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Student Service Series

RA: Reliable Always

By Kathy Kern

Although resident life at Capitol Campus is not often as exciting as it could be, there are those who are quick to say that there is never a dull moment. Pat Murphy, Coordinator of the Residence Living Program, is one of those people.

Despite the placid facade of the job, Ms. Murphy comments that in her work, there is always a surprise. This opinion is echoed by the Assistant Coordinator of the Residence Living Program, John Pellechia. "This is a job which requires you to be ready for anything at anytime," comments John. He also adds emergency situations during the night, disciplinary problems, and giving assistance to the Resident Assistants (RAs) as contributing to the variety of demands of the 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week job.

There are 14 Resident Assistants in the Residence Living Program. Currently the dormitory RAs are Bill Becker, Ray Forgione, Bob Hesselthaler, Ed Carvell, Tish Whalen,

and Rob Russel. The Meade Heights RAs are Joe De Santis, Bill Bertolet, John Stepansky, Rick Joyce, Theresa Mulac, Andrea Schragar, and Dave Kinder. The University Apartment's RA is Edgar Wright.

Ms. Murphy explains that each group of RAs has a committee to manage special programs. The Resident Student Council, which is located in the residence halls, is currently working on activities such as the Spring Formal and the Spring Olympics. The Married Student Union, located in the University Apartments, is kept busy with organizing trips to places such as the Reading outlets and Gettysburg.

New items are also on the agenda for the Residence Living Program, according to its coordinator. "The Meade Heights Board of Governors is working with the Social Committee and SGA to add to the 'Rites of Spring' activities," says Ms. Murphy. She also adds plans for events such as mud wrestling, concerts, fund raising, and a Gong Show are in the works. Also, the Residence Living Program is in the process of preparing a

booklet for students on what to bring with them to live in the Heights, should they choose to live there. Educational programs, including trips to TMI, are also planned by the Residence Living Program.

Besides the scheduling of activities, another item which is of importance to the Residence Living Program is the evaluation form. Each year every resident student is given a form which enables them to evaluate their RA and other aspects of resident life. Ms. Murphy notes that improvements in the system usually come from ideas given by students in the evaluations. She also adds that this year's evaluation reveals about 75% of the resident students are satisfied with their RAs. She goes on to say the evaluation is a useful tool for everyone. "We try to adapt the RAs function to the evaluation," she notes.

Also, if someone has a long list of complaints on resident life, the evaluation form can act as an outlet. The Assistant Coordinator explains the Residence Living Program has already received "short stories" from students on complaints and how to improve resident life. "The standard method for soliciting complaints is reviewed through the evaluation," Pellechia comments.

John notes that one drawback of the evaluation is the fact that most of the RAs are seniors and the evaluations are sometimes too late for them to use, since they will not be returning.

According to the Resident Assistant Manual, the five major roles of the RA include being a friendly source of information and referral, a programmer of social and educational activities, a source of emergency assistance, an interpreter and enforcer of policies and rules, and a counselor. The Assistant Coordinator feels that the RAs are doing "as well a job as they can," and the lack of activities is not the fault of the RAs, considering the weekend on-campus population. He further comments that an

isolated complaint on an RA is usually overlooked as being a personality conflict. However, he suggests that if a person does have a gripe about his RA, the individual should approach his RA, and if the RA is sensitive to the issue and is mature enough, he should realize that this person took time to get up the nerve to talk with him, and perhaps a solution to the problem can be reached without involving others.

One of this year's major problems concerning the Residence Living Program is the men on the second floor of Church Hall. Both Ms. Murphy and John cited lack of activities as being the major cause of the disciplinary problems regarding that floor. Ms. Murphy says the Residence Living Program has tried to improve the communication between the RA and the people on the floor. "We want them to be able to enjoy themselves... but there are rules to obey and they must be considerate of other people." She also says the responsibility is a shared one, but the RA can only do so much. Pellechia agrees and adds that the lack of programming is not attributed to the RA there, Ray Forgione, and that he himself would also like to see a variety of programs established.

One RA who would like to see more programs for the resident students is Tish Whalen, who has the unique position of being the RA for the only women's floor in the dorms. In handling dorm life on her floor, Tish comments that noise complaints and requests for roommate changes are the most common problems. Tish notes that the Residence Living Program is currently working on setting up counseling for roommates, should there be any difficulties.

All in all, the Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, and other members of the Residence Living Program may look very care-free in a just-another-day-world. But ask them if they really are carefree and bored and they will probably reply with a grin and a "no way!" And rightly so.

News Briefs

STORE-Y TIME

Many commuter students have expressed a need for someplace to store books, coats, and other articles. Resident students as well have requested facilities in which to place their belongings between classes. In order to help accommodate everyone, the storage lockers in the Vendorville dining area will be available for use at the beginning of Spring Term.

Persons with articles to store will choose a locker and place them inside. Before closing the door, a deposit of 25 cents (one quarter) should be placed in the slot. Once the door is closed, the unit will lock and the key will be released. The key will be needed for access to the stored articles. When the locker is reopened, the 25 cents will be automatically returned. However, students are cautioned that there is a charge for lost keys.

POLICE SERVICE REMINDERS

Student Patrol Positions—Applications for students interested in Student Patrol positions for Fall 1981 and Winter 1982 will be available in the Police Services Office during the first few weeks of this term.

Bicycles—Students are advised to park their bicycles in the bike racks instead of along the ramp or stairs in front of the Main Building. If a fire or other emergency would occur, bicycles parked along the entrance could create a serious problem.

Inspection—Students, staff, and faculty are reminded that vehicles bearing #3 State inspection stickers are due for inspection no later than April 30, 1981.

THE DARKER SIDE OF CAPITOL CAMPUS

The electricity in the Olmsted (Main) Building will be interrupted on April 14, 15, and 16 in order to service three main transformers.

The power outages will affect separate sections of the building each day. Diagrams specifically outlining the affected areas will be posted throughout the building.

No other buildings on campus will be affected.

Questions concerning the outages should be directed to Mr. Joseph Kemp, Manager, PPM&O, or Dr. Duane R. Smith, Associate Provost and Dean.

KNOW YOUR PLACE

To celebrate National Library Week, Heindel Library is giving a free Miss Piggy and Kermit bookmark to everyone who checks out a book the week of April 5. In addition, readers are invited to spend some time with the display "The Names Around Us," a description of how campus names came to be. Finally, check around the library for some of our new art works.

Capitol Campus, we have your number!

Please Be Patient

Construction on the renovation of Vendorville started this Tuesday. Students are reminded that this will cause some temporary inconvenience. Please be patient. Construction will occur all of spring term.



Bella Abzug, former U.S. Representative from New York, gave a clear message for students during the Anti-Nuke Rally held in Harrisburg March 28 — Pressure university leaders who support nuclear power! Abzug is shown here asking everyone to donate a dollar in support of the Rally.

READER Photo by Harry H. Moyer