

REDESIGNED CONOVER ROOM IS ALL THE RAGE

Lucky residents kick off the year in style, compliments of local design magazine

By Chris Finazzo

Most freshmen coming to college for the first time have to adjust to living in a dorm room that is plain, void of anything unique or stylish—a blank slate of sorts for people to convert into their own space. For Paul Rance and Wasim Munayyer living in Conover Hall, a local design magazine has given them a head start.

“It was actually my mom; she works for an interior design magazine... [and] they were going to do a dorm ad,” Rance said. “So she thought ‘why don’t we try Rider’ because it’s my school? So, they said they would do it because your son goes there. We’ll just do his room.”

To give the room a whole new look, Pottery Barn Teen and Benjamin Moore teamed up to provide a new retro themed décor for the room. According to Rance, each company donated items specifically for the redesign so that they got some publicity.

The new furniture in the room also makes it more enjoyable to be in, according to Rance.

“The chairs are comfortable and I like the rug because people can sleep on it,” Rance said, adding that his friends sometimes come over to stay in the room and that space is still tight.

The boys’ friends also have their

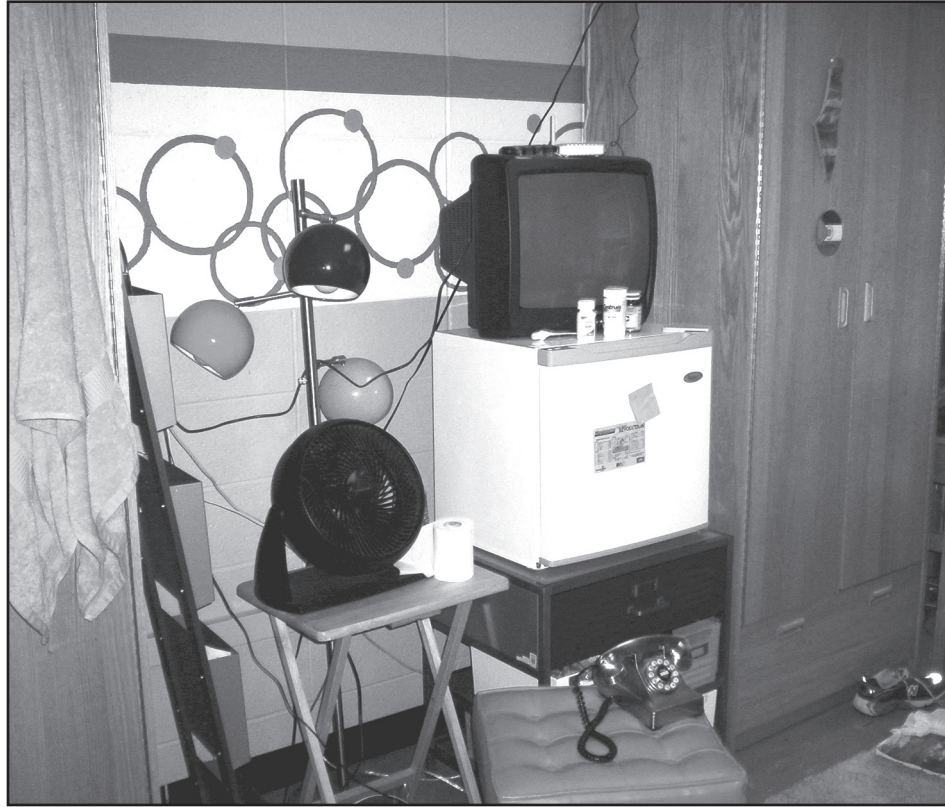


Photo by Anthony Carotenuto

Freshmen Paul Rance and Wasim Munayyer live the good life in their trendy new room in Conover Hall, which was decorated for them over the summer.

own opinions about the room.

“Some of them think it’s really cool, more than I do,” Munayyer said.

There is one thing however, that both boys can agree on: the lights.

“I like the lamps they (Pottery Barn) donated because they’re all ‘touch lamps,’” Rance said. “You can just touch

any part of it and it goes on.”

However, the boys weren’t always so enthusiastic about their room. When they first moved in, it seemed a little too much for them.

“At first I didn’t like it as much,” Rance said. “It’s a bit retro, I feel like I’m in the 50s or something.”

Having no input as far as what the finished room would look like made it something of a surprise when Munayyer and Rance saw their room for the first time, they said. However, just having something different was a welcome change that, in a few small ways, made their room unique in itself.

