

Odd jobs ease college expenses

BY NATALIE HAMMEL
STAFF WRITER

In the age of triple-digit priced textbooks and unpaid resume-building research work, Bert Scerbo, a junior biomedical engineering major, bargain shops online for his books.

Scerbo does what he can to help scrimp and save his way through the "priceless" college experience, which includes evading the typical \$500 price tag for a semester's worth of books by buying them online.

According to a recent eBay survey, most college students say they are struggling financially, with 55 percent saying they are either "broke" or just "breaking even" — even though the survey states that more than 80 percent of students are working while attending college.

"This time of year is much more difficult for students because ... (the) break is so short in between semesters," said Kal Chany, author of "Paying for College Without Going Broke." "It's hard for students to replenish their funds."

Chany has been helping students and their parents navigate their way through the financial aid process for more than 20 years. He said he's heard of students setting up their own businesses, running laundry services, cleaning rooms and making meals for other students, selling clothing and tutoring to make money.

Jess Hanlin, a freshman communication studies major from Maryland, donned goggles, a hard hat, work boots and earplugs to work 40 hours a week at a cement plant during the summer. All the money she earned went to help her parents pay for out-of-state tuition costs.

"Literally, we swept giant piles of cement dust and then shoveled it out of the building," she said. "Just think construction sites, a big heap of dirt. This is what it looks like, except dust. It's really gross."

Chany recommends a pragmatic approach to students who are trying to save for college that includes applying for financial aid before the priority deadline, budgeting expenses, resisting temptations and taking advantage of student discounts in the area.

"(Students) need to be savvy and realize a lot of people are trying to market to them," he said.

He also said students should look into the differences between work-study jobs and outside jobs.

While work-study income won't reduce a student's eligibility for financial assistance, he said other

total income earned, if more than \$2,650, could reduce aid about 50 cents on the dollar.

Jeremy Valtin, a freshman political science major, has a work-study job at Coker Arboretum doing yard work.

After filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, he and his mother decided he should have a work-study job instead of taking the offered loans.

He said the scheduling is very flexible — his boss knows that school is his priority, and the job gives him a feeling of accomplishment.

But UNC students might be graduating, on average, with less debt than students at other schools. John Ellison, member of the Board of Trustees, said that in the past four years, the average loan that a UNC student graduates with has dropped from \$13,000 to \$11,000.

For students who might have their own tuition costs covered, there are still relatives with tuition expenses.

This summer, Emmanuel Bello, a freshman Morehead Scholar, woke up at 4:30 a.m. each weekday to catch a bus from his home near Philadelphia to his internship at Goldman Sachs, an investment bank on Wall Street.

Bello spent some of the money he earned on "play," such as dates and birthday presents, but he gave about \$1,500 to his sister and cousin to help them pay their tuition bills.

"Every morning, I'd get about 100 to 150 resumes, and I literally decided who was going to be scrutinized," he said. "An 18-year-old with absolutely no experience was holding the fate of Ph.D.s in economics ... in his hands."

Marcia Harris, director of University Career Services, said the office offers a wide scope of services that students consistently rate as their No. 1 resource for employment. The office has a part-time employment service, an internship service program and helps seniors find employment after graduation.

But until college is over and it's time to get a real job, a lot of students are happy with part-time work that funds clothes, movies, dinners — what Harris calls "extras."

"Many students might have family support for tuition and fees, but not necessarily for living expenses," Harris said. "I think students want not only the basics, but also the extras, too."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

Students connect with Israeli heritage

BY JACQUELINE BRILL
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Colin Sutker spent the worst night of his life during his winter excursion to Israel. He was sick and stuck sleeping in a tent shared by 200 people while touring the Negev Desert.

"It was warm, we were in dirty sleeping bags, and a lot of other people were sick, so it was just like an incubator of disease," said Sutker, a senior journalism and political science major.

He wasn't ready to pack his bags, though. Instead, the experience made him realize how significant this adventure really was for him.

"I maybe got two hours of sleep, but I still walked away with a good feeling," Sutker said. "I figured that if I could do that, then this trip was pretty special."

Sutker, along with 35 other UNC students and several more from other colleges around the state, traveled to Israel for 10 days over Winter Break with the Birthright Israel program, which sent them halfway across the world at nearly no cost.

"(Birthright Israel) is an international program where a number of philanthropists decided that every Jewish young person should have an experience in Israel in their lives," said Or Mars, executive director of N.C. Hillel. "It creates a stronger connection (among the students), their heritage and the Jewish faith."

The program, which is available to those between the ages 18 and 26 who affiliate themselves with the Jewish faith, has treated about 78,000 young adults from more than 35 countries to a free first encounter with Israel. Typically, UNC sends 30 to 50 students to Israel through the program, which has both winter and summer sessions.

Funded by several different Jewish philanthropic organizations, including the North American Jewish Federation and the Jewish Agency for Israel, those participating from UNC only needed to pay for snacks, souvenirs and their airfare to and from New York.

The next-to-nothing price tag wasn't the only reason students were eager to get on board, though.

"I knew I was going to go (to Israel) at some point in my life, but it was a matter of doing it while I still could with friends," Sutker said.

