

New graduates may find competition for jobs stiff



Graphic by Lorraine Rath

By Dianne Danowski

Of the Emerald

*You've got to learn to pace yourself
Pressure!
You're just like everybody else
Pressure!*

Billy Joel probably wasn't a graduating senior when he wrote the song "Pressure," but many 1987 University graduates can certainly feel the pressure of the June 14 deadline closing in on them.

For most seniors, graduation time is staring them right in the face, and as many prepare for life after college, the quest for that first job is a great concern.

"The job market is tight everywhere," said Dr. Tom Bivins, a University journalism professor. This statement might make those graduating flinch, because the focus suddenly is shifted from books to the everyday nine to five.

As a counselor at Career Planning and Placement Services, Larry Smith knows all too well the fears and troubles of the typical graduating senior. Smith hears statements like, "I don't know what I want to do."

"They identify with a specific

job title. They think that their first job is what they'll be doing the rest of their life," Smith says. Typically, when a student first enters college, they aren't goal or career-oriented. The last term of their college career comes to a close and they realize they must somehow combine four or five years into something that spells "success," Smith says.

When their college experience is over, there is an apparent tendency to procrastinate. Smith says students put off looking for a job because one, there is typically a lack of information about the expectations of that job, and two, students are unsure about their abilities. "Am I good enough?" is a question with which Smith is familiar.

While this feeling of insecurity or anxiety about their prospects affects many, some are a little more secure about their talents and their future.

"There is a concern among graduates that they won't get into what they want," says Pat Stich, a rhetoric and communications major. "But I have hopes. I would say I am one of

the few."

English major John Brodie is even optimistic. "There are a million possibilities . . . You can try your hand at a lot of things," he says. With his own situation under control, Brodie says he's "excited about trying things I want to do, not just following the system."

Graduates that have thought about possible alternatives to finding that one "perfect job" are increasing in number. Many see that a bachelor or liberal arts degree doesn't have to be the end all of their college education. Some will pursue graduate school.

Another choice a graduate may consider is to take a job not necessarily related to their major, in order to take care of loans or to simply "pay the bills." Brodie knows this is a real possibility.

"If the bills are there, you have to pay them," says Brodie. "You've got to do what you can do."

While realistically the typical senior cannot expect the ideal job to land in his or her lap immediately, he or she can expect

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Black Arts Festival '87:

Coming Alive With Pride

Friday May 8

Street Dance on the Bricks

Fusion Jazz: 5 pm - 6:30 pm EMU Courtyard

Music By Coalition

Soul-Phonic Funk 7 pm - 10 pm EMU Courtyard

D.J.: Cedric Weary

Free Admission

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More than a waltz

High school students (from left) Julie Harper, Amy Berreth, Marty Jubb and Paul Godfrey show that German dancing means more than just waltzing. Students were led in folk dances by University German professor Helmut Plant as part of Foreign Language and International Studies Day, sponsored by the Admissions Office.

Photo by Derrel Hewitt

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