

Local professionals offer advice for business majors

By: Rick Deitz

If you are a student in any one of the many areas of study in the business field here at Penn State Capital Campus, read on. Many of you will be graduating soon and are beginning to put together show stopping resumes and are preparing to give the interview of your life. During all of this excitement, you may wonder, "What do employers really look for?" In order to find out first hand, the Capital Times spoke with two local companies. Susan Wallace is the human resources representative at AMP Inc. and is directly responsible for the interviewing and hiring of all prospective employees for AMP. Also Sam Shearer, Asst. Manager, and Linda Bistline, Human Resources Specialist of Sears in the Capital City Mall were kind enough to speak with us.

Besides the actual education process itself, what can a student do to prepare for the working world? "Get some experience," replied Wallace, "And the experience you get should be related in some way to the job you hope to get when you graduate."

Wallace went on to say that she has seen people take internships that have nothing to do with the job they are applying for which makes her wonder why they wasted their time. She added that it doesn't necessarily have to be an internship that shows experience; related job experience is also helpful.

What about joining a club or organization? Shearer said that this show initiative and aggressiveness. Bistline added, "It shows that they are team players and have the desire to work with others. They are usually the type of people who work well with our customers."

Wallace had a different view. "Don't just tell me you were a member of this club or that club; to me that is just resume filler. I want to know what you did for that club; what type of activities you were involved in. Anyone can be just a

member."

When you prepare your resume take your time because both companies had the same complaint. "Typos!" Wallace wasted no time in pointing this out when asked what she found undesirable in the resumes

scrutinize the resumes of those applying for management positions for the Sears Corp., but they did say that from past experience they have seen many resumes that were full of errors.

Another thing that both agreed on was the length of the resume. Shearer said he doesn't even read long ones. "Don't write a book! Keep it brief and to the point." Wallace brought up the word "filler" again. She understands that some students don't have a lot of experience to put down on a resume and that is fine. "We don't

tion directly from high school, there isn't much that can be put on a resume outside of educational history. An educational resume is not looked upon unfavorably and is given equal consideration during the application process.

If you do have work experience to list, be specific. Companies don't just want to know that you were a supervisor; they want to know in what capacity and how many people you were responsible for. List the advancements and achievements that were an asset to the company you worked for.

A question that is regularly asked is whether or not to include grades on the resume. How important are your grades? Very! Wallace said that AMP would not even consider an applicant who, depending on which position is being applied for, doesn't have at least a 2.8 or 3.0 GPA. Shearer and Bistline said that Sears doesn't have a minimum requirement for its management applicants but that if it comes down to it,

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--- Susan Wallace, human resources representative, AMP Inc.

she gets from business applicants. "All I know about these people, at first, is on a piece of paper." Wallace said that she wouldn't even consider an applicant whose resume has misspellings and grammatical errors. Shearer and Bistline don't get to

need to know that you were a cheerleader or that you had a varsity letter." Wallace said that she thinks that some students are afraid to hand in a one-page resume. Both companies said that they understand that if a student has continued his or her educa-

What are you getting for your educational dollar?

Art's enemy has discovered a home at PSH

by Dan Zehr

Penn State Harrisburg's acting troupe presented a grand interpretation of Shakespeare's *Othello* Saturday night in the auditorium.

Senior drama major Joe Downs proved he chose the right major with a stirring performance as the Moor. Angela Smith complimented him with a perfectly tragic Desdemona. And never before has Iago been as evil as Jeff Strack's impersonation.

I'm sorry, what was that? PSH does not have a drama troupe?

What do you mean, did I see this presentation of *Othello* in a dream then? Who are Joe, Angela and Jeff?

English playwright and poet Ben Jonson said, "Art hath an enemy called ignorance."

If this is true, why are the arts dying? Are we all slipping toward ignorance? For those pondering, I offer this explanation. What is learned in college is generally retained, whether it is a simple class or a total experience. Thus, learning the arts in school provides the remedy to ignorance we deserve for our educational dollar.

After all, education is the battle against ignorance. But, with the rise of trade schools and the trend toward an efficient curriculum, college students are not being taught to appreciate the arts. That is an ignorant mistake.

Where will a person in an environment constructed for education learn to appreciate the arts if not there? For the most part at Penn State Harrisburg, we are not exposed to drama, painting and music. So where will we learn?

Students usually point a finger of blame at the administration for this shortcoming. To some extent, we are right to do so. There is little offered to support the arts at large, and less offered to learn about them in the classroom. Access to classes and events is virtually nil.

So, instead of going a play, an art exhibit or a concert, students sit in front of their television. Ah yes—the old TV. Here we can sit and absorb—no working, no thinking. Granted, it is nice to do nothing at times, but it has become all too popular a pastime.

Take Meade Heights, where television is the first, and in some cases only, entertainment choice. "There is nothing to do if you don't have a car," Aretha Baker said. "Unless someone is throwing a party, we get a movie from Blockbuster."

Alternatives to the tube do exist. However, the events available are rarely taken advantage of because so few know about them. For example, Friday night movies provide a chance to get out of the house for on-campus residents. But, as Veronica Britto explained, "I didn't know about them."

This problem of unaware people is Janet Widoff's nemesis. Widoff is the coordinator of student activities, making it her job to spread the word when something is happening. The task is not an easy one, and her approach must be a "multi-pronged" one. "I use word of mouth, I speak to classes, and I set out flyers and advertisements to get the word out," she said. The idea, she added, is to hit people in as many different places as possible.

Despite her efforts, Widoff sees a poor turn-

out to the events scheduled. So, she has asked students what they would like to see. In other words, the student activities office is asking students to give them ideas for events they would attend. Even if such happenings are off campus, something often can be arranged. "If students come and ask," she explained, "we can try to work something out."

Come up with something, go, and ask. There are plenty of places around Harrisburg, and even Middletown, waiting for a fresh influx of people like PSH students. Widoff would be happy to help you find them.

But that is off campus. What about things here at PSH?

The structure of the Harrisburg campus makes it difficult to provide arts education. Dr. John Bruhn, provost and dean, explained much of the problem lies in student demographics. Three types of students come to PSH: full-time; day part-time; and evening students. "Since most of them are commuters," he explained, "they are gone soon after their last class."

This makes it difficult to construct what Bruhn called "a college culture." That culture is the typical four-year, campus life setting that is generally thought of as upper education. PSH is a two-year, upper level and graduate school. It can not provide all the courses of study that support a full arts education.

As for fine arts events held on campus, Bruhn asked, "How do you create a college culture that involves all of your constituents, and how do you get people to come back?" These are the questions that need to be answered to build an art culture at PSH. Bruhn assured much time, money and effort have been put into answering them.

So what do we, as students, want that would keep us here for an evening? What can PSH offer that will educate and entertain us? It is not up to the administration alone to provide an education in the arts. Students must be willing to participate, and help. We all must provide answers, otherwise, we will all remain ignorant.

- Do you have something that you think should be said, but you do not know where to say it?

- Do you agree or disagree with something said in The Capital Times?

Then write a letter to the editor. All letters should be addressed to the editor and include the writer's name, signature and major (student) or position (faculty/staff). Letters may be delivered to the office in W341 or emailed at captimes@psu.edu.