

Working a part-time job is pure hell

Whatever doesn't kill us...

By Rachel Land
Staff Opinion Writer

The grind, the rat race, time that could simply be spent studying: call it what you want but the most widely used term is "part-time job".

The bills and common everyday expenses of college life can pile up high. The solution is usually a job.

The part time job is hardly ever a blessing in disguise. There is always a mutual understanding between boss and employee that if something goes wrong the employee is out the door. There have been numerous reasons why I have quit my part time jobs, ranging from money to safety. Maybe sometimes a job is found that has flexible hours and a common respect among employee and boss, but usually such positions come with responsibility. When responsibility becomes a requirement of a job a whole new level of stress sprouts that adds to the stress of college. A balance between tolerance and respect is hardly ever found.

There is always an aspect of a part-time job that is unbearable. Customers, bosses, and even fellow employees are all reasons for leaving a job.

Whenever I have had to look for a job I have always dreaded the interview, not because I get nervous but just because it seems so pointless. They should definitely interview the applicants, but some of the dribble that comes with the interview is just nauseating. You are supposed to spill your guts about why you should get this job, why your contribution would be a great asset to the company. They ask questions like, "What are the three things you like most about yourself, and the three things you like least?" Or, "What was your least favorite thing about your last job?" These questions really have little to do with the job. I think they just want to make sure that you have a vocabulary greater than three words and that you don't spit when you talk.

Almost everyone has had a great variety of part-time jobs that each, in their own way, have affected which jobs to apply for in the future. I have worked in retail sales, front desk, and medical billing just to name a few. All of these positions have allowed me to come to one conclusion: \$6.50 an hour is, in no way, ever enough

money to deal with the public. From the constant complaining to the yelling it usually escalates to, I have seen it all. I have had a woman get an attitude with me over why the store used glass bottles instead of plastic. I had a man threaten my life because I had to leave the front desk for a few minutes. There were so many times when I had to bite my tongue to resist mouthing off to customers. I used to work at the Fashion Show Mall and

the customers there, well, I don't want to say "snob," but they seem to think that it is your job to get them something off the shelf or carry their items for them. When I worked at a hotel, in a not-so-great part of town, I dealt with drug dealers, pimps, prostitutes, and this one guy who told me the end of the world was coming and that I would be saved. I had one woman call me and imitate the couple in the next room having sex, so I would call them and ask them to keep it down. I witnessed a drug bust that was definitely a life-changing experience. And I can't possibly forget the times I had to enter the rooms of people who hadn't paid rent in weeks, and see the condition the rooms were left in.

There is no wage high enough to put up with that.

No matter what happened at my workplace, if something went wrong it was always my fault. It was my fault the water heater broke, that an eyebrow pencil was defective, and that the store didn't carry the newest Calvin Klein fragrance. I just wish that customers would realize that my control over a company is limited, and usually non-existent.

But whether I worked in the worst or best part of town didn't make a difference, the people I dealt with were mostly intolerable. Still, I need to have a part time job. I really envy the students whose "job" is to

go to school. I also have to say that my hat is off to those that work full time and go to school full time. I don't know how that is possible.

Dealing with customers everyday can really make you insane. Part-time jobs continuously reinforce to the employees the unappreciative attitude the public holds. Still, it is a necessary part of living through college. Whether you pour coffee, sell clothes, or even flip burgers, part time jobs can tell you which types of things you hate and what people are the most aggravating. But I realize that it is more important to pay my bills than to avoid the hassle and annoyances that are inevitable when working a part time job.

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