

# Little work for students last summer

OTTAWA (CUP) - Students returning to universities and colleges this month are likely to have pinched financial resources, according to August unemployment statistics released Sept. 13 by Statistics Canada.

The August unemployment rate for returning students of both sexes between the ages of 15 and 24 was 15.1 per cent. For students of both sexes and aged 15 to 24 who attended school last March but are not planning to return to school this month, the unemployment rate was 20.7 per cent.

And youth generally encountered a severe shortage of jobs. For men aged 15 to 24 the unemployment rate was 15.2 per cent; for women of the same age the unemployment rate was 14.4 per cent.

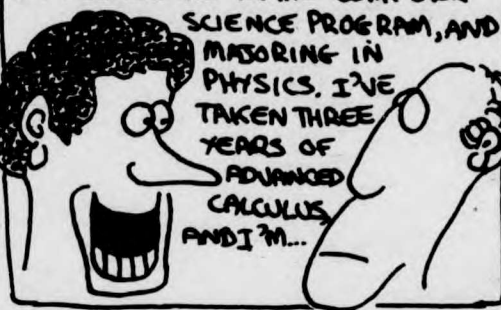
Unemployment for the Canadian work force stood at a high 8.2 per cent in August.

WIT by M.A.S.

SO YOU WANT A SUMMER JOB—WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE?



WELL SIR, I'M GLAD YOU ASKED. I'M CURRENTLY IN THE COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM, AND MAJORING IN PHYSICS. I'VE TAKEN THREE YEARS OF ADVANCED CALCULUS AND I'M...



BUT ARE YA GOOD WITH A SHOVEL?



## At York, we Fared (a little) better

By Robert Gasner

How does it feel to compete with over one million people for no jobs?

With the end of exams, and the commencement of summer holidays, students across the country found themselves faced with that very problem, one which has been plaguing Canada for

years.... unemployment.

According to the *Student Advocate*, the National Union of Students newspaper, unemployment for university students was 15.1 per cent, nearly double the national average. One reason for the high percentage can be traced to the poor employment situation in the

Maritimes and Québec.

On a small sampling it seems that the students at York fared much better than the national average.

Of fifty undergraduates interviewed, only two students could not find any employment whatsoever. Although many of those questioned were underpaid and underemployed, (having to take jobs that were beneath their qualifications) all of those interviewed managed to earn, in one way or another, enough money to return to school for at least another year. Below are excerpts from some conversations with students about what they did in their summer break.

was almost minimum wage but the job wasn't very hard to find. Although the job was boring as hell I made enough money to return for another round."

**Fred Bates**

"It was fairly easy to get a job because I worked at the same job that I was at last year. I worked at promoting groups, particularly the "Bay City Rollers". I moved from Ottawa to Toronto because here is where the market is. About unemployment, I feel that people that go to university can find jobs through connections."

**Alexander Cariotis**

"No, I couldn't find a job in my field. I am a graduate student in economics and the only job I found was as a labourer, so I didn't work. Language was a problem because I am from outside of Canada. Now I work as a marker and as an assistant in the economics department at York."

**Linda Papik**

"I worked in a store for about minimum wage. I had a very hard time finding a job but I finally found one. Even though the wage was not very good I still managed to come back here again."

**Charles Siwale**

Charles, being a foreign student, is not permitted to work in Canada because of his visa. "I did not work this summer but I went back to Zambia. The Zambia Brewery pays me to come to York University to study business and economics. I just went back to my country for a holiday. I am the exception rather than the rule."

**Rosalind Edmondson**

Due to the nature of her work, Rosalind could not find permanent employment. For a few weeks she worked for Canada Manpower in southern Ontario translating for French Canadian migrant farm-workers. Her husband also had trouble finding a job in his field, clinical psychology. He tried but it was to no avail. Finally he had to do what most graduate do, become underemployed.

**Ron Warne**

"I worked at Humber College tennis clinic again for the seventh year in a row. I've never had any trouble finding a job because of my specialty.... tennis."

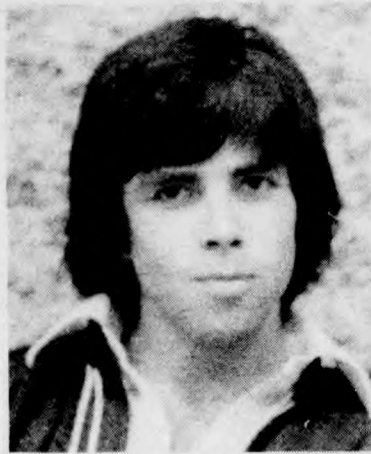
**David Eisner**

"I worked as an actor and it was tough finding work, not because of unemployment, but acting work is always hard to find. When I wasn't acting, I worked in a furniture factory. It was a good, good summer."

**Andrea Doucet**

"Unemployment....yes. Out east the situation is really bad. After applying to about 10 different places, I finally got a job at a Dominion store in Bathurst, New Brunswick, but that was only part time."

The figures from our small sample can be misleading because many people who didn't get jobs just didn't come back.



Pictured above are some of the students interviewed by Excalibur about their work experiences last summer. Top row, left to right are Steven Goldenberg, Fred Bates, and Rosalind Edmondson; and bottom row, left to right, are Ron Warne, David Eisner, and Andrea Doucet.

## NUS asks us to write Pierre for jobs

OTTAWA (CUP) - Students at 27 universities and college campuses are participating in a National Union of Students mail-in campaign against unemployment.

Student unions across the country are distributing cards for students to sign and mail to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, which express disappointment with the federal government's inability to halt increasing unemployment and ask that a new federal student aid plan be established.

NUN executive secretary Dan O'Connor said September 12 that "all indications to date are that the campaign's success will make students' presence strongly felt in the prime minister's office." O'Connor said that as of that date, campuses involved had ordered 62,000 cards to distribute, and added that he expected 100,000 cards would be mailed during September.

Cards are being distributed in registration line-ups and in blitzes of classrooms, residences and cafeterias at larger campuses and during general meetings at smaller campuses. "The only students reported as not being very willing to sign cards have been commerce students," O'Connor said.

At its May conference, NUS decided its first priority is fighting unemployment and improving

accessibility to student aid. O'Connor said the mail-in campaign was planned during the summer and set for the beginning of the school year to provide "concrete, visible demonstration of the fact that this year, right across the country, there is going to be activity on these issues."

The message on the cards is: "I am gravely disappointed that your government has let unemployment climb since 1975, hurting millions of Canadians, when massive job

creation could have improved the situation of the unemployed, of whom half are students and other young people.

"Also, I ask that your government move quickly, with full opportunity for public and student participation, to establish a new federal student aid plan which operates on the basis of students' actual costs and resources, meets the unique situation of part-time students and is no disincentive to needy students."

He said the mail campaign will be followed by provincial and local work to provide more information about the issues and to determine what the most pressing issues in student aid are.

When student organizers learn what aspects of student aid students are most willing to fight about, he said, representatives to the NUS conference in Calgary October 21-23 will be better able to decide what specific demands students should make of governments.



Four hopeful university students look for Excalibur's "help wanted" section. They realize that the bleak job situation is not about to get any brighter and if they want work, they'd better start looking now.