

Finding a job is tough, but help eases pain

Marriage is probably the only game Americans play with more ignorance and disappointment than that of planning for and finding the right career.

And finding a job isn't the only problem.

"All too often people have these fairy-tale myths about careers and find out only too late it was a mistake — they become disappointed because their job is unchallenging or too rigid for their taste," explains Don McCarty, University career planning and placement director.

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

"Nowadays, with the job market as it is, a person must sit down and make some serious choices about the career he wants. The people in this office can be of significant help to people planning their career or seeking a career change."

This summer the career placement office, 246 Susan Campbell Hall, will be open daily 8:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. for individual guidance or assistance. The career planning office will be open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday with staff on hand to discuss planning or changing careers.

During the regular school year, staff from these two offices see more than 100 people a day and speak with 80 to 90 on the telephone. No formal career workshops or classes are scheduled this summer but McCarty says individual help will be offered. "Only rarely will anyone have to wait more than a day for an appointment," he promises.

Theresa Ripley of career planning says staff from her office will be available during the summer

Career planning and placement office takes serious approach to clients' futures

especially to talk with people considering a career change. "Typically, we are inundated over the summer with teachers thinking about switching their career for some reason."

Though Ripley herself will not be around, two staff members will alternate staffing the office to offer individual assistance. Free literature will be available during office hours.

During appointments, counselors will help students and alumni with job-finding skills such as interview techniques and resume writing and then put them in contact with employers.

The placement office adds about 15 career-type jobs to its listings every day and leaves them open for perusal during office hours or at the library after hours. "It's a good idea to check the list periodically," says McCarty. "Jobs are filed by date so it doesn't take long to go through the new ones."

In speaking with job-seekers and employers, McCarty says he has found common problems he helps people overcome as they begin job-hunting.

"The most common problem is a lack of communication skill," says McCarty. "This includes everything from clear vocal expression to good eye contact. Other common roadblocks McCarty finds are inflexibility about geographic location or persons being overly specific about the kind of job they seek."

Sometimes people limit themselves unnecessarily, McCarty says. He tells of a recent search an insurance company was mak-

ing to fill purely administrative positions. Interview slots were left unfilled because students said they didn't want any "sales job."

Even with the help of University placement services or the career planning office, McCarty volunteers that the task of finding a suitable career job can be tedious and discouraging.

"It's getting harder and harder to find a job that both gives personal satisfaction and puts bucks

on the table," McCarty says. With that dilemma in mind McCarty likens his job to being a coach. "We try to send students charging out the door and then refuel them when they get discouraged. We're not aiming at bionic people, but it takes a certain amount of motivation."

Most of the jobs listed at the placement office are state, county or municipal openings. Some are business jobs, many of which are

not advertised in newspapers. "Businessmen think they have a more select clientele looking at the jobs listed in our office."

Other statewide job opportunities are listed with the career information service. This interagency service lists jobs in 250 categories through a computer network with terminals located downtown at the former Montgomery Ward building and in the Center Building at Lane Community College. "Needle-sort" cards are on hand at the center.

Most of these are blue-collar jobs especially suited for community college or high school students, McCarty says.

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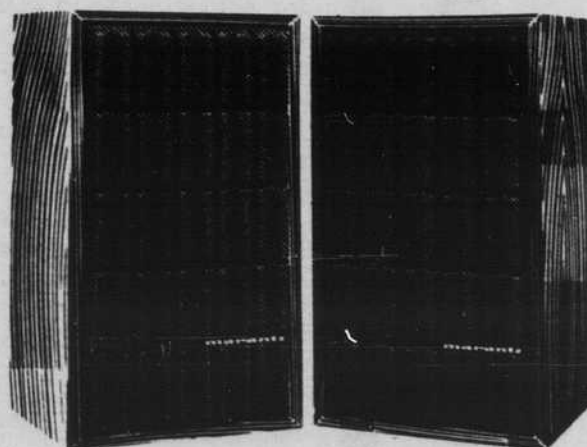
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