



Surf your way to a new career

BY JAKE MORLEY

"Students to learn job hunting tips using technology," declares CareerWizard's press release. For many of us, that's a welcome relief. A computer program for job hunting. After all, technology makes things easier, right? What could possibly be easier than popping a CareerWizard CD into your computer; surfing the World Wide Web for an hour or so; and landing yourself that \$250 000 a year dream job that will pay off your student loan? Well, as with most of the technological wonders out there today, the reality of the CareerWizard isn't quite that sunny.

Make no mistake, wrangling that first 9-to-5 job out there in the real world isn't easy. Any help is appreciated and CareerWizard offers some of that help. There are a number of informative essays on the CD, done by professionals. Many of these articles are truly helpful. If you'd rather sit in front of a computer than talk to an employment advisor in an office

this program is a good bet.

There are a number of up-to-date links on the homepage: <http://www.careerwiz.com/> and most technology related careers are advertised on the CareerWizard's homepage, or on newsgroups. Also, CareerWizard comes bundled with some handy, free software. For example the Day Timer program. This is helpful tool for time management. Finally, CareerWizard comes with 50 free hours of online time for AOL Canada (that's America On-Line Canada).

There is, of course, a catch to getting all the free stuff. The catch here is that the people who run CareerWizard aren't just concerned with hooking you up with corporate recruiters, they're also concerned with hooking advertisers up with you, the "impressionable consumer market," as it was so delicately put by CareerWizard's promoters Lasso Communications Inc. In order to make use of their web page, you must fill in a form, concerning your

consumption tendencies, which is then electronically whisked away to the marketing departments of various corporations.

Also, There are a few minor problems with the software. The first is that there's a discrepancy in the quality of the its advice. Much of it is useful, but some of it is not. One piece on surviving in your new job sounds like a how-to manual for gaining popularity in high school. Essentially, find the trendsetters and

try to develop a relationship with them.

The whole program is oriented towards corporate America. CareerWizard is not new information or a complete list of every job-hunting link out there. Although it refers to entrepreneurial enterprises there are no links to these businesses.

There are a couple of annoying little features with the program itself. The music is very blah and

comes back whenever you change sections, even after it has been turned off. The program does not readily support multi-tasking; so you can't do your physics assignment and have a game of Solitaire at the same time.

Don't expect CareerWizard to suddenly rocket you from a B.A. to the VP position at Microsoft. Make use of it for your job hunt, take the advice that seems good, but don't put all your eggs in this basket.

STUDENT PROFILE

A critical review of the mega-class

BY JENNY AINSLIE

Name: Stephanie Scott

Age: 18

Program: First year, BSc.

Career Goal: To be an architect and eventually own a business.

Extracurricular Activities: Volleyball, basketball, part-time employee at YMCA

Gazette: What is your lifelong Philosophy?

Scott: Work hard, but always make sure you take time out to have fun.

What do you think is the best thing about Dal?

Diversity; the opportunity to meet so many different people.

What is the worst thing about Dal?

It's a little more impersonal than I expected.

You're in Biology 1000.

What do you think of the mega-class?

It has its good points and bad points.

Did you expect the classes to be this large when you first applied to Dal?

No...But I knew about the size of the class when I registered.

Can you hear the professor in such a large room?

Yes. His microphone sometimes goes out, but he always fixes it.

Are the students loud?

No, everyone's quiet. He

nervous there's something wrong with you.

Overall, what's your opinion of the change?

It's an experiment. I think the benefits for the first year students are quite high. If people come predisposed with the idea that they're not going to like it, it makes it more difficult.

Are there any other student-related issues that concern you?

Well, tuition is too damn high, and it's continued to increase. The average person has difficulty sending their child to university, and students who work are at a disadvantage.

Another thing I find discouraging is the concept that you're in university to train for a job...we're trying to make you a better person...to teach you to think.

[MacRae] only gave us one rule ... only let one person talk at a time. Everyone has been really good.

Are there visual aids and can you see them?



