The total younger woman: wife, mother, teacher, activist

MANHATTAN, Kan. — In her own way, Mikki Morehead is a rebel.

She is content with her position as a submissive wife, yet she is competing with men for achievements in public life.

Though she says her role as wife and mother is more important to her than anything else, she has left her family at home in Pine Bluff, Ark., to work on a PhD in education, a task that will take two years to complete at Kansas State University (KSU).

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This may sound contradictory, but not to Mrs. Morehead. Her goal is to be a total woman, both as a wife and mother, and as a teacher and political activist.

"It's important," she continued, "that we think of a woman as being equally capable as a man, equally responsible, equally everything as a man."

Mrs. Morehead graduated from high school in her hometown of Springfield when she was 15 years old, and was a college graduate — from Arkansas University at Pine Bluff — when she was 19 years old.

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She received her master's degree in sociology from Atlanta University. She has taken courses at Spelman College in Atlanta and at the University of Wisconsin, where she specialized in Afro-American experiences. She also has been a visiting faculty fellow at Columbia University, and she has attended Henderson State University and the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Mrs. Morehead is on two year's leave of absence as an assistant professor of sociology at Arkansas University at Pine Bluff. "The federal government is paying someone to teach in my place, and I continue to receive a salary and living expenses, plus all tuition and fees are paid. It was an offer I couldn't refuse," she commented.

"It wasn't an easy decision coming to K-State and leaving my family. But I recognized that the degree will open up places for me that otherwise would be closed, and with the new breed of woman coming on the scene, I want to be in there with the best of them. I don't want to become a relic," she said.

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"By the time I'm 40 years old," she continued, "I will have completed my education, the youngest son will have finished high school, and I'll be ready to live. From 40 on I'm planning on living like I never lived before."

And for Mrs. Morehead, that means helping other people and trying to make the world a better place to live.

One of the ways she hopes to do this is by serving on as many governmental advisory committees and boards as possible. "It's a real challenge for a woman to serve on boards. Men on the boards are generally condescending, but they won't truly listen to what a woman has to say," she explained.

Mrs. Morehead is now serving on the Arkansas Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commission for Civil Rights. She has sat on the Southeast Arkansas Arts and Sciences Board and on a panel of the Kansas Governor's Task Force On Women. She also is a member of the Arkansas Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

"I believe if I can help anyone it's going to help everyone. I don't think I can help black people without helping white people. Whatever happens to black people in this society happens in a lesser degree to white people. When blacks are exploited, it somehow keeps the exploiters from realizing their full human potential.

"Ultimately," she observed, "exploitation of anyone, whether blacks, Indians, women, or Chicanos, has a destructive effect on the whole society."

She went to an all black elementary and high school. "But we never knew we were segregated," she emphasized. "We were happy in our little hamlet. Blacks and whites helped each other and did things together in the community. The relationships we had were honest and genuine relationships."

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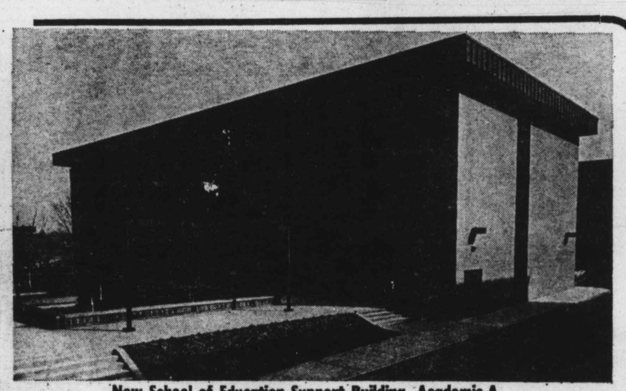

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Job market for college graduates tight again in '76

CHICAGO — Job-hunting will once again be tight for this year's college graduating class, according to a copyrighted survey of 225 national corporations.

The survey, compiled by Frank S. Endicott, professor emeritus at Northwestern University, concludes, "The class of 1976 will face another extremely tight job market, and it will be necessary for many graduates to work hard in order to find a job which utilizes their knowledge or ability."

