

# On-campus jobs provide

## MSC Bookstore pays off for student employees

By KARLA K. MARTIN  
Reporter

To at least 27 Aggies, the Memorial Student Center Bookstore supplies more than just books, gifts and clothes — it supplies paychecks.

Those 27 students are employed in the bookstore, and are striving to make both money and grades.

Suzann Schroeder is one such student.

"The money's not the best in town," Schroeder says, "but it's convenient."

Schroeder, a senior, is majoring in business analysis, and taking 17 semester hours. She is also working 20 to 25 hours a week.

"Managing your time is the biggest thing," she says, "because what really comes first is school. The people at the bookstore know this and understand. They work with you."

Schroeder, who works at the upper level service desk, got her job about three years ago during the semester rush. The rush occurs during the first two weeks of each semester. The bookstore hires up to 60 extra

temporary workers for those times.

Sophomore Barbara Ott, a cashier in the bookstore, says that working takes up free time so students have to learn to apply the time that they do have.

"You just have to know what your priorities are," Ott says. "You have to work to put yourself through school and not put yourself through school to work."

Most of the student workers agree that having a job and taking classes does affect grades, because it takes away from study time. Some students, however, feel that having classes and a job helps their grades.

Senior Elizabeth Barbee, who is taking 16 semester hours and working about 25 hours a week, says that working keeps her time as well as her life structured.

"It keeps my grades up," Barbee says. "The two semesters I wasn't working, my grades slipped."

Barbee, who says she needs the job more for psychological reasons than financial reasons,

says that one reason some people can't handle work and classes is because they are pressured to support themselves.

"It's good for me," Barbee says, "because I don't have these pressures. Besides, if I have too much time, I put things off."

Laurie Henney, a junior nutrition major, also says that having a job during school increases her time management efficiency.

"I'm more disciplined now," Henney says. "I have just so much time, and if I don't utilize it, I'm sunk."

Henney works an average of 26 hours a week and takes 19 hours of classes.

"You can make your college life what you want it to be," Henney says. "Work and school together takes a lot of discipline, maturity and confidence in yourself. I strongly recommend that people give it a try."

Work and school don't mix well for everyone, however.

Tony Gilbrech, a senior, works full time in the lower level MSC textbook department. He isn't taking classes this

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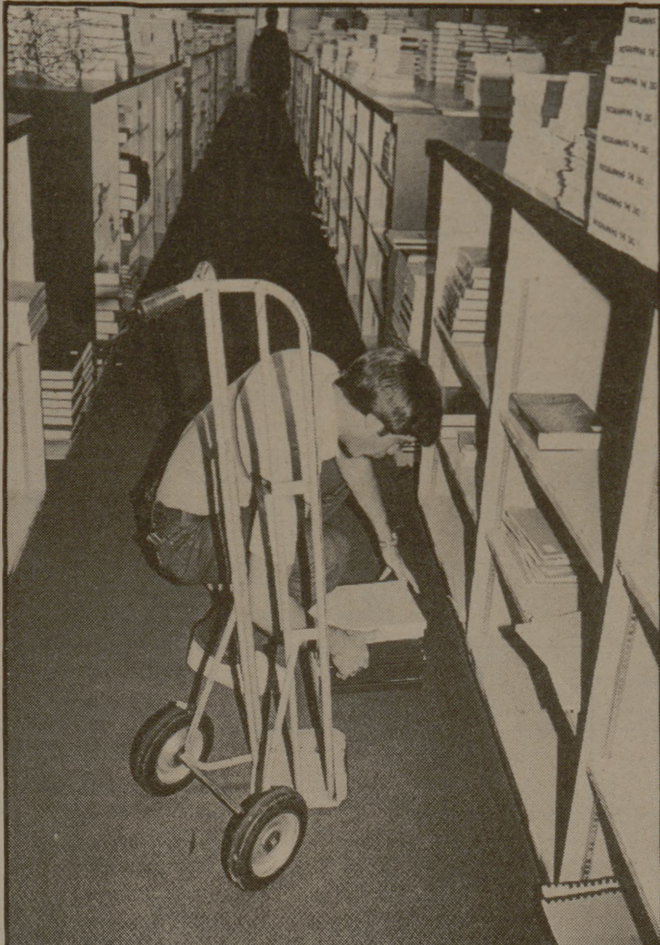


Photo by Mike Davis

Tony Gilbrech, a senior business major from Brownwood, is one of 27 MSC Bookstore employees.

# A place for work and study

By Mark E. Lish  
Reporter

School, work, study, sleep....

For many students the monotony of that routine can be exhausting, but some student workers at Sterling C. Evans Library say it doesn't have to be that way.

"The library is different from most other jobs," says Gabrielle Giovannini, a finance major working in the microtext department. "I see all these people coming in to study, and it helps me realize that I'm not the only one who has to study hard to make it."

Giovannini, a library employee for more than two years, says work gives her a break from studying. Even so, she says, the pressures of working and going to school at the same time can make things difficult.

How does she deal with it?

"Sometimes I don't," Giovannini says. "Then I just sit back and relax and put it all into perspective."

Perspective means determining priorities, she says, priorities that may change from day to day.

When time off is needed for study, Giovannini says, her su-

pervisors are understanding and helpful.

"I gave up my Wednesday shift two weeks ago because I needed the time to study," she says. As for the rest of her work hours, Giovannini says she feels obligated to be there when she is scheduled, and to be productive.

Time and productivity are also important to Martha Bellens, an industrial engineering major working in the shelving department.

She is a student government senator, director of external affairs for Off-Campus Aggies, a member of the Society of Women Engineers, and a candidate for OCA president; Bellens says there are few week-nights when she doesn't have meetings to attend.

"It's all in how you budget your time," she says. "If you want something enough you can always make time for it."

Bellens says she has an overall grade-point ratio of 2.6, but doesn't feel her grades would improve if she wasn't working.

"I'd probably just join another club," she says.

Bellens, currently taking a course load of 17 hours and

working 17 hours a week, said the library is different from other jobs due to its convenience, and the understanding of department supervisors.

"I can have class from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and still be at work by 11 a.m.," she says. And when she can't make it to work, Bellens says, her supervisors are understanding, and allow for flexibility in work schedules.

Bellens says that even with all its advantages, working in shelving does have its bad points.

"You can't work more than a four-hour shift or you'll go crazy," she says. "The first hour isn't that bad, but after a while it gets kind of boring."

Kevin Price, a business analysis major, says that work in the learning resources department is anything but boring; at times it's even a little hectic.

"On a busy day we have somewhere between 500 to 700 people come through here," he says. These "long days", Price said, are when the pressure gets to him.

"I probably won't study at all tonight," Price says. "If I had to, I could. But after a day like today all I want to do is relax."

Standing behind the counter at which he spends 20 hours a week, Price excuses himself to help a customer.

"I need a computer," a girl says.

"What kind?" Price asks in the span of a nanosecond.

After a few moments he returns.

It's 1:45 p.m., and Price has class at 2 p.m.

"I think it's going to be hard to sit through class today," he says.

Though the work keeps him busy, Price says, he has plenty of time for study and other activities.

"I'm through with work and class by 5 p.m. every day," Price says, "and that gives me all night to study."

