

Juggling textbooks and checkbooks

By Kristin McNulty
THE BATTALION

The summer life of a student conjures up images of peaceful days divided between study and play, free from the stress and strain of the working world. However, those days have long passed for students at Texas A&M.

Kendra Garner, a sophomore nutritional sciences major, knows this all too well. "My parents send me some money, but it is not enough to live on," she said. Because the cost of living is rising, college students are now trying to juggle their textbooks and checkbooks. Most students working this summer are working before, in-between and after classes, typically working 25 hours a week. One out of 10 students attend classes full-time and work full-time.

Becky Wheeler, a sophomore agricultural journalism major, and Garner agree they each had to cut off approximately 10 hours of work a week to balance their schedules.

"I have to work as much as I can so I can pay for bills and other necessities," said Jake Wood, a sophomore poultry science major. Wood is attending school four

hours daily and works eight hours as well.

"The days are really long and I wish I would have cut some hours off of work," he said.

Other students work because they are saving money for spring break or a new car. Some students get jobs because they want

spending money. Crystal Royce, a junior general studies major, works so she can have money to spend on the things she

wants rather than needs.

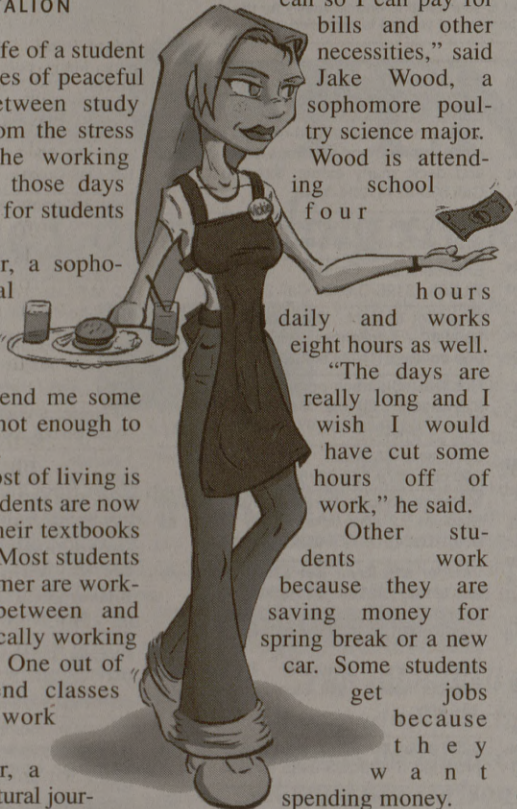
"I enjoy having money for trips out of state to see my fiancé as often as I can," she said. "Without all this extra money I work for, I would only see him on some holidays."

Many working students benefit from the work and study experience because they get a crash course in time and money management.

Royce believes this experience shows her responsibility to keep a job and handle schoolwork. It also teaches her how to effectively manage her time.

The key to survival for the working student is not how much money he makes or what his GPR is. It is simply learning how to manage two important aspects in his life and still time for himself.

Garner gives her advice on how to stay stress-free and still get the grades and the money: "Work hard at both school and work, but remember to leave time for yourself. It's your college life, so take the time to enjoy it."



GRAPHIC BY SETH FREEMAN
THE BATTALION



Further Seems Forever
How to Start a Fire
Tooth & Nail Records

Same name, different band. After replacing front man Chris Carraba (now of Dashboard Confessional), Further Seems Forever has released its first album, "How to Start a Fire," with new singer Jason Gleason (formerly of January).

Everything that was lacking from the original FSF has been made complete with the switch. Gleason's voice mixes perfectly with the rest of the band. This transition is comparable to the booting of Zach De LaRocha for Chris Cornell. In both cases, the music is flawless and blends extremely well, but the edge and possibly the main point for the music is gone.

The songs swing from hard-hitting and aggressive to soft and melodic, both of which are great. Notable songs include "Insincerity As An Art form," "Pride War" and "A Blank Page Empire," but there are not many weak tracks on this CD. FSF has put together a solid album that should appeal to almost all rock lovers - from heavy listeners to emo fans.

However, what is lost is some of the more creative songwriting and unique vocals. Other than that, FSF has brought down a great album, full of radio-friendly tunes that are solid and likeable.



-Daniel Chapman

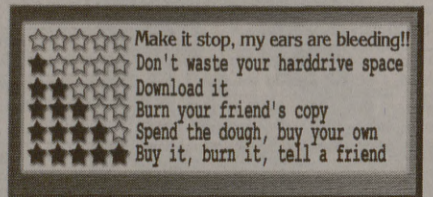
The Roots
Phrenology

Life is all about tight lyrics, captivating beats, new ideas and interesting philosophies. Maybe not. The Roots make life a little more enjoyable and less routine. The band (yes, a rap band), probably most famous for backing Jay-Z's unplugged album and being the driving force in indie rap, beautifully pulls off an imaginative album, "Phrenology." As one of the few rap/hip-hop groups that has broken from mainstream rap, the topics of the music are not guns, cash and hoe's. The Roots make music that strays from the stereotype of rap and moves in a different direction.

What is exciting about this band is that it plays all its own instruments, creates new and creative rhymes and is unafraid to call out the evils and pleasures of life. Many of its songs bring new ideas and will keep forcing hip hop and music in general to change with the times. Overall "Phrenology" is a great album.



-Daniel Chapman



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