

Bonus bucks

College graduates earn average of \$1,039 more per month

WASHINGTON — That college diploma hanging on the wall is worth \$1,039 a month in extra pay. At that rate, it takes the typical four-year graduate just a little under two years to make up the cost — not counting the pay and experience he would have earned working rather than studying. On average, people with bachelor's degrees earn \$2,116 a month, a Census Bureau study said Wednesday. High-school graduates earn \$1,077 a month. Tuition, books, room and board for four years at a public university averaged \$19,880 in 1990, a survey by the College Board found. The cost of education has since risen to

more than \$23,000 for the four years. Prestigious private universities cost far more. Is it worth it? "As my job search threatens — I've gotten four rejections already — it's kind of depressing, especially considering how much education costs today," said Don Modica, 21, a senior who pays more than \$18,000 a year to attend Notre Dame. Despite the cost, Americans increasingly prize a college degree. In 1990, one American in four had a bachelor's degree or higher, the Census Bureau said. That's up from one in five in 1984.

It isn't like it used to be. (College graduates) have an edge to start, but it's not the guarantee it used to be.

Miller, president, job-placement firm

But a diploma doesn't always open the doors to high pay and security.

People with degrees in engineering, computer science and other technical fields can get well-paying jobs when they graduate, Miller said. Everyone else is "out there in

the job market competing with the high-school grads." The universities say the payoff comes several years later, as college graduates are promoted past their less-educated colleagues. Whatever the field of study, colleges and universities try to teach their graduates to work smarter,

said Pat Riordan, dean of admissions at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. "We are teaching them a way to synthesize and communicate at a much higher level than a student that just graduates from high school." The best-paying bachelor's degree is engineering, worth \$2,953 a month, according to the Census figures. Social sciences graduates trail at \$1,841 a month, and a liberal arts or humanities degree is worth \$1,592 a month in earnings. But the biggest money goes to people with professional degrees, such as law or medicine. On average, those people earn \$4,961 a month extra.

Clinton tries to influence Democrats in favor of ban

WASHINGTON — President Clinton tried to defuse opposition to lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military Wednesday, pledging on the eve of his proposal that a strict code governing sexual conduct would accompany any policy change. Clinton focused on fellow Democrats, telephoning Sen. Sam Nunn and inviting Nunn and other Armed Services Committee Democrats to an evening meeting at the White House. Nunn recited a litany of reasons for keeping the ban in a Senate floor speech. In a switch of tone from earlier criticism of Clinton's handling of the issue, he also said, "It's in everyone's interest to see if we can resolve this issue through consensus rather than confrontation." Clinton had intended to release his policy Wednesday, but delayed it one day to give himself and Defense Secretary Les Aspin a chance to speak

further to Nunn and other senators. A testy Clinton refused to answer reporters' questions on the issue at a picture-taking session. Asked if the controversy was distracting him from the economy, Clinton snapped: "No, it's distracting you. It's not distracting me." Opposition continued among lawmakers and in thousands of telephone calls that tied up Capitol telephones most of the day. Nunn said in his speech that any policy change must be the shared responsibility of the executive branch and Congress. The Georgia Democrat asked a series of provocative questions that he said the administration had failed to answer, including whether separate living quarters or changes in the law on sodomy would be necessary. "It's not simply the right of homosexuals at stake. It's also the right of

all those men and women who serve in the military," Nunn said. His committee plans hearings on the issue in March, and in the meantime, he said in an interview after the speech, "I'd like to have no final decisive action by the president and no final decisive action by the Congress." At the White House, spokesman George Stephanopoulos said the president would release his policy on Thursday and couple it with a strict conduct code governing sexual behavior and harassment that covered both homosexuals and heterosexuals. "I think it is important to draw a line between status and conduct," Stephanopoulos said. Opponents of lifting the ban said most of the hundreds of callers to the White House felt differently. They opposed lifting the ban.

