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The Economic Downturn

Typically alumni from our nation's top universities and previous employees of corporations which helped shape the silicon valley have more than enough experience to be able to find a well paying job relating to their field. Ironically, this is not the case, college graduate Americans seeking employment opportunities in professional areas are finding out there education isn't paying off and the big dogs just aren't hiring no matter how solid your resume stands. Fortunately, to keep the roof over your head, while companies continue their rejections, the government has been extending their financial aid.

Jonathon Blieir, a resident of Redwood City, a Carnegie Mellon Alumni and a former employee of Apple, Electronic Arts and Palantir Technologies knows firsthand the difficulties in establishing a secure well paying career during an economic downturn. Applying to at least one job a week for companies such as Facebook, Solar City and Google, even with connections on the inside, scoring an interview is the highest payoff he's received. Jonathon is one of the 11.4 million Americans unemployed and now recently apart of the 6.3 million (Washington Post) which have been on unemployment for over six months.

The United States government has been trying to help the people by pumping money into a recessed economy, further more increasing the national debt, for the purpose of creating jobs. According to President Obama, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed February 17th, 2009, would "create more than 3.5 million jobs." Over a year and roughly 300 billion dollars later, the President's Council of Economic Advisors estimated during the second through fourth quarter of the previous year, anywhere between one to three million jobs were created or saved. Jonathon Blieir asks, "Where are the jobs?"

According to recovery.gov which tracks and reports the spending of the stimulus act; in Santa Clara County there are nearly five thousand recovery projects valued slightly over 23 billion dollars. The funding is mostly granted toward the improvement of public transportation, numerous research projects at Moppet field's AMES research center, road

construction and infrastructural rehabilitation. These projects are not helping the many Americans such as Jonathon find a job.

The nature of the bill does not purely fund the creation of new jobs but a majority of the money goes toward programs which expand unemployment benefits, give tax breaks, expand homebuyer's credit, and mortgage relief programs among many more. In theory, more jobs are being saved than created. By putting money back into the people, the government believes they are raising consumers to support business from continuing layoffs. Perhaps the stabilization of unemployment is due to the recovery act, but sadly no research can factually prove the statement.

The bill's inability to help give Jonathon a job in his field in no way helps the economy, in the same way does granting unemployment to someone unwilling to compromise in job selection help fuel our economy. Now unemployed, the former professionals are ignoring the less paying job and rather feeding off of unemployment benefits, abusing the tax payer's dollars by dragging on their free ride ultimately adding to the unemployment figures. Graduates such as Jonathon came from across the nation for the availability of high paying career opportunities in the Silicon Valley. These corporations have shifted from hiring to layoffs and there former well paid employees are now sitting on government supplied unemployment benefits unwilling to settle for anything less than their previous salaries.

The Obama administration believes the future of employment is looking to improve. By 2012, the administration forecast predicts a drop to 8.2% continuing to 7.3% the following year. Based on these predictions the recession will only last for roughly another half decade. If unemployment benefits aren't extended several more times, people will be forced to settle for the lesser paying career opportunity or face dire financial consequences, the safer option will most likely end unemployment at a quicker rate but the quality of life will decrease.