

# There is no job like it... drive tanks, shoot guns, have fun

**OTTAWA (CUP)** — The Canadian Armed Forces has fanned out around the country in search of university graduates who want a job starting at about \$20,000 a year.

And they're having trouble finding recruits with degrees — especially francophones and engineers.

Maj. Lawrence Garvin, who makes the final choice on who gets into the army's Direct Entry Officer (DEO) program, says it's a chance young Canadians shouldn't pass up.

"We are hiring, we're a good organization and it's a heck of a lot of fun," Garvin said. "I'm in the armoured division. We're the ones who drive the tanks and shoot the guns. And it's a lot of fun."

"We've got a requirement for just about any university degree going," Garvin said. "We'll take people."

He listed advantages such as

travel, responsibility, good pay, and a different kind of lifestyle.

Working through the Canada Employment Centres on campus, recruiters from 37 offices nationwide are visiting every college and university where they're permitted, interviewing candidates. Last year they hired 436 DEO's.

Army recruiters are not welcome at Concordia University in Montreal. In the spring of 1984, Concordia students narrowly passed a Military-Free Zone referendum, amending the student council constitution to forbid student groups from inviting military recruiters.

Last year, the Association internationale des etudiants en sciences, economie et sciences (AIESEC) invited the army to a career day, but later were forced to withdraw the invitation.

If a graduate gets through the interviews, he is sent to Chilliwack,

B.C. for nine or ten weeks of basic training.

"You're taught a certain amount of small arms. It's very demanding physically," Garvin said.

"There are lots of outdoor activities... putting people in stress situations to see how much their leadership abilities go down as their lack of sleep goes up. That kind of thing."

Recruits are permitted to drop out anytime during the training, but the army refuses to say how many did last year. After training, the new officers have to sign up for three year's duty. At that point, they get to choose again if they want to continue with the army.

Some people can't get jobs though. Last year, only 64 of the DEO's were women. Women cannot serve on board ship or in combat arms.

And the army refuses homosex-

uals. "We have, in the past, been releasing people for what we call sexual deviancy," Garvin said.

He said recruiters don't ask directly if a person is gay, but they do ask what relationships they have.

While desperate to entice engineers, the army is not as smooth as it should be. Two weeks ago recruiters scheduled a talk at Carleton when all engineering students were in class. No one attended, so recruiters rescheduled it for later in the day when people could come.

A recruiter for Mitel Electronics

in Ottawa confirmed that army pay, about \$18-1900 a month up to \$32-34,000 a year after three years, is competitive with pay in the private sector.

An you don't even have to love the Queen. Garvin, who's been in the army more than 20 years, but only recently got an Ottawa desk job, said three kinds of people enlist:

"People who want a job, people who like the outdoor life, and people who want to serve the country."

## Sorry, Bruce!

Profuse apologies to Bruce Gardave, photographer extraordinaire (not to mention esquire), whose byline was inadvertently left off several of his photographs in the last couple of issues.

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