

Daniel Zamora, a Marooned Records employee and a senior environmental design major, finds balance in the "relaxed" atmosphere of his workplace.

WORK IT, BABY

Somewhere between lab class and homework, students are finding time to get to work and pay the bills.

BY APRIL TOWERY
 THE BATTALION

A new twist to the phrase "working hard for the money" comes into play when that money goes toward an education. Texas A&M students have learned about responsibility and saving money for college by taking on part-time or full-time jobs.

Self-Sufficiency

Juggling a daily routine of work and school has been a 10-year experience for senior bioenvironmental science major Billy Herdman. Herdman, 28, works 40 to 50 hours a week as a supervisor at Li'l Bernies, a pizza shop in the Commons. In each of the five years he has worked at Li'l Bernies, he has been named Employee of the Year.

"I wake up at 6:30 a.m., go to class, then work from 3 until about 2 in the morning," Herdman said. "I usually fall asleep by 3:30 a.m., then wake up at 6:30 and do it all over again."

Herdman began working at a gas station as a sophomore in high school. The years he has attended A&M, Herdman has paid for his car, rent and living expenses.

Despite a habitual lack of sleep, Herdman said staying awake in class has not been a problem.

"Since I have to pay for it, I should stay awake," he said. "If I fall asleep and fail a class, I'm wasting 60 hours of work. I've only missed two classes in four semesters."

Herdman said that, although it has been a struggle to work his way through school, it was not a mistake.

"I wouldn't change anything if I could do it all over again," he said.

Special Interest

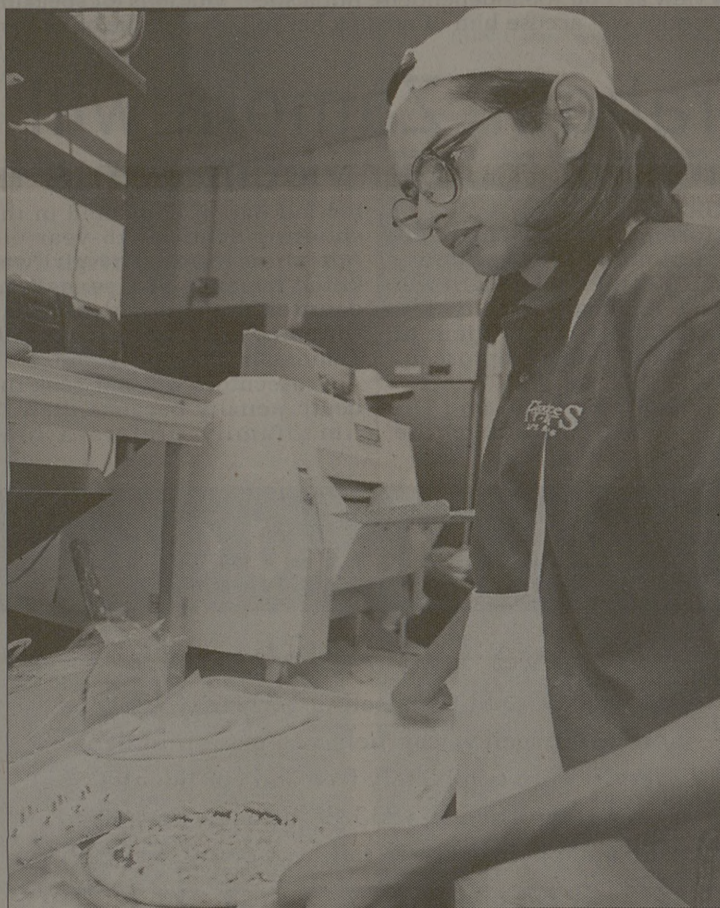
Daniel Zamora, an employee of Marooned Records and a senior environmental design major was diagnosed with insomnia when he was in seventh grade.

He said he rarely goes to sleep before 5:30 a.m., even if he is simply reading a good book. But Zamora's sleeping problem has benefited him in his major.

"Being a student in the architecture college can be a job in itself," Zamora said. "There's a lot of physical work and tangible products expected of us."

Switching gears from school to work can be exhausting, but Zamora said his job has "a very free atmosphere."

"We were all chosen as employees based somewhat on our personalities, so we're all characters," Zamora said. "It's somewhat unpredictable. Sometimes we just kind of snort at each other when we walk in, but other times Chris (Penn, manager) will balance cardboard boxes on his head. You just have to act



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Billy Herdman, a senior bioenvironmental science major, has worked for 10 years to pay his way through school.

and react." Zamora said working in Marooned's relaxed environment has not hindered his education, but has furthered his interest in studying people.

"My major concentrates on the human aspect and anthropomorphic, which is design based on the human body," he said. "I like surrounding myself with all the different people and having the opportunity to be exposed to their interests."

