

Rescue Me:

Local firefighters take the quick route down

by Vicky Snyder
The Collegian

Recently firefighters from seven local companies found themselves at the literal end of their rope as they finished up a four-day rope rescue class in the Wintergreen Gorge.

Firefighters, including Behrend students Alan Otto, Brian Creager, David Mahoney, Rob Petrone and Mark Owens, spent three days in the Wintergreen Gorge learning basic rappelling techniques and a final day out in North East rappelling off of a 110 ft. railroad trestle. Participating companies included Brookside, Kuhl Hose, Belle Valley, Greenfield, Elgin/Beaver Dam, Fairview and Albion.

F.I.R.E.S. (Firefighting Instruction and Rescue Educational Services), a nationally-recognized rope rescue school, taught the 30-hour course.

Jacque Greiff, head instructor for F.I.R.E.S., explained what the firefighters were learning.

"We're teaching them things like self-rescue because you are either a part of the problem or a part of the solution," he said.

"Becoming part of the solution includes learning basic rappelling techniques such as rope change-overs, ascent and Stokes basket principles, so emergency personnel can rescue a victim as quickly and safely as possible."

Greiff added that students were also learning how to "package" patients to keep them

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Mark Owens/The Collegian

Hang on tight: Matt Love, a Belle Valley firefighter, takes a spill during rappelling practice on the Cooper Road Bridge.

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This is for all of you who, even for a fleeting moment, ever wondered what it would be like to be a Resident Assistant (R.A.)

There are many positive rewards that come with the responsibility of being an R.A. First is the three-credit class you must take. It is set in a casual atmosphere in which a wide range of topics are discussed and debated. You do not have to worry about saying the wrong thing. Instead, you can say whatever is on your mind -- Anything! You also learn a lot of things which will, believe it or not, help you in your every day life. Especially when it comes to dealing with people. You learn how to communicate and understand the people around you, and, my favorite part, you learn to confront those whom you may have a problem with.

One of the benefits to being an R.A. is the funding assistance you will receive. It definitely takes off some of the financial pressures that attending college may bring.

Most of all, it is an invaluable experience that will give you priceless moments you will remember forever. I would encourage any student who has thought about becoming an R.A. to pick up an application in the Office of Student Services.

Amy Jones
Resident Assistant
05 HSTBA

Resident Assistant applications are now available in the Office of Student Services. Completed applications should be turned in to Student Services no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 1991.



World

United Nations, New York City -- Officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency said Tuesday that Iraqi scientists were working on both hydrogen and atomic bombs. David Kay, one of the U.N. inspectors held captive in a parking lot for five days last month, said documents showed the Iraqis had planned to produce 220 pounds of lithium-6 each year. Lithium-6 is a material used only in hydrogen bombs. U.N. officials also revealed that Iraq could have been as little as 15 months away from producing a working nuclear arsenal.

Port-Au-Prince, Haiti -- A new president was sworn in Tuesday to replace ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, only a week after a bloody military coup that killed over 100 Haitians. The new president, Supreme Court Justice Joseph Nerette, appeared to disapprove of the coup. "After the tragic events which we will never cease to deplore, after the days that threatened national sovereignty... I ask for national reconciliation... and the restoration of peace and harmony."

Washington -- NASA officials announced Tuesday that the ozone hole over the Antarctic covers nearly eight million square miles, nearly as severe as the 1987 record level. Scientists said this is the third consecutive year of ozone depletion over the Antarctic, and believe the ozone layer is being depleted by chlorine and other molecules that result from industrial pollution.

Nation

Washington -- The Senate postponed its vote on Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas for a week in order to investigate charges of sexual harassment of a former aid. Thomas requested the delay late Tuesday afternoon in order "to clear my name," adding that "these charges are totally and unequivocally untrue." The charges were made public last weekend when Anita Hill, a University of Oklahoma law professor, alleged that Thomas sexually harassed her almost a decade ago when she served as his aid in a Justice Department office.

Houston -- Aldine School District has banned Halloween costumes this year, claiming they promote satanic worship and distract students from their studies. "Subconsciously the costumes plant bad seeds in the children," said Sonny Donaldson, school superintendent.

Anchorage, Alaska -- A federal judge has approved a \$1 billion settlement and Exxon's four guilty pleas to misdemeanor charges to end state and federal litigation over the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. While U.S. District Judge H. Russel Holland said Exxon has proved to be a good corporate citizen through their clean-up efforts over the past three years, environmentalists said the fine and penalties were insufficient to penalize the giant corporation.

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