

## **Job offers to women are running 37% ahead of last year, job offers to men are running 29% ahead of last year; job offers to women with bachelors degrees make up only 19% of all jobs offered-- Gloria Liebrez explains the reasons for discrepancy**

**April 6, 1978**

If you're a woman who'll be receiving a college degree this June, Gloria Liebrez, head of the Career Planning and Placement Center at the University of California, San Diego, has some good news and some bad news for you.

First, the good news.

"According to nationwide statistics," says Ms. Liebrez, "job offers to women are running 37 percent ahead of last year. Job offers to men are only 29 percent ahead of last year."

Now for the bad news.

"Job offers to women with bachelors degrees still make up only 19 percent of all the jobs offered," according to Ms. Liebrez.

What's the reason for this seeming discrepancy?

"There's a very simple explanation," says Ms. Liebrez. "For the most part, women are still not earning bachelors degrees in the 'hot' fields like engineering and computer science. College women still seem to be confining themselves to studying subjects like sociology, art history, linguistics and anthropology-- all fields which offer few direct job opportunities for the person with only a B.A. degree."

Ms. Liebrez pointed out that with respect to the overall job market for the 1978 graduate, this will be a very good year.

"With the gradual recovery of the economy, this looks like the best year for college graduates to find jobs since the 1970s began," she said.

Ms. Liebrez has plenty of advice for the college student facing the battle for a job.

First of all, she says, be sure that sometime during your college career take some courses in accounting; statistics and computer science.

"Even if you are a liberal arts major, in fact, particularly if you are a liberal arts major, knowledge of these subjects can be very important in giving you saleable skills when you graduate.

"There are almost no jobs in fields like anthropology, sociology, history or literature for people with only a bachelor's degree," she says. "But your chances for employment increase if you can combine your knowledge of history with an understanding of how computers work.

"Why! Because computers are spreading into every field now, and today's graduate must have some understanding of how they work and how to use them."

Today's college student would also be well advised to secure an internship while pursuing his or her studies, even though this might delay graduation for a quarter or more, according to Ms. Liebrez.

"The actual work experience-- the on-the-job training-- offered by an internship is invaluable in helping a graduate secure a job. More and more students are becoming aware of this, and are taking the extra time to complete their studies.

"I am amazed at how many students I see who have managed to go through high school and four years of college and have never held a job!"

"My advice to parents is to force their children to work to earn money for at least some part of their education. That way they will at least have some work experience when they graduate," says Ms. Liebrez.

The best advice she gives to students, however, is to know the job prospects before you graduate.

"Students nowadays simply must become more aware of their chances for finding work in their field before they spend four or more years pursuing a major which, while personally enriching, may be useless in helping them compete for an interesting job when they finally leave school."

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(April 6, 1978)