CLEARING THE AIR
Before state law kicks in, Rider bans smoking in last campus stronghold
By Bill Greenwood
Rider instituted a new non-smoking policy in the Rider Pub last Monday, Jan. 30, requiring visitors to step outside prior to lighting up, according to Director of Campus Life David Keenan.

The policy was adopted after the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act was signed into law by former Acting Gov. Richard Codey on Sunday, Jan. 15. The law prohibits indoor smoking in bars, restaurants, offices, government buildings and factories in New Jersey. While such establishments were given until April 15 to comply with the legislation, Rider decided to implement it early in an attempt to help smokers transition smoothly into the new policy, according to Keenan.

“We took a look at that and said it would probably be a wiser thing to go ahead and do it now and get people used to it,” he said. “I think it would have been tougher to allow people to smoke all the way up until April and then all of a sudden on April 15, now we’ve got to take it away.”

Smokers in the Pub, previously the only location on the Lawrenceville campus where indoor smoking was permitted, must now venture outside before having a cigarette. Upon re-entry, those individuals will be required to register with Rider’s Department of Public Safety, according to Director Vickie Weaver.

“This is a new process,” she said. “If we find that things are operating very smoothly, then we can make adjustments as need be, but we’re trying to work with the people as well.”

To notify Pub-goers of the change, there were placed on each table in the bar throughout the first week of the Spring 2006 semester, during which smoking was permitted in the establishment, Keenan said. Bartenders were also encouraged to inform smokers verbally of the new rules.

Because many individuals may not be aware of the new policy at this time, the Department of Public Safety has adopted a more laid back style of enforcing the ban. Barreling any “intentionally defiant” or “obnoxious” displays, Weaver said, violators will be asked to put out their cigarettes on the first and second time they are caught and will be ejected from the main focus is on education.

“We don’t want to be the cigarette police. Just like with the residence hall policies, when it became law, the main focus is on education.”
- Vickie Weaver
Director of Public Safety

No credits, but you can get street cred
By Valerie Cedeno

Working abdominal muscles, mastering the perfect spot turn, or finding some inner peace: No matter what the health goal is, the Student Recreation Center (SRC) has attracted many students and local members to its facilities.

Specialty classes such as Introduction to Social Dance and Introduction to Martial Arts are the most popular, said student worker Nilsa Britto.

Students, like sophomore Kellanne Moodie, are excited for the learning experience that the Intro to Social Dance class would provide.

“I’m really looking forward to this class,” said Moodie. “I think it’ll be fun learning how to dance salsa and other Latin dances with my friends.”

This 90-minute all-fitness-level class meets Monday nights and is taught by two professional instructors, Bill Davis and Ashi Marder. The students will be instructed in Salsa, Rumba, Cha Cha, Swing, Tango and Mambos. These moves can prepare dancers for Latin night-club dancing or for a special event, said Davis.

Davis has taught a variety of such classes and has found that students are eager to learn.

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Sociology students join with nonprofit
By Cara Latham

Sixteen seniors in the sociology department will be doing more than just writing a senior thesis to graduate.

For the first time, students who are taking Sociology 400, or Senior Seminar, will be working with Isles Inc., a nationally recognized nonprofit community development and environmental organization whose mission is to “foster more self-reliant families in healthy, sustainable communities.” The students will address community needs in Hamilton Township, N.J.

Isles plans to open an office in Hamilton, and in order to complete this process, the organization needs to understand the people’s needs, so it can steer its programs to address the area’s biggest problems.

The students will be doing this research for the organization, which includes interviewing community officials and citizens of the township and looking at areas including housing, health, the environment, crime, economic development and community amenities, such as local parks.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for the students,” said Anita Sands, adjunct professor in the Sociology Department who is teaching the class. “I think that they get to see what the four years that they’ve just invested in sociology can actually produce. In this case, it will

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