

Resident Assistants Are Real People, Too!

Pictures By Joe Kupec



Jeff Tondt and Denise Reinas, Resident Assistants at Church Hall. Denise Claims that RAs carry their titles wherever they go: "It seems like it is written on our backs."



Julie Rocks and Roy Trent, Resident Assistants at Wrisberg Hall enjoying a break



Paul Nye, Resident Assistant for the University Apartments

By Joe Kupec

It is the beginning of a new semester and one of many questions asked during the first weeks of school may have been, "Have you seen your RA yet?" The usual response is, "Naw, but he stopped by while I was at class and left off some forms to fill out." As the semester progresses thoughts of who your Resident Assistant is and what he or she may look like are replaced by the pressing concerns of class and social life. Inevitably when a problem arises later in the semester finding the RA may be something of a challenge. This is a problem that goes both ways. Ask an RA if they get to see most of the students in the areas that they are assigned to and it is almost always, "Nobody's home."

Understanding what an RA's function is and how to get hold of one is not a great mystery. A myth about the campus RA seems to be that they are never available for discussion of problems. "Helping students adjust to campus living, being a source of information about campus activities and policies and developing a sense of community among the students on campus," are all part of being a Resident Assistant according to Bill Osman, an RA in Meade Heights.

Page two of *The Hilltopper* outlines the five major roles of the RA. They are: "A friendly source of information and referral, A programmer of educational events and activities, A source of emergency assistance, An interpreter and enforcer of policies and rules, and A counselor."

In spite of this rather formal outline of duties, this year's group of RAs enjoys having fun. In addition to their activities as RAs they pursue hobbies related to their majors and are

active in campus organizations. Roy Kroner EET, 935A Mars, serves as the treasurer for IEEE and chief engineer at WNDR, the campus radio station. Mark Baroni, EET, 809A Weaver Avenue, enjoys cycling, gardening and cooking. Roy Trent, SDCET, Wrisburg Hall, serves as president of the Professional Engineers and Contractors. Steve Olshefski, business administration, 832B Nelson, serves as a volunteer fire fighter and enjoys rebuilding cars. Both Leisa McGee, business management, 910 B Weaver and Christopher Newman, information systems, 216 Wrisberg Hall enjoys listening to music. Paul Nye EET, Apartment 24A University Apts. is also the president of the Married Student Union.

While the RAs are active in campus organizations and hobbies they are seriously interested in working with other students. According to McGee, students should not wait until they have a problem to see an RA. "Stop by the coffee house just to visit and get acquainted." Another misconception is that students must work out a problem only with the RA assigned to their floor or neighborhood. If an RA is on duty they are interested in helping.

Now that you know a little about the RAs, here is how to get in touch with them. At the Meade Heights Coffee House the RA duty time is from 6pm to 12 midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and 6pm to 1am Friday and Saturday. In the residence halls, Church and Wrisberg, hours are from 7pm to 12 midnight, Sunday to Thursday and 7pm to 1am Friday and Saturday. Hours for the RAs at the University Apartments are posted at his door. The inside front cover of the *Hilltopper* lists individual RAs addresses/room and telephone numbers if you wish to contact them outside of duty hours.



Meade Heights Resident Assistants take a break during one of their planning sessions at the coffee house.. Greg Rzeplinski seated on floor, Mark Baroni, Leisa McGee, Steve Olshefski, Roy Kroner, and Bill Osman.

D.J.'s Wanted
Contact WNDR personnel at the station in Room W-343.

To The Shadow
You must reveal your identity to us before we can print your comments.