

Being an R.A. isn't easy!

by Melony Burnom
staff writer

Some may think that being a resident assistant is a difficult job. They're right, it is. The deadline to apply for an R.A. position is almost a week from now. For those students would love to reap the benefits of the challenging job have a long road ahead of them.

All together Penn State Erie has 1,500 students living on campus, and almost all of them will need someone to lay down the do's and don'ts to sharing a small space with so many people. That is where the resident assistants come in.

Resident assistants are expected to create an environment that has a positive impact on students' development, according to the Residence Life mission statement at the Behrend College. The on-campus residence experience must develop into a total learning experience for all students in which the R.A. must help shape this environment into a community.

By attending weekly meetings, planning 10 programs a semester for their community floor, serving occasional night duty, and distributing campus information, they will complete the mission of Residence Life department. The most important aspect of the job is enforcing housing rules and being a mediator when conflicts arise. All of these duties call for serious time management skills. R.A.s also must have a 2.5 cumulative, good conduct, and earn 24 credits after Spring 2002 Semester.

Being an R.A. has its benefits. Students receive free room and

board, and make friends in the process. Becoming a person with first-class social skills also helps students survive in today's competitive society.

"Helping others non-stop will help build character," said Nicole Green, a senior R.A. who has been on the job for three years.

The Residence Life Coordinators decide who gets to be an R.A.



A few Behrend students socialize while hitting the books.

Positions depend on the number of returning Resident Assistants, graduating seniors and transfer students. Jill Parker, coordinator of Residence Life says, "There are a good number of positions open and they need people to take the job serious." However, Residence Life won't know the exact number of openings until the spring, when the positions are closed.

Not only do students have to fill out an application, including five heavily evaluated questions, applicants must also attend a group interview, then later an individual interview with Residence Life Coordinator professionals and a few current Resident Assistants. Parker explains the procedure as finding "the best of the best, making it fairly competitive."

If students make it past the group interview, the students will then have the opportunity to enroll in a 3 credit R.A. class during the

Spring Semester of 2002.

However, not all students are guaranteed a spot as an R.A. Either there is a waiting list or one is just not accepted.

The procedure is long for a reason. Student RA's connect the students and the administration by delivering information, becoming a useful resource, and assisting students with problems. The procedure must be handled professionally, along with many other things that could become a bit overwhelming.

This process helps the Residence Life Coordinators weed out students who may not be right for the job.

When it comes to on-campus living, the floor will contain 30 to 40 students

with many different personalities that may or may not agree with one another. Once one makes it as an R.A.,

"The first six weeks are the most important weeks," said Jill Parker. "It will make or break your semester."

The R.A. will have to successfully build the community on the floor into a positive one. This will lead to fewer conflicts and less rule violations.

Because Resident Assistants are seen as authority figures, everyone is observing their every move.

"(It's like) being in a fish bowl because, everyone is watching you," said Jolene Schuster, RA for two years.

Being an RA isn't an easy job. If one is interested, he or she can pick up an application in the Office of Student Affairs in the Reed Building 115, or a person can complete an online application on the Penn State Erie website.

Through the looking glass

by Mike Pingree, KRT Campus

WHEN SHE SHOWS UP, I'M ASKING HER TO DINNER

The Salzburg Opera is looking to hire a woman to appear nude on stage in the upcoming production of Alexander Zemlinsky's "King Kandaules." She must be five feet tall and have a 40-inch chest and 26-inch waist.

So far, nobody has applied.

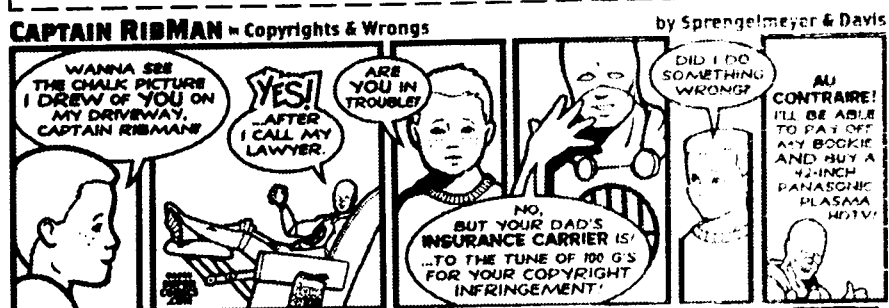
CALL ME FROM THE AFTERLIFE, BLAM!

After a day of heavy drinking, two Texas men got involved in a discussion about religion, specifically, who was going to heaven and who was going to hell.

It ended when one of them shot the other in the chest with a shotgun, killing him.

DOES THAT APPLY TO NIGHT SCHOOL?

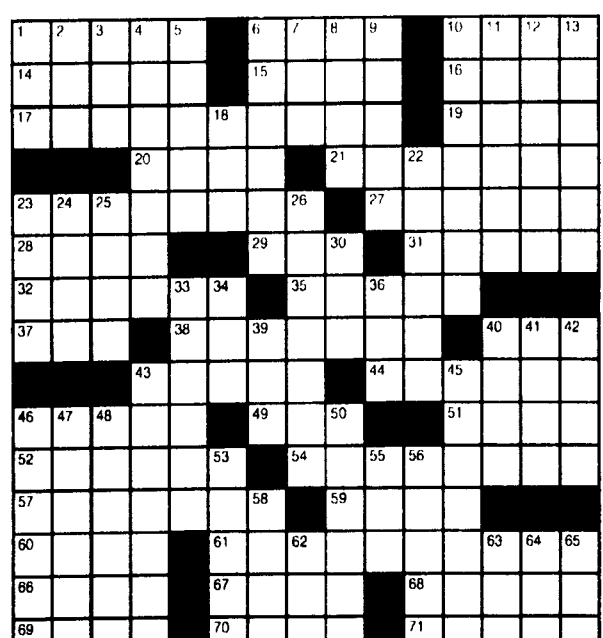
The Florida school system is ending the practice of allowing students to come to class wearing pajamas.



