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Students slaving away-- more combine jobs, school

By Sara Geake
The Daily Iowan (U. Iowa)
03/03/2005

(U-WIRE) IOWA CITY, Iowa -- When Laura Spencer thought about what she would be doing if she weren't working, one thing popped into her mind.

"Napping," she said.

The drain of working two jobs and going to school often leaves her wishing for more pillow time.

Instead, the University of Iowa senior sits at the IMU Campus Information Center, waiting to give advice to the next person in need of help.

Meanwhile, she's read "every newspaper," and she faces working another shift at her second job, the Currier Residence Hall front desk, where she has worked since she was a freshman.

Many students will tell similar stories of long hours, according to an annual University of California-Los Angeles survey that found freshman student employment is at an all-time high.

According to the recent nationwide survey, 47.2 percent of incoming 2004 freshmen said there was a "very good chance" they would seek employment.

Women had a greater chance of seeking employment. 53.3 percent of women, compared with the 39.6 percent of men surveyed who said they would seek employment during their first year of school.

While student employment

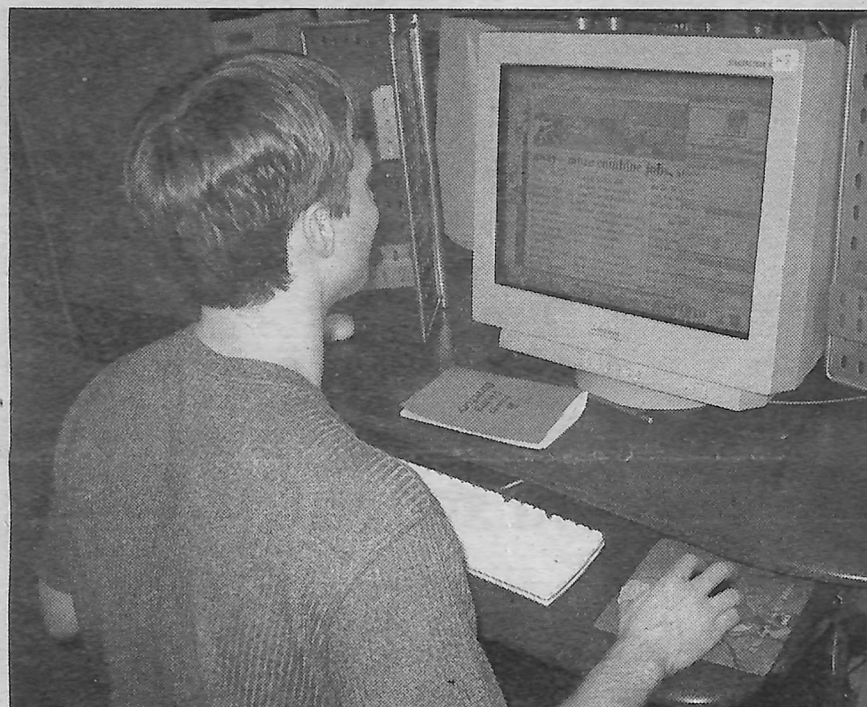


Photo by Kathy Wells

at the UI has remained consistent in recent years, Cynthia Seyfer, an assistant director of Student Financial Aid, said more students are on the job market.

"It's become a lot more difficult to find jobs," she said. "We've seen an increase in traffic on Jobnet."

Jobnet is an employment search engine for UI students, which includes on-and off-campus jobs.

The 2003-04 school year saw 13,659 students employed by the university. Those numbers were slightly down from the 2002-03 total of 13,879.

Seyfer attributes a nationwide employment increase to rising tuition costs and lack of financial aid. A tight market in the area has made it

harder for students to find a job, she said.

"Employment continues to be an important piece of the college-financing process," she said.

The UCLA survey found that an increased number of students also rely on family or loans to cover

college expenses. In 2004, 29.5 percent of freshmen planned to receive more than \$10,000 from a family member to cover school expenses, opposed to 28.9 percent in 2003 and 25.6 percent in 2001.

