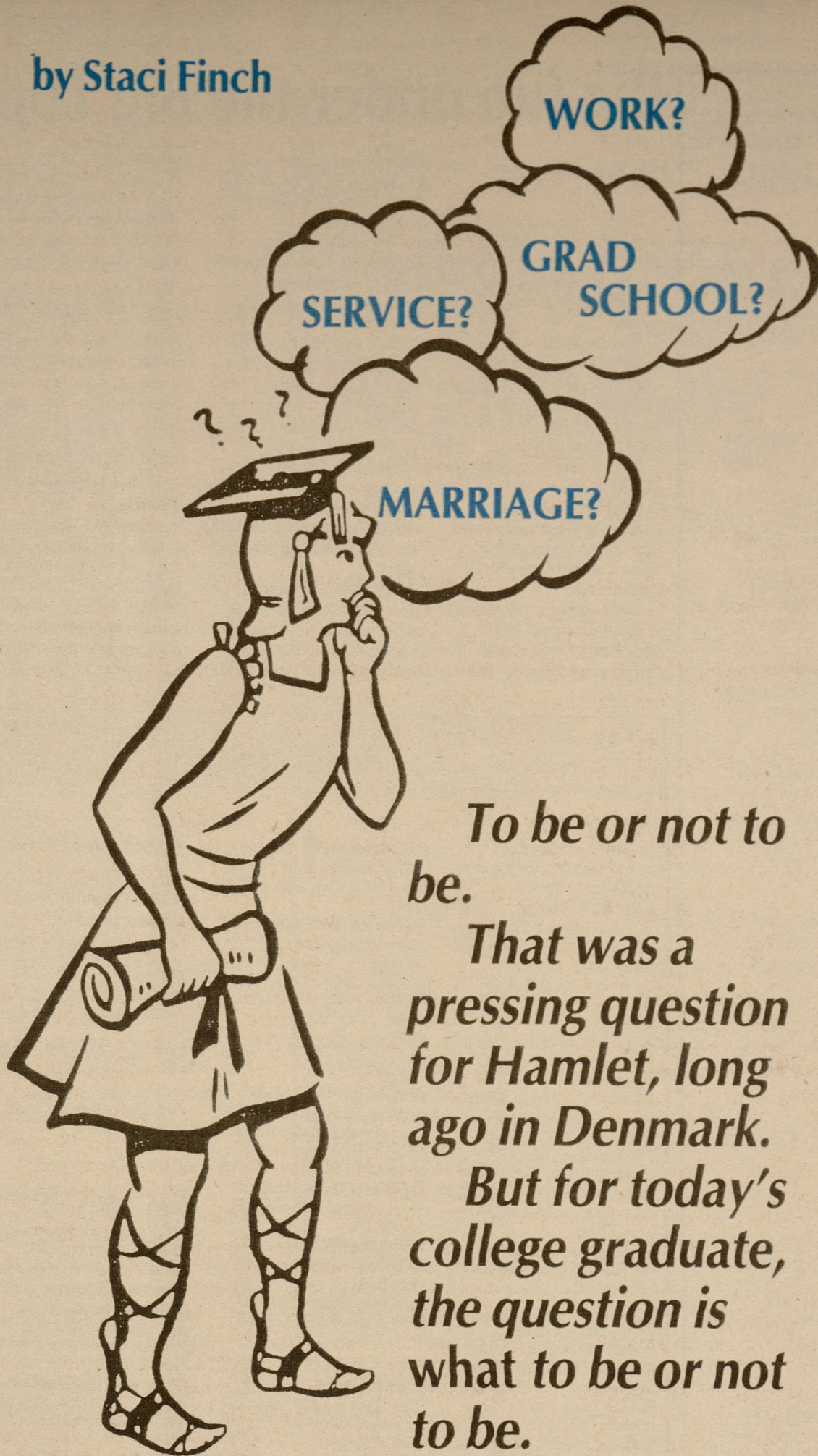


What do you want to

by Staci Finch



To be or not to be.

That was a pressing question for Hamlet, long ago in Denmark.

But for today's college graduate, the question is what to be or not to be.

That question seems to pop up suddenly. As a freshman, you are told you have a lot of time to choose your major, and to stick with general studies. As a sophomore, you are too busy deciding on five majors to stick with one. Then as a junior, you have to declare a major and get some sort of direction toward a career. But as a senior, reality sets in when you have to begin interviewing. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE??

When students look for jobs, there are several things they take into consideration. One is salary. It would be nice if people could live on love and laughter, but that is not the way the world works. Making money is a main concern of college graduates.

Starting salary among different majors is as varied as the majors themselves. According to a 1985-1986 survey published by the Career Planning and Placement Center at Texas A&M, the best place to be has been in the College of Engineering. The average starting salary for chemical engineering graduates with a bachelor of science degree last year was \$2,523 per month, or \$30,276 a year. Close behind were aerospace engineers, civil engineers and electrical engineers. Compare that to the average starting salary of a graduate with a BS in marketing; \$1,578 per month, or \$18,936 a year was all that person was going to make in a year.

So, everybody should be engineers. Well, maybe not. Although important, salary is only one consideration of the quality of a job.

John R. Gudelman Jr.,
associate director for