Summer employment is going to be hard to find

TORONTO (CUP)—After the horrors of student unemployment in the summer of 1982, it would be heartening to predict improvements for this summer.

summer and more difficult than

summer and more difficult than everto get course-related work," said Pat Werner, executive director of the University and College Placement Association.

"Getting a summer job has been a struggle for years," said Werner. But this year year will be even worse than last year because "there was a dramatic decrease in on-campus recruiting last fall (for jobs this summer) compared with previous years." Sigh.

That's not what those in the business of predicting are saying.

"I predict that perhaps one in four students will be unemployed this summer," said Richard Balnis, researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario.

"It's going to be very difficult for students to get jobs this

peaked in July 1982 at 19.3 per cent, well above the overall unemployment rate of 11.8 per cent. When more than one million students hit the labour market this summer, Balnis expects even more than last year's 216,000 to be out of work

He said this happens because "the student unemployment rate is directly related to the national unemployment rate," and he expects the national rate to go even higher than it did last summer.

Chase Econometrics, economic forecasting company, predicts that the national rate will

predicts that the national rate will peak at 13.6 to 13.8 per cent this summer. Balnis said the increase in student unemployment will be proportionately higher.

More than ever before students will have to compete with the long-term unemployed for summer jobs, Balnis said.

"Traditionally, returning students have obtained jobs throgh family connections or friends," he said. "But families and friends can do little when companies are hiring back laid-off workers and those with much workers and those with much

workers and those with much more experience.

Balnis said student unemployment is even worse than Statistics Canada figures suggest, because a student who only finds work for one day a week is not counted as unemployed.

A CFS-O pamphlet, "Where Have the Summer Jobs Gone?" charges that the Ontario and federal governments have not done enough to help students threatened by unemployment. "Many existing federal and provincial summer job creation programs for students are short-term or part-time, minimum wage positions inadequate to finance a student's participation in higher student's participation in higher education."

Students must save \$1,120 to be considered for a bursary or loan under the Ontario Student Assistance Plan. A student who worked 16 weeks at Ontario's 3.50 per hour minumum wage would be required to save \$70 a week, 50 per cent of their earnings before

deductions.

But OSAP maintains that students need a minimum of \$85 per week to live on during the year, said Balnis, "leaving the student in the hole by \$15."

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