

DOLLARS AND SENSE

COLUMN

Real World 101: A needed course

By Erin Martin
 ■ The Daily Collegian
 U. of Massachusetts, Amherst

I wish my university would offer a course entitled Real World 101. I could use some serious instruction and guidance these days.

After all, we are attending classes to learn what it takes to make it in the real world, like how to get a good job, how to raise a family and how to be successful.

But there are no courses that teach us these things, and I need to know how to do a few things right now! How do I pay my bills (the water, electricity, phone, rent, groceries) on a very limited budget?

It is so easy for me to get caught up in more immediate things. That my overdue bills don't matter much — until my phone gets shut off.

I want someone to teach me how to balance my checkbook and how to get the most out of double coupons. I could also use some lessons in buying a car.

My dad offered some insight into the used car industry. When I was looking for a car, he told me when the car was too old, if it had too many miles, and when I was being ripped off. Finally, I picked one for myself. The old man who sold it to me promised it was a dream. But a day after I picked up the car, I found it was lacking something I had hoped for: brakes. I took the car to a mechanic who proceeded to tell me I needed \$1,100 in repairs!

I returned the car to the dealer and demanded a refund. But the salesman refused to take the car back, so I went home crying — to my dad.

That same day, my father went to the dealer and was successful in obtaining a refund. I was so proud of him for the way he was able to stand up for me and make a difference, especially since I couldn't help myself.

Still, I can't help but wonder why no one ever taught me how to handle these kinds of situations. I wonder if the only way to learn is with age and experience, or if some of these "life lessons" could be taught — at least discussed — in the classroom?

Life would be much easier if we could learn how to handle real world problems before we have to face them on our own.

ENTREPRENEUR

Trial and tribulation

A U. of North Carolina student faces a potentially bankrupting lawsuit, filed by Anheuser-Busch, claiming he is guilty of trademark infringement.

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WORKPLACE

Students join food stamp line

Approximately 100 U. of Georgia students receive federal food stamps, commonly thought to be for welfare mothers and destitute families only.

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JEORGETTA DOUGLAS, THE STATE PRESS, ARIZONA STATE U.

An Arizona State U. student tries on a beaded blouse at a thrift store similar to the swap shop.

By Lauren Carignan
 ■ The State News
 Michigan State U.

Where do you get a pair of Japanese pajamas with a 5-foot waist?

You might try looking in the mall or department stores, but if you're a Michigan State U. student, your best bet would be the swap shop. Officially named the Give or Take Center, the swap shop is a small store that distributes items donated by the residents of three university apartment complexes.

Located in a small, white room in the basement of one of the complexes, the store holds a wide assortment of clothing, household items and other goods, which are offered free to other students who live in the complexes.

Denise Cowdery, the store's manager, said the Give or Take Center exists to help financially pressed students.

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Jobs turning employees into professional students

By Julie Inglebret
 ■ The Minnesota Daily
 U. of Minnesota, Minneapolis

If you think you'll never pick up another textbook after you graduate from college, think again.

In fact, many job seekers are now looking at what educational opportunities a company offers employees — at the company's expense — before accepting positions.

"Education has almost become as important as dollars in taking a new job," said Dick Ulland, an IBM spokesman. IBM spends about \$1.5 billion a year offering employees college opportunities.

Effect on schools, students

Continuing education is widely viewed as one reason why today's colleges are now more populated by non-traditional students, characteristically an older group geared toward taking only classes

with direct, practical applications for their careers.

Jim Buchanan, education manager of a company based in Rochester, Minn., said, "I think you're seeing an increase on the focus of the importance of education and how to apply it to your career rather than just taking it because it's there."

Lynn Warne is one such student. She's working toward her master's degree in business communication at Minnesota's College of St. Thomas, thanks to Honeywell.

"I might have waited for many more years to get a master's," she said. "If there wasn't this program, I probably couldn't do it because it's just so expensive."

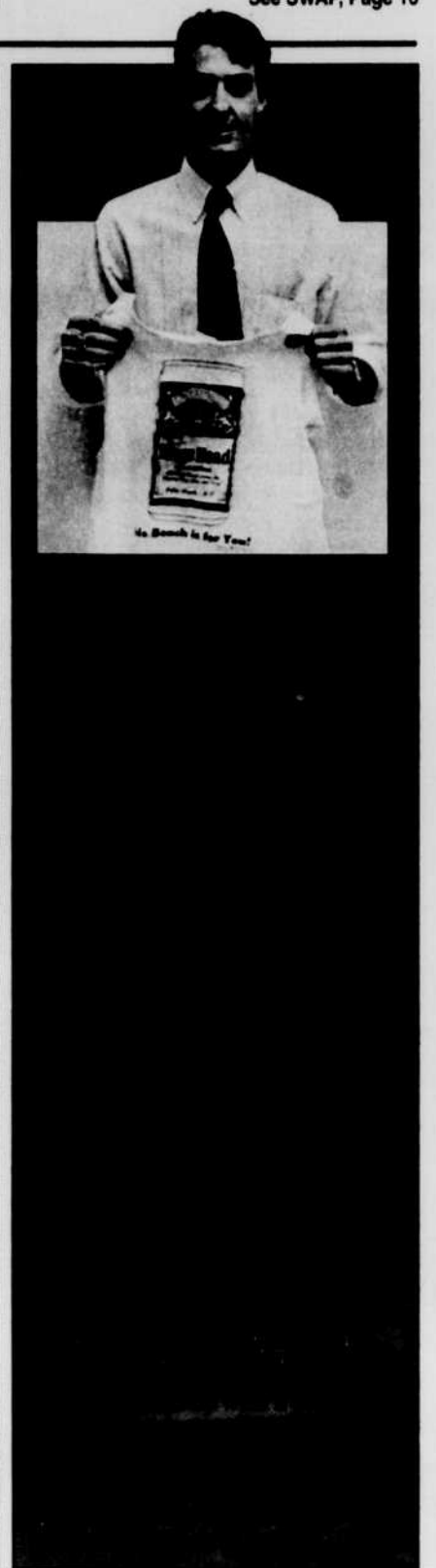
Warne, whose tuition is \$650 each semester, said when she was offered the Honeywell job, she thought of the educational perks "right away."

"I think it really weighs in Honeywell's favor," she said.

Management development programs, both external and in-house, have been on the rise since the early '60s. Internal training refers to education on the company's policies and technology, compared to external training, in which employees are sent to college at the company's expense.

Companies 'protect investment'

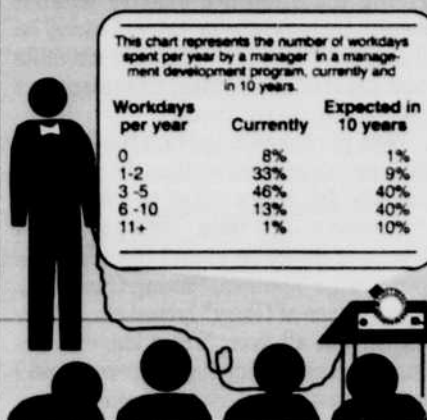
And as managers are required to have more sophisticated training, including knowledge of the international business world, the popularity of



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Graduation: an end to your education?

It is becoming more the norm to be required by your company to take extra training classes. Here is a look at what is to come.



JOE GAGNE, THE MINNESOTA DAILY, U. OF MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS