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Front Lines

Blaine Deutsch
Iowa State University

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FRONT LINES

Artist For Hire

As much as I hate to admit it, I'm nearing that stage of my life called "the real world." Unfortunately for me, this part will not be sponsored by MTV. I will not be supplied with a furnished studio apartment or all expense paid trips to the Bahamas. Instead, I'll be given a diploma and three words of encouragement: "Good luck kid!" From that point onward, my life is in my hands. It's up to me to find a job, pay insurance and scout out the best Sunday softball league. The craziest part of this all is the fact that I'm not worried about it. Well... not any more at least.

I used to be scared. I would lie in bed until the wee hours of the morning wondering if I'll ever find a job. Where do I want to live? What do I want to do? Am I qualified to do anything? How will I make the payments on a new car? This continued for weeks and was driving me crazy.

Then, just as I felt the onset of a nervous breakdown, I heard a voice. No, this voice was not some sort of psychotic delusion. It was my Dad. He said something to me then that I will never forget, "Don't worry about it. You've got the rest of your life to decide what you want to do." Wow, the rest of my life. Considering the fact that I'm only 21, that's quite a while.

Dad went on to tell me lots of little Dad-isms, and the more he talked, the more it all made sense. There is nothing that says that I have stay with the first job I get. If I'm not happy with it, there are plenty of other jobs out there. All I have to do is look. He also mentioned that at any time I can change fields all together. If anyone should know this it's my Dad. In his mid-40s he changed professions entirely, and in the process, I watched him become a happier person than I had ever seen him be.

Through all of this, I learned that the most important aspect in life is a person's own happiness. There is no sense in doing something if it makes you miserable. Every one of us has control of our own life and it is up to us to decide what it is that is going to make us happy. Only you can know this for sure.

I've learned that you can't leave college with a sense of hopelessness. Realize all that life has to offer and enjoy it to the fullest. Go into a job search with an open mind. We are not expected to come out of college with a complete understanding of what we want to do with our lives. That's half the fun, finding out what really makes you happy.

Since my dad and I had our talk, I have come up with several ideas of what I would like to do, but unlike earlier, I'm not at all worried about my future. For the first time I feel confident about the fact that, eventually, I will find my dream job. Until that time, I'll just keep looking.

Thanks Pops.

- Blaine Deutsch, creative director