

Want Good Grades? Get a Job

(CUP) from *The Varsity*
by Lori Turnbull

TORONTO (CUP) -- University students who work up to eight hours a week have higher grade point averages than students who don't work at all, according to a York University study.

Conducted by York's Institute for Social Research, the study found students who worked one to eight hours a week had marginally higher grades than those who didn't work at all. This and other studies demonstrate having a part-time job and doing well in school are not necessarily exclusive of one another, according to York sociology professor Paul Grayson, author of the study.

"[The] general assumption is [that] work is necessarily bad and has negative impacts," said Grayson. "Other studies show that there are additional benefits."

However, Ashkan Hashemi, researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, says that part-time work can impede academic success. "Very few people who go to university actually work only eight hours a week. They work many more hours than that," he said.

He added that holding down a part-time job can detract from the university experience.

"[The university experience is] not just about going to school, working, and passing out because you're so tired. You need leisure time [and] time to be a university leader."

But Grayson says there is not necessarily a correlation between working part-time and missing out on extra-curricular activities.

"In every university across Canada, the numbers of students who get involved [in extracurricular activities] are remarkably low," he said.

The study also found too much part-time work can affect a student's academic performance.

According to the study, once students exceed eight hours of work per week, grade point averages gradually drop as the number of hours spent at work increase.

Silver says this drop in grades is the more telling part of the report. "This decrease in grades is far greater [above nine hours of work per week] than the tiny increase in grades between a student who doesn't work and a student who works one to eight hours a week. In other words, if you don't work, [the study indicates] your grades are better than if you work nine hours a week or more.

He says not every student can pull off the combination of moderate part-time work and good grades.

"The students that manage to balance a moderate number of hours [and] keep up grades, are likely high energy [students]," said Grayson.

"What I want to make very clear is that these figures do not indicate that if you make students work, their grades will go up. [If it did], the provincial government would think, 'let's cut down on OSAP [Ontario's student loan plan].'"

Grayson obtained his results by surveying 1,848 first-year students at York in February and March of this year.

The Cubed Building

by Angela Matheson

For those of you who have not yet fallen victim to popular rumour, it is time that you were aware of the radical happenings that take place under the roof of the cubed building opposite the rink.

Sources say the building is home to an underground radical group of women dedicated to shredding the basic fabric of life and tearing down the fundamental structures that hold this fine campus together; a group focussed on making the lives of the male gender, both on the micro and macro level, utterly miserable.

But wait, it gets worse! Some say the building is a major centre for all those women who are called - hmmm - I can't quite recall the correct term, although I think it begins with 'Fem,' and that these people (whatever they are called) are endangering this campus. My sources also say, with absolute conviction, that there is a room at the back of the building which contains torture devices of all sorts.

There's more. Rumour has it that the building functions as a meeting place, or more bluntly put, a pick-up joint for both wannabe and active les...les...les something. And I heard the other day that the building also houses support groups where a bunch of females get together with Kleenex in hand and moan and complain about how the opposite sex has mistreated them.

There seems plenty of reason to believe that the cubed building is home to man-hating bitches who spend every waking moment devising plots to screw up men's lives, and who focus their energy on earth-shaking questions such as the enhancement of fingernail painting techniques.

So what's the real scoop? Personally, I believe that the average student on campus (both male and female) doesn't have a clue about what really goes on in the cubed building -- the UPEI Women's Centre. The mere mention of the Centre inspires in many something akin to a gag reflex, which in turn activates a stream of stereotypes and disinformation based not on personal experience, but on the type of rumour mentioned above. After a thorough investigation, I can tell you the rumours are just not true.

What's it like in there? At any given moment of the day or evening you will find women and (yes, it's true!) men relaxing on comfy couches, enjoying free coffee, hot chocolate, or herbal tea, partaking in easy

conversations, reading, sometimes sleeping, studying, hanging out between classes (great alternative to the Pit) or having lunch (use of fridge and microwave freely available). There's a great resource library for borrowing, information available from Aids to Zits, a coordinator, and over forty volunteers (male and female) who make things happen.

There is also some serious stuff that goes on at the Centre. If you or your partner have been sexually or physically assaulted, support is available. Are you or someone you know pregnant? Information on all options are available in minutes. Have you always wanted to know (but were too embarrassed to ask) about birth control, breast self-exams, how to figure out when you are ovulating, or why eating too little, or too much, is a problem for you? This is the place to come. Are you far from home and need a mom, a sister, or even a brother? That's here too. Does your academic life suck, your significant other annoy you, or your friends and family just don't get it? Someone at the Centre wants to hear about it. Do you just need to scream? Screamers are welcome.

The Centre is not political. All points of view are welcome and accepted. In fact, that's what makes the Centre such a great place to go to -- exposure to a variety of ideas and beliefs. No one tries to force an ideology on you. The Centre's goal is to help facilitate the expression of your own concerns, whatever they might be.

With all the rumours spread around campus about the Women's Centre, I guess it's not surprising that the Centre is under-utilized. Although it is busy during the day (visitations have tripled in just two years), the evenings (Mon-Fri, 6:00-9:00 pm) are pretty quiet. Come on folks, shed the blinders and use the cubed building. It is a valuable asset on our campus. I have been an evening volunteer for over two years. I am bored. Come challenge and entertain me. But more importantly, educate yourself.

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