

# Graduation '90

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The credit card companies do not seem to have realized this. Every day I get something in the mail offering me, Graduating Senior, a Visa card, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express Card with a pre-approved credit limit in the thousands of dollars.

Just the other day, this guy with a heavy Southern accent roused me from bed early in the morning with an "incredible, once-in-a-lifetime offer" of a Chevy Chase Gold MasterCard or Visa card, with a pre-approved credit limit of \$6,000 to \$50,000.

Because I am not fully functioning before 10 a.m., the first thing I said was, "I thought Chevy Chase was that comedian who used to be on *Saturday Night Live*."

He informed me that Chevy Chase was a bank, and asked if I wouldn't like to have this nice line of credit to help me get started in my new post-graduation life.

Unfortunately for the guy on the telephone, at that moment, I realized exactly how the savings-and-loan crisis

got started.

I yelled into the phone, "Don't you people realize I don't even have a job? I make \$100 a month working on the school paper, for God's sake. Giving me a credit card with a \$6,000 credit limit is about as safe as making loans to Third World countries!"

At that point, I think the poor telemarketer must have realized he woke me up. He apologized profusely for both

ering me and hung up.

I only wish I could make such a point to all the well-meaning grownups I encounter who wish to advise me on a course of action in my life. Maybe next time I could break out into that Billy Joel song: "I don't care what you say anymore, this is *my life*. Go ahead with your own life, *leave me alone!*"

— Stephanie Mencimer

## Drozdiak

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*ington Post* or even *The Oregonian*, you don't want to become so narrowly focused, which can happen," he said. "If you spend too many years living in a place abroad, you tend to take on the traits or perspective of the local country or population you are living in. So you never want to lose sight of the people you are writing for."

"That's why its good for me to have come back and worked in the newsroom as foreign editor before going back overseas."

Ironically, Drozdiak's various trials and travels over the past two decades, experiencing dozens of cultures, languages and peoples, have not complicated his view of the world.

"If anything it has become simpler," he says.

"Overall, people have the standards or expect to have the same standards of justice and righteousness and self-respect. And if you are deprived of them, that causes resentment, and that inevitably leads to conflict."

"Having lived in so many different countries and cultures, I am intrigued by the universality of human attitudes," he said.

Having experienced the best of both worlds — whether it was basketball and politics, or the west and east sides of the Atlantic — Bill Drozdiak's world has become a much smaller place.

— Joe Kidd

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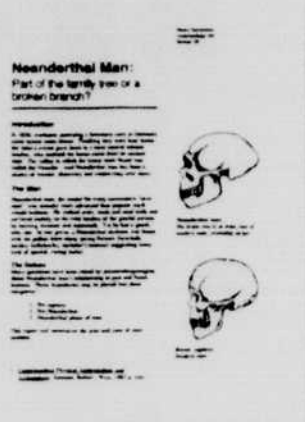
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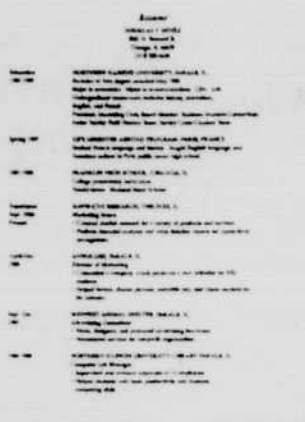
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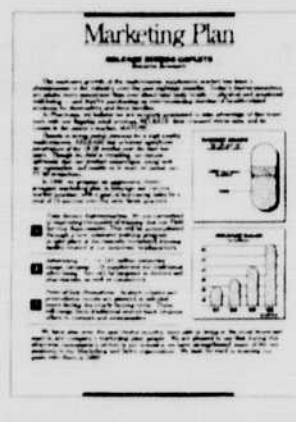
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