

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Students less interested in careers in computers

LOS ANGELES — Fewer college freshmen plan careers in computers or engineering than a year ago, and the number who consider it very important to make a lot of money decreased for the first time in 15 years, a new study says.

And while business remained the most popular major, students are slowly returning to careers in education as a nationwide baby boomlet creates a teacher shortage — a turnabout from a decade earlier, when there were more teachers than jobs and few people were entering the field, the study found.

The study also found that while the majority of the freshmen still consider themselves middle-of-the-road politically, they have traditionally liberal views on such issues as disarmament, military spending, taxes, pollution and abortion.

The 164-page report released today was compiled by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program. It was sponsored by the American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles graduate school of education.

The study was based on surveys of 192,453 students, or a little more than 1 percent of the fall 1985 fresh-

man class of 1.66 million at 365 colleges and universities.

One of the most surprising discoveries was the drop in interest in computer and engineering fields.

"This declining interest in technological careers stands in stark contrast to the growing national concern for increased technological training and technological capacity in the American workforce," the report said.

Only 4.4 percent of the freshmen indicated they intend to pursue careers as computer programmers or analysts, down from 6.1 percent in 1984 and a high of 8.8 percent in 1982.

In engineering, the drop was less severe, declining to 10 percent in 1985 from 10.4 percent the previous year and a peak of 12 percent in 1982.

Interest in the biological and physical sciences also waned slightly, while the humanities gained. Business remained the most popular major with 24.8 percent, up from 24 percent a year earlier and 21.3 percent in 1980.

The survey found 6.2 percent planned on teaching careers, compared to 5.5 percent in 1984 and an all-time low of 4.7 percent in 1982. The highest level was 23.5 percent in

1968.

The number of students indicating it was essential or very important to be financially well off declined slightly to 70.9 percent, reversing 15 years of increases.

In 1984, the percentage was 71.2 percent. But the new rate still remained far above the record 1970 low of about 39 percent.

On other issues, the study found:

- 56.7 percent of the students consider themselves political middle-of-the-roads, down from 57.4 percent in 1984 and a peak of 60.3 percent in 1983.
- 28.6 percent favor more defense spending, compared to 32.5 percent a year earlier and 38.8 percent in 1982.
- Two-thirds think the government should do more to promote disarmament.
- 73.3 percent think the wealthy should pay more taxes, up from 69.7 percent in 1984 and reversing a decline that began in 1976.
- 78 percent think the government isn't doing enough to control pollution, up slightly from previous years.
- 54.9 percent support legalized abortion, an increase of about 1 percent from the previous year.

Animal drugs endanger public

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration hasn't protected consumers from exposure to dangerous drugs given to animals that could turn up in meat, milk and poultry, a House committee charged Sunday in a new report.

The House Government Operations Committee said the FDA has lost sight of its mission to protect the public from the residues of veterinary drugs.

"FDA has consistently disregarded its responsibility for assuring the safety of drugs used in food-producing animals," said Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., chairman of the panel's subcommittee on human resources, in releasing the report.

The committee's report was based on two days of congressional hearings last summer at which FDA officials conceded that only a small percentage of the estimated 20,000 animal drugs on the market had been approved by the agency.

Dr. Lester Crawford, then head of the FDA's center for veterinary medicine, told Weiss' subcommittee that the agency has approved only about 2,500 drugs.

"We're not able to monitor for all the (drug) products that might be used," Crawford testified. While federal law requires such monitoring, Crawford said the situation "is not completely under control and never has been. We

do the best we can."

Nevertheless, the House committee said in its report that testimony before the panel shows:

- Ninety percent or more of the new animal drugs on the market have not been approved by the FDA as safe and effective, although such a finding is required by law.
- Drugs that have been approved by the FDA often were approved years ago using safety standards now considered inadequate. Yet, the committee said, the FDA in 1982 cancelled a program to review these drugs under modern safety standards.

In Brief

Iranians board U.S. merchant ship

WASHINGTON — Armed Iranian navy sailors searching for war goods bound for Iraq on Sunday boarded an American merchant ship sailing in international waters just outside the Persian Gulf, the State Department said.

There were no injuries or loss of property during the two-hour search of the President Taylor, the first U.S. flag ship to be stopped by Iran, which has been fighting a five-year war with neighboring Iraq, said department spokesman Bruce Ammerman.

After the search, the bulk cargo ship owned by the American President Lines, Ltd., proceeded to the port of Fujaira, located on the Gulf of Omaha in the United Arab Emirates, Ammerman said.

Columbia finally launched

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Shuttle Columbia and its seven-man crew soared smoothly into orbit Sunday, overcoming a record number of false starts, and then sent the world's most powerful commercial communications satellite spinning off into space.

Columbia, kept earthbound through seven launch delays since Dec. 18, climbed flawlessly through a blue Florida sky from the Kennedy Space Center and left a smoke trail tinged crimson and white by the rising sun.

It was the first of 15 shuttle launches scheduled in 1986, expected to be the nation's busiest year in space.

Heart disease costs climbing

SARASOTA, Fla. — Threatment of heart and circulatory disease, by far the country's main cause of death, will cost an estimated \$78.6 billion this year, the American Heart Association said Sunday.

The estimate equals about \$325 for every man, woman and child in the United States. The costs include \$48.2 billion for hospital and nursing home services, \$13.6 billion for lost work time due to disability, \$11.8 billion for doctor bills and \$5 billion for medicines.

Last year, the association estimated these diseases, which include heart attacks, high blood pressure and strokes, cost \$72.1 billion.

UNO opens parking garage

OMAHA — University of Nebraska-Omaha students will have fewer parking problems today when a new three-level parking garage and two new surfaced lots open on campus, creating 2,000 more parking spaces.

Assistant director of university relations Tim Fitzgerald said studies revealed a need for 5,000 parking stalls to take care of everybody on the campus. He said the new spaces bring to 4,000 the number of parking stalls now available at UNO.

Reagan wages war on crime

WASHINGTON — President Reagan was in print as usual Sunday, but this time under his own byline, declaring in a magazine article on organized crime that "for the first time in our history, we finally have the mob on the run."

In an article in The New York Times Magazine, the president said that "like all too many Americans, I've seen the mob at work." He said his concern with organized crime stemmed from his days as an actor when mobsters "moved in on the motion picture industry."

Moving on to his presidency of the United States, Reagan wrote, "There will be no detente with the mob. It's war to the end. We mean to cripple their organization."

The Daily Nebraskan

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VOLUNTEER
VITA
IT'S VITAL!

Volunteer Service: The Associated Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is seeking individuals to help with a variety of projects in your own community. Contact your IAS officer for details.

February 28, 1986 is the Deadline!

All applications for the Student Health and Accident Insurance must be received by February 28, 1986.

Brochures and information are available at:

UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER
or call 472-7437

Check these points:

- Am I still eligible for coverage under my parent's plan?
 - A. Is there an age limit? Most policies limit the age for dependent coverage to age 23.
 - B. Are you thinking of marriage? Most policies exclude a dependent after he becomes married.
- Have I declared financial independence from my parents by receiving financial aid, and no longer eligible as a dependent under their plan?
- Would a medical emergency deplete funds set aside for my education?

