HUMAN RESOURCES

97/98



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Seventh Edition

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Editors/Advisory Board

Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of ANNUAL EDITIONS. Their review of articles for content, level, currentness, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think that you will find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

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To the Reader

In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the *public press* in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Many of these articles are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully *collected*, *organized*, *indexed*, and *reproduced* in a *low-cost format*, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by ANNUAL EDITIONS. Under the direction of each volume's *academic editor*, who is an expert in the subject area, and with the guidance of an *Advisory Board*, each year we seek to provide in each ANNUAL EDITION a current, well-balanced, carefully selected collection of the best of the public press for your study and enjoyment. We think that you will find this volume useful, and we hope that you will take a moment to let us know what you think.

The practice of human resource management is evolving into an exciting and highly diverse profession. Changes in the economic, social, and political forces in countries all over the world have made the study and practice of human resource management a key factor in the success of any organization.

Management must respond to these forces in many ways, not the least of which is the effort to keep current with the various developments in the field. The 50 articles that have been chosen for Annual Editions: Human Resources 97/98 reflect an outstanding cross section of the current articles in the field. The volume addresses the various component parts of HRM (human resource management) from compensation, training, and discipline to international implications for the worker and the employer. Articles have been chosen from leading business magazines such as Fortune and journals such as Human Resource Professional to provide a wide sampling of the latest thinking in the field of human resources.

Annual Editions: Human Resources 97/98 contains a number of features designed to be useful for people interested in human resource management. These features include a Topic Guide to locate articles on specific subjects, as well as a Table of Contents with abstracts that summarize each article with bold italicized key ideas. The volume is or-

ganized into seven units, each dealing with specific interrelated topics in human resources. Every unit begins with an overview that provides background information for the articles in the section. This will enable the reader to place the selection in the context of the larger issues concerning human resources. Important topics are emphasized and challenge questions that address major themes are presented.

This is the seventh edition of Annual Editions: Human Resources. It is hoped that many more will follow addressing these important issues. We believe that the collection is the most complete and useful compilation of current material available to the human resource management student. We would like to have your response to this volume, for we are interested in your opinions and recommendations. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the postage-paid Article Rating Form at the back of the volume. Any book can be improved, and we need your help to continue to improve Annual Editions: Human Resources.

Stred Machney

Fred Maidment Editor

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UNIT 1



Human Resource Management in Perspective

Eleven selections examine the current environment of human resource management with special emphasis on equal employment opportunity, affirmative action, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and sexual harassment.

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A.	THE ENVIRONMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
1.	Has Downsizing Gone Too Far? Challenge, July/August 1996. Whether you call it downsizing, reengineering, or just plain firing, American industry has been terminating waves of employees. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich has something to say about it in this comprehensive interview.	
2.	Does Human Resource Management Make a Difference? Sheila Rothwell, Manager Update, Spring 1995. Today many human resource departments are being reduced in numbers of employees and often in terms of their importance in the organization as part of an overall downsizing trend. Sheila Rothwell has some ideas on this trend, the differences between human resources and personnel, and how to evaluate these functions.	1
3.	People and Their Organizations: Rethinking the Assumptions, Marie A. McKendall and Stephen T. Margulis, Business Horizons, November/December 1995. The old psychological contract between workers and employers is dead. But, say these two authors, that is not necessarily a bad thing. Marie McKendall and Stephen Margulis offer a new view of employee-organizational relationships.	1
B.	HUMAN RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY	
4.	Wedding HR to Strategic Alliances, Brenda Paik Sunoo, Personnel Journal, May 1995. One of the fastest-growing ways to do business is to establish stra- tegic alliances with other firms. U.S. companies have formed many of these alliances, but a large percentage of them have failed. Brenda Sunoo examines how human resources can mean the difference be- tween success and failure.	2
5.	Do Your Human Resources Add Value? Michael Donahue, Management Accounting, June 1996. How do you evaluate your human resources department? This article describes a step-by-step process for creating an efficient, cost-effective service delivery operation.	3.
C.	EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND AFFIRMAT ACTION	IVE
6.	Moment of Truth for the Class of '70, Caroline V. Clarke, Black Enterprise, August 1995. The black Americans of the college class of 1970 were really the first to benefit in a major way from affirmative action. Caroline Clarke takes a look at where some of them are now and how they see their futures and their children's futures.	3.5
7.	Does Image Matter? Jennifer J. Laabs, <i>Personnel Journal</i> , December 1995. People should be evaluated on their performance, not their looks. Yet it is obvious that <i>appearance does play a role</i> in how people are perceived and in how much money they earn. Jennifer Laabs advises employers on how to avoid looks-based discrimination in hiring practices and personal appearance codes.	43



