

Scholarship jobs to be had off campus

BY MARGARET HOOPER
Staff Reporter

Junior Brandon Kimble has discovered an alternative to an on-campus scholarship job.

"I told one of my classmates my scholarship job was giving belly rubs," Kimble said. "She asked me what professor I worked for."

Kimble volunteers at the Adair County Humane Society to fulfill his scholarship job requirements.

"It's folding newspapers to be used in the kennels, washing out the kennels, feeding the dogs or just even playing with them," Kimble said.

Truman requires most students receiving a scholarship to work 60 hours a semester, and most find a job on campus. But students also can log scholarship hours working for a non-profit organization in Kirksville such as the Sheriff's Department or the Adair County Public Library, according to the Financial Aid office Web site.

Sue Neely, director of financial aid, said that of the 2,000 students working a scholarship job, only between 80 and 90 students choose to do them off campus. The Financial Aid office currently is looking for ways to increase student awareness about off-campus opportunities.

"I think students are interested in having something that is meaningful to them or that they could use in the future with their major," Neely said.

Students wishing to work off campus must submit the Scholarship Appeal Petition in addition to a Scholarship Renewal Form. Although the Scholarship Appeal

Petition asks students to state a reason for their appeal, Neely said the form is not asking students to provide special reasons or extenuating circumstances.

"The University supports community service, so it's fine with the University if students want to do the service hours off campus," Neely said.

She said she has found that students disagree over how much effort a scholarship job should require.

"We've heard students comment both ways," Neely said. "Some people want, you want to call it, the easier job, where it's kind of a break when you've had a stress-filled day with classes and you're in other activities, but other students even work more hours beyond their service hours with the scholarship because it's connected to something they really want."

Neely said off-campus jobs provide students a chance to give back to the Kirksville community and really see the time they put in make a difference.

"The places you're talking about here, a lot of them can't afford or don't pay for the help," Neely said. "They have a lot of volunteers, or they wouldn't be about to do the job they do."

Senior Matt Crowe worked at the Ryle Hall desk as a sophomore, but he said the job had little meaning for him. He took advantage of the off-campus program last year when he worked in the Northeast Regional Medical Center Emergency Room.

"It was more fun and more interesting and a more useful experience for me because I got some insight on what it's like working in the field in the medical setting," Crowe said.

As a pre-med student, Crowe said working at the hospital felt more like a real job than working at the desk.

"I felt more useful, more like I was actually being helpful, and actually the fact that it was interesting and it was meaningful and helpful to them — I actually worked more hours than is required for my scholarship, not for pay or anything, but just for more volunteer experience," Crowe said.

Lisa Tuggle, who works in the Financial Aid office, said that although some students have found that getting to and from an off-campus job can be a hassle, the feedback from students has been positive.

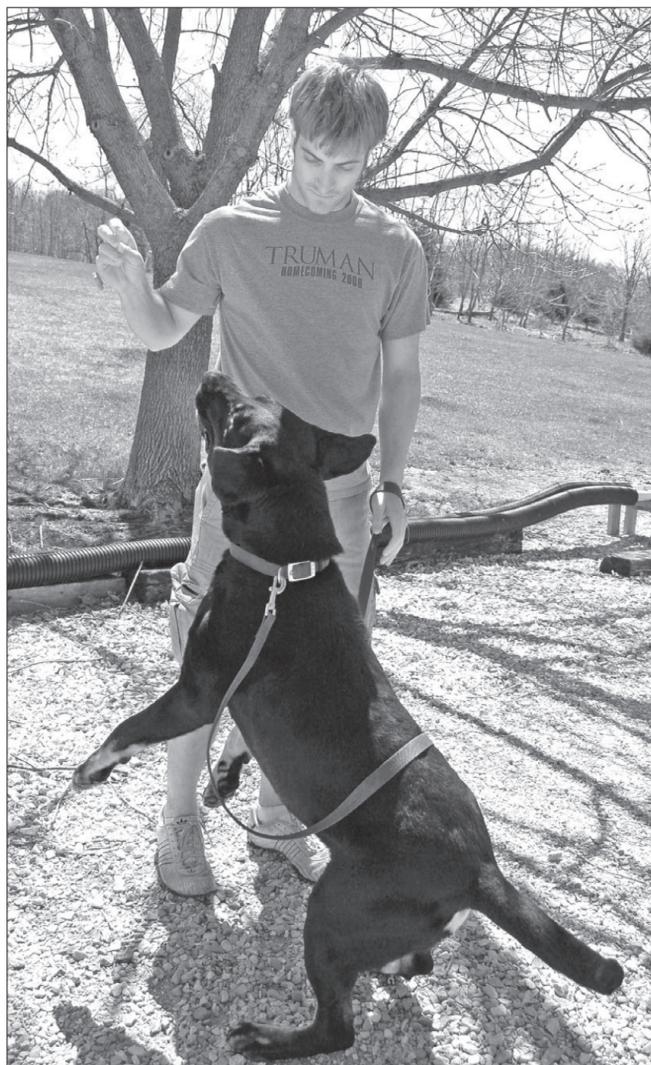
"I think, for the most part, everybody, once they go off campus, they really enjoy it," Tuggle said. "It's a whole different atmosphere, and they really feel like they're giving back to the community."