Zamora said his college education comes from both his classes and his job.

"I realize I am fortunate to receive an education at a prestigious university, but I do believe for the most part, a lot of things we learn aren't necessarily taught in the classroom," he said.

Waiting for the Paycheck

Waiting tables at Bryan-College Station restaurants is a popular job choice for college students because they can earn extra money through tips.

Brian Curtice, a waiter at Bennigan's and a senior business major, said he enjoys working.

"I see it as an outlet from school," Curtice said. "You do have to make adjustments when you work and go to school because you're not used to having limitations on your schedule. When you work you have to make sacrifices, but it's worth it if you enjoy the people you work with."

Lisa Hill, a Gattiland party hostess and a sophomore journalism major, said she works for extra spending money.

"Working teaches you to earn your own money and not have to ask your parents for it every weekend," she said. "I've missed a few classes because I've had to work, but when it comes down to it, I put education first, so it's not affecting my grades."

Cleaning Up the Community

Self-employment can be an advantage to college students who need flexible hours. Senior English major John Gerhart cleans houses for Bryan-College Station families.

Gerhart said self-employment offers the advantages of flexible

hours and constant contact with a variety of people.

"I've lifeguarded, coached swim teams, worked at Oshman's, waited tables, sacked groceries — just about every minimum-wage job," he said. "I most enjoy cleaning these houses because of the intrapersonal skills I'm learning."

"It's my work they're seeing, and I'm being judged on it, the same way it would be done in a company. Doing this for a job has only enhanced my education. I've learned responsibility, time management and met some interesting people with very different lives. That experience is invaluable."

Gerhart said he has no words of wisdom to offer on how to manage school and work. Instead, he chooses a simple approach.

"It's a matter of setting up a class schedule at the beginning of the semester that gives enough time either in the morning or the afternoon to do the work," he said.

Gerhart said working while in school is essential in gaining people skills and responsibility.

"I can't imagine people getting out of college and not having had a job," he said.

Time Crunch

Ian Harrison, head lifeguard at the Student Recreation Center and a senior kinesiology major, said his work is beneficial to his major and perhaps to his future career.

His job responsibilities include making sure the other lifeguards are on time and rotate to the next pool on time, making sure the chemicals are calibrated correctly and handling special requests and complaints.

"Sports management is my concentration, so it's possible that I'm improving skills I will use in the future," Harrison said. "I've learned to think on my feet and how to handle situations."

"I would recommend working while in college because it's a good way to meet people and get involved."

Harrison's brother Scott, a junior international studies and history major, is also a lifeguard at the Recreation Center.

Scott Harrison said lifeguarding is a good experience, but said it is also necessary to create a time-management plan.

"I have a schedule written down so I can see what hours are available to study," he said. "I have to be careful when I have an hour not to blow it off."

"Working

forces you to bet-

ter budget your

time and use it

more wisely. If I

didn't work, I'd

probably waste a

lot more time."

These students

who choose to

work their way

through college

find the benefits

they reap from

their work has

helped them learn

skills that can be

applied to their

futures.

Zamora said

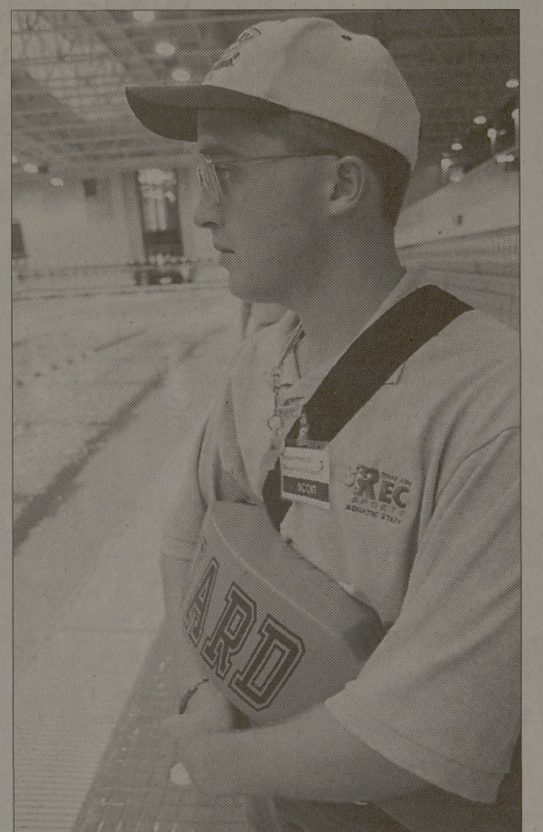
working through

college is not as

bad as it sounds.

"I think work-

ing is common,"



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Scott Harrison, a junior international studies and history major, works with Ian, his twin.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Ian Harrison, head lifeguard at the Student Recreation Center and a senior kinesiology major, recommends work experience.