



Mongolian Grill is just one among many hot-spot dining locations on campus with specials such as Asian salads, fried rice and dumplings. Students who held jobs at Mongolian Grill learned valuable lessons in, not only food service, but time management as the lines during dinner hours were sometimes out the door.
photo by {sun shim}

POOR NO MORE: the perks of on-campus jobs

college students find new ways to make money and friends

by *sarah lockwood* {writer}

The classic college image had some truth. Students were strapped for cash. However, on-campus jobs provided a convenient source of income. In the basement of Carrier was a little known desk called Media Resources. Here, student workers checked-in and out laptops, DVDs, VHSs, and other equipment including video cameras and tripods. Senior Javier Castro worked as a Media Desk Assistant for two years.

While most students had to look up DVDs and request them, Castro had the advantage of perusing the shelves of videos behind the desk.

"I like films a lot so I get to be around films," said Castro. The environment was another aspect of the job that attracted Castro. When the center was quiet, workers were encouraged to use the time for homework. The central location on campus also made the job convenient for scheduling.

While this relaxed atmosphere suited Castro, others felt that active jobs made the time go by faster. Freshman Seattle Heiman began working at Market One in the spring and was surprised by how much she enjoyed it.

"A lot of my friends wouldn't consider getting a job like that," said Heiman. "They think it's lowly or boring, but it's not a bad job. You work with really nice people so it actually goes by pretty fast."

Heiman spent some of her eight hours a week making dough for Sbarro, but usually worked at Burger Junction, where she enjoyed the student interactions.

Working at the University Recreation (UREC) Welcome Center, sophomore Frank Ashby found that other jobs offered this interaction and social aspect as well.

"I wanted to get more involved on campus and start talking to and hanging out with a new group of people," said Ashby.

While nine hours a week of swiping JACs, answering phones, scheduling massages and handling FLEX transactions paid for books and extra expenses, Ashby found friends at UREC, too.

"I think this is the best job on campus," said Ashby. "Everyone that I work with is really cool and really nice. We have social gatherings where we all hang out. I don't feel like any other on-campus place has a thing where the employees hang out and actually enjoy each other's company."

While she didn't socialize with her coworkers outside of work, senior Corbin Wagner found friendship at her on-campus job as well. As an operations assistant at Madison Union, Wagner worked at the desk in Warren as well as the Taylor Down Under (TDU) desk. It was her co-workers who made this job enjoyable as well.

"I like the people," said Wagner. "I really, genuinely like everyone who works here and my bosses are great."

Another perk of the job was its flexibility.

"I wanted a job that was understanding of schoolwork," said Wagner. "It averages about 10 hours a week which is perfect. If I have a really big test the next day or something, people are understanding, they'll cover your shift."

Most on-campus jobs had advantages, but each had frustrating aspects as well.

"Sometimes you'll get a participant who will come in and just basically think that we can do stuff that we can't and heckle you," said Ashby. "You have to just act professional. It's kind of frustrating sometimes."

It seemed Wagner had similar annoyances.

"The most annoying is when everyone thinks we're the post office and we're not," said Wagner. "Freshmen still ask us probably 10 times a day."

Working the desk in TDU had some negative consequences as well.

"There's cameras so you can see all of TDU, like when people are making out," said Wagner. "It's kind of gross."

At the end of the day, workers looked over these difficulties, because the cliché held. They needed money. And while these and many other student workers were able to fill their empty wallets through on-campus jobs, it seems most also made a few friends. }



Unusual considering PC Dukes' popularity, one student pays for her purchase without having to suffer the long lines. During dinner or lunch rush hours, students who worked at PC Dukes had to quickly keep lines moving and deal with the stressors of a loud environment.
photo by {sun shim}

Seniors **Corbin Wagner** and **Diana Vigilante** work at the front desk of Madison Union. Madison Union was in charge of hosting events, setting up rooms and designing posters and flyers for organizations.
photo by {sun shim}



Students answer phone calls and swipe gym-goers into UREC. Employees at UREC claim they had the best job on campus because of the bonds they made with their co-workers.
photo by {sun shim}



Top Dog's Starbucks presents an alternative option for students who love their caffeine but not the long lines in Carrier. Students who held jobs here had to be comfortable with a fast-paced working environment and complicated drink orders.
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