

Gloria Liebrez comments on career prospects

April 22, 1977

With graduation fast approaching and college seniors scrambling for jobs in an uncertain market the remaining freshmen, sophomores and juniors might well pay heed to some observations by Gloria Liebrez, director of the Career Planning and Placement Center at the University of California, San Diego.

To wit:

--"You're not a professional-philosopher with a B.A. in philosophy or a wage earning economist with your bachelor's in economics. We encourage our undergraduates to take a course in accounting or computer science to make their skills more marketable when they graduate. In fact, no student should leave college without three courses: one in accounting, one in computers and one in statistics.

--"Liberal arts majors in their junior year should begin seeking internships, even if they're volunteer jobs, in a field of interest to them. One thing employers look for is experience, and an internship can give a student some salable skills.

--"I think there will continue to be an oversupply of lawyers, and we're about to have an oversupply of doctors, probably by the early 1980s.

--"If, by 1980, we have the beginnings of a national health care program, the job projections are enormous. I'm not just talking about doctors and nurses, I'm talking about the delivery of health care systems. I'm talking about health care planners, accountants, administrators, people who know health insurance.

--"To become an ecology major - not an environmental sciences major, but an ecology major - is to ensure, in my opinion, that a student is going to be hungry for a long, long time. Jobs just don't exist, and never will. Companies interested in ecology are hiring scientists and engineers to solve problems in that area."

--"There isn't a technical field that doesn't want women and minorities in its program.

--"Before entering a college or university students should take a good look at the academic departments. It's amazing to me how many of our students say they would be interested in a career field that we don't even offer here. If you really don't know what you want to major in, it is important that you go to a school large enough to give you the opportunity to sample various fields.

--"When investigating schools, I'd ask about the placement rate. Students ask about professors, or how many graduates get into medical school, but nobody ever asks about the placement office or the placement rate."

And, finally, another morsel to chew on from Gloria Liebrez.

--"Eighty percent of the jobs in the United States do not require four years of college preparation."

(April 22, 1977)

For information contact: Paul Lowenberg, 452-3120