Only 13 percent of all students said they are in major trouble in financing college, but 22.7 percent of students who come from families earning less than \$60,000 per year said they had "major concerns" about college financing.

UI junior David Rose didn't feel the need to get a job until this year, when he took a job at the UI Hospitals and Clinics registration desk. He needed the job, he said, to pay for rent, a winter break abroad, and general college expenses.

He had to scale back his hours this semester because his time spent there is taking time away from his studies, he said.

"Last semester was my worst semester in college," Rose said. "I had a 3.2 GPA. I probably would have had a 3.8 if I hadn't have worked."

Hours worked by students information from brockpart.edu	16-20 hours	35+ hours	Average hours per week
	Total	21.8%	26.0%
Type of college			
4-year	23.5%	17.8%	22
2-year	19.4%	36.4%	29

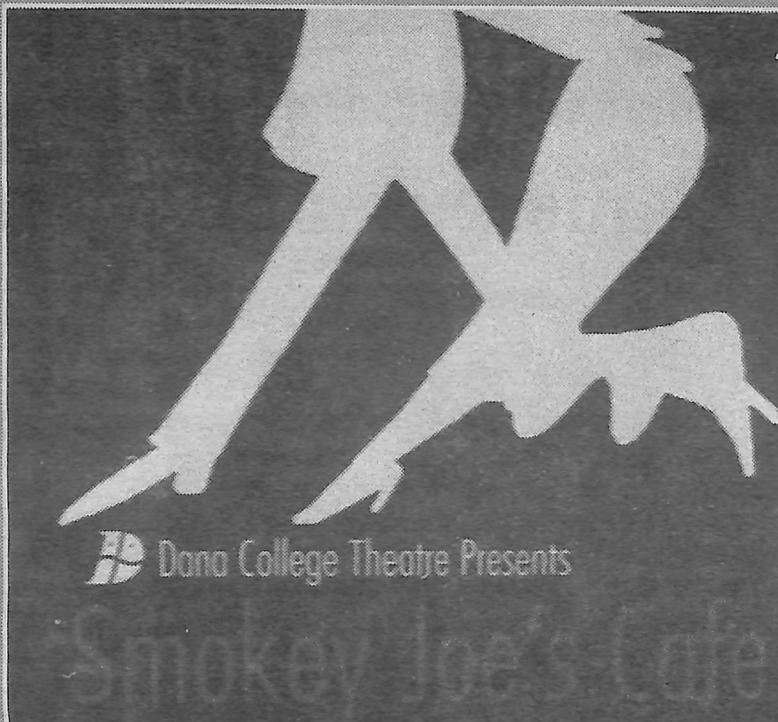
Features

Upcoming Events

Open Swim
Tuesdays and
Thursdays at
7:00 P.M.

Smokey Joe's
Cafe
March 4,5,11,
&12
Check posters
for times.
Free tickets for
the musical
must be picked
up by 5:30 on
Friday before
the weekend
shows.

Bruce Brown
will be on cam-
pus to speak to
both athletes
and coaches on
March 10.
Student Ath-
letes can hear
him speak at
10:30 am, and
coaches at
12pm.



Rockin' out old school

Kathy Wells
Editor

Tonight the musical revue, *Smokey Joe's Café*, opens at the Lauritzen Theater. It showcases songs written by the songwriting duo of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller; which includes songs such as *Jailhouse Rock*, *Love Potion #9*, *Stand by Me*, and many rock n' roll songs. The show is packed with both music and lots of dancing. *Smokey Joe's* opened on Broadway in 1995 and ran for five years. This run made it the longest-running Broadway musical revue. (www.smokeyjoescafe.com)

Leiber and Stoller had a string of songwriting hits throughout the '50s and '60s. They were responsible for Presley's

hit *Hounddog*, which helped to launch his career. They were also successful music producers. They helped with The Drifters with songs like *Up on the Roof*, *Save the Last Dance for Me*, and *On Broadway*. Leiber and Stoller were inducted into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. (www.tsimon.com)

Smokey Joe's Café will run the next two weekends. Free tickets are available to students at the information booth. For any one else the cost is \$5.

