area. All communication that his family had with him ended at that time. “The last letter we got from him was dated March 19, the day the war started,” said Csogi. “It’s frightening because we don’t know exactly where he is. A CNN correspondent is traveling with his unit, so we’re always happy when we see him on television.” Rider freshman Julie Patrick’s brother is going overseas. Adam Patrick graduated from Rider in 1997 as part of the last ROTC program. He is currently a captain at Fort Drum in New York, where he flies surveillance helicopters. “At first I didn’t know what to think,” she said. “It’s what he wants to do. He loves what he does, so I’m going to be supportive.” Patrick’s brother was in Bosnia two years ago doing patrol. He dropped small bombs from his helicopter, which is probably what he will continue to do in the war in Iraq. “When he was in Bosnia he could communicate via e-mail and he had two video conferences with my family a month,” she explained. “The fact that he survived Bosnia makes us optimistic; it gives us hope.” Patrick’s brother was in the unit that crashed at Fort Drum recently. According to Patrick, the first thing he did when that happened was to call his family to let them know that he was okay. He also called his family as soon as he found out he was going to Iraq. “I’m just glad that he is flying and not on the ground,” Patrick said. “It is a saving grace.” Csogi said that she just takes one day at a time. “Some days are harder than others,” she said. “Everybody’s been really supportive at Rider. I’m glad we had the prayer service again. We did last time, in the ’90s. I just take each day and pray a lot.” Patrick said that the realism of war hit her when her brother left. “I believe in a time like this everybody should come together and support the troops,” she said. “People protesting is such a shame to the country.”