

U-VIEWS

The Campus Dialogue

Editor's Letter

Getting your butt hired — all in a day's work

What if you had the chance to take your dream job, but knew you would only be paid peanuts? All clichés about liberal arts grads living on Ramen aside, it's a very real scenario for many graduates.

We figured that everybody has to make sacrifices — whether that means a good salary, interesting work, good hours or peace of mind — to take the job they want.

This thought was in all of our minds when we brainstormed our December U-Views poll question, which asked, "If you could only have one guarantee in your career, which would you choose?" The choices were: money, power, security, challenge and helping others. And for our cover story, we decided to find people who chose their jobs for these reasons. Our crack team of reporters interviewed five graduates from across the country; their jobs ranged from teaching to political event planning to broadcast news reporting.

As we expected, the reasons they chose their jobs weren't quite as cut-and-dried as the choices in our poll question. But while no one chose his or her job for one reason only, each had one of the above goals foremost in mind — and each was willing to make trade-offs to reach that goal. So if you'd like to know the ups and downs of earning \$100,000 a year, working closely with the White House, or teaching developmentally disabled children, check out the story on page 10.

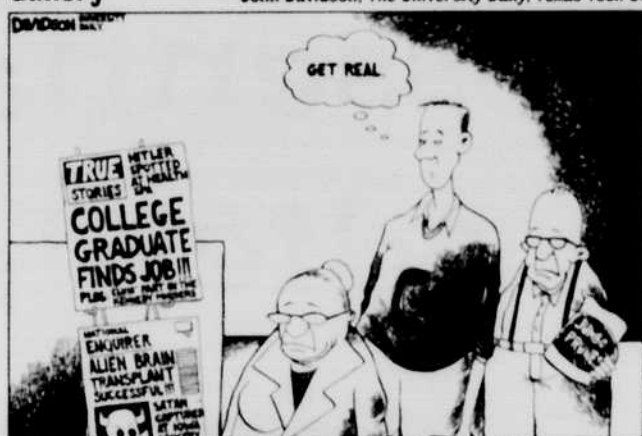
Or maybe right now you're not so much worried about what kind of job you want — you're more worried about finding a job, period. Then take a look at Laura Bendix's article on page 12. We've talked to the experts to find out exactly what it takes to get your butt hired — and that includes you undergrads. Other job features include Rainbow Rowell's profound insights on finding a job, *U. Magazine's* jobs-centric version of Harper's Index, researched by Sally Kuzemchak, and interviewing tips for stressed-out job seekers — all on page 15.

For our *In* section, check out Brian Salsberg's "Clampdown," on page 23. It's a thought-provoking look at the increasing violence in TV, music, film and video games, and why some people think it needs to be stopped.

So read on! Put down that copy of *Tattoo Digest* and give us a look. If you aren't already thinking about finding a job, now's a good time to start. ■ Elizabeth Lee, Editor on Fellowship

Gallery

John Davidson, *The University Daily*, Texas Tech U.



U-Mail

Wanted: More women

I find it interesting that 11 out of 12 of your quotes on the [November U-Views] page are from males — don't you receive input from women on campus? If so, why not print 50-50? If not, what's the problem? Join the 20th century! Cathie Blackaller, senior, Southwest Texas State U.

Unfortunately, the ratio of male to female respondents is accurately reflected in the letters and comments we print. We encourage all readers to write to us on any topic. —Ed.

Improper mascots? Just one minute, man

Many people are asking what is up with this mascot thing.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: PAUL FORSYTH, MORGANTOWN, W. VA.

Well, speaking for myself as well as many other students who attend U. Mass, we think it silly as well. People have many interpretations about what the Minuteman represents, but its original interpretation was not what the 40 or so debaters claimed it stood for. The same probably holds true for Alabama's mascot.

But, let's face it. It's only a mascot. Don't wage a war against it. I wonder how some of these people would interpret the "Fighting Irish" if they attended Notre Dame. Will Boberg, sophomore, U. of Massachusetts

Catching it all on the net

I am very glad that you finally got hooked up to the Internet. It is great to provide e-mail input to the magazine. You may want to consider publishing guides to the wonderful stuff you can get on the net. The power of GOPHERS and other data access tools are restructuring the way we get info. Not to mention the fun things like e-mail (even to the president!), IRC servers, netFRET and other net-based games. Let's really push it! The more people are using it, the more it will continue to grow. The net should be open to all. Many communities are starting public access sites, etc. for non-university types to gain access. El Paso, for instance. The net is the future of information exchange. Kevin Marvel, New Mexico State U.

A quickie

I just love your magazine. It's very informative, and keeps extremely busy and distracted students, like myself, tuned in to the world around us. Thanks! Keith Cain, sophomore, Auburn U.

Write to us via the INTERNET: umag@well.sf.ca.us

U-MAIL: Address your correspondence to Letters to the Editor, U. Magazine, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 820, Los Angeles, CA 90067; fax it to (310) 551-1659 or E-mail to umag@well.sf.ca.us. **All Senders:** Include your name, year, school and phone number for verification. Internet users should also include permission to reprint their comments. Letters should be 200 words or less. U. reserves the right to edit reader comments for length and clarity.

Opinion Poll

PREVIOUS POLL RESULTS

What one guarantee in your career would you choose?

Security
33%

Money
28%

Helping
22%

Power
11%

Challenge
6%

"Security is the only option that inherently includes a guarantee — that

FRUSTRATED PSU STUDENT
NEEDS JOB ON VERGE OF
3 DEGREES CREATIVE
PASSIONATE INNOVATIVE
ALL AROUND GOOD GUY
DAVID YANDELL 725 7388

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION

Is the job market
better or worse than
a year ago?

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one will still have a stable source of income, so that he/she may be able to guarantee security for his/her family." Christopher Aguilar, U. of Arizona

"Well, power's nice and so's security, but what good is it if you can't help people?" Linda Cooper, junior, New York U.

"Money is the only thing I would want guaranteed in my career, as then you could make your money

work for you as far as helping others, providing you with a challenge, security and the power necessary to move ahead in your career." Mike Robinson, senior, The Ohio State U.

"Power without a doubt. The thrill of crushing people underfoot and having the ability to do so is one of the true major motivating factors." Roger Krishnam, freshman, Stanford U.

The U-Views Opinion Poll is a sampling of comments from college students across the country. The toll-free number invites responses to questions posed to students each month in the pages of U. The poll is not scientific, and percentages are figured on verbal responses received each month.