

Labor Dept. study notes employment opportunities limited for young Black women

Although teenage women ages 16 to 19 have increased their labor force participation over the past decade, employment opportunities for young Black women have been limited, according to a new U.S. Department of Labor report.

The report, "The United Nations Decade for Women, 1976-1985: Employment in the United States," notes that factors which limit employment opportunities for young Black women include the largely suburban locations of many new jobs versus the largely center-city residence of Blacks; the trend toward industrial growth in the Southwest versus the lower propensity of Blacks to move to that part of the country; and the lack of education and labor market skills of many young Black women versus the higher skills levels of other segments of the labor force.

The report notes that women's lack of opportunities to obtain work experience during their teens often result in their being unemployed as young adults (ages 20 to 24).

In 1984, the unemployment rate of young adult Black females was nearly three times that of their white counterparts, worse than in 1975 when their jobless rate was twice that of

young adult white women.

Minority young women, particularly Black teens, suffered more severe joblessness than whites over the last 10 years and ended the Decade for Women with higher unemployment rates than at the beginning. The unemployment rate of young women overall declined marginally.

The 155-page report provides information on the labor force status of women, characteristics of women workers, and groups such as women apprentices, farm women, and labor union women. A chapter discusses government activity that impacts on women in such areas as job training, retirement income, and occupational health and safety. Other sections deal with programs of the Labor Department's Women's Bureau and non-governmental organizations during the decade and with prospects for women in the labor force of the future.

Single copies of the report are available without charge from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. A self-addressed mailing label enclosed with orders will expedite handling.



Bob Holmes, right, chairman of the Portland Community College microelectronics advisory committee, conducts a tour of the new Cascade facilities with, from left, Ebrahim Moshiri, Neal Naigus, Lynette Hanson, Jimmy Jackson, Lewis Johnson and Moses Davis.

Intel visits PCC Cascade

Representatives from Intel visited the Portland Community College Cascade Campus to see the microelectronics lab, a new clean room for second year students and other equipment now in place for the new high technology program where students are taught how to design, fabricate and use miniaturized and integrated circuits.

The lab is the "envy of other universities" according to microelectronics instructor Milt Monnier. Much of the state of the art equipment has been donated by Oregon high tech firms and other organizations eager to see that Oregonians are trained to work in the state's growing number of "high tech" companies.

The two-year program and its equipment offer students hands-on training that, in the past, has been

available only in graduate school. "In the high tech world, there's lots available for people who don't want years of college," said Monnier.

Neal Naigus explained the cooperative education program and how Intel provides work slots for PCC students. The college also makes the equipment available for local researchers and Monnier indicated he is eager to promote shared uses of the facility.

Graduates of the program have a basic understanding of the processes involved in designing, fabricating and using miniaturized and integrated circuits. They end up working in a large variety of areas in the industry, in jobs ranging from manufacturing the chips, to development, maintenance or quality and reliability analysis.

Blacks and the minimum wage

by Norman Hill

With Black teenage unemployment at an appalling rate of nearly 45 percent and with the overall Black unemployment rate hovering at close to 17 percent, the need for immediate answers to joblessness is clear. Black political leaders continue to be in the forefront of the struggle to enact legislation which would provide for adequate jobs programs and jobs training designed to prepare jobless Blacks and unemployed Black teenagers for meaningful employment.

Yet the sad reality of a government in which the Senate and White House are controlled by conservative Republicans is that all meaningful government initiatives for providing decent employment are blocked. Thus, some Black political leaders, frustrated by the intransigence of the Reagan Administration on the jobs front, are grasping at the few straws that seem to provide some immediate prospects for employing our jobless youth.

One recent example of such frustration is the decision by the Conference of Black Mayors to support the Reagan Administration's bid to install a summertime sub-minimum wage for youth. On the surface of it, a youth sub-minimum wage has its attractions. Wouldn't employers be more likely to hire young Black teenagers if they could pay them less than the \$3.35 minimum now imposed by law? Wouldn't such a lower wage result in the freeing up of more money to hire larger numbers of workers?

