

# Making a case for college

Students enroll for different reasons, same goals

By Sean Meyers  
Of the Emerald

George Bergeron said he is finally ready to go back to school in earnest.

The 34-year-old, self-described "war casualty" was dishonorably discharged from the U.S. Army because he wouldn't fight in Vietnam.

"It took me this long to get it turned around," Bergeron said. "It took me this long to realize the difference between a professional career and bootstrapping it on your own."

*'I guess you could call me a bored housewife that needed something to do.'*

A highly unscientific poll conducted by the Emerald to determine why students are attending college drew no consensus, but common threads bond many students — the desire for higher pay and a better job, mixed with an element of uncertainty.

"I really couldn't tell you why I'm going to school," said Ruth Shaginaw, a senior transfer student majoring in psychology. "I guess it's to get a higher education and get a job that would need a degree of some sort. I know quite a few people

that aren't going to school, and they aren't doing too well."

As of late last week, Shaginaw wasn't doing very well either. Her transcripts were lost in red tape, leaving her official standing with the University in limbo.

"Most young people today aren't going to be able to get a job without a master's or bachelor's degree," says Frank Hseih, a second year student from San Francisco.

He came to Oregon because his grade point average wasn't yet high enough to allow him acceptance into the University of California at Berkeley.

"It's a matter of meeting the competition. I guess you could say it's a matter of coming to terms with reality."

"I don't want to be a barmaid or a waitress or a secretary all my life," said Susan Murray, a married mother, who is working on her business administration degree.

"I feel like it's below me. I feel like I have brains and potential. I guess a lot of it has to do with self esteem — I'll just feel better about myself if I get a degree."

Janette Roberts, a junior elementary education major, wants a degree "so I can teach and because I don't want to work at McDonalds all my life."

Her friend, Diana Hiria, is from a small Eastern Oregon town.

"I think that being raised around a farming community makes you want more out of life, to make a better life for yourself," said Hiria, a computer science major.

Frustration with some of the rules and regulations of the academic life is a concern for 31-year-old Debbie Harris.

"I guess you could call me a

bored housewife that needed something to do," she said. "I chose school. But with all the rigamarole, sometimes I wish I hadn't."

Prestige and paychecks weren't always the reasons cited for pursuing a college degree.

Aside from getting ahead or moving forward, some merely want to find the right direction.

"I'm going to school to give me time to think about what I want to do with my life," said Amy Clark, a junior Reed College transfer student who came

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to the University to save money and to avoid the high-pressure atmosphere at Reed.

"I also wanted time to avoid having to go out and work in the big, bad world."

At least one student joined the higher education system to beat the system.

"I just take one class so I can use the woodworking facility in the craft center," said the student who works at a concession stand in Eugene. "I tried renting a shop in town, but the cost is prohibitive. I hope that doesn't get worded so it looks like I'm bilking the University."

## KWAX tunes up for 'radio-thon'

(UONB) — "A Classic Season" will be KWAX radio station's theme for its annual fund-raising drive which kicks off at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

The National Public Radio affiliate at the University, KWAX 91.1 FM hopes for \$25,000 in financial support from its listeners, says Station Manager Janet Kenney.

University contributions currently account for 45 percent of the station's budget for the 1982-83 broadcasting season, but "we're on a four-year phase-out of University funding, necessitating increased listener support," said Kenney.

"The 'radio-thon' represents an integral part of the \$92,000 needed to be raised by the station in 1982-83."

A special feature of the fund-raising drive will be a concert recorded live in Beall Hall last spring when the world famous "Canadian Brass" played there. It will be aired at 8 p.m. on Monday.

Listeners may phone in pledges by calling 686-5777 starting Wednesday morning. KWAX-FM broadcasts from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Friday and from 6 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, serving 10 counties in western Oregon.

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