

## STUDENT LIFE

## "Comedy of Errors" no faux pas

By Jennifer Haight  
editor in chief

Shakespeare's earliest comedy, "Comedy of Errors," is chock full of fun, chaos and high energy. It was performed with such by Behrend students and faculty under the direction of Dr. Christine Mangone. With Studio Theatre veterans Steve O'Donnell as "Antipholus of Ephesus" and Ryan Westwood as his "Dromio," as well as newcomers to the theatre, Rick Holzworth as "Antipholus of Syracuse" and Katelyn Gracy as "Adriana," the play was hearty, humorous and full of energy.

Westwood stole the show as "Dromio of Ephesus." He was born to play this part. From swinging on ropes, to bouncing on walls, literally, to sliding on a zip line, he devoted every ounce of his being to carrying out every action to its fullest. Westwood delivered his lines with wit and timing so natural that no one would ever know he was acting.

Holzworth also shined in the spotlight. With a confidence hard to come by in novice

Shakespearean actors, Holzworth gave no clues as to his rookie status. He had an apparent knowledge of what his lines truly meant, allowing him to be more physically absorbed in the role. His facial expressions and body language said what was not in his speech, making the play that much easier to follow.

The part of "Dromio of Syracuse" was played by Pat Sharbaugh. The actors who played each "Dromio" gave the most physical performances of the play, covering nearly every square inch of the Studio Theatre.

"I thought it was great use of the theatre space.

People were coming out of every opening in the building," said audience member De'Adra Walker, English 09.

One concern that many viewers have in watching a Shakespearean play is being able to follow the language. "Even if you don't understand Shakespeare, it was a good time. The comedy and action are well worth it," said Julie Kosin, Math Ed. 05.

Jeff Wemmell, Communication and Media Studies 07, said, "Without understanding any of the language, I knew what was going on."

Freshman student Gracy played a very convincing "Adriana." She played the part of the angry wife almost too perfectly. She had a tremendously talented supporting cast including: Valorie Bruchwalski, "Luciana"; Sharbaugh, "Dromio of Syracuse"; Raechul Bowser, "Nell"; Ashley Schmidt, "Duchess"; Minisica Morris, "Dr. Pinch"; Jade Donahue, "Courtesan"; Mallory Blasic, "Emilia/The Lady Abbess/First Merchant"; Donte Hart, "Angelo"; Dr.

Michael Rutter, "Aegeon"; Earl Bass, "Balthazar"; Eric Bell, "Second Merchant"; and Tom McQueeney, "Officer."

The stars made the play their own, with humorous and modern, yet subtle, updates to the play. Instead of swords, they used freeze pops; they played a quick game of football; and they made Dr. Pinch into a Jamaican witch doctor.

You can catch all of the mix-ups, squabbles and acrobatic stunts on November 10, 11 and 15-18 at 8 p.m. and November 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the RUB desk. Student tickets are \$4, and for everyone else, tickets are \$6.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

## Landlords a nightmare for college students

By Ashley Bressler  
assistant news editor

As a part of the college experience, many students choose to live on campus either in traditional dorms, suites, or apartments. There are many benefits to living on-campus at Penn State Behrend including the benefits of housing and food services, the large network of friends and neighbors, and a short walk to any classes held on campus. However, many Behrend students are choosing to live off-campus for a variety of reasons. In some cases, like the recently built University Gate Apartment complex across the road from campus, off-campus apartments are clean, new and within walking distance. There are also some very nice apartments scattered throughout Erie that have attracted Behrend students, making off-campus living a pleasant experience. Some students, however, fail to take the important steps needed to rent an apartment from a rental complex or individual landlord, and the results are, at times, nothing short of horror stories.

Living in an apartment complex like University Gate Apartments, owned by James Properties, can have many benefits. According to their website, James Properties now owns three apartment complexes in Pennsylvania, including one located near Shippensburg University, Edinboro University and Penn State Behrend. The recently-opened Behrend location is the third complex built and run by James Properties, so their experience with renting to college students has been a success for a number of years. They have laundry facilities, a maintenance crew, security, office manager and services, mail room, free parking for tenants, and a live-in complex manager to assist tenants with their needs 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

A Behrend student, who chose to remain unnamed said, "I wanted to live in University Gate because the apartments looked so nice, and I loved the idea of having a kitchen. I felt good about renting from them because they looked professional. I haven't had any problems from the management so far, but the walls are really thin. I can hear everything going on in my apartment and in my neighbors. They should have spent a little more money to make thicker walls."

It is usually safer renting from an apartment complex because they have been inspected and are expected to have their facilities up-to-code; keeping their tenants happy should be a priority. There are some negative aspects to living in an apartment complex, including dealing with noisy neighbors and paying electricity and cable bills. When living off-campus, students sometimes have a difficult time facing the responsibilities of the "real world," where bills and cleaning are everyday frustrations and obligations. Students who aren't accustomed to these responsibilities should seriously consider all their options before deciding to live off-campus.

