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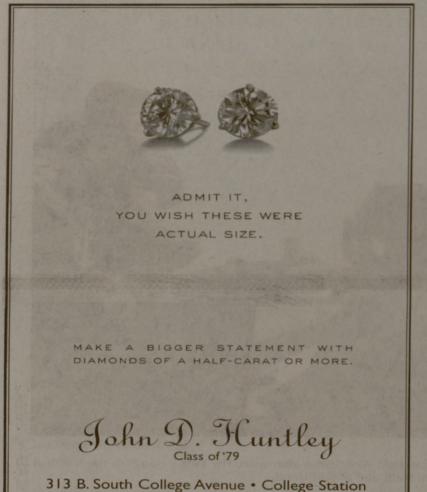
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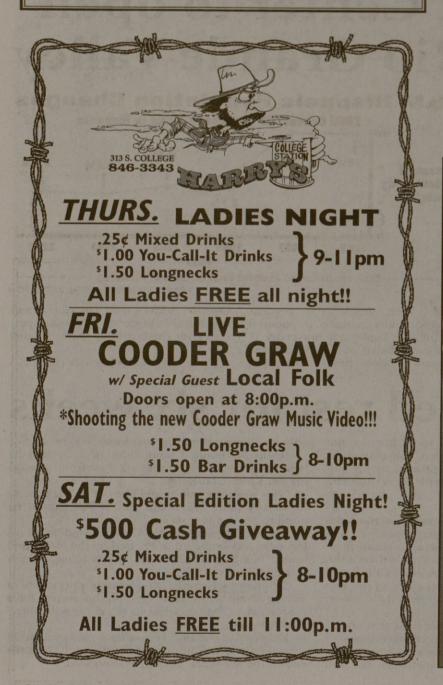
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Thursday, November 21, 2002

## Fish









by R. DeLuna



# Federal government stepping up recruiting on college campuses

(AP) — Before getting her bachelor's degree in business and accounting last June from the College of Charleston, Alicia Valentino took a look at the private-sector job market — and opted for graduate school.

But barely six months later, Valentino may change course. With federal agencies stepping up campus recruiting because of openings in the Homeland Security agency and an anticipated wave of retirements, Valentino is considering getting a job with the government while pursuing her degree.

"The pay is not that bad with the federal government, and with the private sector being what it is, I think I'd rather have a stable job, especially in accounting, where you could wind up working for

a WorldCom or Enron," said Valentino, who interviewed with four federal agencies at a recent job fair.

Despite complaints about the length of the application process, many students are giving government employment a serious look

The Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit group that promotes civil service careers, said that with at least 50 percent of the existing federal work

force eligible for retirement by 2007, there should be more than enough positions to go around. The partnership estimates the government needs to fill Students and career counselors — hurting from

consecutive years of sub-par hiring - are happy to see the government on campus.

"The poor students in college this year, everyling changed during their college education. They came in at a high, economically, and they're leaving with all the rules changed," said Nancy Cathcart, a career counselor with Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

Recruiters from federal law enforcement agencies showed up at Champlain to interview criminal justice majors at an October job fair. Other schools that have held career fairs this fall, including Charleston and Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, report government interest in students with an array of majors.

The State Department has intensified its recruiting since the Bush administration took over, said Diane Castiglione, director of recruiting.

"In the Foreign Service we change our positions every couple of years, so it gives you the best of both worlds: You can get a new job without losing a job," Castiglione said. "You have that stimulus of change, excitement and new challenges and interesting work with the stability of not having to go out and find a new employer every couple of years.

The government is getting help in its recruiting effort from the Partnership for Public Service, seeded last year with a \$25 million contribution from a private lawyer grateful for past work with the Justice Department.

So far, the partnership has brought 380 col-

Diane Castiglione

In the Foreign Service we

change our positions every

couple of years, so it gives you the

best of both worlds: You can get a

director of recruiting for the State Department

new job without losing a job.

leges and universities together with 60 agencies.

The group's president, Max Stier, said that in addition to providing long-term stability, government jobs — 85 percent of which are outside of Washington — also appeal to a mindset created by the terrorist attacks

"Young people today are looking for an opportunity to make a difference rather than to make a dollar," he said.

But for the government to appeal to more young people, it must shorten the application process and the time from the hiring date to the start of work, said Brenda Davis, director of career development at Alabama A&M University in Normal, Ala. Civil service examinations and security checks slow down the process, she said.

Shirley Lecque, a senior at Charleston interested in an accounting career with the Air Force Auditing Agency, agreed with Davis.

"The application is so long, it's like reading a book," said Lecque, drawn to a government job by tales of classmates with accounting degrees now working as bank tellers.

Acknowledging that gaps of up to six months between a job offer and the start of employment pose a "tremendous problem," Stier said the partnership is working with the government to accelerate the process.

# Center

Continued from page

THE BATTUR

figures for Hispanic e were as high as 10 pm the late 1990s, according Office of Institutional and Planning.

This center will crea to Texas A&M, as well excellent opportunity the University," Scott

"The campus is ing steps made in the tion for Vision 2020 foundational goals increasing diversity promise of makin school for all Texans to Highw said Miguel Aguilar, of the Hispanic Pre Council and a senior me engineering technolog utions.

This won't fix the but will definitely imp Hispanic population on o Aguilar said.

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ent but The student centers w "I was tially planned only acco pping 1 geographic areas of the sta to a dit in the long run, the Uni ad afte will strategically place no uck was dent centers to attract i Vest s students, including the indows would not normally A&M an option, Perry irks and

Another prospective center is set to open Antonio this spring, hes

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

## German doctor conducts public autopsy in London

LONDON (AP) - In a grussile spectacle reminiscent of they Victorian past, a Ceman de defied threats of pros Wednesday night and control a public autopsy in an at a charging spectators \$19alte Compounding the contr

over the first public autop Britain in 170 years, a T work said it would broad edited footage.

Professor Gunther von H began the post-mortemini 500 people in London's East a district whose tourist attract include the Tower of London Jack the Ripper walks. In the a who were asked by Scotland to attend after a gover inspector warned the auth could be illegal.

Scotland Yard had refused say whether it would stop autopsy before a crowd and camera crew at the exhibit center in Brick Lane where Hagens has created a sensa with his Body Worlds exhib of preserved human con some dismembered or cutto



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