In point of fact, however, a youth sub-minimum not only would provide little relief for jobless Black teenagers, it would be disastrous for semi-skilled and unskilled Black adult workers. Employer would have every incentive to fire Black adults, many of whom have families to feed and replace them instead with teenaged workers. New openings for unskilled and semi-skilled jobs which pay the \$3.35 minimum would be pass Black adults.

Moreover, Black and white teenagers who would be paid a \$2.50 minimum wage would nonetheless have to pay full fares to travel to work, full prices for meals while on the job, and full expenses for school and entertainment. A youth sub-minimum wage, moreover, would not guarantee that young workers would be provided with needed on-the-job skills training. Indeed, there already are existing mechanisms through which an employer training inexperienced young workers can pay them at a below minimum-wage rate which takes into account the teaching of

on-the-job skills.

There is also little evidence that the establishment of a sub-minimum wage would lead to increased hiring. After all, today's minimum wage is in effect already a sub-minimum wage. It has not been raised from \$3.35 an hour since January of 1981. In the three-and-a-half years since that date, inflation has shrunk the value of the dollar by over fifteen percent. Thus, the minimum of \$3.35 an hour is today worth less than \$2.70 in real terms. Yet has this lower standard resulted in increased hiring of workers? The answer clearly is "no." In point of fact as the minimum wage was falling in constant dollars in 1981 and 1982, the number of jobs was decreasing and the unemployment lines were swelling.

Happily, many prominent Black leaders recognize the perils of youth sub-minimum wage. In a statement issued in May, the Congressional Black Caucus asserted that the Reagan proposal for a "youth opportunity wage" is in fact an "employer opportunity wage" which will help businesses and not disadvantaged youths. The Black members of Congress asserted that it was "inadequate access to training and education and the failure of the economic recovery to benefit the poor" which was the true cause of unconscionably high levels of minority youth unemployment. The Congressional Black Caucus statement has been endorsed by the AFL-CIO, the NAACP, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the United States Student Association, the National Coalition of Black Democrats, and the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

The Reagan plan for a sub-minimum will only have the effect of taking money away from young wage-earners and will pit father against son, and mother against daughter in a cruel competition for low-skilled jobs. Instead, Blacks and all working people should join together in supporting legislation proposed by Rep. Augustus Hawkins of California. Rep. Hawkins' bill would pay for part-time and summer jobs for high school dropouts who agree to complete their education.

Only through education, jobs training, and skills training will young Blacks and whites learn the skills necessary for a lifetime of meaningful employment. Diversions such as a youth sub-minimum wage do nothing to address this fundamental need. The youth sub-minimum wage medicine prescribed by President Reagan is nothing more than poison.



Sabia performing Saturday night in Portland. Story by Robert Lothian. (Photo: Kris Altucher)

Sabia bridges culture gap

by Robert Lothian

The California Latin-folk group Sabia built some musical bridges Saturday night.

The six-person group, performing on guitars, drums, synthesizer, flute, pan pipes and traditional instruments, sang everything from "Steal Away," to Brazilian ragtime, to Salvadoran refugee songs.

Sabia's spirited sound, heavily influenced by the flute and drum music of South American Indians, is described as "a musical message of solidarity from the North American people" to those struggling south of the border. At one point, the keyboard player draped a revolutionary El Salvadoran flag over his instrument.

By the end of their performance, a benefit for the Corinto, Nicaragua, sister city committee at the Old Church, Sabia had the audience up and dancing as they sang, "This song's for you, Uncle Sam, we don't want another Vietnam."

Diane Hess, representing the sister city committee, announced the visit in mid-September of the mayor of Corinto, Francisco Tapia Mata. The mayor will visit with Bud Clark and tour the port while here, she said.

Hess also announced that Portland now has three sister schools with Corinto — Metropolitan Learning Center, Lincoln High School and Oregon Episcopal School.

Sabia, a favorite with the West Coast Central America network, has produced two albums. *Building Bridges*, available on Redwood Records, is a collection of traditional and

new Latin American songs including original compositions. *Hear Our Voices* is a cassette tape accompanied by a bilingual songbook of 13 songs by Salvadoran refugees from Mesa Grande, a refugee camp in Honduras, near the Salvadoran border.

