

Lousy job market predicted for grads

by Bonar Tucker

The job market for this year's college graduates has gone from bad to worse, according to a report issued by the College Press Service.

The recession, officially acknowledged by the White House the first week of January, has forced hundreds of companies to scale back and even drop their plans to hire newly minted grads, campus placement officers reported.

"Dating back to 1982-83, the past two years have seen the most serious drop in hiring quotas for new college graduates," said Patrick Scheetz, author of *Recruiting Trends 1990-91*, Michigan State University's national survey of 549 employers' hiring plans for the year.

"It's very tight here," added Mary Ann Benson, coordinator of placement and academic internships at the University of Southern Maine. "It's as bad now as it was in 1982."

The last time the United States was officially in a recession, (82-83), job opportunities for students dropped 16.8 percent from the previous year.

Last year the survey found the drop at 13.3 percent. This year the decrease is 9.8 percent.

Employers have cited uncertainty about the economy as the reason they have cut back on their student hiring.

Jim Clayton, assistant director of Career Planning and Placement agreed that anyone reading the news can verify that the market is tougher than it has been in the past few years.

"Regionally, and of course it would depend on the types of positions, the past two years have seen a most serious drop in the number of jobs opening up for college graduates," Clayton said. "First grads are hit hard and positions where training on the job is necessary are also hardest hit."

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- Patrick Scheetz

The other major annual survey of student job prospects, Northwestern University's Lindquist-Endicott Report, found that businesses plan to hire one percent fewer graduates overall this year.

"The market is going to be more competitive," said Victor Lindquist, Northwestern's placement director. "The students are going to have to work harder and be more creative and imaginative, but the jobs are going to be more difficult to uncover."

"We do not have statistics yet

for this year on that but I'd say a one percent cut is probably a fair assessment," Clayton said. "We will see the stats after this class graduates."

Students, even those with sought-after degrees, are finding that job offers have been rare.

"I'm a little bit worried," admitted Jim Reber, who will graduate in June from Michigan State with a chemical engineering degree. He's had 16 interviews so far, but no offers.

"I keep reading that the job market is getting tougher and tougher to break into," said Carol Miller, who will graduate with her degree in computer science from UNLV. "I'm not scared yet but, yeah, I am concerned."

David Smally, business, said he felt it was a "buyer's market."

"I guess you would need to be one of the top people in your class to be chosen," he said. "I certainly don't fit there so maybe I just wasted the past five years. I'll find something, though. There's got to be a job out there for me."

Clayton advised students to create a balance for their resumes.

"Most employers look for a balance," he said. "I believe a person has to have employment experience prior to getting involved in a successful search."

When asked for his opinion on the most important aspects a student can offer prospective employers, Clayton said, "A good grade



Jim Clayton

photo by Morgan Fisher

point average makes a difference to an extent. Related experience in the form of the ability to solve problems is also a good asset. And affiliation and association with a professional organization can only help."

Clayton said the Career Planning and Placement office will be holding a seminar near the end of April to assist students in preparing for the job market.

"We will be aiming to dispel fears and anxiety of graduates as well as working on technical abilities such as resume writing and interview skills," he said.

The date of the seminar will be posted in *The Yellin' Rebel* as soon as it is final.

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All inquiries should be sent to *The Yellin' Rebel*, MSU 302, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89154.

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Computerworld Magazine reports IBM most sought after employer

(CPS) Computer science, electrical engineering and information systems majors would rather get jobs at IBM than just about anywhere else, a survey in Computerworld magazine reports.

More than half of the 772 students who responded to the survey said IBM was their first choice as a future employer, followed by American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) and Hewlett Packard Co.

"IBM is the pacesetter," one student told the magazine. "When it takes the lead, everyone else follows."

"Traits the students looked for among potential employers included opportunities for further education and training, a global corporate outlook and meaningful responsibilities," the article says.

Unfortunately, the big companies seem to be hiring few new grads this year.

"I'd say their chances are slim"

at the top three corporations, said Peter Watts, chief executive officer of Information Kinetics, a New Jersey firm that operates a job data base for college grads.

"IBM's not hiring too many people" this year, said Watts, whose company tries to match grads with major corporations' recruiting needs. He added Hewlett Packard is also planning to hire fewer new grads this year.

Yet Sheryl Kay, the author of the study, contended that a student with "the right technical qualities, real world experience and business acumen would have a great chance at any of the 10."

Students' other 10 favorite prospective employers, in descending order, included Digital Equipment Corp., Apple Computer Inc., General Electric Co., Motorola, Inc., Arthur Andersen & Co./ Arthur Andersen Consulting, Microsoft Corp. and Intel Corp.

Wheel watchers get the real thing

by Richard Munson

While tryouts are being held at UNLV today for "College Week" on Wheel of Fortune, there were also auditions earlier this week at Arizona Charlie's and the Flamingo Hilton. Fans from all over the Las Vegas valley were trying out in regular and teen categories in order to get a chance to appear on "America's most watched game show."

Those trying out must go through numerous steps in order to appear on the show. First, would-be contestants must fill out an application and then there is a quiz. This is when the real "Wheel watchers" are separated from those just wanting to be on television. Each hope-

ful contestant must go through a series of simulated games just as they appear on television. After their completion of all tests, the contestants are then chosen.

"You try to figure out what their looking for," said Gina Richardson, a 1990 graduate of UNLV. "I'm going on the show for a specific reason, to win money or a trip to Ireland. My dad is 80 and he loves golf, so I want to take him to Ireland to play golf."

The Wheel's college week, will send 10 students (four per school, two alternates and extras in case of any problems), to Los Angeles to represent the university after the completion of today's auditions.

A fight for independence

Thursday, April 11, at 4 p.m. in Moyer Student Union Room 201 at UNLV, the Student Government Senate will meet to decide the fate of *The Yellin' Rebel*, the newspaper that serves UNLV. This will be the first time in the history of UNLV that the student newspaper will have a chance to become fully independent from Student Government.

This is an opportunity for the newspaper to exercise its

rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution.

In addition to the sense of exhilaration which comes with the new freedom of operation, the staff of *The Yellin' Rebel* feels that independence is long overdue at UNLV. Freedom of the press is a right that should be exercised at UNLV.

Those interested are urged to attend the Student Government Senate Meeting Thursday, April 11, at 4 p.m. in MSU 201.

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