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Stress and relocation face unemployed

Domestic scene is strained

By MARY GNIEWEK

Brother, can you spare a job could become the theme song of the '80s if Michigan's cancerous economy continues to spread.

The unemployment rate across the state continues to hover at 12.5 percent — well above the national average of 7.5 percent.

"Losing a job can cause stress for the entire family," says Jim Patton, clinical supervisor of the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC).

"The husband or wife now finds himself or herself in the family setting 24 hours a day. Tensions come out of that — what to do with excess time.

"Money problems and uncertainty of the future add to the stress."

Patton reminds family members to be very supportive of each other.

"It can't be faced by just one individual," he said. "Support and recognize each other. Work together as a unit."

FAAC, a counseling service for the Farmington community, has no specific programming for the unemployed. But Patton says counselors are willing to help anyone who seeks aid.

The office is at 23450 Middlebelt, north of 10 Mile.

"We don't get directly involved with job placement, but we refer to agencies.



An increasingly familiar scene is the long lines at unemployment offices throughout the state. More workers than ever before are facing this prospect in Michigan. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Workers eye move to South

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Job hunters in Michigan appear to have two choices these days. They can sit tight, remain in the state and look for jobs not strongly tied with the auto industry.

Or they can head south and west, an option more persons are willing to at least investigate, according to job placement experts.

The change is evident at Oakland University in Rochester, which draws students from surrounding suburbs.

In previous years, the students who attended the school were already committed to staying in the state.

As a result, the school didn't see as many out-of-state job recruiters as other larger Michigan universities, says Ron Kevern, director of OU's placement services.

But the perceptions of students and job recruiters have changed since the auto industry has fallen on hard times.

"After what appeared to be a reduction of the auto industry's recruitment last fall, there was an increase in recruitment from out-of-state," Kevern said.

"OUT-OF-STATE" recruiters thought the young people growing up in the auto industry would want to work in the auto industry.

At least with Oakland University, that perception seems correct in light of the fact that an estimated 75-80 percent of the students who used the placement center services once said they weren't interested in moving out of state.

Within the last several semesters, about 60 percent of the students at the placement center said they would move out of state in order to find a job. Of that 60 percent, Kevern says, about 30 percent do move out of Michigan, usually to the south or west.

"We always asked if the student would move out of state," he said. "Now, we encourage them to look out of state."

Students who once decided upon pursuing a particular job at a certain company are encouraged now to keep their interests broad and all options open.

Many students are driving out of state without a firm job offer just to test the markets elsewhere. The approach has worked, according to Kevern, who cites the stories of former students who showed up during the holidays to tell about their new jobs in San Francisco, Houston and Dallas.

THERE ARE opportunities available in the state in jobs not tied to the auto industry, Kevern says.

"I have a lot of faith Michigan will come back. Enough people want to stay. I have a lot of kids who continue their interest in the automotive field."

Some jobs remain in demand, according to John Thompson, provost of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

"All our placement's in Michigan," he said.

Most of the college's course offerings involve fields which remain in demand, such as food service, secretarial and computer skills.

"There are no problems in these areas," he said.

Employment agencies, such as Snelling & Snelling's Livonia office, report

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Hills officials deny layoff is result of discrimination suit

By MARY GNIEWEK

A woman charging her employer, the city of Farmington Hills, with sex discrimination is one of only two city workers who received layoff notices effective this month.

Hospital awaiting Edgewood purchase

If matters move according to plan, Botsford General Hospital will move its administrative offices into the Edgewood Elementary School building in May 1982.

The plan to buy the school at a cost of about \$5,141,131 from the Clarenceville School District hinges on the Michigan Department of Public Health approving Botsford's plans.

Hospital spokesman Russ Tuttle is optimistic that the department will issue the certificate of need and open the way toward remodeling the 50,000-square-foot building on St. Francis and Sedalia next to Botsford's existing complex.

