

They quit, come back

Students prefer stop-outs

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

Approximately one-third of the entering freshmen will drop out before their junior year.

But many of those drop-outs are really "stop-outs" who return to school after building up their bank account, says admissions director James Buch.

"There are people who just decide, 'This isn't for me right now,' and they decide to work and not be as poor as they were as students," Buch says.

"They just want to have the money coming in instead of going out."

Although students most often say they drop out because of money problems, Buch says that excuse often masks emotional and personal problems. He points out that extensive financial aid programs available through the University make it possible for students to finance their education through grants or loans.

Some students stop-out to take a breather from the grind of classroom work and be able to "read what they want to read," Buch says.

Some change majors and move to a college with a better program in that academic area. Others migrate to another college because of the location, size or type of the institution.

Some drop out because of "acts of God" such as marriage, an accident or a move, Buch says.

Others just change their mind about getting a college degree. "There are as many reasons as there are students in school," Buch says.

One new twist in the stop-out cycle is older-than-average students, Buch says. Many people are making slow career changes through stop-and-go schooling.

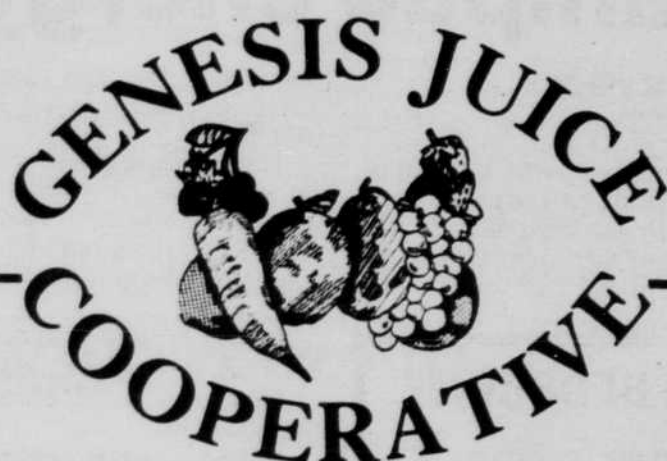
"It's acceptable in our society to say, 'I don't want to be a mailman for the rest of my life.' In the 1950s it didn't happen

that way. People just didn't make career changes like they do now."

To combat attrition, the admissions staff tries to weed out potential drop-outs by presenting a clear picture of what the University is like.

Other University departments are trying to change the campus environment and make students aware of the services available to them, such as the Learning Resources Center, short-term loans and academic counseling.

"Some students really should leave, but many leave out of ignorance," Buch says. "That shouldn't happen."



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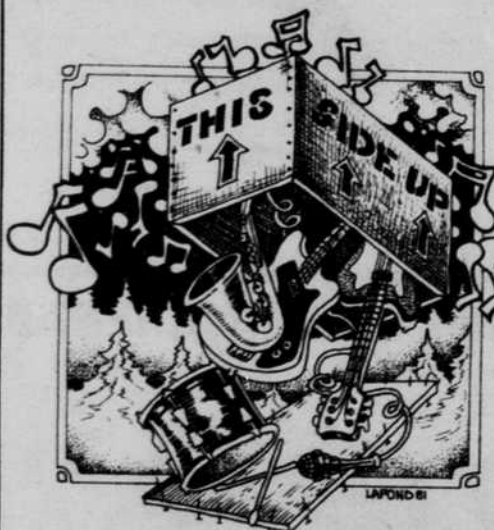
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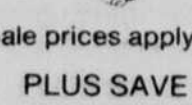
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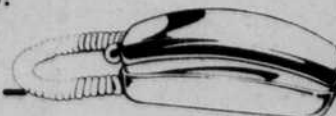
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