

# Study Shows Community College Hope for Jobless Grads.

ANN ARBOR—The frustration of being denied admission to college and at the same time being ill-prepared to enter the world of work is one which thousands of "middle level" high school graduates are experiencing today," says Norman C. Harris, University of Michigan professor of technical education.

"In many states these youth have no resources but to remain unemployed, join the armed forces, or gradually infiltrate the labor force through part-time, pick-up jobs," says Harris.

He points out that in many Michigan communities, however, such youth have a much more acceptable alternative—further education at the local community college.

"Some of this 'middle group' may eventually move on to a four-year college and a baccalaureate degree. But most of them are best suited to community college occupational education programs."

"Tuition is low at Michigan's community college, most high school graduates are acceptable for entrance, and community colleges are rapidly increasing in numbers so that soon the youth of most areas of the state will have ready access to post-high school occupational education," Harris says.

He cites three troublesome factors in this otherwise favorable picture:

1) Most of these youth have little if any real understanding of the career opportunities available to them in the semi-professional and technical occupations;

2) Most of these youth are not adequately prepared to enroll in and succeed with college-level technical studies;


3) Many youth (perhaps a third of the graduates of Michigan high schools each year) even though they complete a college-prep curriculum with a C average or less, still think of themselves as baccalaureate degree aspirants. With their parents as willing accomplices, they insist on enrolling in university-parallel curriculum in community colleges even when all the facts (high school grades, standardized test scores) indicate that an associate degree objective would be a far wiser choice.

Harris points out that sociological pressures—lack of inter-

est in non-professional jobs and in less-than-baccalaureate degrees. "Community college occupational education programs are thus trapped in the middle of a squeeze play between these two contending forces," he says. The escape from the trap will involve two major moves: 1. Widespread dissemination of information about middle manpower job opportunities—and the working conditions and the salary or wage income—to young people and their parents, and 2. Re-structuring of the high school courses and counseling service so that it becomes possible for the student to see that baccalaureate degree program, and training than the traditional

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### State Police Add Architect To Fire Staff

The State Police fire marshal division at East Lansing headquarters has added a civilian architectural engineer to its staff to help cope with the volume of work related to fire safety in school construction, Det. Capt. Glenroy M. Walker, chief of the division reported.

The new division employee is Henry G. Becker, 44, of Lansing. He was graduated from the University of Detroit in 1948 and his college training included a year at Michigan State University. He is a Navy veteran of World War II.

Capt. Walker said Becker's position is one of two made necessary by 1962 legislation which requires the fire marshal division to review and process plans and specifications for fire safety in schools.

The second position is expected to be filled when a roster of eligible candidates is completed by the State Civil Service.

Other than clerical personnel, Becker is the first civilian to be employed by the State Police in fire marshal division work since the division was transferred from the State Insurance Department in 1939.

### Hamilton Gets License in Rhode Island

Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of America in Plymouth, has secured a license to do business in the state of Rhode Island, E. Keith Owens, Chairman of the Board, announced.

The license, issued by the State Insurance Commissioner of Rhode Island, Warren R. Campbell, is the sixth out-of-state charter granted to the one-and-a-half year old company in two months.

The other licenses have been granted in Indiana, Maine, Alabama, Minnesota, and Louisiana since last November.

Applications for licensing are now pending in 24 additional states, Owens said, as part of the company's scheduled expansion program.

Hamilton currently ranks in the top quarter of the country's 1600 life insurance companies and, operating from 13 Regional Offices throughout Michigan, is the state's third largest life insurance firm.

**Marine Trainee**  
Marine Pvt. Dennis J. Woodcox, son of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Woodcox, 15820 Merriman Court, Livonia, has completed individual combat training with the 8th Infantry Training Regiment at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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