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## Block Talk (December 1981)

University of Dayton. Student Development

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# The Off Campus Center block talk



DECEMBER 1981

*The Off Campus Center  
sends its holiday greetings  
for a Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year,  
wishing you a safe trip  
home and back.*





# An Open Ear...

Whether I visit an apartment in Campus South, or a clapboard on Lawnview, my standard question to the residents is, "What do you like most about living off-campus?" The standard answer - and a commendable one at that - is, "I get a chance for the first time to be responsible for myself - to be my own boss. I can learn to be an adult, etc."

Bounding over two laundry baskets, I enter the 10-speed dining area replete with a sophisticated stereo or two, and last Saturday's popcorn kernels. Next question: "What do you dislike, or find most difficult, about off-campus living?" Answer: "Learning to live with other people!"

Having lived most of my adult life in community, I can hear and understand sympathetically those who find adjustment to others' life styles and habits difficult. Events like finding the jelly knife in the jar of peanut butter, meeting unannounced tour groups as I am leaving the shower, and having MY time and MY space infringed upon because two of my brothers outvote me to watch some inaneity on the tube over my carefully selected cultural choice - these are the stuff that make living together challenging, if not at times grating and frustrating. Ask any newly marrieds. Ask even religious. As the Brothers say, "To dwell with the saints in heaven is glory, but to live with'm on earth is another story."

Early on, I realized that I would have to look beyond the toothpaste on the bathroom mirror if I was to reap any benefit living with other people. It wasn't and still isn't easy for any of us, because Fuzzy Frank and Clara Clod bring into the house (in addition to his flea-filled pillow or her hub cap collection) a complexity of inbred habits, attitudes, prejudices, emotional reactions, and varying degrees of skills to handle human relationships, conflict, and personal differences. Like you and me, Frank and Clara are finding living under a common roof a challenge, sometimes tolerable, other times irritating.

But, I began to talk about the benefits. And, they come once I can look beyond Frank's 4 a.m. operatic showers and Clara's pit bull dog, to see the gift of self that my housemates are. Their differences challenge me to question some of my own present ways of viewing life and perhaps reveal that some of my "values and personal convictions" are nothing more than hang-ups or arbitrary mannerisms. They bring into the house a wealth of life experiences and attitudes that remain buried unless I am willing to scratch the surface of their lives to discover the goodness within. Their talents and skills in cooking or decorating enrich my life. And, when I get the courage to confront them about something that is disturbing me about how things are going, I am surprised to find them much more cooperative and sensitive than I had originally projected. And when I'm down or need a little help, I can call upon them. But, it is I who must make the first move. Clara and Frank are not mind-readers. Like me, they are concerned about many things in their own life and sometimes are not present to local situations. So, what's new? Best of all, I can become a gift of life to them if I put my mind to it!

I used to think with the cynic that community life would be great if it didn't involve other people. More and more, though, I, with the Little Prince, am gradually discovering that "What is essential is invisible to the eye."

See you around,

Bro. Paul Bredestege

(Feel free to contact me. My office is 207 Liberty (229-2010). I can also be reached at 3339 and at 253-4738.)



# Feature on...

Antonio and Angelina Ferraro, who live at 214 Stonemill, have been residents of the Off-Campus area since 1956. Originally from Balla di Nicastro Prov. Catanzaro Italia, the Ferraro's lived in the city, but worked a farm outside the city limits for a living. Wine grapes, and olive oil were the principal crops grown. Antonio and Angelina were from the same town, and in 1933 they married. One day, a woman from Dayton, Ohio was vacationing in Italy, and suggested to the Ferraro's that they come to Dayton, which she said was a "clean city." It was from that moment on that the Ferraro's had their sights set on Dayton.

The Ferraro's have seven children, three boys and four girls. And, although they did not arrive here all together, there were thirteen members of the family living at 214 Stonemill at one point. Antonio put plenty of hard labor and money into the house, in getting it to look as it does in its present condition. He speaks of how, when he first bought the house, the weeds were taller than himself.

Crowded conditions were nothing new to the Ferraro's back then, especially since NCR emptied out 17,000 employees everyday. Antonio himself, worked in the General Service Department of NCR for 16 years before retiring in 1970. Due to his proximity to work, traffic was not a problem. However, for those who had to drive, Antonio says that it would take a half an hour to travel from Stewart St. to Irving Ave. on Brown St. Antonio took advantage of the traffic jams by renting out parking space on his property to those who wanted to avoid the daily delays. Those same spots lie unused today on the side of his house.

