

Work-study openings a chance worth taking

By Alisha A. Pina
College Press Exchange

Confused, flustered and thrust into a new world, I walked aimlessly down Commonwealth Avenue, Boston University's main street.

"Excuse me, Miss, do you know where you're going? Can I help you with something?" asked an overzealous BU volunteer greeter, her smile widening as I neared. It was as if my freshman status penetrated my skin and was stapled across my forehead. Of course, I was nervous, it was my first day at my new job, a work-study position I had received as part of my financial-aid package.

Many college freshmen throughout the country will go through the same bout of uncertainty this fall.

Using financial need as the basis, schools give many students the option of having a federal work-study job, allowing undergraduate and graduate students a chance to earn money to help pay expenses while at college.

According to the U.S. Department of Education's Website-

Most jobs are on campus, ranging from dishwasher and cook in the cafeteria to office assistant or data entry in a particular department. A few students work off campus, either at a nonprofit organization or in a public agency.

The government pays 70 percent of the employee's salary while the employer pays the rest, a bargain for the company.

"Working on campus is good because people are very sympathetic to the needs of the students," said Beth Ulricksen, a University of Rhode Island financial department employee who processes work-study information into the computer systems. "I would not hesitate

to hire a work-study student."

Employers outside the work-study program are usually looking for people to work at least 20 hours a week. Also, most companies do not want to hire temporary employees; they want someone who can work through the summer.

When it was time for me to start college, I was told that working my freshman year would bring responsibility and stability to my life, as well as a little extra cash for weekend fun. So I jumped at the chance when my financial-aid award came in the mail and it included work-study.

During the summer orientation session for incoming freshmen, I went to a work-study seminar that explained the jobs available and let students fill out applications describing hobbies and interests. It gave me the luxury of not scurrying around for a job at the hectic beginning of the school year.

The seminar matched my interest in writing and my passion for sports with one of the better jobs around school - that of sports writer and editor for Boston University's Sports Information Center. It allowed me unlimited access to basketball, soccer and football games while taking statistics, keeping scores, and chatting with the players. I helped design and write media guides and news releases about our varsity players that were sent to their hometown newspapers.

I admit I sometimes teased other work-study students who ended up in the cafeteria cutting onions and washing tables, but I realize that work is work, as long as it is honest and legal.

Other times I envied their jobs because I knew those people sneaked food into their dormitories almost every night for midnight snacks

Swastikas found at Columbine

By Robin McDowell
The Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. — Students returning to Columbine High School for the first time since a massacre by two student gunmen were met by swastikas scratched on restroom walls and a brick wall outside the school.

School officials on Tuesday said they had etched off the four one-inch Nazi symbols and would punish any student responsible to the full extent of school policy.

The two gunmen had openly admired Adolf Hitler, and the April 20 massacre that left 15 dead was on the anniversary of Hitler's birth.

"It's like they are laughing in our faces, 'Ha, ha, school's back in session and so are we,'" said Tammy Theus, mother of one of just 15 black students at Columbine.

She and a group of other con-

cerned parents patrolling the school before the start of semester classes Monday discovered the graffiti. They covered the symbols with duct tape until school officials could have them removed.

Two 1-inch swastikas were found scratched into a freshly painted stall in a girl's restroom, another was found in a boy's restroom and a fourth was scratched into a brick wall outside the school, school officials said.

"We are taking this incident very seriously, and I am asking students to cooperate to find the person or persons responsible," Principal Frank DeAngelis said.

At a rally Monday he had warned students that slurs and harassment would not be tolerated. Jokes about the killings or jokes with racial or sexual overtones are grounds for suspension, school of-

ficials said.

Nearly 2,000 students returned to Columbine on Monday, their first day back since students Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, heavily armed with explosives and guns, opened fire in the school. The two killed 12 classmates and a teacher and wounded 23 people before committing suicide.

Students said Harris and Klebold had often told racial jokes and gave the Nazi salute in bowling class when they threw strikes. The two also wore black trench coats in school, and Harris wrote hate-filled messages on the Internet, vowing death to all who had slighted him.

District officials said they believed the swastikas had been etched in the restrooms on Monday because all of the rooms were repainted before fall classes began

Kitzhaber reveals more possible vetos

By Brad Cain
The Associated Press

SALEM — Gov. John Kitzhaber on Tuesday released a list of 32 bills he might veto, including ones to allow local communities to raise property taxes for schools and to boost the speed limit on rural highways.

Others bills on Kitzhaber's "hit list" would require doctors to inform parents before performing abortions on teens and prohibit cities from suing gun manufacturers for damages arising from gun violence.

With 44 bills already in the veto bin, the list of 32 other potential vetoes makes it likely Kitzhaber will eclipse the 58-veto record set in 1911 by Gov. Oswald West. Kitzhaber has until Sept. 3 to finish action on bills.

At a news conference, Kitzhaber said he doesn't relish junking so many of the bills passed by the 1999 Legislature but felt he had an obligation to nix bills that he thinks represent bad policy.

"I'm not trying to set a record," the Democratic governor said.

Republican legislative leaders nonetheless accused Kitzhaber of trying to rack up a large number of vetoes for political gain.

"It shows a lack of leadership on his part, not work-

ing with the Legislature," said Senate Majority Leader Gene Derfler of Salem. "I think he is trying to say, 'Look how bad they are.'"

In threatening to veto the local-option property tax bill, Kitzhaber said he is worried it would help wealthier places such as Portland but not other districts less likely to vote for higher property taxes.

"I'm concerned about returning to the specter of good schools for rich districts and poor schools for poor districts," he said.

Kitzhaber said he plans to meet soon with Portland Mayor Vera Katz and other supporters of the local-option tax to hear their pitch for the idea.

But he said there's a good chance he will veto the Legislature's plan and then include some sort of alternative to it in the overall school finance package he is scheduled to announce next month.

"The issue is not the local option per se as much as it is trying to figure out a way to reconnect the patrons of a school district with what happens in their district," he said.

As for the lengthy list of potential vetoes, Kitzhaber said he had warned legislative leaders he likely would veto many of their proposals, such as various tax breaks for businesses

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