

Making a difference

Regardless of your choice, don't be afraid to change if you feel a pull in another direction. Herbert J. Zipper of South Farmingdale, New York, recalls:

"The Christopher News Notes were one of the factors that influenced me to leave a good job in industry 20 years ago to become a . . . teacher of electrical technology. I have never regretted that decision . . . I feel I have been a positive influence in the careers of many of my students."



Of course, it is not always possible to change career plans when we might like to do so. But each of us makes our job, whatever it is, **WHAT** it is. We can bring something special to our work. We can make a difference.

Tommy Maher is a bartender at a Boston restaurant. From his customers he has raised thousands of dollars for hospitalized children, purchased equipment for disabled youngsters and brought visiting athletes to the bedsides of adoring children. He explains:

"I think people should be more than bartenders or plumbers or whatever they may be. I think we have to do more than just work for a living. We have to give."

Frances Steloff, 90, is the founder of New York's highly regarded Gotham Book Mart. "It's a very personal thing with me," she says, "to be able to share precious books."

Students who linger over books are never hurried, never made to buy anything. "How could I hurry them?" she asks. "I just love to see young people going in the right direction."

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. . . And then some

Always be yourself — People tend to compartmentalize their lives. Early years are given over to education, the middle period to work, and retirement years to leisure. But for some it might make sense to postpone college at 18 or change careers at 43 or return to school at 62.

Be open to change — Good planning means keeping options open and alternatives available. It takes courage to change jobs but go ahead and do it if it's possible and you have thought the matter through.

Spread your wings — It's often impossible to fit all your talents and interests into one job. By developing those interests on your own you add new dimensions to your life and prepare the way for a satisfying retirement.

Part of the whole — It's your whole life that matters. Here's how journalist Bill Moyers puts it:

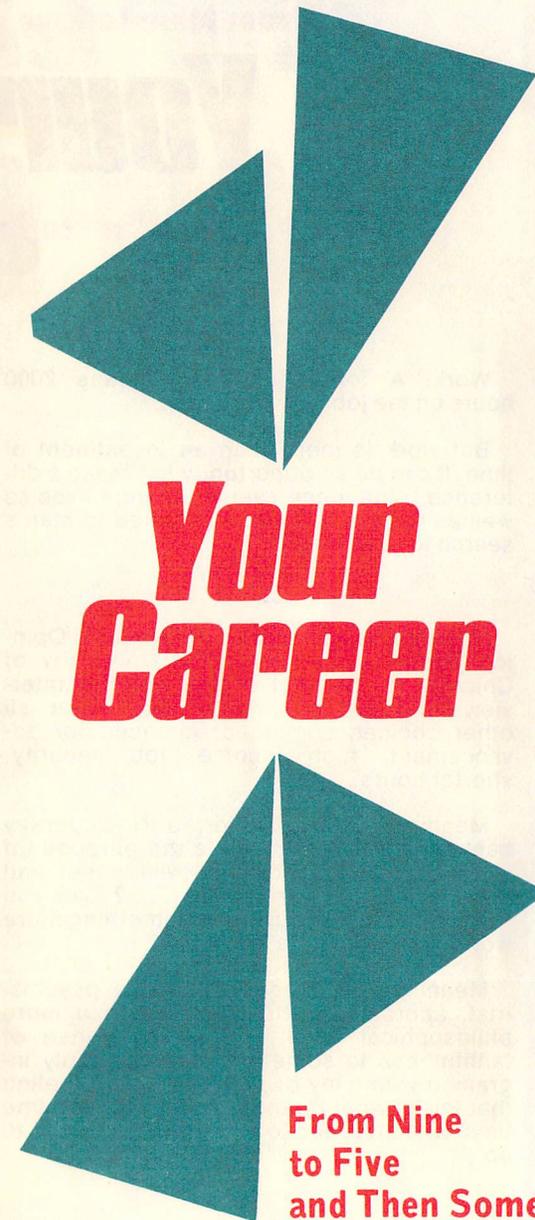
"My career is just part of my life. My life is everything — it's my family, it's my friends, it's my books, it's my mind, it's my travel, it's my period of idleness, it's my period of occupation — it's everything. A career is only one small part of it."

The great and the noble

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble.

The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

Helen Keller



**From Nine
to Five
and Then Some**

School guidance counselors — They usually have extensive educational and vocational material available. Some schools have special classes on careers and/or career nights. But the impetus must come from you. Seek advice, but expect to do your own research and make your own decisions.

Career counselors — They can be useful, if you are bogged down in your job-hunting. Services, skills and fees vary, so comparison shop.

Vocational aptitude tests — If you are very unsure of what to do, tests can suggest possibilities. They can usually be arranged through a counseling office.

Professional and trade associations and unions — They often provide data on standards and membership, as well as information on particular careers.

On-the-job experience — Volunteer work, temporary, summer and part-time jobs can give you a great deal of information as well as a "feel" for a particular field. Check on internship and co-op programs run in association with schools.

Knowledgeable individuals — Family members, friends and acquaintances may know about a particular field that interests you. Or, they may suggest someone who does. Many people are willing to share their knowledge with someone interested in their career field.

