

Not so many years ago it was widely accepted that to get a good job, you had to get a good education. Right? Today—not a decade later—students are finding they were not the only ones who thought that way. The result is too many graduates and not enough jobs.

Students who have completed anywhere from three to five years of undergraduate work are learning that the career that they chose as a freshman is flooded by job applicants.

Another heartache is the realization that their bachelors degree means almost nothing. Seeing many graduates with a bachelors degree without a job in their area working instead as a blue-collar laborer or a secretary causes agony.

For students the time to realize the odds they will face after graduation is before they finish their education. To help with that, we have questioned the heads of 50 departments, colleges and schools on campus and asked for a prediction of the job outlook in their discipline. We include here not only job prospects, but changes in working conditions and practices due to technology or legislation.

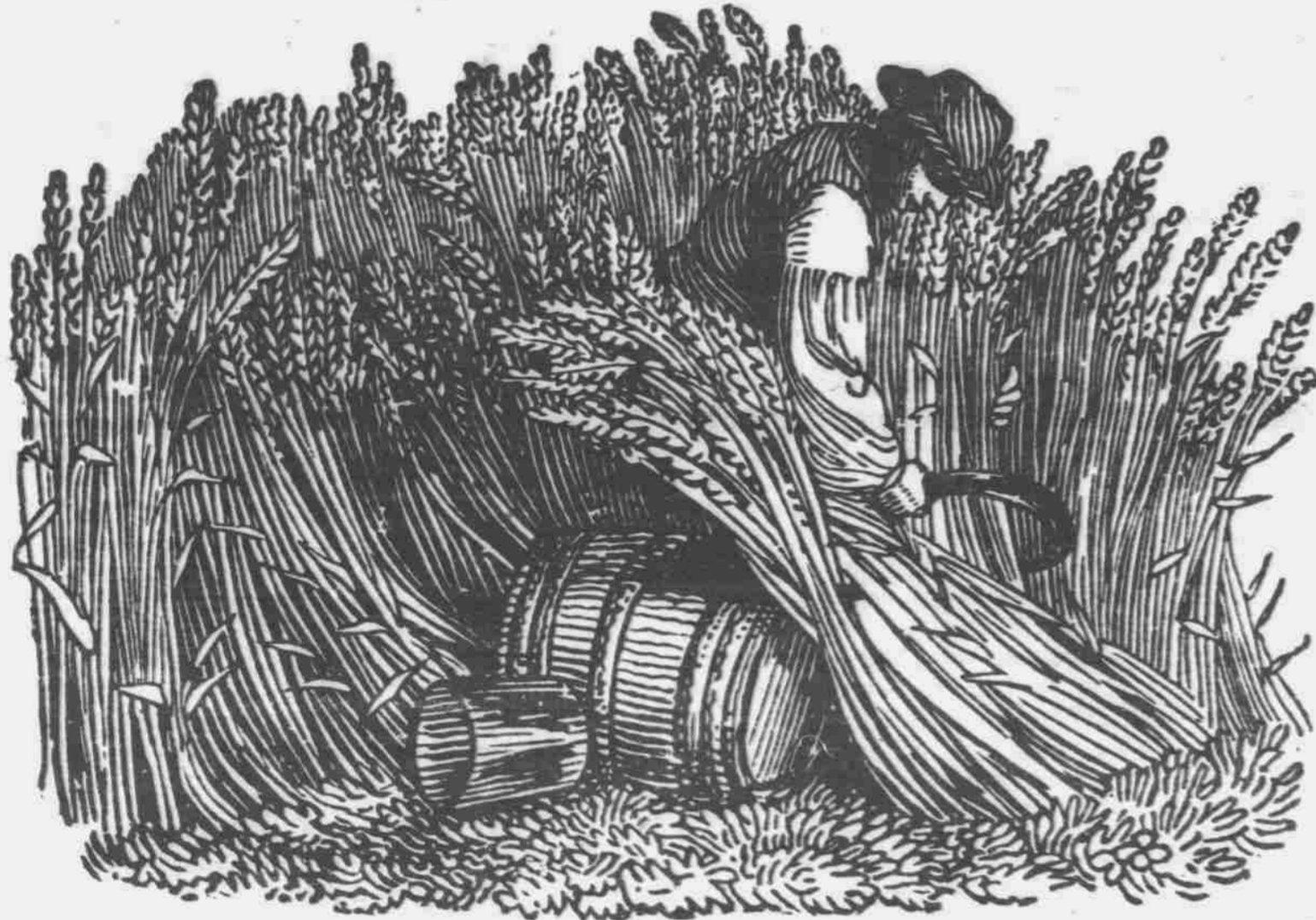
Some may be pure speculation, but it should give the student an idea of what to expect after receiving that little piece of gold embossed paper, supposedly his key to success and the world.

(Third Dimension writers Rich Tilson, Terry Keefe and Nancy Stohs and Daily Nebraskan reporters Janet Fix and Mary Jo Howe compiled the information for this story.)

Teaching

Good news for future teachers, said Robert Egbert, Teachers College dean. A higher percentage of students was placed last year than in recent years.

Field by field



Summaries of the job prospects, changing work conditions, expected salaries in 50 fields of study

Because of Title IX, the legislation mandating equal opportunities for women, there is a desperate shortage of women physical education teachers and coaches, Egbert said. Other undersupplied areas include science, math, industrial arts, elementary special education, speech pathology and audiology, music and to some extent, English.

Getting the jobs means going where they are, Egbert said. That means small communities in many cases.

A decrease in enrollment in Teachers College may have helped cause the upswing in job opportunities, Egbert said. There are 3,000 undergraduate majors now. In 1960-70, there were 5,000.

