

Student takes shower; ends up in hot water

by Lora Woodrum
Clarion Editor-in-Chief

I roll over to turn off my alarm. I think of the day and all the homework I should have done but didn't. I think of the English test I never studied for. I dread stepping one foot out of my nice, cozy warm bed. The only thing that finally gives me the encouragement to slither out from under the soft covers that shield me from the dreadful day ahead is the shower calling my name.

For some, the start to a good day may be a warm cup of coffee, however

for me and many other college students, we depend on a nice revitalizing shower. Without my shower in the morning, I'd be better off dead.

So I head for the shower, usually around 7 a.m. The only problem is -- that's when *everybody else* in Beam decides to start their morning also.

Anyway, I step into the shower, turn on the water, and...OOOUUCCHH!

Hot water pours down on me. I look at the shower knob. Yep, I am right. I have it on cold. So why am I being scalded?

Then suddenly (about 5 seconds later) my beloved suitemate says, "Oh, I flushed the toilet." OK, now I can understand that. So I slip slowly back under the water, reach for the soap, and...OOOUUCCHH! Not again. But this time I was the only one in the bathroom.

Now I'm getting smarter. Instead of jumping back into the water, I listen carefully. I hear a faint "thump." I feel the water and...OOOUUCCHH!

You know, usually I am not the type to complain, but when it concerns my morning shower, this means war. I discovered that not only did my comfy lukewarm shower water turn to scalding (not to mention dangerous) water when the toilet in my bathroom was flushed, but every time *anyone* in Beam flushed their toilets, I was found dodging.

I tried to figure out why this might occur. Especially when the shower fixtures in Beam are manufactured by Safetymix by Simmons. Safetymix? I know that is not this company's fault for BC's plumbing arrangement. I just found it a little ironic. There is nothing safe about the water "mix" in my shower!

After I spent several minutes thinking of a way to solve my dilemma, I realized I was stuck with fluctuating water temperatures. So I began listening carefully. When it sounded safe, I went back into the water.

This time my fellow Beamers gave me a break. I must have been under the water for at least 45 seconds...when, I couldn't believe it. "Thump" I knew it was coming: that dreaded hotter-than-hot-hot water. I tried to dodge, but this time I wasn't fast enough. It trapped me...OOOUUCCHH!

Having had enough of this, not to mention, having to administer first aid to myself, I stepped out of the shower. My suitemate knocks on the door, "are you done?" she said. I thought to myself. Well, I don't know if I am done, but I am *medium rare*. I left the bathroom, slamming the door behind me.

Actually, it's been over a year since these events first took place, but since then it's been the same every morning.

Sometimes I'll admit that I do get a break... However, this only occurs when there is NO hot water at all, and I freeze instead.

So, if any of you lucky people out there who don't have to live in Beam wonder why we Beam people are often grouchy in the morning and sometimes bear mysterious-looking red blotches on our bodies -- now you know: we suffer from the *hot flashes*.

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Thanks to Paige...

Dear Editor:

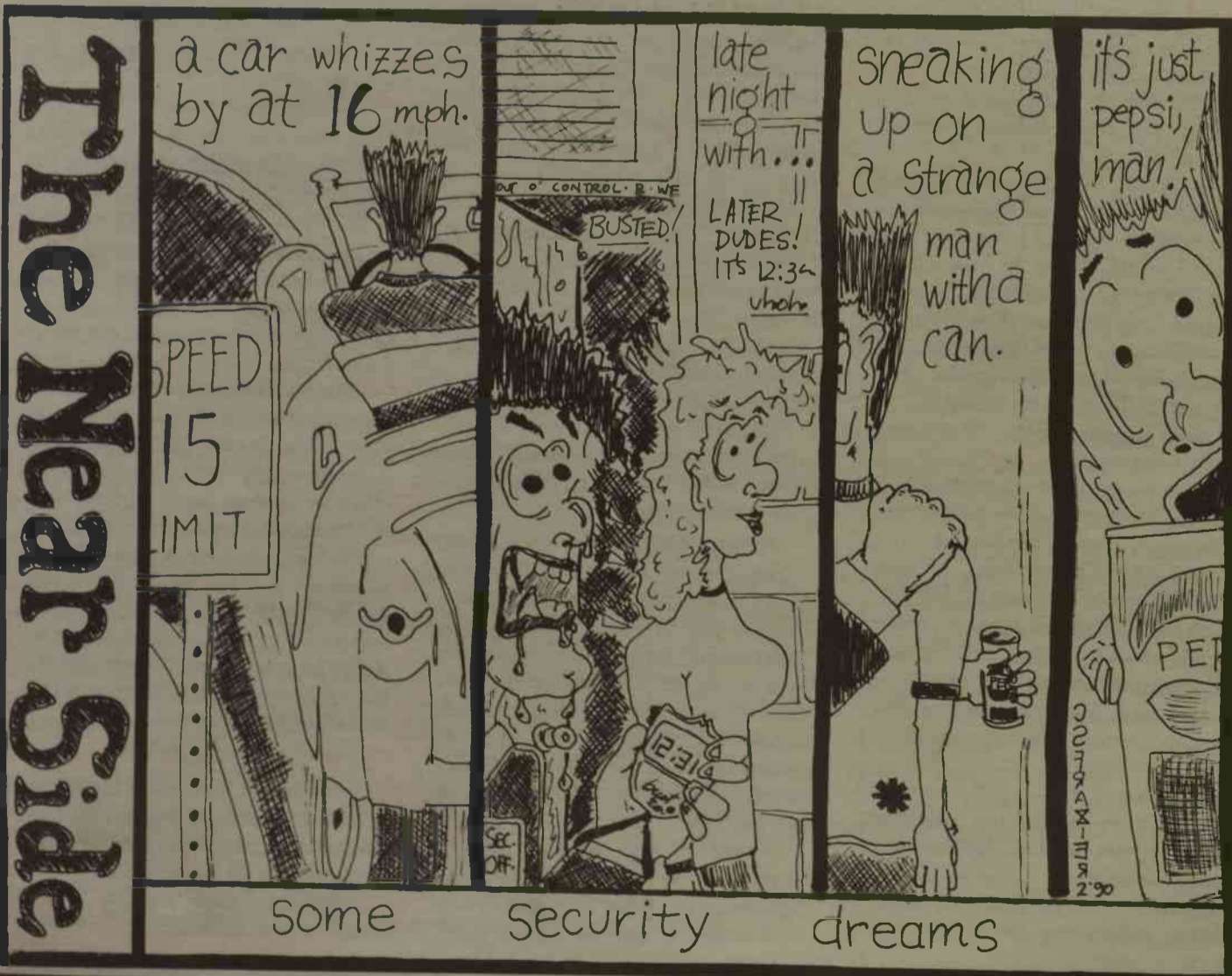
I would like to write a note of thanks and praise to Paige Johnson, President Greer's indomitable secretary, for her part in making the faculty Christmas dinner a success.

Among other things, she selected, bought, wrapped and labeled 87 individual presents for the 87 children present. While 35% of those 87 were my own children, I am sure that all of the other parents were just as grateful to Paige as I am.

-- Jonathan Crow
Fine Arts and Humanities faculty

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