

Temporary services offer short-term employment

By JEANNA BAXTER
Staff Writer

Temporary employment offers students flexibility and the chance to discover their job interests, said Michele Groom, staffing coordinator for Elite Personnel Service.

Temporary employment agencies hire employees who are then contracted to other companies on a short-term basis, she said. The company pays the agency for the employee's services and the agency then pays the employee. The agency also pays the employee's taxes and worker's compensation.

The majority of temporary jobs are clerical and word processing jobs requiring typing and word processing skills. Most agencies pay between \$4.50 and \$8.00 an hour, depending upon the employee's skills, experience and qualifications.

The more computer skills a person has, the more he or she will be paid, Groom said. A pleasant phone voice and switchboard experience are also helpful, she said.

Temporary employment means

there is no guarantee the position will become permanent. This is an advantage, however, for people who are unable or unwilling to make a long-term commitment to an employer, she said.

Some of the more frequent clients of temporary agencies are students who want to work around their class schedules, new people to the area who want to become familiar with area companies and mothers who need additional income, but want to work around their children's school hours, Groom said.

Andrea Powell, personnel assistant for Smither and Associates personnel services, said the firm's clients also include students taking a semester off or wanting a summer job and new college graduates deciding on a career.

People reentering the work force, especially women, who want to sharpen their skills and discover what is available in the job market are also among its clientele, she said.

Many people work temporary jobs

to "keep the money coming in" while they look for a permanent job, Powell said. Often these jobs do become permanent.

Groom said some people simply like the flexibility of temporary employment.

An additional advantage to a temporary job is that the employees are not required to accept the job and will not be tied permanently to a job they do not like, she said.

Marcia Harris, director of University Career Planning and Placement Services, said temporary agencies that are also involved in permanent placement can save a job hunter a lot of time. This is particularly helpful for students who are looking for a part-time job while they are in school, but do not have time to write cover letters and resumes or go to interviews, she said.

But people should use these agencies to supplement their own job search, because the agencies affect their salary by charging a fee for their liaison services, she said.

Temporary employment does have

disadvantages, however.

Temporary employees do not qualify for paid vacations or company benefit packages, Groom said. They may also end up with a job they would not want on a full-time basis, such as stuffing envelopes.

Powell said the initial pay level is usually lower than a permanent job because the employees are paid an hourly wage instead of a salary.

Temporary employment is also an advantage for employers.

Companies frequently contract temporary employees to work on special projects or fill in for regular employees who are sick or on vacation, Groom said.

Susan Hoffman, service representative for Manpower Temporary Services, said temporary employment agencies help companies by finding employees for them on short notice. Temporary agencies also eliminate the hassle of interviewing and worrying about the employee's social security, unemployment and worker's compensation.

Powell said contracting temporary employees is beneficial because they are already screened and require little training. "Most companies trust our judgment and do not do further screening," she said.

Harris and Powell agree that temporary employment also allows a company to try different employees without being committed to hiring them.

Harris said since employers are tightening their belts, they are cautious about expanding their staffs and are beginning to hire temporaries to fill positions that a few years ago would have been full-time.

Students should have realistic goals about temporary jobs since they are not likely to develop into professional positions, she said. Temporary jobs do help students make contacts and learn skills.

Students should also be aware of the Student Part-time Employment Service and the Career Planning and Placement experiential learning program which lists internships and some part-time positions, Harris said.

Yellowstone: summer school and grizzly bears all in one

By ELLEN THORNTON
Staff Writer

Getting through finals is hard enough without having to worry about spending vacation in a summer school class. But what if the class consisted of hiking through the wilderness looking at elk, alpine wildflowers or meteor showers?

This alternative to traditional summer school is available for those who want to visit Yellowstone National Park. The Yellowstone Institute, a non-profit organization, sponsors 63 classes in natural history, wildlife and earth science during the period of May 30-Aug. 29.

Gene Ball, executive director at the Yellowstone Institute, said that of the 2.5 million people who visit the park each summer, only 600 experience these select classes.

The classes usually contain between eight and 15 students and often fill up in advance. Applicants are selected on a first come, first serve basis.

Students may choose to enroll in such classes as "Large Mammals of Yellowstone." Another class, "Wildflowers of the High Lake Country," provides a backcountry study of alpine plants and their environment.

