

Students faced with overqualification in job market

Continued from Page 1.

"We've had the whole year — that there's an increased amount of stress and a lot of that is related to the fear of not being able to find a job in the major," she said.

A group was formed Winter Term, but the center did not sponsor one. Spring Term because not enough students showed interest.

During the group's sessions, students discussed their feelings and frustrations as well as possible strategies for coping with uncertainty, Sandmeyer said. They also offered each other support to show that they are not experiencing this uncertainty alone.

The number of students seeking individual counseling at the center and at other counseling services for career-related problems has increased, she said.

Another concern students voiced during counseling sessions is that they are graduating with a degree in a major they have no interest in, she said.

Many students have chosen majors because of the job market, Sandmeyer said. Now many of those students are discovering that they are not happy with their majors and are asking themselves, "Is it worth being

in something if the job market is good but I hate it?" This is especially true when the job market is not as good as they had expected it would be.

Even when the economy improves, the program and students' need for it will continue, she said.

"The economy is one factor. But there'll always be... although not as apparent, a need."

Concern and awareness began earlier this year, which is not an unhealthy sign, Sandmeyer said.

"We saw it Fall Term. You can see it among juniors," Sandmeyer said. It is good that students began early, but bad if that is all they can think about, she added.

"Career-consciousness is going to continue. I see that as healthy, as long as it's not to an extreme."

In a way, the state of the economy can help students in the long run because it makes them more flexible and expands their horizons, she said.

"You can't say, 'I want to be an accountant in Shamokin' and expect to find anything," she said.

In addition, many students with job offers are left with offers they would rather not have to consider, she said.

"Many students faced with job choices are thinking, 'I want to work and if I can't get that first job that

'Career-consciousness is going to continue. I see that as healthy, as long as it's not to an extreme.'

—Louise Sandmeyer, counselor, Career Development and Placement Center

launches my career... If it's not working or working at this, I'm going to take a job."

"That's what causes so much stress. They've had to lower their expectations, and that's pretty difficult to do."

Children, accustomed to bettering their parents in economic terms, now hope to do as well as their parents — especially if they came from upper-middle class backgrounds, she said.

"People are not as optimistic and maybe more realistic (than before)."

Often students will take jobs because they cannot afford the increased tuition cost, or have school or other loans to pay back.

Even after the economy improves, future graduates may have a difficult time working in the field of their choice.

Government statistics show the proportion of college-educated members of the work force has nearly

doubled during the past two decades — to 17 percent in 1979, according to The Wall Street Journal.

However, the statistics also showed the demand for service jobs has increased faster than the demand for general white-collar jobs. This mismatch is exacerbated by the current recession, the Journal reported.

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that during the 1980s, one in four college graduates will accept a job in an occupation that does not require a four-year college degree, the Journal also reported.

From 1962 to 1968, enough new professional jobs were created to accommodate about 73 percent of college grads. However, from 1970 to 1979 — before the start of the current recession — the percentage dropped to 44 percent, the report said.

The "premium" for college education has also dropped sharply. In 1969, male college graduates entering in-

dustry were paid an average of 24 percent more than the average earnings of the total workforce. By 1979, this premium had dropped to 5 percent, according to the Journal.

Sandmeyer said that when she works with students faced with a very real chance of graduating without a job, she uses several approaches.

"I'd help them identify whether the causes for their unemployment were internal or external," she said. Some of the factors, such as self-confidence and job experience, they can affect. However, students have less control over external factors, she said.

Sandmeyer said she tries to have students who come in for counseling answer the several questions, including: "How realistic is your goal? Can you be more flexible? Are there other alternatives?"

Sandmeyer also said she tries to get students to broaden their employment horizons by considering a wider range of firms and jobs. Many students might benefit by working at any job in their field, she said.

For example, an accounting major with no other job possibilities might work for six weeks for H&R Block completing income tax forms, she said. Education majors might take a job as a teacher's aide if a regular teaching position is not available.

By accepting a job in that setting, students can establish a valuable network of contacts for future job opportunities, she said.

"If you're in that environment, you're more likely to learn of openings."

Although many students worry that taking that type of position could damage their prospects for career advancement, Sandmeyer said that because of the number of unemployed, it might not count against them as much as it normally would.

Sandmeyer said experience in the person's field is generally best when the student has a choice of working at jobs both in and out of a major.

"For some people, it's better to work at some place you don't want to work if you can do what you wanted to, than work some place you want to work doing something you didn't want to do."

"I see that as pretty practical, that you evaluate your alternatives on the basis of what you know at the time and whether or not, it (the job) will help you reach your goal. The fact is, you can't sit around for a year and wait for the job market to improve. You've got to make choices that you'd rather not be making."

Animals' plight calls protesters to Boston

Spaces are still available for a trip to the Mobilization for Animals protest in Boston on Sunday, the president of Trans-Species Unlimited said yesterday.

George P. Cave said a chartered bus will leave State College at 2 a.m. Sunday and will return after the protest that afternoon. Round trip cost is \$29.

In the largest demonstration of its kind, Mobilization for Animals, a worldwide animal rights organization, will protest animal experimentation, he said.

Cave estimates that more than 5,000 people will attend the Boston protest, with 300 groups from various countries participating. The protest will focus on experimentation in primate research centers.

Following the protest on Boston Commons, Cave said the group will move via motorcade to Harvard University's primate facility in Southborough for a vigil.

