



**Rehab records participants during a job fair for a broadcast class on April 20 at the Ramada Inn in Columbia. She switched from the editorial to the broadcast sequence at MU's School of Journalism this year. "In newspapers and magazines, the reporter can hide behind the paper, but in broadcast, people have to deal with you and your appearance," Rehab says.**

she says. "I consider myself much more liberated than many American women."

The hijab, says Rehab's friend Aisha Qidwae of Chicago, is more than just a piece of cloth; it's a state of mind that reminds Muslim women to be humble and modest in the eyes of God.

**R**ehab tries not to spend time with men in social settings unless the interaction has a purpose, such as homework or issues dealing with the Muslim Students Organization. If men approach a group of women she is with for casual conversation, Rehab will excuse herself and walk away.

"If I ever needed anything at all, I know that the Muslim guys would be the first to help," she says before bursting into laughter. "Not that I need their help or anything."

Muslims are not encouraged to date or

be intimate before marriage so there is no point in socializing, Rehab says. God already knows who you will marry and will bring you together in one form or another.

"Gender roles are very defined in Islam," she says. "I don't think that equality entails similarity. The roles don't have to be exactly the same to be equal, and in many regards I feel like that if anything, the women have the upper hand. A woman's duty does include primarily working in the domestic arena and the man's duty is to provide for his family. If a woman decides that she wants to contribute in any way, it's considered a charity, it's not considered an obligation."

Devoting your time to your family is what Rehab understands by freedom of choice: You have a choice until the moment you decide to become pregnant. Rehab

says it's about how one defines success.

"I would consider myself highly successful if I could raise good Muslim children who are out making the world a better place. I know that sounds very cliché, but you know, very constructive, educated, Muslim kids — I'd view myself as very successful. But I don't think that at the same time I couldn't build my own career. For me personally, raising children would have priority over my career. And that's a personal thing. A woman that just wanted to focus on her career would just marry a guy who would be OK with that."

What she does not want is a man in charge of her life. The idea of needing a male escort, a male to drive you somewhere, a male to fill out paperwork, is outrageous. "I really feel that strips women of their voice, it kind of disables them," she says. "They're like handicapped."



**Rehab washes her hands after eating homemade apple pie for lunch in front of the television, watching an Arabic-language program. She baked two pies, one for a woman whose children have gone to college, the other for her and her family to share.**