

The Student As Lost Sheep

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University freshmen consist primarily of three types: (1) the student who knows exactly what he wants to be and how to qualify himself for his ambition; (2) the student who doesn't know what he wants, but only that he has no desire to be a member of the clerical work force; (3) the student who hopes that sometime during his university career a little light will shine indicating what he is really meant and destined for. Reasonably, I think, they expect that four years additional training will enable them to get more interesting and better paying jobs than their confreres who terminated their formal education at the high school level.

The university graduate is on the whole a sadly disillusioned person. The personnel managers don't really see why a major in psychology is better equipped for a good job in business than a high school graduate who has spent four years in the business world learning the ropes. Because we have a degree they feel they must offer us a decent salary — but why should they when they can get comparable work for less money? So the market is flooded with university grads who have no place to go.

This situation is undoubtedly the reason why graduate schools are getting so over crowded. If we cannot get a good job with a degree, we'll specialize and ensure ourselves a job.

So many university students are pressing for reforms, for greater freedom and choice. Is this what we really need? What I feel we need is more guidance and counselling so that when we graduate from high school we are made aware of the opportunities available, of the type of training necessary for certain jobs. And that the universities become more specialized learning grounds, equipping us for the business world or the academic world or whatever world we choose.

As a university student I felt a little like a lost sheep — wanting desperately to do or be someone when I graduated, yet not knowing what or how and not being able to find the guidance I wanted. To have thousands of "Lost Sheep" graduate each year is not really anything to be proud of.

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