Hear Our Voices is dedicated to "all musicians who compose and sing for freedom." Sabia visited Mesa Grande in 1983. Over 10,000 refugees live in the camp. The refugees describe the camp as a prison, even though it is run by the United Nations.

During their visit to the camp, Sabia performed for the refugees and taped some of their songs. Perhaps the high point of their performance Saturday was Sabia's slide show of refugees in Mesa Grande and Los Angeles, accompanied by the refugees' songs.

In "The History of El Salvador," a refugee writes: "We Salvadorans always work this worthless land. The products of this soil are not enough to love on. That's why so many campesinos perish from pain."

"Song to Ronald Reagan" asks a favor of the President on behalf of all the Salvadoran mothers — "Place your hand on your heart and stop sending us so much repression."

One slide showed refugees in traditional garb walking along the streets of Los Angeles, carrying heavy bundles on their heads. Another showed refugees entering a McDonald's. With nearly 500,000 Central American refugees in the city, Los Angeles is "like a huge refugee camp," said one of the musicians.

Grassroots efforts successful

The most successful sewer petition effort in recent years will be celebrated when Commissioner Dick Bogle joins Argay residents for a groundbreaking ceremony at noon, Monday, August 5, at Shaver Elementary School, 3701 NE 131st Place.

The sewer project is the fulfillment of long-identified needs in the neighborhood. Two residents, Beverly Moffatt and Mary Ellis, headed the extraordinary petition drive to resolve Argays increasing problems with cesspools.

"This is a classic example of neighborhood spirit and involvement," said Commissioner Bogle. "Many, many people, all working together to solve a problem, brought about this neighborhood project."

A majority of area property owners formed a Local Improvement Dis-

trict (LID) by petitioning the City for this much-needed project. Approximately 380 residences and Shaver Elementary School will be served by the sewer system.

Neighbors first worked together for annexation to Portland and second on petitioning for this project. Their hard work resulted in the successful effort to start sewer construction this summer.

The low bid came in at \$893,644, 27 percent under the estimate. Bonstan Construction will begin work later in August, with completion in approximately 10 months.

"This project is an example of how the City comes to the aid of people in need," Commissioner Bogle said. "When Argay residents petitioned the City, we responded as quickly as possible."

Special Coupon

Wait! Stop! Don't beat that machine!
Help just arrived!
 We at I. M. Murphy's Appliances have the answers to your problems! We have

Refrigerators LOW AS \$499.00
 Washers, dryers LOW AS \$650.00
 Stoves LOW AS \$75.00

With this Ad
 30-day Warranty

We also service washers & dryers IN HOME and IN SHOP at reasonable prices that fit your budget.

I. M. Murphy's Appliances
 4011 N.E. Union
 249-1361

FRANKS
 HYGRADE'S BALL PARK \$1.49 POUND PKG.

SWISS CHEESE
 IN RANDOM CUTS \$2.79 POUND
 KIENOW'S CHEESE OF THE MONTH

LUNCH MEAT
 ARMOUR 6 VARIETIES 99¢
 10 to 12 oz. PKG.

BACON
 ARMOUR PAN SIZE \$1.39
 12 oz. PKG.

KIENOW'S SHOP
 FOR BRANDS you know VARIETIES you like SIZES you want!

The Friendliest Stores in Town Since 1906

- 6411 S.E. Milwaukie
- 515th & East Burnside
- 122nd & N.E. Glisan
- N. Lombard at Grayley
- Catfish Hills Place
- 102nd & S.E. Division
- 14th & S.E. Morrison
- 32nd & N.E. Hancock
- 30th & S.E. Division
- 33rd & West Burnside
- Lake Oswego 90 B & A
- King City
- Oak Grove

MEMBER OF UNITED FOODS

SPECIAL BULLETIN

Are you tired of your hair being a part of a science project?
 Does it look like a classroom experiment?

Well — Lashay's has the answer to your problems. They have the best line of products to suit your needs, also a courteous professional staff that will take care of your hair care needs. And if your hands are out of place, we have a manicurist at

LASHAY'S PLACE
 3806 N. Williams Ave. • 281-3136
 (By Appointment Only)