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Score: 180

Name withheld

[devonwhite](#)

10:51 PM on May 16, 2012

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Woah, I was with this guy until the last page, when he discussed how \$36,000 year was only made "bearable" by the various perks of a lifestyle.

Sorry, but \$36,000 isn't a ridiculous amount of money, but it's still a liveable wage and a place to start. He paints such a picture of indigence and desperate poverty (can't afford a beer and then too guilty to drink it?) that one would think he's been living hand to mouth and mooching off his parents.

Lots of people I know would kill to make that kind of money and have started families and gotten married making the same. I only made slightly more when got my first job at 26 in 2008 and I was very happy with it then. Christ, I'd still be happy with it now.

I feel for anyone out there searching for work in a tough environment, but

please call this article what it is: a guy who wanted to integrate himself into the corporate mainstream (e.g. Deloitte, BMO, etc.), expected to be making 60 or 70,000 fairly quickly (or more) and is now struggling with the failure of that to come true.

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Score: 116

Name withheld

[Tried and True12](#)

10:41 PM on May 16, 2012

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As a Human Resources Manager for a major financial institution, a "Boomer", and one who has hired hundreds of people during his career, I was deeply touched by the writer's article. Sadly, it is typical of the frustration and despair that many young people face today in landing their first position. I offer a few words in the hope that he and others may find something inspiring.

First, don't rely upon job postings and the internet. Most are a waste of time. Applicant tracking systems are designed to screen out individuals, not screen them into interviews.

Second, focus on small to medium-sized companies. Many of these organizations haven't the time, money or expertise to compete with large organizations. They are more likely to take a risk on someone who approaches them directly than would a large corporation with HR minions who, I'm sorry

say, are nothing but gate-keepers.

Third, use the direct approach. Forget e-mail. Everyone today is bombarded with e-mails. Craft a well-written letter, and follow up with a phone call a week later. Call early in the morning. Be polite. Be respectful. Ask for a few minutes their time. Accommodate their time schedule.

Fourth, instead of networking at job fairs, join a job search group like HAPPEN or better still, a business event or Chamber of Commerce function. Seek out those who are givers, not takers, and are prepared to offer you contacts as well as advice.

Fifth, volunteer, and use the experience to both develop transferable skills, bolster your resume, and make meaningful contacts. Many prominent business professionals sit on Boards of Directors, so make yourself known.

Sixth, use your alumnae contacts from your university or college. I'm a graduate of three universities, and I routinely get between six and twelve calls a year from prospective grads seeking advice or counsel.

Seventh, consider becoming an entrepreneur. Many young people are tech-savvy, and are imbued with considerable imagination, versatility and ingenuity. Entrepreneurship can be inspiring.

Finally, don't give up. Job search has never been easy. Our society has never mastered the ability to accurately determine staffing requirements, or match the right applicants with quality opportunities. It isn't a perfect science, and sadly, the race goes not to the swiftest, but to the most persistent.

Good luck!!

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Score: 89

Name withheld

[Synergic Effect](#)

8:19 PM on May 16, 2012

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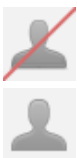
I was at one of these networking events in Ontario about a month ago in my industry where the employers out-numbered the potential graduates by about 2:1. Employers were standing up and shouting out to the students in the room bring them over a copy of their resume. My company recently put a job offer on to one fellow (~age 23) that we really wanted, but he already had four other offers and took a job in Alberta for huge \$\$\$\$. We ended up not being able to find anyone this round because all of the graduates from the two Ontario colleges in this field had job offers even before they finished.

Yes colleges, not universities. These were graduates in a 3-yr college engineering technology program with a specialization in welding, non-destructive testing & weld inspection, and robotic welding applications.

Sometimes it's all about what you study, isn't it.

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Score: 76

Name withheld

[G.W.](#)

12:24 AM on May 17, 2012

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From one 29 year old to another:

I've managed to have a bit more success than it sounds like you have, and the best advice I can give you is to abandon your computer. Sending cover letters and resumes to generic HR emails is exactly as useless as you think.

