

Business Focus

Flea market without the fleas

For those shoppers who like bargains like you get at the flea markets, but can't stand the heat, flies and dirt, there's an alternative on Linwood Road in Gastonia.

The Great American Flea Market has been open since last fall. It opened under the name of the Marketplace Mall, but customers didn't get the idea that it was a bargain-hunter's dream, so the owners changed the name to reflect the discounted prices.

"It's been a tough go," said manager Conroe Dowell. But he says since they changed the name, customers have increased.

There's room for 100 shops inside the building. There's jewelry, crafts, perfume, toys, flower arrangements, tools, gold and silver, clothing, old records and tapes, ball cards and guns and knives, for just a few examples.

Dowell said, "It's where the bargain shoppers shop in comfort," because the in-

door facility is air conditioned, carpeted and heated.

There's room for more vendors, Dowell said. Monthly rates are \$1 a square foot and daily rates run \$8 to \$10.

Hours are Friday Noon to 7 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can find the flea market at 761 Linwood Road near Garrison Blvd.

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The Great American Flea Market on Linwood Road in Gastonia

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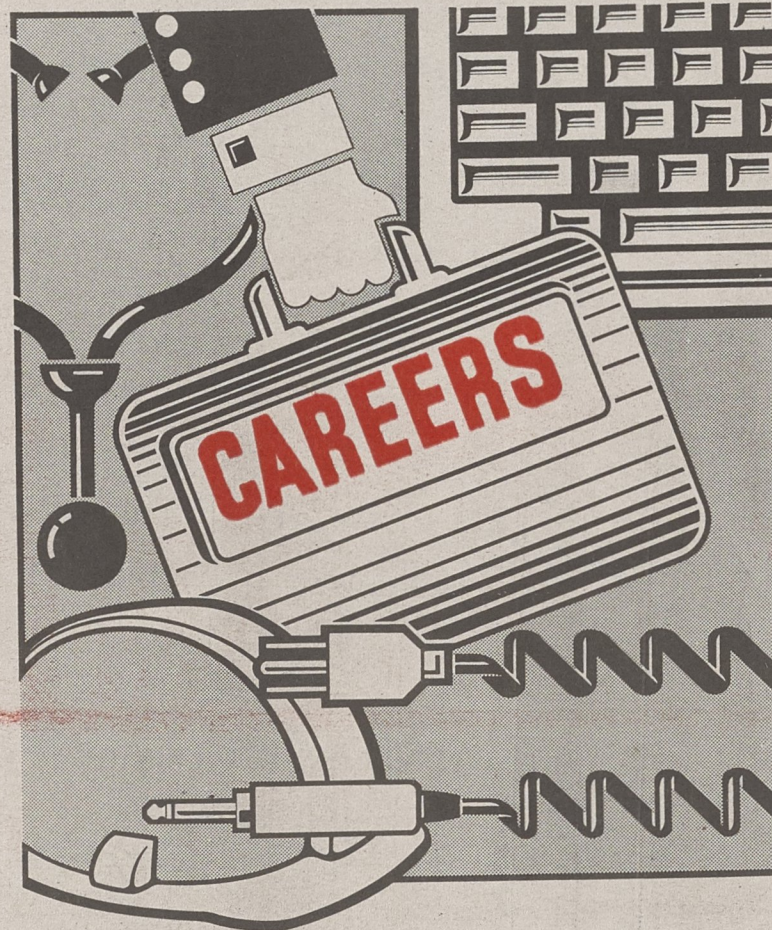
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