious about their work, says Lee. They are using the library more and there is a high demand for tutors.

Many university graduates today are faced with the task of finding their own links with the job market. Concordia History professor Robert Tittler says graduates from that department have been able to find employment in journalism, law and urban planning.

The battle is nonetheless an uphill one. "It's not going to come to you - you have to go out and find the job," said Tittler.

Cathy Brown, the director of Loyola Manpower Centre, admits that Arts graduates may have difficulty getting jobs but that they are employable.

"The first job may be harder to get but eventually it does make a difference. They are more mobile than colleagues without degrees. It gives them upward mobility. It is not so much important what area the degree is in."

Maroun says that students who opt for technical schools over university education find jobs more easily but lose out in the end.

"Over the long haul they are limited," he said.

Tittler pointed out that although students in arts disciplines may have a hard time getting their initial job in the long run they have the advantage.

"Those with specific skills don't have a broad background, therefore their jobs can become outmoded." He cited a study carried out by the University of Michigan which concluded that specialized

employees experience more dissatisfaction on the job than workers with broader based skills.

While many educators tell their students the grim reality of the labour force, they also hope students will understand the importance of a university education. A study done by the General Electric Company in the United States in 1974 revealed that employees in management with university degrees considered English to be the most important course they had taken in school.

Faced with the real world few can afford the luxury of a university degree for its long term advantages. Maroun believes the intent of the liberal arts education has been prostituted over the years and that few consider the value of education for its own sake.

Although advisors and professors hope students will value their education, they are at least pleased that students are examining why they are there. Only then can they derive some value from it all, be it concrete or intangible.

Rather than  
fill this week's  
issue with tributes to  
John Lennon,  
the Brunswickan  
will publish a personal  
appreciation of this great  
artist next week.  
Stay tuned.

### continued from p. 10

policy.

"Every year we spend days or months of discussion for a couple of extra pennies. If we get a fixed contribution from the Students' Federation, we wouldn't have to go for a budget every year."

Radio Campus started up again last January with a budget of \$17,000 from the Student Federation. The Federation gave them \$23,000 for 1980-81 and the rest of the station's \$35,000 operating budget will have to come from other sources. Tellier said the station receives about \$8,000 in advertising revenue.

Mackie described CKCU's relationship with CUSA as "hot and cold." In 1975 when the station first applied for its license, Mackie said CUSA's support was fantastic. The lowest point in their relationship came in 1977 when CUSA froze all salaries at the station because CKCU went \$58,000 over budget during its problems with the CRT. C.

But, said Mackie, "Since 1978 we've had nothing but support from CUSA."

"They have in the last two years dispelled any worries about financial management and proved them-

selves to be an excellent radio station," said CUSA president Greg McElligott. This year, the Carleton students' association contributed \$55,000 to CKCU.

Both CKCU and Radio Campus rely on volunteers. They entice them to the station by offering training programs in various aspects of radio broadcasting. But it is hard to keep volunteers once school work builds up.

Mackie said people are reminded to "put a show in the bag" in preparation for exam time. Sandy Bars, producer of CKCU's Artistic Licence, added the station has less staff in December and during the summer months. "It's a little harder but we manage by having producers and announcers do the extra work," she said.

Radio campus also had its problems during panic times of the year. "As the school year goes on, people drop us half way down the line, or the quality of their program will decrease considerably in content and format," said one director at Radio Campus.

Tellier said Radio Campus would like to get on FM but they will wait to find out whether they can do it financially and administratively.

Crack a pack of Colts  
along with the beer.