

## At Issue: Education...

# Finding that elusive summer job

## Non-guaranteed ideas on finding summer employment.

BY BRUCE DAVISON

O.K., LET'S FACE IT- FINDING A SUMMER JOB can be one of the most discouraging and disheartening tasks in the world, especially if you're trying to find one on P.E.I. It is not, however, impossible, or even as difficult as it seems if you start as early as possible and keep a few things in mind.

This brief article does not contain any guaranteed, sure-fire paths to blissful, meaningful summer employment. Instead, I want to go over a few ideas that I think are very important to keep in mind while looking for a summer job and, next week, to demystify a few particular employment opportunities. I've spent the past two summers as a student placement officer at the Canada Employment Centre for Students (CEC-S) in Charlottetown; however, the opinions and ideas in this article are my own.

Important things to keep in mind if you're looking for a summer job:

1) Start looking as early as you possibly can. Probably the biggest mistake made by people looking

for a summer job is that they start earnestly looking only after school ends. With the economy as bad as it is, looking for summer employment that pays as much as possible and is a source of useful experience should almost be a year-round job. It is not uncommon for a lot of the government-related summer jobs to have application deadlines well before Christmas. Citing an example close to my heart, I have had to apply for the job at the CEC-S in November. Summer may seem a very long way off during fall or winter, but the earlier you start looking for a job, the better your chances. This is true regardless of the type of job you're looking for, from clerical work to scooping ice cream.

The earlier you let employers know you'd like to work for them, the better they'll remember you when it's time to hire.

2) You need a resume. I'm not going to go into any great detail about what should be on it or what format to use (drop me a line at the X-Press, on paper at room 06 in the basement of Main, or by e-

mail at "xpress@upe.ca). Instead, here are a few things that are important to keep in mind concerning resumes. First, you need one. A serious job search is extremely difficult (at best) without a resume. Second, put some effort into the appearance and content of your resume. Employers get lots of resumes, and the more effort you put into yours, the more likely it is to make you look different from the other people trying for the job. Having a resume that stands out and looks good really can make a difference. Third, give your resume to every place you'd possibly like to work (again, as early as you possibly can). Fourth, include your references on your resume. Some people will tell you that it's alright to simply state that they are "available upon request," but I strongly believe that it's important to skip the extra step of having an employer ask for them. Finally, never, ever, ever let your resume exceed two pages in length. It's a cardinal rule.

3) Be persistent. Very few people are lucky enough to get a job after a few tries. We used to

tell clients at the CEC-S that looking for a job is a full-time job in its own right. After you drop a resume or fill out an application, check in with the employer regularly. Polite persistence is one of the best things you can show an employer.

4) Never limit your serious job search to reading the newspaper and going to the CEC-S. Job openings don't make it to either one. They're filled by people coming in off the street and applying in person. This does not, however, mean that you can afford to neglect reading the jobs in the newspaper or going into the CEC-S and checking the jobs posted on the Job Information Centre computers in the Robertson Library, malls, CEC-S or main employment centre.

5) Above all else, DON'T GET DISCOURAGED. If you do, you've put a further barrier between yourself and that summer job you need.

**COMING NEXT ISSUE:** Information on summer employment programs that offer experience in your field of study.

## To e-mail or not to e-mail Students complain about abuse of electronic mail

BY REBECCA MOORE

NOT EVERYONE LOVES THE WONDERS OF electronic mail (e-mail). A number of students have complained to computer services about abuse of computer privileges says Bruce Davison, a student representative on the computer advisory committee.

Student complaints range from not being able to find a free computer when needed for an important paper or project, to people e-mailing someone across the room. "There is no question that it is

Thursday to discuss these problems and Bruce Davison is trying to get student feedback on the issue. No one was available for comment on the meeting at press time, though Davison is hoping that the committee won't make any decision until he gives them the opinions that students have communicated to him (he was unable to attend the meeting).

If the committee finds that there truly is a problem, there are some options for dealing with

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being abused" says Todd Petrie, a fourth year student. Even though he has never had any problems finding a free computer, he does get peeved when people are using e-mail for unnecessary things.

"Half the people are having ongoing conversations with someone else on campus [on the computer] when they could just go and talk to them." Monica MacKenzie, on the other hand, has almost no problems at all with e-mail use. "Most people don't stay on for hours ... I don't mind it so much here [computer room in Main building], but sometimes people get loud over in Robertson".

The computer advisory committee met last

it. Todd Petrie suggested restricting frosh from using e-mail, as was done for the vax system in years past. Other students have said that this is a discriminatory practice and should not be used. There are a number of other ideas: limiting the number of computers that e-mail is available on, similar to Internet; giving a time limit for e-mail use; or eliminating the privilege completely.

Is electronic mail necessary? Petrie feels we could live without it, but does think it is a useful tool. Davison says most students agree that e-mail is useful, and that the pros outweigh the cons when it comes to e-mail use here at UPEI.



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