



Nancy Spray at CHP office.

# Youth Job Plans Falter—With Economy

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Sentinel Staff Writer

The girl with the pretty smile at the local California Highway Patrol office is Nancy Spray, 18. Part of the reason for her happy look may be that she is employed. There aren't many people her age that have jobs in Santa Cruz.

In fact, the employment picture for the young in Santa Cruz runs the gamut from "tragic" to "horrible", according to local youth employment officers.

Job opportunities for young people in the county this summer are few and far between, despite efforts of the governor's 1970 Youth Employment Program.

Bill Fankhouser, area co-ordinator of the effort, found nothing but blank stares when he tried to encourage local industry to create meaningful jobs for young people through the summer months.

"It is really tragic," Fankhouser said. "Jobs for youth are just not available in Santa Cruz. Industry here is cutting back, fighting for its life."

Fankhouser said he found farm labor to be the primary source of employment for young people in Santa Cruz, but most of it was in Watsonville.

He said he did not consider the 200 people the Seaside Company employs to be of use to placement officers. "They are mostly returning employees, and

do not represent much of an opportunity for new young people," he said. He pointed out that the company has its own personnel department which is well stocked with applications. "They don't need to go to outside placement agencies for referrals," the co-ordinator said.

Usual large employers have cut back work forces because of economics, Fankhouser said. "Only nine students are employed by the city schools buildings and grounds force this year," he said.

The usual number is 20 or more, Fankhouser said. The reason for the smaller number employed was a cut in the budget.

The city WorkReation pro-

gram employs 90 people this summer, but most are between 14 and 16 years old, Fankhouser reported. "We're primarily concerned about employment of the older youth," he said.

The county has a 25-30 per cent unemployment figure, but it does not accurately reflect the dearth of jobs for young people; according to Lisa Brooks, youth specialist at the State Department of Human Resources.

"We have only placed 132 of 523 applications we have on file," Mrs. Brooks said. "Some of those jobs are extremely temporary, lasting only an hour or so."

Most of the jobs are unskilled labor of a nature, Fank-

houser would not deem "meaningful employment", but at least those that are employed are making money. Only 30 young people were placed in farm jobs by the Human Resources department, all of them from the Watsonville office.

The placement services at the colleges are not doing any better. The one at UCSC is not functioning well for part-timers and summer help because there was not enough money to retain the girl who usually handles that job, said T. K. Adams, placement officer.

"We're having a crisis in this country," Adams said, "and it always seems to be more critical in areas like this." Adams

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David Menez and Elain Crucie with Rita Giovannoni, right.

## Youth Job Plans In SC Area Falter —Along With Rest Of U.S. Economy

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said the lack of an assistant cut down his ability to place students in part time jobs, but that was a moot point, because the jobs weren't available anyway.

"I'd guess that on an average, we're placing about one student a day," he said. He said the jobs were mainly lawn mowing or baby sitting — "minimal wage jobs." Some lasted only hours, others a little longer. Four UCSC students spent three days putting up the Seventh Day Adventist tents off Old San Jose Road near Soquel last week. "I suppose they felt lucky to get that," Adams said. "The job situation is really horrible."

The usual job for youth is represented by David Mendez and Elaine Crucie, two of the 15 young people who worked three days at Woolworth's taking inventory under the watchful eye of Rita Giovannoni, personnel manager. All were referred by the Department of Human Resources.

"We started off with 20," James Youngman, manager of Woolworth's, said. "But all in all, we are pretty satisfied with the workers. Most of them are high school students." He said the store had three regular summer workers, but two of them were returnees. The third was not referred by a placement service, either.

Nancy Spray's boss, Captain Hartley Calhoun, CHP, is pleased with her work, a sentiment shared by most employers of youth. She was referred by the Human Resources department

and went to work four days after high school graduation.

"She's quick, has a desire to work, and works well," Calhoun said. He pointed out that the Youth Aide last year, Linda Allen, is now a permanent half-time employee of the CHP.

"That is the purpose of this program," Calhoun said, "to get the young people and train them so they can step right in when there's an opening."

Both Linda and Nancy have their eyes on college this fall, part of it financed with money earned this summer.

"It's really valuable experience," Nancy said. "They call it Youth Aide, but it's more like a clerk." The 1970 Harbor

High School graduate spends most of her time typing, filing and answering phones. "I plan to go into teaching, but I feel this job is important because it gives me self assurance and a feeling of competence," she said.

These successes, and others like them, keep Mrs. Brooks and intern youth specialist Ruben Garcia, a UCSC student, chipping away at the unemployment block.

"We're in a lull at present," Mrs. Brooks said. "There is usually a spurt at the beginning of summer, but it's pretty slow now." She somehow managed to appear hopeful. "Maybe it'll pick up later."

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