Yes. They're huge. The visual aids are really good.

What are the bad points?

Hmmm, I probably wouldn't ask a question [in the Cohn]. But then again, in a class of 150, I don't feel comfortable asking questions.

Are there people who ask questions?

There are about five people ... and they're always the same people.

Does the prof encourage you to participate?

Yeah, he's an awesome prof. I'm not just saying that because this is going to be printed.

How would you describe the lecture style?

Good. He talks sort of to us, not at us. He's always making jokes and trying to get us involved.

Would you ask a question outside of class?

Yeah, he's really approachable.

Has he stated when you could reach him?

Mm-hmm. I think he has specific office hours.

Do you think the professor likes teaching a class this size?

Yeah, he seems like he's really good in front of crowds. He's really funny ... he cracks jokes and he never seems intimidated by the number of people.

Last year, they discussed having the class at Park Lane Cinemas. Would that have influenced your decision to take the class?

No, because I need to take Biology, but it would have been a bother.

PROFESSOR PROFILE

A Professor's thoughts

BY JENNY AINSLIE

Tom MacRae has been a professor at Dalhousie University for seventeen years. At 49, he teaches Biology 1000 and Biology 2020. He has served two 6 month terms as acting Chair of the Biology Department. He presently serves as an undergraduate honours advisor and supervisor to both undergraduate and graduate students. He received a BSc. at Mount Allison University and continued with his MSc. and PhD. at the University of Windsor.

Gazette: What is your lifelong philosophy?

MacRae: Respect other people and treat them the way you'd want to be treated.

What do you think is the best thing about Dal?

The students as people. They're usually easy to interact with, to get along with and to teach. I like the dual opportunity to do research and teach.

What do you feel is the worst thing about Dal?

The financial shortcomings...It is my impression that the administration and the professors...don't seem to trust one another and have little respect for one another.

You're the present lecturer in Biology 1000. Do you think the mega-class is a good idea?

Well, it's a big class; no doubt about it. We were already teaching sections of 200 to 250 [students]...now we have a better venue, better projection and a better environment [than Dunn 117].

What are the positive aspects of the class?

It brings everyone together for a joint experience...everybody's

getting the same information. We can put in the people that are best qualified to teach the sections they're teaching...The people teaching are thinking more about their style...[so] that their show is better. Also, we've freed up more professor hours for other things. One thing that's come out of that are the workshops we've set up for Biology 2020. I would not have time to do that if I were giving six hours of lectures a week [in Biology 1000]. It's a tradeoff.

Are there any down sides to the mega-classes?

The down side is it's quite impersonal. It makes the adjustment for undergraduates coming in harder.

Do you attend laboratories for your classes?

I very seldom attend laboratories. I've always worked with very good instructors, so my being there would be sort of redundant.

When can the students get help from you?

The door's open for the students all the time. I find that I'll spend a lot of time in here with students on a one to one basis, ... time equivalent to two or three laboratory times. By not going to the labs, I have time to do that.

Do you think performance will change in terms of grades?

I think there's actually potential for them to get better because we're more conscious of the fact that we have to be with them [the students] in smaller groups.

Does the class size intimidate you?

The adrenaline is running. I'm certainly...tense before I give a lecture, and it's enhanced on the stage...If you're not going in there

E-mail at Dalhousie

Dalhousie University provides comprehensive internet services at no additional cost to all students. There are labs around campus where students can access their account. Campus Copy, in the Student Union Building; the Killam Library; and most faculty houses and student dormitories have labs which can access all Dalhousie servers. If you have your own computer and a modem, Dalhousie's dial-up number is 494-8000.

E-mail accounts can be acquired at the Computer Facilities and Operations office in the basement of the Killam Library. All you need is your student card and the ability to sign your name.

Some courses may require students to have an account through which parts of the curriculum can be administered. Make sure you check with your professor.

Write for the Gazette.
Room 312, Dalhousie Student Union Building
Meetings every Monday, 4:30 pm.