Space for data processing, personnel, financial management, patient accounting, payroll and other administrative offices would be found in the remodeled school.

Crowding in the present hospital buildings has forced its administration to look toward expansion, hospital spokespersons have said in the past.

But residents of the surrounding area, many of whom sent their children to Edgewood Elementary School, opposed the hospital's expansion, fearing that patients would be brought into the now-vacant school building.

They also feared streets made congested and dangerous to children by racing ambulances and increased pedestrian traffic at the hospital unit in the building added to the controversy.

HOSPITAL SPOKESMEN have emphasized that Botsford doesn't have any plans to turn the school building into a patient care facility.

In an effort to convince the residents that the building would house only offices, Tuttle appeared before a meeting of the Section 36 Homeowners Association.

Residents also addressed the hospital's board of directors.

An entrance through the hospital side

Laurie Albaugh, an engineering aid II hired by the city in 1976, has a case pending before the Michigan Department of Civil Rights — even though she won't have a job after this week.

Albaugh, 27, filed the claim after she was passed over for a departmental promotion on July 1, 1980. The promotion, to grading inspector — the next level up from engineering aid II — pays \$2,000 more than her current job.

Attorneys for Albaugh and the city worked for months on a compromise settlement to find Albaugh an equivalent promotion in another city department or to increase her salary. At one point, city attorney Theresa Schaeffer said a settlement was two weeks away. But negotiations broke off.

The city responded to Albaugh's claim Dec. 5 by negating any sex discrimination. Five days later, Albaugh and another engineering aid received layoff notices effective Jan. 19, 1981.

"Only two people in the whole city (administration) are being laid off, and she's one of them," Susan Winick, Albaugh's attorney, said. "Obviously they're trying to make her life miserable because she accused them of discrimination."

AFTER RECEIVING the layoff notice, Albaugh filed a second claim against the city with the civil rights department for retaliation. The two charges will be investigated by the department.

Winick explained why her client filed the initial claim.

"Laurie is holding an unusual job for a woman," she said. "She goes out on sewer inspections."

"She's interested in raising her position and her salary and applied for the promotion in a lengthy application."

"She has excellent qualifications, including a bachelor's degree in biology from Central Michigan University and job experience."

"But when it came time for a promotion, they gave it to one of the boys."

Winick said both Albaugh and the man promoted to grading inspector had equal length of service and skills.

"It was almost a toss up," she said.

Albaugh's job classification, engineering aid II, pays \$15,378. Duties include inspection of city-owned public utilities such as sanitary sewers and water mains. Traffic and surveying studies and drafting are also part of the job.

A GRADING INSPECTOR is paid \$17,074 for performing similar tasks of surveying, drafting and inspections.

City Manager Lawrence Savage echoed Bisell's claim that there was no

discrimination involved. He said the coincidental timing of the layoff was due to "strictly economic reasons."

"Building activity has subsided," he said. "We had to lay off two people with the lowest seniority."

"This may impact Laurie's case, but we had no other alternative."

Other departments avoided layoffs by not filling positions opened through attrition, Savage said.

Bisell says the layoffs in his department will save the city \$30,000.

"There was no retaliation," he said. "That's as simple as I can make it."

A meeting was scheduled Friday afternoon between city representatives, Albaugh's attorney, and an officer from the department of civil rights.

The retaliation charge will be examined in addition to the original allegation of sex discrimination, according to Justice Moore, deputy director of the enforcement bureau of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

If the department finds sufficient cause for issuing a formal charge of discrimination, it could issue an order to cease and desist. The city could appeal that order to circuit court.

If the department dismisses the charges, Albaugh could also appeal to circuit court.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 cases are closed each year by the department of civil rights, Moore said.

In April 1979, Farmington Hills paid \$75,000 in an out-of-court settlement to Bonnie Swadling, a community service officer who charged that she was denied a job as police officer because of her sex.

Persons interested in the program should call Goren at 858-5181 or 645-C1150, ext. 5181

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