Meeting Human Resource Requirements

Seven articles discuss the dynamics of human resource job requirements, planning, selection, recruitment, and information systems.

D. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

8. The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Workplace: Management's Responsibilities in AIDS-Related Situations, James D. Slack, *Public Administration Review*, July/August 1995. People with HIV/AIDS are covered under the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*. The dynamics of applying the act to this group of Americans are examined by James Slack.

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9. Get the Best from Employees with Learning Disabilities, Gillian Flynn, Personnel Journal, January 1996. There are many learning-disabled people in the workforce, and, as with many other disabled workers, they can do an outstanding job. How to help these employees maximize their performance is the subject of this article.

E. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

to a minimum.

- 10. Sexual Harassment: Reducing the Risks, Sharon Nelton, Nation's Business, March 1995.
 Sexual harassment has been on the front burner for human resources professionals ever since the testimony of Anita Hill during the Clarence Thomas Supreme Court nomination hearings. Sharon Nelton outlines what employers can do to keep the risks of being sued
- 11. When Sexual Harassment Is a Foreign Affair, Wendy Hardman and Jacqueline Heidelberg, Personnel Journal, April 1996. Dealing with sexual harassment in a purely domestic setting is difficult enough, but when it involves people from different cultures, it becomes very complex.

Overview

- A. JOB REQUIREMENTS
- 12. Manage Work Better to Better Manage Human Resources:
 A Comparative Study of Two Approaches to Job Analysis,
 James P. Clifford, Public Personnel Management, Spring 1996.
 How you see something depends on your objectives and where you sit. This article reports a comparative study of two approaches to job analysis that yielded very different results.
- 13. Family or Work? A Matter of Priorities, Eugene H. Fram and Francena L. Miller, USA Today Magazine (Society for the Advancement of Education), May 1995. Employees are starting to demand greater understanding on the part of their employers when it comes to family issues. This essay outlines some of the issues and solutions that have been raised and implemented in industry.

B. HUMAN RESOURCE PLANNING, SELECTION, AND RECRUITMENT

14. How to Recruit Online, Shannon Peters Talbott, Recruitment Staffing Sourcebook, Supplement to Personnel Journal, March 1996.

The newest way to look for *prospective employees is on the Internet*. Here are some do's and dont's on how to use this new tool.



Creating a Productive Work Environment

Six selections examine how to increase productivity in the workplace by motivating employees, developing effective communication channels, and providing good leadership and direction.

15.	Unlock the Potential of Older Workers, Charlene Marmer	84
	Solomon, Personnel Journal, October 1995.	
	The workforce is aging, and employers are not going to be able to	
	ignore their older workers. In fact, says Charlene Solomon, they are	
	going to have to depend on them even more than they have in the	

16. Attracting the Right Employees—and Keeping Them, Gillian Flynn, Personnel Journal, December 1994.
Attracting good employees and keeping them is one of the most important things organizations can do, and it is one of the most difficult. It is the key to success for corporations, since it is people who do the jobs. This is a brief discussion of some of the practices that are currently being used to find and retain good employees.

C. HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

17. Catch the Wave as HR Goes Online, Samuel Greengard, Personnel Journal, July 1995. Cyberspace offers new opportunities in networking, information gathering, and recruiting. Samuel Greengard discusses how computer services are changing the way human resources is doing its job. 96

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18. Interactive Benefits Systems Save Time and Dollars for Employers, Employees, Miriam Basch Scott, Employee Benefit Plan Review, February 1995.
One of the most obvious ways that organizations can benefit from computerized information systems is in human resources. Miriam Scott looks at how interactive systems can be utilized to help employees and employers save time and money.

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A. MOTIVATING EMPLOYEES

- 19. The Top 20 Ways to Motivate Employees, Shari Caudron, Industry Week, April 3, 1995.
 Organizations with motivated employees are going to be more effective and fun than organizations whose employees are not motivated. Shari Caudron presents 20 different ways to motivate employees.
- 20. Empowerment: Myth or Reality, Michèle Darling, Vital Speeches of the Day, May 15, 1996.
 What is meant by "empowerment" of employees and where is it going? This speech, delivered to the Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario in February 1996, contains some thoughts on this issue.

B. FACILITATING COMMUNICATION

21. Social IQ and MBAs, Robert L. Dilenschneider, Vital Speeches of the Day, April 15, 1996.
Communication is the key in most human endeavors. Yet, for some reason, most people simply are not very good at it. This speech, delivered by a veteran public relations executive at the Fordham University Graduate School of Business, offers cogent advice on watching for nonverbal cues from others and conveying one's own messages more effectively.



Developing Effective Human Resources

Six articles discuss how to develop human resources through employee training, career development, and performance appraisal.

22.	Handling Communication Problems, W. H. Weiss, Supervi-	122
	sion, March 1994.	
	Communication is one of the most difficult functions a manager can	
	perform. W. H. Weiss has some practical suggestions on how to	

communicate in organizations, up, down, and across the chart.

C. LEADING AND DIRECTING

- 23. Leadership: Seven Behaviors for Muddling Through, James R. Houghton, Vital Speeches of the Day, July 1, 1996. How do leaders transform organizations to meet the challenges of the present, the future? James Houghton, the chairman and CEO of Corning Incorporated, shared his ideas on leading today's companies at the Senior Leadership/Corporate Transformation Conference in April 1996.
- 24. Not Enough Generals Were Killed! Peter Drucker, Forbes ASAP, April 8, 1996. Peter Drucker is considered one of the top two management theorists of the late twentieth century. Here he presents some of his thoughts on leadership.

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A. TRAINING EMPLOYEES

25. Send Managers Back to School at the Local University, Fred Maidment, *Human Resource Professional*, July/August 1995.

In a *changing environment,* managers need training to help them cope. One source of such training and education is colleges and universities. But the buyer should beware, cautions Fred Maidment.

26. New Skills Equal New Opportunities, Gillian Flynn, Personnel Journal, June 1996.
With all of the emphasis on reengineering, force reductions, and layoffs, isn't there some way to save the jobs of people who have worked for a company for years, perhaps decades? Chevron Corp. may have found an answer in an innovative mix-and-match strategy.

B. CAREER AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

are discussed in this article.

- 27. Women in American Boardrooms: Through a Glass, Darkly, The Economist, August 10, 1996.
 Are women making progress in entering the ranks of senior management? Yes, but the change is slow for many reasons, several of which
- 28. Executive Women Confront Midlife Crisis, Betsy Morris, Fortune, September 18, 1995.

 As women climb the ladder of corporate success, many of them will be experiencing burnout, dissatisfaction, and other forms of midlife crisis. Betsy Morris examines how some very successful female executives have handled these problems.



Implementing Compensation, Benefits, and Workplace Safety

Ten articles discuss employee compensation, incentive arrangements, executive pay, employee benefits, and safety and health considerations.

C	APPRAISING	AND	IMPROVING	PERFORMANCE

- 29. Improving Worker Performance, Michael Barrier, Nation's 147 Business, September 1996. There are many ways to motivate employees and to improve organizational performance. Michael Barrier outlines several of them in a readable question-and-answer format.
- 150 30. Painless Performance Evaluations, Mary Mavis, Training and Development, October 1994. Performance evaluation is one of the most difficult tasks a manager faces. Mary Mavis provides some useful clues on how to get the most out of this necessary managerial function.