Renting an apartment or house from an individual landlord can also cause many problems for college students. It is always a risk to put faith in a landlord, especially if the individual has other priorities and obligations that weigh higher than their tenants needs, and it is often difficult to gain a full understanding of the landlord's intentions when briefly meeting with him/her before signing. Senior Marketing student Meredith Straub said, "My best friend and I wanted to live together but not share a room. Moving off-campus was really our only option. Since we have moved in, in August, we have had some trouble with our landlord. He says he will do something, then after weeks, he finally gets around to it. We had a skunk living in the basement of our building, and all of our stuff smelled like it. It was horrible, especially when it was so hot. Our landlord said he would take care of it but he never did. Three weeks went by before he even came to do anything. He just didn't care, and everyday it would reek."

Some things like an impersonal landlord can be warning signs, and students should follow these signs to prevent unnecessary stress. Doing a thorough inspection of the apartment including the parts of the building not for rent, like a basement, is a very important step to renting an apartment. Students should also read and re-read the entire lease to be sure they understand the contract, and don't be afraid to question a part of it. If you have not signed anything, then the lease is still negotiable, and the landlord may be willing to compromise.

Another Behrend commuter student who has had difficulties with her landlord said, "Talk to the neighbors that you may be deciding to live near. Ask a ton of questions no matter how silly they seem. Make sure you look at previous bills from the previous renter. Get to know your landlord, and go with your gut, if he feels a little shady, you many want to re-think renting from him."

College students have a lot of responsibilities in classes, jobs and their social life, and the added stresses from bad landlords can be enough to make any college experience miserable. Be sure to fully consider who you want to live with and who you decide to rent from, because a bad living environment can turn a beautiful apartment into hell, just as a positive atmosphere can make a tiny dorm a home.

For more information about James Properties go to [www.jamesproperties.com](http://www.jamesproperties.com). For other off-campus information contact Dianna Malinowski, Staff Assistant and Coordinator of Off-Campus Housing or stop by the Office of Student Activities, 898-6171, located on the first floor of the Reed Union Building.



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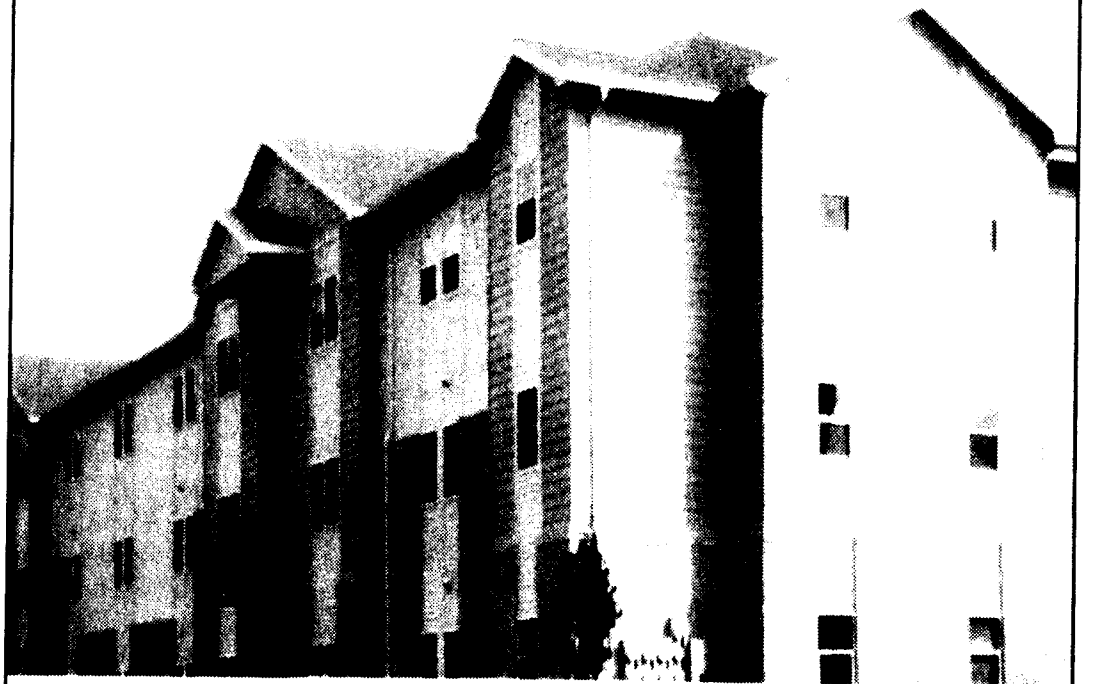
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