**WEBAdvisor difficulties arise**

By Cara Latham
Assistant News Editor

Students have been experiencing problems while trying to register for courses, mainly because of the prerequisites that the system has been programmed to recognize and enforce.

If a course in a certain major requires that a particular class has to be taken before registering for the new one, WebAdvisor will bar the student from registering for that class.

Susan Stefaniak, the registrar, says that this is a good way to ensure that students are taking all of the courses that they need to take, and in the correct order.

“There is a specific order in which you have to go,” she said. “There is a special body of knowledge that you have to have before taking another higher course.”

She pointed out that some students may have more difficulty registering and experience more problems depending on their areas of study.

“It depends on the student and the major,” she said. Stefaniak. “Some students have it easier because their majors don’t have as many prerequisites as others.”

However, some students say that some of the classes they need to take don’t have prerequisites and they are still being barred.

Stefaniak said that this may occur since the system is also programmed to acknowledge certain majors or minors that need to take the class in order to keep students from being closed out of required courses that aren’t necessary for other students, who aren’t majors or minors in that area.

Others couldn’t even load the web page.

“The server was jammed up,” said freshman Jacquelyn DiDomenico. “It kept bringing me back to the login screen.”

Freshman Danielle Servilio also had a similar conflict.

“Every time I tried to get the page up, it kept saying ‘Broken Pipe,’” she said. “I had to keep hitting back and finally after 20 minutes, I got it to work.”

However, special situations have arisen where a student is taking a specific course in place of another might be barred because WebAdvisor is only programmed to acknowledge specific courses that fulfill requirements. For example, a person taking a BHP course in place of a core requirement might be denied from registering for another course because the system only sees specific courses from a particular department as fulfilling that requirement. To fix this, the student has to visit the registrar and the department in order to have the course recognized as a replacement for the core requirement.

“Problems like this usually have legitimate reasons,” said Stefaniak.

Other problems can happen if you haven’t declared

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**NEW PODS FOR NEW YEAR**

Suites are scheduled to be available in the fall

By Randy Townsend
Assistant News Editor

Students will soon be able to plant themselves into Rider’s new three and four bedroom pods, specifically designed to provide another level of independence.

After extensive research, it became clear that students wanted more options that would deviate from the traditional dorm-style rooms and double-loaded corridors with community bathrooms. According to Cindy Threatt, director of Residence Life, there was a large majority of students that would rather have hall lounges converted into bed space right away, rather than wait until fall ’05 when the new construction between Ziegler and Hill is scheduled for completion.

“We polled students about how they feel about us taking down the lounges and there were definitely mixed feelings,” said Threatt. “But we had twice as many requests for the spaces than we have actual spaces. I think that’s a good sign that we made the right decision. There was an opportunity and we seized it.”

The selection process to determine who gets to live in the pods is based on the lottery where students put in applications in order to get suites. The process favors upperclassmen because applications get approved based on how many credits you have.

“I look at it like with a business sense,” said Threatt. “These are our premium spaces. A company should honor its longest-standing customer. If you’re a junior or senior, you should have the opportunity to live in the pods.”

The planning involved in coming up with the right designs for the pods in both the existing dorms and in the new construction was very detailed. Input was included from the board of trustees right down through administration and finally from the students who participated in the surveys.

“Getting the word out was a challenge,” said Threatt. “We polled students about whether they wanted to have the opportunity to live in the pods.”

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**New Buildings to take place**

The Student newspaper of the Rider community since 1930

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