

## Times in Academia May Change For the Better, More Realistic

NEWS reports tell of a 23-year-old management consultant specialist, who has a bachelors degree in business from one university and a master's degree in business from another.

Apparently he lacked both management and work experience, so there was no rush to hire him when he was graduated last year. He has now become a carpenter in Arkansas.

Thus times change. Just a few years ago, industrial recruiters flocked to university campuses to enlist graduates at starting salaries double what their fathers were earning after decades of experience.

There still may be opportunities to do this, especially for those with petroleum or chemical engineering degrees. It is reported that demand also exists for graduates in biological, science, math, agriculture, and communications. New doors have

been opened for women and minority group members, too.

The rest of the graduating classes face tighter job situations. Many industries, with skilled workers and executives on layoff lists, have cancelled job recruiting schedules.

One oil company recruiter recently posted a sheet at 7:55 a.m. at one college, asking students to sign if they wanted job interviews. By 8 a.m. the sheet was filled. He concluded, "Young people are hungry and they are scared."

Traditionally, an education has been regarded as a means of achieving a more satisfying way of life. Colleges prepared young people for better-paying careers, improved their cultural outlook, and enabled them to contribute to society.

Somehow, this concept was pushed into the background in the 1960s when many educators caved in to demands of militant rebels that they be allowed to make rules and determine the curricula.

In many instances, instructors with questionable qualifications and alien philosophies were employed, while useless courses were added to classroom programs in order that the lazy and the unprepared could receive degrees without exertion.

A number of colleges adopted non-grading systems to avoid flunking dissident students, and a few virtually abandoned entrance requirements in order to maintain enrollment.

The pendulum may be swinging back toward making college a worthwhile experience. Of course, not all colleges gave in to the militants and probably most students have always expected to profit from their education, but in toto, higher education has done a lot of slipping in quality while costs went up.

It is encouraging to read that practical, career-oriented courses are being added and vacuous studies in such subjects as basket weaving and canoeing are on the wane. A Methodist college in Tennessee recently received national publicity because it added courses in hotel and restaurant management. Oklahoma State University has had courses in these careers for 25 years.