**Thank you to the
Tiger Cubs of Blair for
visiting the
Communication
Department.
Good luck with your
communication
badges!**

What do you want to be when you
grow up?



"A scientist on stars."
-Colton



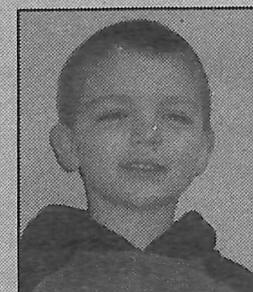
"A doctor."
-Jason



"A policeman helicop-
tor pilot."
-Bradyn



"An airplane pilot or
policeman."
-Dalton



"A farmer and dirt
worker."
-Blake

Opinion

Punishing parents who save for child's tuition is unfair

By Sara Runnels
The Battalion (Texas
A&M U.)
03/03/2005

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE STATION, Texas - Over the past decade, a child's college education has become one of the most expensive responsibilities that parents have had to finance. Saving for this costly but valuable opportunity has been heavily emphasized by government and financial institutions in response to escalating tuition costs. American parents have been advised to put aside academic funds even before their future scholar has a name.

According to CreditCareCenter.com, most families cannot afford to meet college expenses from current income, so they look for investments and saving plans that have a reasonable balance of growth, safety and yield. Although planning for the future appears unquestionably logical, the trend is actually preventing many students from receiving appropriate

financial aid. Earmarking children's college funds has left parents questioning their decisions about planning ahead. To help parents decide what and how to save, financial aid formulas must be reconfigured.

Most universities and academic institutions use a very basic formula in order to calculate financial need among students. According to the Texas A&M financial aid Web site, expected family contribution subtracted from the cost of attending the University determines how much financial aid a student is eligible to receive. Though this sounds fair, it produces a logical inconsistency within the system. Parents are being penalized because their hard-earned savings are calculated as available and present funds.

Though it is common sense to begin saving for higher education costs before receiving a college acceptance letter, there should be a more accurate way to factor savings into the financial need formula.

The most relevant topic associated with saving is the Texas Tomorrow Fund (TTF). Created by the state legislature in 1996, the TTF was designed to help families lock in future college tuition costs at today's prices through years of saving. The program is classified in the formula as expected family contribution and subtracted from the amount of aid a student can receive.

The program is not admitting any new participants due to a lack of funding and severe miscalculations, leaving many families up to their own devices to save. According to TTF statistics, college tuition and fees have increased 460 percent over the last two decades. During the same period of time, family incomes have only risen by 117 percent, making it difficult for parents who haven't saved to come up with the money.

Texas Governor Rick Perry recently made a pivotal decision to deregulate tuition, allowing state universities to individually determine tuition rates. Last fall, A&M's tuition increased 35.5 percent per semester hour as a result of this decision.

Kelly Fero, a Democratic consultant and co-creator of the TTF, has criticized Perry for not acknowledging that instituting a policy of deregulation would only interrupt the program's solidity.



"The Tomorrow Fund has been one of those rare government programs that people actually like and that actually helps middle class people," Fero told the Dallas Morning News. While this statement holds true initially, the concept of the Texas Tomorrow Fund does not fully resolve tuition problems because it doesn't consider the participants who are actually given less money in aid due to their savings efforts.

Even with the TTF on hold, there are still other government plans that guide and assist those wishing to save for future costs of education. The popular 529 plan allows parents to

establish college savings accounts that grow through investments in mutual funds. Though the access to feasible saving options is inviting and seemingly beneficial, it continues to hinder the amount of financial aid a student can receive during college.

The Student Billing Services at A&M reported that there were over 2000 users of the TTF this spring and many others on similar plans. Parents should continue saving for the future and consider all preparatory options, but financial-need formulas should be refigured so that parents are rewarded for their commitment and not punished for smart decisions.