"There will always be jobs in the field of education," he said. "No matter what, parents want a good education for their children."

A program called "lifelong learning," a movement to continue education for adults beyond high school, and the community college concept could open new jobs.

Programs for four-year-olds may also develop in the near future. In a recent Gallup poll, the American public was asked if four-year-olds should be educated, and the majority answered "yes," Egbert said.

"As more of these new areas open up, we'll see more opportunities for teachers in national education," he said.

Within the profession, work conditions are changing due to unionization. Teachers now have more fringe benefits such as life insurance, sabbaticals, extra pay for extra duty and ability to negotiate salaries.

More teachers also will be needed who can deal with handicapped children. Recent legislation requires that all children be provided with equal education opportunities. This means physically and mentally handicapped children will be placed in regular classrooms under local schools' responsibility.

Student rights are another new area of legislation that will affect education, as well as pressure from special interest groups who want to see more instruction in

economics, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex and cultural awareness.

Home Economics

New emphasis on working women, consumerism, food services, day care programs and rehabilitation make the job market for home economic majors rosy, said Hazel Anthony, Home Economics College dean.

"We are geared to human services, and there will always be a need for that," she said.

Changes in employment opportunities are in all departments.

Anyone with training in the area of consumerism will be in demand by the government to serve in consumer agencies, she said.

"I think there is a trend for continued growth in the field of home economics because more women are working outside the home." Salaries are improving primarily because of sex discrimination laws, she said.

Interior Design Fashion Merchandising

Interior designers must follow new building projects. "That's where the jobs are found," says Audrey Newton, chairwoman of the Fashion Merchandising and Design and Textiles, Clothing, and Design Dept.

Jobs in fashion merchandising usually are in cities where there are more people and more buying, said Newton. Students must be willing to move and make a commitment over a period of time. Those who are interested in working only one to five years will have difficulty finding a job.

Interior design recently received accreditation. Students now must take an exam similar to architect and law exams.

job are good if they go where they are, she stressed.

Since 1970, enrollment in the human development and family dept. has nearly doubled. The graduate to job ratio is "comfortable" now, Sulek said.

Life Sciences

The field of careers in the life sciences offers a steady job market in the future, according to director of the school, Russel Meints.

The explosion in the environmental sciences a few years ago caused the need for environmental quality control experts. This market has not yet reached its peak. There are increasing opportunities in the private and public sectors. The next 10 to 15 years may show a need by manufacturing plants and industry for environmental specialists. Predictions are that each industry will employ its own specialist as will the government, doing the watchdogging.

The other major area of life science employment will be research. Cancer and other health puzzles have supplied additional employment.

Medicine

Those interested in professional fields of medicine can look forward to a steady career demand, if they are willing to go to rural areas and small communities.

"Within Nebraska alone, especially in the western part of the state, there are great possibilities and potentials," said Russel Meints, director of the School of Life Sciences. "But the student who wants to work in the larger cities can expect a tighter job market."

National statistics may appear to show an abundance of physicians, but this does not indicate vast understaffing in urban areas.

Dentistry

The demand for dentists will change little in the near future. Extensive national health insurance could increase the demand.

The future sees dental assistants used more and in different roles which allow the dentist to see more patients. Dentists will likely fill fewer cavities as more communities fluoridate their water supplies, and preventive dentistry and orthodontics will become more important. Dentists will treat more periodontal disease earlier. But such changes will take a long time.

There is such a backlog of oral disease," said Dr. Richard E. Bradley, dean of the UNL Dental College. "There are billions of cavities in this country, and you don't fill those overnight."

Equipment costs will continue to increase. Silver and gold used now in dental work might well be replaced by highly improved plastic materials.

Nursing

According to a Dept. of Labor occupational handbook, all types of nursing employment are expected to increase through the 1980s. Registered Nurses will have favorable employment opportunities, although competition for the more desirable, higher paying jobs will increase. Licensed Practical Nurses, working under the direction of physicians and R.H.'s, will find very good employment opportunities through about 1985. The employment of nursing aids and orderlies also will increase. The increase in health care positions is due to the rapid rise and expansion of public and private health insurance plans.

Chemistry

As a chemist, you probably will work in one of three areas in the future: private industry, government control agencies or ever-increasingly, medical fields.

"We are learning more and more about how the life process is really just a form of chemistry," said Chemistry Dept. Chairman G.G. Meisels. He referred to current research in disease diagnosis and cure.

A fourth area might be energy-independent government installations. The academic market will remain tight.

Chemists will take more personal responsibility in shaping environmental and drug control in the future, done in the past mostly by politicians. In medicine, chemists probably will work as teams with other technological specialists.

The overall job market looks "very strong," Meisels said. Unemployment in chemistry has never exceeded 1.8 per cent. Starting salaries for the chemist with a Ph.D., now \$20,000, are expected to increase.

Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Edward Zimmerman, advisor in the Physics Dept., said that job prospects for graduates with majors in physics have been improving, although the openings for physicists are few. Someone with a B.S. in physics is not a physicist, he pointed out.

"Those that terminate at the B.S. level do engineering... or do what liberal arts majors might do," Zimmerman said. Many students combine a physics major with another degree, such as business.

Zimmerman said that he thought expanding areas of physics in the future would be optics and radiation, following the emphasis of solar power, and solid state electronics for science and industry.

Aerospace

There are limited jobs for architects, unlimited jobs for engineers and arts and sciences majors, especially in math and science, said Major Henry Ovisten, assistant professor of aerospace studies.

Geology

The need for qualified geologists is ever increasing, according to S.B. Treves, chairman of the Geology Dept. Enrollments in geology have increased across the country in the past few years, and UNL estimates its enrollment is higher than it has been in the past 15 years.

The basis for this interest: concern for environmental

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