

# Student Housing: A Factor Too Often Ignored. This Week: Life in Dorms of Behrend College

by Jeff Holland  
Staff Writer

In the course of a four-year higher education, there is crucial, subtle factor of life that is often ignored in the planning of one's college career. That factor is housing. Where and how will the student live? How expensive will it be? What alternatives has he? How isolated or restricted will he be? And, finally, how will the student like the place where he is to spend the majority of his time?

These are questions which must be paid attention to by all of us, and in the next couple of editions of this paper will be analyses of the three major areas of student housing: living in the dormitories, living at home with the family, and living in off-campus student housing away from the family.

## DORMATORIES

"The contractor who built the dorms," remarked one student candidly, "Must have discovered that K-Mart has a fad a fantastic sale that week on cinder block."

This seems to be the general consensus of most of the students who live in Behrend College's three dormitories, Perry Hall, Niagra Hall, and Lawrence Hall. This feeling is summed up by Student Government Association president, Walker Moore, who notes that everything from the turning of pages to the lighting of cigarettes can be heard through the cinder block walls which make up the most of the dormitories' architecture.

Moore went on to say that after Perry Hall was built in 1968, complaints were loudly voiced against the cinder block construction, but no new architects were hired, and no new plans were made and so the other two dorms were built in the same way.

"The rooms are so sterile" said Moore, "It's like walking into a hospital room or a cell block." Moore, who spent over two years living in Perry Hall before moving to a Wesleyville apartment last year, feels that the dorm rooms should have been constructed more like apart-

ments, or at least should be enjoyable to the students. But "students aren't considered in the building of dorms."

The last aspect stems, Moore feels, from the more basic problem of the entire dormitory structure system at this college, and that is the college has "two bosses-Kochel (Director of Behrend College) and Finley, (Manager of Housing and Food Service). Finley doesn't have to conform to anything he doesn't want to."

In talking with Catherine (Katey) Lavery, a fifth term Theatre Arts Major, and her roommate, Carolyn Jamison, a fifth term Consumer Related Studies major, it was discovered that dormitories, though they are good for the beginning college student, in that new students are almost "forced to socialize" with one another, that later, "It's a pain". Miss Lavery feels that there is a definite lack of privacy and that the rules enforced by the Student Affairs Office are unreasonable both in their inconsistency and in their over-strict enforcement. Carol agrees, saying that, "There is stricter enforcement this year, which is driving people to New York" a situation which could be dangerous in the weather.

According to Miss Lavery, whether a student can study in the dorms or not depends on how well the student can concentrate. But, she said, "a lot of kids can't study". Katey also feels restricted by the visitation rules of the dormitories. Presently, members of the opposite sex can visit each other in their rooms only from eight o'clock to twelve o'clock Monday through Thursday, from seven o'clock to one o'clock on Fridays, twelve to two on Saturdays, and twelve to twelve on Sundays.

"It's sad we don't have more (time to visit)" said Jamison, "Especially since the Main Campus has twenty four hour visitation. We're being treated like a junior high school addition." She went on to say that there were no problems with the

present system of visitation, and that there would also be none if the program were extended.

"Of course", said Lavery, "I'm not bothered by visitation rules-I've got a window on the first floor."

## LEGALITIES

Each student who lives in the dorm is given a contract to sign by the Office of Housing and Food Service, stating the various rules by which the dorms are

college, withdraws, or sells his contract to another student who wishes to live in the dorms.

Room and board cost a total of \$380 per term, a total of \$1,140 per year. This includes twenty one meals a week at Dobbins Hall, the resident students' cafeteria.

Finley explained that the returning student can specify his or her roommate by filling out a form which accompanies the contract. Upper classmen have

the second floor of Niagra Hall, every floor is run to the R.A.'s own discretion, within the limits of the regulations of the office Student Affairs. Some R.A.'s are stricter than others, "depending on how discreet the students are".

## FOOD

All dorm students take their meals at the Dobbins Hall, affectionately known by many as "Dobbins' Diner". According to Mr. Robert Finley, Dobbins Hall offers a "well balanced menu and unlimited seconds." Commenting on the quality of the food at the cafeteria, both Lavery and Jamison stated flatly, "Blah!" Bartholmew agrees, "the food is terrible. It has gotten worse since last year."

Last year, before Dobbins Hall was built, all students ate at the Reed Student Union cafeteria. This included commuter students who found it necessary to eat lunch at school. The fact that dorm students now eat exclusively at their own cafeteria has, in the view of many, contributed to the obvious rift in relationships between resident and commuter students. The RUB cafeteria, said Moore, brought "all sorts of people together." Jamison agrees that now, the only time dorm and commuter students get together is in the classroom. This could be alleviated, she feels, if dorm students could use their meal tickets to purchase lunches at the RUB cafeteria.

The advantages of living in the dorms are obvious: convenience of location, food preparation, and close socialization with other students within the academic atmosphere. But this seems to be at the sacrifice of privacy for some, as well as an atmosphere which is not totally conducive to good study habits and rather drab living quarters.

Next week: a continuation of this study of student housing, concerning the commuter and how he lives; at home and in off-campus student housing; as alternatives to dorm life.



