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Real life: Is it worse than school?

By Lisa Millegan
 Emerald Associate Editor

Worried about a 15-page paper that's due tomorrow? Mad at a professor who always gives killer tests? Don't sweat it. The word from recent University graduates is that life after college can be a lot worse.

Whether they're in working in positions they enjoy or still waiting for that perfect job, many graduates agree that life was easier when they were students.

"I want to go back to school," said Mark Dillon, who now works with severely emotionally disturbed children in Oakland. "At school, you don't have a boss and it was easier to meet people."

Even though he dislikes the regimentation of the work world, the former psychology major and Honors College student said he is happy with his job because it's in his field.

But because he makes only \$8 an hour, Dillon said he would like to eventually enter a psychology Ph.D. program.

With new graduates competing against so many people for jobs, Dillon said they should be prepared to take positions that are not exactly what they want.

"I was surprised by how little money I was able to make," he said. "After graduating from the Honors College, and writing a thesis, I'm barely barely making it."

If today's tight job market continues, Dillon said he would encourage this month's graduates to consider traveling rather than looking for career-track positions.

"It's a hell of a lot more fun than working," he said.

Deanna Adams, who graduated last June, decided to take the travel route.

Instead of embarking on a career search a year ago, Adams stayed at her job at the Valley River Shutterbug and began saving money. This summer she plans to head to Europe.

Adams, who earned degrees in history and international studies, said new graduates should view the poor job market as a chance to look at different options.

Adams said she would advise students to "try not to stress about it too much. If there's something you want to do, go ahead and do it."

Lise Goorjian, a December 1991 graduate who was able to find a job, said she was disappointed by the realities of the job market.

"The real world is not as much fun," said Goorjian, who now works for an art, science and technology journal in Oakland. "Being in the real

world is a good incentive to go back to school."

Goorjian, who was a fine arts major, likes her work as an editorial assistant but would like to make more money. Her \$7-an-hour job pays the bills but doesn't do much more.

Goorjian hopes to ultimately fatten her paycheck by eventually returning to school to get an architectural degree.

The biggest surprise Goorjian had after graduating was learning how long it would take her to find a job. She had to search two months before she got one.

"I really had never had a problem finding a job before," she said. "I had to eat my pride a little bit when I didn't get hired the day after graduation."

Goorjian said she believes she would have had an easier time finding a job if she had accumulated more work experience in college. She said she would advise current University students concerned about the job market to meet as many people in the field their interested in as possible.

Nigel Giraudier, who earned a degree in geography in December, has been looking for government jobs for a year.

In the meantime, he has been working as a sales associate for Eugene's Best Products Co., where he's been employed for five years.

"I was surprised by the overall lack of jobs," he said. "I read books that said you should be able to get a job if you're qualified. That hasn't been the case for me."

Giraudier said he wished he would have taken a class on how to get a good job before he graduated. He said he thinks the University should require such a course for freshmen and sophomores.

Former political science major Pat Herbert, who does maintenance and lab work for the University science departments, said he has some regrets about how he spent his college days.

The fall 1991 graduate said he has had problems looking for management work because he didn't start his search until February.

"Even a year before you graduate isn't too early to start looking," Herbert said.

Herbert said he also wishes he would have gotten better work experience while he was still in school.

However, he said he remains optimistic that he will eventually find a good position and he encourages other soon-to-be grads to do the same.

"Don't be discouraged," he said, when asked what advice he had for 1992 grads. "Just realize that it's going to take a while."

PLANNING

Continued from Page 1

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counted, rather than naively letting it all pass by," Davis said.

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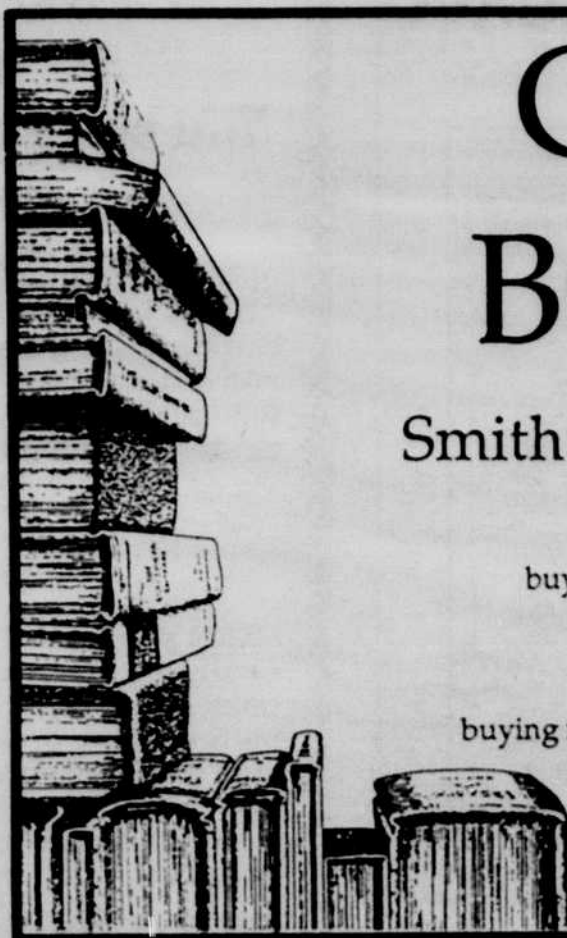
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