

Falling dollar boosts jobs, costs

By **ROBERT KEEFE**
Business Editor

The price of the dollar against foreign currencies has been in the news lately, but what exactly do declining currency prices mean to North Carolinians?

According to local experts, it should mean an increase in employment, an expansion in the number of exported goods, and a possible increase in prices of consumer goods.

Gordon McRoberts, director of the international marketing division of the N.C. Department of Commerce, described the fall of the dollar as following a "J-curve" pattern.

"Right now we're at the bottom of the curve," McRoberts said. "Our prices are starting to go down, and purchasers overseas are buying more and more of our exports."

"There should be (a positive effect) on employment... simply because there will be more sales of exports along with increased sales of products at home," said Dr. Dennis Appleyard, associate chairman of the UNC economics department.

Jim Poole, labor market analyst with the N.C. Employment Security Commission, said he has noticed an increase in employment across the state.

According to Poole, statewide unemployment rates have fallen from 5.9 percent in January 1986, to 5.1 percent in April 1986, to 4.8

percent in December of last year. Orange county had some of the lowest rates in the nation, Poole said, ranging from 2.5 percent in January 1986 to 2.7 percent in November of last year.

"That's almost no unemployment," he said.

Most experts attribute the low local rate to the presence of the numerous hi-tech industries in the Triangle area.

According to McRoberts, many of the hi-tech industries in the Triangle area have major business interests overseas. To these industries, the decline in the price of the dollar is particularly appealing.

"It is very encouraging to us," McRoberts said. "The professionals that have been out there for a while have already tapped into (the export market) and seen good results."

"We also have a lot of small contractors out there that we're watching closely," he said. "All of the sudden, we have found that there are a lot of better mousetraps in Research Triangle Park that have export potential."

70 to 80 percent of these "better mousetraps" are in medical technology, McRoberts said.

Other areas with increasing potential for exports include industrial textiles, computer hardware and software, and research and

development. "There is definitely a lot of blue sky out there," he said.

The N.C. furniture industry is another area that should experience an increase in business because of the dollar's decline, according to McRoberts.

"We've had more requests for furniture marketing exhibitions than we have had in two years," he said. These requests have come from nations such as Japan, Germany and France.

But William Lamparter, vice president of marketing with Century Furniture in Hickory, said his company hasn't seen any drastic increases in export orders.

"Our business has always been pretty consistent," Lamparter said. "We think of it kind of like Cadillac does... the people who want to buy our stuff already have the money to do so... they're not going to be swayed just because of a small change in the price of the dollar or the yen."

Century Furniture is a privately owned corporation which employs 1,000 people in five plants. It produces bedroom, dining room, and wall units, along with a complete line of upholstery. Century exports to such places as London, Singapore, Austria and Bermuda.

Decreasing the trade deficit and

balancing the budget have been the major reasons why the Reagan Administration has allowed the price of the dollar to fall as low as it has, said economics department chairman Dr. Stanley Black. But in his opinion, it has fallen too far.

"I think it has declined too much given the lack of progress on the budget," Black said. "Lowering the value of the dollar is kind of like having a fire sale..."

If the dollar is allowed to fall too low, it may trigger a recession, said Black.

The dollar has fallen 30 to 40 percent since it began to drop in February, 1985.

Countries most affected by the drop have been Japan, Germany, France and other European countries.

McRoberts said that while South Korea and Taiwan have not been affected as much by the fall of the dollar, imports from those countries should be on the decline in the near future as well.

On Friday, the Commerce Department reported the December trade deficit had fallen \$9.5 billion to \$10.7 billion. While this was a major decline, the total deficit for 1986 was still \$169.8 billion — the largest ever. The dollar rose substantially on world markets Friday following the announcement.

Israel rejects deal to trade prisoners for captive teachers

From Associated Press reports

TEL AVIV, Israel — Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin rejected Sunday a terrorist group's demand to release 400 prisoners in exchange for three Americans and an Indian held hostage in Lebanon.

Rabin said on a live call-in show on Israel Army radio that the Jewish state would not act as an "international bank" for terrorists.

He said no request had come from the United States or any other government to free prisoners. He and other officials said Israel would make no deals. Rabin said Israel had to consider first some of its own people held hostage.

Talks begin to free Waite

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Intensive secret negotiations involving Syria, Iran and Lebanese militia leaders have begun to determine the fate of missing hostage nego-

News in Brief

tiator Terry Waite and to ensure his safety, a senior militia officer said Sunday.

"These hush-hush talks are in high gear," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Anglican Church envoy has not been seen publicly since he left the Riviera Hotel in west Beirut on Jan. 20, presumably to negotiate with Islamic Jihad, a pro-Iranian Shiite faction that holds two Americans.