Dorm Students Relax in Lounge

Resident students find Lawrence Hall lounge a good place to study, socialize, hold business meetings for student organizations, or to just plain relax. Each of Behrend's three dorms is equipped with its own lounge, attractively decorated and comfortable decorated for the students leisure hours. In addition, two of the dorms have special recreation areas for ping pong and other active pursuits.

regulated, concerning damages, telephones, furnishings, electrical appliances, cost and cancellations.

The contract is binding for the entire academic year. This means that if a student signs the contract in September, he must live in the dorms until June, unless he transfers from the

preference in these choices. Other room mates are chosen at random.

Each room is equipped with a bed, a desk, a closet, and a chest of drawers. Other than a few electric utensils, such as televisions, radios, phonographs, and popcorn machines, no additional furnishings are permitted. The phones are two to each line, and no long distance calls are allowed. University-owned refrigerators may be rented from the office of Housing and Food Service at a nominal fee.

The dorms have a capacity of 600 students. Presently, only 553 students reside there. Approximately 120 students exchange rooms over the course of a year.

Each floor of every dorm has its own residence advisor, a staff member of the Office of Academic Affairs. Resident advisors are paid free room and board for their services as advisors to the students living on their floor as well as for enforcing University regulations. In addition to the R.A.'s, each dormitory has a house mother, who live in their respective dorms in special apartments.

According to Thomas Bartholmew, resident advisor for

## HUFNAGEL....

(Continued from Page 1)

directed the Nittany Lions to 26 wins in the 29 games he started at quarterback.

"Huffy was the best college quarterback in the country last year," says Penn State coach Joe Paterno. "He can run, pass, handle the ball and he is an outstanding leader."

A good student in business administration, Hufnagel may give pro football a try before beginning his business career. He was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the pro football draft last month.

Carbone, a senior from Old Westbury, N.Y., was one of the defensive standouts for three years for Delaware, the nation's top-ranked college division team.

## SGA and JRC Guide Fight Against Rise

Each student should be able to devote at least fifteen minutes of their time and an eight cent stamp for a good cause, right?

On Tuesday March 6, dorm meetings will be held to discuss the recent issue of tuition increase for Penn State students. The state is only supplying 80 million dollars to the University, whereas, 82 million dollars is needed in the budget to operate successfully.

This lack of two million dollars will have to be made by increasing student tuition or by securing a loan.

SGA and JRC are working together to have each dorm student write to their respective county representatives in

response to the lack of funding.

Telegrams have been sent to Governor Milton Shapp explaining the appalled attitude the students have regarding his actions to the budget of the Pennsylvania school system. But this is not enough.

If each student would take time to write a letter and have their parents write a letter also, the two million dollars lacking could possibly be obtained. Petition and form letters never constitute to

solve any issue; this is why personal letters are urged. The address of your representatives may be obtained from Dean Seanor, Assistant Dean of Affairs or at the SGA office.

JRC is sponsoring an ice-skating party Saturday, March 3, from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Students are asked to join in the fun. The cost is \$1 for admission and 60 cents for skate rental. Transportation will be provided if students are willing to co-operate.

## On Politics

### Frosh to Campaign

A freshman student at Behrend is campaigning for the position of Harborcreek Township Supervisor during the primary elections.

J. Scott Rudzinski, a 1972 graduate of Harborcreek High School is beginning to campaign door to door throughout Harborcreek to secure votes for this position. If elected, he will serve a six year term beginning in 1974.

Rudzinski is against an issue that may soon be passed. Harborcreek may hire qualified individuals to work under the Supervisor and take on some of the supervisor's work. This would leave the Supervisor only the legislative duties.

"I believe the local government should be run by a local person, not someone foreign to the people in the township, only hired because of his prospective

qualification," states Rudzinski's view on the matter.

He is running on the Democratic party ticket but believes his party should not influence people.

"Major emphasis should be on the candidate running for office, not his political party."

One issue Rudzinski feels is not being properly solved is the securing of city water for Harborcreek residents. The people in office are supposedly trying, but not enough to solve the situation.

Approximately 2,000 votes are needed for Rudzinski to win the primary election. For this reason, he is urging a request for Behrend students eligible and registered to vote to do so. If not registered, one can still register at the Erie County Courthouse as a resident of Harborcreek until April 16.

## "Miss Erie Co." Offers Chances

The Miss Erie County Beauty Pageant is to be one of Erie County's most publicized events and offers a great opportunity for those who take part in it. A Senatorial Scholarship will be given to the girl who is crowned Miss Erie County, as well as many other valuable prizes, including a specially designed trophy, created by Herb Rubinfield of Fisher's Jewelers, and a life size color portrait of herself as Miss Erie by Portraits by Howard.

Throughout her reign she will participate in many important events, with many important people, giving her great opportunities to widen her scope of

activities, and opening many doors to her future. All of the previous Miss Erie Counties now hold positions of importance in their chosen fields.

The rules are simple, the cost is nothing. The application forms are self explanatory. All girls must be Juniors or Seniors by the date of the Pageant and no talents are required. All girls must fill out the forms, and mail together with two black and white photos, 5 x 7 of themselves, which will be published in the Times News.

The date of the Pageant is June 2, 1973, at West Lake Junior High School.

Applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs.

**BARBATO**  
HOME OF  
THE ROUND  
PIZZA  
**PIZZERIA'S**

**FREE DELIVERY  
TO BEHREND**

For 11:00 Delivery call before 10:30  
Ph. 899-3423  
3512 Buffalo Rd.  
Wesleyville, Pa.