

# Good resume essential for good jobs

Volunteer work and graduate school are viable options for those who, for whatever reason, want to put off diving into the job market. However, not everyone can get into graduate school, and many volunteer organizations can be as selective in choosing candidates for positions as corporate employers.

So, many are forced to dive right into the job application pool fresh out of college. But without a graduate degree or a year of volunteer service under their belts, how can these candidates compete?

Beverly Stennett, a counselor at the career development center at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., says career development centers at most schools offer free services such as resume critiques, workshops on interviewing skills, networking, and more.

Knowing where to start looking for a job is the first step. The employment section of the newspaper seems like the most logical

place to start, however, Stennett said that most emphasis should be placed on networking.

"Consider everyone a potential contact for you," she said. Friends who have graduated, relatives, professors, and your friends' parents are all potential networking opportunities. Many professional associations have college chapters. These provide excellent networking opportunities as well.

However, Stennett said, do not ignore published ads. "About 20 percent of your emphasis should be on the classifieds," she said.

According to Stennett, both the cover letter and the resume should match what the employer wants. By this point in the job search, everyone should have a resume, which should include:

- Education — List, in reverse chronological order, colleges attended and their location, your major or degree, and your GPA if it is above a 3.2.

- Work Experience — List, again in reverse chronological or-

der, any jobs or internships, even if they were unpaid. Explain your duties at these jobs and accentuate the positive, but don't be too creative. Employers know that "custodial engineers" are janitors.

- Activities — List extracurricular, sports, and community activities, which can be great places to develop valuable leadership skills. Be sure your prospective employer knows about them.

- Don't include personal information such as height, weight, hair color, or other irrelevant facts. They're likely to get more laughs than telephone calls. There are dozens of books on how to write a good resume. Many are worth the investment.

You can't judge a book by its cover, but you can judge a resume by its cover letter. Employers do. A good one can get you a job.

A cover letter should tell the reader that you wish to apply for a job, how you heard about the job, and why he or she should bother to look at your resume. It should be short, flawlessly written, unique, to the point, bold, yet conservative. Impossible? Nearly, but it can be done. Again, see your career counselor and buy a good book.

The North Carolina Wesleyan Student Services Center offers help to students interested in preparing a resume. Pamela Fairchild is the contact person in the SSC for resume information.

Fairchild says that the job search now takes an average of six to eight months. Resumes can play an important part in the job search.

"The more resumes you send the more interviews and more job offers you can receive," Fairchild said.

The SCC offers workshops for students interested in Resume and other job search information. Fairchild mentioned that the process should begin when the student is a junior.

The following are the remaining dates of job search information seminars by the SSC: (All programs are held in Rm. 276)

- Feb. 28 — Job Search 1994, 10:30 a.m.

- March 3 — Resume Writing, 4:30 p.m.

- March 17 — Mini-Resume

Writing, 4:30 p.m.

- March 22, 29 — Interview Techniques, 4:30 p.m.

- April 4 — Mini-Resume Writing, 10:30 a.m.

Those with other questions concerning resumes and other job search information may contact Pamela Fairchild at the SSC.

## Some Christmas gifts actually more humbug than useful, study finds

A Yale University economist has discovered what you knew all along — that bug-ugly sweater Aunt Eunice gave you for Christmas was a total waste of money.

In a recent article titled "The Deadweight Loss of Christmas" in the December issue of *The American Economic Review*, Professor Joe Waldfogel calculated that between 10 percent and 35 percent of the value of all holiday gifts is destroyed, which amounted to \$4 billion last year.

"That's a lot of fruitcake and knick-knacks," he said. "And the figure could easily top \$10 billion if we include gift-giving at Hanukkah, birthdays, bar mitzvahs, and weddings."

Waldfogel, who specializes in law and economics, got interested in the subject after he inventoried his personal stash of unusable gifts: two cribbage boards (he doesn't play); an array of fuzzy slippers (he doesn't wear them), and several "perfectly horrible" sweaters.

Waldfogel based his research on a survey of 75 Yale under-

graduates in his class last year. The students were asked to list 246 non-cash gifts they had received for Christmas, the estimated cost of the item, and how much the student valued the present.

The economist said the purpose of the survey wasn't to play Scrooge with the spirit of Christmas, but to point out that a lot of money goes to waste in bad gift choices. "My gripe with Christmas is not the excess of gifts exchanged, but rather that the gifts are often mismatched with their recipients' preferences," he said.

Waldfogel notes that the survey doesn't accurately assess one important factor — how much pleasure the gift-giver gets out of the process even if the recipient thinks the present is a dud.

One interesting trend noted: Immediate family members and close friends tended to give each other gifts that were more highly valued than presents from extended family members and acquaintances.

### Intramural update

Feb. 21 — 5 on 5 basketball Championship. Come join the fun. Halftime show and more!

Indoor Volleyball registration closes Feb. 25 at 5 p.m.

Call 5226 or pick up a roster the Student Union for more information.

## POETIC JUSTICE

Starring  
Janet Jackson

February 19 9:30pm

## LEAP OF FAITH

Starring  
Steve Martin & Debra Winger

February 26 9:30pm

## THE FIRM

Starring  
Tom Cruise, Holly Hunter & Gene Hackman

March 19 9:30pm

## IN THE LINE OF FIRE

Starring  
Clint Eastwood & Rene Russo

March 26 9:30pm

February and March  
SATURDAY NIGHT  
CINEMA

Each Saturday Night In Doc's