

# For graduates, the job outlook is bright

By AMY WINSLOW  
Staff Writer

College students trading jean jackets and bucks for business suits and briefcases may not get lost in the shuffle of unemployment papers and temporary jobs after they leave their academic havens.

Actually, things are looking brighter for college graduates, according to UNC sociology professors and recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

From 1940 to 1980, the number of adults ages 25 and over in the labor force doubled, said Peter Cattán, economist for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

But because the baby boom generation, which makes up a large part of those numbers, will be moving out of the labor force, more jobs will be

available for the present generation, said Barbara Stenross, UNC assistant professor of sociology.

Also, the relative sizes of the different groups makes a difference, said Barbara Entwisle, UNC assistant professor of sociology.

Since there are fewer people in the present generation, fewer people are competing for jobs, Entwisle said.

Recent college graduates may find a less competitive job market, because the college-educated people of the baby boom generation, who value a college degree, will do the hiring, said Paul Siegel, chief of the Education and Social Stratification branch of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Job applicants must also contend with the nation's economy, Cattán said.

The stock market crash, for example, makes for a bleaker outlook for the present generation, Entwisle said.

Looking solely at numbers oversimplifies the job market, Cattán said. If the country is in a recession, it doesn't matter how small your age group is, he said.

"You must look at the overall economic situation," Cattán said. "If the times are booming, there are jobs for everyone."

Although a college education isn't always necessary, Siegel said those who have had higher education often fare better than others. Employers often expect job applicants to have a college degree.

"A lot more Americans have tasted the fruits of the tree of higher education (than those from other

countries)," Siegel said.

According to 1980 data, 33 percent of the American population 25 years and older had been to college, he said.

In New Zealand, college graduates comprised one quarter of the population, Siegel said. About 5 percent of Britain's population 25 years and older holds a college degree, he said.

While many Americans perceive the Japanese as more educated, the statistics say otherwise. Only 12 percent of Japanese 25 years and older have attended college, Siegel said.

Many Japanese enroll in college knowing exactly what kind of job they want when they get out, he said. They also do not "waste" education on women, Siegel said, while in the United States, women outnumber men in the college population.

# Child care system needs improvement, representative says

By HELLE NIELSEN  
Staff Writer

Parents and employees should pressure government and business to help solve child care problems, a state representative said in a speech Thursday.

"The assumption that the free market will work to provide the child care we need is wrong," state Rep. Sharon Thompson, D-Durham, said.

Thompson, the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Durham Day Care Council at Festival House in Durham, said an adequate child care system would further economic development because it would help stabilize the work force and improve educational standards in the long run.

The present child care system lacks availability, affordability and quality child care, Thompson said.

She said N.C. lawmakers have neglected the problems because they assume that most American families maintain traditional family patterns — a working husband and a housewife.

But, she said, that assumption clearly does not hold, because 60 percent of women with 3- to 4-year-olds worked outside the home in 1986 out of economic necessity.

UNC established a day-care committee last year to study the child care situation for the University's employees and students.

"We need more day care in the Chapel Hill area, and the University is no exception to that," committee chairman Barbara Day said.

She said the committee recommended that the University hire a child care advocate to help University employees and students

find quality day care for their children.

Valerie Currie, a cashier at the Commons, was told she would have to wait six months to a year to enroll her 1-year-old boy in day care. Instead, his grandmother cares for him.

Deborah Moore, a prep cook at Lenoir Dining Hall, did not have to wait for a day-care opening for her 3-year-old son, she said. Moore, who earns \$8,000 a year, receives government subsidies to pay the \$285 a month for her son's day care.

More day-care subsidies for poor people would also contribute to economic development, said Dorothy Graham, executive director of the Durham Day Care Council.

"If people have affordable child care they can work and get off welfare programs," Graham said.

The state and federal government spent \$27.5 million on day-care subsidies in North Carolina in fiscal year 1986-87.

Child care costs for North Carolina in 1986 averaged \$169 per child per month. Because a family should spend no more than 10 percent of its income on child care, an average-income family with two children that makes \$17,000 each year cannot afford child care.

Business representatives present at the meeting said child care has emerged as a concern for American business because inadequate child care affects productivity.

"If our employees don't have quality day care, they are taken away from work, or they worry about their kids, so they won't perform 100 percent," said Steve Toler, N.C. public affairs manager of General Telephone.

# Society holds Christmas Candlelight tour

By SUSAN KAUFFMAN  
Staff Writer

Several Chapel Hill homes, including the Chancellor's home, will be decorated with candles, Christmas greens and music on the weekend of Dec. 12 for the ninth annual Christmas Candlelight Tour.

This year, the Chapel Hill Preservation Society chose to feature several of the homes in the Laurel Hill neighborhood, which is off Country Club Road. Chancellor Christopher Fordham's house is located at 306 Country Club Rd.

"It's our holiday gift to the community," said tour chairwoman Mary Turner Lane.

The society expects more than

2,000 people to stroll through houses bordered by luminaries, which are candles set in bags of sand.

The tour has become one of the organization's largest fund-raisers of the year, said Libby Daniels, house director for the society's headquarters, located at the Horace Williams House on 610 E. Rosemary St.

Visitors to the house, which is on the tour, can drink hot mulled cider and munch on ginger cookies while viewing the collection of more than 40 handmade creches from around the world, said Victoria Coogan, the society's executive coordinator.

Lane said hostesses will greet guests at each house on the tour to point out interesting architectural features,

special pieces of furniture and art collections, Lane said.

"The Christmas trees are always done by the families themselves and are very personal," Lane said.

Ida Friday, wife of former UNC-system President Bill Friday, said she would be interested in walking through the gardens of the homes.

"If you like your own house or are interested in improving it, or if you like to read House Beautiful or Southern Living, you'd enjoy the tour," Friday said. "A house is more than a building, and visiting someone's home tells you a great deal about the individual."

The homes will feature small musical groups such as pianists,

guitarists and a baroque ensemble, said music coordinator Joel Carter.

Other groups will perform along the tour route, Carter said. These performers include a male quartet called Carolina Blue; singers from Chapel Hill Senior High School called "Voices on the Hill"; the Read Street Consort, a madrigal group; and 18 children in the Suzuki Players.

The tour will run from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission tickets cost \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. They can be purchased on the day of the tour at the Horace Williams House, the Knapp Auditorium and on the buses which will shuttle continually from site to site.

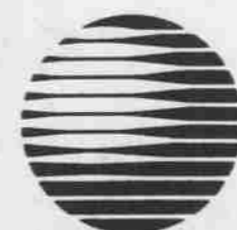
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