

Your Summer Work Pays

Have you planned mental rest, physical rest or both this summer? Are you counting on gaining experience working with people? Or would you like to obtain a position in your major field near your home? Christine Thomson suggests last-minute summer job opportunities and tells how to write a letter of application.

YOUR summer position is a challenge to your resourcefulness!

Whether your post-graduate future is going to be babies, business or both, your vacation can mean turning classroom theory into practice. It is your opportunity to pack more into these learning and exploring years. It's a chance to relax your brain and flex your muscles, and to gain experience working with people.

Your choice of a summer position should be seriously considered. Mrs. Mary Elva Sather, in charge of home economics placement, emphasizes four factors which she believes a student should keep in mind in choosing a position.

1. Try to obtain a position in your major field. It will help you to determine, before spending four important years, whether or not you have made the correct academic choice.
2. The experience you will gain from working for and with people will be invaluable. Your ability to take orders and to follow directions will also be tested.
3. Your summer position can furnish you a good or poor recommendation for a permanent position in the future.
4. You may earn money. However, this should never be the most important factor in accepting a position.

Worthwhile Experience

Some positions will mean money in the bank at the end of the summer; a few will give you room and board; most will net you pin money for that back to college outfit in the fall, but many—dollars and sensibly speaking—will bring you nothing but worthwhile experience. Whatever the gain, working your way through the summer can be fun.

Don't feel that your summer just has to be spent working somewhere other than in your hometown. Of course, like the grass on the other side of the fence, the call of the East or West is alluring, but try scouring the area near your home. You will be surprised at what you will be able to find. The resort jobs of the West that seem so attractive from the Middlewest may, more often than not, demand hard physical work. The glamorous positions in the East include also the high

cost of living in a large city. Your salary will stretch further if you live at home.

Mrs. Sather suggests positions that you might investigate in or near your home that will apply to your field of home economics.

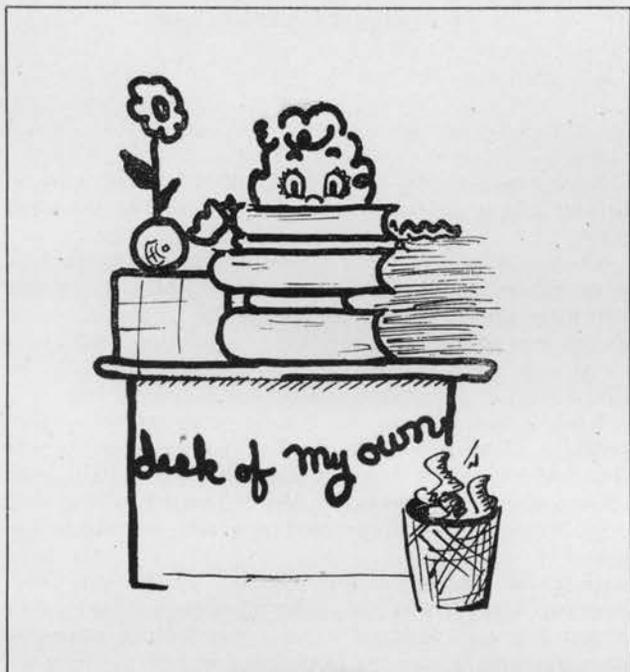
If you are a dietetics major, it is almost essential that you have some previous hospital experience when applying for a permanent position upon graduation. Now is the time to get that background. Perhaps you could assist in a hospital diet kitchen. Even general hospital work will give you adequate basis on which to decide whether that is the niche for you.

Neighborhood Playgrounds

For those of you in the child development field of home economics, playground work will give you valuable experience with children. Here, also, is an opportunity for you to use your ingenuity. If in your neighborhood there are no organized facilities for children's summer play, then perhaps you could find a friend or two that would help you to set up a playground. A vacant lot, an unused room for rainy day play, a few well planned games, and some sturdy toys borrowed from the children's families, are all the equipment you need to begin a worthwhile community project. You'll find many overworked mothers



Dividends



who would be glad to have their tiny tots supervised during the daytime hours a few days a week.

You might find a summer camp sponsored for underprivileged children in your area in which you could get a counseling position. It will be to your advantage if you have a special hobby which will be applicable to a counseling field.

If technical journalism is your major, work on your hometown paper for the best answer to your summer position question. You may have to work gratis, but anything that will apply to your field, advertising, reporting, copy or proof reading will be worth your while. Many future employers will demand previous experience on a newspaper and now is the time to get it.

Utility Companies

Perhaps the public utilities in your hometown have a summer position open for you household equipment majors. Since the largest demand for equipment graduates comes from the utility companies, any experience will be valuable to you.

Try to get a job in a restaurant, cafeteria or coffee shop as a waitress, or better still in the kitchen, if you are a foods or experimental cookery major. Maybe there is an advertising concern or a canning company near by that will hire summer help in their experimental laboratory.

Retail selling is an absolute must for you textiles and clothing majors. A position as a saleswoman or

stockgirl ought not be too hard to find at home. You will find that your background, menial though it may seem, constituting contacts with the customer and his demands and the "feel of the goods" that you handle will supply you with applicable experience for any future position in the textiles and clothing world.

If you are going to work away from home, or if your position demands a business letter of application, there are a few simple rules to follow.

Application Letter

Don't write a letter merely to ask for information. A busy employer who has many inquiries will more than likely set yours aside in favor of a letter which applies for the position. Do write a letter of application. Subtly add that if there is any other information that might be needed you will gladly supply it.

"A letter of application should always be a sales letter, introducing you, at your best, to your prospective employer," stresses Mrs. Sather. "It should contain four fundamentals. It should attract attention, arouse interest, convince and stimulate your reader to action. Try to anticipate any possible questions that your employer might ask you at a personal interview and answer them in your letter. A data sheet in which you include courses, activities and interests which might apply to the position for which you are applying could very well accompany your letter to your advantage.

Neatness Counts

"Think of your letter as a picture in a frame," added Mrs. Sather. "Your margin is comparable to the frame. Keep it even and above all don't, on any page, run your letter to the top. If you can't type well, write in long hand. A well written letter is much more attractive than a typed one filled with mistakes."

Take special pains if you are going to make your contacts by personal interview. A neat, trim, well-groomed appearance to complement a "natural you" will help to obtain that sought after summer work.

Some of the material included in this article was taken from a pamphlet published by the Jobs and Futures Department of Mademoiselle magazine.

