

Students fill up local workforce

Look for jobs in restaurants, shops

BY ELISABETH ARRIERO
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Studying hard and making good grades might be good for your transcript, but it does nothing for your bank account.

In order to avoid being perpetually broke for the four years they're in college, many students opt to get a job.

"I got a job because I wanted spending money for going out," senior Justin Jones said.

Jones has worked at McAlister's Deli on Franklin Street for more than two years.

"It's been a big part of my college experience, working here," he said.

Jones said one reason he enjoys having an off-campus job is because of the broad clientele base McAlister's sees.

"You get to meet a lot of cool people working off-campus," he said. "It's not just students but residents, too."

Senior Nyoka Norman, who works at Four Corners, also said meeting new people is a perk to working off campus.

"You encounter so many different personalities and ethnicities,"

Norman said. "You have people coming from out of town all the time, too."

Some students said they chose to apply for an off-campus job because they believed they would have a better chance of scoring one than in opportunities on campus.

"I thought an on-campus job would be harder to get because it seems like a lot of those opportunities are through work study," junior Christine White said.

But McAlister's Deli assistant manager John Couture said off-campus jobs are just as coveted as on-campus jobs.

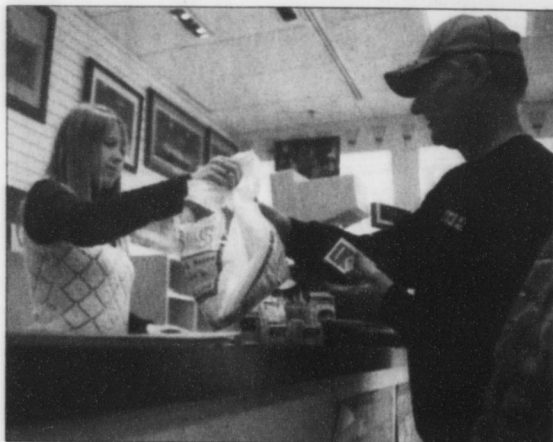
"On average we get three to four applications a day," he said. "People are constantly coming in wanting to fill out an application."

Couture said that because of the high demand among students for employment, McAlister's Deli can be more selective of whom it hires.

"Because there are so many applicants, we only give jobs to the most qualified people," he said.

McAlister's location on Franklin Street also ups its stock in the off-campus job marketing, as many students who don't have cars look for jobs at restaurants within walking distance.

And at McAlister's at least, Couture said the majority of



DTH/ELYSSA SHARPE
Junior Lauren Wagoner works at Tarheel Book Store on Franklin Street on Monday. Many businesses in Chapel Hill offer part-time jobs for students.

employees end up being students. "There are certain benefits to hiring students," he said.

One such benefit to having a staff full of student workers, he said, is that it can help keep labor down.

"By hiring a lot of students, I don't have to give a lot of hours out," Couture said.

"That helps me out because I don't have to worry about overtime."

In addition, some employers said they like to hire students because of the energy they bring.

"They bring a sort of liveliness that adds to the environment," said Spanky's head manager Gavin Toth.

Couture said both employers and employees benefit when businesses hire students.

"We love to hire students, and we all have a lot of fun working together."

Personality is key for potential employers

BY GREG SMITH
STAFF WRITER

From tuition money to beer money, students have plenty of reasons to get a job throughout the school year — but finding a job in a college town isn't always easy.

Area employers differ on what they look for in future employees, with some placing more emphasis on experience and others on personality.

But all stress the importance of being able to work in a group and showing responsibility in voluntary extracurricular activities.

"We definitely try to look for people with some restaurant experience; it helps things along with training," said Blair Bellard, one of the owners of [B]Ski's on Franklin Street.

"But we're also looking to see what activities they participate in -- do they do more than just show up for class?" she said.

Others, such as Robb Gannotta at Southpoint Cinemas, place more value on people skills.

"I don't look so much at (applicants') grades or curriculums, but I do care what their first impression on me is."

As with many commercial services, Gannotta said the floor staff at Southpoint Cinemas is mostly composed of high school and college students.

"Around 70 percent of my employees are students," said Heather Parrish, store manager of Abercrombie & Fitch at The Streets at Southpoint.

"We don't have many problems with working around the schedules

of our student employees, which is one of the benefits of being a retail store."

The restaurant industry is another main provider of student employment and is especially active at night, when students are less likely to have classes.

"It's great for students because you can work for four hours — make an average of 100 to 150 dollars for dinner, or 30 to 40 dollars for lunch," said Drew Hansel, the assistant manager at 411 West. Most students work about three shifts a week at his restaurant.

"There's plenty of time to get your school work done and still work a couple days a week."

Another factor for some employers is appearance.