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A. MANAGING EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

- 31. Share the Pain to Share the Gain, Jennifer J. Laabs, Personnel Journal, June 1996. When organizations hit hard times, how do they adjust? What are some of the steps that managers can take? Jennifer Laabs describes the techniques used by one corporation, including reductions in wages, work schedules, and raw materials.
- 32. Nine Practical Suggestions for Streamlining Workers' Compensation Costs, Charles L. Lorenz, Compensation and Benefits Review, May/June 1995. What can organizations do to reduce their workers' compensation costs? Charles Lorenz provides nine practical suggestions that can be implemented by organizations today.

B. INCENTIVE COMPENSATION

- 33. Risky Business: The New Pay Game, Steve Kerr, Fortune, 165 July 22, 1996. This article describes GE's use of its pay system to get people to work faster and smarter, offering bonuses only to workers who achieve tough goals.
- 34. The Long and Winding Road, John D. McMillan and Steven Sabow, Financial Executive, March/April 1995. Executive compensation has come under fire over the past several years as it became obvious that the link between pay and performance for senior management has been, at best, tenuous. The response has been to strengthen that link, and new approaches are reported in this essay.

- C. EXECUTIVE PAY 35. And You Thought CEOs Were Overpaid, John A. Byrne, 173 Business Week, August 26, 1996. Over the past several years there has been great controversy over the pay of CEOs. While that controversy continues, the pay of outside directors is starting to draw fire. Is an outside director worth almost \$200,000 per year? It seems some corporations believe they are.
- 36. The Need for Greed, The Economist, May 4, 1996. The methods by which senior executives are compensated are at least as important as how much they are compensated, as explained in this article.



Fostering Employee/ Management Relationships

Five selections examine the dynamics of labor relations, collective bargaining, contract administration, and disciplinary action.

D. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

37. Balancing Work and Family Responsibilities: Flextime and Child Care in the Federal Government, Marni Ezra and Melissa Deckman, *Public Administration Review*, March/April 1996.

Do family-friendly policies make for a more satisfied workforce? The evidence is that they do and that on-site child care and flextime, in particular, help mothers to balance the demands of work and family.

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E. SAFETY AND HEALTH

38. Violence in the American Workplace: Challenges to the Public Employer, Lloyd G. Nigro and William L. Waugh Jr., Public Administration Review, July/August 1996. Violence in the workplace is an increasing concern for American workers. How to prevent violent situations and deal with them when they do occur is the theme of this article.

39. Workers Take Leave of Job Stress, Christopher J. Bachler, Personnel Journal, January 1995.
Sabbaticals, often thought of only as the province of academics, are now becoming more popular in industry, to help revitalize and renew workers

40. Surveys Document Wellness Initiatives, Link Health Risks to Higher Plan Costs, Bernice Caldwell, Employee Benefit Plan Review, June 1995.

Healthy workers generally mean less expensive and more productive.

Healthy workers generally mean less expensive and more productive workers. This may seem obvious, but many companies have doubted the cost effectiveness of *initiatives to improve their workers' health*. The evidence is in, and wellness initiatives do mean lower health costs.

Overview

A. DYNAMICS OF LABOR RELATIONS, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Putting Collective Back into Bargaining, Paul Grattet, Public Management, July 1995.
 Negotiating a contract is never easy, but there are ways to reach reasonable and effective agreements between labor and management.

B. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

42. When the Fired Fight Back, David Nye, Across the Board, **204** June 1995.

In an era of *downsizing*, many former employees are not going quietly. They are suing their former employers for a host of reasons. There are recommended ways to handle these situations, and David Nye presents some of them.

43. Privacy, Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy, *Across the* **208** *Board*, March 1996.

How far can an employer go in looking into the personal lives of workers? Some recent court cases involving the *privacy of employees* suggest useful guidelines.



International Human Resource Management

Five articles discuss the increasing globalization of human resource management.

