

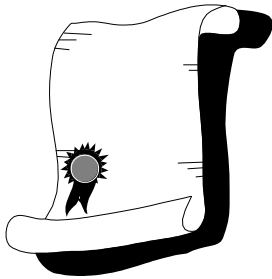
The



Growl

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A Diploma By Any Other Name...

Dr. Chabot, professor of liberal arts

What is this nonsense? Students having to take classes in Shakespeare and western civilization and international relations. Nonsense! What students need are specific skills with which to go out to get jobs, knowledge with which to pay off their student loans, not bubbles of hot air some liberal arts instructor is forcing students to pay attention to. Right? Well, maybe. Simply glancing through today's newspapers in the library, I find a quote from Shakespeare ("Methinks not fair Mercutio"), a reference to children lacking control of their id, and the belief that Northern "carpetbaggers" are once again trying to take over the South. Such references are a common part of newspaper articles discussing everyday life in American culture, but few know what they mean and "bleep" over the words. As a liberal arts instructor, I like to think that my students can not only digest the information but throw it back as well – not as over-educated, pointy-headed hacks but as mature critical thinkers who take the subject of life seriously.

When you go for the job interview or apply for that "lateral movement" within your company, you will probably bring up your college degree. Your degree is a symbol of the person you are, not just a list of the things you can do on the computer. When you graduate, you will be expected to think critically about aspects of your chosen field as well as the larger society, perceive the relationship between world history and present events, use shorthand references to literature to communicate complex ideas, and understand the context behind the social events that daily make the headlines. Your employers will expect all of this, whatever your major. So, when you finally make the short list for the job of accountant or office manager or legal assistant, don't be surprised if the interview panel asks if you think Greenspan is a modern-day Cassandra, what you would do if someone with an uncontrolled libido is roaming the office, or how the Indonesia problem is going to affect business. If all employers want is for a specific task to be taken care of, they will hire a temp or buy another computer. What they need for those high-paying and upwardly mobile positions are aware and imaginative people who can think beyond specific tasks and personal needs. Be assured that when your company's high-paid consultant suggests that some amount of *verstehen* is required to most efficiently make use of your managerial skills in the office, your liberal arts courses at Humphreys will be there to see you through to the next promotion.



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Ms. Bauermeister, professor of liberal arts

Are ozone depletion and global warming the same problem? Why is biodiversity valuable? Why does the media suggest that we are overusing antibiotics? Is the world really becoming overpopulated?

Three of these questions have definitive answers; one does not. To learn the answers to these questions and many more, register for Environmental Science (SCI 130) on Thursday nights during the summer quarter. We will read a text and read from current newspapers, magazines, and the Internet. We will see some videos from a series called "Race to Save the Planet."

Come join us to learn about how mankind fits into the biosphere and how we can help preserve it for our progeny.



A Whole New World

Laura Sturmer, Student Advocate

Hi, my name is Laura Sturmer. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the student advocate on the Academic Council. I have been attending Humphreys College since September 1997. I am presently working in the library and attending classes at night. I realize that going to school causes stress in a person's life.

You must learn to juggle your personal life with the pressures of attending classes and doing homework on a daily basis. The moments of relaxation soon become a memory as your lifestyle drastically changes. You are now a part of a whole new world – a world set apart from the one you were used to, a life which has changed from pure enjoyment to a mad rush to get things accomplished. Relax.

You are on the road to success. A road that will eventually lead to a sense of accomplishment. As a student advocate, I am here to help in any way I can. Should you ever have any problems or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I have a mailbox in the front office, or you can come by the library. Do not be afraid to express your opinions. Your experience at Humphreys College should not be a stressful one, but rather an enjoyable one. Good Luck!



Don't Be Afraid To Toot Your Own Horn!

Pam Knapp, Placement Director

If you are looking for a job, you must be willing to become your own salesperson. This means you need to promote your skills and abilities. If you don't, no one will ever know what a great catch you are.

Did you know that six out of ten people do not get the job because they do not sell themselves? Here are some examples of ways you can become your best advocate and land your next job (or at least nail the interview!).

"Tell me about yourself." This is the way many interviewers begin. It is crucial for you to have a solid and sincere answer to this commonly asked question. Talk about your accomplishments, skills, and abilities. Do NOT ramble on about your childhood, family, or your last boss.

Show some enthusiasm and make sure you are actively engaged in the interview. Give clear and animated answers to the questions. Look the interviewer(s) in the eye. Sit up straight and on the edge of your seat. Don't be afraid to ask a relevant question early on in the interview. This will show your involvement in the process. And, most important – SMILE!

Show how and what you can do for the company and the position. Make sure you clearly understand the skills needed to succeed in the job, and then share your abilities with the employer. Explain how you would tackle assignments to get the job done.

Show that you are a team player. This term may seem over-used, but employers are leery of people who overly exaggerate with "I did this" and "I did that." You can toot your own horn without being a bragger. When possible, say, "We did this."

Turn potential trick questions into positives. Many employers like to ask, "What are some of your weaknesses?" DO NOT jump into your top 10 list of what you don't like or what you can't do! Instead, turn this question into a positive by saying, "When I start a project, I like to finish it. Some people say I'm a workaholic because I really strive to accomplish all tasks before the end of the workday. I understand this is not always possible, but I tend to become really driven, or what some people call stressed-out, if the job isn't complete." Make sure you are sincere, as the interviewer can tell if you are just giving him/her a "line."

Be prepared with a closing statement, but do not make it sound rehearsed! Summarize your strengths and explain why you should be hired and how you will benefit the company. And, don't forget to ask for the job! Remember the old saying, "If you don't ask, you won't get..."

Special Note: *June 3 is Pam Knapp's last day at Humphreys College, where she has been a respected employee for 14 years. Her dedication to the college and her infectious enthusiasm will be sorely missed. We wish Pam well in her new ventures and adventures. Thank you, Pam, and good luck.*