

Summer Statistics Don't Tell Full Story

OTTAWA (CUP) — The federal government has heaped bouquets on July's employment statistics, which show the unemployment rate for returning students this year was the lowest reported since Statistics Canada began counting the student jobless in 1977.

However, student leaders and researchers say July's 13.3 per cent unemployment rate — down from 19.3 per cent in 1982 — is not only still too high, but masking greater youth unemployment woes.

"This year certainly has been better than the four previous years," said Jean Wright a researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students.

"However, the statistics are still unacceptably high."

The federal government credits "the impact of federal and provincial job creation programs geared towards student employment" for reducing this year's unemployment rate. July is selected as the best month to gauge the student job market.

Wright says the federal government is riding an economic recovery in Ontario to promote the "success" of Challenge 86, a national summer job subsidy program.

The unemployment rate for returning students in Ontario was 8.5 per cent, down significantly from last year's 12 per cent. "That rate is affecting the national rate, but the Conservatives haven't been putting in any more money or effort at all," said Wright.

Although the government is trumpeting the return of prosperity, the unemployment rate for returning students actually rose in six provinces: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. As well, statistics are not kept for Prince Edward Island.

These rates also do not reflect the type of work available to students.

Shaleen Woodward, a student union vice-president at the University of Saskatchewan, said statistics do not differentiate between full and part-time work.

"If you worked an hour in this office, you'd be considered employed for that month," she said. "We don't know how many students worked

part-time and how many worked full-time."

Said Wright, "Just because someone is employed in a given week, doesn't mean they earned enough money to go back to school."

In Newfoundland, the unemployment rate of 29.3 per cent was the highest in Canada. John Reid, student union president at Memorial University in St. John's, called the stag-

gering unemployment rate "depressing, totally depressing."

He said many students who failed to find jobs must turn to student loans to finance their education.

"Students are relying more and more on government assistance," he said. "Many students will have a hard enough time finding a job when they

graduate, let alone repaying their student loan."

A study by the British Columbia Public Interest Research Group at the University of Victoria found many students who land summer jobs experience some form of exploitation, ranging from unpaid overtime, sexual harassment or unsafe working conditions.

"Student are being forced

to tolerate these conditions," said research Lorna Farmer.

Wright said the federal government is still promoting itself for settling regional differences, but hasn't proven it though its youth employment schemes.

"They've always said they were trying to counter regional disparity, but this hasn't changed at all," she said.

Students Lobby Tariff

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A university bookstore is asking students to lobby Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to remove the 10 per cent tariff imposed in June on English-language books from other countries.

"Students and people who read in general are being penalized," said Debbie Harvie, manager of Simon Fraser University's bookstore. "We are asking people to actively work to get the tariff rescinded."

The tariff was imposed after the American government put a 35 per cent tax on Canadian shakes and shingles.

Although course books exempt tax, Harvie said students will begin to pay more for general interest books in October or November, when the tariff begins to affect new orders from publishers.

"The government thought there would be an outrage in June, and then that outrage would disappear," she said. "But the issue is not dead." Harvie said about 4,000 SFU students signed a petition against the tariff, and the store has sent between 1,000 and 1,500 postcards to the prime minister protesting the tax.

The petition and cards are part of a national campaign organized by the Canadian Booksellers' Association.

A New Westminster's Douglas College, technical services librarian Penny Swanson said the tax interferes with intellectual freedom because additional paper necessary for tax exemption will further de-

lay the arrival of books in Canada.

"I don't know what the federal government thinks is going to happen to Canadian research and development," said Swanson, explaining that Canadian researchers often consult findings of their American counterparts.

"It seems to me that the exchange of knowledge can only help," said Swanson. "If we can get the information easily from someone else, then we should — we don't want to re-invent the wheel."

And Kevin Williams, manager of the downtown branch of Duthie's books, said students shopping in off-campus bookstores may end up paying the tariff on books not readily identifiable as texts, such as those in literature classes.

Williams also said the tariff will affect the number of titles available in Canada.

"Every time a book price goes up, you have to worry about it going through a price break," he said. "A book which it might be possible to sell a copy of at \$39.95, will probably be impossible to sell at \$44.95."

Williams is disappointed with the federal response, which told the industry the book tariff would come off when the Americans remove the shake and shingle tax.

"Canadian citizens are paying two ways," said Williams. "The tariff already hurt the B.C. economy and now we're having to pay higher prices for books."

Lambert & James

Like all good combinations, Scotch & Soda, Pretzels & Beer, Men & Women, etc., LAMBERT & JAMES are no exception! This Wonderful Madcap Duo from Newfoundland combine music, comedy and talent to give you a guaranteed good time!

After singer-song writer's Bob Lambert and Fabian James has each completed solo albums, the boy's thought *Maybe Two Heads Are Better Than One*, and joined forces. Lucky for us they did! Their immediate popularity in the Maritimes quickly led them to *Go West Young Men*, and that's what they did. Lambert & James teamed up with Donald K. Donald Productions, and as a result opened for Chris Deburgh in St. John's, Air Supply in Montreal, and Dionne Warwick in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, and Vancouver!

Bob and Fabian have enjoyed working with recording artists: Parachute Club, Kim Mitchell, Honeymoon Suite, Streetheart and Jose Feliciano, to name a few! A campus Pub or Super-Sub and *Good Times* for Lambert & James, who enjoy the people (and vice versa) and poke fun at everything and everyone, *to be sure My Son*.

Lambert & James are Top Musicians who play Great Music, as Lloyd Brault, (Donald K. Donald Productions) put it. *They don't play Newfoundland folksongs, and once they get on that stage and start singing, you have no idea where they're from. Their comedy is particularly Newfoundland, and I think it's terrific, it works, it's great, and they definitely know how to make people laugh!*

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