Get off your butt, put on a suit, shine your shoes, and walk into as many offices as you can. Bring your cover letter and resume with you - in a 9" x 12" envelope with a label, please. Hand it to the front desk, and chat as long as you feel you can politely get away with - it does matter, I got my dream job that way. Try and get a business card of someone in the division you're interested in (many smaller firms keep them at the front desk, and if not you lose nothing by asking for a name). CALL them and follow up.

Our whole generation is scared of annoying people by actually talking to them. What's the worst they're going to do, not hire you? Companies seem like big black boxes. The truth is that while warm bodies are plentiful, talented people are very difficult to find, and it's a huge relief to a stressed out manager when one actually calls them up offering to help out, so they don't have to bother sorting out 100 generic emailed resumes.

Good luck!

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Score: 51

Name withheld

[SpuriousD](#)

7:41 AM on May 17, 2012

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Things I got out of this letter:

- author too proud to live with parents while looking for job
- author too proud to work at menial jobs
- author feels entitled to a job after paying for an education
- author still thinks that "business man" is a real job that people actually have a need for.

Really, the last bit about taking a job with a company who is align with your hobbies is a bit enlightened, but the rest of the letter, while admittedly "eloquent" seems like so much entitled whining. I was flabbergasted that he felt \$36k a year was an insulting low salary and effectively unlivable. That's what the vast majority of the country lives off of. Who is the author that he feels so entitled to vastly more than that?

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Score: 38

Name withheld

[vitaminb12](#)

2:29 AM on May 17, 2012

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It has everything to do with what direction you choose to take. You make your decision based on what you would believe to be true.. i.e. believing law school will catapult you into prominence - and rightfully so... look at the previous generation.

People will make snaps at the broke 29 year old who chose "Art" as his major and finding himself unable to find work; we believe these things to be predictable - Law graduates, not so much.

My friends in graduate school look down to me in my career choices (construction engineering technology).. because two years at college isn't going to do anything for my prominence, is it?

I went to college for two years and had offers four months prior to graduating. accepted an offer two months prior to graduating. That was a year ago. Now I'm 23 and have already earned over \$100,000 and I realistically don't expect to do any worse in the next 12 months (or 60 months)

There is a very unique shift happening. I didn't go to "graduate school" and I was criticized for it.... but you can't argue with being debt free, maxing out RRSP and TFSA contributions, and still being able to afford a beer (yes, at a bar).

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Score: 36

Name withheld

[MK1982](#)

10:17 PM on May 16, 2012

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Some considerations for you and your colleagues, from a 29 year-old who has "made it"

1. Move to either Alberta or Saskatchewan.
2. Apply for positions with energy firms, equipment manufacturers, engineering companies and construction companies. With your specific education, consider project administrator, project controls, or procurement positions.
3. Be confident and be positive.

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Score: 35

Name withheld

[jdoug](#)

7:46 AM on May 17, 2012

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What's wrong with making \$36K/year straight out of school?? That's 20% more than I made out of school, in the pre-recession boom years (2004), working in proper grown-up corporate job at a large bank. I also had no vacation and no benefits since someone had mentioned to HR that I might apply for grad school in a year or two, and therefore I was put on contract and punished for thinking

about furthering my education. But that's a rant for another day...

There's a happy ending though - I busted my butt and did a good job, and when I did go to do my Masters degree my boss hired someone on a 1yr contract so he could hold my job for when I was done. And my income rose relatively quickly over the next few years.

What I've found is that the first job is just a starting point, a foot in the door. After a couple of solid (though likely underpaid) years in the workforce it'll be much easier to find something else that you really want to be doing. Patience, grasshopper.

[7 replies](#) [7 replies](#) ✨ Please wait while we perform your request.

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Score: 32

Name withheld

[Colin - Toronto](#)

7:32 AM on May 17, 2012

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This is complete b-u-l-l-s-h-i-t.