Military officers say lifting ban would be unworkable, disruptive

WASHINGTON — The military says it's a matter of combat readiness and morale, that banning homosexuals is no different from refusing to allow single parents or overweight people to join the armed forces. And opponents of President Clinton's plan to lift the ban say the White House idea of linking it to a strict code of conduct that would prohibit gay sexual practices would be unworkable. It would require gays to make "the equivalent of a pledge of celibacy," writes Army Maj. Melissa Wells-Petry in "Exclusion: Homosexuals and The Right to Serve." "Celibacy, however, is widely regarded as an unrealistic standard of behavior, particularly among homosexuals," she writes in the book, scheduled for publication in May. An Army lawyer stationed in Mainz, Germany, Wells-Petry

wrote the book on her own. But it clearly states the prevailing Pentagon position. Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has called lifting the ban "one of the most difficult issues the armed forces has faced." Powell has made clear his opposition to President Clinton's views on the subject though saying the military will conform to official policy. Col. William Woodruff, a retired Army lawyer, says that by admitting homosexuals the military would invite conduct that would lead to "disruption of cohesion, the disruption of good order and discipline." Navy Capt. James Bush disagreed. He supports lifting the ban. "I never knew of a case where a piece of equipment didn't work because it was operated by a homosexual, or a ship didn't go to sea, where a battle was lost," he said.

WORLD WIRE

Croatian bloodshed threatens potential peace

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serbs unleashed their heaviest artillery bombardment of Sarajevo in weeks Wednesday as fighting also raged in neighboring Croatia, jeopardizing peace efforts for the whole region. The clashes across Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina have frus-

trated peace mediators and increased concerns that ethnic warfare would spread deeper into the Balkans. A U.N. statement hinted that peacekeepers could be withdrawn from Croatia if the battles persist. A year-long truce was broken last week in Croatia.

Jack in the Box burgers hold deadly surprise

SEATTLE — It's one of the worst nightmares a parent can have. Deadly bacteria infiltrates hamburger. Undercooking at a popular fast-food chain fails to kill the bacteria. Scores of people get sick and one child dies. Thousands of others wait with dread through an incubation period as long as a week and a half after consumption to see if they will

develop the disease. For most, that period ended Wednesday. The illness was traced to Jack in the Box outlets in Washington, Idaho, Nevada and possibly California. It has produced symptoms ranging from bloody diarrhea and intense abdominal pain to stroke-like bleeding in the brain, and irreversible damage to intestines and kidneys.

Former employee returns to job, murders two people in Florida



TAMPA, Fla. — A man wearing a business suit reportedly shouted "This is what you get for firing me!" and opened fire in an office building cafe during lunchtime Wednesday, killing three people and wounding two. The man later was found dead in a nearby park, an apparent suicide. The gunman, Paul Calden, 33, was a former employee of Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.'s local office, said Steve Cole, spokesman for the Tampa Police Department. "It was not a matter of him going into the cafeteria and just spraying in every direction," Cole said. "It appears he targeted people at one or two tables, people he may have known, people he may have worked with." A Firemen's Fund spokesman wouldn't say whether the victims were employees.

Police initially believed Calden might still be in the 12-story building after the shootings, and they made a room-by-room sweep as workers stayed inside their offices. Hours later Calden was found dead in a rental car in a park in nearby Clearwater. Police said he apparently shot himself. Sarah Reid, 33, said the man was an arm's length away from her when the shooting started in the Island Center office building's first-floor cafe. "It's totally unbelievable. I just thank God he spared my life," she said. He "just shot all these people around this one table." The cafeteria had some 25 diners during the lunchtime shooting. Two men died at the scene; another died en route to the hospital, Cole said. Two women were hospitalized in serious condition.

Official: UN delays takeover of Somalia

Countries push for name of independent, respected mediator

MOGADISHU, Somalia — U.S. special envoy Robert B. Oakley accused the United Nations on Wednesday of "dragging its feet" on taking over military command in Somalia from the United States. He said the United States and other nations were pressing U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to name a respected independent mediator to help Somalia's warring factions on the road to peace.

"There's a quiet, collective push to get Mr. Boutros-Ghali to do for Somalia what he seems to be comfortable with in Bosnia," Oakley said. Boutros-Ghali appointed former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance last August to seek a negotiated settlement to the war in Bosnia. Vance is working alongside Lord Owen, a former British foreign secretary who is the European Community mediator. "It doesn't have to be Vance and Owen, but someone of independent stature," Oakley said in an interview. "It would make the United Nations a lot stronger ... and it would fit very nicely with the idea of having a mili-

tary commander flying the U.N. flag." The United Nations has had two special envoys to Somalia, a post currently held by Ismat Kittani, an Iraqi. It was not clear whether Oakley meant to imply criticism of Kittani. Oakley, a former U.S. ambassador to Somalia, was brought out of retirement by former President Bush to help oversee operation Restore Hope, launched to feed Somalia's starving. Oakley said the United States had restored enough security since the Marines arrived on Dec. 9 for a U.N. commander to begin taking power. He said he believed President Clinton endorses this view.

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