

World of work

International careers promising

By **LISA ALLEN**
Staff Writer

Students interested in an international career need a working knowledge of the language and culture of a foreign country as well as the skills to perform their job, says Leigh Ann Burget, personal assistant to the consul general at the French Consulate in Boston.

Burget, a UNC alumnae, majored in French and education. She graduated in 1974 and then lived eight years in Paris, where she taught English and worked in an English bookstore, among

other jobs. She has been in her present position about 18 months.

"Living in the country is paramount," Burget said. "Students need to develop language skills abroad and learn an understanding of the foreign mentality."

"I've found the French are very subtle. They value neatness and humility. It's important to learn to communicate on their level."

But students interested in an international career first need to obtain experience in the United States, said Peggy McAllister, a counselor at UNC's Career Plan-

ning and Placement Office.

"In addition to having a language, students have to prove themselves here in the states for a while," she said. "Some companies with international divisions come to campus looking for employment prospects."

McAllister suggested that students contact state and federal commerce departments. She also said the United Nations hired a large number of language specialists and suggested that students get involved with UNC's model United Nations.

"Several of the federal government agencies, such as the State Department and the CIA, are looking for language-skilled people," McAllister said.

People who are fluent in Russian and Slavic languages, Far Eastern dialects, and Near Eastern and Arabic languages have the best chances for employment, she said.

"You can almost pick your job and name your price," she said.

"A working knowledge of the country in which one works is a must," wrote Anneli Zeck, a 1984 graduate of UNC who is editor of

Tabelspitz International, a Vienna-based newspaper.

"Be patient, but persistent," Zeck advised. "An international job has many more rewards than just a paycheck."

One campus organization that has obtained internships in foreign countries for students, a must for those considering a foreign career, is the International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce.

"AIESEC is one of the best-kept secrets on campus," said Duane Whitcomb, local committee president of UNC's chapter.

AIESEC, Whitcomb said, is a reciprocal work-exchange program involving 62 countries. Local committees around the world raise jobs with companies in their native country.

These jobs are then sent to the International Congress, held in Sweden this year. The congress matches each job with job requests also sent in by AIESEC members.

Whitcomb said the United States had a goal of raising 450 jobs for the congress this year. They expect 5,000 jobs to be raised by 400 universities worldwide.

UNC's local chapter of AIESEC was formed in 1948 by students who wanted to improve the lack of communication between countries that they believed had led to World War II, Whitcomb said.

UNC currently has seven people in countries such as Scotland and West Germany as a result of AIESEC's efforts, Whitcomb said. He said he planned to spend the spring semester in Berlin.

"One of the best aspects of AIESEC is that it provides the experience that companies are looking for," Whitcomb said. "It also provides good references and gives you something to talk about in an interview."

