

Tight job market predicted for C.C. grads

By James Kushlan

Capitol Campus students can expect to have a hard time finding jobs after graduation, according to Peg O'Hara, Coordinator, Career Planning and Placement.

The current economy coupled with government spending cuts are to blame for this decrease in hiring, says O'Hara, who foresees no increase in the job market until the economy improves.

A Capitol Campus reflection of this nationwide problem can be seen in the Hot File at the Placement Office. The Hot File contains resumes from graduates who are still seeking employment. They get first consideration for any job in their general fields.

"That Hot File has more resumes in it than it's had in the last seven years," O'Hara says.

Of the 142 resumes in the Hot File, 108 are from C.C. graduates with bachelor's degrees. O'Hara says the vast majority of these graduates are from the classes of 1982, only seven from the class of 1981. The remainder are from graduate students and graduate degree holders (total 13 resumes) from 21 college graduates not from Capitol Campus.

Business majors account for the bulk of the file's resumes, numbering 52. The next largest

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Peg O'Hara
Coordinator, Career Planning and Placement

groups are mechanical engineering with 14, electrical engineering with 12, and Social Sciences with 11. The rest of the resumes are from building construction technology (7), humanities (3), mathematical sciences (3), transportation technology (3), and water resources engineering technology (3).

The large percentage of business majors in the file reflects the economy and the fact that business majors are

numerous, causing a high competition for available jobs, O'Hara says.

The situation is unusually bad. "At this time of year we generally don't have more than one or two mechanical electrical engineers in the Hot File." She was unsure why there weren't more humanities resumes in the file.

The problem of finding jobs seems to fall mostly to the undergraduate students at Capitol, because the graduate students are 93 percent employed.

The problem is not confined to Capitol Campus graduates. According to the College Placement Council's CPC Salary Survey, the nationwide decline in job offers has been noticeable since their July 1982 statistics. The survey contains totals of reported job offers to bachelor's degree candidates from all types of employers. The survey is conducted all over the U.S. The statistics for July 1982 show a drop of 11,545 from the July 1981 total of reported job offers.

According to the survey this drop may be "cause for concern or just a signal of a return to more moderate levels of recruiting."

Some fields seemed to attract more job offers than others, the survey shows. Of the 51,290 offers to bachelor's degree candidates reported, 57 percent went to engineering majors, 28 percent to business majors, 11 percent to majors in sciences, and 4 percent to humanities and social sciences majors.

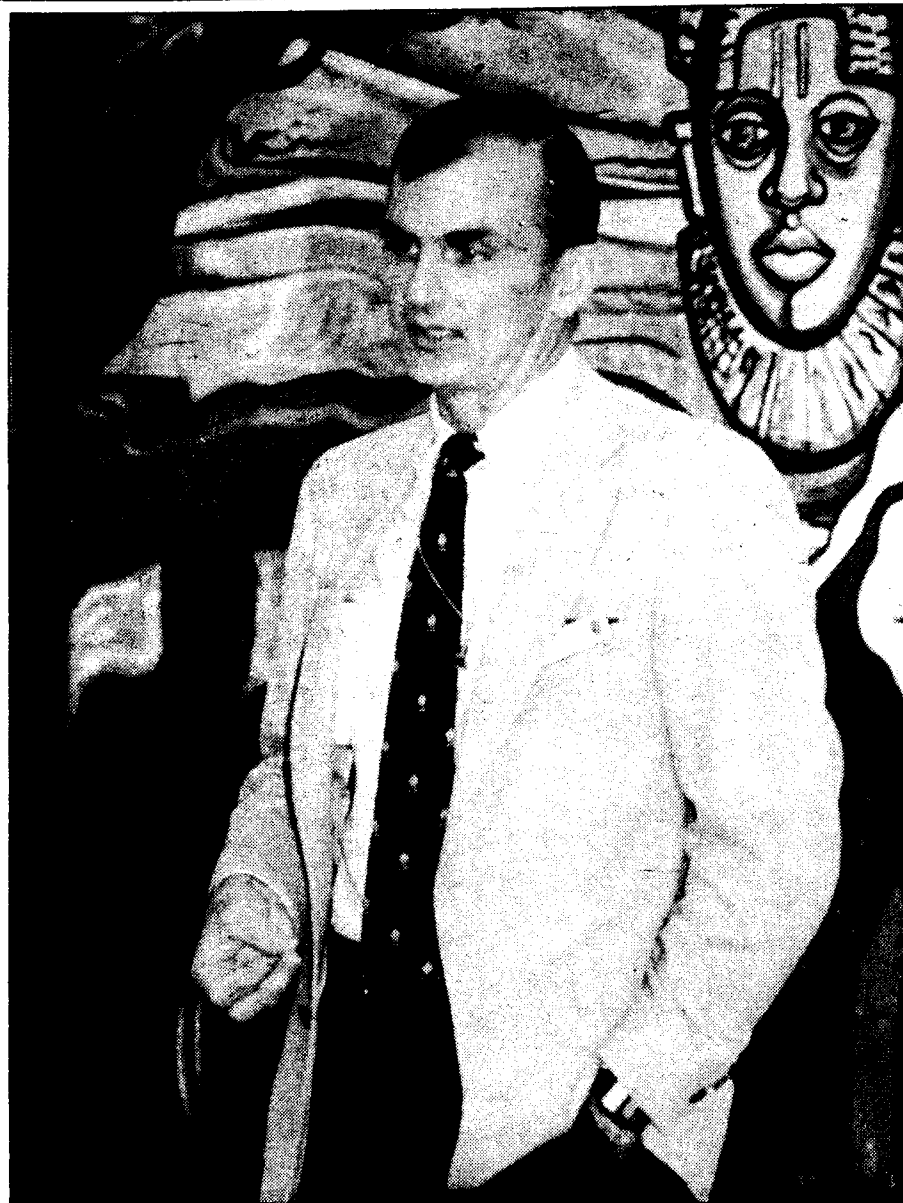
"You should remember," O'Hara says, "that the survey doesn't show the number of graduates in each of these fields. It is possible that engineers, receiving a high percentage of the reported offers, might still have difficulty finding a job if the number of engineering graduates is high."

The problem of fewer jobs is compounded at Capitol Campus, according to O'Hara, because "people here tend to wait until it's too late."

"You almost have to have a planned attack," she says.

Engineering majors seem to be the students most prepared to find jobs, while statistics show that liberal arts majors nationwide take six months to a year longer than other majors to decide what they want to do.

O'Hara says you should start job hunting within a year of



Photography by Joe Hart

Crisis In Lebanon

Lieutenant Colonel Alfred W. Baker spoke on the "Crisis in Lebanon" at Capitol Campus October 19. Baker was brought to campus by the International Affairs Association.

graduation. She suggests students decide early what they want to do, but should remain flexible.

"Your major is not the all-pervading thing you think it is, once you get into the workplace. Somehow, once you start working you go in different directions."

"We all have to take a job we don't really plan on, but the experience is transferable," she says, adding:

"It may not be that you find the right spot until the second or third job. You may have to take something you never thought you would."

In general, the present college generation, she says, is "not willing to accept that. Many young people just don't want to do what you have to do to get a job."

O'Hara stresses the importance of getting experience in your field, to make a good resume. "The more you can accumulate related to your major, the better-off you are," she says, adding that even volunteer work in your field is useful later in finding a job.

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