I am a Gen-Xer. We have had to deal with more than just a bad economy or bad times. Any jobs worth taking were taken long before we could apply for them.

So, hey, smarten up. Become so good, or great, at something that nobody can resist you. Also learn about salesmanship.

This is not the first group in the world to have to put effort into succeeding. Maybe the whining is more about expecting it all to fall into their laps automatically. Oh well, too bad.

[8 replies](#) [8 replies](#)  Please wait while we perform your request.

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Score: 25

Name withheld

[Ardentingot](#)

8:53 AM on May 17, 2012

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Young man,

- Love, marriage, children, the best things in life, are not made possible or impossible by financial security or success nor financial failings or failure nor financial mediocracy or normalcy. Not even a little bit. These important things may be somewhat affected by money matters, but not in an inverse ratio of money = success / less = failure.

Get your head on straight in this one respect before you miss your opportunity for true happiness because you feel hamstrung in your pursuit of material gain

- Home ownership is not the end all be all indicator of financial security it once was. Dismiss this notion, it's only purpose now is to convince you to sign a mortgage you don't need and cannot afford without sacrificing more than you

should. Also consider that buying at this time is a dubious prospect for anyone esp. in Canadian urban centres.

- Expanding your mind is not expensive unless you incorrectly believe that the only purpose is to gain some certificate that acknowledges you have done those things that mean you may or may not have expanded your knowledge base.

If you only learn to earn, if you only attend to graduate, you weren't really benefitting anyway.

- Your life expectancy is 85+ Just what did you plan to do with 20+ years and responsibilities? You claim to be a degreed professional. Unless you were silly and studied solely what you thought you should for financial gain, you should be a professional or an academic Expect to Want to work until you are at least 75 regardless of success.

If you work at a steel mill, that's different. But I don't think you do or intend to

Face it, you are feeling sorry for yourself and entitled. The only legit reason you have for that is that you were misled as to what an education meant and what it is for. Half of that is your fault, so don't waste anymore time wallowing, pick yourself up and dust yourself off and get moving.

Sounds like you want to be in finance.


Don't be stupid. Every house of cards falls, if you find a true undertaking now you can avoid being crushed. Find a calling that isn't based upon pretending that there is more money than there are resources.

Do something real with yourself, that involves others. Your discipline skills of time management and other things you picked up along the way are infinitely valuable, far more valuable than your ability to create economic models or assess risk even though those are not useless either.

I'd suggest you get down off your high horse, go get your hands dirty with some volunteering or activism, that will teach you the real value of money and introduce you to people who already know what I'm talking about.

Sincerely,

A 41-year old proud father, happily married, respected, owner of a successful business that I enjoy, semi-retired (I moved to the country, I still work, but I also garden and take 3 out of 7 days off to be with my kids) --high school dropout- who ran with the big boys for as long as I cared to.

[1 reply](#) [1 reply](#)  Please wait while we perform your request.

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Score: 21

Name withheld

[tail end charlie1](#)

8:00 AM on May 17, 2012

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As an old geezer, let me give my perspective. I was a terrible high school student: bad attitude to authority(I haven't lost that), poor marks, no money. I lived at home and commuted to "last chance U" and scraped through. Fear that I would begin life as a management trainee at Zellers,(fear is a GREAT motivator), I went to a local law school, and like 95% of all lawyers, I graduated "in the top half of my class". I applied in person and by letter to 40 local law firms, only one of which responded by scribbling a rejection on the bottom of n

letter and sending it back. Through good fortune, I heard of a small law firm whose junior lawyer was quitting because of a nervous breakdown caused by one of the lawyers, and I jumped at the chance, and I survived, and ultimately started my own firm.

The moral of the story? Put up with sh*t, grind it out, be pleasant and helpful, and luck will come your way.

[6 replies](#) [6 replies](#) 🌟 Please wait while we perform your request.

