

Unemployment:

Recession hits hard in county areas

Continued from Page 1.

The University provides almost one-third of county jobs, and because of its stable employment, serves as a buffer for the county-wide jobless figure. But even the University is not completely insulated. On Feb. 22, a 4-month hiring freeze went into effect as part of a plan to save \$1.5 million in increased costs the University did not anticipate.

"Even though the University has limited hiring now, they have limited layoffs too," said Frank Clemson, manager of the State College branch of the Bureau of Employment Security.

And although the county's double-digit jobless rate has alarmed some residents, particularly those out of a job, the county has fared better than many areas, labor officials said.

"Even though the unemployment rate is not what I would consider great, it's still much better than our surrounding neighbors and much better than the state as an average," Clemson said.

Similarly, Glenn Lynn, regional labor market analyst for the Bureau of Employment Security, said: "The county, as well as the rest of the state, has been somewhat higher in recent years. But Centre County isn't nearly as high as some other places in the state."

"There's been considerable recession damage. Relative to other metropolitan areas, it hasn't been as bad," said Norma Pappas, editor of the Pennsylvania Business Survey.

"And even relative to the national average, the county has fared better, and that's because of the University," she said. "The University is such a stable employer and it accounts for such a large percentage of the total employment in the area."

And a substantial number of non-University employees hold their jobs by virtue of University and student spending, or as a result of other indirect relationships.

High technology companies, such as HRB Singer in State College, are an increasingly important result of the University.

"HRB Singer is a swing-off of University people, and in turn, Locus is a swing-off of HRB," Clemson said. "So there's an indirect, indirect

relationship. And a lot of the small, research-type firms we have are an indirect effect."

High technology companies are being hailed by many as the future of American industry. Gov. Dick Thornburgh has made such development one of his top priorities. And Centre County might be the site for a high technology park.

"I look on that as I would any kind of expanding or new industry—it can only help," Clemson said. "To what extent, I don't know."

The county needs new jobs to hold down the jobless rate, he said, because more people are looking for work. During the recession, the total number of jobs has remained about the same.

"Therefore, we've got high unemployment," Clemson said. "There weren't enough new jobs to absorb it. But the state's in much worse shape."

For February, the seasonally adjusted county rate was 11.5 percent, which was better than the state's 13.2 percent, but higher than the nation's 10.4 percent.

Of Pennsylvania's 14 Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Centre County had the fifth lowest rate. The adjusted rates range from 7.6 percent in Harrisburg, which is heavy in stable, government employment, to 24.2 percent in Johnstown, which depends on a depressed steel industry.

So the figures back up the assertion that Centre County's employment situation is comparatively good, but the recession has left its mark.

The county jobless figure has been somewhat insulated from the recession by the University's steady employment, but manufacturing has been hurt.

"The thing that is unique is the awfully high ratio of non-manufacturing to manufacturing—which tends to hold the unemployment rate down," Lynn said. "Non-manufacturing, whether it be in Centre County or elsewhere, is the last to be hit—and hit the least. But you can find pockets of that in other places as well."

Lynn cited Harrisburg, with its 7.6 percent February jobless rate, as a prime example.

But that provides little consolation to people in manufacturing. Fifteen percent of the county's manufacturing jobs have been lost since July

1981, which most analysts consider the start of the recession, Pappas said.

About 200 job slots have been lost at Erie Technological Products in State College. Julian Pinkos, personnel manager, said the market for ceramic chips, components and capacitors has been weak.

"We got hit later than most of our competition, but it caught us anyway," Pinkos said. He added that most of the company's competition is out of state.

"We've been running around 400 to 450 employees in most recent years," he said, "but in the last two years we've seen that erode down to the low point in February, which was right around 250."

However, things are improving, Pinkos said.

"I've started to call back some of our employees within the last four weeks," he said. "Not a whole lot, but it's a turning point we can see. We're encouraged."

But certainly not all manufacturers have been so deeply hurt by the recession.

Locus, a Boalsburg company that produces amplifiers, microwave components and other electronic components, is an example of a company not significantly affected.

"We indirectly have been affected somewhat, but with no great impact at all," said John Masteller, the personnel director. "We have about 100 employees and that's been fairly stable. We've had no layoffs at all, and no major hiring sprees either."

