

# Career Tracks

## The Hosts

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Gina Huston, a career counselor at the University's Career Planning and Placement Service, said the fright about career options usually

appears because students put off planning for professional life until time is scarce. "A lot of people wait until their last term of their senior

year to start interviewing and getting ready," Huston said. "They really need to start at least six months ahead of time."

Those interested in making their degree more marketable by obtaining an internship should start preparing in their junior year of college at the latest, Huston added.

Despite students' procrastination when it comes to career preparation, Huston said they nevertheless feel they should have a lucrative, impressive position as soon as they leave the University's hallowed halls.

"People tell me they want to line up a job before they graduate, because they're afraid of what will happen if they don't," she said. "But I would say that roughly 10 percent of people get jobs before graduation."

Food, clothing and shelter are a few of the luxuries most graduates plan on being able to afford after college. This hope for basic survival out in the real world can guide some people into careers that are less appealing to them, Huston said.

"Money is definitely a determining factor," she said.

"People say they would like to be a teacher but the pay is too low."

"Also, more students are taking out loans, so salary is definitely a bigger issue," she said. "They need to get a good-paying job when they get out."

Graduates with degrees in fields such as history, psychology and English may feel more traumatic about life after college than those who majored in a field such as business, Huston said.

"People with these kinds of liberal arts degrees tend to not be sure of what they can do with their degree, so this brings on anxiety," she said. "We have an assessment program which helps people to see what they can do with their majors."

"On the other hand, business students aren't guaranteed a job right when they get out either," Huston added. "Everyone really feels it."

In other words, it seems that the "twilight zone" of the real world will beckon each and every college graduate when his or her time comes. It's useless to fight it. There is obviously no escape.

—Darla Jackson

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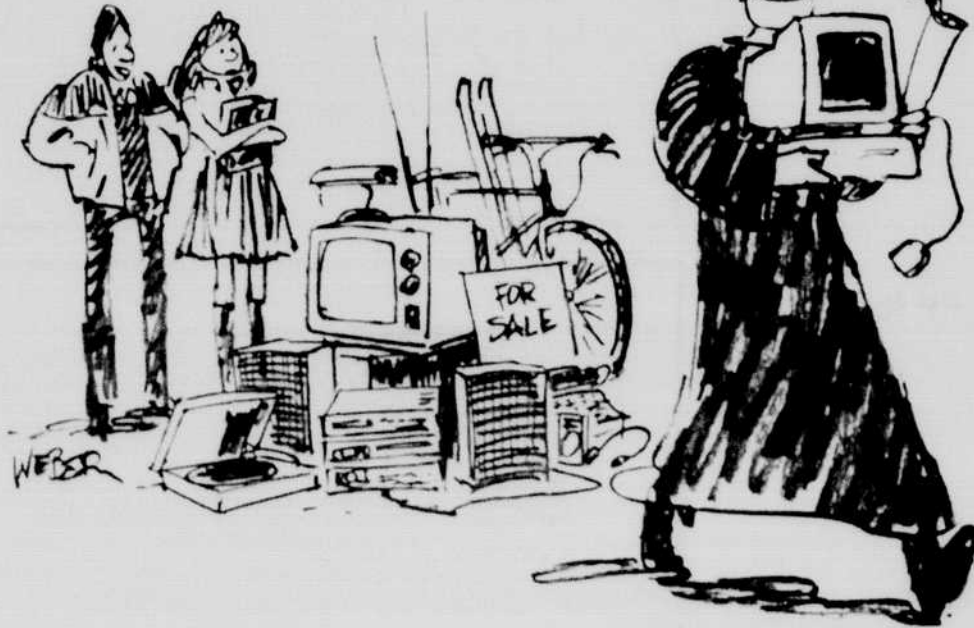
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