

# Journalism grads seek jobs

Cameron Ballantyne, a broadcast major, sent out 40 tapes in hopes of finding an entry-level position

**Jennifer Bear**  
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

Tassels the color of ripe black cherries, stately graduation robes and a shiny new diploma — these are the thoughts flitting through the typical senior's mind the first week of June.

For Cameron Ballantyne, one of 346 seniors graduating from the University's School of Journalism and Communication, an entirely different matter is weighing on his mind — the need to find a job, any job, so long as it's in broadcast journalism.

"You start out making pennies, but you know that going in," he said.

Ballantyne has sent about 40 application tapes across the globe asking for entry level positions in TV news. Although he hasn't reached the point of being frantic, Ballantyne said he's definitely beginning to feel stressed about the scarcity of opportunities in the journalism job market.

Most of the journalism school's graduating class is in the same sticky situation as Ballantyne. They're on the brink of receiving their diplomas but don't have a source of employment lined up.

Despite grim prospects in the job market, Ballantyne said he has confidence that he will be able to nail down work in the months following graduation. He added his goal has always been to work in journalism, ever since he was in junior high.

When he transferred to the University his junior year, Ballantyne did everything he could to prepare himself for a job in broadcast journalism, including becoming president of the University chapter of the Society for Professional Journalists and working as an intern at KEZI.

Faculty and staff members within the journalism school said even though numerous awards and scholarships have been given throughout the school year, a handful of graduating students still deserve recognition for their outstanding accomplishments.

Tom Hagley, a visiting professor in public relations, nominated graduating senior Allena Baker for netting internship offers from two worldwide public relations firms — Edelman and Fleishman-Hillard.

Director of Graduate Studies and Research Leslie Steeves said Windy Borman is an "outstanding student" in the 2003 graduating class with a double major in theater and journalism, numerous extracurricular activities such as working at the Cultural Forum and two study abroad trips.

Erik Talbert, manager of the Electronic Media Center, nominated Charlotte Nisser as being at the top of her class because of her involvement as general manager of campus radio station KWVA, and because she distinguished herself as a student by earning high marks and being a Mortar Board VP.

The journalism graduation ceremony will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. on the south lawn of the Knight Library.

Contact the senior news reporter at [jenniferbear@dailymerald.com](mailto:jenniferbear@dailymerald.com).

## News brief

### Lower student loan rates to benefit students

Graduating students worried about paying back student loans after college may have some relief after federal student loan rates plunged to a record low this month.

The new rate of 3.42 percent, which will officially be instituted on July 1 and remain in effect until May 2004, will especially benefit graduates who are currently repaying loans and can consolidate them into the new rate.

New rates apply to private and government-issued federal Stafford loans dispersed since July 1998. Rates for PLUS loans also dropped to a lower 4.22 percent.

For students about to graduate, loan consolidation is one option that would result in lower monthly payments. With loan consolidation, current federal loans are paid off and a new loan is created with the new fixed interest rate.

According to Sally Mae, an organization that provides education funding, loan borrowers have a six-month grace period between when they leave school and when they must start paying their loans — a good time to decide the next step in loan repayment.

Federal Stafford loans are the most widely used loans of all programs and come in two different types: unsubsidized, which means a student can defer payment until after graduation but increase the interest; and subsidized, which means a student makes interest payments while attending college.

The PLUS loan program is a low-interest, federally sponsored program that allows parents to help fund the

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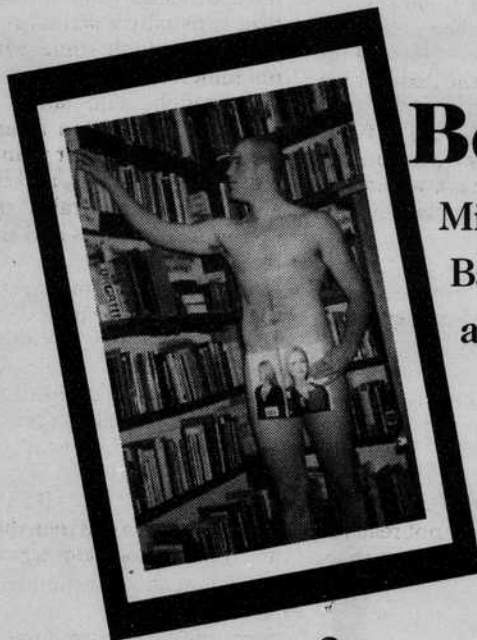
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