

JOB MARKET OUTLOOK 1992

Strategy planning necessary to secure job

by Eileen McGarry

Almost every college student questions what the future has in store. Bleak headlines screaming recession can do a lot to discourage an otherwise enthusiastic graduate anxious to contribute to the world of work. Rumors and panic can spread all too quickly among graduating seniors. Therefore, it is important to sort through the realities and myths about the job market within the context of your own individual needs and certainly to approach the world of work with the intention of learning the best strategy for your particular situation.

In a Fall 1991 survey of 1514 college recruiters, conducted by the National College Placement Council, 66% percent of the employers responding said that they did not consider the recession over. Although 61% of the employers overall were planning to hire 8.5% more graduates in 91-92 than they hired in 1990-91, many described their projections as "cautious optimism."

In 1990-91 employers had greatly reduced their number of new hires and some eliminated recruiting entirely. The recession had also triggered a round of down-sizing, increasing the pool of experienced candidates and further tightening the market for 1990-91 graduates and those yet to graduate. Increases in starting salaries were reported to be conservative at best, unlikely to exceed the inflation rate. The UNLV Placement office experienced a downturn in on campus recruiting similar to that of other campuses, although the local job market, due to phenomenal growth in Las Vegas, was one of the last to experience the effects.

The January 1992 issue of SPOTLIGHT, a monthly newsletter put out by the College Placement Council, states that the hiring outlook looks more hopeful for job hunters according to a quarterly survey by Manpower Incorporated. The survey of 15,000 businesses in 474 cities, revealed an equal number of companies planning to hire (15%) as to cut back

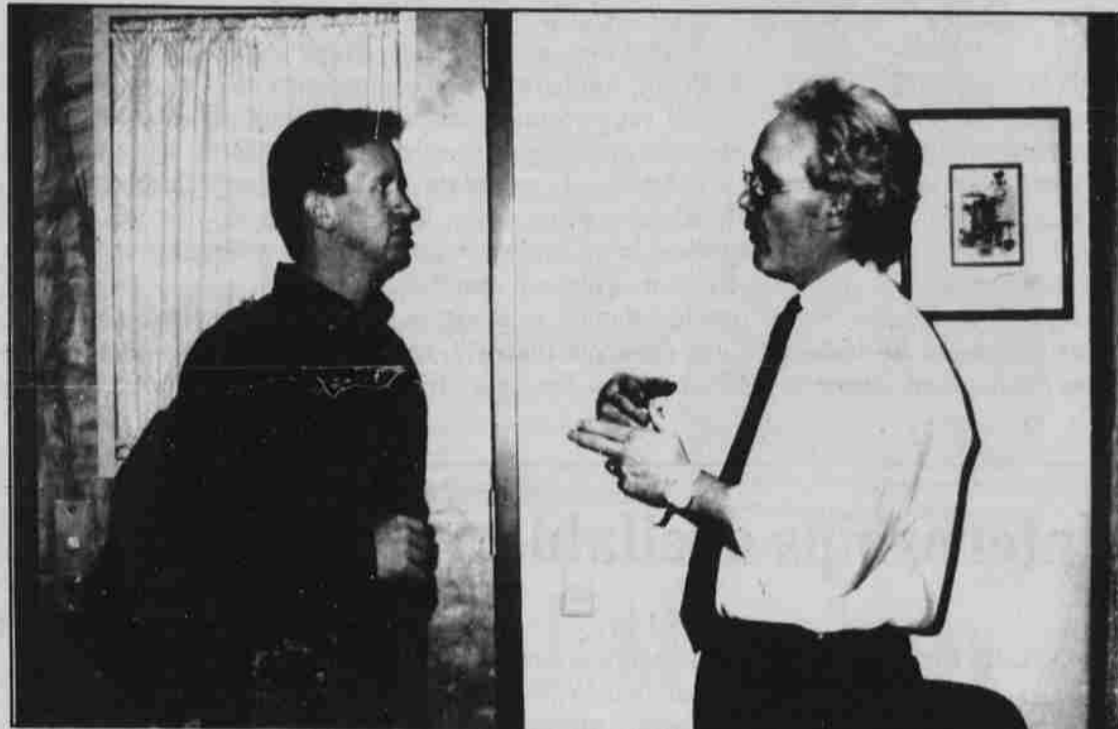


photo by Bonar Tucker

Jim Clayton, career placement specialist, offers advice to James York, a senior in management.

leaving a "Zerogain" prediction for 1992 as opposed to the -1% percent projection the first quarter of 1991. The manpower survey compares this trend to the lifting of the recession in 1983. It is important to note that the survey showed strong regional differences with the South being the strongest area for employment opportunities followed by the midwest. The Northeast and Western regions indicate the greatest net declines in hiring, with the Western region on par with the National average.

The survey also notes that 19% percent of services companies expect a staffing increase in contrast to 10% percent which expect to employ fewer workers. On a national scale, hiring gains are also expected in durable goods manufacturing (computers, appliances, automobiles), nondurable goods manufacturing (food, clothing, publishing), finance, insurance, real estate, and services (hotels, ad agencies, hospitals etc.) The survey predicted the weakest hiring rates in the Western region for construction & public

administration.

What do these statistics really mean?

Many experts contend that current economic indicators point to a major restructuring of the job market as we know it. The challenge that we face is that of competing in a world market that demands development and utilization of new technologies. Thus, an educated, highly literate and skilled work force will be a key to that success.

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Metro Police offers opportunities

by Georgia West Babb

Dirk Thomas of the Las Vegas Metro Police Department said the police department is recruiting "very intelligent people with good writing skills who can handle themselves well in, and out of court; people with common sense."

There are opportunities as a police officer in the canine section, vice, narcotics and detective work. In addition, there are as many as 40 jobs in the civilian section as dispatchers, computer programmers, accountants, helicopter mechanics, or microfilm processors to name a few.

"We are just like any large corporation in that we have many of the same needs such as

planners and auditors," added Thomas. He went on to say that most college students do not realize how they can use their degrees, such as a political science degree, at a job which can be personally fulfilling.

"In the past the police department was known for recruiting guys six foot four who could kick butt, but now we focus on recruiting problem solving people who are well educated," Thomas said. "Many police departments now require at least sixty hours of college credit."

Thomas encourages any student interested in law enforcement to stop by the Metro Police Department booth at Career Day.