"I don't know and I don't care. Thank you."

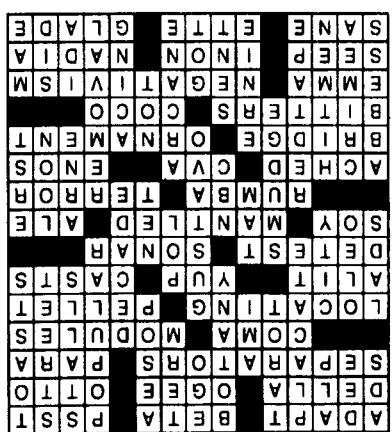
Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Adjust
 - 6 Alpha follower
 - 10 Attention getter
 - 14 Jazzy Reese
 - 15 Curved molding
 - 16 Mr. Preminger
 - 17 Dairy machines
 - 19 Normal lead-in
 - 20 Unconscious state
 - 21 Components
 - 23 Finding
 - 27 Piece of small shot
 - 28 Landed
 - 29 Slangy affirmative
 - 31 Throws
 - 32 Abhor
 - 35 Sub detector
 - 37 Salty sauce
 - 38 Covered with a cloak
 - 40 Lager alternative
 - 43 Cuban dance
 - 44 Intense fear
 - 46 Suffered soreness
 - 49 Dam-building grp.
 - 51 Seth's son
 - 52 Span
 - 54 Decoration
 - 57 Dash in some cocktails
 - 59 Designer Chanel
 - 60 Austen novel
 - 61 Habitual attitude of skepticism
 - 66 Ooze
 - 67 Privy to
 - 68 Gymnast
 - 69 Comaneci
 - 70 Reasonable
 - 71 Major ending?



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Solutions



- DOWN**
- 1 Madison Ave. output
 - 2 Sandra or Ruby
 - 3 High mountain
 - 4 Appase
 - 5 Reader's card
 - 6 Australian bay
 - 7 Freudian topic
 - 8 School period
 - 9 Fable man
 - 10 Well-liked
 - 11 Stable units
 - 12 Mason's Della
 - 13 Raises a glass
 - 18 Pierre's friend
 - 22 Ten-year period
 - 23 Young Scots
 - 24 Toast topper
 - 25 Metropolis
 - 26 Kuerten of tennis
 - 30 D.C. old-timer
 - 33 Smear
 - 34 Highland hat
 - 36 Seine
 - 39 Peacock network
 - 40 "Rule Britannia" composer
 - 41 Bird with a laughlike cry
 - 42 Formerly, once
 - 43 Bureaucratic obstructions
 - 45 Dismissal
 - 46 Convent superior
 - 47 Ukrainian peninsula
 - 48 Hired killers
 - 50 Obscure
 - 53 Goller Els
 - 55 Ready alternative?
 - 56 Getting top marks
 - 58 Transmitted
 - 62 Acquired
 - 63 Actress Lupino
 - 64 Entertaining Caesar
 - 65 West of Hollywood

Online laundry technology takes wait out of washing

by Mike Langberg
Knight Ridder Newspapers

College students sitting in their dorm rooms will soon get an answer via the Internet to one of life's great unanswered questions: Is there a washer or dryer available in the basement laundry room?

IBM and a smaller company named USA Technologies today unfolds "eSuds," a program that will connect 9,000 washers and dryers in college dorms around the country to the Net starting early next year.

From a Web page, students will see which washers and dryers are in use and which are free. When their clothes are clean or dry, the appliance will send an e-mail message- or even beep a pager.

This may sound silly, but there are serious business reasons for laundry-room operators to pay for online connections.

Net-enabled washers and dryers will report breakdowns immediately, so operators can dispatch a repair person and get broken units quickly back

into revenue-producing service.

Eternally cash-strapped students could also wash their clothes more often, again producing more revenue for equipment operators, because Internet-enabled machines can deduct the cost from an online account funded by Mom and Dad - a much easier alternative than begging roommates for spare quarters.

Students pay by swiping their college ID card through a slot, or by entering an authorization code on their cellular phones.

Another convenience feature: eSuds washers will be attached to tanks full of detergent and fabric softener, which can be dispensed on demand for a small additional fee.

eSuds was tested earlier this year at Boston College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, drawing an "overwhelmingly positive response" from students, according to Wendy Jenkins, head of marketing for USA Technologies, based in the Philadelphia suburb of Wayne, Penn.

IBM's Global Services group and USA Technologies jointly developed the technology for

cashless laundry machines and the software for monitoring the machines through the Web.

The partners are selling eSuds to service operators who run college laundry rooms under contract and will begin at schools in the Midwest, quickly spreading nationwide.

It's part of a bigger trend toward cashless vending machines, motivated in part by efforts to reduce vandalism.

"People don't break into vending machines just to steal a soda," says Jenkins.

Internet-enabled appliances are also headed into the home. Whirlpool, which makes half the consumer washers and dryers sold worldwide under the Whirlpool, Kenmore Kitchen Aid and Roper names, will introduce its first Net-connected ovens, microwaves and refrigerators later this year. Washers and dryers will eventually go online, too, mostly so Whirlpool can remotely fix problems and watch for impending breakdowns.