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The Workplace Seen Through the Eyes of the Students of a Technological University

Instructors from the culture and communication group at Institut Universitaire de Technologie, Bordeaux 1, organized in May 1996 and 1997 an exposition-debate day, concentrating on the question of work. In the framework of this educational and cultural day, different examples (oral, written, iconographic) of work, produced by first year students from the departments of Civil, Mechanical and Electronic Engineering. Their photography (in black and white), which shows men and women in the workplace environment (building work sites, mechanical industries, agricultural activities, business, etc.), associated with texts (work as experienced by students), but also their reports (articles brought together in journals), attributing to the anonymous agents of social and professional life—those forgotten in the workplace—the chance to express themselves, and their exchange of thoughts during round table discussions (work-creation, work and generosity, the view of students and writers of work, the representation of work in art, current events about workers' struggle, training, education and the values of work, women in the workplace, work and non-work, etc.), make up a valuable testimony for understanding what is an important part today, even if it is often obscured, of the social reality of the workplace in France, its hardships and sufferings.