However, if looking at flora and

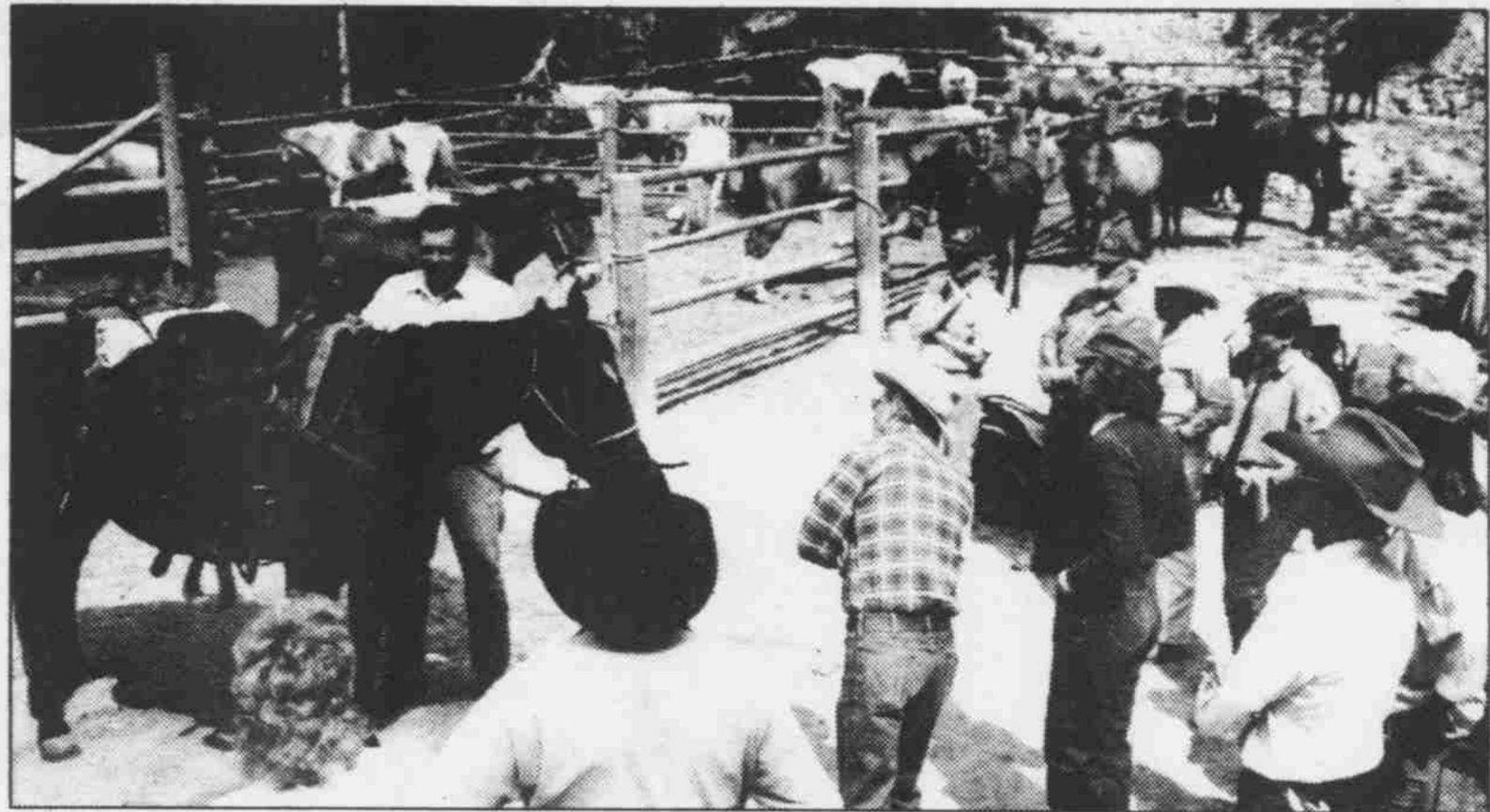
fauna is not your cup of tea, but gazing at a starry sky is, the institute offers "Star Trails West," a class that emphasizes Native American astronomy.

"The classes are the greatest way to see Yellowstone," Ball said. "It's a very special experience. You get to know the park intimately by doing things you wouldn't have been turned on to on your own, like observing a grizzly bear's den."

There is a tuition charge for each class, but Ball said the Yellowstone Institute helps students live in the park very inexpensively.

Because the courses at Yellowstone are not offered by a university, students must check with the Undergraduate Admissions Office about credit, according to University transfer admissions officer Jean Girtman.

For a free course catalog, write P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. 82190.



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