

## Somebody hire me, please

My mom was horrified when I chose my college major almost four years ago.

If I remember correctly, the conversation mainly consisted of her trying to persuade me to choose a career path with more job options, such as a teacher, like herself.



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While she wasn't exactly right, there is a lot left to be desired for a journalism graduate searching for that first dream job.

I recently started looking at classifieds, since I'm graduating in August, and I unfortunately discovered that journalism students are apparently supposed to magically graduate with at least five years experience if they even want to apply for an entry level reporter position.

Most job advertisements read like this: "Must have had five or more years of experience in a similar position at a previous publication."

The problem? This line ran in every advertisement I read, even when I used several online databases to search across the United States for a job.

How are journalism students supposed to get five years experience, besides working at a school publication, and have a job? They can't, unless they plan on becoming a professional student, in which case a journalism job will never pay off all of their school loans.

At IU Southeast, many majors give you all the experience required for a first job. Education majors have classroom visits and nursing majors work in hospitals to perfect their skills. Journalism majors have The Horizon, except that isn't enough anymore.

Even having a couple of internships under your belt would still nowhere equal the five years experience most publications are looking for.

As more and more newspapers expect reporters to have experience in photography, video and design, they may also want to think about training their new employees. After all, a lot of graduates may actually teach some veteran reporters a thing or two.

These newspapers are missing the main point, however. In reality, they need us more than we need them.

The Courier-Journal isn't exactly The New York Times so why are they so resistant to taking a chance on a graduate? If anything, a graduate can add creativity to a paper that needs new approaches. They also have an advantage on some stories by being able to connect to the younger generation's needs and wants in a newspaper. This will be especially important to consider as the majority of young readers turn to web news rather than the old paper copy. Papers need younger reporters if they want to keep people subscribing.

With the recent changes at The Courier-Journal, and probably many other news organizations, reporters are now required to be "on call" 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I think the title is continuous news reporter.

Many reporters who had been with these papers for years decided to call it quits due to the increasingly demanding schedule that a journalism job entails. Once again, this illustrates the need for graduate reporters because they are trainable, used to crazy sched-

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ules and will usually take the first job available so they can afford to buy groceries.

While I don't expect stiff job requirements to change overnight, I think publications need to think about where the future of journalism is heading.

If they don't embrace younger reporters, they're going to eventually run out of a staff.

Yes, recent graduates may start out a little shaky, but most of us are smart and it wouldn't take long to catch up. We've been educated about Photoshop, Quark XPress, AP Style, the inverted pyramid style and, most importantly, how to write.

If anything, having this information so recently put into our brains will help us recall it faster than reporters who have been on staff for 20 years and were never formally trained in those areas.

My point to all those papers out there is to give the new kid a chance. We are more motivated and experienced than you might think.

We're ready for you to hire us so we can work our asses off doing what we came to school for in the first place.

Oh yeah, and we also still need to buy groceries.

Golden Mean

## Big brother

A nation that was founded on freedom isn't as free as most people think. Sure, we have a lot of civil liberties. Those liberties are being threatened more and more every day, though.



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Just 45 days after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the USA PATRIOT Act was passed by Congress with little debate. At the time, everyone feared more attacks would happen. Not many people really thought about the consequences of letting a piece of legislation like this pass.

Each and every day, as Americans, we give up more of our privacy. Is it worth it to give up our privacy and our freedoms to feel safe? Some people might think so. I feel sorry for the people that feel this way. The more a person gives, the more it will be taken away.

I will admit, I even thought at one point that the PATRIOT Act might be a good idea. I thought, "Well, I really have nothing to hide, so why does it matter?" The thought was a fleeting one. I realized it's a chisel in a concrete block that could be whittled down to nothing.

In this day and age, it is easy to obtain information about anyone. Identity theft is more prevalent than ever. In most studies, the number of victims is about 10 million per year.

Personal information is everywhere. Credit cards are probably the biggest contributor to identity theft. That information can be taken right out of your mailbox. Credit card companies also sell information about what you buy to marketing agencies. If they know what you buy, then they know how to market to you.

Other companies have store credit cards or cards that give some sort of discount. Kroger and Speedway have cards that give discounts. While it seems like a great idea, they do this to know what it is you're buying. These cards track every purchase you make at every store location.

Just think of what kind of information the government can access about you if your local Target has this kind of information.

Under the PATRIOT Act, the government can collect information about what you study, your purchases, your medical history and even what you read. They don't even need probable cause to do so. They can also seize a wide variety of financial and business records.

As a society, we are constantly under surveillance. Security cameras are in most stores and public buildings. You may not even see them.

Through a simple Google search, the average Joe can stalk someone he just met. People willingly give out personal information on sites like MySpace and Facebook. They give credit card numbers to order items online and have access to their bank accounts. Not many people realize everything you do on the internet can be traced.

The PATRIOT Act also gives the government the right to monitor these internet activities. This is also done without probable cause.

If we give a little of our freedom now, we're giving away much of our freedom down the road.

How far will we go to feel secure? What freedoms do we want to give up in order to feel safe?

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## 'I completely agree'

Mr. Badger,

I just wanted to tell you that I'm a very big fan of yours ever since I've been attending IU Southeast. Being a Christian myself I completely agree with your reasons on converting to Christianity. Not only do we have ego's so gigantic that they could eat themselves, but we have overbearing senses of grandeur. You simply nailed the hammer on the head.... or nail... I applaud you Mr. Badger again and again. Keep up the good work and keep fighting the good fight.