Together the 225 corporations, which ranged from banks to oil companies, plan to hire 9 per cent more bachelors level graduates and 11 per cent more from holders of master's degrees.

Endicott's report says engineering, accounting and business administration are the prime fields for graduates with a bachelors. The last two also lead the way at the advanced degree level.

From interviews with personnel directors and recruiters at the firms, Endicott compiled six leading factors that employers look for.

He cited:

Personal characteristics such as maturity, poise, initiative, appearance and ability to work with people.

Scholastic qualifications.

Specialized courses relating to a particular field.

Part-time and summer employment while in college.

Extracurricular activities during college.

General courses designed to give a broad background.

One of the interviewees, Jim Morris of Inland Steel Company, said concerning scholastic achievement, "In some isolated instances, personal qualifications do overshadow grades.

However, in most cases, if a student's academic performance is average or below, the chance that he will receive serious consideration for positions that have growth potential is significantly diminished," Morris added.

Howard Carden of NCR Corp., said, "I heavily advise summer intership programs, as well as co-op programs. Usually students who have participated in these programs have a better understanding of the working world."

R. W. Brocksbank of Mobil Oil Corporation had another suggestion for collegiated job seekers. "An English, history, political science or psychology major, without some business-oriented courses, is just not going to get the job," he said.

He advised liberal arts majors to take electives or minors in finance or accounting or some other business related field.

—1985 jobs

(Continued from Page 2)

real estate employment is expected to expand to nearly 5.6 million by 1985, about 42 per cent above 1972 levels.

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Agriculture (farming), which until the late 1800s employed more than half of all workers in the economy, employed only 4 per cent lower than in 1972.

Farming is facing a continuing decline in manpower needs. Factors resulting in past declines will continue, and the outlook is for a 1985 farm work force 45 per cent lower than in 1972.

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Mining employment, at about 607,000 workers in 1972, has declined by nearly 15 per cent since 1960, primarily because of labor-saving technological changes.

This trend is likely to continue, and mining is the only nonagricultural industry division that is not expected to increase between 1972 and 1985.

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Contract construction employment, at more than 3.5 million in 1972, has increased more than one-fifth since 1960.

Between 1972 and 1985, employment in contract construction is expected to grow by more than one-fifth to about 4.3 million.

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Manufacturing, the largest division within the goods-producing sector that had about 18.9 million workers in 1972, increased about 13 per cent in employment between 1960 and 1972.

Manufacturing employment is expected to increase about 23 per cent through the mid-1980s and to reach about 3.2 million in 1985.

Employment in durable goods manufacturing is

(Continued on Page 22)

Things look a lot blacker in engineering this year.

In 1971, about 43,000 students graduated with bachelor degrees in engineering. In 1975 the number was down to about 38,000.

But while the total was reduced, the number of black engineering graduates increased significantly—from 407 to 734. And 1975 freshmen enrollments of black engineers are up an estimated 45%.

That means the graduating class four years from now will be a lot blacker. About 1,500 if the current trend continues.

How come?

It's the work of a lot of people. People who realize that we live in a technical world. That an engineering education is one of the major keys to that world. To knowing how it works. To knowing how to improve it. To getting a bigger share of the action.

People in government, in companies, and in education have been working hard to tell minority kids about engineering and its opportunities.

Perhaps you're one of those people. General Electric is one of those companies.

For the past three years, General Electric has used many ways to get the message across. "Quincy" comic books, posters, ads, films, brochures and a traveling exhibit.

But we think it has been the personal contacts by minority college students that have really worked. Perhaps you're one of those students. One who's gone back where you came from. To your high school or junior high to encourage kids about engineering careers.

There's been a lot of progress. But there is still a long way to go.

If you'd like to help, GE would be glad to send you an engineering information kit. Write to General Electric, Educational Communications, Fairfield, Conn. 06431.

And if people like you continue to help, those numbers will continue to grow.

The outlook in engineering will get blacker and blacker. And things couldn't be brighter.

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