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Score: 19

Name withheld

[TomShultz](#)

9:01 AM on May 17, 2012

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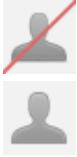
I sympathize with the author, life is hard, and finding employment very difficu

However, I think his expectations are too high. He should take the first \$30K job he can, then use that to network, learn an industry, get to know key players gain experience. That is how most careers are launched.

Most of us started at the very bottom doing scummy work.

[4 replies](#) [4 replies](#) 🌟 Please wait while we perform your request.

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Score: 18

Name withheld

[Mike McFae](#)

8:43 AM on May 17, 2012

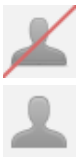
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Noticeably absent are the (very relevant) details of his education. He insinuat he made Dean's list but even that is not clear.

Why not just provide all the educational details for the reader's benefit.....2 more sentences wouldn't take much time.

[5 replies](#) [5 replies](#)  Please wait while we perform your request.

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Score: 17

Name withheld

[jill of all trades](#)

8:53 AM on May 17, 2012

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Perhaps one of the reasons the author isn't being hired is because he's 29 and i

only now looking for his first job. Does it strike anyone else as odd that he's on now finished his undergraduate degree and has never held a job? If he graduated high school at 19 then that means it either took him 10 years to finish his degree or he spent time doing other things. The reality for this poor schmuck is that he's trying to hit above his weight class: chances are the other applicant out there are 8 years younger and 8 years more experienced. I guess he's now facing the consequences of being slow out of the gate?

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Score: 17

Name withheld

[MattyG2](#)

9:58 AM on May 17, 2012

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I somewhat sympathize with the author of this article. I'm a corporate financial analyst at one of the largest non-bank financial companies in Canada and each year I see that the doors open wider for the friends/family of the senior execs. Additionally, the process of getting hired seems more cumbersome today than ever before. That being said, I'm hoping that my experience can help the author refine some of his ideas. Here are some important points:

1) Before you can get a 'decent' corporate gig, you need to start at the bottom. In my case this was working in the Client Services department earning a fair \$36k/year taking about 100 calls a day (10% of which are angry, bitter people) Getting a client services type role isn't all that challenging based on conversations I've had with people currently in that role at my company.

2) To get a 'decent' corporate job, you need an MBA and/or CFA and/or accounting designation. I know the first thing you'll say is "I can't afford it". However, you are wrong. When I was in client services I enrolled in my part-time MBA. The banks were more than happy to lend me the \$50,000 I paid for tuition over the three years I was there. I worked 40 hours per week as a client services rep and then had school on weekends. I paid off the \$50k debt three years after graduating.

3) While in my MBA program, I managed to speak with C-level employees at a company party. Shortly thereafter I got promoted to corporate. When I got the corporate job I was making \$45k - I bet this is a lot less than you would have expected.

4) I've now been a corporate financial analyst for seven years. My salary is nowhere near six figures. When I started in this role I was working 55 hours per week and still doing my part-time MBA on weekends. AKA working 80 hours per week.

Please note: I'm not complaining. I'm very lucky to earn what I do and to have good job. The bottom line is that I worked really hard to get where I am. I probably don't earn even close to what you would expect though. I rent a 750 square foot condo in the fringe of Toronto and live there with my wife and child. My advice: lower your expectations, improve your attitude, start from the bottom and get a better education.

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Score: 17

Name withheld

[aidanc](#)

9:59 AM on May 17, 2012

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Guys in McMurray driving dumptrucks are making over \$100k. Canada's big Son, go see it.

[2 replies](#) [2 replies](#) ✨ Please wait while we perform your request.

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Score: 17

Name withheld

[John456](#)

12:41 AM on May 17, 2012

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Boomers saw that the recipe for success consisted of getting a bachelor's degree and a house as early as they could. Wanting the best for their children, they urged them all to follow the same recipe. So millenials enrolled in university in droves only to find that the recipe stopped working. It turns out, it only worked for boomers because it was not widely known at the time. After the fact it seemed so predictable, but at the time it did not. Only a certain % of the mid-20 population is going to get great jobs and after everyone flocked to university, there are now much more graduates than there are great jobs.

