

Residence Life looking for RAs for 2001-2002 school year

by Christine Kleck
associate editor

As the fall semester countdown reaches week six, Linda Lombardi, acting associate dean of student affairs, and her team in Residence Life start their search for new Resident Assistants, or RAs, for the next round of RA training. Brightly colored posters and announcements adorn the halls as the team begins to advertise for the 2001-2002 school year.

Informational meetings for interested students begin in the middle of September every year. This year they began September 14, in the Almy Hall lounge, and they will end on September 27, in the Tigress Hall lobby (for details on specific meeting times, please see the Calendar Page of the *Beacon*).

Interested students must take the requirements into consideration before deciding if this opportunity is right for them. RA applicants must have a 2.5 minimal cumulative GPA. They must also have completed 24 credit hours by the end of the spring 2001 semester. An applicant must also have a good conduct standing with the University. Students must plan to attend classes at Penn State Behrend for at least one year after they complete the RA training

classes. Finally, applicants may hold a job while they are an RA, but only if it is an on-campus job.

After attending one of the eight meetings, interested students should pick up an application at the Office of Student Affairs. This application includes basic questions about the applicant, his or her interests and lifestyle. A short essay is also required.

On October 4, all RA candidates are required to attend a mandatory informational meeting at 8:00 pm in Reed 117. At that time candidates may sign up for a group interview. The group interview sign-ups can also be done in the Office of Student Affairs until October 12. The applications are due to the Student Affairs office by October 12.

Then, select groups will be asked to attend a group interview on either October 15, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., or on October 17, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. These groups consist of nine candidates. The groups are required to complete three activities so that the interviewers can see how well each candidate performs in a group.

On October 23, a notification of status will be given to select candidates, inviting them to come in for an individual meeting. These meetings will occur in the Office of Student Affairs, beginning on

November 6.

By November 20 (right before Thanksgiving Break), invitations to next semester's RA classes will be handed out to selected candidates. The classes will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

Rachel Hinterlang, a seventh semester Mechanical Engineering major and a current RA said, "the RA experience is a really good learning experience, because it is a job."

"The individual interviews and the group interviews are so similar to real-life experiences," Marcus Kalivoda, a ninth semester Mechanical Engineering major and a RA commented. "I got a lot out of the classes, because several of the campus departments spoke during the classes."

If anyone is interested in this opportunity, it is not too late. There are still several informational meetings left: in Reed 117 on September 25 at noon; September 26 in the Niagara Hall lobby at 7:00 p.m.; and in the Tigress Hall lobby at 8:00 p.m. on September 27, 2000. Applications will be available starting September 25 at the Student Affairs Office. For more information on the program, or if unable to attend the informational meetings, call the Office of Student Affairs x6111.



Police And Safety REPORT



9/12/00	17:30	Student reported damage done to her vehicle while parked on campus
9/13/00	01:03	RA requested assistance with a loud party.
9/13/00	17:20	Student heard that someone was using a camera to photograph up student's skirts.
9/14/00	19:43	A student came to Police and Safety and reported that he injured his left hand striking a wall in his room.
9/15/00	23:26	RA requested assistance in dealing with an uncooperative student.
9/16/00	02:24	Power line explosion followed by brief campus wide power outage.
9/17/00	04:02	RA reported that someone had thrown two cigarette urns from the Perry Hall porch and also damaged a bench.
9/18/00	01:29	Student reported screams in the woods near Almy. I searched the area but did not hear or see anything

Parking continued from front page

students were not able to get permanent parking passes. However, these individuals have not been denied parking. Donahue explained that these students were issued free temporary passes and placed on a waiting list for a permanent pass.

Right now, residents with a temporary pass have two parking options. In the south lots behind the Maintenance and Operations Building, students are currently being allowed to park in the grass areas along the regular parking spaces. This situation is acceptable for immediate parking needs, but come winter weather, these spots will no longer be available because these are the areas used for snow removal purposes. When plowing the parking lots, it is in these grassy areas that the snow is pushed into. Also, should these areas become wet or muddy, many students will have difficulties moving their vehicles.

The other area residents with temporary passes are being routed to is the parking lot to the east of the M&O Building, alongside Jordan Road. Donahue did mention, regarding the grass parking, that he

has seen many people parking here even though numerous spaces have been available in the Ohio Hall lot. Apparently, some find the temporary spots more convenient than the permanent ones that are farther away, or they do not realize that the Ohio Lot is there, hidden behind the trees on the west side of Ohio Hall.

The main reason for the crunch in resident parking this semester is due to the increased percentage of residents living on campus. This number is up seven to 10 percent from recent years. Usually 41% - 43% of residents park their vehicle on campus; this semester, about 50% of students are parking here.

Donahue hopes that the opening of the ARC parking lot will free up some resident and commuter parking space. When this lot opens, Donahue has tentative plans to begin routing commuters to the ARC lot and having residents park in the Jordan Lot, at which point students with temporary passes will be able to acquire permanent versions. It is hoped that the ARC lot will be available in mid-October.

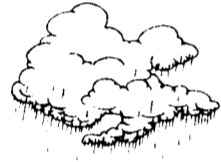
What lies in the future for Behrend

parking? According to Donahue there are many proposals being discussed, but few definite plans have been made. One suggestion being considered is to limit parking. As is done in many colleges, first-year students could be denied resident parking. Or students who live within so many miles of the school could be denied. Also, the possibility exists of specific resident lots being assigned to students with specific semester standings.

Obviously, building new parking lots has been considered. However, Behrend is quickly running out of viable space that new lots can be built on. The more recent commuter lots were designed so that they can be made into parking decks in the future, so this is another possibility. Any new lots that are built will most likely be constructed around the perimeter of the campus, Donahue added. For years students have suggested turning the area between Perry and Niagara Halls into a parking lot, but Donahue rationalized that the expense of such a project when compared to the small amount of spaces that would be gained makes this idea rather impractical.

WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY



Rain
High 75
Low 55

SUNDAY



Rain
High 68
Low 59

MONDAY



Showers
High 55
Low 53

FOCAL POINT

WHATCHA' LOOKIN' AT GEESE?



PHOTO BY JASON SNYDER

The geese graze the grass at the main entrance of campus. Here, the geese join the many passersby staring perplexedly into the camera, wondering why the photographer is standing in the middle of a muddy field taking their photo.

Panepento completes first month as Associate Director of Student Affairs

by Stacey Gorniak
staff writer

As the 2000-2001 school year begins, freshmen are not the only new faces on campus: Mrs. Nancy M. Panepento has been named as the new associate director of Student Affairs at Behrend.

Panepento, who graduated from Buffalo State University with a degree in Student Personnel Administration, looks forward to working with Ken Miller, director of student affairs, and the residential coordinators on adding the first year interest groups.

"Right now I am working to improve the first year interest groups on campus. We [the Office of Student Affairs] want to include new seminars but we also want to get more students involved with on-campus activities," said Panepento.

She said she would also like to increase the number of open houses, demonstrations, and information about student activities available to students. "It is really important for a student to see what is offered to them and to take advantage of such opportunities," commented Panepento.

In the long run, she would like to improve student satisfaction with the campus as a whole. One specific area



Nancy Panepento

that she is especially interested in are the first-year students. "It is the first six weeks [of on-campus experiences] that are crucial to whether or not a student will return for the next semester," Panepento mentioned.

With some lofty goals in mind, Panepento is looking for feedback from the student body, particularly the peer mentors and the students within the first year interest groups.

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