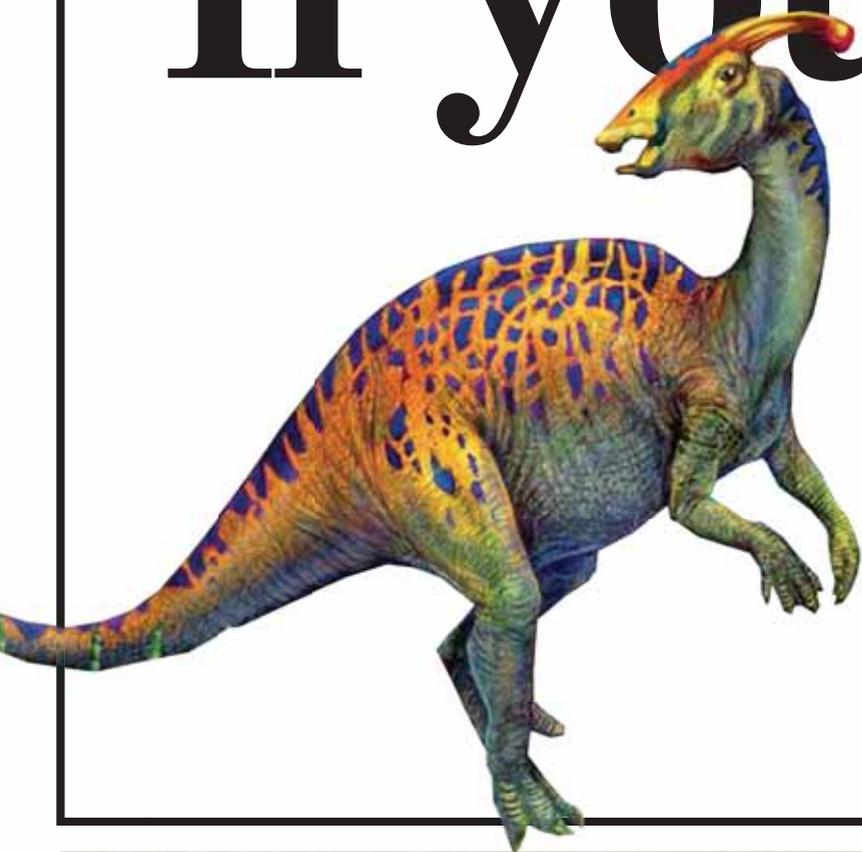


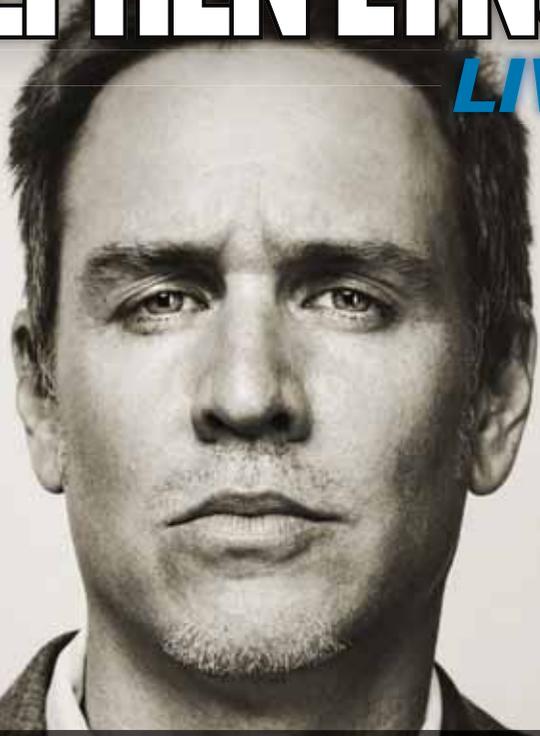
If you love it, study it



“Unfortunately we’ll most likely be working well into our sixties”

ADRIAN BOHM PRESENTS

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In primary school we had dreams of becoming superstars, astronauts, mad scientists, or in my case, a ninja. Then we reached early high school, for some of us we still lived in a fantasy where becoming a princess was the back up plan if the whole world domination thing didn't work out.

Then VCE hit, and with it, reality came barging through, like an unwelcome drunk uncle on Christmas day. Teachers and parents stress the importance of finding out what we were going to do for the rest of our lives. In my case, both teachers and parents alike, emphasised that any great career must start at university.

So, we receive our ATARS; find a course that'll let us in, and BAM! Just like that we're stuck, orientation was done, you've got your student ID card, and parking is ridiculously expensive.

You start to question everything. Do you like your course? What will your major be? What career paths will this degree offer me? And most importantly, do I want to start down any of those career paths?

My father once told me, work because you love your job, not because you need the money, or else you won't be happy.

I recently undertook a survey at my university. I sent out a questionnaire via email to 200 students, asking whether they were happy with their choice of study, and the career paths their degree would set them down.

Sadly, more than half feared that once they had completed their degree, they would be stuck in a career they weren't happy in. Sure the universities make the course sound fantastic on open day, or their colourful websites, however you never know if you truly love it, until you enter into it.

Yet, the big question we ask ourselves is, is it to late to change courses? Answer is hell no.

Adriana Petro is now in the final year of her creative writing degree, she has three generations of lawyers in her family, and her grandfather was a queen's council. As you can imagine there was pressure to enter into a law degree. So, Adriana did just that, in 2009 she was expected to study law at Monash University, and soon realised she hated every minute of it.

"Bland and dry," was all she could seem to describe it. Adriana had a secret though; "I love writing, creatively mostly. As a child I always dreamed of turning that into a career." Eventually, she concocted the courage to switch from a law degree into a creative writing major and told her father. She is now in her final year, absolutely loves her course and is an intern at a Melbourne based publishing house.

The great thing about university is that you can choose any random hobby you are interested in, and most likely turn it into a degree or major. If you have a weird fetish for digging up things and appreciate history, become an archaeologist. If you have a fascination with people watching on the train on your way to work, study sociology. If you have way too many dinosaur toys from your childhood then look into palaeontology.

University isn't just about business, medicine or law degrees, it's about turning something you love into a career, no matter how bizarre that career may be. Unfortunately we'll most likely be working well into our sixties, in that time we'll have had a family, bought a house, and in most male cases, bought a red sports car and gone through a midlife crisis. So we might as well be stuck doing something we can't wait to wake up every morning to do. 

Tania Zeine