Dorm Addicts
A Closer Look at Video Games

By Charles Harner
Contributing Writer

What really goes on in the dorms at EMU after hours? Some students study, some students sleep and a good number of them are in front of the TV.

While most students spend the late hours of their day either getting ready for bed, hanging out with friends, or doing some last minute homework, an increasing number of students at EMU spend those hours in front of the TV. But why are they spending all that time in front of the TV? Are they watching music videos, maybe catching the latest news on CNN, or perhaps watching re-runs of their favorite show they used to watch when they were just young children?

While some people spend their sleepless nights doing that, a lot of students are playing video games. Why do they play video games? When do they get their homework done? Do they ever socialize with real people?

According to Brent Watkins (names have been changed to protect anonymity), a senior, video games are a way “to procrastinate from doing the things I really should be doing.” So instead of doing some reading or preparing for an exam, maybe even finishing up an art project, Watkins can often be found in front of the Nintendo Game Cube that belongs to one of his friends who just got back from a year in Japan.

The easiest way to find Senior Bob Swargass is to come up to his room anytime after 10:00 p.m. and find him sitting on the couch that runs parallel to the wall. This positioning allows him to be in the “perfect” spot to play Halo, a first-person shooter where the goal of the game is to kill all of the aliens. Why does he compulsively play this game for about two hours every day? Said Howell, “it’s like a task or a challenge to beat the game on its hardest setting, once I’m done with that I won’t play as much.” Until I find another game to beat.

According to some professors, students should be doing an hour to two hours of homework for each hour spent in the classroom. If students are spending several hours a day playing video games, where does the homework and studying time fit in?

Swargass says that he occa-

sionally cuts out sleep so that he can get his homework done and still have time to play video games every day. He claims to not spend much time playing video games, only an “hour to two hours a day.”

When asked how he manages to make time to get his homework done and still fit in some time in front of the TV playing video games, Watkins says that he cuts “out some of the class work, some of it doesn’t matter anyway.” He seems to think that he is a sensor and it doesn’t really matter too much these days. Perhaps it is more fun to have a fake persona run around on screen. Then, at least, one wouldn’t have to deal with the reality of student loans, a job, and everything else that goes along with the so called “real world” that every college student hears about and dreads having to face. Swargass claims to not be doing poorly in his classes and has only failed one test. He justified the test failure by saying that the class average was 65, so it means that either everybody else in that class is addicted to something, maybe not video games, or they are all having a hard time with the subject.

Watkins said that he actually talks to more people during the day because of the time he spends playing video games. While he plays, people come in and out of the apartment, some for a little and others stay and talk for a while.

Said Watkins, “I spend a lot of time with other people, mostly when they are watching me play video games. You might say it is sad for me, but how sad is it that other people want to watch me play video games? We talk and socialize while I play games. I think it’s more of a statement about other people and their lives (or lack thereof) than of me.

So how does this affect the people that live with these so-called video game addicts? According to one of Swargass’ roommates, Dylan Shroder, “it’s not too bad, except for when I want to spend some quality time with my girlfriend and Arden just plops down and plays his video games that and when I want to sleep. The TV is in front of my bedroom wall and these walls aren’t overly thick, you know?”

In my country, kicking was a science.

Exasperated, Juror # 3 (Nofziger) explodes, “Oh, everyone’s a lawyer aren’t they?” Rachel Bowman’s character is sensible and sharp. “One doesn’t

PLAY from pg. 1

and ridicule, drew audiences into its drama and into the fate of the young boy which hung on the decision.

Clad in top-notch 80’s fashion, the jurors know where they stand: Rachel Swartzendruber’s street-smart character, Juror #5, can’t be missed in her colorful outfit; Sophomore Amber Shrowder is Juror #12, a lets-get-down-to-the-point advertising professional in a pink business dress. Found at the center of the debate is Mr. I-will-not-back-down-cuz-I’m-wearing-a-big- jacket-with-bright-pink-shirt Juror #7, played by seminary student Ken Nofziger (not to mention seven other eccentric jurors and a guard-all-dressed and ready for battle).

Not only were these 13 characters driven to the nines, but their witty lilies kept the audience on their toes. Davi Soscoliny played the part of Juror #11, an Asian American with wisdom that surprises menaces and righteous alike. He stated matter-of-factly, “in my country, kicking was a science. They seem pretty angry,” she said. “They seem pretty fired up.”

When asked how he managed to bring out the complexities of the character. He said, “Dave Rohrer played an excellent racist.”

Ninety minutes of building tension raised questions that extend beyond the stage. What is reasonable doubt? What about justice? Joanna Doyle, Juror #8, questioned whether punishment helps an individual. Doyle has reflected on the play’s reality exposed of the U.S. Court System. While the drama celebrates the pursuit of justice, realistic scenarios open audiences’ eyes to possible flaws in the system.

When something else’s future is left to a jury of 12 peers and a battle of personal motives, logic and compassion?

Those who attend performances of Angry Jurors will have to judge.

The play runs Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m.; Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

What are your interests?

Pre-med/biology, JPCS, theater, communications, environmental science, community organizing, advocacy, politics, music & social work.

we can tailor internships to suit your goals!

WCSC programs fulfill cross-cultural requirements and general education requirements.

Internships are offered in fall, spring and summer.

WCSC students get their top choice of classes at the Catholic University of America.

Contact: kim.schmidt@emu.edu
(202) 529-5378 • www.emu.edu/wcsc