

## Take this job and shove it

Jealousy jobs cause grief, mad hours for college students, pay little

BY STEPHEN WELLS  
The Battalion

A student finds a slip of paper in their desk just before sitting down to sleep through a biology lecture. It seems somebody is looking for a bright, motivated individual with team skills interested in succeeding by applying sound success principles and rising to a management position. Also, the ad says beginning pay starts nine bucks an hour — not too shabby.

What begins as a chance flirtation with easy money quickly depends into the sinister beast thousands of college students fall victim to every semester — the annoying and thankless job.

Sometimes, the shortcomings of a prospective career are painfully obvious at the outset. Dave Osmond, a sophomore electrical engineering major, said he once worked for (a pornographic video rental store.)

"For most of the day, it was just a normal nine-to-five type job," Osmond said. "But there were times each day when something would happen and make me wonder why I didn't just quit. People would sometimes be touching themselves right in front of me, and I had to try to be polite when I told them to stop."

Other times, the dangers can be more subtly hidden but manifest themselves almost immediately.

"The store I worked in also had a private video room where people could go and pay to watch for a while," Osmond said. "I had to clean it up at the end of my shift. Sometimes, I would find dirty underwear left behind or a mess they didn't bother to clean up."

Some jobs start out just fine, but the tedium of repetitive chores takes over, changing a normally vibrant worker into an automaton performing mind-numbingly boring tasks. Tom Brechener, a Ryan resident, said students should be aware some jobs can quickly sap their motivation.

"I remember being excited at the beginning of the first day of telemarketing and hating my job eight hours later," Brechener said. "Everybody I called hated me instantly. By the end of the day, my ear hurt from the pressure of the phone receiver, and I could barely talk because my voice was worn out."

Those experienced with telemarketing jobs are all too familiar with the boss who fails to see why a credit card with a low limit and high

interest rate will not sell like hotcakes.

"The only job I would have liked less than mine would be my supervisor's," Brechener said. "Talking on the phone with a total stranger was easy to handle. I don't think I could smile and tell a room full of people who already hate me they have to do better."

When the boss is not watching, employees who dislike their job are likely to act out against the establishment in the pursuit of happiness. Even if they are caught in the act, losing their job becomes another interesting story to tell their friends.

"It didn't take much for us to rebel a little," Brechener said. "As soon as the supervisor stopped listening in on our calls and would go for a break, we would stop trying to sell people stuff and instead make prank phone calls. As soon as somebody got caught, we would stop for a while until everybody got so bored they didn't care again."

But telemarketing is only one way of hawking merchandise while interrupting peoples' private lives.

Combine it with endurance walking and the door-to-door salesman emerges as the leader of the pack of harsh sales jobs. Terrence Demetrie, a junior finance major, said his temporary job as a sports equipment salesman was doomed to failure.

"Avoid a job like that like the plague," Demetrie said. "The people I did it for made me buy the stuff I was showing to the customers, and I'm pretty sure I never broke even. It's pretty obvious who gets rich when you take that job."

Some students find themselves in jobs that threaten their physical health. Jacob Palos, a freshman math major, said students should be wary of job requirements going into a new occupation.

"I got



MICHAEL WAGENER/THE BATTALION

a job working for the highway department when I was in high school," Palos said. "Part of the job was going out to clean road kill up off the road. Supposedly, we were supposed to take turns because everybody hated the job. Because I was the youngest, I ended up cleaning dead animals off the road every time a call came in."

Still, even the worst jobs can give the unfortunate students forced to work them some light moments, making the daily grind more bearable.

"I had a terrible job, but I saw some of the funniest things I've ever seen in my life when I worked," Osmond said. "I never run out of stories about the people who came in, and it's fun to laugh about how far they would go without even thinking about it."

One redeeming quality of a terrible job is that those who are trapped in them can be fired with no regrets.

"It's good to know that at any time you can pull something stupid, get fired and leave without a second thought," Palos said. "That's the freedom you have in a really bad job, and getting the last laugh is the best."

get a job.  
go to work.  
use your head.  
make good cash.  
have some fun.  
how's it work?  
click right here.

**whatajob.com**

Find great jobs in a great state. All at one cool website. Get the skinny on high-tech, high-paying fields. Grab the scoop on fun and easy living. Don't wait - click today.

**ARKANSAS**

## HEY! ARE YOU HAZING?

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER...

- Is your activity an educational experience?
- Does the activity promote or conform to the values of the organization?
- Will the activity increase respect for the organization?
- Do new and initiated members participate together or equally in the activity?
- Would you be willing to allow parents or University officials to witness the activity?
- Would you be able to defend the activity in a court of law?
- Does the activity have any value in and of itself?

To report hazing, contact one of the following offices:

The Department of Student Life - Student Conflict Resolution Services: Call 847-7272 to report any incidents of hazing.	The Office of the Commandant: Call 458-1341 to report hazing involving members of the Corps of Cadets.
The Department of Student Activities: Call 845-1133 to report hazing involving members of a recognized student organization.	University Police Department: Call 845-2345 to report any incidents of hazing.

This advertisement is brought to you by Student Conflict Resolution Services - the Department of Student Life, within the Division of Student Affairs.