Online registration speeds up course enrollment

Rider’s pilot program for Fall 2002 is set to begin this semester

By DAVE BARRY

The days of camping out in the halls of Fine Arts and suffering through long lines at the Registrar’s Office to select courses may soon be a distant memory.

Online registration, a system that has proven itself on campuses nationwide, will be instituted this semester in a much-anticipated pilot program.

The initial test program will involve 600 randomly selected undergraduates, daytime students. Invitations were expected to be sent out by last Monday.

“We are real excited,” said Joanne Ceres, assistant registrar. “We’re hoping that if all goes well with this pilot test, we can expand it to all students by Spring 2003.”

The trial will commence on the day before a selected student would normally register for Fall classes. The participating students will report to the computer lab in Fine Arts Room 115, in order to be shown how to use the new registration program, which is called Web Advisor. The program is similar to the current MyInfo program.

This program will allow students to register for classes, as well as to make schedule changes from any computer terminal that is connected to the Internet.

“This program has been evolving for about 18 months,” said Ceres.

Ceres also mentioned that although an individual would need to be a part of the pilot group in order to use the program this spring, anyone can currently use a computer to see if a desired class is still available.

Datatel, the company that provides Rider with its student administrative information systems, manufactures the new program.

“I think students will enjoy using it,” said Ed Hetchlein, director of Management Information Systems at Rider.

“Students won’t have to sleep in the halls of Fine Arts to get their classes,” quipped senior Steve Kneizys.

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“Here in the dean’s office, we are excited," said Barbara H. Fruscione, assistant dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "It's being done on other campuses, and we feel it's something the students should have.”

The student body, however, had somewhat mixed feelings on the subject of online registration at Rider.

"I think that online registration is something more county colleges already have," said sophomore David Grant. "Why do we not have it?"

Still others indicated that they were unsure of whether or not the program would succeed.

"It’s very easy and convenient," said junior Andy King. "But I have a feeling that problems will arise."

Other members of the student body addressed the all-important issue of sleep time.

"If it lets me sleep extra hours, I’m all for it," said freshman Leigh VanAndel.

Although some students are rather skeptical, it is the administration’s belief that introduction of the new program is in the students’ best interest, and Web Advisor will help bring Rider to another level of student satisfaction.

"I expect it will work out well," said Hetzelon.
Safety is a necessity for students going on spring trips

By DANA FLATEKVAL
News Editor

Over 2,500 Americans are arrested each year while on Spring Break because of drug offenses, vandalism, rape and assault, according to the United States Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs.

Rider students have packed up their belongings and are heading out to their Spring Break destinations; however, some precautions need to be taken, according to Director of Safety & Security Vickie Weaver.

"Many people try to take advantage of college students," said Weaver. "They are just looking to prey upon young women or men." According to Weaver, there are measures that can be taken during a trip to prevent unwanted situations.

"Never travel alone," said Weaver. "Always having someone with you will prevent someone from taking advantage of you."

According to the American Medical Association (AMA) poll which surveyed over 500 adults who were 21 and older, 79 percent of parents and 65 percent of adults believed that students were influenced by alcohol promotions at bars and clubs during the break, and 79 percent of parents and 77 percent of adults thought that the promotions encouraged the students to drink excessively and possibly engage in high-risk behavior.

"Don't accept a drink from a stranger," said Captain John Hanusi. The recipes for most concoctions, such as Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate (GHB), Rohypnol and Katamine, that are slipped into drinks are taken off of the Internet by someone who does not know what they are doing, according to Hanusi.

"If they are doing it wrong, then the dose could be lethal," said Hanusi. Some physical effects of date rape drugs are anxiety, nausea, dizziness, slow breathing and heart rate, memory loss, coma or even death.

According to Hanusi, the drugs block the neurologic receptors in the brain, which will cause the person to suffer from memory loss. The information will never get processed to the brain.

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One surefire way of minimizing someone's chances of being a victim is to try to be inconspicuous, according to Weaver.

"A lot of people take advantage of young women," said Weaver. "Try not to wear valuables and be the center of attention."

If someone believes his or her drink has been tampered with, medical attention should be sought as soon as possible, said Weaver.

"Go to an emergency room," said Weaver. "Let the emergency personnel know what happened so they can check immediately, because some of the drugs stay in the system for a short time."

According to Weaver, women are not the only ones susceptible to rape or assault.

"Men can be victims too," said Weaver. "Guys can be victimized by being drugged and taken advantage of, or as a means to remove a threat."

Spring Breakers should secure their valuable rooms and cars, according to Weaver.

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Male students are significantly more enticed by advertisements which have sex appeal, such as beautiful women shown in revealing bikinis. Men also seem to be more interested in the "party scene" when it comes to planning Spring Break agendas. They are interested in promotions for trips or vacations, according to Hanusi.

"A lot of people take advantage of the party scene," said Hanusi. "It can be a lot of fun, but nonsexual image in order to further appeal to Hanusi.

"I all appeals to me, beaches and drinking," said Weyerbacher. "It's a good combination."

Statistics provide evidence of such claims which were reported on in the Journal of Travel Research. The study also surveyed students' behavior while on Spring Break 2001. After conducting the survey, researchers discovered that 30 percent of male respondents used drugs, while 18.6 percent of females did. It was also found that 64.2 percent of males got drunk as did 51.2 percent of females.

Many Rider students admit to showing interest in promotions for trips or vacations, especially as Spring Break approaches.