Unemployment—

(Continued from page 6)

Hospital, or his four teenage sons. He especially finds it difficult discussing his financial troubles with strangers.

James W. (not his real name) was laid off from his job at the Point — the job he saw himself working on for the rest of his life.

"All I can say is its frustrating and hard now having been use to carrying the load. And then all of a sudden losing a job. Now my wife has to do it, and it really puts a strain on things."

James said he was making "good money" before his furlough, but now must rely on unemployment insurance. The average pay for steelworkers is $12 per hour, and over $23 with benefits.

"The bills aren't overwhelming, but it does take an edge off life," he said. James added that the family's hopes to "enjoy life a little" and buy a travel trailer for touring the country must be postponed.

"But I'm hopeful things will go back to normal," he said.

Being without a job can force the unemployed to consider many alternatives. Though the figures don't show it, many who previously snubbed their noses at public assistance are turning towards medical assistance and welfare grants when the unemployment insurance runs dry.

According to a Department of Human Resources spokesperson, those receiving unemployment benefits cannot receive welfare grants.

Jo Atwater said, "One of the criteria to receive welfare is that you can't be eligible for unemployment.

"However, if you are denied unemployment because you quit your job or were fired, you cannot receive welfare either.

Federal budget cuts and subsequent tightened eligibility requirements have forced a decrease in the number of families on welfare.

The agency doesn't keep figures by race, but overall 41,553 families received Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the largest welfare program, in April 1982. That same month a year ago, there were 45,612 city recipients.

"In most cases (the cuts) affected working people part - time or making minimum wage," Atwater stated. The restrictions cut into the families' gross pay.

Classified by his nephew as one of the "chronic unemployed,' Frank Jacks was desperate enough to get

(Continued on Page 40)

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Unemployment—

(Continued from Page 40)

faculty, said Starters has done 90 percent of the hiring for Harborplace, and has a contract to hire for the Rite - Aid pharmacy chain.

Wright said alot of times, more emphasis is put on numbers of kids sent on interviews rather than on actual development of trainees.

After three and one-half years of seminars, term papers, and exams, Karen C. (not her real name) thought putting off serious job hunting until she caught up on life wouldn't hurt. But even with a college degree, Karen found it was no match for perseverance.

She received a B.S. in Sociology in 1980 from Towson State University, and took a job as a junior high school substitute not long after.

Life was still simple until the school's special education teacher left, abruptly leaving Karen to fill in as a long term substitute. The pressures of disciplining "slow" kids, however, were not to Karen's liking and so she decided to move on to a "real job."

"I had an interview almost every week. But for one reason or another, I never got the job. And each time, I thought I handled the interviews well."

"It was depressing," she recalled as weeks without a job stretched into months. "My mother tried to encourage me, but I became very short-tempered and impatient.

"There were days when I would wake up and say 'forget it, I'm not going to find anything.' And then there are days when you say, 'this is it." "

An annoying year later Karen found a job counseling juvenile delinquents at a boys' shelter home. But she found herself out on the street sooner than expected. After five months - budget cuts forced her layoff.

Two months later she had to settle for a live-in position counseling retarded women—a job she despised. "I hated the job but after buying a new car and with bills to pay, you can't be choosy."

Another two months passed and Karen was on the hunt again, And after accepting a counseling position at Job Corp. in Woodstock, she got a call from the Department of Social Services - this was the payoff of all her efforts. This was the job her college training had prepared her to assume.

In response to test scores she took three years before DSS offered her a position as a case-worker. Finally she had a steady paycheck, excellent benefits, and most importantly job security.

"You must have perseverance and faith — that's what it takes."

Karen is one of the lucky ones. Most young Blacks in Maryland remain in the economic limbo of joblessness.

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