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Hermes welcomes letters to the editor expressing original points of view. Hermes reserves the right to edit all letters according to space availability. All letters must include author's name and address. Under certain circumstances Hermes may respect request to have name omitted at time of publishing.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments by calling (402)426-7328, or via Hermes, Dana College, Box 1252, Blair Ne, 68008. Submissions must be received by 4:00p.m. on Tuesday.

Hermes

Dana College

Sports

Track team gets their running shoes ready

Melissa Respeliars
Staff Writer

The Dana College men's and women's track teams have recently finished their indoor seasons and are now preparing for outdoor. They will have three weeks of training before their first meet on March 29th at the Wayne State College Wildcat Twilight. This will be the first chance for some of the athletes on the team to be able to compete in their events. Sophomore Jessica Chizek will be able to run the 400 meter hurdles, and sophomores Rodney Brown and Terrance McLean will be throwing the javelin after training all through



Photo courtesy www.dana.edu

indoor. Throwers will also be able to throw the discuss after throwing only the shot put all winter.

The men's team will look to senior Willie Shelton to lead them in the sprint races. As Dana's highest finisher at the indoor conference meet, Shelton placed second in the 55 meter dash with a personal best

time of 6.58 seconds. Fellow senior sprinter Eric Jones, Dana's 60 meter dash record holder, will give the sprinters some depth. Angel Blunk will look to lead the way for the women's sprinters.

The distance runners, who were without a formal coach for the entire indoor season due to the cross

country coach leaving, are now under the direction of Coach Derek Fey. Freshman Eric Bane, sophomore John Kaup, senior Shane Jackman, and juniors Dru McMillian and Lindsay Bliemiester are putting in the miles training for the marathon.

Coach Allen Friesen cut back on the number of indoor meets ran this year in hopes of saving some people's legs for outdoor season. These three weeks have been used to get some people healthy before hitting the track again, as well as create a base to carry them through the rest of the year. Dana will host two meets this spring, the Dana Open on April 2nd, and the GPAC Championships on May 7th.

Upcoming Sporting Events

Baseball

March 5,6 Vs. Huron University in Blair @ 1:00 P.M. and 12:00 P.M.

Wrestling

March 4 and 5 NAIA Nationals in Sioux City, IA @ TBA

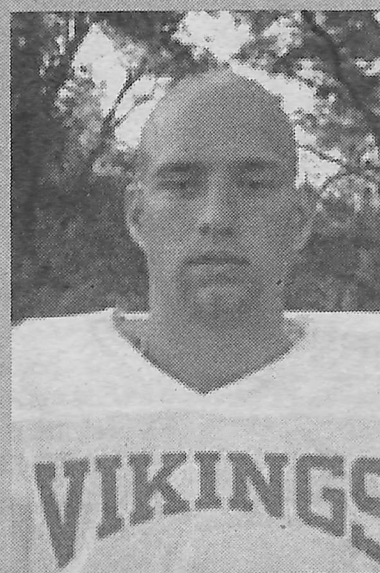
Indoor Track

March 3-5 NAIA Indoor National Championships in Johnson City, TN

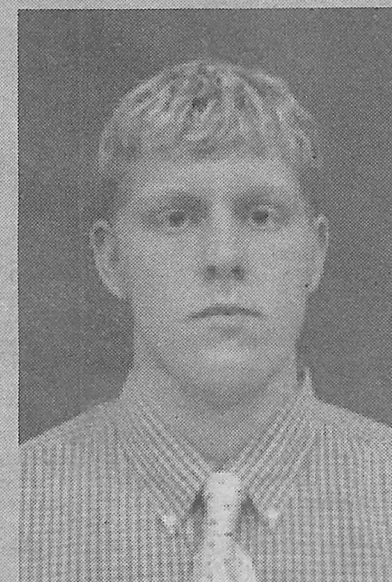
Viking Sports Information Department's

*Champion of
Character*

*Athlete of
the Week*



Mitch Bowhay
Football



Mark Esser
Basketball