Senior Brett Wiley explained why he thinks student work off campus benefits the University.

"Truman needs to be establishing greater connections with the Kirksville community, and one of the most opportune ways to do that is by making sure that students know that they can use their scholarship jobs for off-campus work," Wiley said.

Wiley said he thinks students often are either unaware of opportunities or unwilling to tackle the necessary paperwork.

"There are a lot of forms at the University that make it seem like students can't take that initiative, that there's some red tape they have to cut, some bureaucratic process that has to be gone through, and many students don't want to go that route," Wiley said.



Mayank Dhungana/Index
Junior history and pre-law major Brandon Kimble completes hours for his scholarship job at the Adair County Humane Society on Tuesday afternoon.

Salmonella scare causes stores to pull some cereals

BY DIANE POELKER
Assistant News Editor

Breakfast lovers might want to hold the milk and set down their spoons until they check the date on a locally sold cereal.

Malt-O-Meal Cereal Company has issued a voluntary recall on its unsweetened Puffed Rice and Puffed Wheat cereals because of potential risk of salmonella poisoning. The Minnesota-based company issued the warning April 5 for all bags of cereal which feature a "best if used by" date between April 8, 2008 and March 18, 2009, according to a press release.

"We originally discovered the contamination ... through routine testing," said Jon Austin, a Malt-O-Meal media

representative. "The original indication of a problem was discovered through a product test, but we have since traced it back to equipment contamination. One of the machines on the line contained salmonella."

Austin said Malt-O-Meal officials still are unsure how the factory equipment came in contact with the salmonella bacteria, but the company has ceased production of the two cereals while an investigation is underway.

"We have shut down the production line until we can better figure out how this happened," Austin said. "We're looking at how the equipment is cleaned, run and maintained. We'll have them down until we're satisfied that every-

thing is running OK."

Austin said he could not estimate how long Malt-O-Meal's Puffed Rice and Puffed Wheat cereals would remain out of production, but the company continues to produce all of its other varieties of cereals.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site, contaminated Malt-O-Meal has caused 21 cases of salmonella infection in 13 states including California, Colorado, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. No cases have been reported in Missouri, but the CDC recommends that all consumers and retailers who possess suspect bags of cereal

dispose of them immediately and contact local health officials.

Doug Nichting, manager of the Kirksville Wal-Mart, said that in cases of contamination, the Wal-Mart corporate office notifies local stores. Nichting said the Kirksville Wal-Mart has been unaffected by the recall.

"We carry Malt-O-Meal, but [the recalled cereals are] not the varieties we have," Nichting said.

Another local retailer, Hy-Vee, was not so lucky. Hy-Vee manager Casey Higgins said he was contacted by the Hy-Vee corporate office and told to remove any bags of the potentially contaminated cereal.

"I think we threw away nine [bags] of one and eight of the other," Higgins said.

"While I was down taking care of it, the health department came in. I guess they heard about it at the same time and were coming around to make sure we knew about it and disposed of the product."

Higgins said he hasn't heard of anyone in the area getting sick because of the cereal. However, the CDC's Web site reminds consumers that those infected with salmonella begin to develop symptoms 12 to 72 hours after consumption.

The Web site said infected persons are likely to experience diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps for anywhere from four to seven days. In severe cases, the infection can spread and may cause death. The CDC's site said the infection can be treated with antibiotics.

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