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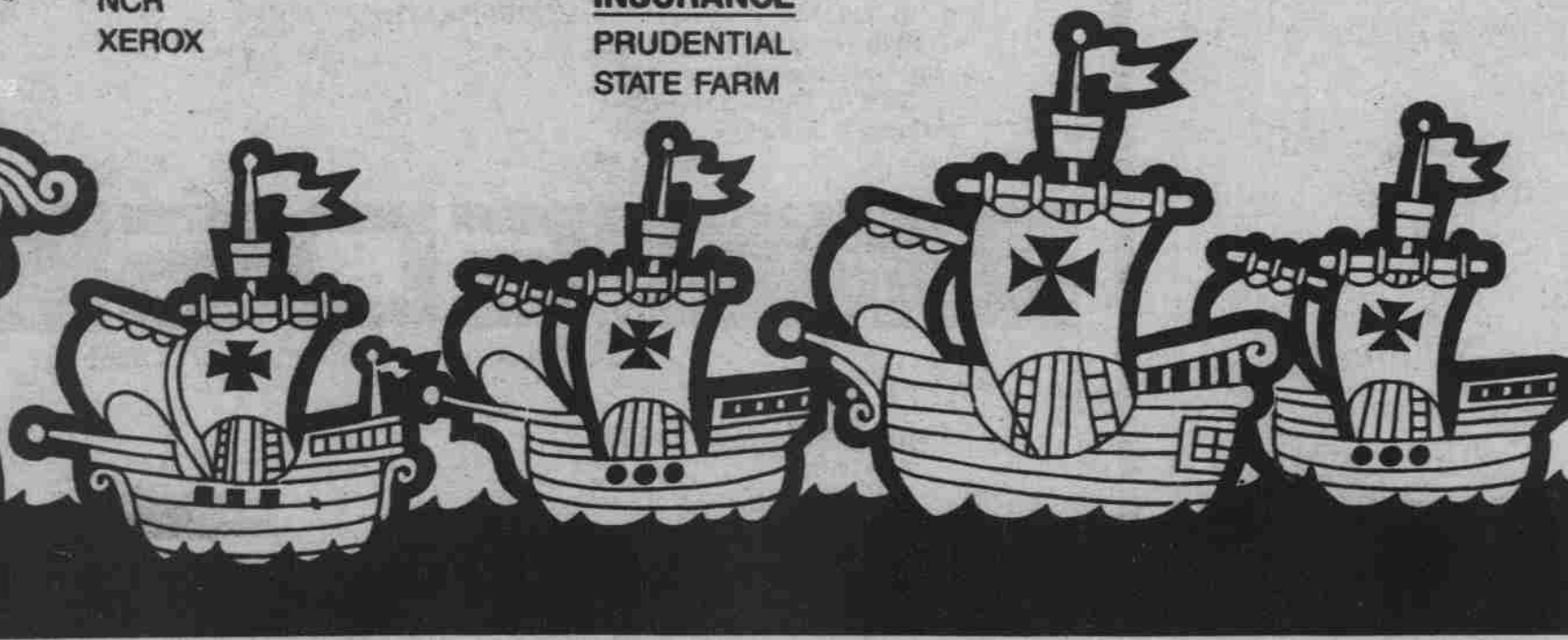
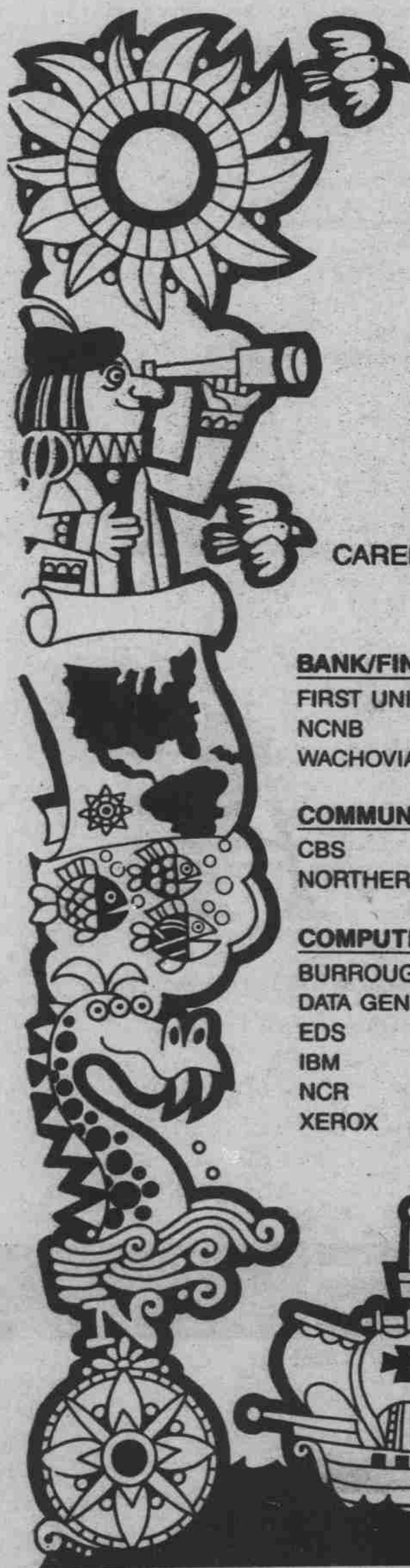
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