Technical skills in most demand

By KATHY NANNEY

Thanks to an improving economy, current job markets are growing, but UNC students may face a tightening job market over the next decade.

Computer science and other technical areas such as electronics and physics are the fastest growing fields, said Marsha Harris, director of the University Career



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Planning and Placement Service. Other job areas which are expanding include banking, retailing, consumer sales and the health care industry, she said. According to Harris, there is also an increasing demand for elementary school teachers.

"For a while, there was an oversupply of education majors, but fewer students are now entering the field," Harris said. "Despite a declining birth rate, there are predictions that there will soon be a serious undersupply of lower grade teachers."

There has been some decline in job opportunities in law and higher education, Harris said. Fields such as journalism and broadcasting have been, and remain, very competitive, she said.

Graduates with majors in technical fields, business, education and health science are in the highest demand, Harris said. She said students that have good grades in such majors should not have difficulty finding a job. However, students with liberal arts degrees face fiercer job competition, Harris said.

"Students in liberal arts fields can also find jobs," she said. "A strong student — one who not only has good grades but shows leadership qualities, is involved in extracurricular activities or has summer work experience — can find

a high paying job with opportunity for promotion with a liberal arts major. But your average or mediocre student in liberal arts will have a harder time finding a job than an average student in a more technical field."

"Many employers will consider any major but not any person," Harris said. "Employers are going to look for the high achiever, whatever their major."

Over 60 employers who interviewed on campus last year were willing to interview students with any major, she said.

Many college graduates enter job fields unrelated to their majors, said Pam Stancil, personnel assistant at Elite Personnel, a local job placement agency. Often, such a move is by necessity rather than choice, as graduates try to gain work experience, she said

"Most of the time, they (college graduates) are willing to do whatever it takes to get their foot in the door, even if it means starting out in an unrelated field," Stancil said.

Of the 40 occupations with the largest expected job growth, only 25 percent require a college degree. Much of the growth will take place in service industries such as transportation, finance insurance and government.

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Arab rulers guard against war spillover

KUWAIT — Arab rulers in the oil-rich Persian Gulf plan to set up a joint high command and military force, under the leadership of Saudi Arabian generals, to guard against spillover of the Iran-Iraq war, officials said yesterday.

The Gulf News Agency said the plan was aimed at the "ultimate unification of all armed forces" of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

The officials, speaking on the condition they remain anonymous, said the idea was agreed upon at a three-day, closed-door summit of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council that ended yesterday.

Economy slipping

WASHINGTON — The government's main economic forecasting gauge fell in October for the third time in five months, the Commerce Department reported yesterday as economists bemoaned an economy they said was "sputtering" or maybe even slipping toward a mild

News in Brief

new recession.

The 0.7 percent October decline in the Index of Leading Economic Indicators marked the first time since the recessionary year of 1981 that the index had dropped in an many as three of five months.

EPA head named

WASHINGTON — President Reagan yesterday chose Lee M. Thomas, a chief deputy of outgoing Environmental Protection Agency administrator William D. Ruckelshaus to hard the agency

shaus, to head the agency.

Thomas, 40, has been serving as assistant administrator of the agency in charge of the "superfund" toxic waste dump cleanup program. Ruckelshaus announced Wednesday that he was resigning effective Jan. 5, 1985.

Amnesty International seeking signatures for 'Stop Torture Week'

The Chapel Hill Amnesty International group is urging citizens to sign a "Stop Torture Week" proclamation Monday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. at the Newman Center. The proclamation designates Dec. 3-10 as "Stop Torture Week" and calls upon the governments of Brazil, the USSR and the Philippines to investigate specific cases of torture victims. The proclamation also asks all governments to condemn torture, to

establish safeguards against its use, to conduct impartial investigations of torture allegations and to provide compensation and rehabilitation for torture victims.

Amnesty International issued the proclamation as part of its two-year Campaign To Abolish Torture. Locally, Mae McLindon, Town Councilor Beverly Kawalec, Chapel Hill Mayor Joseph L. Nassif, N.C. Rep. Anne

Barnes, N.C. Senator Russell Walker and novelist Lee Smith already have

endorsed the proclamation.

The Chapel Hill group will show the movie Your Neighbor's Son on Monday, Dec. 10 — International Human Rights Day — at 8 p.m. in Room 211 of the Union.

