

THE VIEW FROM BEHIND THE BAR

Truman student bartenders talk alcohol, customers and grades. From Dukum Inn, Wrongdaddy's and Too Talls Two, all dish on their fast-paced jobs

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

Some Truman students serve up good drinks as well as good grades.

With the economy suffering and the job search becoming more competitive, three Truman students said they hit the jackpot by finding a way to make money and have fun at the same time: bartending.

Senior Nathan Hoffman started working at the Dukum Inn about a year and a half ago. He said he underwent about three months of training, which involved shadowing a bartender, learning how to make drinks and passing alcohol training and sanitation tests.

"My favorite part about bartending is that it's one of the jobs that you can actually have fun while working," Hoffman said. "Your job is to go there and facilitate fun and have fun. You know, you couldn't ask for more to get paid for."

He said he likes working at the Dukum because of its diversity, and that working as a bartender keeps him on his toes because there's always something going on, which can be both good and bad.

"You never know what to expect," Hoffman said. "Weird things happen every night. I opened

a keg once, and it exploded, drenching me, and I had to work all night just absolutely soaked in beer. I've seen fights, people get kicked out, all kinds of crazy stuff — there's never a dull moment."

Hoffman said the only thing he doesn't like about bartending is the late hours. Although he said he'd rather work the later shifts because there are more people. Not getting home until 3 a.m. has caused scheduling problems for his student and work life. Overall he said he thinks it's a great job.

"I don't think there is a better job in Kirksville to be honest," Hoffman said. "Most of our bartenders at Dukum are Truman students, and they all love it."

Wrongdaddy's bartender senior Eric Littles has been bartending for about six months and also said he loves his job.

"The best thing about the job is that everyone loves you because you're the bartender," Littles said. "I think it's the most lucrative and most fun job a college student could have."

He said he decided to get a job at Wrongdaddy's because he was bored and wanted to take on another hobby.

"I had always wanted to bartend and my fraternity brother was already working at Wrongdaddy's,

so he put in a good word for me," Littles said.

Wrongdaddy's is one of Kirksville's largest bars, and they frequently host concerts on the weekends. Littles said he likes working there because it's the closest thing to a clubbing atmosphere in Kirksville, and when he's working on a busy night, sometimes he forgets he's even in Kirksville.

"My favorite nights to work are the ones that are busiest," Littles said. "Ladies' nights on Fridays are always fun as well as happy hours on Saturday nights."

Senior Rachel Hanks planned to keep her bartending job of seven months at Too Talls Two until she graduated. However, she was informed March 18 that the bar was closing after this past weekend (see story, page 1.)

"It's kind of a bummer," Hanks said. "But I had a great time working this last weekend. Since I have only six more weeks here because I'm graduating, I guess now I'm just going to hang out and not work."

Hanks said she decided to bartend to quickly make money while in school while still being able to hang out with her friends. She said she picked Too Talls Two because she liked the atmosphere and knew everyone who worked there. As far as training

goes, she said she just learned as she went.

"I didn't really train too much," Hanks said. "They just kind of threw me in there the first night or whatever, and I started making drinks right off the bat, and I just kind of picked it up as I went."

Too Talls Two had a Thursday night all-you-can-drink special for \$5, which Hanks said was her favorite night to work because there always were a lot of people and serving went a lot faster because she didn't have to deal with a lot of money or tabs. She said she enjoyed almost every aspect of her job.

"The free drinks are my favorite part," Hanks said laughing. "That was really fun, but also the camaraderie behind the bar with the people I worked with was a lot of fun. Goofing off and joking around, giving each other a hard time. I really liked that part."

Hanks said there wasn't much she didn't like about her job because she never encountered rude or mean customers. She said working at Too Talls Two gave her some good memories.

"One of my favorite memories was Friday night, my last night bartending, all of the bartenders got on the bar and were dancing until close for about 10 minutes," said Hanks. "It was really fun and will easily be a lasting memory I will have."



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