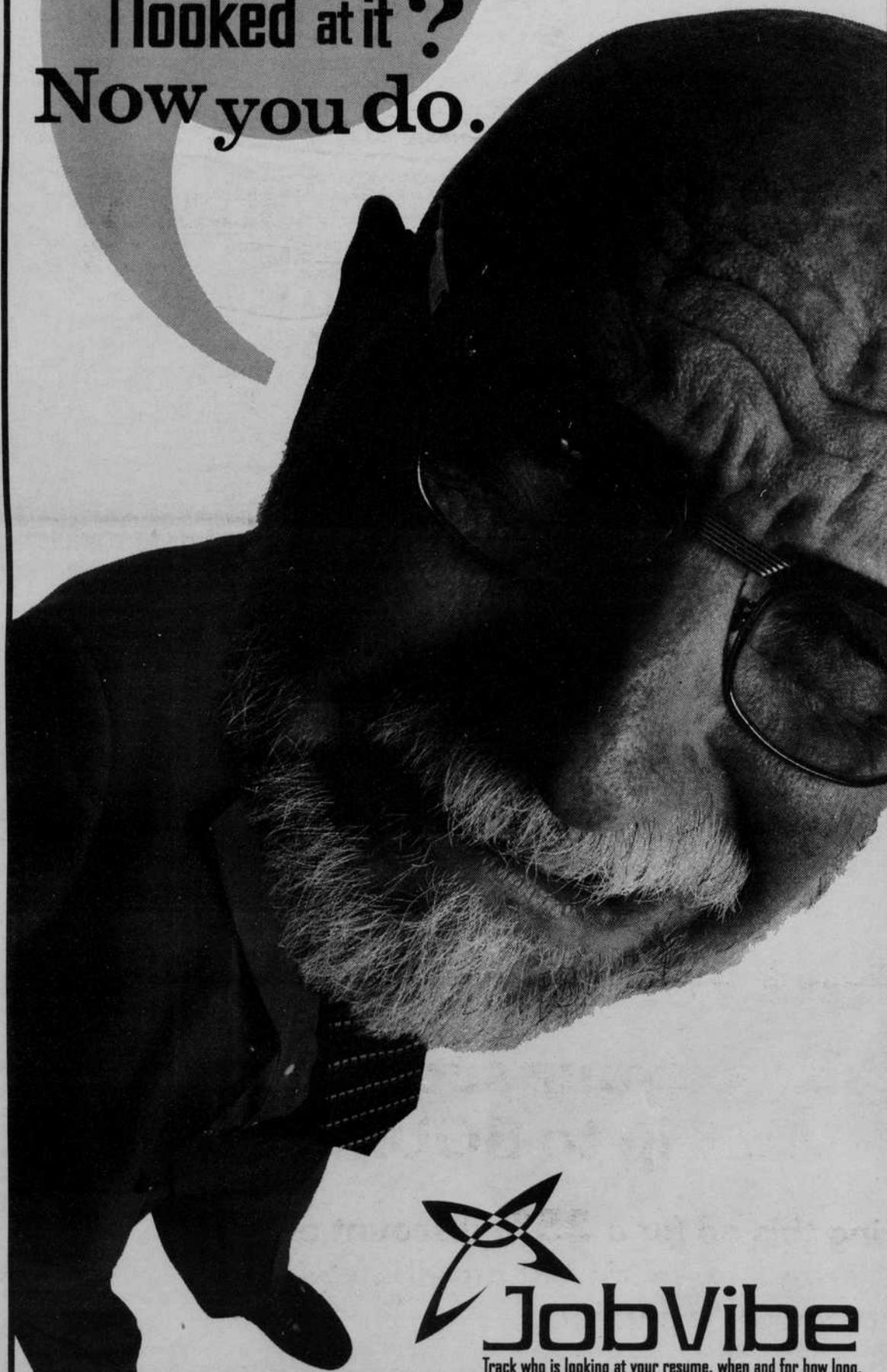


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# Thanks, University: It was all worth it

Sometime this afternoon I'll finish taking my last final of college, the conclusion of five years' worth of studying, cramming, playing, partying and working.

It's easy to reflect on college with a bad taste lingering, especially when the real world beckons, and even more so if you're supposed to head into the great wide open with no job in sight.



**Brad Schmidt**  
 Of chief concern

Fortunately, I've got two internships lined up that should take me to Christmas, then I'll have the opportunity to join the ranks of the panicky graduates in the Class of 2004.

Some people will leave the University this year, and every year, complaining of what they didn't get — knowledge, friends, experience — or what they didn't have — love, fun, time.

I leave the University with no complaints. Everything I've done in my life has played a role in getting me to where I am today, and I am happy with where I stand. Therefore, it seems only appropriate to reflect on the things that have prepared me for life after college.

Foremost, I have learned that it's

important to choose carefully those whom you live with. I have had something like 50 different roommates in five years, starting first with a messy dorm-mate who was hardly ever around but always left little reminders that he did pay rent, such as taking the phone off the charger or leaving garbage from Hammy's.

But, that roommate also opened me up to one of the most important decisions of my life — joining a fraternity. I am a Kappa Sigma, will be 'till the day I die. Being in a fraternity taught me so many things: How to be a leader, how to be a team player, how to (effectively and ineffectively) confront others, how to drink like a fish, and how to live in the most unbearable of conditions yet still love every minute of it.

Thanks for the memories Tydes, Cush, Jonny R., Cage, Kinger, Moose, Chin, D-Mac, Wild, Mershon, Jaws, Keymo, Medic, Smooth and everyone else with and without nicknames.

Thanks to all the teachers out there who challenged me, and thanks to those who didn't. Grade inflation does exist, friends, so it's up to you to make the most out of college. Many thanks to the two professors in the J-school who helped me realize that I am indeed a newspaper man: John Russial and Dean Rea.

To all the great people in the Emerald office, thank you. Thanks to the two people who used to ream me when I first started working here, Darren Freeman and Jeremy Lang. They taught me how to be a better writer and, though I didn't know it

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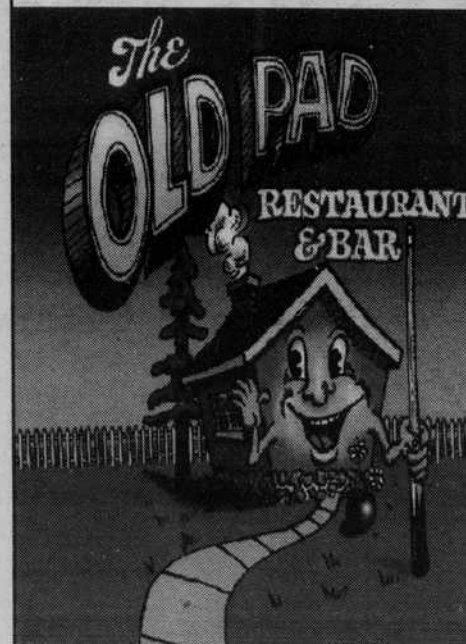
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