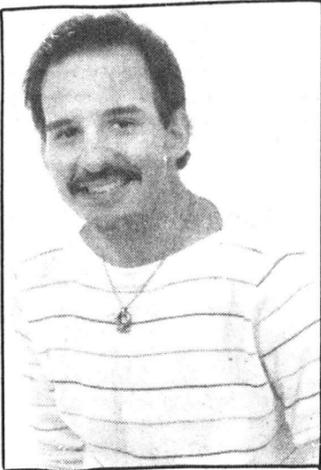


...blackjack, bug bites, and more



Ed Shihadeh: a sinister blackjack dealer?

so much money there are all sorts of rules and regulations which to the uninitiated are fascinating. For example, I am never allowed to lift my hands from the table without clapping them. This is called "dusting off" and lets the security men know where my hands are at all times. As well when I'm paying out big money I have to say 'gold out' which again alerts the security men of money changing hands."

Though Shihadeh has had plenty of experience behind the table, he has never played blackjack. As well, because of house rules, he has little opportunity to use his own strategy when dealing.

He explains, "House rules dictate what the dealer may or may not do. At the Golden Garter, if a dealer gets sixteen in his hand he has to take a card; if he gets seventeen he has to stay. I find it amazing that people will get upset with me when they lose, I really have nothing to do with it."

Ironically, Shihadeh is generally a winning dealer by no fault of his own.

"The regulars would see me coming to a table and scoop up their bets and leave. I guess I was just lucky."

A word to aspiring blackjack players, "If you want to win at blackjack, count the cards, it's the only plausible method of determining what the cards will be."

According to the Shihadeh some people go to great lengths with their various systems.

"This past year a couple of guys came in with oversized cowboys boots on. They had computers in the toes of their boots. They would feed information into their boots via wires running from their ears

down and receive predictions from the computer via the same route. It was amazing, they were blowing the casino away."

Dealing blackjack has helped Shihadeh develop good interpersonal skills.

"Give the amounts of money you are working with, you have to be able to control your table without appearing rude. To a certain extent you are performing up there and your audience is very critical. You can't come across as too much of a heavy because if you do make a mistake you'd like your customers to be nice to you."

The hours aren't the greatest with shifts that run from 3 pm to 2 am but Shihadeh says he'd return to the position.

"Every year at the end of Klondike days I hand in my apron saying that I won't be back, but every year I end up back in the casino."

Margo Brault's summer job was far removed from the smokey rooms of the Golden Garter saloon. She spent her summer wandering about the hallowed halls of the Quebec Legislative Assembly.

"Through the Alberta Quebec



Margo Brault: assembling tours.

Exchange program, I got a job as a tour guide. Students were placed in positions which would allow them to use their particular skills. I studied well during my summer at the legislature."

Brault, now a grad student in linguistics felt she learned a lot over the summer.

"You learn to pass information along in an entertaining manner. Because I will be teaching a course this year, I'm sure that this will have helped."

Brault also learned to play diplomat.

"We aren't supposed to express political opinions, so if someone asked about the ideology of the PQ government you smiled graciously and pointed out M. Levesque's chair and M. Bourassa's chair."

The Lorite incident stuck in a lot of people's minds.

"Everyone wanted to see the bloodstains and bullet holes. I guess people like gore."

Brault enjoyed the work, though it was at times strenuous.

"We gave tours eight times a day and each time you did a tour you had to be up and ready to entertain your group."

Regardless Brault has been offered the position next year and plans to summer in Quebec City again.

Theresa Roback, a second year Phys. Ed. student is also an entertainer, but of another ilk altogether. Theresa delivers singing telegrams.

"I dress up in all sorts of costumes and sing ditties to unsuspecting people. My favorite is Miss Piggy. She shows up at weddings to harass the groom."

People are not always predictable in their reaction to Theresa.

"People don't always know what to do. I once had an older gentleman chase me around the room with a board. Naturally, I took cover and he ended up locked in the bathroom pleading with me to leave him alone. I guess he was pretty embarrassed."

Naturally, given the type of job, Theresa has learned a great deal about working with people.

"You have to be able to deal with the guy who gets too aggressive as well as the guy who is paralyzed with embarrassment when he sees you."

Aside from learning about people, Roback has learned something about herself through her work at Scheme-a-Dream.

"I had never thought of myself as much of a singer, but over the summer I received enough compliments on my voice to decide to start voice lessons — something I hadn't really considered before."

Roback likens her work to play. "I get to dress up in costumes and surprise people." Roback plans eventually to open her own entertainment business.

So those of you who sweated it out at the gasbars, fought off the lounge lizards or cleaned toilets, take heart. You too, like your comrades can successfully navigate the summer job doldrums, and take up your places among the ranks of the happy and fulfilled.



Theresa Roback (centre): her favorite is Miss Piggy.

FEES DUE By September 30

The last day for payment of fees is **September 30th**. If a student is paying by instalments (terms), the amount of the first instalment is the First Term assessment and the last day for payments is **September 30th**; the amount of the second instalment is the Second Term assessment plus a \$5.00 instalment charge and the last day for payment is **January 17th**.

A penalty of \$15.00 per month will be assessed for each month after the last day for regular payment of fees in which a student's fees remain outstanding. Students are reminded that the University cannot accept responsibility for the actions of the post office if payments are not received by a deadline date. Also, if payment is dishonored and not replaced by the appropriate deadline date, the penalty will apply.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to Section F of the In Person Registration Procedures booklet.

Student in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are also to be paid in accordance with the foregoing.

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