

Survey gives Southeast low ranking

By LEE ANN NECESSARY
Staff Writer

The Southeast was ranked as the least favorable region in America for workers and their families, according to a recent survey by the Southern Labor Institute.

But according to Dr. John D. Kasarda, chairman of the UNC Sociology Department, the statistics do not show the great amount of progress the South has made in the past few years.

The institute, a branch of the non-profit Southern Regional Council, based its conclusions on 33 economic, educational, health and job safety statistics between the years 1975 and 1984.

The survey indicated that the southeastern region ranked below other areas in personal income, manufacturing wages, state compensation for worker disability and unemployment, and infant mortality.

Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, California and New York ranked highest. North Carolina was ranked 43rd, with South Carolina

ranked 49th.

Kasarda stressed that while the statistics in the survey are valid, the survey does not take into account the lower cost of living in the southern states.

For example, North Carolina ranked 50th for manufacturing workers' wages (\$7.01 per hour), but Kasarda explained that the cost of living factor should be adjusted into the scale. This would be important because a person in New York may make \$10 per hour, but still have a real income that is substantially less than someone's real income in North Carolina.

Although the overall picture does not favor the Southeast in terms of employment, Kasarda pointed out that in the survey North Carolina ranked 10th for a 1985 unemployment rate of 5.4 percent, indicating that there is a good opportunity for graduating seniors to find jobs in the future.

"North Carolina is a highly favorable state for employment opportunity," said Kasarda. "This is not to say that some of our graduates will

not find better opportunities outside the state in their respective fields, but on the other hand other out-of-state graduates will be coming into North Carolina looking for jobs to even things out."

He added that North Carolina provides graduates with "... especially good opportunities in professional, financial, and business research skills, because the state economy is rapidly transforming to become a national leader in information processing and financial activities."

Another aspect the survey did not cover was the migration of people into the Southeast. As Kasarda indicated in one of his articles: "the net migration to the South between 1980 and 1985 was nearly three times that to the western regions of the United States."

The migration factor and the amount of people staying in the South would enable many to view the statistics somewhat differently.

"Whenever metropolitan areas are ranked as the most desirable in terms of quality of life and employment

opportunity, at least one of North Carolina's metropolitan areas is typically ranked among the nation's top five," said Kasarda.

The survey also ranked North Carolina:

- 40th with an average increase in personal income of \$462 for 1984-85.
- 44th with average annual pay of \$14,678.
- 38th for wage growth of \$1.64.
- 21st for job-related death rates.
- 44th for statutory protection of workers.
- 47th for income distribution.
- 41st for the number of blacks in poverty, 30.4 percent.
- 39th for youth unemployment, 20.2 percent.
- 28th for disability maximum benefits.
- 43rd for an 13.1 percent infant mortality rate.
- 20th for state revenue contributions to public schools.

Fifty states were ranked. The District of Columbia ranked highest overall in the 33 statistical categories in the Southeast at 29th.

Miners trapped and killed after fire in Johannesburg

From Associated Press reports

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A welding accident set off a fire in an eastern Transvaal gold mine Tuesday, killing 13 miners and injuring 60, officials said. Officials said they fear 300 may be trapped.

General Mining Union Corp. said toxic fumes from burning cables and other materials spread through the No. 2 shaft at the Kinross gold mine, 60 miles east of Johannesburg.

The blaze broke out at 9:30 a.m., and an alarm was sounded for the 2,200 workers in the affected area to get out. The fire was put out, but 300 of the miners remained underground by evening.

Broyhill agrees to debate

RALEIGH — Sen. Jim Broyhill has agreed to take part in a debate with former Gov. Terry Sanford, his opponent in the U.S. Senate race, his campaign announced Tuesday.

Broyhill is negotiating with the

State & National

North Carolina Association of Broadcasters on a format for the Oct. 12 debate in Charlotte, the campaign said. The one-hour debate is scheduled for 5 p.m.

The campaign said the appearance is the only debate Broyhill will accept.

Gas tax increase considered

WASHINGTON — The House Ways and Means Committee is considering a 10-cent-a-gallon increase in the federal gasoline tax as part of a package to reduce the fiscal 1987 deficit.

By more than doubling the tax from its current nine cents, the government would be able to raise \$6.3 billion over a full year. If the gas tax increase were not implemented until January, as proposed, less would be gained in fiscal 1987, which begins Oct. 1.

Campaigning interfering with N.C. state business

By FRED PATTERSON
Staff Writer

Politicking on state time has been an issue in government as long as it has existed. Office-holders running for re-election have spent the last months of their terms out of the office more often than in, either getting an early start on their own bids or helping drum up support for members of their parties.

In North Carolina, both Republican Gov. Jim Martin and Attorney General Lacy Thornburg have denounced such practices. When he was campaigning in 1984, Martin promised to reduce the misuse of state time. The issue has surfaced

again with the state Supreme Court chief justice race.

Republican Rhoda Billings, who was recently sworn in as the interim Supreme Court justice, is running against former senior associate justice James Exum, a Democrat. Martin appointed Billings to the position although she was an associate justice, and traditionally, the appointee has been a senior associate justice.

Last week, Martin asked his legal counsel, Sam Wilson, not to raise campaign issues such as the death penalty while conducting state business. The Associated Press quoted Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan, a Democrat,

as saying that Wilson had been making phone calls "trying to promote a campaign (for state Supreme Court justice) which would really center on the death penalty."

Wilson said that his conversations with district attorneys all over the state are not unusual. Communication with district attorneys is the main function of a state legal counsel, he said. The conversations were initiated on state business, he said, and the subject of the race between Billings and Exum came up unintentionally. He said he could not remember the tone or content of the conversations, nor could he recall who had turned them toward the election.

