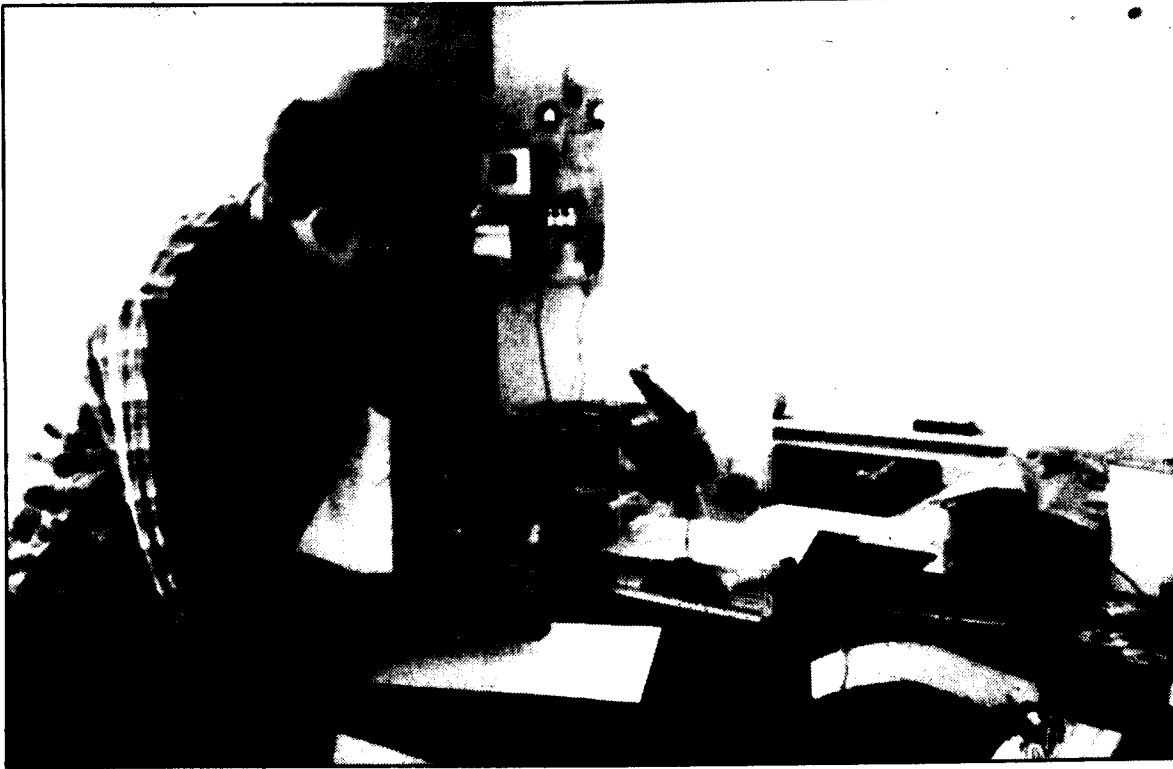


Baxter receives funds



Assistant professor of physics, Dr. G. William Baxter, was awarded \$34,000 by the Research Corporation of Tucson, Arizona for his research.

by Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

Assistant professor of physics and November 11 Faculty Profile of the Week, Dr. G. William Baxter has been awarded over \$34,000 to help fund his ongoing research.

The Research Corporation of Tucson, Arizona awarded the Cottrell College Science Award to Baxter as well as \$34,866 to fund the summer portion of his ongoing research into dynamics of stress chains in granular media.

The internal stress distribution of granular media such as sand, seed or powdered metals, determines when it will be rigid like a solid, or flow like a fluid.

An understanding of the transition from rigid to flowing is important to numerous industries, including construction, in which solid foundations of soil or sand are needed, and grain transportation,

which materials need to be free-flowing to prevent blockages.

All of Baxter's research will be conducted at Behrend where he will be assisted by undergraduate physics students Michael Vavrek and Evan Midcap.

Baxter received his Ph.D. in physics from Duke University in 1990. Prior to his appointment at Behrend in 1992, he was a postdoctoral researcher in the University of California at San Diego's physics department and Institute for Nonlinear Studies.

