unication skills needed in new jobs

skills has decreased Demand for physical

By CAROL KLEIMAN Chicago Tribune

skills, known as "low" skills. or "high." skills from physical to communication and computer, job requirements: They've moved A change has taken place in

cent report by the Federal Reserve edge creation," according to a re-Bank of Chicago. flow of information and knowling increasingly centered on the The U.S. economy is "becom-

> years. risen, even in the relatively short those of previous and existing jobs," the report continues. "A time frame of the last five to 10 that skill needs for new jobs have survey of firms in Atlanta, Detroit, new skill demands are higher than created by business suggest that Los Angeles and Boston reported "Surveys of new jobs being

to blue-collar jobs, previously considered "low" skill. Thirty-two needs have increased percent of the firms say their skill new skill requirements also apply The bank emphasizes that

The findings underscore the

players are in demand. ty to communicate and are team who have technical skills, the abilifact that knowledgeable workers

found are needed in new jobs: Here are the skills the bank

ed by 73 percent of those surveyed. ■ Customer contact was list-

- agraphs, 68 percent. ■ Reading or writing par-
- Arithmetic, 68 percent
- get them. If you don't have these skills. Computer, 56 percent.

Instead of using the current unemployment rate, which is low.

hours lost to our total economy." dman urges the federal governmarket, economist Audrey Freeas the only barometer of the labor ment also to consider "productive

terms of economic growth potential lost forever," she said. "Once gross domestic product." not return any contribution to the those hours are wasted, they do "We should also think in

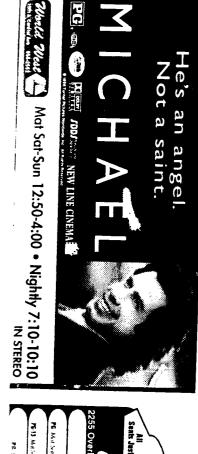
time, she says, was spent in job search. year that weren't used. Most of the hours of labor were available last dman observes that 385 million conventional Wisdom, which she publishes out of New York, Free-Writing in her newsletter, Un-

> searches. of hours wasted in fruitless job Job Service to reduce the millions back. Freedman urges the federal whose full-time jobs had been cut were lost by employed people Another 28 million hours

listing more than 500,000 jobs na line America's Job Bank, created tionwide. by the Department of Labor and tion could be the government's on-One good start in that direct

www.ajb.dni.us on the Internet. You can find it at http://

cago Tribune. You may reach her by at ckleiman(at)tribune.com on e-mail Carol Kleiman is a writer for the Chi-







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