Brenda Summers, a spokesman in Jordan's office, said the lieutenant governor was upset that Exum was not chosen to serve in the interim until Nov. 4. She said Jordan feels that although Billings is "certainly a qualified individual," Exum should have been chosen.

"Exum has more experience, and they (governors) have always chosen the one with the most experience," she said. When asked specifically

about Jordan's complaint against Wilson, Summers said that Jordan feels that "state employees are not supposed to politicize on state time."

Tim Pittman, Martin's press secretary, said the governor was not aware of Wilson's talks with district attorneys. He said Wilson speaks with district attorneys routinely and "made some comments which could be and were inferred as political."

Pittman said that when Martin heard Jordan's complaint, he "verbally reprimanded" Wilson. Since the politicking was of an accidental nature, it was not a "heinous crime," Pittman said. The incident was "a by-product of state business instead of a point-blank abuse of political position," he said.

Martin has made an effort to reduce this form of misuse of taxpayers' dollars. He has reduced by one-half the number of political appointments in the state government. These appointees would be protected under the State Personnel Act, and Martin feels that state employees should be accountable to the voters they are there to serve.

Daniloff's release important to Soviet-American summit

From Associated Press reports

MOSCOW — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that Moscow wants the case of American journalist Nicholas Daniloff resolved soon, and that it should not be allowed to harm superpower relations.

Boris Pyadyshv, first deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's information board, was asked at a news conference if there was any movement toward solving Daniloff's case before Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and George Shultz, secretary of state, meet in Washington on Friday.

The two are supposed to discuss a summit, and White House officials have warned a summit is in jeopardy unless Daniloff returns home first.

I am not sure whether it is correct to relate this case to the encounter


between Shultz and Shevardnadze, Pyadyshv said.

"No one has placed any time limit on this case. As regards the Soviet side, we would be happy to have this case solved as soon as possible, and would be happy not to have this case at all," he said.

"This case should not hamper Soviet-American relations which are at a rather low level, even without this case, and our opinion is that this case should be dealt with in a quiet manner, without dramatizing the situation," Pyadyshv said.

Daniloff, a correspondent for U.S. News & World Report, was arrested in Moscow Aug. 30, by eight KGB agents after meeting a Soviet acquaintance and being given a package that was later found to contain military maps and photographs.

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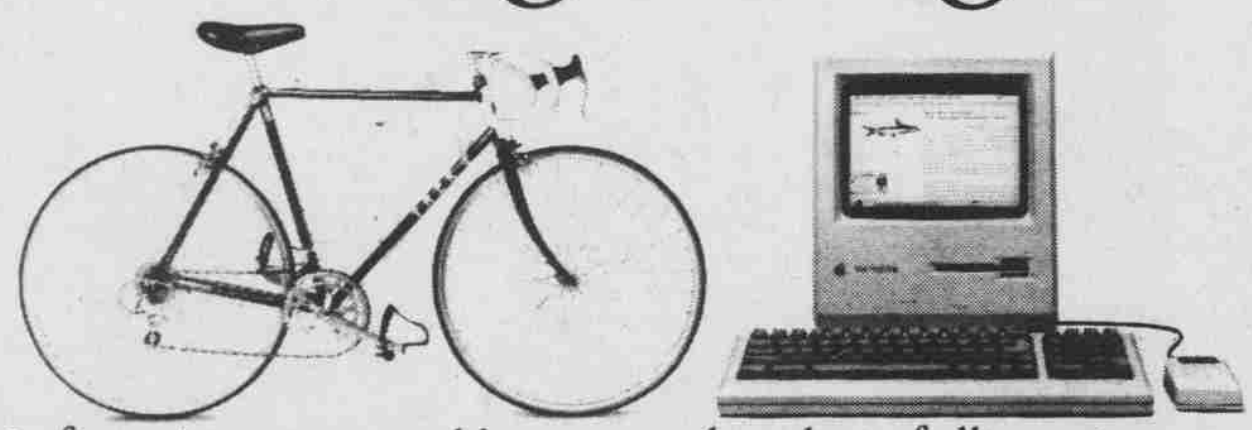
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Number of women DWIs shows 43 percent increase

By PHYLLIS A. FAIR
Staff Writer

Although researchers say drinking might appear to be more exciting and sensual for women, it isn't always safer.

The number of women arrested for driving while impaired jumped 43 percent between 1976 and 1984 in North Carolina, while the number of men arrested on the same charge has declined, said Carol Popkin, research associate at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center.

During that time, the crash rate for men declined, but the crash rate for women showed almost no reduction, she said.

Although the percentage of women arrested for drunk driving has increased, the percentage of men arrested is still larger, Popkin said. But people need to be aware that more women who have been drinking are taking to the highways, Popkin said.

These results are from a UNC study conducted by Popkin, Linda Rudisill, Shirley Geissinger and Patricia Waller, all with the Research Center. The results suggest a growing national problem of

drinking and driving by women.

One reason for the increased percentage of women DWIs is more women work nowadays, so more of them are driving, she said.

Between 1970 and 1980, women's participation in the labor force rose 44 percent to 45 million, Popkin said. And from 1969 to 1983, the number of women drivers increased 58 percent, from 45 million to 71 million.

Certain liquor magazine ads suggest that women can improve their social lives by drinking, and advertisers have realized women are a good target market, she said.

"The ads are selling a promise of enhanced sexuality that appears to be having an impact, just as the increased cigarette advertising of a few years (ago did)," Popkin said.

"There are also some suggestions in the scientific literature that women have more accidents than men with the same blood alcohol content (percent of alcohol in a person's blood), possibly because they are affected differently by alcohol when oral contraceptives or natural cycles change their hormonal levels," she said.

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