

CAMPUS NEWS

Behrend's housing issues force student to live in car

By Rachael Thomas
staff writer
rrt5030@psu.edu

While other students in college were having a hard time adjusting to living in their dorm rooms, Jake Hasson was finding his '94 Chrysler Concord to be home-sweet home.

While a junior at Penn State Behrend, Jake Hasson dealt firsthand with the struggle to find housing on campus. After staying with his brother his sophomore year, finding on-campus housing became an impossible task for Hasson in his next year.

Hasson's junior year was not a fortunate one. For three weeks, no one on campus got to know their car better. After a failed attempt to live on campus and denying the offered Days Inn housing for its inconvenience, Hasson was couch hopping and spending his nights in his '94 Chrysler Concord.

"I spent the first week of my junior year on someone's loveseat, and when you're 6'4," sleeping on a loveseat is not that easy," said Hasson.

When it came time to sleep in his car, Hasson remarked that finding somewhere to keep up his hygiene routine was not a

simple task. "There were times that I would bring everything that I owned in my bag and shower at the Junker Center," said Hasson.

As of this year, the total enrollment of Penn State undergraduates is 4,029 with only 1,673 students living on campus. That

While other students in college were having a hard time adjusting to living in their dorm rooms, Jake Hasson was finding his '94 Chrysler Concord to be home-sweet home.

leaves 2,356 students living off campus, according to the Admissions office. The enrollment just keeps getting bigger and bigger, said Mary-Ellen Madigan, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. Whether or not students are commuting to school or not, the fact

remains that there are still several students that are unable to ever have on-campus housing at all.

If you do happen to find yourself on the waiting list for on-campus housing, the college has offered housing to students at the Days Inn, which includes free shuttle service back and forth from the college. Yet only eight Behrend students this year have chosen to live there, reported the Days Inn.

The good news is that there are ways to ensure on-campus housing when you begin your education at Behrend. Madigan said that students who do have trouble finding on-campus housing are usually not taking the right steps. Penn State suggests that students make sure to apply for admission before Nov. 30 of their senior year of high school to have a better chance of gaining on campus housing. Also, to ensure admission, another suggestion is to make certain that all requirements are fulfilled and that the offer of admission is accepted before May 1.

CardboardCity

continued from front page.

choosing. Then, at least one person from the group must occupy the house at all times for the next 24 hours. This year's City kicked off at 7 p.m. Wednesday and concluded at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Students did not spend a night freezing outside for no reason. All proceeds go to the Second Harvest Food Bank, a non-profit food distribution organization for Northwest Pennsylvania. CardboardCity also aims to raise awareness about homelessness and bring the issue of poverty closer to students who may have never really considered it before.

"Everyone should know what it is like," said Brad Fitch, who was manning a box for Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. "It's a small taste of how some people live all of the time."

Fitch spent a total of 15 hours in his group's box, and slept in it overnight. He fought off the below freezing temperatures with a sleeping bag and several blankets, and managed to snatch a couple of hours of sleep during the night.

By 5:30 p.m. Thursday, the Intervarsity house had raised roughly \$250. Since \$1 buys \$17 worth of food through the Second Harvest Food Bank,

Intervarsity alone raised enough money to buy \$4,250 worth of food.

It was Fitch's fifth year of participation, and he was mostly glad that it wasn't raining. According to Fitch, it has rained every year except for an excep-

"Everyone should know what it is like. It's a small taste of how some people live all of the time."

- Brad Fitch,
History major

tionally dry and warm 2003. Nevertheless, he was prepared for the worst with tarps covering the roof of his cardboard house. Another tip only a veteran would know; he had constructed his shanty with the door facing away from the west and away from the wind.

Jeff Barber of the Interfraternity Council shanty located outside of Senat Hall, however, was coming to the end of his first CardboardCity. He too had stayed the night, and used a bedding of cardboard and more than seven blankets to keep warm when the temperature dipped below thirty degrees.

Minutes away from his release from the box, he was still able to say that it was a worthwhile experience. Barber said that it was fun to stay up for the majority of the night, listening to music and bonding with other people involved in the Greek life at Behrend. Residents of the IFC house jokingly referred to it as "Greek row." Regardless, he was looking forward to leaving his box and getting back home. "The first thing I'm going to do is take an hour-long hot shower, and then crawl into bed."

CardboardCity is a worthwhile event that helps support people who do not get to leave their box for a hot shower and a warm room at the end of the day. By the end of the 24 hours, Behrend raises thousands of dollars worth of food for the homeless. More than that, students bridge a gap between those with a roof and those on the streets to build an understanding that will hopefully last a lifetime.

Interested in working for your college newspaper?

Contact Rachel Reeves at:
rcr5057@psu.edu.

The Behrend Beacon is currently offering paid positions for writers and copy editors. The Beacon is a great way to gain experience and improve your resumé.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When we take a look at the budget for the National Institutes of Health at \$28 billion, it is, candidly, scandalous that with our resources, our resource capability, research capability in biomedical science, that people are still dying of breast cancer or colon cancer or heart disease."

- Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA.)

Fall 2009 Housing Opportunities STILL AVAILABLE !

New Apartments Coming Fall 2009!

University Gate Apartments has begun construction on additional apartments that will be available for FALL 2009!

Don't Delay, Sign Today!

University Gate Apartments
(814) 899-5160
universitygate@jamesproperties.com
www.jamesproperties.com

Great Location...directly across the street from campus!

RIT

Rochester Institute of Technology

Graduate Study At RIT

Career-focused. Specialized. Technologically based.

- Art, Design, Crafts, Photography, Film, Graphic Arts
- Engineering and Technology
- Business Management, and Human Services
- Education, Psychology, and Human Resources
- Computing and Information Sciences and Technology
- Multidisciplinary/General Studies
- Science, Mathematics, Statistics, and Imaging Science
- 75 graduate degrees, including MS/MBA/MFA/Ph.D. programs
- Talented and diverse faculty with industry connections
- Scholarships and assistance available
- 3,000 corporate and government partnerships
- One-year master's degrees and online programs
- 50 research centers supporting applied research, consulting and innovation
- 100,000 alumni worldwide

Come in We're OPEN

Contact us at:
www/rit.edu/gradstudy/4
1-866-260-3950

Attend a Webinar on Graduate Study at RIT • October 21 at 7:00 p.m.