Workshop discusses eating disorders

The Carolina Union Human Relations Committee will present the workshop "A Candid Look At Eating Disorders: Friends Helping Friends" Monday, Dec. 3, from 6-10 p.m. in rooms 208 and 209 in the Union. Run by Sherry Stickey of the Student Development and Counseling Center, the workshop targets males and females and is designed to help friends of anorexics and bulimics understand these diseases and how to deal with their victims.

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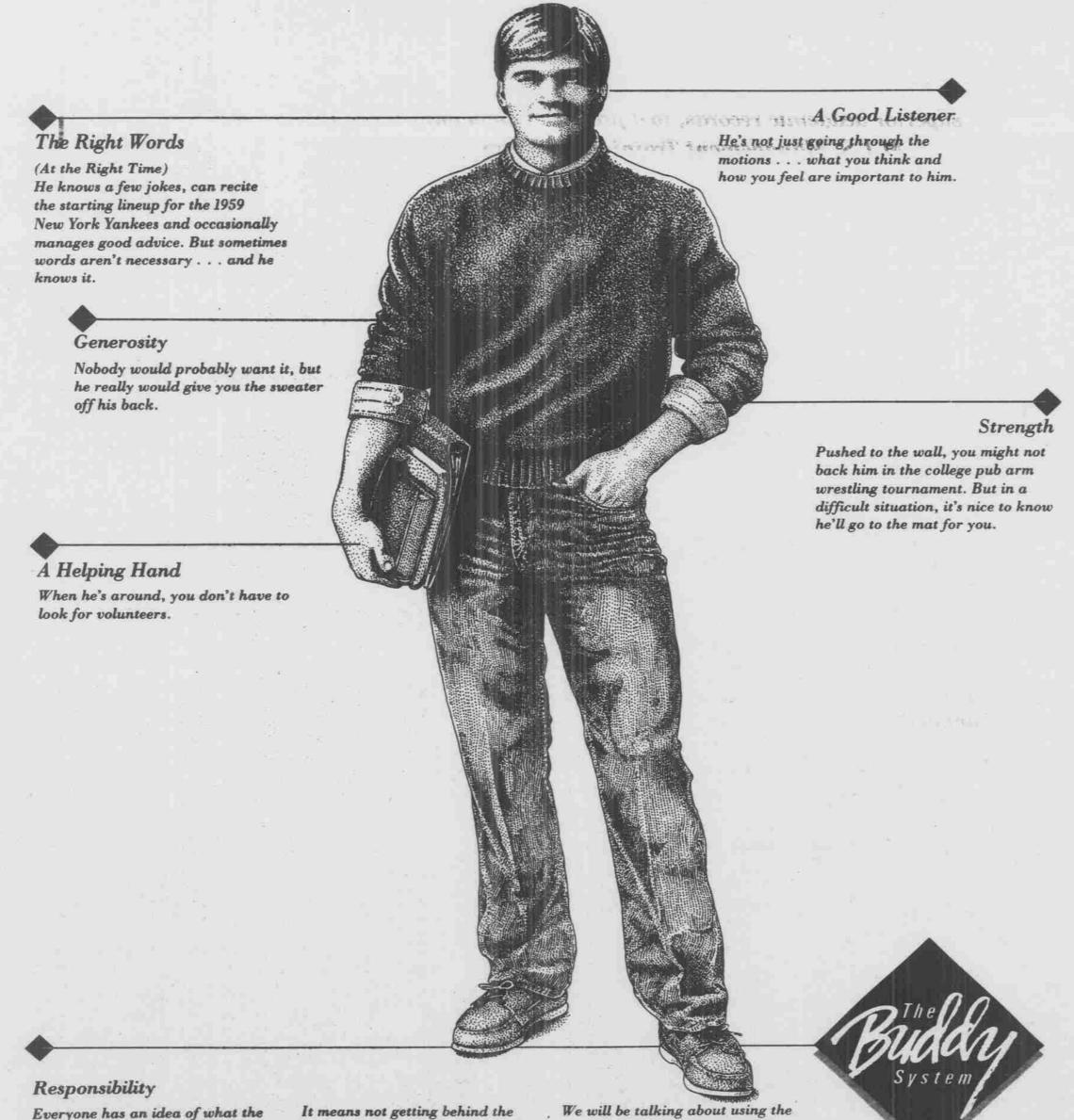
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ideal buddy, or friend, would be like. But it actually boils down to just one thing — taking responsibility for each other. That's real friendship. Please think about it the next time you and your friends are in a drinking situation. Even when you are having a good time, you have the obligation to be responsible for your own behavior, so that you don't endanger or embarrass others. And you have the responsibility to look out for your friends.

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