



Good jobs for grads come at high price

■ **OUR OPINION:** Despite a recent news report, employment for UO graduates is still difficult to find

The headline was so promising. "Job outlook bright for UO's grads"

The article on the front page of the May 27 Register-Guard said it so well. Graduates from the University, and across the country, are finding more jobs now than in recent years. A national study was cited that said employers plan to hire 17 percent more new college graduates this year than last.

And the story of Chris Mettner, a senior in computer science, was told. He landed a \$40,000 job with Lockheed Martin Corp. in the company's satellite division. He was offered the job earlier this year after only

a 10-minute interview.

Are we all really so fortunate? Are we all really snagging high-paying jobs after graduation, sometimes even before commencement? We wish it were true.

The *Guard* article, unfortunately, is terribly misleading. Despite such high hopes and increasing numbers, University grads are still having trouble finding jobs, especially good jobs. And we see no signs that this is changing.

Sure, it's easy to say things are getting better. But what's really going on? The article was quick to point out that graduates in engineering, computers and business are in the highest demand. But what about the plethora of other majors? And the 1996 University questionnaire cited had only 401 respondents among graduates from that year. Out of those 401 grads, 80 percent said they had jobs six months after graduation; 67 percent of that number had jobs in Oregon and 10 percent were headed to graduate school.

First, that's only 401 people, and second, no distinction is

made as to what kind of jobs those graduates had. Beth Swank, assistant director of the University Career Center, was quoted as saying a myth still exists that the predominant factor in a student's career choice is their major. She said employers' most common request is "any major."

But last we heard, students wanted to get jobs in their respective major, not just some general job in a large corporation like Nabisco (which is also mentioned in the article). Any college graduate can vie for those types of jobs; the key is to obtain employment in one's area of expertise.

This dream, we are sure, is not being realized any more than in the past. This is because specialized jobs are so much more difficult to obtain than in our parents' college days. Now, graduates must involve themselves in extracurricular activities and honor societies as well as get good grades. And most importantly, they must seek out and secure internships in their field.

The University would no doubt like to think its graduates are succeeding. It would like to think it is arming its students with the skills they need to succeed in a competitive job market. But the fact is a degree is not just a degree. Many of the skills students obtain in order to be hired for competitive jobs are found outside the University, in internships and other organizations.

The *Register-Guard* article did give us hope. But it's important to note that many students are still having trouble in their job search, and jobs in respective majors are still extremely hard to come by. Standing by misleading statistics and optimistic officials could make the search even more difficult. We can't be lazy and must still work hard, in and out of the University, in order to get the job of our dreams.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board.

LETTERS

Canadian sympathy

So, Nicole Kristal has no idea why Oregonians dislike Californians? One glance at the headline of her editorial (*ODE*, June 3) should give some indication. While I am not an Oregonian (I am not even American, rather I am Canadian), I do sympathize with natives of this state.

Being an Oregonian is similar in many ways to being Canadian. We both live just north of a social and cultural behemoth that produces citizens who are self-absorbed and have little time for or understanding of things outside their borders.

In many ways the concerns voiced by Oregonians about the influence of Californians on their way of life is similar to the those of Canadians who fear American values will eat away at a distinct Canadian culture.

I would suggest to Ms. Kristal that her defensiveness about being Californian is just one symptom of why Californians are disdained.

Lewis Kaye
Journalism

State supremacy

We would like to write to our kind Californians who have graciously invited themselves to the great state of Oregon. We are sorry

that you think we are ignorant, for it is you who come to our state to vehemently complain about the weather, our attitudes and above all the way we say "pop" for soda drinks.

However, why is it that our state and the people are so bad and your state is so awesome, and yet Californians still pour into Oregon like people following Lewis and Clark on the Oregon Trail? We apologize if our state is not good enough for you, but nobody ever asked you to come here in the first place.

However, we would like to thank all the Californians who do come to school here, for without you, we would have to pay a great deal more for our education. We will gladly accept all the complaints for the five figure donation that you all pay every year to visit our state.

And one more thing to all the lovely Californians: Have a nice day...somewhere else!

Greg Nicklas & 3 cosigners
Undeclared

For shame

Your story on the Broadway tree removal (*ODE*, June 2) was accurate in most respects but gives the impression that Eugene police attempted to push the crowd "away from where the trees were being

cut."

They had already all been cut. The use of tear gas, mace and destructive force came at a pointless time and, I believe, was only for the purpose of asserting power and control. Many gentle citizens were hurt as a result.

When I came here (yes, from California) the preservation struggle centered on buildings. The last of the magnificent original architecture was being demolished — "Save the Armory, the Mayflower."

Over the years we've said goodbye to hundreds of trees (to make room for those oh-so-essential cars), stretches of natural riverfront, pedestrian space (more cars!), three of Eugene's four majestic old theaters, a quaint village of shops and eateries (Sacred Heart parking) ... the list goes on.

Whose town is this now? Who are the police and our elected officials working for? People turned out to grieve these leafy ancestors as well as a psychotic development agenda. The power elite reacted with a Tiananmen hallucination. Those in charge now cater to the distorted dreams of strangers who have come into our midst, and — to find their comfort level — seek to replicate the metropolitan consumer addiction hells they so recently fled.

I say: Go to the corpses of those stately trees. Pick up some of the pieces. Take the bones to City Hall. Let those who allowed this step over the carnage to get to work.

Vip Short
Eugene

Hourly limits

What follows is a message I have now received three times, despite my requests to stop sending them to me. The gist of the message is that students are now being harassed about their number of hours online per week.

As a student who pays her incidental fees, I find this restriction (or request, as they put it) to be an unworkable solution to the problem.

The postmaster has set an unreasonable limit of 14 hours per week, or 2 hours per day, of online time. The University network feels this limit will reduce the busy signals encountered by students dialing in from home. I find many problems with this "solution."

For one thing, the reason I myself encounter a busy signal is that frequently 2 of the 3 dial-up numbers cease functioning after about 8 pm. It's no wonder it is often busy.

The University has recently been voted one of America's

"Most Wired Campuses." This is due in large part to the efforts of the University to allow its students to become dependent on the Internet. We are given a new web-based interface for Janus and brand new Gateway computers on which to see it. Many students have classes in which a great deal of class and study material is now online, such as Image Reserve for the art history department.

The solution is obvious. The University needs to do what any company would need to do in the same situation: Take steps to live up to the demand. Perhaps instead of spending money on some of the most expensive computers around, the Gateway 2000, for its new Janus terminals, we could settle for a less glamorous PC, in order to acquire more modems for the modem pool.

Ariel K. Jones
Classics

Correction

In the June 5 commentary by Chelsea Lincoln, the name of Monte Matthews, director of University Veterinary Services and Animal Care, was spelled incorrectly.

The Emerald regrets the error.