

## Footling the bill

Students juggle academics, employment to keep grades, finances afloat



By MICALA PROESCH  
THE BATTALION

For student employment, as do many other departments at A&M.

While many students qualify for this type of financial aid, others must look elsewhere for sources of financial relief. One option among students in the College Station area is to attend the less expensive Blinn College and then transfer to A&M.

"I decided to go to Blinn for two years and save a lot of money on tuition," Vyoral said. "I know that I can still graduate from A&M, so I figure I might as well save some money too."

Even if students opt to attend Blinn or receive assistance through financial aid, they still have to pay bills and often are forced to work.

Attending school is similar to having a job, so when a student must work, it is as time-consuming and draining as having two jobs. These students must often sacrifice either good grades or a social life to keep money coming in.

Branden Lorenz, a junior finance major who works at the University Bookstore, said, "If only I had the free time that the average college student has, a 4.0 would be a piece of cake."

Having to work also can add stress to a student's life.

"It's really stressful at the end of the month trying to make rent and pay all of my bills on top of studying," Vyoral said.

While working and going to school has its disadvantages, there also can be some rewards from learning to balance work and school. Students who work tend to be more responsible and organized because they know that failing to be organized may cost them their jobs or their grades.

Katie Jahns, a junior finance major, said she feels that having a job will help her in the long run.

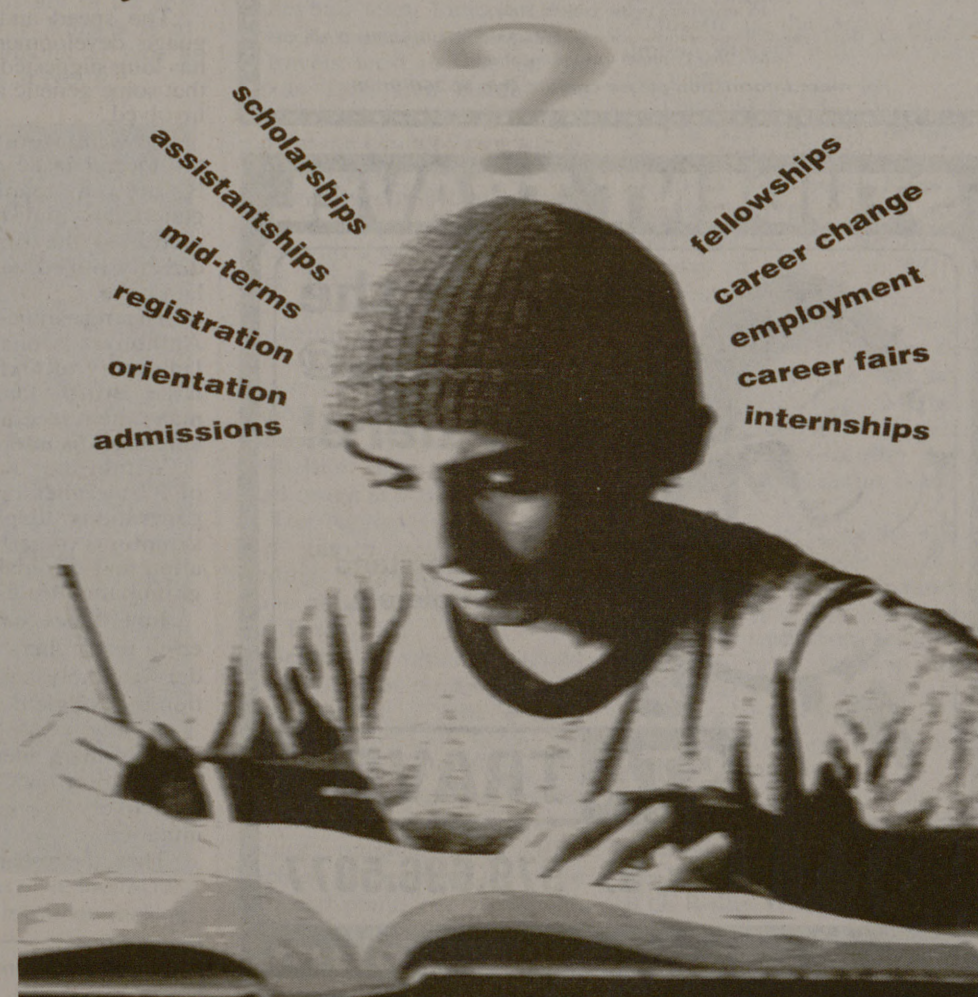
"Having a job teaches you time management skills because you have to balance your time between studying and working," Jahns said.

Another advantage of working to pay your own college bills is that it prepares you for financial responsibility after college.

Nick Henderson, a senior manufacturing engineering technology major, said, "Paying your own bills and working throughout college prepares you for the real world, so it isn't a shock when you are on your own and your money goes so fast."

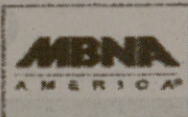
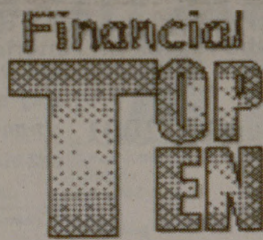
Working while attending school can teach students the value of hard work and makes them appreciate what others may take for granted.

"I'm not bitter that I have to work, but it's irritating when I hear other people whose parents give them everything complain about not having any money," Henderson said. "They don't appreciate what they have."



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Buying a car  
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**Financial Top Ten**

10. Managing Credit
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8. Being Credit Worthy
7. Credit Report Review
6. Avoid Risk-Based Pricing
5. Credit Warning Signs
4. Setting Financial Goals
3. Saving Money
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This event is **FREE** of charge for all TAMU students. Please come and join us for an informational evening that will further develop your financial awareness and increase your money management skills!

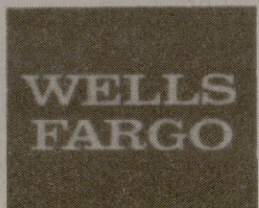
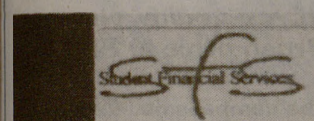
**When: October 11, 2001, 5:30 to 7:00**

**Where: 601 Rudder Tower**

**Who: All TAMU Students**

**Refreshments provided.**

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