

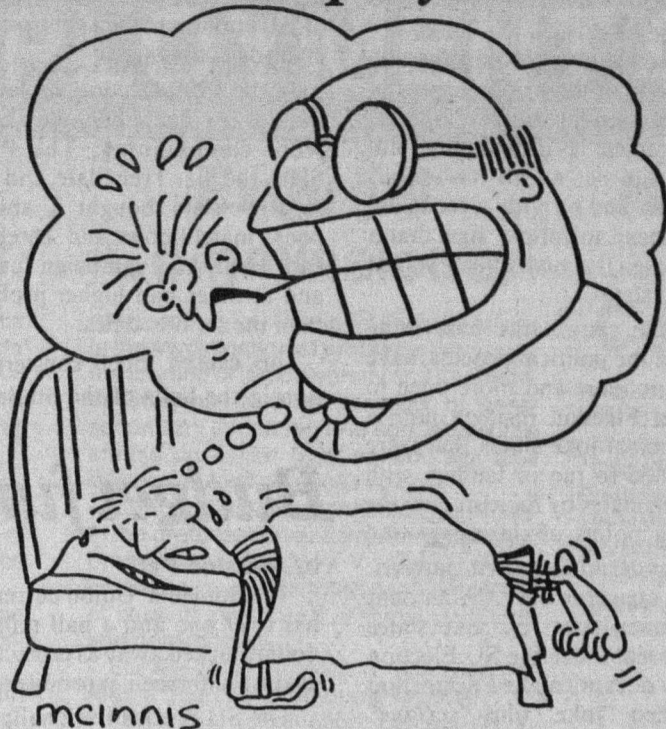
Outsmart the employer

by Jennifer Yip Choy

"The trick is to outsmart the interviewer, or so I thought. I was well prepared for the most unusual hypothetical questions. I had even prepared pat answers to the typical interview questions about my strengths and weaknesses. You see, I am a good talker. Except, I was outsmarted. The first question this interviewer asked me was, "What is the most recent project you have worked on? Describe the part you played, outlining your achievements and highlighting what you consider to be the most noteworthy experience of the project." I sat for what seemed like an eternity before I could formulate an answer and then I think I said something fairly intelligent and intelligible; but I'm not quite sure."

This experience is not uncommon. Many students do not prepare thoroughly enough for their interviews. Questions come in many different forms and may be unfamiliar to you. The purpose of the questions is usually the same and the intent is always to find out as much about you as possible. Preparing for an interview is not simply rehearsing questions as you would do for exams. No! You have to be prepared. You have to know yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, your accomplishments, your failures, what you like and what you dislike; and in every instance, you must be prepared to substantiate what you say by referring to specific examples taken from your past experiences.

Most employers want you to focus on what you have already done, what you have already experienced in class and in your social life. When you are asked to describe a past experience, the interviewer is not asking out of idle curiosity, but wants to hear



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how you have handled a particular situation. Often, the connection is made between what you have already done and what will be required of you in the job. If, for example, you are able to demonstrate clearly that you have dealt constructively with a conflict situation, the interviewer will consider that in all probability you may be able to deal fairly effectively with a conflict situation in the work setting. You may only be asked a question like that if the behaviour is relevant to the job which you will be required to do.

Knowing why you wish to work for an employer is also essential. No one wants to feel that you, the candidate for the job, have little interest in the company to which you are applying. Even if you feel desperate to get a job, don't kid yourself into believing that anything will do — not if you are really considering the rest of your life. There must

be elements about the job or the organization which are appealing to you. You should be able to give a reasonably positive answer to the question, "What attracts you to this company or to this job?" If you really have nothing to say, think again about why you are even wasting your time and the other person's.

Many students say that they will apply for any and every job, just in case. That's a despairing attitude. Believe that you can choose as well as be chosen. This is the first step in your career life. To blunder will impact on your future career path. If you need help with determining what path you should follow, or how you should prepare for an interview, take advantage of the Students' Union supported service on campus, CaPS. Don't believe that you are smart. Make sure that you are.

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action that is necessary for an open minded approach to an idea. That is, they must consider and view the alternative, not simply dismiss it at the wink of an eye. Not considering or testing the alternative possibilities and not scrutinizing their own ideas is what makes religious people with "strong convictions" narrow minded. If all, or most, of the religious people stopped worshipping/praying to their respective gods for the 10 years I suggested, and if after that time the world's oceans haven't dried up or the words "yes John there is a GOD" aren't etched into the surface of the moon in large friendly letters, then I think it would be safe to assume there's no god watching over us, at least the sort I mentioned. I'm not well versed in any of the world's religions but I'm quite sure, according to current views, that any one of the gods arising from the religions I mentioned, would be less than unhappy should the vast majority of its little living toys suddenly stop sucking up to it and would let us know in some god-like way.

I realize a global experiment of this sort is next to impossible as long as religious people such as Cam Bolzer have "strong convictions" occupying their minds rather than critical thinking but after more than 1000 yrs of global

domination by "strong convictions" that have led to the destruction of lives, property and progress, it's pleasant to think that such an experiment, if under-

taken, might help rid the human race of its mind malfunction called religion.

John Price
Science II

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