Rachel Rosenberg, a senior environmental studies major, was taking advantage of her final Winter Break.

"It was such an amazing opportunity to visit a country you hear so

much about, but it was also probably the last time in a while I'd have ten days to see (Israel)," she said.

A relatively steady political and military state in Israel also gave the green light to students previously nervous about the prospect of visiting the Middle East.

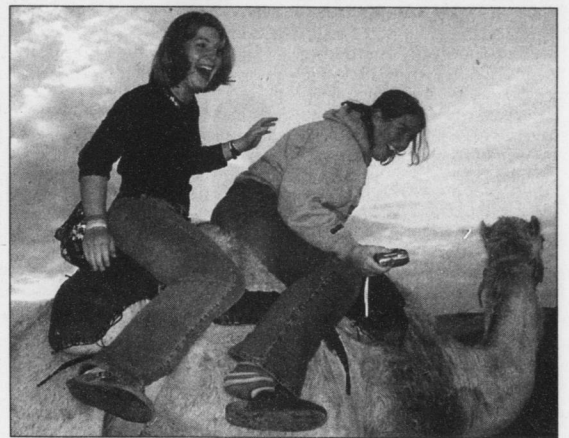
Upon touching down, the students hopped on a bus and headed out to explore the young country that declared its independence only 57 years ago.

In addition to the Negev Desert, the UNC students were able to visit such exotic locales as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Golan Heights, among many other sites of historical and archaeological notability.

Rosenberg's favorite point on the itinerary was a stop at the ancient mountaintop settlement of Masada, where her group was able to take a sunrise hike to the summit.

"There was just so much unity, energy and spirit," Rosenberg said. "I had a really powerful feeling."

Sutker remembers a visit to a modern dance company in Jerusalem as one of his most mem-



COURTESY OF JUDITH MOSES

Students in N.C. Hillel ride a camel in the Negev Desert in Israel over Winter Break. The trip was sponsored by the Birthright Israel program.

orable points in the trip.

"I had never seen anything like it before," he said. "I figured that if in all the conflict and violence that you typically hear of in Israel, there were these people whose sole job it was to create dance —

well, it changed my whole view of the people and country of Israel. It puts a whole new face on the country."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Philip J. Anderson

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ACROSS

- 1 Type of pasta
- 5 Video-game company
- 10 Insolence
- 14 Asian sea
- 15 Hunger strikes
- 16 Potpourri
- 17 Elite group
- 20 Booming jet, for short
- 21 Commend
- 22 Avignon's river
- 23 Beach, FL
- 24 H.H. Munro
- 26 Elite group
- 32 Luster
- 33 Woodwind piece
- 34 Thurman of film
- 35 Successful shots
- 36 Spectrum producer
- 38 Skier's lift
- 39 In the style of
- 40 Baba and MacGraw
- 41 Couples
- 42 Elite group
- 46 Deftness
- 47 Nevada resort
- 48 Egypt's Anwar
- 51 Morales of "N.Y.P.D. Blue"
- 52 French coin
- 55 Elite group
- 59 One of Central Park's 840
- 60 Notational sign in music
- 61 If all -- fails...

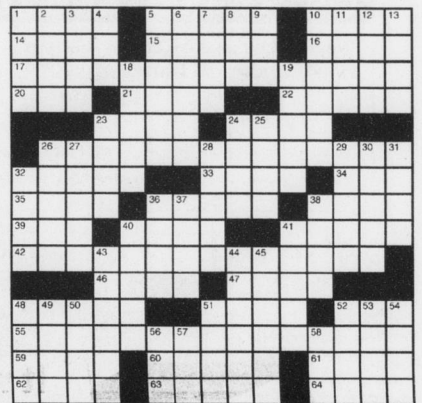
- 62 Tongue-clicking sounds
- 63 Remove stitches
- 64 Burn slightly

DOWN

- 1 Uses a laser weapon
- 2 Tennessee flower
- 3 Diplomacy
- 4 Sort or kind
- 5 Declare
- 6 Body art
- 7 Tennis great Arthur
- 8 Numbered hwy.
- 9 Small pc. of land
- 10 Grotesque genre of fiction
- 11 Choir member
- 12 Property claim
- 13 Handed-down history
- 18 Vast expanse
- 19 Galled
- 23 Geese formations

- 24 Fr. rel. figures
- 25 Attention getter
- 26 Red pepper pod
- 27 Mark new prices
- 28 Pat down
- 29 Toy-cube inventor
- 30 Bradley and Epps
- 31 Golf standards
- 32 Persian ruler
- 36 Also
- 37 Oriental staple
- 38 Tex-Mex snack
- 40 Violin maker of note
- 41 Carthaginian

- 43 Lifts
- 44 "Lupin"
- 45 Pasture
- 48 Quarrel
- 49 Circle parts
- 50 Actor Bogarde
- 51 Scrambled order
- 52 Mall event
- 53 Pelion's partner
- 54 Manipulator
- 56 Fighting Tigers of the NCAA
- 57 Poetic contraction
- 58 Bandleader Brown



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A T O P E R R O L N O A H
C O M I C P O U N D S T O N E
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