

College Develops Special Degree Program for Adults

A touch of gray can be seen at the temples of more and more collegians as schools around the nation add a new educational dimension with special degree programs for adults.

The beanie, fraternity paddles and physical education classes are missing as these students return to campus to complete work for a bachelor's degree they failed to earn in days when they were usually slimmer and had fewer responsibilities.

Otherwise, the ivy-covered walls mean the same today as when they dropped out: long hours of study, a compulsion to read, lectures to sit through, and anxious moments about examinations.

Nearly a thousand adults around the nation will find time this fall to study for special degrees, maintain their families and work as housewives, librarians, executives, taxi drivers or countless other jobs. They'll be enrolled in schools as diverse as Brooklyn College, the University of Oklahoma, Goddard College, San Francisco Theological Seminary and Puerto Rico's Inter-American University.

Attending from Birmingham will be Everett E. Baggerly, 4115 Meadow Way, studying communication problems.

These special degree programs for adults are, in part, being developed in response to the emergence of new vocational fields and upgraded requirements for old ones, rapid technological changes, the shorter work week, and the increasing necessity of mid-career or second-career training.

And they result from the growing recognition among educators that America's college dropout problem is perhaps as severe as its counterpart on the high school level. For 40 years colleges have watched their attrition rate hover at about 50 per cent of each entering freshman class.

Lately, however, the figure has jumped to 60 per cent, according to U.S. Office of Education estimates.

OF COURSE, students leave colleges for more than the academic reasons usually given by high school dropouts. Marriage and financial problems stop many college education. Nonetheless, formal education ends.

"Society today," according to R. Orin Cornett, director of the Division of Educational Organization and Administration for the Office of

Education in Washington, "increasingly needs a higher percentage of people who have a general education. In the special degree programs for adults, as developed at Brooklyn College, Oklahoma University, and elsewhere, resides what may well be the first real opportunity in the history of education to pursue liberal education with students who, essentially, are seeking only to broaden their understanding of the world and improve themselves as perceptive social and intellectual beings."

"True," he added, "in seeking a college degree, adults may be influenced by the desire for it as a symbol of personal achievement or status. They are essentially free, however, from the diversions and conflicting motivations of college students in general."

A decade ago, Brooklyn College started the nation's first degree program that took these important differences into consideration. Faculty members there found students in evening college more mature, competent and sophisticated than the general student body. Consequently, the college established a baccalaureate curriculum for adults over 30.

If they demonstrated a mastery of subject matter in certain fields, they were given credit for it, thus saving the tedium of repetitious study. They were also given academic credits for their experiences in life.

BETWEEN 1954 and 1962, Brooklyn College selected 300 students carefully from 1,340 applicants. Of these, 84 graduated within the eight-year period.

Typically, the Brooklyn College adult student mixes independent study with seminars and periods of supervised study.

Some students complained the material was too simple and the faculty responded by constructing a series of tutorial seminars in the broad areas of communications, humanities, social and natural sciences.

"The Brooklyn program demonstrated the validity of the basic assumption underlying adult degree programs," wrote the authoritative Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults in 1963.

In addition, similar programs at Syracuse University, Queens College, Goddard College, John Hopkins University, the University of Oklahoma and San Francisco Theological Seminary have since been started.

ONE OF THE newest adult degree programs in the United States is also one that stands in sharpest contrast with Brooklyn's program. Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt., established an adult degree program in August 1963 with 13 students selected from 55 applications and 578 inquiries. The school will grant the first degrees Aug. 29 to four students.

About 60 adults are now enrolled for the two-week sessions on campus and the six-months of independent study at home. Each six-month cycle opens with a week-long seminar devoted to a single broad area of the liberal arts.

Through the seminar and individual conferences with faculty members, the students arrive at problems or possibilities for further study during the six months. Then they plan their own curriculum.

The cycle ends with another week on campus when individuals compare results of their work and meet with faculty members to evaluate their work.

"THIS IS ONE of the more imaginative and important degree programs especially for adults in the

country," according to Dr. A. J. Liveright, director of the Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults.

"The recurring cycles of residential sessions on the campus, combined with individual study, would seem to provide the very important essential motivation and the 'community of scholars' aspect of an educational program," he added.

The program is open to men and women who, for some good reasons, left college before graduation. They must have completed at least two semesters of satisfactory college work, have been out of college at least five years, and be over 26. There is no distinction made between the degree given adults and that given undergraduates.

"Degree programs especially for adults," reported the Center in its study "New Directions in Degree Programs Especially for Adults," "require a re-examination of the substance of liberal education, as well as a loosening of the traditional credit-hour and required classroom pattern."

Cranbrook derives its name from the village in Kent, England, where George G. Booth's father was born.

