

# Degree no guarantee of work for grads

WASHINGTON (AP) - Corporate recruiters courted Gavin Sasson with lavish parties and free transportation when he graduated with an economics degree in 1984. Now, about to receive a master's degree, Sasson is being told, "Next time you're in New York, give us a call."

Members of the Class of '91, from engineers to marketing majors to budding young business executives, are finding that a degree doesn't guarantee a job — especially in a recession.

"We get a double whammy in recession time, because fewer companies are coming to campus to recruit, but more students are coming in for our services," said Jack Rayman,

director of career development and placement at Penn State University.

Since June, 1.6 million Americans were added to the unemployment rolls as the jobless rate grew from 5.3 percent to 6.5 percent.

"These people who got laid off had college degrees, and now they're competing against the new college grads," said Patrick Scheetz, director of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University.

Scheetz recently completed a study that found job offerings for college graduates have declined by about 23 percent over the past two years.

"Even in engineering, where opportunities have been quite bountiful,

the graduates have faced a difficult time," Scheetz said.

Rayman agreed that the job market is tighter for these "technocrat" students.

"But when you say engineering is soft, I don't think you can catastrophize too much," he said. "Instead of having 12 offers at a lot of exotic locations, they might have one or two offers in a place where they don't necessarily want to be."

Other students still hotly pursued are those in health care fields, such as nursing, pharmaceutical marketing or hospital management, according to career counselors and employment experts.

Penn State has suffered a drop of

about 10 percent in on-campus recruitment this year, especially for liberal arts students who might be trying to break into the business world through management training programs or sales management positions, Rayman said.

"They're having to take the search to the employer... rather than having the luxury of sitting here in Happy Valley and having the recruiters come to campus," Rayman said.

Schools nationwide also are reporting similar declines in recruiting.

At Georgetown University's graduate business program, career counselors are advising upcoming graduates to look beyond traditional Fortune 500 companies.

"We're urging them to take a look at non-profit companies and at companies that are not necessarily the glamour industries, like waste management," said Steve Fleckenstein, who counsels Georgetown's MBA students.

John Onto, an associate dean at Georgetown's graduate business school, said, "The people with powerhouse resumés who have flexibility are still very much in demand."

## Anguished mother talks about kidnapping trial

MADISON (AP) - Joyce Cutshall said she wonders why she is not filled with hatred as she sits daily in the front row of a courtroom listening to testimony against the man accused of kidnapping her missing daughter.

"Why don't I have what I think I should have, this enormous animosity and hate, and wanting him to be in pain for a year, daily, minute by minute?" Cutshall said.

But the woman who collected enough signatures on a petition to force a grand jury investigation that led to the indictment of 27-year-old David Phelps last year is determined to let the judicial process run its course.

Police had questioned Phelps but didn't charge him.

Cutshall said she counsels people who have offered to take action outside the law, "You cannot do this. It has to go through the judicial system."

Phelps has pleaded innocent. His trial began March 5, and is expected to go to the jury Tuesday. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

Jill Cutshall, then 9, disappeared Aug. 13, 1987. She was last seen sitting on the front porch of her babysitter's home in nearby Norfolk, a

northeast Nebraska prairie city about 110 miles northwest of Omaha.

No memorial service has been held.

"I can't do that. It would be like giving up. I need to find her. I need to bring her home," Cutshall said, tears welling in her eyes.

For now, she sits in the front row of a room in Madison County District Court intently listening to the sometimes graphic details of Phelps' trial.

Prosecution witness Larry Pennybacker testified he once heard Phelps talk about what it would be like to kidnap, rape and kill a child. Defense witnesses have included two men who said they were former homosexual lovers of Phelps, now married and the father of a daughter.

One of the men, Kermit Baumgartner, 64, of Lodi, Calif., testified that he is an alcoholic who spent much of his time drinking with Phelps.

In a videotaped statement played in court, Phelps accused Baumgartner of participating in Jill's abduction and sexual molestation. Phelps has said the statement was a lie coerced by a private investigator.

Baumgartner has not been charged, and has denied that he had anything to do with the girl's disappearance.

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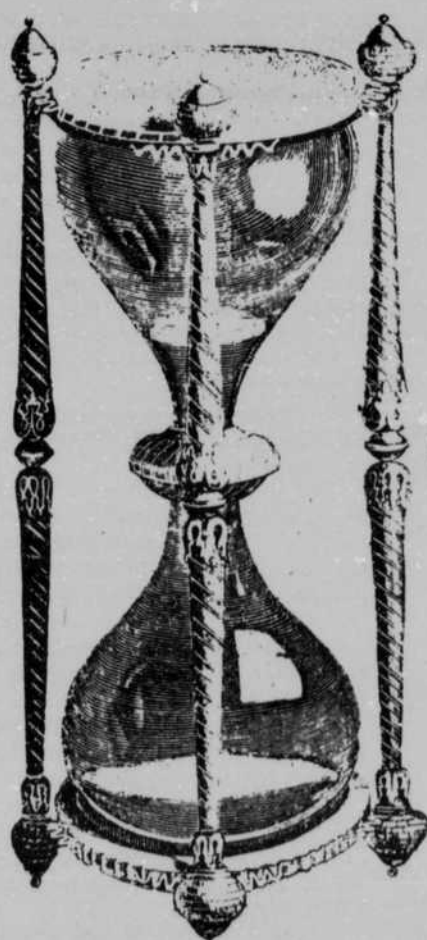
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