

PERSPECTIVES

Twenty-first century demands creativity in job searches



CHRIS MARTIN
columnist

the letter of the law, yours is a land of free speech. That's just a beautiful, right? While the spirit of the law prohibits someone from "firing" in a theater, it shamelessly permits anyone to ask you "so are you doing after graduation?"

Simple turn of this to the average collegian is like a turn down one the shadiest alleys of the human psyche, instantly inciting fits in the most genteel of souls.

Many students in their most desperate hour — being the first day post-graduate rent is due — to the "hot job markets" issue of *U.S. News*, probably extols the virtues of cyber-teleo-avatar-something or other engineering.

Problem with these up-and-coming trades by the time you read about them, practically third classmate of yours has pasted fake o-avatar intern experience into their resume, using the job field competition, and killing off chance you had at getting in on the cutting

The real challenge is to beat everyone out of state and find a job just a little off that beat-rear path.

Great poet once wrote (well, actually they wrote it twice, but the first time was on a cocktail napkin) "so much depends upon / the road not taken / beside the white chickens."

Other words, you will never make money in poetry. The future, oh denizens of deadbeat lies in the following niches — sleeping now



like pupae, waiting to awaken as secure, well-paid and well-dressed butterflies in the 21st century.

• Court Sketch Art Dealer
While the rest of the art world crumbles under the weight of post-post-modern baggage, the brave traffickers of court art will be making a killing from those pastel portraits of O.J. and Ted Bundy. Fine art has Mona Lisa and the Sistine Chapel, court art has Charles Manson and Lorena Bobbitt. Get in now while the prices are low and the body counts are high.

• Hybrid Disaster Movie Producer
Volcano? Earthquake? Twister? Shipwreck? Asteroid? That's kid stuff in the future. After the golden era of disaster movies in the late '90s, audiences will rise up and demand more action, more terror and even more unbelievably lame plots candy-coated in computer graphic smoke and mirrors. The solution? Major studio think tanks that can

combine two natural disasters into one.

Possibilities include "Fireclone," about a horrible Midwest tornado made of pure lava, and "Eleconda," about a mad genetically-engineered pachyderm with a poisonous, man-eating snake for a nose just stomping and eating everything in its path. Mad fun for everyone.

• Loud, Pompous, Tommy Cologne Wearing, Oversized Truck Driving Texan Whose Life is Perceived to be Better by the Strict Adherence to One's Own Kind

Oh wait, I think most Aggies are trying this already.

• Shorn Headed, Gun Toting, America-Way-or-No-Way Police of the World Memorex Militia Member
Ooops, did it again.

• Library Tower Medieval Torturer
For all those puzzled by the bizarre tower being erected between Evans Library and the new library building, rest assured that it will be used to imprison and torture delinquent library book borrowers. The 25-cent fine was only the beginning, like slowly turning up the heat on a frog in a kettle. Applications are being accepted at the University Human Relations Office — hunchbacks are a plus.

• "Dawson's Creek" Memorabilia Archivist
If collecting spinoff bric-a-brac from network television's most popular show among female teenagers isn't a sure bet, I don't know what is. *TV Guide* covers, *J. Crew* catalog layouts, and the exclusive cast album featuring Pacey's cover of Van Halen's "Hot for Teacher" will garner top dollar at future Dawson-cons.

• Texas Avenue Road Construction Worker
Now that's job security. Not only is it a guaranteed job for decades to come, but it's also a civil and nurturing work environment.

Large groups of co-workers will selflessly sacrifice hours of their own personal work time just to watch you scrape blacktop.

The future isn't so scary once you have the inside track. And for those who fall through the cracks there will always be grad school, the Peace Corps or a life of crime — all good places to work on your poetry.

"I think that I shall never see / A job with decent salary."

Chris Martin is a junior journalism major.

CAMPUS CONNECTION

**Challenging A&M's ...
Women's
movement**

March is Women's History Month. As universities across the nation celebrate women's contributions to society and the struggle for equality, it seems a good opportunity to reflect on the history of women on the Texas A&M campus begins in 1893 with Ethelson, the daughter of a faculty member, who was the first woman to attend classes at the school as a "lecture student." From that point, women were allowed to attend university as "special students." So-called Mary Hutson, twin daughters of an English professor, registered for civil engineering in 1899 at age 14 and completed their degrees at 17. But for all of their work, neither was awarded a diploma.

In 1925, the first female to receive a diploma was Mary Evelyn Crawford. In that same year, however, the Texas A&M Board of Directors decided that after that, no girls or young women would be allowed to attend A&M. This was the first significant blow for women's advancement at A&M.

In 1933, the question of women at A&M went before the Texas Supreme Court. Judge W.C. Davis ruled in favor of A&M in January of the next year, allowing the continued exclusion of women from A&M.



JENNIFER JONES
columnist

Finally in 1963, after continuous court battles and significant alumni resistance, women were allowed to attend and teach at Texas A&M, but only under certain conditions. By 1965, all qualified women were granted admission.

Although women were now able to enroll, they still were unable to find equality on campus.

The Corps of Cadets, in 1974, grudgingly opened its doors to females. But it was not until 1978 that women in the Corps were allowed to join their fellow cadets at Bonfire cut. (Civilian women cut at Bonfire for the first time in 1981.)

By 1994 the Corps became fully integrated, and in 1997 women's enrollment surpassed male enrollment (though as of this spring there is a total enrollment of 21,323 male students and 17,887 female students).

And so goes the phrase, "You've come a long way, baby."

Texas A&M (even if while kicking and screaming) has made continuous progress in the advancement of women at the University, and although women have made tremendous strides over the past 100 years, there are unfortunately still areas that warrant improvement.

BETTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FEMALE FACULTY
At the end of fiscal year 1995, there were only 253 female faculty members out of 1771 total positions. (check figures/dates again) Although A&M is able to attract female faculty initially, they simply are not sticking around. Some are not receiving tenure, others are unsatisfied with the less than friendly atmosphere toward women at A&M and filter



off to other universities.

MORE FEMALES IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY
Currently there is one female dean and a limited number of women in high-level administration. The lack of females in distinguished positions at A&M is not limited to faculty or administration. When Brook Leslie was elected Student Body President in 1993, she was the first (and only so far) female to be elected to the position. Female leadership within the Corps is improving, but still remains low (as of 1997, only 6.5 percent of the Corps is female.)

Beneath each of these areas lies the deeper issue of negativity toward women. At each turn, women were discouraged from attending the University as both students and faculty. A bitter administration was

forced to allow the admittance of women, and, although this attitude has softened over the years, there is still a potent trickle-down effect from decades of resistance.

A&M is a school with a high regard for history and tradition, honoring a past that did not include women. Because women were not included significantly at A&M until a few decades ago, it is not surprising that female students and faculty still are struggling to find a comfortable place at the University in 1998.

The bottom line is that there is a pitiful lack of female role models at A&M. Although, female enrollment continues to climb, there is no one for these new students to look to for advice or guidance. The needs and values of women at A&M are not reflected or validated on this cam-

pus — not in the administration, not in the faculty, not in the traditions, not in the Corps.

A&M flaunts its recent increase in women's enrollment, but makes little effort to contribute to a more female-friendly environment on campus. This does not mean more flowers planted across campus or pretty pink Corps uniforms.

It simply means that it is time to acknowledge the advancements and contributions women have made at A&M and to give women a chance to achieve all they are capable of without having to wade through a sea of good ol' boy bureaucracy and mentality.

Jennifer Jones is a senior psychology major.



MAIL CALL

Titanic subject matter deserves respect

In response to James Francis's article "Titanic seeks ultimate merit with regurgitated storyline,"

we need to remember that many people died in a terrible event that has changed the world.

The creators of the movie strived for the truth, and to remake even the smallest details. Everything from the recreation of paintings, look-alike rooms, how people died, rumors that were overheard on the decks, to the White Star Line china. *Titanic* was a brilliant remake of that cold night.

Even though I agree with Francis's view about *A Night to Remember* being a great movie, I disagree with it being "superior" to *Titanic*. *Titanic* showed emotions and experiences that the black and white movie did not.

The viewer, for the first time,

experiences the excitement, hopes, and faith of the passengers. Also the suicides, greed, and 1500 lifeless bodies. Yet, it's not about the magnitude of the movie, but that 2 miles down on the cold Atlantic floor is a gravesite.

Francis also said, "The focus on *Titanic* begins with the cast..." While the full cast was admirable with many nominations and 11 Oscars, director James Cameron demonstrated what the true focus was.

After winning for best picture he asked for a few seconds of silence for the lives lost on April 14, 1912.

Sometimes the best way of saying something is to say nothing at all. Maybe Francis should have a

moment of silence in prayer for the individuals and families that suffered on that historic night.

Kelly McClendon
Class of '98

College experience not just study, working
In response to April Tower's March 24 column:

Gee, could we not think up a decent topic that went against the grain, so we had to bash Spring Break? She stated that students need to "grow up" as they will "never again be given the opportunity to take this much time away from the daily grind of school and work." Of course they won't, that is the beauty of be-

ing a college student.

College is not all about studies, but rather the all around experience of college activities that also include Spring Break.

Students should be mature enough to understand the value of time management and plan accordingly. If that means they have a little more work to complete the week after spring break, then that is the price you pay. It is ridiculous to say you could have used the week to "get in some extra hours at work or get ahead on a project that is coming up". Of course you could have. Or you could have could have removed yourself from school for a week, relaxed with friends in a location that ordinarily wouldn't go to and go a lit-

tle nuts. Relax Tower, you will have the rest of your life to be "mature and responsible."

Mike Marketos
Class of '95

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

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