

# WORLD NEWS

By Amy Reynolds

(CPS) - The scene is familiar. Young men and women in suits, armed with resumes, handshakes and smiles for older men and women prepared to greet them with stories of the grim realities of today's job market.

Welcome to Career Expos for the 1991-92 school year.

"There are fewer positions available because of the recession and because of sales trends," says Dot Svobdia, a manager with American Tourister. "Still, we're hoping to find some good folks out there."

So is everyone else. This particular job fair brought nearly 80 prospective employers to the University of Central Florida in early September.

"I think it's tight," says Jim Gracey, director of UCF's Career Resource Center. "I had some employers say that they would not attend because of the recession."

## Minority Becoming Majorities?

BOULDER, Colo. (CPS) - A first-ever projection of the ethnic makeup of the nation's public schools reflects that by 1995, one-third of the U.S. students will be from minority groups.

"This trend will continue to grow," predicts Robin Etter Zuniga, author of the two-year study sponsored by The College Board and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. "The white birth rate has declined, so the younger the age group, the more you'll see this sort of thing. Many states have no single majority any longer."

The study says 1995 will also see ethnic minorities making up a majority of students in four states. In 1989, Blacks, Asians and Latinos made up a majority of high school graduates in Hawaii, New Mexico and the District of Columbia.

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**H. RAP BROWN, 1967**

# "Job Out Look Still Isn't Good," Employers Say

Of the ones who did, sentiments were the same. "We're finding a lot more qualified applicants," says F. Darren Oliverio, a field training consultant with Metropolitan Life.

The reason for the flood of qualified students is the lack of jobs. Although not all companies are suffering from the sagging economy, they are still seeing an increase in applications.

"We're now even seeing alumni coming to these events," says Moira Oliver, director of Human Resources for Hyatt Hotels and Resorts. "We didn't used to see nearly as much."

Oliver calls the turnout at job fairs in 1990 and 1991 "astounding."

"We have been surprised at the

number of qualified applicants we're seeing. It's really been to our advantage," said Steve Hoppe, of Arthur Andersen Tax Technology Group.

Because of the flood of graduating college students entering into the job market, employers are getting pickier when hiring.

They offer this advice to job seekers:

- \* "Students should get practical experience before they graduate. That's very important," Oliver said.
- \* "In our business, a college education isn't a determining factor," says Oliverio of work in the insurance field. "We look

for someone who really has oomph. When we find someone who's hot, we make room for (him or her)."

\* "People really need to prepare for the interview," says Wayne Johns, regional human relations manager for Coca-Cola. "People need to work on their appearance and their preparation for questions and answers."

\* "We're looking for good academic background, good interpersonal skills, a polished, genuine, smart person," Hoppe said. "We want the best and the brightest."

## Homeless Man Lectures At Cal State

By Karen Neustadt

(CPS) - When Len Doucette became homeless, he got angry. He wanted others to understand the humiliation, the hopelessness, the loss of self-esteem. So he began teaching a class about his situation.

"I want to get my students as angry as I am about the conditions - angry enough to do something about it," Doucette said. "The problem starts with misconceptions about the homeless."

When he first offered the course "Homelessness and Public Policy" through California State University at Bakersfield, only a dozen students showed up. That has changed.

His lectures - peppered with anecdotes of welfare agencies, unemployment lines, street life and experiences in overnight shelters - are not easy to listen to. Some students dropped the course after the first lecture.

"The students who do stay in, however, are very motivated and concerned with the problem," says Jaci Ward, a program coordinator for the college. "Mr. Doucette puts his ego aside and discusses the problem objectively. He's able to depersonalize it."

Doucette first became homeless four years ago when he was in an accident that cost him his low-paying job. He lived in San Francisco, working part-time jobs that did not cover the rent. He is now temporarily living with a friend because he can't afford rent on his part-time instructor's pay.

The outspoken Doucette, who says he does not allow himself to become discouraged, compares the

current wave of homeless persons with the Depression of the '30s. "Except that now these people are single. The dissolution of the family is a contributor to this problem."

Doucette tells students that while the homeless issue is getting press coverage for the first time, the majority of the problem is hidden. "These people look just like you or me. But they are living with friends, or family - or in cars."

the class, designed by Doucette, features local speakers such as members of Congress and social agency officials. Then the students are required to take part in five learning experiences and write a paper, expressing thoughts and feelings about each.

Doucette's curriculum instructions include the following: (1) Go to a location where the homeless congregate and stay one or two hours. (2) Render yourself homeless for a day. The minimum amount of money allowed on your person: 25 cents, no credit cards, no food. (3) Go to a non-profit agency and find out what is required to enroll in an assistance program. See how you are treated. (4) Go to a busy urban area and ask five people for the money for a cup of coffee. Note your strategies and the other person's reactions. (5) Do something to help a homeless person, making special note of how you view the person, and how you think the person views you.

"It is one thing for this to be an intellectual exercise and another to personalize the problem, to feel the lack of self-esteem," Ward said.

Doucette taught a similar course at San Francisco State University. The 55-year-old instructor says he wants to remind students that many people are "just one or two paychecks away" from the streets.

*I found the University. . . clean and noble, but I did not find the university alive. I found the American university had this ideal as phrased by a professor in Chicago University: "The passionless pursuit of passionless intelligence-clean and noble, I grant you, but not alive enough. . . And in the reflection of this University ideal I find the conservatism and unconcern of the American people toward those who are suffering, who are in want."*

**Jack London, 1906**

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