

# At least one student happy living at 649 Broad Street

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Not everyone who stayed at 649 Broad Street, recently shut down for fire code violations, was unhappy with the living conditions.

Anna, a student from Russia studying linguistics and language education, said she liked where she was living. "The room was pretty nice," she said of her second floor

bedroom. Anna arrived in Cape May on May 19, but was not part of the Philadelphia International Institute program that places students at 649 Broad Street. Still, she found her way there and was able to rent a room. At the time, she said, there were 14 Ukrainian students living on the first floor. Eventually, they moved out citing problems with "bed bugs."

"They said we're being bitten by something," she said.

According to Anna, Berczynski provided some kind of spray to address the insect problem, but the Ukrainian students eventually moved out. That group was apparently replaced by a group of Turkish students, a couple of Romanians, and Anna, who was still comfortable in her second floor room. She said there were times when it got a little loud from the students living downstairs, but overall she didn't have problems.

In fact, her only complaint was on June 25, when the police and fire marshals showed up and they were told they had 40 minutes to gather their belongings and get out of the house. "I was really upset. I had no idea where to go," she said. She said the it would have been nice if the students living in the house could have been given more notice they would have to move. Anna ended up staying with friends from work for two

days while she checked with the real estate agencies and went knocking on doors. Eventually she found a place in a guesthouse, where she is paying \$85 a week. She said at least four other students from 649 Broad Street are now living in the same guesthouse. While other students complained the building was dirty and the owner abusive, Anna said she never had a problem with Berczynski. Berczynski, 62, said he

actually left Poland as a refugee in 1981, and stayed in a refugee camp in Italy for several months. He said he was part of the Solidarity movement, which opposed the Communist regime. He said he was able to obtain refugee status under UN guidelines and eventually moved to Canada and then to the United States.

## Plan

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ed the Planning Board to be updated. Drach said the Planning Board is responsible for reviewing the city's Master Plan, and some of the issues dovetail. However the Planning Board voted to endorse a plan

to include three areas left out of a previous Plan Endorsement application: the Sewell or Brodessor Tract, the Coast Guard housing area outside the gate of the base, and the Cape May Public Works yard. Including them

would mean they would be identified as growth areas. Ed Mahaney, who was sworn in as Cape May Mayor on Tuesday, said when the city went through the process the first time, the Office of Smart Growth removed the Coast Guard area from the application. "They took it off because it was a federal area," Mahaney said.

There were also issues with the Public Works location because part of the area was not developable. "I would stress that you try to include them. You can pull back if you have to, but there are some advantages to them being in," he said.

Dennis Crowley, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Plan Endorsement, who is not on the Planning Board, said there were two other areas of possible inclusion Gundrum had not brought up - areas of

West Cape May and Lower Township that border Cape May. Crowley said the concept of regional cooperation is part of the Plan Endorsement plan, and he believed the city should look to cooperate with West Cape May concerning traffic patterns, and Lower Township over possible improvements in the Schellenger Landing area, which is at Cape May's doorstep.

Gundrum acknowledged he omitted those areas in his presentation to the Planning Board, but once the issue was raised there was little support from Planning Board mem-

bers for their inclusion. "I'm not sure this wouldn't be a stumbling block for our own plan endorsement," Linda Steenrod said. Meryl Nelson said the three areas mentioned by Gundrum were under the city's control, but not West Cape May or Schellenger's Landing. Gundrum said the deadline for a pre-petition meeting on Plan Endorsement had passed, but the state was still willing to entertain applications at least through the fall of this year.

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