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Finding a place for an English Major

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As I look back over my summer, I realize it was like most of the others. I worked. The only exception being that I saw a lot less of the ocean this time. Maybe it was due to my paying job of hostessing for half the summer and bartending the other half, but it was probably due to the insane job search I spent most of the summer doing. No one was hiring (no one is hiring, since I'm already back on the hunt for a better job). But the one thing I knew I could count on was my summer internship.

The interview was a nightmare. 422 Business Center, Oaks, PA—plug it into MapQuest. You won't get an exact address, but it will get to you to Oaks. It got me lost in the parking lot of the complex that somewhere contained MVD Entertainment Group, where I would find my first internship. MVD Entertainment Group, then called Music Video Distributors, is a distributor of DVDs from the music industry for different labels, including its own exclusives.

"Where is MVD?!" I yelled. I mean, who wants to be late for an interview for their first internship opportunity? I got out of my car and walked into Gold's Gym in my woman's business suit and asked for exact directions. "Go out the side door of the gym and walk down the hall. It's right there," I was told by a huge sweaty meathead. Oh.

As awkward as I felt wearing my business woman's outfit in the gym, it was amplified ten-fold when I met my potential new boss. "Hi, I'm Clint," said a young guy with a small hole in his gray t-shirt and an even larger hole in the pant leg of his jeans.

"So what kind of music do you like?" he asks while I look around the office. I am the only one not wearing jeans. "Uh, anything from Death Cab to Tupac," I replied, wondering if this job really was for me. But as Clint handed me a company information packet and continued to explain what my job would entail, I realized what a cool place MVD was. It combined two loves, writing and music, as well as my major, English, and my minor, business. I could do this.

A week later I heard from Clint, who said I could start the first week of May if that was OK with me. Yeah, it was OK with me! No, it didn't pay. And no, it wasn't right across the

street like my job last year as a camp counselor, but it was a view into "the real world". You know, that scary place we will all be thrown into within a few short years.

My first day, I decided to wear a business casual outfit, since I wondered if jeans were really appropriate for my first day. Everyone else looked so relaxed, while I looked like... an intern. I felt like I didn't belong there. Maybe they'd laugh and ask me for a cup of coffee. But instead everyone said hi, introduced themselves, and two girls even asked me to go for a walk with them over lunch. Everyone was really friendly.

I had my own little cubicle with my own computer and my own phone with my own very special little extension. That was the first day. I was so excited! I got to write for a job!

Over the next four months, between sorting orders and listening to the profanity shouted from adjacent cubicles, I wrote press releases, sales descriptions, and letters to other companies asking for their interest in promoting us. I searched MySpace for people to friend the MVD group, and read reviews of our releases and services. I wrote a press release on the new Rolling Stones DVD. Wow, my major in action!

I learned the ins and outs of the MVD warehouse where we kept all the music DVDs. I was a part of the company name change, our new logo, and our venture into separate divisions of Video, Distribution, and the new Audio field.

And, yeah, once in a while, I fell asleep at my desk, but I loved my job. I saw my major in action and Clint was awesome. He helped me out and was really appreciative of all I did, even if it was something simple. But the best part is I knew I fit in by being myself, intern or not.

My first internship was a success. A great boss, an awesome company, crazy co-workers, experience in my major, and maybe a place that I can work at again in the future.