

Preparing for your job search

This is the first column of a series that will be appearing in *The Rebel Yell* on a bi-monthly basis. The column is written by Brian Krueger, a nationally recognized job search author, and is designed to help college students in their job search.



Remember when you were a kid and everyone would ask you, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

It's interesting that in Western society we typically stop asking that question of our children after the age of about 10. So our last response was usually in the doctor/lawyer/president-of-the-U.S. category.

Many students stumble through high school and college taking courses merely because the subject matter sounds interesting. We then establish a college major centered around these courses. When we get close to graduation, we anxiously hope that there is actually someone out there that is interested in what we have to offer (although we're probably still not exactly sure what that is).

If this doesn't sound like you, if you planned your entire academic career with a specific end product in mind, if you have fully researched and mapped out your career, if you know your target market and are fully prepared for it—good for you.

But you are the exception (and will undoubtedly have a definite advantage over your competition). Unfortunately, many college graduates have less of a ready answer to the "what do you

want to do?" question than most 10-year-olds. And it's not the kind of question you want to be hearing from Aunt Mabel on graduation day. Especially if you don't have a good answer.

Please note: if you are not able to answer the "what do you want to do?" question, do yourself a big favor—take a step back from the "I gotta find a job" hype, and go seek advice and counsel from your campus Career Services and Placement Department or with your professors or advisors within your major.

Know what you want to do before you go out trying to find it. And in seeking out your dream job, seek out a job you will love. There are far too many people in today's work world who are grinding away at work they detest just to earn the paycheck. Do what you love and the paycheck will become secondary.

The first step of job search prep is to have a planned path to follow in seeking your new career. If you have no plan for where you are going, nay road will take you there.

Don't start off your work life in a blind or random direction. Don't do a "walkabout" (a la Crocodile Dundee) in your career and life. It just doesn't work.

This column is written toward organizing and managing job search for college students. It is designed to benefit all who read it, since it provides information that will form the foundation of a successful job search.

But when you're ready to begin square one of your job search, make sure you're at square one, not square zero. Know what you're searching for before you begin your search.

Everyone (from freshmen to seniors to grad students) will find information of value in this column. We'll dig into the hard-core realities of resumes, cover letters, research, networking, job fairs, Internet job search, interviewing, job offers and negotiation. And the college students who are the most successful in their job search are typically those who are the best prepared.

So if you are still in the first years of your college career, do your homework in advance—clip this column and save it in a file labeled "Jobs." That way you'll have a variety of topics there to refer to when you need them.

And if you are in your final year, make sure you know what you are searching for first, then use this column as your insider's guide to the job market.

Next column: Confessions of an Entry Level Hiring Manager—Part One

Brian Krueger is Hiring Manager for Keane, Inc. an information systems consulting firm and a nationally recognized job search author.

Found: a Rebel with a cause

Student Volunteer Ingrid Millard donates her time to help Las Vegas' littlest homeless



Ingrid Millard

BY DAVID DRUDGE
STAFF WRITER

In the last 10 years Las Vegas has not only experienced a general population explosion, it has also experienced a growth in its homeless population; in particular, its homeless children population.

Last year, there were about 700 homeless children enrolled in various grade levels throughout the Clark County School District, and this year district officials expect that number to rise.

Many people express a desire to help, but don't know how to begin. Ingrid Millard, a UNLV junior, has found the answer and is making a big difference to the Las Vegas homeless community.

An active member of Kids for Homeless Kids for the past three years, Millard is currently its junior advisory committee president.

Kids for Homeless Kids is a non-profit organization with members from ages nine to 20. Its purpose is to encourage, promote, sponsor and develop opportunities for homeless children through fund raising activities, charitable contributions and donations.

Recently Millard presented a check for \$10,000 to the Clark County School Board to fund Summer Sensations, a six-week summer school program for about 45 homeless children attending C.P. Squire Elementary School.

The money was raised from the proceeds of a fashion show produced by Kids for Homeless Kids last year. "We went through a bunch of ideas on how our group could help and finally settled on the Summer Sensation program concept," Millard said. "We were involved in naming the program, and developing its goals."

