

Our sages teach us, "When it comes to making an honest living, nothing should be beneath your dignity."

Odd Jobs...

That Yield Respectable Salaries

Despite some gaudy economic numbers (that some think are inflated or indications of a fall), the US economy is still suffering from the 2008 recession—largely because of the millions of jobs that have been irretrievably lost. Fortunately, Americans are resourceful and have proven to be quite creative in their quest of a livelihood. Read on for some novel ideas on how to earn a buck.



Rachel March



During the 1900s, Eastern European immigrants flocked en masse to the United States in pursuit of the American dream. Anyone prepared to work hard was guaranteed to find a job and earn a decent wage, they were told. An education or even fluency in the English language were not necessarily factors. The diamond industry was thriving, as was the garment industry, and there were many different ways of earning a livelihood.

Today, most of these job opportunities simply don't exist. The myriad factories and businesses that provided gainful employment for thousands of people have been rendered obsolete. The policy of opening America's borders to foreign products and the out-sourcing of services has stripped millions of Americans of their jobs. Moreover, emergent technology has further usurped jobs once performed by humans.

Admittedly, the technology revolution has generated millions of new jobs which have previously not been available, although many of them will likely disappear with the advent of newer technological inventions.

Interestingly, the constant disappearance of job opportunities is expected to hit college students hardest when they will



The diamond district.

eventually discover that the jobs they have so painstakingly been trained for are now being efficiently performed by computers. Ironically, when that happens it will be their less educated counterparts who will much more easily adapt by changing careers. The college graduate who has invested so much time and money in a particular vocation will typically have a much harder time switching gears. In fact, it is estimated that by the year 2025 about 65% of the current college students will be working at jobs which don't even exist yet!

So, while we're on the subject of different types of careers, and the dearth of some, let's



The garment district in Manhattan. Right: A statue of a Jewish tailor at work.



take a peek at some of the more innovative jobs Americans take to earn a livelihood.

Presidential Impersonators

You don't have to be President Obama in order to act like President Obama and earn much more money than the actual President Obama. The Politicos Comedy Brigade features political look-alikes, especially presidential ones who, for a hefty fee, will appear at various social events and entertain thousands of guests. These look-alike politicians are very much in demand and have appeared at social functions of Microsoft, Coca Cola, McDonald's, AT&T, Sony and General Electric where their impersonations keep the guests in stitches.

The Politicos Comedy Brigade has two President Obamas and during election season they had two Mitt Romneys. Regrettably, both Mitt Romneys lost their jobs when the original Mitt Romney lost the election.

They also boast a very impressive Bill Clinton, two Bush Presidents and a dashing Ronald Reagan. Newt Gingrich, Donald Trump and Dick Cheney also have their very striking look-alikes. There are even some dead presidents who have been "resurrected," for example William Howard Taft, Teddy Roosevelt and John Adams.

Dustin Gold, CEO of the Politicos Comedy Brigade, says that training these acting amateurs to sound and act like the celebrities they happen to resemble is no small feat. But it definitely pays off—especially for Dustin Gold who takes as much as 50% commission on the average \$15,000 fee paid for each appearance.

One of Gold's President Obamas made headlines in 2012 when he appeared before a Republican function in New Orleans. He mocked the Republican presidential candidates and joked about President Obama's bi-racial roots. Eventually, his microphone was turned off and he was ushered off-stage. At the end of the day, however, the event generated much publicity and more business for the Obama impersonator and his employer.



President Obama and his 2012 opponent, Mitt Romney.



President Obama impersonator gives a speech from the Oval Office.



Eventually, the Republicans shut off the microphone and ushered the Obama impersonator off-stage.

Sky-Writing

Steve Oliver and his wife earn a living by writing on the sky.

They use a small aircraft that expels special smoke during flight. They then fly in certain patterns to create writing which is clearly readable to people on the ground. The messages they write vary. In the past they worked exclusively in Pepsi's advertising department. However, once Pepsi canceled