

Transcription of Interview with Donald Hayes

Trevon Talbot (TT): Will you please state your name, job title, and the name of the organization you work for?

Donald Hayes (DH): Ummm... My name is Donald Hayes. I am a shuttle driver slash river guide for the ummm... Tangent Outfitters out in Pembroke.

(TT): Where are you originally from and what did your parents do for a living?

(DH): Ummm... originally I was born in Alexandria, Virginia, but then we moved to Orange County, Virginia and both my parents now work for the government.

(TT): How long have you worked at your current job?

(DH): Uhhh... Last summer and this summer, so like one full year, mostly the two summers.

(TT): Are you a full time worker or part-time? How many hours do you work?

(DH): It's part-time. But the hours you know are not strictly under twenty hours. It can be anywhere from like thirty on. Just depends on (shrugs his shoulders) what is going on. So...

(TT): Describe a typical day of work?

(DH): Sure... Ummm... Well you get there early no matter what you are doing guiding or running shuttles that day. You get there at seven, you know you start cleaning out the rafts, get all of the canoes ready to go, get all of the vans ready. Ummm... And you go, basically if you are a shuttle driver you pick up people or you drop them off at various points on the river. Ummm... And that is pretty much what you do all day. You, ummm... also pick up the guides and stuff when they are done. If you are a guide, you know, seven a.m. you get there make sure your stuff is ready to go, everything, you know, all your tackle and everything is good and then you meet your clients at eight, and then you and the shuttle driver go down and they put you in the water, and then ummm... basically just go down the river and catch fish and stop for lunch and stuff. Just have a good time with the clients. Hopefully they are happy and then they come back. And then that is pretty much your average day, so...

(TT): What is the best part of your job? Why?

(DH): Ummm... basically, I think the best part of it is sharing the experience, you know, on the river with somebody who may not have gotten that experience before. And basically, I get to hang out on the river and go fishing and swimming, all that good stuff, like all day long so, its, it is a lot of fun.

(TT): What is the worst part of your job? Why?

(DH): Uhhh... Probably having to take hooks out of people uhhh, you know, when they get stuck in their fingers and legs and other various parts. Don't ask me how they do it, they just do. Ummm... (pause)... Oh yeah, you cant' really, you cant really plan anything either because the way that the scheduling works. We do no really have a schedule. We are pretty much on call. Like all the time, that is really like really bad. But, I mean it is all good I guess.

(TT): How was your relationship with your co-workers?

(DH): Ummm... we are all good friends. You know, we all go fishing after work. So, you know, we are pretty uhhh... whats the word I am looking for (pause) tight. Tight-nip, I mean tight-nit group, so...ummm...yeah

(TT): Could you tell me about a time when you have ever wanted to quit your job?

(DH): Yeah, ummm... I don't know like the long hours and stuff and you know all that stuff it kind of sucks. But they actually ummm... the first time I worked there they made me work the cash register for like two weeks. It is like a convenient store and like a tackle shop. They made me do the cash register for like two weeks and I was like okay yeah fine, I could do that for two weeks, but then two weeks turned into like four weeks so I would have to work out in the yard where like all like the rafts and canoes are in the morning and then have to close the store at night and then do it all again the next day. So that really kind of sucked. So I kind of told them "hey I am going to quit if I cant go back to doing what I was doing" and they were like ohhh ... okay. But that was like the one part that nobody likes. Just sitting on a cash register when you can be outside doing stuff so you know.

(TT): When concerning your work, inside of work or outside of work, how do people react to you?

(DH): Ummm... like when they ask me or...

(TT): Like about your job or what you do?

(DH): Oh okay ummm... I don't know they...they (laugh) sometimes they are like "oohhhh" (negative or confused) like not knowing what to say, and some people are like man that is awesome like man, how can you even get a job like that. How did you, you know, become a guide? You know, I would just love to be on the river all day you know. So, it is a mixture of everything some people just do not know what to think about it. So they are like "man that is my dream Job". And so it is kind of a mixed bunch.

(TT): Is this where you saw yourself being 5 years ago?

(DH): Nope. I actually was going to apply to be an engineer and stuff and like I have always like liked the outdoors and stuff but really ummm... I never really saw myself actually being a guide or you know, working on the river everyday. I don't know really it all just happened. So...

(TT): Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?

(DH): Ummm... probably working for the park service ummm... Maybe working for Jefferson National Forrest. Something like that. Or if that does not work out uhhh... maybe owning my own guide service. It is kind of hard because there are so many people who are already doing that, but I don't know... we will see how it goes I guess.

(TT): Do you like where you are now?

(DH): Yeah it is awesome you know. Blacksburg is awesome. The job, the job is really, really sweet during the summer you know. It is pretty laid back now but you know it ... yeah. So it low stress all the way around you know, it is great.

(TT): What's the pay like?

(DH): Ummm. If you are a shuttle driver it is like \$6.50 and you can get tips. By the way you are supposed to tip the shuttle driver. A lot of people do not know that. But uhhh... yeah so you work enough to hopefully cover the gas expense to get down to Pembroke which is about twenty minutes away from here, and uhhh... If you are a guide you know, even though you have to supply your own equipment like currently just being like a second year guide you know I will make like \$85 a day plus tip so it is pretty good. I mean for a college student it is a pretty good chunk of change. I guess so...

(TT): Is there anything else you would like to share?

(DH): Ummm... No. Not really. Uhhh... no.

(TT): Thank You.

(DH): No Problem.