"We hired a teacher from the school district who taught a thematic group of courses, and linked them with field trips to see how the knowledge is applied in real life."

Millard spelled out why programs like these are so important. "Shelters close and open at certain times, and these types of programs help keep the kids off the street and out of the sun, especially during the summer when it's particularly hard on little kids."

"These kids, along with their families are asked to leave the shelter at an early time, and then they can't get back in until late in the afternoon," Millard explained. "Mothers with babies and the elderly can stay in the shelters, but the kids in the middle of the

road have to hit the road. It's hot outside and dangerous. So this was a really good program to help them out."

This year's Summer Sensation program ended up with money left over which Millard plans to put to good use. "We gave the teacher (who asked not to be identified) ideas on what we wanted and she developed a plan from that. She got a lot of things donated, which was really resourceful. We ended up with \$5,000 left over which will be going toward the Safe Key program."

Safe Key is a Clark County School District program which provides after-school activities for both homeless children as well as children with parents that are not home after school. "It helps them with their homework, gives them a snack and gives them a place to go before going back home to the shelter," Millard added.

Kids for Homeless Kids will be holding another fund-raising luncheon and fashion show in December at the Sahara Hotel's Congo room. The public is encouraged to attend. Clothes for the fashion show will be provided by Macy's, and the proceeds will fund next year's Summer Sensation program.

Millard does not expect programs such as the Summer Sensation to run year round because of the high cost in funding these types of programs. But she hopes to generate enough money to keep summer programs such as this running during the entire summer.

"The more money we can raise the longer the programs can go on," Millard said optimistically. "Instead of going for only six weeks this year, maybe next year this program can go throughout the whole summer. That would be great."

Another program that Millard and Kids for Homeless Kids are trying to get off the ground is a cookbook for retail sales. "We just started this and are currently looking at how much participation from the community we can generate."

It is Millard's hope to get

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The fresh air out there

UNLV's Outdoor Adventures can keep you occupied (naturally)

BY STEPHANIE RUSHIA
STAFF WRITER

It's the same old thing every weekend: wait in line an hour or so for the privilege of entering a smoky black box, and spend another hour or two trying to get someone's attention of the opposite sex. Who's going to take anyone seriously who hangs out in nightclubs?

Well, now you have an alternative for the fast-fading Vegas club scene. UNLV Outdoor Recreation Center offers a different kind of "thing" every weekend.

Biking, kayaking, hiking, or rafting are a few of the adventures the center offers for nominal fees, ranging anywhere from \$60 for some weekend excursions to \$580 for other

week-long expeditions.

The open air is fresh and free, and there's no waiting around with the dateless and desperate.

The Black Canyon

Three trips are still available for this semester. Some extraneous highlights: eat at a chuck wagon barbecue on the Hualapai Mountains Horseback Trip, attend a Halloween costume ball during the Moab Mountain Bike Festival, and soak tired muscles in a hot spring by way of the Black Canyon Canoe Trip.

The canoe trip is the most popular weekend adventure; at \$60, it includes use of canoes, gear, guides and dinner.

Students, like senior communications major Jenny Snider, enjoy the peaceful atmosphere afforded by outdoor adventures like Black Canyon. "It's a great way to get out of the city for a day," she said.

Early reservations are recommended, especially for this one, and are required one and two weeks in advance for all others. Check schedules for deadlines on each trip.

From desert hills to Baja's sea

Spring semester's scheduled events carry over the Black Canyon Canoe Trip, and another horseback trip, this time at Desert Hills Ranch in Arizona. There will be cross-country skiing in Utah, camping and hiking in the depths of the Grand Canyon and whitewater rafting in California.

For those who really want to get out of town, Outdoor presents the sparkling waters, towering arches, sea caves, ocean blow-holes, and secluded beaches of Cabo Punta Banda in Baja, Mexico.

Just bring a photo ID to cross the border and the Baja Sea Kayak Adventure will take care of the rest. The package includes equipment, instruction, and all meals.

What, no TV?

UNLV Outdoor Recreation wants to "organize the outdoors" for novice adventurers and experts alike. Treks always begin at the university, so individual vehicles are left

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