

Residents adapt to tighter quarters

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different," Freed said, "there's a lot more responsibility, I have to cook for myself and clean for myself. It's a lot more crowded in the home.

"What I like about it is that it's more individual and personal. In the dorms, there were more people than chairs to watch TV. Now we have this huge living room, although we don't have a television set!"

He added, "I actually save money now buying my groceries instead of the meal plan I had last year."

Kris Mayhue, a senior majoring in information systems, commuted to school last year. "I like living in Meade Heights more for convenience reasons. There's less travel

time, more free time, and in general, I like it more. I'm saving a lot of gas money also. Outside of my house, the social life's better. More distractions from school, if you know what I mean."

Some students expressed some frustrations about the tight conditions. One resident said he would rank his roommates a one on a 10-scale. But for the most part, people are getting along.

Matt Dierolf lived in a smaller Meade Heights house last year. Dierolf had nothing but good things to say about the area. "(The housing office) fixed the pads up from last year, they are more spacious. I'm getting along with my roommates also. The only adjustments

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-Kris Mayhue

have been with bathroom times, parking in the driveway and a lot more dishes in the sink."

The new Meade Heights experience has gone over well with students and faculty with a few minor exceptions. Hopefully, the present constructions of housing and apartments will accomplish the faculty's goal to increase the number of students residing at Penn State Harrisburg.

HP gives \$1 million

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cuit layouts under the guidance of an instructor, according to a recent article in Currents, the college's seasonal newsletter.

"The students are very enthusiastic with the idea of learning about this new software," Bahagi said.

Penn State is the first Pennsylvania school to receive the HP grant, created after the company purchased Esoftware in 1996. In order to earn the donation, the University had to offer certain electrical engineering courses in addition to adequate digital communications laboratory facilities and new computers, he explained.

Through a separate \$700,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Bahagi established a wireless communications lab in the Olmsted building to complement

the new software. The university also purchased 13 new computers capable of handling the new equipment.

Although news of the donation has mostly been concentrated within the engineering department, Provost and Dean John G. Bruhn lauded Bahagi's efforts to improve the classroom experience through the acquisition of new software.

"I know that Dr. Bruhn has been especially proud of (Bahagi's) efforts," Lois Jordan of the school's Human Development Office said.

Bahagi believes the use of the software might attract prospective students and local business people to take courses on the use of the software:

"With the technology becoming more complex, it is important for everyone in the field to remain on top of the latest developments."

Jesse Gutierrez -- "Silence, At Last"

After a long day at the office, Eugene Pumpnickel III, still wearing his fancy but outdated three piece suit, sits nervously at the dinner table surrounded by his obnoxious family. As he reaches for the ketchup, his bony wrists protrude from his polyester jacket sleeves. He then drowns his macaroni and cheese, takes a deep breath and waits for the sounds . . . the sounds that routinely boil his blood. Waiting, he gently eats his dinner, pinkie extended.

The taste of the macaroni and cheese turns his stomach. He takes a small bite then quickly rinses it down with warm cherry Kool-Aid. Eugene then looks to his wife Brenda and politely says,

"Honey, don't you think we can

have something else for dinner other than macaroni or Tater-Tots?"

She ignores him. She just sits there and routinely files her nails. Back and fourth, up and down. Scraping and sanding, filing and shaping. The sound makes him feel as if he were dragging his bottom front teeth across a cinder block. She doesn't look up . . . she doesn't even raise a brow. Scrape, scrape, scrape.

He stares at her hands, like an owl, his eyes pierce. He grits his teeth. Eugene becomes light headed, the sound echo's in his brain. She just sits there . . . filing. Brenda then holds her hands out in front of her, tilts her head a little and gently blows on her fingertips.

"Honey," he says again.

Still ignoring him, she picks up a pair of fingernail clippers and begins to fine tune and shape. Clip, clip, clip . . . clip. His eyes open and his eyelids cramp. That little clipping noise turns into a ferocious slam. Eugene closes his eyes as tight as he can. They begin to water. His feet grow cold and his toes spread and curl up.

"Honey, every time we sit down for a meal you fuss with your finger nails. Dear, don't you think you should eat something or talk? Honey, how was your day?"

"Gene, eat your dinner," she sighs, still not taking her focus off of her fingers.

"I'm not hungry anymore," he says quietly.

"God damn it Gene, I take care of the house all day. I clean, I write out the bills, I do your laundry, and all you do is bitch about dinner!"

"I know, I know," he says in shame, "and I really appreciate all the hard work that you do."

Eugene drops his chin to his chest and stares at the curdled cheese that has coagulated on the undercooked macaroni.

END PART I

Editor's Note: Jesse's series will continue in the next issue of the CapTimes

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