That situation will probably not change for at least the next few months, Masteller said. "Certainly, we don't look for a downturn," he said.

Now, with Labor Department statistics pointing to a slow recovery for the national economy, the situation might also be improving for more Centre County companies. For the first time since June, the county jobless rate dropped in February.

Because the sample size is so small, one month's decline may be a statistical error, Pappas said.

"So I wouldn't go out and say, 'Hey, Centre County has turned around, unemployment is declining.' No one should be surprised if it goes up again in March," she said.

Personal contacts bring best jobs, study shows

Continued from Page 1.

Group members identify their skills and how the skills are related to what they want to do. They must be able to support the skills they claim with information and data—not just vague assertions—for example, by relating contents of courses.

Next the students identify where they want to work geographically and determine whether that is realistic.

An example of this would be a student from Johnstown—where unemployment is now approaching 25 percent—who wants to return there to work after graduation, Wortham said.

WHAT'S AHEAD? FOR THE CLASS OF '83

"I'm not saying there aren't any jobs, but you're going to have to work a lot harder and longer to get one," he said. "The days of being able to get a degree in your hometown and be employed there are far and few between."

"If you're mobile, you're more marketable," he said. Students must also choose from a variety of occupations they can go into with any given major, Wortham said. For example, someone with a bachelor's degree in psychology could work at a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children, a disabled adult center or as a community aide. Another option for the psychology major is to work in the personnel department of a company.

The key, he said, is identifying more than one place to work.

After students have an idea of what skills they have and where they want to work, the next step, Wortham said, is finding out more about the job. Students are encouraged to contact a company in their field and ask only for information about the aspects of the job.

During the interview, the person should ask what the employee's day is like, would the employee enter the same field again—anything that will give the student an idea of what the job is like. The student should have two or three of these informational interviews so he can obtain a better perspective, Wortham said.

However, he said students probably should not have an informational interview with a firm for which they may be interested in working.

Wortham stressed that students should not ask for a job during an informational interview. The idea behind an informational interview is to help the student know himself better when he sits down with a potential employer in a real interview.

"I think that's important—to know what's happen-

ing in the real work world," Wortham said.

After the student has completed his informational interviews, he is ready to start searching for potential employers.

One valuable step is to identify job contacts and sources—which may include professors, professional people, old family friends or anyone who could refer the student to someone, Wortham said.

Students should also learn how to use newspapers and trade journals to find jobs in which they are interested. Job searchers should read religiously the Sunday want ads in the New York Times and try to decipher what positions are available—because as in the psychology major example, jobs are not always traditionally listed, Wortham said.

Students should also explore trade or professional groups; most have conventions and many times companies have recruiting tables at conventions. Although some conventions are held in distant places, others are much closer, such as Washington, D.C., and may be worth attending.

Students should also join the local chapter of the professional group and attend meetings, thereby developing contacts, Wortham said.

Students in majors from liberal arts to engineering and business could use the assertive job search both now and for future employment.

Changing Times magazine suggested some other places to look for a job in addition to the college placement office, including:

- Department heads and professors in the field. They may get leads from consulting work, they do or may be contacted by employers for names of promising graduates.

- Trade or professional associations. Some maintain referral services or lists of job openings within their profession.

- Want ads. Although some counselors say good jobs are never advertised, one survey found that 80 percent of companies used newspaper ads to recruit professional, technical and managerial employees—especially smaller companies that do not recruit on campus.

- Private employment agencies. The quality of jobs available varies greatly, and some may charge applicants fees, but they list jobs.

- Federal job information centers and state and local civil services agencies. Although most government agencies have greatly restricted their hiring, some jobs are always available.

- Job fairs, such as Philadelphia's Operation Native Talent.

Wortham characterizes the attitude of most graduating students he has met in groups as "hungry, a good hungry."

"They feel that there's something out there, but they have to get at it. They're in here and they're trying; they haven't given up hope."

