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# **CAREERS**<sup>special</sup> edition

## **Debt or Job Market:** Which is Scarier?

## Tips offered for the new graduate

For many college students, graduation marks a major milestone in their lives. Eager to step into the real world with a degree in hand, college graduates usually have one concern on their minds -- finding a full-time job.

While the job hunt may make graduates uneasy, Mike Sullivan, director of education for Take Charge America, one of the oldest consumer credit counseling services in the U.S., says college graduates also should be concerned about the future direction of their finances.

Sullivan provides the following recommendations in regards to what every new graduate needs to or should know:

Don't be easily influenced by the availability of credit cards. College students and recent graduates usually get inundated with a regular ents years to attain the lifestyle they gave you. Be patient and live at or below your means for the first few years, until you build up to the lifestyle you want for the future.

Create a budget as soon as you get a job and put it in writing. If it isn't written down, it isn't a budget. Without a budget, the likelihood of having financial problems will increase. It's never too late to start one!

Put a small amount from every paycheck into a savings account. If you wait until you think you can afford to save, you never will. Every dollar adds up in the end. This is a key element to financial freedom, yet very few individuals do anything about it.

Invest in your personal development from day one. Never stop learning and improving yourself. Take the job that prepares you for

## **NASA** Engineer Drives Exploration

#### continued A from Metro

mon goal, but it also gives the next

engineers their own path to explore.

that will send humans to the moon, electrical design engineer for the Mars and beyond. "The excitement across NASA Avionics Organization, which overthese days is contagious," Pearson said. "Our new Vision has not only focused our talents on one com-

spacecraft and launch vehicles. Pearson moved to Marshall's generation of space scientists and Upper Stages Project Engineering Office in 1988, where he provided technical direction, planning and

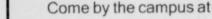
North Portland Bible College

It's great to see," he added. Pearson joined NASA in 1974 as evaluation of the Space Shuttle and

a civil servant. He worked as an expendable payload stages. Among his office's accomplishments were eight successful mis-Marshall Science and Engineering sions, including: Mars Observer launched in 1992 to chart the saw power distribution, power supplanet's surface; Magellan plies and wiring harness design for

launched in 1989 to study Venus; Galileo launched in 1989 to study Jupiter and its moons; and Ulysses launched in 1990 to study the sun's north and south poles.

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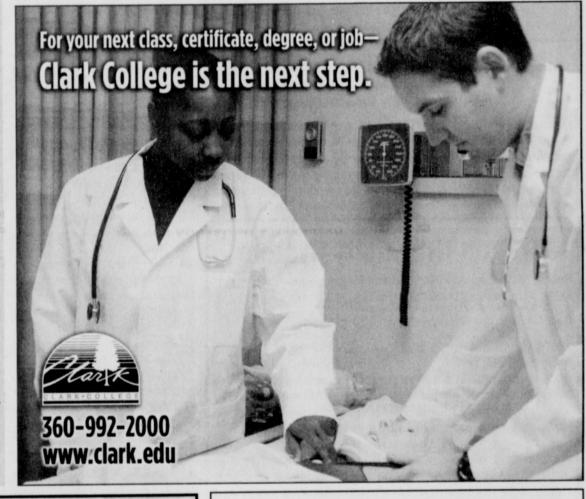
4905 N Vancouver Avenue in Portland, Oregon and ask for Earnestine Cellestine, Vice President of Administration and Student Advisor. You may also contact us by telephone at 503-288-2919, email: NPBCAdm@aol.com or view us online at: northportlandbiblecollege.org

Sometimes we forget it takes parents years to attain the lifestyle they gave you. Be patient and live at or below your means for the first few years.

flow of credit card applications, offering "great deals" and "free stuff" to entice them. Beware of these promotional gimmicks. The ideal number of credit cards that college graduates should have is only one or two at the maximum-and the credit limit should be very minimal. The more credit cards you have, the more likely you will be in debt long term. Although you may not think so, you owe too much. Pay off any credit card balances before you buy the new car, ring, or other major items. Studies have shown that the average college graduate owes \$8,200 in unsecured debt - this is in addition to student loans.

the next job. Sometimes the job that pays the highest salary isn't always the most beneficial one long term.

"The future sometimes looks scary for graduates," Sullivan said. "Having extra debt when you graduate can make it look



Youcan't afford to live an extravagant lifestyle right away. Sometimes we forget it takes pareven scarier. We recommend that graduates pay off as much debt as they can, either during or immediately after college. We realize that they will have other expenses after graduation, such as repaying college loans, and they have the rest of their lives to live. They don't need the extra burden of credit card or other debt hanging over their heads just as they are starting the newest chapter of their lives."

### YouthBuilders Learn on the job

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