

OMEGA RESIDENTS REACT TO RECURRING FIRE ALARMS

By Sid Elford

As this session draws to a close, many Omega Hall residents remember the very beginning of the session all too well, which was marked by several late nights caused by the fire alarm system within the building. The initial alarm occurred the very first night that first-year student arrived on campus and moved in. A lightning storm in Warsaw seemed to be the cause, so unfortunately for the first-year students, who were the only students present in the building, they were evacuated at approximately 1 a.m. that night during the storm.

“That really was a bit of a bad omen for us freshmen that night,” said Omega Hall resident, Ryan Bertke. “I was sound asleep when that alarm went off, but it woke me up, that’s for sure. Little did we know that that was just the beginning of the late nights in Omega.”

The first two weeks on campus were involved some restless and sleepless nights for the residents of Omega Hall, as six more alarms would go off, often on back-to-back nights, and multiple times a night approximately an hour apart. So, each time, the tired and grumpy students would be forced to evacuate the building in the middle of the night.

“It got to the point that I was afraid of going to sleep at night, because we never knew when something would set the fire alarm off,” said resident, Ethan Brooks. “There was a night that we woke up at 2:30 and 3:30 to alarms, and the next night the alarms went off again, but this time they were at 3:30 and 4:30 in the morning. As someone that has class at 8 a.m. a couple of times a week, it was impossible to keep that cycle going. I was just too tired from all of the alarms.”

The cause of the alarms was initially thought to be from residents burning popcorn or other microwaveable food, then air fresheners that would spray near the smoke detectors in each room. But it was soon concluded that a faulty system was causing the constant alarms.

“The cause of most of the alarms was a mechanical issue that has been addressed and fixed,” said Omega Hall’s Resident Director, Daniel Marquez. “The system is now working just fine, thankfully, and we’re yet to have another alarm.”

“It was such a relief to hear that the alarms had been fixed,” said resident, Hannah Mast. “It’s nice to know that my sleep schedule won’t get messed up by a bunch of fire alarms again. I know everyone in Omega feels the same way, and that everyone was sick of all of the alarms.”

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