44.	Terminating Problem Employees, Bettye Springer, <i>Public Management,</i> April 1996. There may come a time in every manager's life when he or she must <i>terminate a problem employee.</i> This article gives some tips on how to avoid litigation in such situations.	211
C.	TEMPORARY AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	
45.	Are Your Temps Doing Their Best? Shari Caudron, Personnel Journal, November 1995. With more and more organizations using temporary employees, the question of how to motivate them to do a top job becomes more crucial. The answer—treat temps like regular employees.	213
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46.	Jobs for Life: Why Japan Won't Give Them Up, Eamonn Fingleton, Fortune, March 20, 1995. For several years, Westerners have been predicting the end of <i>lifelong employment in Japan</i> , yet it has not happened. Eamonn Fingleton discusses the system and why it is unlikely to end in the near future.	218
47.	Managing Human Resources in Mexico: A Cultural Understanding, Randall S. Schuler, Susan E. Jackson, Ellen Jackofsky, and John W. Slocum Jr., Business Horizons, May/June 1996. Mexico and the United States are two different societies with two different cultures, especially as measured by adherence to four key workplace values. The authors show how different the two nations are in three of these key areas and discuss the implications for business management.	221
48.	Dealing with Diversity: The Coming Challenge to American Business, Kenneth J. Doka, <i>Business Horizons</i> , May/June 1996. The American workforce has changed significantly and will continue to do so over the next several decades. Accordingly, corporations that encourage and nurture <i>diversity among their employees</i> are far better positioned in both differentiated domestic and global markets.	228
49.	Building a Global Workforce Starts with Recruitment, Shannon Peters Talbott, Recruitment Staffing Sourcebook, Supplement to Personnel Journal, March 1996. Global corporations need global workforces, and building a workforce capable of working in a global environment begins with hiring employees who have the appropriate mindset.	233
50.	Put Your Ethics to a Global Test, Charlene Marmer Solomon, <i>Personnel Journal</i> , January 1996. Western ethical conduct may frequently be at odds with accepted local practice in other societies, and walking this thin line can be difficult. Charlene Solomon offers tips for achieving the right balance between ethical fanaticism and ethical relativism.	236

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Article Review Form Article Rating Form

HUMAN RESOURCES 97/98

Seventh Edition



Editor Dr. Fred H. Maidment Park College

Dr. Fred Maidment is associate professor and department chair of the Department of Business Education at Park College. He received his bachelor's degree from New York University in 1970 and his master's degree from Bernard M. Baruch College of the City University of New York. In 1983 he received his doctorate from the University of South Carolina. His research interests include training and development in industry. He resides in Kansas City, Missouri, with his wife and children.



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Topic Guide

This topic guide suggests how the selections in this book relate to topics of traditional concern to human resource management students and professionals. It is useful for locating articles that relate to each other for reading and research. The guide is arranged alphabetically according to topic. Articles may, of course, treat topics that do not appear in the topic guide. In turn, entries in the topic guide do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive listing of all the contents of each selection.

TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
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Job Security	1. Has Downsizing Gone Too Far? 3. People and Their Organizations 6. Moment of Truth for the Class of '70 7. Does Image Matter? 8. Americans with Disabilities Act 15. Unlock the Potential of Older Workers 16. Attracting the Right Employees 20. Empowerment 24. Not Enough Generals Were Killed! 25. Send Managers Back to School 26. New Skills Equal New Opportunities 27. Women in American Boardrooms 28. Executive Women Confront Midlife Crisis 29. Improving Worker Performance 30. Painless Performance Evaluations 31. Share the Pain to Share the Gain 33. Risky Business: The New Pay Game 35. And You Thought CEO's Were Overpaid 36. Need for Greed 37. Balancing Work and Family Responsibilities 38. Violence in the American Workplace 39. Workers Take Leave of Job Stress 41. Putting Collective Back into Bargaining 42. When the Fired Fight Back	Women in the Workforce	 Moment of Truth for the Class of '70 Does Image Matter? Sexual Harassment: Reducing the Risks When Sexual Harassment Is a Foreign Affair Family or Work? Attracting the Right Employees Empowerment Women in American Boardrooms Executive Women Confront Midlife Crisis Balancing Work and Family Responsibilities Dealing with Diversity Building a Global Workforce