Guess what? Housing is the same thing. Boomers had the good fortune of buying at depressed prices because of high rates and saw prices sky rocket and mortgage payments plummet as rates crashed and demographics worked in their favour. Of course we can now all say that buying a house WAS an aweson investment, but is this recipe going to work going forward? I wouldn't be so

sure.

Stop looking in the rearview mirror for what will make you prosperous in the future. If it's that easy, then it's probably not going to work because everyone will copy it. There is no recipe for success because it always gets rewritten. The fact is that a lot of it is luck, but you can increase your chances at getting lucky by working hard and always anticipating the future and not simply extrapolating the past.

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Score: 16

Name withheld

[Fishyguy](#)

9:48 AM on May 17, 2012

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My first question is: you're 29 years old and looking for your first job?!? I started working at 15 bussing tables, then worked in a restaurant throughout high school, got a decent summer job during four years of university, and then got a low paying entry-level job out of university. At 23. Not 29! I loved this part of his rant:

"A select few of my friends made it out of school and got decent jobs. Most still aren't making enough to save, invest, or buy a place. Many barely get by, doing low-level work they don't really believe in with little job security. "

Guess what? That's what an entry-level job is! I love the sense of entitlement this person has that they should be able to come into a company at a high level salary with no experience. I got my first real post-university job 16 years ago making \$28K per year, living by myself in a one bedroom apartment in downtown Toronto. I made it work. I worked hard, got two promotions within three years, and was finally able to start putting some money away. Cry me a river. Every person coming out of school has to go through the same thing.

[3 replies](#) [3 replies](#) 🌟 Please wait while we perform your request.

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Score: 15

Name withheld

[JackRT2](#)

10:03 AM on May 17, 2012

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As your potential employer let me give you a few tips:

Never mind what you were trained to do in school- what are you good at?

Things haven't changed in thirty years since I went to university- very few of us are doing what we studied in school. We got really good at something and people pay us for it.

Don't send me anything by email. I entered the work force when we were writing letters with typewriters, and producing three letters a day was a big deal. Now get dozens of letters a day by email, and I read very few of them. I hire people like you to read them for me and tell me if there's anything there I should be paying attention to.

Informational interviews are a waste of everyone's time. Forget them. Once

you've figured out what you're good at, think of a few places where you'd really like to work. If it's in my office, come in and tell me how you can add value to the company. Even if I don't have a job for you, I'll put you in touch with one of my friends who is hiring, if you impress me.

Lower your expectations. I've got a good job now. It took me thirty years to get here. Two thirds of high school grads think they'll be earning \$90K a year by the time they're thirty. I didn't start earning \$50K a year until I was 40. My wife and I raised a family, but we damn near starved to death in the process, and we were 40 before we owned our own home.

And the thing that I value above all else in employees? Integrity. Be honest, be genuine, work hard, be a nice person. Skills I can teach you, integrity I can't.

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Score: 13

Name withheld

[TheGreatDonAdamsCentrist](#)

8:54 AM on May 17, 2012

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TheGreatDonAdamsCentrist. [Show Details](#)[Hide Details](#)

I wanted my son to go to college or university. He went to college, lasted one semester and quit. Just didn't like school. Figured he'd make it on his own.

Went to work in retail, worked hard for little pay, but watched, asked questions learned, moved around. At age 29 had proven he had what it took and was rewarded with a smaller store in a national chain, as manager. Brought in new ideas, made changes.... there as manager for 1 year and had a huge sales

increase in a store the Company just figured would maintain its sales while he was learning. They were so impressed they promoted him to the 2nd highest volume store in the area, jumping over 8 or 9 other managers. He repeated his previous performance.

Now, at age 33, only a high school education, makes over \$100K a year plus benefits, and is being head hunted by other major chains.

Hard work, willing to pay the necessary price, plus using his common sense and wanting to learn has done it for him.

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