

# Graduates enter employee 'draft'

I'm ready for the next step in my career. I've taken it one article at a time through college, and now I hope that hard work paid off.

See, Saturday is graduation. Sunday is draft day.



**Peter Hockaday**

Today is Hockaday

Personally, I'm entering the sports-reporter draft, along with my buddies Jeff and Adam. My roommate, Nate, is entering the advertising draft. My girlfriend, Emily, is entering the sports marketing draft. I could go through everybody, but you get the point.

For the last few years, the scouts have followed us around, and now they've ranked everybody from best to worst. Jane is ranked sixth in the nation in the chemistry draft. John is ranked 15th in the English draft, but he doesn't know exactly where he's going with that degree.

Rather than us sending applications to them, these companies have come seeking us. They've put in the work, sending recruiters to campus to assess our potential. They use words like "uppside" and "real value." They offer lucrative contracts and incentive-laden agreements. And the best part is that we don't do any of the work to

get the job, other than sitting through tons of contract meetings. Eesh.

Let me tell you, it's been nice having the scouts with me for the past five years. Sometimes it's a little added pressure. Like that one time when a Thursday night basketball game went into overtime, and I was facing deadline pressure to write my story. When the scout was sitting right behind me, watching me type, that was a little unnerving.

But the scouts were there for the highs, too. They were there when I went to Sacramento for my first NCAA Tournament articles, and they saw the look on my face when I stepped out onto the ARCO Arena floor. Right there they knew, just as I did, that I wanted to be a sports reporter.

They were there with me when I began covering the golf beat my freshman year, and they were there when I covered soccer and track. They tracked me through the years, and they knew I sacrificed weekends and holidays, that I damaged friendships and ticked people off, all for this job.

The scouts were with you, too, when you spent Memorial Day weekend in your architecture studio. They were there when you traded a trip to Rennie's for a group meeting on a Friday night. They stood by as you searched the Knight Library stacks for that elusive book about Puerto Rican wildlife and when you cleaned test tubes in your biology lab at 11 p.m.

I have a pretty good sense of where I'm going in Sunday's draft. I've had some good talks with Wyoming's newspaper of record, and I'm almost

Turn to **HOCKADAY**, page 18B

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