Protesters will demand that an office staffed by Mobilization for Ani-

Group may study Fall Commencement

By ANN MATTURRO
Collegian Staff Writer

A University administrator has forwarded to University President John W. Oswald a letter suggesting that a committee be established to examine the possibility of having a commencement ceremony after Fall Semester.

Robert E. Dunham, vice president for Undergraduate Studies, submitted a letter to Oswald but would not comment on it until Oswald has had a chance to see the letter and respond himself.

Oswald has been out of town and will be returning to campus later this afternoon.

Chris Hopwood, president of the Undergraduate Student Government's Academic Assembly, said he met with Dunham last week and discussed the possibility of having a fall commencement.

"I was surprised (Dunham) acted on the issue so quickly," Hopwood said.

Hopwood said possible committee members were suggested in his meeting with Dunham. If a committee is established it could be composed of the following administrators and students: Dunham, Hopwood, Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for student affairs, and USG President Leni Barch.

Dunham said, in his opinion, he received enough phone calls from students to warrant a concern over this issue.

"When I get a few students to contact me, it usually means there are other students out there who are concerned as well but maybe they don't know how to get a hold of me," Dunham said.

A commencement could be feasible sometime in early January before Spring Semester begins, Dunham said.

"(The administration) should listen to the students," Dunham said. "(The administration) can't just say the students should have known about the cancellation of a Fall Semester commencement two years ago."

Mary Dunkle, assistant director and manager of the news bureau of the University's Office of Public Information, said Oswald is out of town and she could not comment on his reaction to Dunham's letter. She said she did not know if Oswald has seen it yet.

Hopwood said The Centre Daily Times incorrectly reported yesterday that a joint committee of students and administrators has already been established. Emil Parvovsky, USG president-elect, said student leaders and administrators are discussing the possibility of a commencement ceremony but Oswald must approve the suggested committee before formal action can be taken.

"(Hopwood and Dunham) thought premature press coverage might force Oswald to make a hasty decision," Hopwood said. "A decision made in haste might also be one made against our favor."

The commencement committee issue will be discussed with Murphy at the Student Advisory Board's April 28th meeting, Barch said.

Bush adviser to speak here

A national security adviser to Vice President George Bush will discuss U.S. foreign policy toward Asia at 8 tonight in the Kern Building assembly room.

Donald P. Gregg, a foreign policy and defense expert, is a veteran of more than 30 years service in the Central Intelligence Agency. His presentation will be the first installment of a week-long series of films, speeches, panel discussions and slide shows, "Asian Festival."

The festival, sponsored by the University's East Asian Studies Society and the Asian Area Studies Committee, is being launched to "sensitize our students to our relations with Asia," said committee President Parris Chang.

Chang, a University political science professor, cited the growing importance of Asian countries to the United States.

"(U.S.) trade with Asia has long surpassed trade with Europe," he said. "It is increasingly clear that 'something to do with Asia will be a source of jobs for many students.'"

—by Mike Netherland

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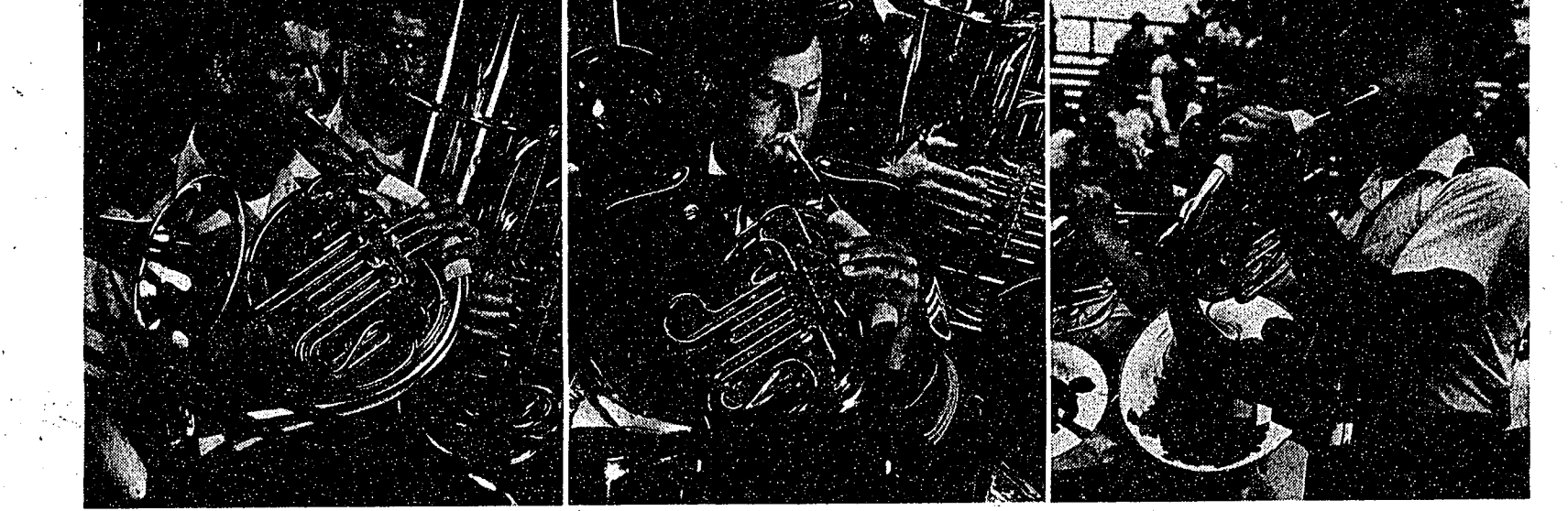
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