Human Resource Management in Perspective

- The Environment of Human Resource Management (Articles 1-3)
- Human Resources and Corporate Strategy (Articles 4 and 5)
- Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action (Articles 6 and 7)
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (Articles 8 and 9)
 - Sexual Harassment (Articles 10 and 11)

The only constant is change. Industrial society is dynamic, a great engine that has brought about many of the most significant changes in the history of the human race. Since the start of the Industrial Revolution in England, a little over 200 years ago, industrialized society has transformed Western civilization in a multitude of ways. Many great inventions of the last 200 years have significantly altered the way people live and the way they see the world.

At the time of the Declaration of Independence, the 13 colonies were an overwhelmingly agricultural society that clung to the Atlantic coast of North America. As the end of the twentieth century nears, the United States is a continental nation with the world's largest industrial base and perhaps the smallest percentage of farmers of any major industrialized country. These changes did not happen overnight, but were both the result and the cause of the technological innovations of the Industrial Revolution. The technological marvels of today, such as television, radio, computers, airplanes, and automobiles, did not exist until after the Industrial Revolution, and a disproportionate number of them did not exist until after 1900.

With technological changes have come changes in the ways people earn their living. When Thomas Jefferson authored the Declaration of Independence in 1776, he envisioned a nation of small, independent farmers, but that is not what later developed. Factories, mass production, and economies of scale have been the watchwords of industrial development. The development changed not only the economy, but also society. Most Americans are no longer independent farmers, but are, for the most part, wage earners, making their living working for someone else

Changes in the American labor force include the increase in women and minorities working next to white males. The nature of most jobs has changed from those directly associated with production to those providing services in the white-collar economy. Many other changes are coming to the economy and society that will be reflected in the workforce. For the first time since the early days of the republic, international trade represents a sig-

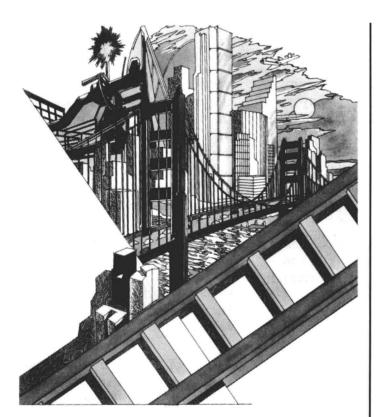
nificant part of the American economy, having increased greatly in the past 20 years. The economic reality is that the GM autoworker competes not only with Ford and Chrysler, but also with Toyota and Volkswagen.

The society, the economy, and the workforce have changed. Americans today live in a much different world than they did 200 years ago. It is a highly diverse, heterogeneous world, full of paradox. When people think of American industry, they tend to think of giant-sized companies like IBM and General Electric, but, in fact, most people work for small firms. The relative importance of the *Fortune 500* companies in terms of employment in the economy has been declining both in real and percentage terms. Small organizations are where the economic growth is today.

Change has brought not only a different society, but a more complex one. Numerous rules and regulations must be followed that did not exist 200 years ago. The human element in any organization has been critical to its success, and foreknowing what the human resource needs of the organization are going to be 1, 5, or even 10 years into the future is a key element for continuing success.

Individual decisions have also changed. In the first part of the twentieth century, it was common for a worker to spend his or her entire life with one organization, doing one particular job. Now the worker can expect to do many different jobs, probably with a number of different organizations in different industries. Mergers, technological change, and economic fluctuations all put a premium on individual adaptability in a changing work environment for individual economic survival.