The Penn State Mining Engineering Society Presents

Jim Blount
of **Mettiki Coal Co.**,
who will speak on
"Performance in Union and Non-Union
Coal Mines"
Wed., April 20th, 7:30 p.m. in Min. Sci. Bldg.
All Students Welcome

For the finest in formal flowers,
George's Floral Boutique
Corsages, Nosegays, Formal Roses,
and Boutonnieres

Spring Special
10% off regular formal prices with this ad.
Now through April 30th
482 E. College Ave. Ph. 237-2722

As seen in
Glamour
Vogue
Harper's Bazaar



INTRODUCING THE PERM THAT
OUTSHINES THEM ALL

CELLOPERM
THE NEW TRANSLUCENT PERM

Clear, glossy curls that bounce and vibrate
with life, in a revolutionary new perm.

NAOMI & CO.
Danks
DEPARTMENT STORES

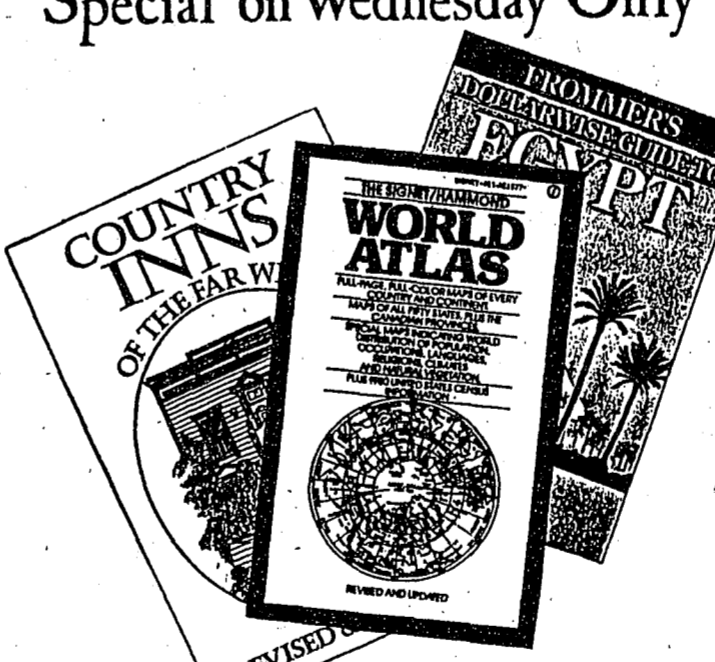
BEAVER & ALLEN STS.
238-5521
Salon Hours
Mon-Fri 9-7
SAT 9-4

Tonight at the **Brewery**

Hattrick

Suzie Wong Eggrolls
Served Nightly 10-2

Special on Wednesday Only*



TRAVEL BOOKS
20% OFF!
at the
Penn State Bookstore
on campus

Owned and operated by the Pennsylvania State University

* April 20th - (Textbooks Excluded)

ATTENTION
4th-9th Term
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION STUDENTS
Pre-Professional Internship
Program
Informational Meeting
for
1983-1984 Academic Year
Tuesday, April 19, 1983
7:00pm
102 Forum Building

Hear Ye!
Hear Ye!

Be Oldie
College Diner

Breakfast Specials
Served from 6 A.M. till 11 A.M. weekdays
From 6 A.M. till 2 P.M., Saturday & Sunday

- **THE CONTINENTAL**—OUR OWN Croissant, Brioche, Toasted Bagel, Diner Muffin OR Sourdough Toast served with Butter and Jelly or Marmalade and Fresh Apple Slices with a Choice of Cheddar Cheese or Cream Cheese.....1.29 (honey butter on request .20)
- **PENN STATE BLUE** — Two of OUR OWN Large Sourdough Batter Pancakes, Stuffed with Blueberries and served with Butter and Choice of Syrups.....1.09
- **FIRST PERIOD RUSH** — Two Eggs, Fried or Scrambled, Home Fries and Two Slices of Toast served with Butter & Jelly or Marmalade.....99 (honey butter on request .20)
- **TWO BY TWO** — Two Eggs, Fried or Scrambled and Two of OUR OWN Large Sourdough Batter Pancakes, served with Butter and Choice of Syrups.....1.19
- **SECOND PERIOD FEAST**— Two Eggs, Fried or Scrambled, Home Fries, Bacon or Sausage and Two Slices of Toast served with Butter & Jelly or Marmalade.....1.69
- **CAKES AND MORE**— Three of OUR OWN Large Sourdough Batter Pancakes, and Your Choice of Bacon or Sausage, served with Butter and choice of syrups.....1.79

Open 24 Hours 126 W. College Ave.

CONSERVE ENERGY