

# Students receive low air fares flying as couriers

By Stephanie Ebbert

■ The Review

U. of Delaware

Imagine flying to Europe for \$299, or to Bermuda for \$99 round trip.

Students can receive these 50 to 85 percent discounts on air fare by flying as couriers, transporting letters, blueprints and other materials to delivery company contacts overseas or around the country.

There's no risk of espionage charges, and drug trafficking is not in question. The only catch is the courier cannot bring luggage, only a carry-on.

About 25 delivery companies sponsor partial air fare for couriers, said Jesse L. Riddle, author of "A Simple Guide to Courier Travel." Riddle said he learned

how to travel as a courier about 10 years ago when serving as a missionary in the U.S. territorial islands.

Delivery companies act as travel agents by organizing trips for couriers, Riddle said. A traveler calls a delivery company and tells a representative the date he or she plans to depart. The delivery company then arranges for a reduced-fare plane ticket.

"They fly every day, and every day they'll have something at the airport they want you to take," Riddle said. "It's more cost-effective for couriers to do it than sending the luggage with Federal Express, and couriers can guarantee overnight delivery."

The best deals are available when scheduled couriers cancel their trips at the last minute. At that point, delivery

companies will call other couriers and offer deals for dramatically lower prices, sometimes free, Riddle said.

Potential couriers must be 18 years old, and may dress casually, said Angel Ortiz, a booking agent for Now Voyager, a New York City delivery company which averages 400 flights each month. A traveler should also know when and where he or she wants to fly before calling the company, Ortiz said.

Now Voyager flights to London cost \$250 round trip. A one-way ticket to Los Angeles costs \$89, Ortiz said.

Many elderly people and businessmen become couriers because they make frequent trips, Riddle said. However, he said, "Students are still the favorites of courier companies. They know students are on a low budget and have pretty flex-

ible schedules."

The only problem for students is that at the times they generally choose to travel, such as spring break, courier travel is often overbooked.

TNT Skypak, a delivery company based in Chicago, needs couriers to travel to London weekly and to Mexico City four times a week. Their flights, as opposed to some other delivery company arrangements, are based on an open return policy, said Tim Atkins, courier coordinator for the company.

Most delivery companies are based in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami. Flights leave from those cities.

Riddle's guide is not available in bookstores but can be ordered for \$12.50 by calling 1-800-344-9375.

## Designer

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chased a Burneikis-made tank top and printed pants.

Along with the positive aspects of successful entrepreneurship come time constraints. "It takes a lot of time and devotion," Burneikis said. "When I am really crunched for time to do schoolwork, I have to hold back on business. The business has always been there when I have the time to seek and promote it."

Burneikis attributes the interest in his designs to his willingness to try new things. "Originality is lacking in a lot of things, and my clothes are a unique, individual thing," he said.

## Saturdays

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early for breaks and I never really wanted to go out on Friday nights."

Matthews said attendance is strongly encouraged and sometimes mandatory for students who are enrolled in a Saturday class.

"Students who are present all the time suffer because of the time it takes to answer the questions asked by students who missed the last class," he said.

"We don't feel we are doing the students any harm with the policy. Students are more likely to get the classes they need and that is a big benefit."

## Real World

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long surges of unpleasant activity; plenty of quality time.

Many graduates report that much of their quality time is spent asleep in the first months of Real World 101. Bedtime moves dramatically forward from the early hours of the morning to the early hours of the evening. The main thing to remember about Real World 101 is that it is not a difficult course. What is difficult is the adjustment to rigid hours, initially reduced party time and increased self-reliance.

However, most graduates, standing at the brink of real life as if it were a cliff, will look back in a year and wonder how they ever survived in the ivory-towered fairyland of the college system.

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