

CAREERS

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

What's your Dream Job?

By DELON SHURTZ

Confucius said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never work a day in your life."

Who hasn't looked enviously at someone else's job and wished it was their own? Who hasn't said at some time, "nice work if you can find it?"

Is playing professional sports really considered a job, and what would it be like to be a model, actor, dance instructor, movie director, singer/songwriter, airline pilot, secret agent, ice-cream maker, talk show host, brewmaster, toy developer, Hawaiian tour director, politician, gambler or mattress tester? Or is the grass always greener on the other side of the fence?

That other job you wished you had may not be so great, after all. And the person holding it, may be wishing for something else, perhaps even the job you have. Only a small percentage of people actually love what they do, while the vast majority work at jobs where they only have limited career satisfaction or no satisfaction, at all.

If you're unhappy in your job, and envisioned there's something better, that dream job could be out there waiting for you. You just have to know how to find it.

For Jenni Schoeck, joining the military was a no-brainer since she was an army brat. But she didn't realize her dream until she became a pilot five years ago.

"This is definitely my dream job," she said shortly after arriving at the Lethbridge County Airport Thursday in her A-10 Thunderbolt II fighter jet.

"It's an incredible opportunity and I feel very blessed to have it."

But like most dream jobs, it didn't come easy. Schoeck, who serves out of the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., and flew into Lethbridge for the air show, had to work for hers. But it was worth it and she encourages others to go after their dreams and not give up when the going gets tough. She's glad she didn't give up.

"Flying 300 feet above the ground is a pretty incredible rush," she said.

Ruth Kergan, a certified career development professional with Teamworks Career and Employment Centre, believes everyone can have their dream job, and suggests the key to finding it is listening to your inner voice; the voice that compels you to follow your passions.

"After all, if you are not listening to your inner voice, whose voice are you listening to?" Kergan says, quoting Tama Kieves, author of "This Time I Dance."



Captain Jenni Schoeck poses in the cockpit of her aircraft.

HERALD PHOTO BY DAVID FULLER

Kergan says the first step in finding a dream job is to discover your natural strengths, from which flow skills, or activities that energize you.

"Once you have figured out what is important to you in a job, then research is step two," Kergan says. "Talk to people, find out what they do and what are the highs and lows for them in that occupation. Interview people that are doing what you think you might want to do and discover the steps you would have to take. You may even find a career you never would have dreamed of."

Kergan points out a person doesn't need a dream job to be happy. She says many people have jobs which meet their needs, lifestyle and life considerations, and that may be enough.

"The key is to accept that you have made a choice to be at that job and to acknowledge that on some level it works for you. Many times the job is OK but the main reason they like going to work is the people they work with."

Quoting again from Kieves' book, Kergan says, "If you're this successful doing work you don't love, what could you do with work you do love?"

Jynda Kavanagh, owner of WWO Communications, a marketing, consulting and training business in Lethbridge and Calgary, says another way to find a dream job is to create it, to become an entrepreneur.

"They say that most people are happy in their job if they pursue their interests,"

Kavanagh says. "So if it is starting their own business or just looking for a job, they need to first ask themselves what they like."

It may also mean avoiding those things you don't like, even indirectly.

"Someone who doesn't like nature and the outdoors is eventually not going to be happy working in a retail store that sells outdoor

equipment."

Kavanagh says the problem most people experience, especially those who want to start their own business, is they don't know what they want. But personality and career tests, and job shadowing, can help narrow down the list.

"These give people an opportunity to find out what types of careers, jobs or businesses will fit with their personality."

When Kavanagh counsels clients who want to start their own business, she asks them what they liked about their old jobs, and compares them to the potential of their new venture.

"The majority say they took their old jobs because of money."

That might not be the best foundation on which to build a career, however.

"Find out what you love doing and success and money will follow you, but it doesn't always work the other way around."

Kavanagh says it may be wise to take a job that closely resembles the business you would like to start, to ensure you'll be happy in that field. And be prepared to work hard to make your dreams come true.

"Just dreaming isn't enough because there's a mess of research, which is a time-consuming activity. I guess that's the difference between dreaming and living your dream job."

Motivation also plays a key part in finding the dream job. And don't let others negatively influence you.

"If your dream job is to sing on a cruise ship, don't let anyone tell you it is too hard to get that job. Determination and motivation will drive you to find a way to make it a reality."

"It comes back to motivation. Will people dream and wait for that dream job to come to them or will they go out and create it?"

Can the boss deduct lost cash from paycheque

Doing Working Wise: My question deducting cash shortages from my paycheques. As my responsibilities are cashiers, I operate on the belief that their final before they start are the only one assigned to the cash register, and they come off the end of their shift. So the staff are in control of the cash handling. It is appropriate I could recover the cashier during that shift via debit cheques. — **Signed Missed Cash**

Dear Missed Cash: Your question Alberta's Employment Standards Act. The code allows certain deductions from employee earnings: Income Tax, Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Health Care premiums, as well as resulting from a judgment or a

If you want to make other deductions from an employee's pay, you must get written permission from the employee. Examples could include company pension plans, dental plans, phone charges to company credit cards, and so on.

There are some deductions that are not allowed, even with a written authorization from the employee. For example, you cannot take deductions for family workmanship.

The code (section 123) states an employer cannot deduct an employee's earnings if property if any individual employee had access to could include any other staff, supervisors or managers considered if you hand

You cannot make deductions from an employee's earnings if

1) the employee gives prior to the deduction
2) there is a judgment Cash shortages are issues that might be Problems with your increasing evident.

problems with your difficulty counting particularly true if staffing might help more training. Make a more active role the adequate skill

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