

Working hard for the money Summer jobs help students gain experience, extra income

BY KELLY PREISER
The Battalion

As the end of the spring semester approaches, most students cannot wait for the school year to end. After May 10, the last day of finals, students can begin their summer break — three months of relaxation.

But for many students, this is not the case. Some students have to work during the summer months to save up money for the next school year, among other reasons.

However, if a student chooses his or her job carefully, he or she can still have an enjoyable summer.

Jim Pike, a junior computer science major, has worked at Sea World in San Antonio for the past four summers as a lifeguard in the Lost Lagoon Waterpark.

"The best part about the job was working with the other lifeguards," Pike said. "Most of the guards were either high school or college age. We'd always goof around before and after hours. It was sort of like a clique. There were always barbecues and parties to go to."

Pike said one of the major benefits of the job was that all Sea World employees were given a pass that allows them free admission at any Anheuser-Busch theme park.

He said he even had the chance to mingle with the animals in an awhile.

"The park offers a program for kids called 'Camp Sea World.' One thing they do with the kids is let them get in with the dolphins. They would ask for a lifeguard to be in there with the kids, so a couple of times, I did get to swim with the dolphins," Pike said.

He said that while his job was fun and offered many perks, there were also a few disadvantages.

"The only major drawback of the job was when I'd have to watch the wavepool. Being a lifeguard can be relaxing but also stressful. Most of the time when something would happen, it was nothing serious, but if I didn't go in, it could have been," Pike said.

Brent Haas, a chemical engineering major, has said he also worked as a lifeguard over the summer.

"Some benefits of being a lifeguard are that you can get a good tan, it's easy, and you get to meet a lot of different people. Plus you get really good break times. You get about a half hour for every hour you work. But, you don't get paid a lot. The summers in Texas are really hot and the job can get kind

of boring; you just kind of sit there sweating if nothing happens," Haas said.

Haas said the rewards of working as a lifeguard outweigh the discomforts.

"When you actually get to save someone from drowning, the job can be really rewarding. It gives you a really great feeling to know you just made a difference in someone's life. The family is really appreciative and it makes you feel really good," Haas said.

Working at a summer camp can also provide students with an opportunity to work outdoors. Jill Sawyer, a junior history major, worked as a camp counselor at a YMCA day camp in Houston for the past two summers.

"It's a great summer job because you don't have to work nights or weekends. You also get to go hiking and on really cool field trips once a week with the kids [for free]. Last summer we went to [Six Flags] AstroWorld, and to a few [Houston] Astros games," said Sawyer.

"You have to really like kids and playing outside. You also get a really good tan and the staff you work with is mostly college kids. We became really good friends over the summer and went out on the weekends," Sawyer said.

But far more important to some students than having their fill of fun and sun are the benefits of working at a job that not only provides valuable experience in one's future career, but one that may provide an edge when potential employers look at their resume.



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

For example, many museums offer summer work. They provide an interesting atmosphere while also looking good on a resume.

"We normally need students to work at summer camps," Ivivia Maldonado, the operations manager at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History.

"We hire a lot of education and wildlife majors. It's great experience working with children. Plus the hours are flexible

... and you don't have to work weekends. It also can look really good on your resume."

It's a lot of fun working with the kids, they are so fun, they give us a little chuckle every day," Maldonado said.

Students should be aware that there are summer jobs that have the potential to fulfill both the desire to have a relaxing summer and allow them to gain experience that will impress future employers.

CENTER STAGE

LIFE DOESN'T HOLD TRYOUTS

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS
A LAURENCE MARK PRODUCTION A NICHOLAS HYTNER FILM "CENTER STAGE" AMANDA SCHULL ZOE SALDANA SUSAN MAY PRATT
PETER GALLAGHER DONNA MURPHY AND ETHAN STIEFFEL
MUSIC BY GEORGE FENTON WRITTEN BY CAROL HEIKKINEN PRODUCED BY LAURENCE MARK
DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS HYTNER
COLUMBIA PICTURES

FREE ADVANCE SCREENING

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY @ Rudder Theatre

8:00 PM Tuesday, April 18

FREE ADMISSION* while passes last

INFO?: call SPO 845-1515

<http://films.tamu.edu>

* Passes available at Rudder Theatre Box Office or Lobby.

Passes required. Seating is limited and not guaranteed. Please arrive early.

Presented in association with MSC Film Society.



Depo-Provera®
Contraceptive Injection
medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension

After the show, bring your completed pass to your healthcare center to get a FREE CD single (while supplies last) and learn more about Depo-Provera. For more information go to www.depo-provera.com.