The midway will be bigger and more fun than ever at this year's Michigan State Fair, Aug. 28 through Sept. 7.

August 27, 1964 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 5-F

PAID POLITICAL ADV.

VOTE FOR
FARRELL E. ROBERTS
COURT OF APPEALS



FARRELL E. ROBERTS
Personal Background

45 years old - Married, two children
B.S. in Science - University of Michigan
Member of Law-II, at U-M
1949
Assistant Prosecutor - 1952
State Representative - 1954-60
State Senator - 1960-64
Veteran - World War II and Korea

(Committee to Elect Farrell E. Roberts)

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REMEMBER, THE NAME IS ROBERTS

Michigan Court of Appeals
Department Building, 1st District
Primary Election, Sept. 1

Workshop Study

More than 25 teachers from the Oakland County area completed a Community Resources Workshop in Birmingham with an open house last week. The workshop was sponsored by Michigan State University and the American Iron and Steel Institute. Discussing the results of the workshop are (from left) Margerite DiPiazza, Ferndale Public Schools; Ann Olson, Bloomfield Hills Public Schools, and Robert McBride, Harlan Elementary School principal and assistant workshop director.

'Where Did Money Go?' Being Studied at U-M

Trade-in allowances account for a smaller part of new automobile purchase prices than they did a decade ago, a report by the Survey Research Center (SRC) of The University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research reveals.

In their "1963 Survey of Consumer Finances" economists George Katona, Charles A. Linder and Eva Mueller of the SRC Economic Behavior Program point out that in 1951, some 40 per cent of the reported price of new cars was paid for with a trade-in or sale.

In 1962 the proportion was 28 per cent. This decline did not result from a reduction in the proportion of purchases involving a trade-in or sale, the authors say. In 1962 new car purchases involved a trade-in or sale of another car in 85 per cent of cases.

THE SHARE of used car prices accounted for by trade-in or sale has been steady at about 22 per cent in recent years.

Trading in or selling a car when buying an automobile tends to increase in frequency with age and income, the report goes on. Among life cycle groups, trade-ins are least frequent among the young single people and most frequent among older married couples with no children living at home.

Domestic compacts and station wagons are purchased with an associated trade-in or sale more frequently than other types of cars.

Approximately six million new automobiles were bought by private consumers in 1962, at an average cost of \$2,950, up \$160 over the prior year, according to the report. Average amount spent for cars increased from \$790 to \$840.

A SIGNIFICANTLY larger proportion of spending units (77 per cent) owned a car in early 1963 than in any previous year (72 per cent in 1962). Most units without a car were in the lowest two-fifths of the population in income.

Almost 90 per cent of the middle fifth owned cars, and ownership was even more frequent as income rose. About one-half of all units in the top 10 per cent of income now own two or more cars, and the trend toward multiple-car

ownership appears to be continuing.

Spending on furniture and major household appliances in 1962 rose to \$10.7 billion, an all-time high according to survey estimates since 1951. Forty-two per cent of spending units purchased furniture or household appliances during the year.

BECAUSE MANY young married couples are buying household durables, the proportion of buyers is largest among spending units in which the head is 25-34 years old. Thereafter, it declines with increasing age.

Forty per cent of young married families without children purchased furniture in 1962, compared with only 17 per cent of all spending units.

Young married people without children buy television sets, refrigerators, and ranges more often than other life cycle groups. On the other hand the proportion of units that purchased washing machines, clothes dryers, and food freezers were highest among spending units with children.

Overall in 1962, the proportion of spending units that made major expenditures on automobiles and household durables rose to 53 per cent, an increase of seven percentage points over 1961.

Statistical Book Now Available

Frank A. Alter, director, U.S. Department of Commerce Michigan Field Office has just announced release of the "1964 Statistical Abstract of the United States." This 1,050-page clothbound volume can be ordered from the Department's Michigan office, 445 Federal Bldg., Detroit, at \$3.75.

The Statistical Abstract is an annual authoritative summary of statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the United States, published by the Bureau of the Census. It is designed to serve as a convenient volume for statistical reference and as a guide to other statistical publications and sources. It highlights statistical data from the records of different agencies, governmental, private and international.

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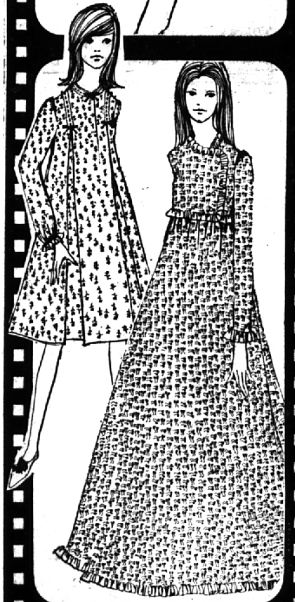
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