



Left: Acting in a skit based on the TV series *Cops*, Brad Duff, left, and Lee Reinhardt inform students about campus emergency telephones and parking services Tuesday morning. (Photo by Tanna Kinnaman) Below: Lance Koenig puts away a wig after the Campus Life skits in the Culture Center Tuesday. The group had just finished doing an NSE rendition of the Brady Bunch. (Photo by Matthew Waite)

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aders turn job into entertainment, family

educational training, a three-week intensive training session to get ready and five weeks of tours, talks and 11 hour days. It is the end of the 11th year of NSE.

Ask the leaders, and there is no place they would rather be. They all have different reasons, but all are sad to see it end.

Veeth said she will cry on Friday.

"Our groups has really bonded," she said. The leaders have been through a lot together, she said, from the pressures of training to being able to joke in the middle of the several skits they do throughout the day.

Now, from living together and sharing meals and nights out together, the group is tight, and Veeth said she is not ready to leave for home.

For the new students that go through the program, the bonding that has gone on is apparent. Skits that have been rehearsed over and over have the feel of friends joking with each other.

Some students during the day wondered aloud if the leaders had all grown up together or been "released from the same mental hospital."

But Annie Jones, an NSE staff member and a former NSE orientation leader, said the fun fights the long and crazy days.

"I don't think they would be able to make it if they didn't have any fun," she said during the Tuesday afternoon Campus Life skits.

Breakfast with the NSE orientation leaders proved that theory.

From the moment the group sat down in the Selleck Quadrangle

cafeteria, the jokes were flying (along with some food). One leader stole Jones' cellular phone; another started laughing so hard milk came out of his nose.

His friends just laughed and pointed. Other people in Selleck didn't even look — they were accustomed to the loud group by now.

Marsha Criswell was spared much of the abuse. It was her 21st birthday and the group was going out that night to celebrate.

But Criswell said she would be at work the next morning, regardless of the night before, like some of her co-workers.

Lance Koenig turned 21 the day before NSE started — and he was in place the next morning.

"You can not skip work," he said. "We go (gasp) you said the 's' word: skip."

For their work, the NSE leaders are paid \$4.75 an hour and admissions pays for their room and board for the five weeks NSE goes on. The four staff members, three undergraduates and one graduate student, get \$5.25 an hour.

But money is not the driving factor for people to get involved in NSE. Jones said most people get involved because they remember their NSE leader and it got them interested in the program.

The job is for all types, Jones said, but it is work.

"This is a real-live job situation," she said. "You are working for the university."

"You are in charge. You are in charge of these 20 people and you need to know how to advise them and still be their friend."

Another job, some of the leaders

said they have, is being a salesperson and entertainer for the university. Veeth said their purpose is to be more of a guide than a salesman sideshow.

But when the leaders take the new students on tours in the afternoon, they are on stage. The tours are informational, but humor and anecdotes dot the litany of facts about the campus and its buildings.

At the end of the day, the incoming freshmen go home; the leaders are left to hope they made an impression on them and made some useful lessons stick.

Veeth said the leaders use an analogy: NSE gives students many keys and they must determine which doors to use.

That led Veeth to think differently about her job.

"I don't know," she said. "How about gatekeepers?"