

# PERSPECTIVES

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## HELP WANTED?

*When planning for the future, students might need to look beyond a degree*



**W**e live in an age of cynicism. Where young people once took to the nation's colleges and universities in pursuit of knowledge and experience, now our overriding concern is whether or not we'll be able to find a job after graduation.

Fortunately, it looks like we will. According to a Career Center study of 1996-1997 graduates, about 72 percent are currently employed, and just over 50 percent of them are employed in a field closely related to their undergraduate major.

On the whole, this can be taken as good news. If employability prospects continue on their present course for at least a couple more years, then most of us can look forward to a reasonably secure future, if not our dream jobs. But while the numbers may be comforting, the reality may not be. How many students know a recent col-

lege grad who once looked forward to a six figure salary, but now spends the days answering phones or shoveling french fries into paper cups? Sure, it's relatively easy to go out and get a job, but landing a career is proving to be more of a challenge.

Schools across the country are increasingly aware that students need to get practical experience before they graduate. At the University, some majors, like journalism and business are stressing the value of internships more than ever before.

If you're really anxious about post-graduation possibilities, you might consider staving off the real world for a little while with graduate study.

More and more employers and educators agree that a bachelor's degree no longer carries the weight it once did.

The idea of graduation becoming just another pit stop on the road of knowledge, as opposed to the end of the road might seem like a daunting proposition, but the time and money invested generally pay off.

According to the Bureau of the Census, in 1995 master's degree holders made over \$9,000 more per year than those who had only bachelor's degrees.

And even if money is not your primary concern, consider that an advanced degree could very well make the difference between a cubicle and a corner office.

Master's degree and Ph.D holders often find themselves being shmoozed by companies and organizations who admire the gumption involved in pursuing an advanced degree.

Most of us came to college hoping to expand our prospects for the future. This goal is still as noble and worthy as it ever was. As we enter the work force, however, competition and simple economics might force us to reevaluate our goals and how we plan to achieve them.

*This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu*

Bryan Dixon/Emerald

## Thumbs



### TO THE END OF THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL:

For once, there's not much more to be said. It's time to move on with life.

### TO BEING ON A ROLL:

In addition to his acquittal, President Clinton learned this week that he is once again among the nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize.



### TO PFIZER, INC.:

It was recently revealed that a study claiming that nearly a third of men suffer from some sort of sexual dysfunction was funded by the pharmaceutical giant, maker of Viagra. Can you say vested interest?

### TO SHADY DEALS:

A San Jose Mercury News investigation recently uncovered several zoos across the country that sell, trade, loan and donate surplus animals to hunting ranches, dealers, and unaccredited zoos. An Oregon wildlife safari allegedly sent 78 percent of their surplus animals to such places.

### CORRECTION

In the Feb. 10 article "Oregon house looks at nixing tenure system", a former Portland State University student's name should have been spelled Carol Pedersen. The Emerald regrets the error.

## Letters to the Editor

### Issues overlooked

I am incredibly offended by the recent articles that the Emerald has been printing, in particular the Perspectives editorial "Just Say No" (ODE, Feb. 11). You guys have a lot of gall to mandate to the students to vote "against OSPIRG. Against everything." I don't care whether this was an editorial or not, the ODE is a student fees-funded paper and should not be telling the students how they should vote and should not be cornering out one student organization and dictating its disapproval.

While focusing so much on OSPIRG, and not on the other incredibly important issues that were to be in the

student elections, the objectivity and honesty of this newspaper was completely lost. While preaching apathy to the trusting students of this campus, you told them to vote against child care (one of the important issues on the ballot) and you told them to vote for human rights violations (in voting no on the Gardenburger/NOR-PAC boycott issue).

Instead of hiding the truth about the other issues on the ballot, why didn't you tell the students what was really going on and let them make an educated decision by themselves? Why don't you guys start doing your jobs and print the truth and fairly cover all student issues and organizations? Instead of dealing with personal vendet-

tas, why don't you start writing articles for the general interest of the students? Maybe then you can salvage what miniscule amount of journalistic integrity you may have left.

Jennifer Burns  
Undeclared

### Editorial lacking

I noticed that there wasn't a picture of a proud journalist with his or her name neatly typed below it in the Perspectives section (ODE, Feb. 11). That was an incredibly smart move. I certainly would not put my name with an article that not only slanders democracy but supports human right abuses. Vote against everything in the

election? So, because the ODE told me that the elections are illegal (without any support to back up the claim) I should vote no on supporting the Gardenburger boycott? As a supporter of the boycott, I am appalled that you urged that students vote no and not help Oregon farmworkers to be treated like human beings. I urge all students who support the boycott and OSPIRG to be pissed off at the Emerald. I expect a student paper to be objective and that is not what I've seen. I urge students to find out the truth for themselves and not believe everything you read.

Susan Stafford  
Environmental Studies