

PARKING FRUSTRATIONS

Students speak out about the lack of available spaces — and privileges of class

By Casey Sky

A traffic-crazed lunatic leaping from his Civic to curse and cause havoc by kicking hub caps, breaking windows and combating other drivers is an image for the 6 o'clock news — or is it coming someday soon in *The Rider News*?

The parking situation at Rider seems to be getting worse and many students are taking out their frustration on helpless steering wheels.

"I wouldn't be surprised if riots broke out in the parking lots," said junior commuter Megan Cross. "Sadly, parking-lot fist fights are our future."

Throughout the first couple of weeks, residents, Greeks and commuters alike have been dissatisfied with parking.

"Parking here blows," said senior commuter Vince Sasso. "I wouldn't mind walking an extra distance as long as I knew that there would be a parking spot waiting for me somewhere."

Another commuter, junior Jessica LeBeau, said she dislikes having to leave home a half an hour early in order to find a spot and jog to get to class on time.

"I'm sick of stalking students as they walk back to their cars just so I can peal into their spots," LeBeau said.

Security decal records show that Rider welcomed 779 new commuters this fall, according to Linda Stoop,

administrative secretary for Safety and Security. This number does not include continuing commuters from previous years, but it can be estimated that there are 1,200 commuters in total.

Those who blame the new residence hall and subsequent rise in student numbers have suggested that future parking privileges not be given to freshmen.

"I think that the parking privilege should be awarded to only junior and senior residents, as is the policy in most other colleges and universities," said commuter Chad Inker.

Five hundred eighty-seven freshman residents registered vehicles on campus in the year 2004 as compared to this year's 354, according to Stoop. Nonetheless, many upperclassmen feel that resident underclassmen should have to pay for parking.

"This cost will hopefully deter some from bringing cars on campus when it's not actually necessary," said LeBeau.

Other students are debating various alternative options.

"Rider should pave the field in the front where the baseball field used to be," said Sasso. "This will make at least 200 more spots."

However, according to assistant vice president of facilities Phil Voorhees, building a new parking lot is not as simple as it seems.

"Township approval, safety, drainage and neighbors are all things to be



Photo by Anthony Carotenuto

Vacant parking spots on campus have become a rare entity this year. Residents and commuters alike have had problems finding a place to park their cars.

kept in mind when trying to maintain balance," Voorhees explained.

While there is no specific ratio of impervious surfaces — those that do not allow water to drain into the earth, such as sidewalks and buildings—to non-impervious areas, Rider's planners and the local zoning board keep this concept in mind.

Speaking of the parking strip on the left-hand side of the south entrance, Voorhees rationalized the new grassy terrace.

"Originally, this was a roadway that

caused safety concerns and complaints from the connecting neighbor," he said. "Also, with all the new construction, this was a good trade off or swap."

Although it remains an issue, parking problems have certainly not been neglected. To create more parking, facilities renovated the L- and Z-Lots by the south-side pines.

"It was quite a mess for the past several years until we had it paved and striped in the summer of 2004," Voorhees said.

Ultimate frisbee plays rough

By Annmarie Mercieri

They are your typical students, going to classes and having to deal with insane amounts of homework. Yet, who are these mysterious men and women we have seen on the campus mall almost everyday? In the snow and rain, they chase a white disc that flies through the air. Nothing stops them from having a good time.

Rider Ultimate Frisbee (RUF) is the name of their newly established on-campus club. RUF began as a group of students who met during their freshman orientation. Many of them enjoyed the sport enough to stick with it when they returned in the fall.

Led by President Zach Aguanno, a sophomore, RUF is slowly growing and others are encouraged to participate.

"It's a fun thing to join," said Aguanno. "It's a way to do something you enjoy and be a part of an official college team."

These students were also just invited to a round-robin tournament at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ).

"Everyone should come out and support us," said sophomore Nick DeLorenzo, vice president of RUF. "The

tournament will be [Saturday,] Oct. 22 and [Sunday, Oct.] 23, and we will be playing against TCNJ and two other teams."

RUF is without a budget, but hopes to obtain one during the middle of the semester or for the spring semester.

"By the end of the year we hope to purchase jerseys and establish a real team name," said Aguanno.

To make RUF feel more like a team, nicknames were given to each member.

"Mine's 'White Lightning,'" said DeLorenzo.

As well as a good source of exercise, RUF is also fun, said Aguanno. It is just a bunch of students who love to play ultimate frisbee, make new friends and, most importantly, have a good time.

"If you want to join, just feel free to come to one of our practices," said Aguanno.

Practices run Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m. on the intramural field behind Daly's and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the campus mall.

"Whichever way you want to show up is fine with me," said Aguanno. "We're there to have a good time, so come as you please."

<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Oct. 14</p> <p>SEC Film: Bewitched 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater</p> <p>Midnight MAACness Alumni Gym</p> <p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Oct. 15</p> <p>CCM Mass 4 p.m., Gill Chapel</p> <p>SEC Film: Bewitched 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>Oct. 16</p> <p>CCM Mass 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Gill Chapel</p> <p>WCC Faculty Recital 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel</p> <p>SEC Film: Bewitched 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater</p> <p>MONDAY</p> <p>Oct. 17</p> <p>DST Rock the Vote 11:30 a.m., in front of Daly's</p> <p>PCM Christian Worship: "Sundays on Mondays" 5:30 p.m., Gill Chapel</p> <p>"An Evening with Max Weinberg" 9:30 p.m., BLC Theater</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Oct. 18</p> <p>Career and Disabilities 11:30 a.m., BLC 259</p> <p>Multicultural Luncheon 11:30 a.m., BLC Patio</p> <p>Unity Day Keynote Speaker: Lani Guinier 7 p.m., BLC Theater</p> <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Oct. 19</p> <p>SRC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 12 p.m., SRC</p> <p>Unity Day PCM Faith Matters 7 p.m., Gill Chapel</p> <p>"From Auction Block to Hip Hop"-David Lamb 7 p.m., BLC Theater</p> <p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Oct. 20</p> <p>Leadership Live: Dan Millman 5:30 p.m., BLC</p> <p>SEC Film: Cinderella Man 7:30 p.m., BLC Theater</p>
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Correction:

In the article entitled "Study-abroad students get a new destination," the reference to Dean Tom Kemble should actually refer to Dean Anthony Campbell, associate vice president for Student Affairs.