

Job Market Trends -- Get the right education now

Even more than sports and Saturday night dates, the job market has taken over as the chief topic of conversation among youth today -- especially since unemployment for 16 to 19 year olds has topped 19 percent, more than double the national rate.

One of the problems is that high schoolers simply don't plan for careers, according to officials at the U. S. Department of Labor, who cite the lack of knowledge about various career opportunities and inadequate education as major factors.

Neal Rosenthal of the Labor Department's Division of Manpower and Occupational Outlook suggests that youths get as much information as possible about careers they would enjoy, including job outlook, duties involved, and educational requirements.

Where a high school diploma was once an automatic passport into the work world, today about 80 percent of jobs require specialized vocational education. The unskilled will have the worst time job hunting since many occupations are becoming increasingly complicated and technical. The discouraging fact is that one out of every three high school graduates leaves school without definite career plans, and as a result is threatened to be left behind in the race for over 60 million job openings expected in the next decade.

While a lack of training is a major stumbling block, there certainly isn't a lack of information. The Department of Labor recently published a thick "Occupational Outlook Handbook," an economic crystal ball of sorts since it predicts future opportunities in over 800 occupations. The picture for teachers and boatswains, for example, is cloudy, while rapid growth is forecast for white collar positions and in the service

producing industries such as computers, health care, the trades, repair and maintenance, banking and others.

Considerable growth is expected in the area of computers, the world's third largest industry. Computers are produced, used, outmoded and replaced with technical age speed. The need for qualified men and women to operate, maintain and repair them is staggering. There were 150,000 computer operators in 1972, and 175,000 programmers. Both occupations will undergo rapid growth through the mid-1980's requiring an additional 200,000 workers.

And, as banks, insurance companies, credit card companies and state and local governments increase their use, not only will the need for people to run them increase, but also for those capable of keeping them in good repair. The need for computer maintenance men will increase from 175,000 to 250,000 by 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

In fact, the Handbook predicts that repairmen of just about anything from toasters to airplanes is one of the fastest growing occupations there is. Demand is expected to increase rapidly due to many factors including a growing population and a higher standard of living which will allow more Americans to buy more labor-saving devices, which inevitably have to be fixed.

A well-paid field, salary ranges between \$4-\$7 per hour -- and every community needs its share of repairmen. While the trade may be learned on the job in about three years, vocational school courses will teach a trainee more quickly, usually in four to nine months.

But the home is not the only place where gadgets are liable to break down. Office machines are also going to need

increasing attention as businesses and state and local governments buy and use more equipment to handle a growing volume of paper work which has to be typed, tabulated and copied. At least one year of training is required in this repair field due to the complicated and ever-changing technology involved.

High schoolers and others about to plan careers would do well to consider the rapidly growing medical field. Employing over 3.5 million people, the outlook is excellent for qualified job seekers due to an increasing health consciousness among Americans made possible by more widespread insurance coverage, either private or through federal programs of health care.

Besides physicians and nurses, millions of paramedics -- medical assistants, operating room technicians, medical secretaries, nurses aides, dieticians, dental assistants, and many others -- carry out the work of administering health care; and all are expected to be in very great demand over the next decade.

An equally little known field -- respiratory therapy -- is in much demand, with good chances of advancement. Yet, only 1,800 respiratory therapists are available for the many thousands of hospitals and clinics.

While a B.A. may be obtained in respiratory therapy, shorter concentrated courses are given at vocational schools, reducing the time for training from four years to 18 months.

There are literally hundreds of similar careers going unnoticed by many Americans. To sum up the advice given by U.S. Labor Department officials -- look before you leap into the job market.

Women in the economy

The Black female child born in 1954, the year of the Supreme Court decision on Brown versus the United States is now 21 years old, probably unemployed or underemployed, Edith-Sloan, Executive Director of the national Committee on Household Employment, told a meeting of women, sponsored by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, this month.

"If she is lucky, or otherwise advantaged," Ms. Barksdale-Sloan said of the 21 year old, "she is in college, but she is far more likely to be in the labor force. Even though qualified and available, the chances are better than even that she is unemployed. If she is a job holder, there is one chance in four that she is underemployed."

