

Residential Life Provides Variety of Leisurely Activities

by Douglas Smith features editor

Late night at Behrend is usually thought of as the time to study and catch up on all that work that has been stockpiling. Okay, this is probably true, but this is the side you don't see as Behrend living complexes are investigated at 2 AM. What is seen is the efforts of relaxation to take away the pain of cramming for the next day. Oh, the illegal stuff isn't seen either of course.

Those that are studying usually have their doors closed and are secluded from the goingson around campus. That is the part that everyone knows about. What about those people that have been studying for a while and need a break? Well, at 2 AM the trend seems to be a late night walk for relaxation purposes. The walk may be just around the Ohio Hall parking lots or a nice walk around the entire campus. This doesn't seem very exciting, but for some reason the cool Erie air seems to clear everyone's mind and allows for another little bit of working after returning from the walk.

A few others seem to be using the residential halls for their computers at this time of night and some kind of physical activity. Some are in Erie Hall shooting basketball until the place closes at 1 AM. No one wants to come to college and do work all day, sit around, and eat until they gain 40 pounds. This may be the only time for physical activity. Outside of Perry Hall you may witness a vigorous game of Hacky sack, which is a very good stress reliever. As far as the computer use is concerned, this may be the only time to catch up on e-mail messages from home for those that may not have a computer in their room.

Niagara Hall has what could be called the social smoker group of night owls. On the porch nearest to Bruno's you will often see 2 to 12 people having a late night smoke. Some of them are regular smokers, while others simply find that smoking a cigarette is the easiest form of relaxation that they can afford at the moment. They seem to congregate at the same time to enjoy their nicotine fix. Other halls have this, but not to the population extent of Niagara.

Hunger of the average college student also seems to rise at this time of night. Many students run to the snack and pop machines for a quick caffeine fix or whatever their heart desires at that time. The night assistants are usually the ones that are supposed to have the answers about what pizza shop is still open.

For those that have found that special someone here on campus, this also seems to be the time that they spend together. Most couples tell each other that they'll get together when all their respective work is done. Others meet, if only for ten minutes. This is the time to cuddle apparently, even though it means losing sleep.

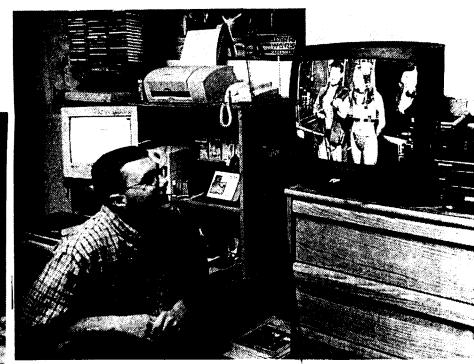
However, it must be said that some people see the 2 AM mark as the point of no return. That is that if they are not sleeping by 2AM then sleep is not really a big concern. If it happens, it happens. Some people may just give up on sleep. Some may have a reason to be up, while others just are. But sleep is not taken for granted here at Behrend. Almy resident Jon Fallon often says, "well, I have lots of work to do tonight, so you know what that means. I'm not sleeping tonight."

The residential life here at Behrend at 2 AM isn't exactly very exciting, but for some reason there is a Behrend life at 2 AM. The reasons may differ, but nevertheless we know that life is still present at that time. I may not be worth being up to see it all the time. It may just be the start of the semester. As Kathy Brown, puts it, "I don't really think I'm back on a good sleep schedule yet." Hopefully, we'll all find time to make that good sleep schedule.



Late night cram sessions aren't fun, but common after midnight.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER



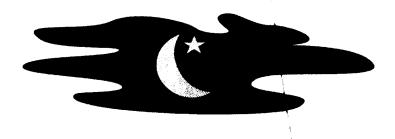


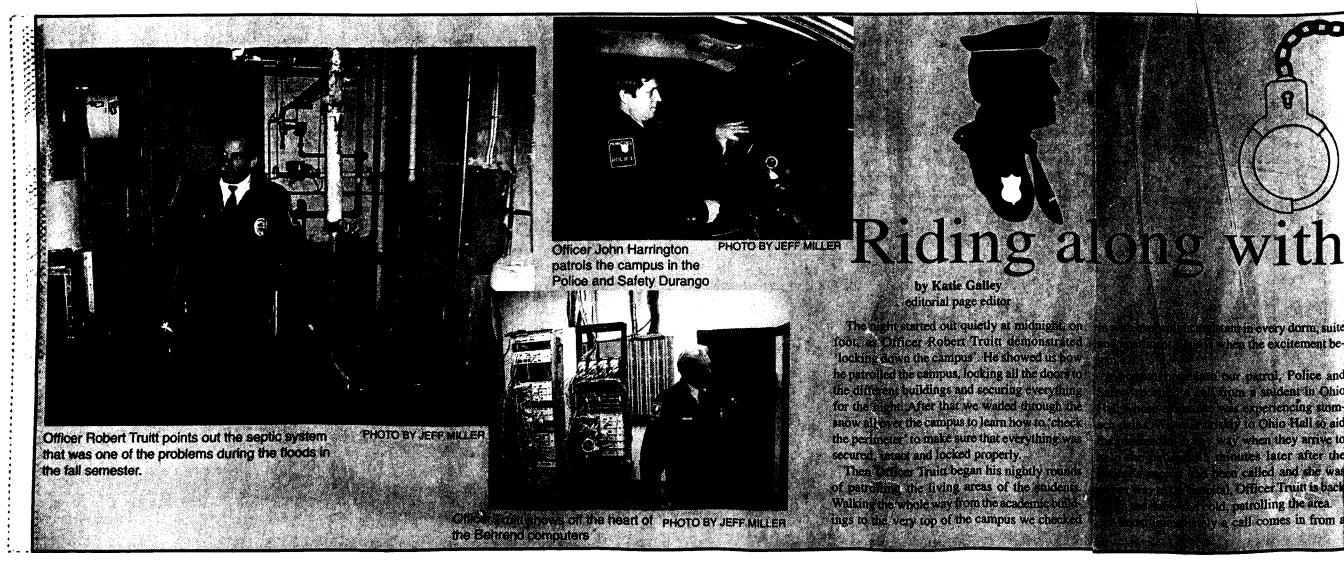
(Above) Never be the first one asleep! A student learns PHOTOS BY KATIE PRZEPYSZNY the hard way how crazy it can get late at night. (Right) The cold weather can be fun! Students romp in the snow after dark.



Watching TV provides entertainment after hours. Howard Stern is a favorite show among the male students.







¥