Middleman accused in deals

WASHINGTON — The Iranian middleman in the sale of U.S. arms to Tehran has been accused of having links with drug dealers, working with the shah's secret police and giving Washington intelligence on terrorists, according to knowledgeable sources and a Senate committee report.

Language program in works

By **MEG CRADDOCK**
Staff Writer

Gov. Jim Martin announced his plans for a network of Governor's Language Institutes as part of his Basic Education Plan in a news conference on last week.

The institutes would be held during the summer at colleges across the state, and would last between four and six weeks.

Martin said North Carolina needs to improve the way foreign languages are taught in the state's schools. He said the institutes are designed to improve the way teachers teach foreign languages.

Because of the increase in the demand for foreign language teachers, the state may also offer special scholarships to recruit prospective teachers, said Fran Hoch, foreign language consultant to the superintendent of public instruction.

The cost of the program once it is in operation will range from \$130,370 to \$198,900 depending on the number of fellowships offered and the length of the program, Hoch said. Before the program is implemented, the governor will conduct

a year-long planning period that will cost about \$50,000, she said. The state and the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, a private organization, will each contribute equal shares to finance the program, Hoch said.

Michael Radz, assistant superintendent of instruction for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district, said there is a real need for improved language studies but there may be problems in implementing Martin's plan. Elementary schools especially will have the problem of fitting foreign language studies into schedules that already include many special areas such as art, music, physical education and computer education, he said.

UNC students will probably not be affected by this new proposal because it is designed for current rather than future teachers. However, since about 77 per cent of the foreign language students who graduated from UNC stay in North Carolina to teach, the proposal may affect these future teachers, William Burke, associate professor of education, said.

Anti-nuclear groups ask court's help

By **MICHAEL A. KOLB**
Staff Writer

Two organizations opposed to the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant filed a motion Wednesday in federal court to stay the full operating license the plant was granted earlier this year.

If the stay is granted, Shearon Harris could only test at levels of capacity that wouldn't produce electricity, said Robert Epting, the petitioners' counsel.

"It would essentially shut the plant down until the appeals process is over," he said.

In the motion, Coalition for Alternatives to Shearon Harris, the Conservation Council of North Carolina, and Wells Eddleman, a member of CASH who has been

active in the effort to prevent the use of the plant, challenge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decision to license the plant. The NRC licensed the plant on Jan. 9.

The plaintiffs charge that Shearon Harris has not conducted a full scale exercise since May of 1985. Normally, a nuclear power plant has to run a full scale drill within one year of licensing.

The NRC granted the Shearon Harris plant an exception, said Mac Harris, manager of news services for Carolina Power and Light, which operates the Shearon Harris plant. Shearon Harris ran a full scale exercise in May of 1985 and a partial exercise in the fall of 1986, Harris said.

Dan Coleman, spokesman for

CASH, said there must be extraordinary circumstances for an exemption to be granted.

"The only extraordinary circumstances are that CP&L is in a hurry to get that plant operating," Coleman said.

Members of CASH and the Conservation Council said safety issues have not been resolved.

A source at the construction site prompted an investigation by the NRC, Coleman said. The investigation found that the charges were true, he said.

"There were a number of building violations," Coleman said. "Bolts that were supposed to be anchored in concrete were anchored in sand. There was unauthorized substitution of materials. Also, blueprints were

written to match the construction."

Epting said NRC's investigation team testified and verified the charges.

"They (the NRC) took CP&L's word that the plant was now safe," Epting said.

"Customers are already using electricity produced by Shearon Harris," he said.

CASH members also said they have been deprived of due process of law.

"The decision to grant a license is not based on one hearing, one place, one time," Harris said. "The whole idea that CASH has not been represented is not substantiated by the facts. One individual may not have been represented but the organization has."

CAA: CUT & SAVE

This is the Carolina Athletic Association's latest effort to provide timely information to all UNC students. We had originally planned a spring edition of UNC SPORTS, but decided against it due to distribution difficulties. We hope you will use the calendar and accompanying information and support the various athletic programs here at Carolina. And we welcome your feedback.

—Suzy Street, Vice President for Publicity.

Sports Club Council Referendum: Vote YES on Feb. 3

By **Scott Martin, SCC President**

The Sports Club Council has come to a crossroads. On Feb. 3, students have a chance to help sports clubs become better and expand their programs. For just a \$1.00 increase in student fees, the clubs will be financially and organizationally secure for the next few years. The major portion of the increase will fund a new director of club sports, someone who will help clubs get more for their money and provide a better athletic experience for the players.

