

A View From The Lighthouse

It's freezing...inside?

As the temperatures outside drops, throughout the month of January, residence hall students are feeling the chill. Both in Almy and Ohio Hall there seems to be a major problem with the heating system. Whether students are using washcloths and cold water to trick the thermostat or space heaters, the efforts are not paying off. Hall coordinators, RA's, and students are doing everything possible to stay warm in the two residence halls. Many students in the dorms have complained that cold air is coming out of the vents in the rooms. Therefore, despite the thermostat reading, the rooms are much colder than students would prefer.



accommodating a large amount of residents on campus, but the ones that are paying to live here deserve heating!

So, should students have to resort to sleeping in sweats under 17 blankets in order to stay warm at night? All residents of on-campus housing are paying a very large amount in order to live in these dorms. It is their right to have proper heating. But in one particular room the air conditioning is always on, despite the very cold temperatures. Even though the thermostat is well over 80 degrees, the temperature barely rises above 65 degrees. This has resulted in an uncomfortable climate that makes falling and staying asleep difficult. When the resident assistant was approached, he merely stated that he had the same problem, so there was nothing he could do about it. When the housekeeper was questioned, she actually did apologize, and gave the residents a space heater in order to bear the cold chill.

Another student has explained how in his suite they must put cold water on a washcloth and place it on the thermostat. This tricks the thermostat into increasing the amount of heat that is being emitted. Yet another student has attempted to cover the vent in order to prevent the cool air from affecting the temperature as much. Are these techniques very safe? It would be much cheaper to fix the heating system, instead of having to replace the building from a fire. What is expected of the students? Residents are doing whatever possible to deal with the situation at hand.

It is ridiculous that students are having these problems. Housing has been working on improving the system in order to appease the students. This problem is not the fault of vandalism or negligence on the students' part. So, why is it the students are dealing with the consequences? Students realize how tight Behrend is in

Dan Schiesser, residence life coordinator in Almy and Ohio, is very familiar with the heating problems in both of the residence halls. He explained the problem lies in the circulation system in the buildings. For some reason the air is redirected, therefore pure heat is not going into the rooms. This results in the cold breeze, which comes from the vents. He also assumes that this problem will not be taken care of, because the fault is in the circulation system, and they can't replace the whole system. That is where housing comes in.

James Bowen from housing was also very amicable in discussing this issue. Over the holiday break two different companies worked on the system due to the complaints of several students. He explained, "these are not heat pump systems, they are geo-thermal systems. The air that is being pumped from the ground is a constant 55 degrees. This air then is warmed by heating coils." Also, even though students set their thermostats to 80 degrees, the set temperature for rooms are at 72 degrees. This can fluctuate up to three degrees in either direction.

Students living on campus have to deal with a tight money situation. Residents pay a very large amount for food, with the \$830 base cost, and a large room and board fee. Where is this money going? If it is not going towards maintenance to solve the problem, the least that can be done is providing space heaters for all rooms with heating problems. Students realize the large costs that are included in living on campus. They do pay the bill every semester! So, although it is expensive to run the heat during the winter it is a benefit to the students in order to be comfortable.



Resolve this!

Welcome back to Behrend everyone! Hope your break was an enjoyable and restful one. Except for a few days where I forced myself to be lazy, I was on the run the whole time; credit cards bills made me do it! So for this year and this editorial, I want to make my resolutions public.

Normally I think that resolutions are for the weak. No one sticks to them, so they are made in vain and often times made at our most intoxicated times. So why even bother? They are usually the same old ones over and over again, "I vow to be a better person, I vow to stop smoking, I vow to watch what I eat," blah, blah, blah, you get the point. So this year, I made resolutions, but ones that are easily attainable.

Resolution number one: I vow to make an honest attempt to go to all my classes. Because as I have often pontificated about, I am paying for these classes, so I might as well go to them and see what all the fuss is about. In conjunction to that resolution, I also vow never again to schedule an eight o'clock class because I will never go to it. I am simply not a morning person and much like the sample resolutions from the beginning, it is foolish to think that I would follow through with it.

Resolution number two: I vow to once again remember what it was like to be under 21. I never drank until I was 21, and then all of a sudden it was the greatest thing in the world! I could not believe what I had been missing. I completely enjoy the atmosphere when I go out; it is fun and lively. And often times people who are probably not fun and people that I would not normally associate with become my 'friends.' So I will be the designated driver more and be the friend that helps get you home at night.

Resolution number three: I vow to go to bed earlier. Last semester all I did was hang out in

Detours and Small Potatoes

Katie Galley



either one of two places. In the lovely *Beacon* office with my friends until two and three in the morning, or at the end of my wing in Almy hall until two or three in the morning. Then I would wake up between eight and nine in the morning and go to class and the cycle would repeat day after day. Then I would try to catch up on my sleep during the weekends. As a result I was tired and run down all the time. And sometimes I was unusually cranky; who would have guessed that with only five hours sleep a night?

Resolution number four: I vow to try something new that I never have before. And I am not talking about jumping out of an airplane or anything, because that's just crazy. But I will try out something new here on campus. Maybe I will eat the food that I get in Brunos at the tables they provide, instead of coming back to where I normally hang out. Maybe I will sit with the people that eat outside of Brunos, the ones that are there almost as much as we are in the *Beacon* office.

Resolution number five: I vow not to procrastinate...ok, that's a lie, I have procrastinated everyday these first two weeks of the new year, so I really can't make promises to myself that I have no intention of keeping!

Resolution number six: I vow to not watch so much television this year. I mean, how many old reruns of *Friends* can I watch before they stop being funny? And I vow to start reading more. There are things out there called books that take

up a majority of the space in our library. Sometimes they even make movies out of these 'books' (see more about that on our Arts and Entertainment page). I used to read all the time, but college has taken the will to want to read out of me. This year I will try to read one non-school book a week, my first book will be *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, or maybe *Fit or Fat*.

Resolution number seven: To turn off my freakin' computer. A quick example for you; last night I was on my computer until three in the morning using my instant messenger. Now, I feel that even though I just admitted to breaking one of my resolutions (see number three), my reasons for being on the 'Net last night were important...however other nights my reasons have been weak! So no more staying up until the butt crack of dawn dishing over *Temptation Island*, no more burning CD's until the wee hours of the morn, and no more looking at porn when you should be sleeping (that one wasn't necessarily about me, but you get the picture)!

So, in general, I guess my resolutions are to break the habits that make me fit into the mold of the 'typical college student.' And while this is not a bad thing, because I know that these are the only times that I will be able to live like this, it does seem like we have it really easy. So, my goals are to continue having fun, but at the same time to remember how lucky I have it and to try not to be such a chucklehead. The new year is all about a new beginning, and even though I think that is the cheesiest saying in the world, I suppose that it makes sense.

One final resolution: Not to talk in codes anymore...or did I already break that one too? Have a great semester.

Galley's column appears every three weeks.

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