Support — It helps to have someone with whom you can discuss your career planning. You might ask your spouse, a relative or friend — someone involved in the same process, or someone just interested in helping.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHRISTOPHERS is summed up in the word "Christopher" which comes from the Greek "Christophoros," meaning "Christbearer" . . . Our aim is to encourage everyone to show personal responsibility and individual initiative in raising the standards of all phases of human endeavor, especially 1) government, 2) education, 3) labor-management relations, 4) literature and 5) entertainment . . . Positive, constructive action is essential. Little is accomplished by complaining or criticizing. "Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness" is the Christopher motto . . . As St. Paul put it: "Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21) . . . Although it has no organization, no meetings and no dues, the Christopher Movement reaches millions through Christopher programs broadcast 52 weeks a year over hundreds of radio and TV stations throughout the country and overseas via the American Forces network; and through News Notes sent 7 times a year to more than 700,000 persons. Any adult may have these News Notes free by requesting them. No charge is made because many "doers" cannot be "donors" . . . We have

Your Career Your Career Your Career

From Nine to Five and Then Some
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Work. A forty-hour week means 2000 hours on the job — every year.

But work is more than an investment of time. It can be an opportunity to "make a difference," influence events, change lives as well as to earn a living. It is linked to man's search for meaning.

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Meaning: In a survey by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, 53 percent of the workers interviewed valued meaningful work over all other choices combined: chances for advancement, high income, job security, shorter hours.

Meaning: James Butler, a New Jersey bank officer, asks: "What's the purpose (of work)? To buy a color television set and replace the black-and-white . . . ? Can you really be alive without doing something more worth your whole life than that?"

Meaning: Dr. Frederic Flach, a psychiatrist, approaches the question on a more philosophical level: "I have a sense of faithfulness to something rather deeply ingrained within my own nature, and a feeling that this is what I want to do and at the same time what I seem to have been 'meant to do'."

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And you? Whether you are contemplating your first job, considering further education, making a mid-career change or re-entering the job market, meaning is one of the crucial questions you will want to explore.

You must decide, not only what you can

do, but what it is you want to do and what is important to you, remembering that no one else can bring to the job market exactly the same God-given talents you can.

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Buckminster Fuller, educator and architect, reminds us ". . . You do not belong to you. You belong to the universe. The significance of you will remain forever obscure to you but you may assume you are fulfilling your significance if you apply yourself to converting all your experience to highest advantage to others."

Planning a career that fits your personal goals takes time and motivation. In your planning bear in mind that all decisions are not final. Today's choice may no longer be appropriate in the future.

Career counselor Richard Irish suggests: "The point is not just finding a job — no matter how well-paying or prestigious. Rather, it's to know what job it is where you're going to have the best chance of all to fully function as a human being and where you can make the most satisfying contribution."

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"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
(1 Peter 4:10)

Knowing yourself

"You have got to know what it is you want," says career consultant Richard Bolles, "or someone is going to sell you a bill of goods . . . that can do irreparable damage to your self-esteem, your sense of

That man is a success
who has lived well, laughed often and
loved much,
who has gained the respect of intelligent
men
and the love of children;
who has filled his niche
and accomplished his task;
who leaves the world better than he
found it
whether by . . .
a perfect poem
or a rescued soul;
who never lacked appreciation of earth's
beauty
or failed to express it;
who looked for the best in others
and gave the best he had.

Bessie Anderson Stanley

worth and your stewardship of the talents God gave you."

You need to analyze your abilities and aptitudes, your interests, your personal traits, your goals. Start by asking yourself:

- What is my idea of success? What values matter most to me? What things make me happy?
- Do I want to influence events? Help people understand each other? Relieve suffering?
- Do I prefer relating to people, data or things? Do I tend to be perceptive or analytical? Do I see myself as a specialist or generalist?
- Am I imaginative? Creative? Methodical?
- Do I want to work with my hands?

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List all your achievements. They will show you what you can do. List things you would like to accomplish in the future. They will show you what you want to do.

Father James Keller, founder of The Christophers, in discussing job selection, said this: "The first thing you should do is learn all about yourself. Know yourself and you know your job."

Knowing the job

More than 35,000 job titles, covering 23,000 occupations, are listed in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*. It is impossible to study more than a few of these in detail, but don't get locked into thinking in terms of a single job. You might be closing off some interesting options.

When you do start considering a specific field or job, find out:

- Does it offer interior as well as material rewards?
- What are the working conditions and the promotional opportunities?
- Does it require risk-taking and innovation?
- Does it entail detail work or is it more general? Will it involve team work or solitude?
- What are the job requirements? Does it call for more education or training? How can you get it? How long will it take?

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While you are trying to zero in on suitable careers, bear in mind writer Betsy Bliss's point, "make sure you aren't attracted to a particular career only out of such superficial factors as money, adventure or conformity."

"There is nothing better than that a man should enjoy his work."

(Ecclesiastes 3:22)

Tools: getting you and the job together

There are people and places you can turn to for help:

Libraries — Many libraries have job information centers. All of them have books and articles on specific careers, job-hunting, writing a resume and handling job interviews. Catalogues for further education or training are often on file.

Bibliography

For a bibliography of some books on careers and job-hunting, write to The Christophers, 12 E. 48th St., New York, NY 10017