"If someone turns in their application for me, it does matter to a certain degree what they're wearing," Gannotta said.

"If this person's not taking care of themselves, how can they take care of their responsibilities on the job?" For Parrish, at least, clothing is a secondary factor.

"It doesn't matter how they dress because I can put them in Abercrombie clothes," she said.

Job turnover is highest around the beginning and end of each semester, as students finalize their schedules and determine what workloads they can handle.

"About a month before the semester ends we start looking a lot harder," Bellard said.

"Schoolwork is obviously most important, but we do need a certain amount of commitment, too."

On-campus jobs popular for students

Provide paychecks and convenience

BY SERGIO TOVAR
SENIOR WRITER

From officiating intramural basketball to acting as a resident adviser to working behind the counter at Student Stores, students looking for a job on campus will find a great variety of positions they can fill.

Some of the largest student employers on campus include Campus Recreation, the Carolina Union, Student Stores, Carolina Dining Services, Information Technology Services and the Department of Housing and Residential Education.

Not only are these jobs diverse, but they are also convenient to many students who might find

it easier to hold a job on campus that fits into their busy college lives.

Marty Pomerantz, director of Campus Recreation, said Campus Recreation offers jobs in five different areas — including intramural sports, Carolina Adventures and Carolina Fitness.

The department employs about 500 students throughout the year.

"We might be the largest employer of students on campus," Pomerantz said.

Campus Recreation advertises job openings for positions such as scanning One Cards at Rams Head Recreation Center and Woolen Gym.

Pomerantz said they also have

orientation programs and clinics which students can attend.

But Pomerantz said the most direct route to a job for Campus Recreation is to approach a staff member.

"The best thing to do is to talk to the director of each of the areas," he said.

Carolina Union offers jobs to students that can be things like working at the help desk or at the box office.

But the union also has options on the more nitty-gritty end, such as helping to produce and providing technical services for productions held at the Student Union, Memorial Hall or other locations on campus.

In production services alone, Carolina Union hires about 100 students to support about 500

events each year. Student Stores offer students jobs throughout the year working behind the counter.

But the number of students employed increases during the beginning and end of each semester when students are trying to both buy and sell back their textbooks.

ITS offers jobs at their computer labs throughout campus and to computer-savvy students who can apply to be part of the ResNET program, which places students at different residence halls and waives their housing fee as part of their compensation.

Students also can apply to work at the Lenoir and Rams Head dining halls or, more traditionally, to work in different residence halls as advisers.

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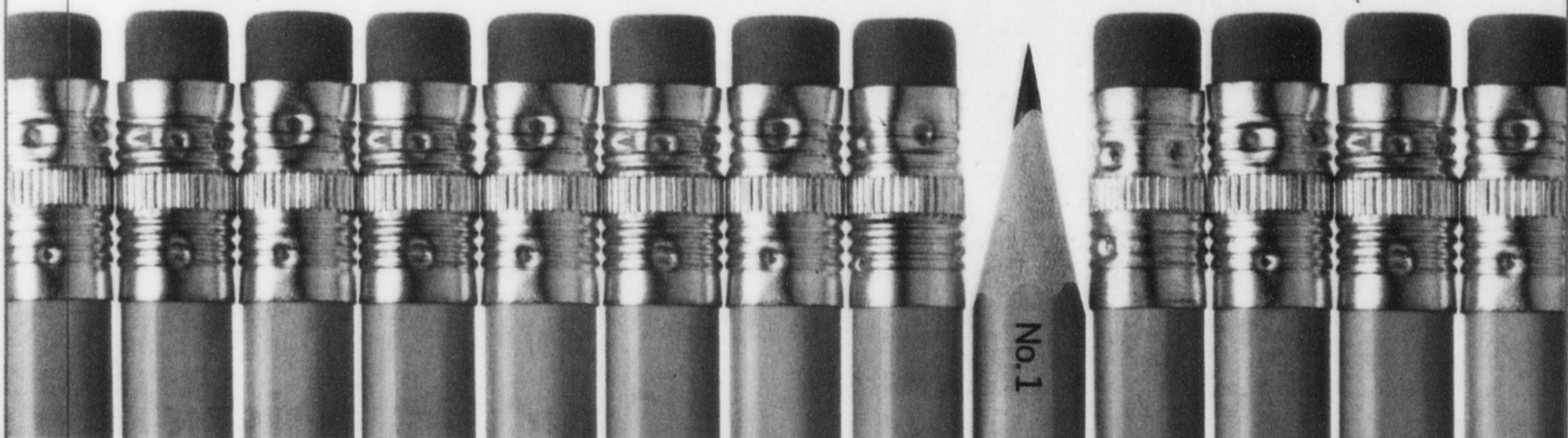
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