Please vote for the increase on Feb. 3 and help sports clubs become even better.

Club Sports Information

- SCUBA (John Edwards, 968-9062): planning a trip to Belize during Spring Break, and both divers and non-divers are welcome.
- WATER SKI (Richard Leddon): trying to raise funds to purchase a competition ski boat for use in late March. Club members will be skiing several times a week, as soon as weather permits.
- PARACHUTE (Coleman Ross): relatively new at UNC and trying to recruit members. Jumps are at the Franklin County Sport Parachute Drop Zone on weekends.
- GYMNASTICS (Debbie McClinton): trying to recruit new members so the club can begin competing.

Office of Sports Information By Alyson Mathis

Have you ever looked in the newspaper and wondered how non-revenue sports scores were reported? Or who kept the statistics at basketball and football games? Or who supplied the newspaper with the photos of UNC athletes? Chances are that they came from the UNC Sports Information office.

The office is headed by Director Rick Brewer, who is assisted by Dave Lohse and Scott Jared and intern Angie Bitting. Ten student assistants and secretary Lee Snyder assist with clerical duties ranging from answering fan mail to writing and sending press releases.

Students also have the opportunity to write stories for the football and basketball programs and keep statistics at games. But perhaps the most important duty of the student assistants is to help with the coverage of the 24 non-revenue sports.

According to Bitting, "If we didn't have the students, I don't think we could get done half of what we need to."

ACC TOURNAMENT TICKET INFORMATION

- 100 tickets will be sold to students on a random basis
- sign-up Feb. 17-19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Pit
- Winning sheets will be drawn at halftime of Clemson game on Feb. 21
- tickets are \$90 for entire tournament and can be purchased Feb. 23-27
- tickets are NOT TRANSFERABLE
- *The ACC Tournament is in Landover, Maryland, March 6, 7 and 8.

Sports Medicine Facilities By Carmen Maye

UNC's Sports Medicine Program serves the needs of all student-athletes at Carolina, whether they play on varsity, club, intramural, or informal "pick-up" teams. Clinics and training rooms are located in Fetzer and Woollen gyms, Student Health, Kenan Fieldhouse and the Smith Center. For minor needs, such as ankle-taping before games, students must have a note from a doctor at sports medicine. They can present this verification to the clinic to be administered by the certified athletic trainers there.

SENIORS!!!!

One year FREE membership in the Rams Club. Inquire at CAA or Senior Class office

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Ticket distribution for ETSU & Marquette IM: Grail Volleyball Entries Due	ELECTIONS Sports Club Council REFERENDUM VOTE YES! IM: Track & Field at Tin Can 7pm	BASKETBALL Women vs. Clemson 7:30pm	Block sign up... for Clemson by 12pm Club Basketball organizational meet... 208 Union /pm	SWIMMING & DIVING Men vs Auburn 5pm Women vs Auburn 2 pm IM Handball & Badminton Entries Due	WRESTLING vs UVA 7pm
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	BASKETBALL men vs. UVA 1pm WRESTLING vs. Maryland 3pm	Ticket Distribution for Clemson		BASKETBALL Men vs Wake Forest 7:30pm IM: Manager's Meeting 6pm Ticket sign up	Block sign up 12 for Duke by 12pm INDOOR TRACK & FIELD all comers meet 5pm	Senior Ticket Distribution for Duke 1-3pm	BASKETBALL Women vs Western Carolina 7:30pm
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	BASKETBALL men vs Marquette 4pm	Ticket Distribution for Duke	11-3pm BASKETBALL Women at Duke ticket proceeds to benefit Chapel Hill Ronald McDonald House	11-3pm BASKETBALL Men vs ETSU 7:30pm IM: Softball Capt meeting 6pm	11-3pm		Basketball Men vs Clemson 4pm Women vs Maryland 7:30 pm
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		ACC Tourny Ticket Sale IM: Basketball Play-offs begin		1st alternative	2nd alternative		Women's ACC Tournament
					BASKETBALL men vs Duke	SWIMMING & DIVING-MEN'S ACC CHAMPIONSHIP! IM: Blue Heaven Basketball Entries Due	SWIMMING & DIVING Women Tar Heel Int.
March	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	GYMNASTICS vs Auburn 1pm IM: Softball play begins BASKETBALL Women-ACC Tourny in Fayetteville		IM: Indoor Lacross Capt meeting 6pm	IM: Blue Heaven B-Ball play begins		IM: Indoor Lacross and 1-on 1 B-ball Entries Due	ACC TOURNAMENT