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## In Touch with Career Planning and Placement

## Take the terror, agony out of interviewing

nterviewing for your first professional job probably ranks up there with playing Rusian Roulette or walking a tightrope in terms of fearful experiences. Any inside information about the interviewing process, therefore, can do wonders for alleviating the potential terror

The Career Planning and Placement Service has a variety of helpful ways to learn about in-

According to Larry Smith, director of CPPS fustry as well as the specific company for the

id Lybrand accounting firm, said the initial

on," she said. I also look for an 'executive pres



Michael Peterson, a marketing major, discusses his career options with recruiters from Jeld-Wen. Inc. for a position as a product management trainee.

"We've all got weaknesses, and good candidates have the ability to talk about personal the type of job, Smith said. weaknesses and how they are dealing with them: their 'fix-up' plan," Smith added.

As far as relaying personal strengths, Ralls said she usually words the question so the candidate will convey what attributes they have that are related to the position they are applying for.

"I like to see if they really understand what

they're getting into," she said. "If they say they are good at skipping rope, I'm not impressed. But if they say they like meeting people and are interested in how companies work, these are the

Does grade point average hold a lot of weight in determining who gets the job? It depends on

"The value of a your GPA is directly proportional to the type of industry you're considering," he said, "Areas such as accounting, com grades, but GPA seems to play a significantly

losely at a candidate's grades, but also consid-

a 3.0 GPA, he or she is not such a good candidate," Ralls said. "But if the candidate has a 3.0 and works 20 hours a week and is president of a fraternity, a 3.0 is very good."

Part-time job experience is a big plus for a potential employee, but Ralls said she also looks at what they have done with the job since they

"Say they had a job a pizza shop. We look at how they got it and if they have moved up at

otted for the candidate to ask questions conerning the job. According to both Smith and

"You can always tell if they're asking rote questions and they couldn't care less about the answers," Ralls said. "We want them to be really thoughtful about the questions, to show they've given some thought and interest to the ques-

Ralls said a candidate will be rejected from onsideration "if he or she has no ability to reness of what they are getting into:

"Bur many students don't necessarily do any thing glaringly wrong," she added. "Many times Resume Service

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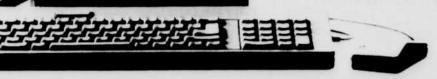
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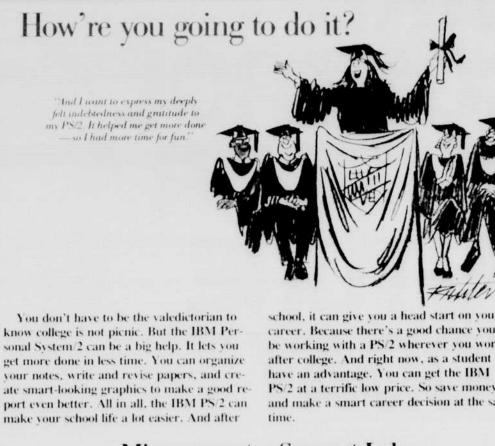
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