Mason Anthony Allen

## Students uninterested

The students of IU Southeast may not know this, but last Monday, Jan. 22, their congressman was on campus. On the second floor of the library in fact. Congressman Baron Hill held a press conference to announce that the House of Representatives had just passed a bill lowering the interest rates on subsidized student loans. This change is expected to save students up to \$4,000. I don't know about anyone else, but an extra \$4,000 would make a huge difference in my life right now.

I was joined by only one other student, SGA President Jaarad Taylor. I understand that most IUS students were either in class or at work and could not attend. However, I was even more disappointed The Horizon was unable to send someone to cover this story. On a day when a front page story on our campus newspaper was about the carpeting in Hillside Hall, I would have hoped the chance to speak to a representative about important and relevant issues concerning our student body, would have inspired someone at The Horizon to attend.

This would be a great opportunity for students, faculty and members of the community to call their senators and ask them to support the Senate version of this bill.

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## The United States of America Empire

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it." — George Santayana, poet and humanist (1863-1952).



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In the year 98 A.D., Marcus Traianus became Trajan, emperor of the Senate and People of Rome. He ascended the imperial throne with an empire short on silver and gold. Years of decadence and extravagance has taken its toll on the ever growing nation. Trajan was facing a financial crisis of imperial proportions.

Fortunately for the new emperor, he had a plan. A very good plan.

"You see, the emperor knew of a place where he could get as much gold and silver as he and his empire could handle. All he had to do was to go conquering.

Dacia was a nation that had a long tradition of metal-working and had enjoyed a good trading relationship with Greece, then Rome. The relationship between Dacia and Rome was so good that during the reign of Caesar Augustus, he betrothed one of his daughters to a Dacian chief.

In modern-day Transylvania, Dacia had what they called the Metal Mountains, where the Dacians mined gold, silver, copper and lead. With these natural resources, the Dacian rulers became rich and the people were prosperous.

So in 101 A.D., Trajan sent 13 legions, totaling around 80,000 soldiers, to Dacia on a five-year campaign to conquer Dacia and slaughter its armies and its people.

The Dacian king Decebal killed himself rather than accept defeat.

Sixteen hundred tons of gold and 3,000 tons of silver were taken away and sent back to Rome in the nearly three centuries they occupied Dacia.

And Dacia, its language lost and its

culture destroyed ultimately became Romania: land of the Romans.

"If this were a dictatorship, it would be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I'm the dictator." — George W. Bush, Dec. 18, 2000.

In the year 2001 A.D., George Walker Bush became emperor...er, I mean, president of the United States of America. He ascended the presidency, after being selected by the Supreme Court, with a nation that was running short on oil.

Years of decadence and extravagance has taken its toll on the ever growing nation. The nation relied too much on Middle Eastern oil for their transportation and power needs.

Rather than support alternatives to oil and natural gas as his predecessor did, Bush, ever an astute oilman, decided that things like electric cars, solar and wind power were just too bad for business for him, his father, and his Texas billionaire buddies.

Fortunately for the new president, he had a plan. A very good plan. You see, the president knew of a place where he could get as much oil as he and his buddies could handle. All he had to do was to go conquering.

In December of 2000, before he officially became president, Bush and his co-ruler Dick Cheney drew a map of Iraq, whose oil reserves were second only to Saudi Arabia, which divided the oil-rich nation into zones that would be controlled by all of Bush's billionaire boys club buddies.

Iraq was a nation that had a long tradition of oil and natural gas drilling and had enjoyed a good trading relationship with America. The relationship between Iraq and America was so good that during the reign of Ronald Reagan, he sent his good friend Donald Rumsfeld to meet with the Iraqi chief Saddam Hussein. But the oil wealth of Iraq made Bush and his buddies envious.

So in 2003 A.D., Bush sent his army to invade Iraq, yadada yadada yadada.

"That's not the way the world really works anymore. We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality... We're history's actors... and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do." — Unknown Bush aide to Wall Street Journal reporter Ron Suskin, 2002.

There are those in power today who

*'You see, the president knew of a place where he could get as much oil as he and his buddies could handle. All he had to do was to go conquering'*

honestly believe that the United States is an empire that has the right to dictate terms to the rest of the planet. But a simple history lesson shows that every single empire that has ever risen on Earth had fallen when their reach overstretched their grasp.

In the 18th century, the British Empire ruled the waves. By the 20th century, she needed her American cousin to bail them out — twice!

Adolf Hitler proclaimed a "thousand-year reich" when he took power in 1933. It was over in 12 years.

Even the Soviet Union wanted to expand its territory to protect itself from the dreaded "imperial capitalists." But after a nearly 10-year excursion into Afghanistan, the country was bankrupt, the ruble collapsed, and so did the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

So what is the fate of the American Empire? Empires have emperors, dictators, generalissimos who dictate the terms and call all the shots. As president Bush said recently, "I'm the decider."

But America does not have an emperor. It has a president. The people elect him.

If the people choose it, we could be an empire. But if the 2006 congressional elections are any indication, the love-affair with empire has collapsed as quickly as Bush the Decider's credibility.

Those who dream of empire in this country, like the unknown aide who talked with reporter Ron Suskin in 2002, honestly believed they could both rewrite and re-make history into their own image. But that folly is like so many castles in the air.

Those who dream of empire should learn to read history.

And so should we, the people.