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College With an Eye to a Job

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DO YOU want a job after you graduate? Perhaps you think us a bit previous, but any of those who have so recently tracked down job scents will tell you that you can't start too soon to get ready for your career.

The whole purpose of this early-bird sermon is to impress upon you the importance of being someone worth employing after you walk self-consciously across the graduation platform. You may think that once you have a degree, jobs just fall in your lap. All right—you have a degree, but so have thousands of other college students and the number of graduates increases yearly. Almost any employer can find "a college graduate" without any trouble, but he's going to pay more and look longer for that diploma winner who has a little something extra to offer.

During the senior year it is customary for students to ask faculty members for letters of recommendation which can be presented to future employers. Because they have their reputations to maintain, it would be impossible for them to write false testimonials—building you up as the catch of the class—unless you merited such words of praise. They have to have something to recommend.

Your initial move should be to get acquainted with the faculty members as quickly as possible, especially those in your own department, after you've selected your major. You'll want to shy away from the teas or dinner parties when your dormitory entertains faculty members, but if you do, you'll be missing a plain and simple opportunity.

As for the faculty in your department—they're your professional associates. They're willing and anxious to have you be a credit to their instruction, but how can they do their part for you if you don't meet them in the middle by trying to get acquainted?

Now that you've met everyone and feel quite at home, let's look into the grade book. Are you going to be a good student—or content just to get by? We know you hear a lot about grades not mattering in the long run—that the employer is interested in your personality and potentialities.

That's right, he is, but he's also interested in your ability to do a good job of whatever you tackle. While you're in school that's your vocation, and the record you make in this work goes down on the personnel sheet for anyone to see who's been impressed enough by your personal interview or application to delve further into the matter.

Some of you will and some of you won't be activities women. Some of us aren't built to be presidents and "pull strings," but we all like to have friends and work with them on some project of mutual interest. There's where the real value of collegiate activities enters the scene. Some of your closest friends will be found in your activities. Here you'll get a chance to practice this "getting along with others" we hear so much about.

Of course it had to crop out sooner or later and here it is—Experience. Since you have to start getting it some time, it might as well be now—or at least during summer vacations. It's not a bad idea to try getting a summer job along some line which is pertinent to your major. You get a chance to try it out—see if you'll be happy working in that field and learn some of the groundwork. Many of these temporary jobs develop into something permanent after graduation; then some of your apprentice work is done.

There are several pointers which aren't vitally important, but which add up in the sum total of your preparedness. Often you'll get an opportunity to meet some visiting lecturer or person outstanding in your own or allied fields. You can gain a lot by talking to these people—learning their viewpoints and standards. You might even interview some of them in their offices if you happen to be going through the city where they're located.

Please save your class notes—you've all heard that ancient one about the student who lost his college education when he lost his notebook, but you won't remember half of the technical information you once studied. Many girls have professional files where they keep class notes, articles, pamphlets and the like, alphabetized.

Check up on yourself honestly from time to time to be sure you're shaping yourself and your education into a tangible substance that can be truthfully and wholeheartedly recommended.