

All work and no play ...

Student entrepreneurs cope with stresses of studying, work

BY STEPHEN WELLS
The Battalion

The "other education" is a term often used in reference to the clubs and organizations they join as they arrive on the stoop of Aggie. Dues are paid and time gets volunteered for the other education is learned through research.

Students who own their own businesses come a course load with a workload and are find ways to do it.

For some, a business grows out of a combination of skill and luck. Circumstances allow them to turn their passion into profit. Adreon Henry, owner of The Factory and a business major, said his business began when he started selling his T-shirt designs.

Henry said that he started selling T-shirts in the ninth or eighth grade out of his locker. When a space opened up on Northgate above Campus Center, he rented the space with the money he had saved up.

For others at A&M, a creative outlet evolves into a business opportunity. Michael Hodnett, a junior biology major, said his interest in the arts and other things. When the George Bush Library was constructed I was commissioned to do the portrait of Barbara Bush, which is now hanging in the Barbara Bush Parenting Center.

The realization that a business can be profitable can be a boon to those overburdened by student Recreation Center fees.

"I think I realized even in high school that I could make money," Hodnett said. "As a senior I did a mural for the College Station Health Center. Later I illustrated a graduate-level textbook for Wayne Smith. I've known since high school I could make money at what I'm doing, and as fortunate to run down a path where I met a lot of international artists who were making money and got to rub elbows with them."

Students who are thinking about starting their own business should be aware of the demands that a venture will place on their time.

"At first it is a lot of work," Henry said. "It will take up a majority of your time, so you should give up the girlfriend and the going out to party any time you want. You'll be spending your time doing employee paperwork, taxes and invoices instead of going out. It's the little things like those that creep up on you and end up taking the majority of your time to do."

Students who throw themselves into a job opportunity risk burning themselves out quickly. As with everything, balance is the key, and time management is everything.

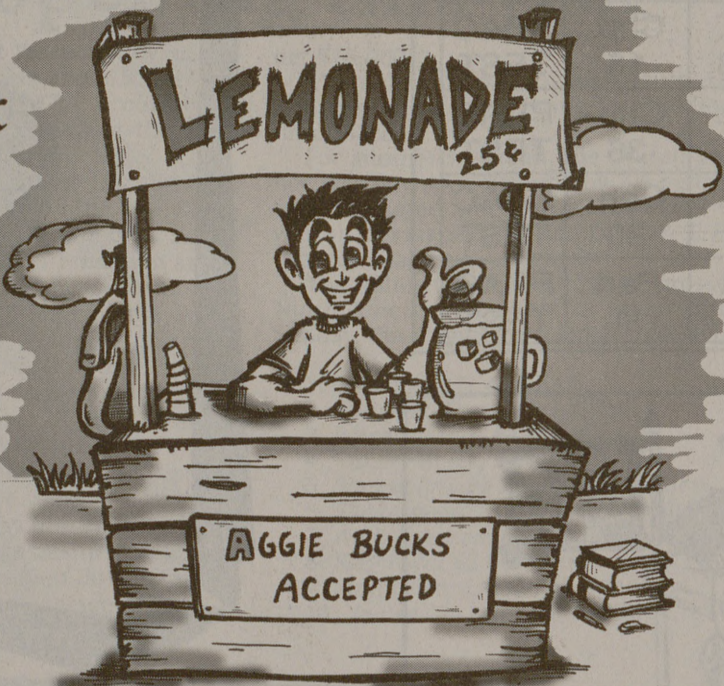
"I'm either working or studying right now," Hodnett said. "But I try hard to keep my life balanced because I think that's essential to stay healthy. I try to date and go out and do things like going to another city with my friends. But instead of sitting in front of a TV when I'm by myself I try to work on my artwork."

Owning a business offers a student more than just the obvious financial rewards.

"It will definitely pay the bills," Henry said. "Being a student, you can work around your own schedule without answering to a boss. You don't have to answer to too many people except the tax collector and the landlord. But it also helps to give something to the town that it doesn't have without you. When Marooned Records moved out, we took over some of the things they did, like selling independent music. It's great that I get to decide what I want to sell, so I'm always surrounded by what I enjoy in the store."

Even if a student has other goals in life, a business begun today can become the work of a lifetime.

"This is what I'm going to do with my life forever," Hodnett said. "My goal right now is to make enough art to put myself through A&M and



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medical school. I hope to have enough original artwork done by the time I graduate that I can turn the business over to someone else who can manage it for me."

For those students who have a good idea and possess the willingness to work hard, starting a new business may not be a bad idea. In a recent Fortune magazine article, it was revealed that those who start their own businesses are more likely to become financially secure than those who do not and that security often comes earlier in life. In addition, it was stated that a large portion of the newly rich became wealthy by starting their own businesses.

Every business comes with a risk. Those students who do not educate themselves before going into business must realize they are gambling and should do everything in their power to turn the odds their way.

"Look into what it's going to take to start your business," Hodnett said. "Last semester, I took a management class with Dr. Shane. I did my research during the class and worked on planning my business. You can't go in blind. But whatever you do, whether you offer a product or a service, make sure that whatever you provide you do very well."

Let's talk about sex

Students recognize advantages of abstinence

BY SUSAN OVERCASH
The Battalion

Talking about sex is unavoidable these days, especially when television programs consist of flipping between Trojan-man commercials, "Lovelines" on MTV and the Lewinsky scandal on every channel.

Even with all the constant reminders of sex, many students are choosing not to have sex.

Margaret Griffith, Health Education Coordinator at the A.P. Beutel Health Center, said abstinence does not simply mean virginity.

"From a health perspective, true abstinence includes vaginal, oral and anal sex," Griffith said. "All three ways can transmit infection."

The fear of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are first and foremost in many students' minds.

According to the Center for Disease Control, AIDS is the second leading cause of death among 25 to 44 year olds, and most of these young adults were infected as teenagers.

Jacklyn Guthrie, a senior special education major, said many students are choosing abstinence because of the fear of contracting HIV or a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

About 8 million people diagnosed with an STD other than HIV are under the age of 25, and one in every four sexually-active teens contracts an STD.

"I personally have met students with genital herpes who have had no other kind of sex than oral sex and have contracted this STD," Griffith said. "Some people may choose abstinence after they have gotten a disease."

Pregnancy is another factor in students choosing to abstain from sex. According to the Texas Department of Health, Texas has the third-highest teenage-birth rate in the nation.

By choosing abstinence, student couples feel the removal of the fear of pregnancy from the relationships, frees them to concentrate on other issues.

The Rev. Mike Sis, a priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church, said people are beginning to take responsibilities more seriously.

"Students realize that pregnancy is a possibility, even when using contraceptives," he said. "They're taking that responsibility more seriously."

Sis said a stronger commitment to a relationship is a third reason many Aggies are choosing not to have premarital sex students are looking for a relationship that is more substantial than just sex.

"They are postponing sex until marriage so that they can focus on friendship and commitment," Sis said.

This focus, Sis said, creates a higher respect for the institution of marriage. Many students agree.

Kelly Hartline, a senior political science major, said there is a lot more to a relationship than sex.

"Marriage is the symbolic bonding of two souls becoming one," she said.

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