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## Cerny: Entering job market resembles Wonderland

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By Tasha Cerny

Today, I finally understand what Alice must have felt like. I've followed the bustling white rabbit of college right through the hole of senior year, and I am falling - or drifting, rather -



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toward the Wonderland of finding a grown up career.

It's a dizzying, suffocating business, full of booking yourself too busy (it's your last year here, you don't want to miss out on something!) and still managing to catch up on three seasons of some show on Netflix. It's a time when you have no time, because seriously, who invented job applications and why do they take so long?

Even worse are the friends and fellow seniors who don't have job applications - grad school, med school or internships-turned job offers; they've already got it in the bag. These are the people who smile quaintly when you sigh deeply and complain about searching through a sea of job postings and how you feel like a lump of coal pretending to be a diamond. They smile quaintly because they either 1) remember their own stresses in the search and application process and have very little sympathy for your complaints (if they can do it, you can too), or 2) have never experienced the job search process and do not understand its underlying intricacies. Either way, these are the people we dislike most when we are spending our 6,000th hour re-editing cover letters and resumes (we still want to hang out next Friday night, though).

To make my own sob story even more sad, let's add in the humanities degree that I will so proudly hold in my hands in a few months' time. It is wrong to assume, as many do, that a degree in the humanities, like English, will get you nowhere unless you want to teach. This simply isn't so - and that joke is so old I watched it grow a beard three years ago.

In fact, it's the complete opposite. There are so many job openings that the English major is qualified for (because honestly, who - besides an English major - remembers the rules of grammar and writing, as laid out by your middle school teacher and "The Elements of Style" by Strunk and White?), it's almost too much. I get dizzy just thinking about all the different directions my life and career could take.

Perhaps this ramble is dismal. Perhaps you'll find no comfort in my words. Perhaps I'm your Cheshire Cat, only causing you more confusion. Perhaps you've gone a bit mad. Perhaps we all have. Just know that you aren't alone in your wibbly-wobbly navigation toward graduation, and at some point, we'll find our way out of Wonderland, hopefully with



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our heads still on.

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