Antonio speaks of how his daughter Anita and her husband Pasquala once lived next door (where Frank Z now sells new trucks). And, on that same corner, was once located a Pure Oil gas station, and a little further down the road was a SICO gas station. Antonio also remembers that the Frank Z car barn on Brown St. used to be a trolley-car barn for the City of Dayton. Also, the NCR Credit Union used to be a factory that produced clay sewage lines. Additionally, 317 Stonemill was once a Grocery Store, and University Drugs was Dayton Electronics, and before that, it was a Krogers.

Three of Antonio's children (Joanne, Rosina, and Vince) are graduates of U.D. Consequently, Antonio and his wife can relate to the students and their lifestyles, and except for when they party excessively, they feel that the students are not a problem. Although his family is somewhat spread out geographically (Joanne lives in Germany, Mercurino in California, Lina in Chicago; while Antonio Jr., Anita, Rosina, and Vince all live in Dayton), the Ferraro's have always kept in touch. So, with the Christmas Season upon us, there will be at least one happy family in the Off-Campus area.

## Study at the Center

Need a quiet place to study? Too cold to walk to the library? These and other reasons are why the Off-Campus Center will be available again this year, as an alternative to the sometimes not so convenient library, as a place to study during Finals Week. Beginning Sunday Dec. 13, and continuing thru Thursday Dec. 17, students can come to the Center between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m. to do their studying. Free coffee and cookies will be provided! Hope to see you.

\*\*\* GOOD LUCK DECEMBER GRADUATES \*\*\*

# Did You Know That...?

- The Off Campus Center provides rakes, shovels, brooms and trash bags to those who want to clean up their yards after a party or any other messy occasion, such as a normal weekend.
- The Off Campus Center has RTA schedules! Drop on in and pick-em-up.
- You can keep your porchlight on at night. If you need a light bulb for your front or back porch, come by the center and get one for FREE!
- You can secure your valuables by engraving them for positive identification. The Off-Campus Center has two engravers to lend out to those who want to be safe.
- Both on-campus and off-campus telephone directories can be picked up at the Off-Campus Center.
- The Official Student Handbook can be picked up at the Off-Campus Center. It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the information contained in this publication.
- Garbage pick-up for this area is every Wednesday. Garbage collectors will not come onto your property to get your can if you forget to set it out.
- If you would like to have someone keep an eye on your house over any vacation period, you can call and register with the Dayton Police Vacant House program by calling them at 449-1057.
- Campus Security's escort service is available between 6 am and 2 am by calling 229-2121
- In most cases, it is the responsibility of the residents to shovel their own sidewalk. So, next time it snows, come down to the Center and borrow a shovel!

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## NEWSPAPER DRIVE

Between Thursday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 12, you can help clean out your house and help the Appalachian Club at the same time by bringing your old newspapers down to the Off-Campus Center.

**Block Talk** is published monthly by the Center for Off Campus Community Relations. We are open to your comments and suggestions on how to improve the newsletter.

The Off Campus Center  
239 Kiefaber  
229-2047  
Open Monday — Friday  
10 — 5:30

## Events

### December

- 11 Final day of Classes
- 12 Basketball, Xavier (home) 8:05 pm Men  
5:45 pm Women  
Lecture, The Virgin in Transition  
K.U. 310, 2 pm.
- 15 Lecture, The Marriage Today, Husband/  
Wife Communication S113, 7:25 pm.
- 18 First term end after last exam
- 19 Basketball, Old Dominion (home) 8:05  
Diploma Exercises
- 21 Basketball, Wright State Univ. (Home)  
7:30 pm. Women
- 22 Basketball - Iona (away) 8:05 Men
- 24 Offices Closed
- 25 Christmas Day
- 29 Basketball, U.D.I.T. Florida State  
Hofstra UNC/Charlotte (men) UD Arena
- 30 Last Day to complete registration
- 31 Offices Closed

### DOWNTOWN DAYTON SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAY FESTIVAL Dec. 1 thru 24

Ice skate in the fountain, train ride around the Plaza - Fantasy Forest with brightly lighted trees and glittering reindeer. Meet Jeremy the Talking Tree and Winnie the Pooh, and Downtown Dayton will come alive with the sounds of music and dance.

### ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES:

- Winters Tower Lobby - 12 Noon-1 pm.
- Arcade Square - 6:30 pm-8 pm.
- Gem Plaza Atrium - 12 Noon-1 pm.
- Arcade Square - 12 Noon-1 pm.