The changes in industrial society have often come at a faster rate than most people were willing to either accept or adapt to. Many old customs and prejudices have been retained from prior times, and while progress has been made with regard to certain groups—no American employer today would dare to end an employment notice with the letters "NINA" (No Irish Need Apply), as was common at one time—for other groups, the progress has been slow at best. Women represent about half of Ameri-



can workers but they are paid only about 70 percent of what men earn. African Americans, other minorities, and people with disabilities have been discriminated against for centuries in American society, to the point where the federal government has been forced to step in and legislate equal opportunity, both on and off the job. Finally, the clash of differing cultures seems ever more pronounced in our society. America has traditionally viewed itself as a melting pot, but it is clear that certain groups have historically "melted" more easily than others, a situation that is reflected in the workplace.

Human resource management plays an important role in industrial America. Business leaders recognize the value of their employees to the future of their organizations. Increasingly, competition in world markets is becoming based on the skills and abilities of people, not machines. Indeed, among major competitors, virtually everyone has essentially the same equipment. The difference is often what the people in the organization do with the equipment.

Society, the workplace, and the way they are viewed have all undergone major changes. Frederick W. Taylor and Elton Mayo, early writers in management, held certain views about industry at the beginning of the century, while Peter Drucker, W. Edwards Deming, and others have different ideas now, at the end of the century. The American society and economy, as well as the very life of the average American worker, are different from what they were 200 or even 100 years ago, and both the workers and the organizations that employ them must respond to those changes.

Looking Ahead: Challenge Questions

What social and economic trends do you feel are the most significant? Has downsizing gone too far? How will these trends impact on the labor force as it enters the twenty-first century? How does human resource management make a difference?

What are some of the ways that firms can better utilize the skills and talents of their employees? How can small businesses benefit from better human resource management?

What are the most important changes for the American worker during this century, and what changes do you see as likely in the next 20 years? What are some of the erroneous assumptions often made by management? How have changes in the family resulted in changes in human resource management?

In the past 30 years, the government has taken a more active role in the struggle of minorities and other groups in the workforce. How do you see this effort developing? What changes in policy are likely to occur in the future?

Sexual harassment is a very important area of concern for most organizations. What do you think organizations can and should do about it?

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Has Downsizing Gone Too Far?

Interview | Robert Reich

Streamlining is just plain firing, says the Secretary of Labor, and it has gone too far. But Reich says the president should resort to the bully pulpit before he tries firmer measures to encourage corporations to retain and revalue their employees. Election-year hesitancy?

Mr. Secretary, by conventional measures the economy is doing pretty well. Unemployment is low; inflation is low. There are recent reports that the American middle class isn't doing that badly. Is America as anxious as you've been saying it is?

A. In many respects the economy is doing marvelously well. Unemployment is down to 5.4 percent. In fact, we've had twenty months of unemployment under six percent. We don't have any inflation in sight, and we do have eight and a half million new jobs since February of 1993. That's terrific news. But there is a long-term challenge ahead of us that has to do primarily with a widening gap that has accumulated over twenty years between people at the top and wage earners at the bottom. A lot of people in the middle are anxious, and for two reasons. One, because of the long-term decline in median wages. That's the wage of the person right smack in the middle and everybody below, but also because the rate of permanent job loss is higher in the 1990s than in the 1980s. Most families rely on two

wage earners, or they rely on a single wage earner who is the sole parent of that house; therefore, if one wage is lost, that can mean the difference between making ends meet and destitution. So for a whole variety of reasons, there is genuine economic insecurity out there.

Q. Some groups are now saying that wages are not stagnating or falling; they're rising. Some economists are saying that social mobility is terrific. The American dream is as alive and well as it has ever been. Is this true?

A. First of all, you've got to distinguish between average wages and median wages, because so many people at the top are doing so well, the average is pulled up. Shaquille O'Neal, the basketball player and I have an average height of six feet. That's because I'm very short. You've got to look behind averages, and you've got to examine what's happening to the little guy. And in fact we see that, beginning in the late 1970s, median wages began to decline for men. They bottomed out recently. Median wages for nonsupervisory workers, for blue collars,

ROBERT REICH is U.S. Secretary of Labor. A part of this interview appeared on "Frontline," the PBS documentary series.