The painting for the room was done by an art student from Rider and gives the room a more welcoming feel, thanks to its bright green color and abstract orange pattern that covers one of the walls.

“At least someone next year will have painted walls,” said Rance. “They won’t have all the stuff, but it still brightens up the room.”

Usually it is Rider policy that students can paint their walls if they choose, but that they must be changed before the students leave for summer vacation. However, Rance said that because the painting was done by someone else, they might be able to keep it when they leave.

The new look for the room has made the transition to college life easier for the two boys, as they now have a space of their own that stands out from the others, said Rance.

“I think it’s good that Rider did it,” he said. “It’s not that much better, but it’s not as boring.”

Beyond the parking ticket: the other side of Rider Security

By Krista Lutz

Many times when a student talks about Public Safety officers, it has to do with a ticket he or she received. Many students also have a vague idea of the officers’ duties, without really knowing the many jobs they handle.

For example, sophomore Mike Rokicki, when asked what he thought was included in Public Safety’s job on campus, replied, “They keep us safe, especially at night.”

Instead of just ticketing people at night, Officer Gwen Zeruto patrols the campus and keeps busy by doing many duties.

“It’s very diverse about what can happen on this campus,” she said. “There can be fights, alcohol problems and, in general, some nights you have good things that can happen. [You] get out and talk to the students and maybe even join in on some of their fun.”

Director of Public Safety Vickie Weaver gave some insight into the many other jobs that public safety officers do behind the scenes.

“We do educational programming, including self-protection seminars, crime prevention, drug identification, and fire-safety demonstrations,” she said. “These and other programs are available for any campus group or organization.”

The students are able to see them driving around the campus on a regular basis. Also, if anyone is in need of an extra hand or dreading the long walk back from the car, the Public Safety escort service can help with that as well.

The Public Safety officers try to have con-



Photo by Al Vicedo

Lt. William Stahl, a Public Safety officer, helps students locate a parking spot.

tact with the students besides reprimanding them. They are “taking time to get to know the students through the Park, Walk and Talk [program] and Buddy program,” said Weaver.

These programs are designed to get the Public Safety officers to interact with the students and staff by parking the car, walking and talking with them. Knowing the students on an almost personal basis gives a Public Safety officer the persona of a friend rather than a cop.

There are a few fun moments that work their way into a public safety officer’s day. Zeruto had an experience with the ducks that were crossing Fraternity Row. There was a “hit and run” with a duck and a fraternity brother wanted to give it a burial.

“He said he wanted to give the duck a proper burial because he feeds them everyday,” said Zeruto.

This is just one of the many situations that make the public safety officers’ jobs interesting, even fun in some cases. Ticketing is just a small part of their work on campus that helps make it run smoother. As Weaver said, “No two days are the same in this line of work.”

Study-abroad students get a new destination

By Valerie Cedeno

Rider’s exchange programs have offered students the chance to travel to Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. Beginning Spring 2006, students will have the opportunity to study in Ecuador’s Galapagos Islands and Ecuadorian students will have the chance to experience American college life. James Castagnera, associate provost and associate counsel is assisting in the process.

“The idea came about through Dean Tom Kemble and his daughter,” Castagnera said. “She studied abroad in Ecuador and had a great experience, so we thought we ought to look into the program.”

In 2002, the University of San Francisco de Quito established a world-class academic research institute in the Galapagos Islands that will collaborate with several universities like Rider. Galapagos offers a full semester in English to students of the biological and social sciences. Castagnera recommends the program to anyone majoring in science or Spanish.

“If you’re into adventure, taking on the Spanish language and traveling a more remote area, it should be a cool experience,” said Castagnera.

Exchange students are also offered different programs at Rider. While most exchange students are attracted to Rider’s business and communication programs, its location also attracts many.

“To most Lawrenceville, N.J. isn’t the main attraction, but we try to promote its location,” Castagnera said. “We are close to many business corporations and are only [about an hour] from New York City and [about 30] minutes from Philadelphia.”

With an approximate of 45 students involved in study abroad programs per year, future programs may expand to other Latin American countries like Brazil.

“Latin American countries are growing in economy and are becoming major competitors,” Castagnera said.

“I think the Galapagos Islands are unique and its program expands this idea of learning about other cultures and its economy,” he said. “Students should take advantage of this.”