The Cottrell College Science Awards support research in astronomy, chemistry and physics at public and private, predominantly undergraduate colleges.

The projects proposed are judged on the basis of originality, significance and feasibility. After review by the foundation staff and outside referees, proposals are evaluated by an advisory committee of science academics.

Heating costs rising sharply

by Glee Jesteadt
Collegian Staff

There seems to be a lot of questions about why the heating costs in the apartments have risen so sharply.

"There are two reasons for the heating bills to have jumped so high," said David Waples, spokesperson for National Fuel.

This year has been one of the coldest winters, January being 20% colder than normal. In addition, the price of natural gas that National Fuel purchases increased 20 to 25 percent in the past year.

Accordingly, the rates have increased with the price of natural gas, Waples said.

The utility has to pass the cost of the natural gas it purchases from buyers to customers. "Whatever they pay, we pay," said Waples.

A utility is not allowed to earn a profit. The only way it can earn a profit is through the pipe line. There has been a five percent increased cost to this operation system.

"We do not control the increase (of price) in natural gas," said Waples. "The increase seems to be because of supply and

demand."

There is not as much gas as there used to be. There is enough gas to supply the needs, but there is no longer a surplus. This causes the price of natural gas to rise.

"It's like oranges in Florida," said Waples. "If there is a freeze, the price of oranges will rise because of supply and demand."

The company does have a budget plan which spreads out the annual gas bill over a 12 month period, with no interest rate.

Anyone that is interested can call National Fuel for more information. Once someone has

met the requirements of the budget plan, he/she can then be placed on it immediately.

Another problem that seems to be causing the rise of heating costs is the insulation in the apartments.

"I'm paying the bill and the heat is going out the windows," said Darlene Stremic.

The apartments were built in 1985-86 and have not been restored since then.

"Granted, the heating cost has risen," said Frank Mazzaresse, "but the apartments do not hold the heat in."

James Bowen, manager of

using and Food Service, has taken over Jeff Morgan's position and will be doing room inspections.

"We are taking care of the major, emergency situations," said Bowen. He said that he was unaware that there were complaints in the apartments.

Housing will be looking into the work needed done on the apartments and eventually will repair them.

"We are doing the best we can at this time," said Bowen.

Waples said that the National Fuel company understands how customers are reacting.

Housing set for inspections

by Bridgette Jesek
Collegian Staff

What, no leaks this week? Well, the flood has stopped for now. Instead Housing has students talking about a new subject - room inspections.

Yes, they're back and this time there has been warnings that they will be more thorough.

Am I going to be fined for the things out of place or moved? Will I have to move them back? These are some of the questions that have been buzzing around campus.

Many of the residents in the dorms and suites, for convenience reasons and pure individuality,

have taken the liberty of rearranging their rooms.

Students have moved desks, beds, dressers, and some have even taken the effort of pulling their bolsters off the walls. However, if you didn't have the muscles for that kind of work Housing was happy to come over and remove the bolster for you at no additional cost. Or is there? This rumor of fines is what has had students worried.

"I called Housing before Thanksgiving break and they came right after that break to remove my bolster," said Barbara Markley a resident of the dorms. "The only thing that Housing said about removing the bolster

is that it wasn't a good idea."

Wasn't a good idea? For many residents it's the best idea. Removing the bolsters often creates more room in cases. More room is something that numerous residents are looking for.

If Housing is willing to take bolsters off, how is it possible that they could think of fining students for what Housing is willing to do?

James Bowen was able to clear up a few of the rumors of fines. "We're going to be looking for maintenance needs, desks in the proper places, and appliances in safe places." James also added, "If bolsters are removed they will

only be checked for safety and there will be no fine."

Students are asked to review the regulations for housing privileges and to place desks back in their original positions.

Residents are also asked to be aware of the dates and times listed below so that inspections run smoothly.

Feb. 17 Niagara 10 am.
18 Apartments 10 am.
21 Perry 2-5 pm.
22 Apartments 10 am.
23 Lawrence 10 am.
24 Suites 10 am.
25 Suites 10 am.

Attention!!!

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