

Boom Continues For Engineering and Business

(CPS)—This year's job prospects? "Same song, second verse," is how one placement expert described it.

But while graduates will find that many aspects of the job market remain constant from last year — the hiring volume is up, and business and the sciences are still the hottest majors — job seekers will find two major trends developing. For one, the government, both local and federal, is hiring significantly fewer people. It's a trend that may have particular consequences for liberal arts majors. Secondly, openings for paraprofessional and "service" type jobs are outdistancing professional openings in many disciplines.

Yet for the moment, recruitment, according to a number of sources, is intensifying, some say to the levels of the "boom years" of the sixties.

In December, a 25 percent increase in recruitment was projected by College Placement Council (CPC), which annually monitors employment opportunities in over 700 businesses. Council officials predicted that more companies would be sending

more recruiters who stay longer, a continuation of last year's trend, when 40 to 50 percent more students were interviewed than in 1977.

Preliminary reports indicate the prediction was correct. "We're seeing a lot more offers," said Ed Fitzpatrick of Michigan State University's placement office, one of the country's largest. The University of California-Berkeley reports a 20 percent increase this year, as does William and Mary College. At Lehigh University, offers are up 33 percent from last year.

MSU's office also predicted a five to nine percent increase in average starting salaries. Fitzpatrick says early reports show "the dollar figures are higher." But because many companies no longer release copies of actual job offers, Fitzpatrick notes salary information wouldn't be available until July.

The biggest increase in recruiting, a projected 34 percent, will come from companies looking for engineers. In fact, 61 percent of all recruitment offers on campus will be for engineers. Many of the

jobs will be in energy-related fields, and will command the highest average starting salaries. New petroleum engineers will get \$1,645 a month, the highest pay for any specialty.

Students in science, math, and other "technical" fields can expect 19 percent more job offers, CPC says, and business majors can expect 11 percent more job openings.

Students in such fields as accounting, aerospace, automotive, banking, chemicals, electronics, merchandising, and metals will also graduate into a wider job market.

But while CPC predicted a five percent increase in job offers for "non-technical" fields — which include most liberal arts disciplines — the drop-off in government hiring will probably cause a six percent decline in the number of jobs available in those areas. The federal government is expected to hire 15 percent fewer graduates this year, CPC says. That would bring government hiring to its lowest levels since the 1950's.

The decline stems from President Carter's mandate allowing agencies to fill only one of two vacancies, and recently-enacted Civil Service regulations requiring a two percent reduction of federal civilian jobs.

Meanwhile, state and local governments forecast a 12 percent decline, which many attribute to cost-cutting measures like California's Proposition 13.

The effects are already becoming apparent. Fitzpatrick has noticed "less interest in college candidates" from governmental agencies. Because governmental agencies are a prime employer of liberal arts majors, more of these

students are expected to turn to the private sector for jobs, creating a competition that is projected to force many into jobs that don't require a college degree.

But liberal arts majors aren't the only ones who may end up with jobs they're overqualified for. Department of Labor statistics suggest that in many professions, "assistant-type" jobs are increasingly in demand.

The field of education, for example, is still widely regarded as overcrowded, because of a glut of education majors in the early seventies, and the decline in the number of elementary and high-school students. But teacher's aides are in high demand, with 160,000 openings by 1985 anticipated by the Labor Department.

Even with an excess of lawyers (this year more than 30,000 law graduates will compete for only 21,000 jobs), para-legals are an "emerging profession," according to Aaron Crasner, director of the Institute for Paralegal Training in Philadelphia. A growing number of institutions are starting paralegal training in face of the demand.

Similarly, while the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare is taking steps to restrict the number of medical students to combat an "oversupply" of doctors, a market is emerging for para-medics, such as nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants. Nurse practitioners, in particular, are often having an easier time of getting a job than doctors since they need not work under a doctor's supervision, and can find positions in areas hard-pressed for doctors.

SBPI has J-Seminar

The Southeastern Black Press Institute (SBPI) sponsored a summer journalism seminar for high school students and recent graduates.

Harry Amana, professor in the School of Journalism and an SBPI research associate was the director of the seminar. Cynthia Ferebee, a language arts and social studies teacher at Cheyenne Junior High School in Durham was the co-ordinator of the seminar.

Theresa Williams, co-editor of Black Ink and James Parker former photography editor for Black Ink were counselors for the seminar.

The 11 participating students were selected from five southeastern states which included North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland. Each student had to submit a 1,500 word essay entitled, "Martin Luther King Jr.: What He Would Be Doing In My Community Today."

The students attended classes in Reporting, Grammar, History of the Black Press and Photography. The students expressed a sincere interest in learning the principals of journalism.

Danita Knox, 16, from Paxville South Carolina, stated, "The program was quite an experience and

I'm sure the things I've learned here will help me improve my own high school paper."

The students were presented with guest performers and lecturers throughout the seminar. Some of the performers and lecturers included Chrystle Swain, Pat Bryant, Marinda McPherson, Bernadine Ward and Murray DePillars. The students also visited several newspaper offices in the area.

During the fifth and final week of the program, the students had five-day internships in Greensboro and Winston-Salem. In Greensboro, six of the students worked at the **Carolina Peacemaker** and **The Greensboro Daily News and Record**.

In Winston-Salem, the remaining five students and counselor James Parker worked at the **Winston-Salem Chronicle** and the **Winston-Salem Journal**.

Kenny Conyers, a recent graduate from Wake Forest, N.C. stated, "The internship was the one thing I looked forward to. I think everyone learned something from it and still utilize the knowledge of the Black Press in a beneficial manner."

The seminar was highlighted by a graduation ceremony on August 7 in Upendo Lounge.

Hope for sickle cell victims

By JAMES D. McJUNKINS
(Provided by NSF,
Clark College and
Voice News Network)

An experimental machine which treats patients' blood with a poisonous chemical might give added life to sickle cell anemia victims.

Three of the new machines, which function like a kidney dialysis device, are being purchased by the federal government to be allocated to Ohio State University, the University of Kansas and the University of Washington. Fourteen to 16 patients will be tested during the next two years.

Sickle cell anemia is a hereditary blood disease which is estimated to afflict as many as 50 million people, most of them Black. It kills half of its victims before they reach age 20. Sickle cell traits are usually found in one in every 10 Black Americans.

The name sickle cell is given to describe the crescent or sickle-shaped blood cells. Normally

healthy red blood cells are shaped like a doughnut. The abnormal shaped cells lose their ability to move through body capillaries and thus cut off oxygen supplies.

The new machine was developed at the University of Washington. Researchers have been testing sheep and have found "absolutely no side effects."

In using the machine a patient's blood would be pumped through the machine and dosed with the chemical sodium cyanate before being returned to the body. Researchers hope that the chemical will prevent the cells from "sickling." Because the chemical is toxic almost all of it must be removed before being returned to the body.

If the treatment works a patient should be able to undergo treatment once every two weeks in a six hour session. The machine is expected to cost around \$6,200.

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