

# The new walking: Carp

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## ling to class



**E**ric Hogarth, 18, picks up his schoolbag from the kitchen table, walks out his front door, and enters the passenger side door of a black sedan. Hogarth, holding two CDs, greets Rob Pirollo, 18, as Pirollo pulls away.

Hogarth puts one of the CDs into the player as Pirollo begins to ask him what new music he has today. Once the music begins to play, the two young men begin talking about random events.

The car scene above is something that happens Monday through Friday between these two. The only difference is that every other week the two alternate the driving responsibilities. The two are carpooling to Rider University to help save gas money.

Carpooling is something that is happening all around the nation these days due to the impact of the recession. Many students like these two Rider students are trying to carpool with as many of their friends as possible to help them keep a few extra dollars in their pocket.

Hogarth and Pirollo have been best friends since freshman year of high school. "We met at summer orientation right before the beginning of high school and we clicked ever since," Hogarth said. After they were both accepted to Rider in their senior year, they decided that they would live on campus and room

together. They roomed together for one semester.

At the end of the fall semester, they both decided that living at the university that was only 20 minutes from their homes was pointless and a waste of resources. "Why stay in a dorm that cost almost \$10,000 a year, when we can live at home for free?" Pirollo asked.

Watching the news every night and discussing current events in their economics classes, the two realized that the nation's recession was worse than they imagined. "I was oblivious about what was happening around me," Hogarth said. "I thought that this could never affect me personally. Man was I dead wrong."

After noticing that tuition and housing were rising again the next year, the two began to smarten up and think of solutions to help themselves save money.

This is when they began carpooling. Their plan was to move out of the dorm

before the spring semester and begin to drive to school. "It is easy for us because we live only five minutes from each other and only about 20 minutes from the university," Pirollo said.

For many students it is very difficult to find someone to carpool to college with. College classes are set for different times and days, and it is very difficult to find someone else with a similar schedule. Classes are not like in high school where they begin about 7:30 a.m. and end about 2:00 p.m.

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students who carpool need to find another person with a similar schedule so that one of them is not waiting for a long period of time for the other person to get done with their classes.

This was not as big a problem for Hogarth and Pirollo. Cathy Hogarth, Eric's mother, had this to say about her son:

"I never saw two friends that are closer than my son and Robert. They are more like brothers than best

friends. I think one of the main reasons they clicked the first time they met is because they have so much in common. One commonality they share is that they both want to be accountants."

Since both students are majoring in the same field, it was easy for them to get similar class schedules. In fact, since they are both taking the exact same major, they are in many of the same classes together.

These two have the perfect setup that pays off in the long run. Both men stated that "on top of saving \$10,000 a year for room and board, we are also saving about \$50 a week in gas money by driving together every day."

Although the recession has affected many people throughout the nation negatively, it has affected these two friends and possibly many other people in a positive way through spending time together carpooling.

"The recession has made me realize how bad our economy really is right now, and that there are ways that people can take action by finding solutions to save money," Hogarth said.

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