

### Economists say state recession likely

WASHINGTON (AP)—A recession may already have started in Pennsylvania based on the nation's latest unemployment statistics, according to Labor Department economists.

Pennsylvania's October unemployment rate of 7.9 percent was highest among the 10 largest states and was a full percentage point above its October 1978 mark.

Figures compiled by the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics also show the state's unemployment pattern has generally worsened month by month in the past year.

"The state labor force has gone up about 40,000, but the number of employed has gone down, and that is a recessionary sign no matter what anybody says," BLS economist Sylvia Small said this week.

"If it were just a month or two, it wouldn't mean much, but the long pattern indicates something real is going on," she added.

Nationwide, the unemployment rate has remained relatively stable — between 5.8 percent and 6 percent — raising some question as to whether the country as a whole has entered the long-predicted recession.

Many economists expected the recession by this fall, but economic output during the third quarter rose 2.4 percent.

Most states — including several in the Northeast — have registered moderate employment gains for the past year, especially in service industries.

By comparison, New York's unemployment rate dropped to 7.1 percent from 7.9 percent in the last year and New Jersey held steady at about 6.3 percent. Fast growing Texas has the lowest rate among all states with 3.8 percent out of work.

Most of Pennsylvania's unemployment rise appears due to slackened demand for non-durable items.

Regions with the highest unemployment rates in the state centered around the cities of Erie, Wilkes-Barre, Altoona and Williamsport.

But unemployment has dropped slightly in areas around Philadelphia, Harrisburg and York, following the nationwide trend toward growth in service industries.

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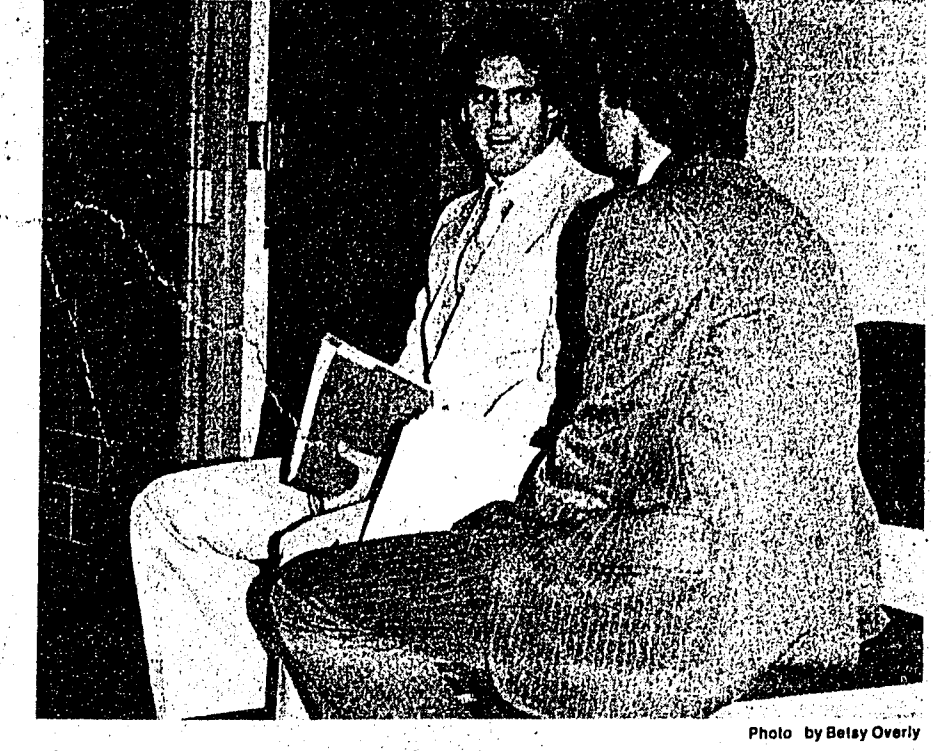
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### Job seekers find help at Boucke

**RAINERYAN REN McMANIMAN**, Allegan Staff Writers, came and go from Boucke to impress — three-piece suits, shirts and skirts abound. The fourth floor they anxiously paced down the hall or sit outside offices to be interviewed, nervously thing portfolios, nervously thing resumes. Soon a company representative will escort one candidate and usher another tense one in. These students are involved in the phase of the on-campus recruiting drive, just one of the services offered by the Career Development and Placement Center.

services to include counseling, alumni placement and other information and guidance sources, including the on-campus recruiting program. "The prime purpose of the center is to help students become aware of choices available in career development," said Director Richard Swails. To assist students in determining where they're going, the center has 10 professional and three graduate assistant counselors on the staff. "The major focus of the center, Swails said, is to help students answer the questions, "Who am I?" and "What do I want to do with my life?" and then to help students set short-range career goals. The counselors accomplish this by identifying the following main steps: exploration of self and society, crystallization of alternatives, specification of a formal plan of action and implementation of the plan. Besides the counseling service, a career information center is available for student use. This center contains tapes describing all the majors available at the University. There are also tapes and literature available on careers, academic planning, interviewing skills, making career choices and various other subjects. Another facet of the CDPC is the Alumni Placement Service, which is in its second year of operation. The service works on an employer referral system that matches alumni resumes with company requests. For a fee, alumni can have their resumes placed in a computer bank. Companies with available positions then contact the placement service and are given the names of candidates fulfilling the job requirements. "There are approximately 1,000 candidates in the bank right now," said Richard Fries, head of the AFS. "We also have 1,100 to 1,200 job requisitions on file at the moment."



Bruce Schappell, left, and Richard Shank (12th-civil engineering majors) wait in pinstrips for interviews at Boucke Building.

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