Ms. Sloan, a member of a panel discussion on minority employment, said that Black women had made significant progress in this generation. "In the ten years since 1964, Black female participation in white collar employment rose from 22 percent to 42 percent. At the same time, their numbers decreased in the service categories from 56 percent to 37 percent. Blue collar employment, including crafts and skills over the same period showed a five percent increase. Encouraging figures, all of them. We are especially glad that black females engaged in household employment has dropped dramatically from 33 percent to 11 percent. College enrollment among Black females is up 52,000 in just four years. It is now 277,000," Ms. Barksdale-Sloan said.

She pointed out that although progress has been made by Black women, "there is still a long way to go. In every survey taken by every means available, Black female workers emerge at the very bottom of the economic heap. In April of this year, for example, Black teenage female unemployment is consistently higher for Black women in every age group. Wages, on the other hand, are regularly lower."

"The Black woman in America has the capabilities to be whatever she wants to be. More and more, we are becoming aware of our potential and expanding our horizons," she declared.

New minority business directory

An updated edition of the publication, "OMBE Funded Organizations Directory," is now available, listing a comprehensive catalogue of potentially useful advisors for minority entrepreneurs in need of business assistance services.

Expanded to 49 pages, the directory is published by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE), and updates an earlier edition.

Listing 208 sources of assistance for minority entrepreneurs, by OMBE administrative and region and alphabetical index, the publication gives the names of officials, and addresses and phone numbers for the various types of organizations which are tailored to the needs of a variety of minority enterprises.

Copies of the directory in limited quantities are available from: OMBE Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

Facts on Lewis telethon aired

Some interesting facts behind the scenes at the enormously successful Jerry Lewis Telethon, held over Labor Day weekend at the Hotel Sahara. The amount of food served 'round the clock to the hundreds of volunteers, technical personnel and talent was staggering: more than 6,000 eggs, 2,000 continental breakfasts, 4,000 pieces of chicken, 40,000 cups of coffee, 250 pounds of spareribs, 1,400 buffet breakfasts, 1,200 luncheons and 1,200 dinners, all served compliments of Del Webb's Sahara Hotel. The total Hotel Sahara contribution to the Muscular Dystrophy Association during 1974 came to nearly \$100,000 -- a \$10,000 cash contribution given on-camera and \$90,000 in rooms, food, beverage and labor throughout the year.



GULF GIVES GASOLINE TO SICKLE CELL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA-Gulf Oil Corporation recently donated a one-year supply of gasoline and other petroleum products to the Sickle Cell Society of Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania. The donation will be used in operating the mobile comprehensive screening and testing unit secured for the society from the proceeds of the Second Annual Willie Stargell Celebrity Bowling Tournament, held in Pittsburgh, last November. Gathered for the presentation of the Gulf travel card to Mrs. Ruth White, Sickle Cell Society Administrator were: top (left to right) Mrs. Geraldine Bayless, Photographic Archivist; Luddy Hayden, Community Relations Representative; and James Bruce, Governmental Relations, all with Gulf Oil Corporation. Presenting card to Mrs. White is Gerald Pratt, Retail Marketing Supervisor, Gulf Oil Co.-U.S. The mobile comprehensive unit will be used for screening and testing in Allegheny County and surrounding areas, and will be available to citizens who would not otherwise have access to these facilities.

ARE YOU POURING EXTRA MONEY IN YOUR TANK?

If you are averaging approximately 12 mpg your extra money is being poured right in your tank. The Toyota Corolla Deluxe squeezes lots of miles out of a gallon of gas. It lets you put your extra money somewhere other than your tank. In fact...in Environmental Protection Agency tests the Toyota Corolla got 33 mpg. In city driving...at least 27 mpg. The Toyota Corolla Deluxe gives you economy plus luxury.

You have a choice of 6 Corolla models. It's funny...none of them look basic and inexpensive...economy never looked so good. And all that extra money doesn't end up in the tank.

ED FOUNTAIN MOTORS
3175 E. SAHARA • 457-0333 **TOYOTA**

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE