

U MAIL

Bingeing out of boredom

I am writing in response to your article on binge drinking ["Last Call" Jan./Feb. 1995]. The reason that there is so much drinking on college campuses is that there is nothing else to do on the weekends. You can make the argument that

you need to be involved in clubs or organizations, but why become involved in something that you really do not feel passionate about?

Colleges need to sponsor more activities on Friday and Saturday nights to cut down on both underage and binge drinking. There is nothing wrong with drinking occasionally and moderately, and obviously you cannot expect a college to come up with something for you to do every weekend, but when drinking occurs at the rate it does on campuses, something needs to be done immediately.

Louis Winner, freshman, U. of Kentucky

A streak of genius

I just received the Jan./Feb. issue and must agree that the best picture is [that of the] student strikers at the U. of Virginia. I love the picture as much as you guys do. If there are more pictures of that event, please, please, post them in the next issue.

JulioBou@aol.com

Reach out and cyberdate someone

Enjoyed your article ["Reach Out & Date Someone," Jan./Feb. 1995], but I have another solution to long-distance relationships. Sending e-mail to each other is a great idea, costs nothing and takes only a little time to type. I like phone calls as much as the next person, but when prices start to rise, it's time to make a change. You can

even get on-line with your "lover" and communicate just like you would on the phone. The only problem might be a few misspelled words.

Amy M. Peters, sophomore, Slippery Rock U., Pennsylvania

Dissing dominant deities

I was offended by the article, "The Last Temptation of an Editor" [Nov./Dec. 1994]. Had anyone written an editorial ridiculing the Koran or the Hindu scriptures, accusations of cultural insensitivity would have been heard across college campuses. But because the object of this column was the Judeo-Christian culture dominant in the United States, this insulting piece was considered funny. I suggest that you actually read and study the Bible before you write your next column about it. You might find it enlightening.

Kimberly Graves, senior, U. of Oklahoma

Hallelujah!

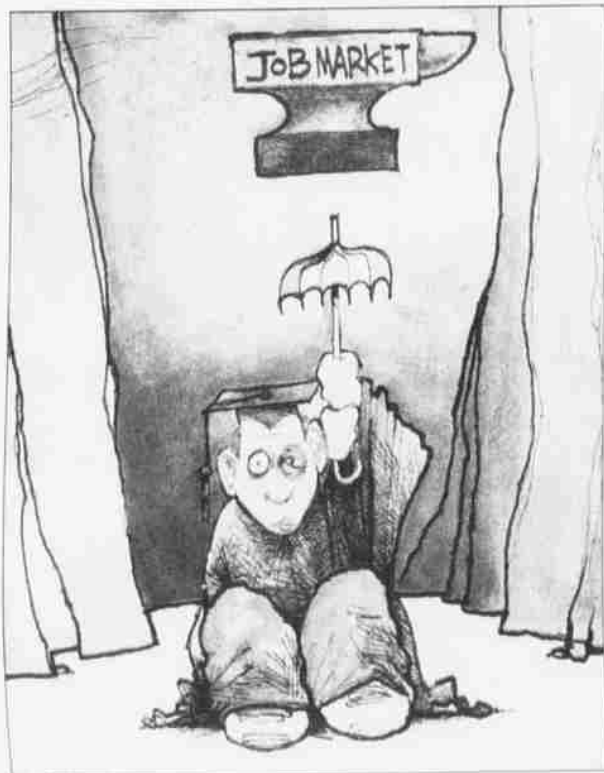
I found the article ["The Last Temptation of an Editor"] to be very entertaining. I know that it probably went over like a lead balloon here in the Bible Belt, but I thought you should know that at least one person enjoyed it.

Louise Crocker, financial aid counselor, Georgia Southern U.

Coed contradiction

The article "Coed or Dead" [Nov./Dec. 1994] brings to light a larger problem on our campuses: reverse discrimination. In the case of Middlebury College in Virginia, I wonder if they have a women's center. If so, isn't this a single-sex organization? What about the international student center and the Afro-American student center — aren't these exclusive and therefore discriminatory? Equality is equality, folks. Shouldn't society treat all types of discrimination equally?

Chris L.G. Hendriks, senior, Louisiana State



C.S. Harding, Daily Wildcat, U. of Arizona

U VIEWS

Student Opinion Poll

Grad school or a job?

SCHOOL	JOB
60%	27%
BOTH 8%	
NEITHER 3%	
NOT SURE 2%	

Graduate school, because I need my parents to support me for as long as possible. **Chris Guerrero, freshman, U. of Texas, San Antonio** • A [bachelor's] degree is not as effective as it was, say, five years ago. In the competitive world, you need to get all you can. **James Wilcox Jr., grad student, Norfolk State U., Va.** • Neither. I figure I'll just roam the earth, like Kane in *King of the Hill*. **Shawn Whittington, freshman, Southern Illinois U.** • A bachelor's degree is about as good as a high school diploma was back in the '60s. If you want to be competitive in today's market, you're going to need to have a master's degree. **John Noullet, grad student, West Virginia U.** • A job, because I really don't want to be at college. My parents are making me. **Tim Carter, freshman, Kansas State U.** • I got a job after college, and I decided that I wasn't going to make any money and it wasn't fun getting up at six in the morning. So I went to graduate school. **Rochelle Rosen, grad student, Florida International U.** • As a member of Generation X, it is a logical extension of my education to go to graduate school and to try to get more education — to still make less money than my parents. **Doug Bolster, senior, Indiana U. of Pennsylvania**

This Month's Question

Race relations on campus: Do you think they're getting better or worse?

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Being the black sheep

If you're graduating in May, chances are the pep talks and advice on how to land a job have begun. In parents and professors' eagerness to help with your résumés, cover letters and interviews, many forget the key element: you.

It's obvious. After all, who else could you be? But I've met far too many people who try to cram their life onto one sheet of white paper and stick themselves into suits that camouflage their personality. This behavior is reinforced by the classroom visit from the job placement officer. It's your first lesson on how to be anybody but who you really are. "Ladies, make sure to wear a skirt." "Men, no flashy ties." "Don't list extraneous work experience."

Women, forget the skirts. Men, wear the cartoon ties. And include any experience you've got — career-related or not.

A friend put on her résumé: *At age 9, learned how to ride a bike and toss a newspaper at the same time.* In one clever sentence, it says that she's known hard work since grade school. It's not just rolling a newspaper every day at 5 a.m. — it's the beginning of a solid work ethic that employers really groove on.

Another friend was bummed because she sent out more than 600 résumés and heard back from only a handful. News flash, Rambo: If they're a number to you, you're a number to them. Think about it. Besides a .00065 difference in GPA, what separates you from the flock? ("Oh, I remember Sid. The kid in the blue suit, right?")

In all of this pre-graduation fury, advice is thrown around about the "shoulds." You *should* include this in your cover letter. You *should* never interview in chartrouse.

Follow the shoulds and you'll discover 3,762 ways to repackage yourself without capitalizing on your best commodity: you. Employers want to see more of you than anyone is willing to admit. I can't explain why the real world is treated like such a mystery in college, but once you're in it, you'll discover that it runs relatively the same. Challenging, boring, up, down and everything in between.

In a world where everyone's qualifications are so similar, employers are begging for something different. However you choose to express that is up to you. Take heed of the fact that you have something great to offer. Don't be a sheep.

■ Aimee Rinehart, Assistant Editor

Tell us what you think. Letters to the Editor, **U. Magazine**, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 820, Los Angeles, CA 90067; fax to (310) 551-1659; e-mail to umag@well.sf.ca.us or Umazine@aol.com. All senders: Include name, year, school and phone number. **Internet** users should include permission to reprint submissions. Letters should be less than 200 words. **U.** reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity.