Dr. Rozanski spends a night in a residence hall.

Overbooking and random acts of meanness plague the campus.

The Field Hockey team looks to repeat as NEC champs.

Americorps cuts, last year’s riot implications and clerical union negotiations.

By Vincent Civitillo
Managing Editor

The Office of Information Technologies (OIT) will be sending pairs of technicians into each of the residence halls effective immediately to continue its fight against a pair of viruses that have attacked the Internet system, said Carol Kondrach, associate vice president of Information Technologies.

The pair of viruses, the Mblast network worm that attacked Windows operating systems and the SoBig e-mail virus, infected Rider's system last summer and crashed the communications at Westminster before residents even began moving into the Lawrenceville campus, Kondrach said.

"Because the phone system and the Internet are interconnected at Westminster, it was a major crisis to take care of that problem right away," she said. "We shut down the Internet ports of each Westminster student and disinfected each computer one by one until no student was left infected."

Due to the larger number of students on the Lawrenceville campus, however, a different plan of attack was initiated in order to solve the problem as quickly as possible, which according to Pooya Hall Residence Director Jen Severs, was executed by the Residence Life Staff.

"On the check-in days, we had a stack of CDs, called 'Disinfect Before You Connect,' that OIT gave us," Severs said. "We signed out a CD to each student along with instructions for people with XP, the CD didn't work and my Internet was shut down for awhile," said senior Maia Lopez. "It was annoying at first to have to use other people's computers when I needed the Net, but OIT helped me out and my computer is fine now."

As part of OIT’s second plan to eliminate the virus, Kondrach said pairs of technicians will be assigned to two buildings per team from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, helping students and narrowing down the number of infected machines until the problem is solved.

"Some schools like Georgia Tech, didn't allow any of their students on the system until every last workstation was disinfected, and that's a good idea in theory, but really, I'm happy with the way we did it," she said. "It's more work for us, but had we done it that way, there would have still been many people offline and disconnected."

In response to this event, OIT has said that there is little they can do to prepare for another virus outbreak in the future. However, copies of MacAfee virus protection software are available for free to students through their website.

See ‘Virus’ on Page 3

Americorps feels federal budget cuts

By Brooke Otter
Staff Writer

In August, the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees Americorps, announced that the program would be cut drastically in the number of volunteers that the program could financially support. To be exact, the program will go from having about 16,000 volunteers to 3,000, according to a recent New Jersey Department of Education press release. Congress cut Americorps' grants from $240 million in 2002 to $175 million this year and set a cap on the number of Americorps volunteers allowed to participate.

Many are worried because they feel that the communities that rely heavily on volunteers from the Americorps program will not be able to sustain their infrastructure with the resources available to them.

"The cut back that Americorps is facing right now is a tragedy," said Melissa Vidal, a Bonner scholar. "Many people are now being turned down and are unable to be a part of Americorps because there is not enough funding. The site I work for, Homefront, and all the other sites will now suffer because they will lose out on valuable people."

Rider Americorps leaders are expected to complete 300 hours of service per year at any number of community groups. For example, Rider students currently volunteer at Homefront, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and Trenton After School program. They are compensated $1800 per year which serves as a stipend. Erin McGrath, service learning coordinator said this year's stipend hasn't been determined yet.

Rider Community Scholars is a large group that include the Bonner scholars and other volunteers. While some may not have the luxury of being called Bonner scholars this year due to the lack of funding, they still can volunteer and have all of the same requirements said See ‘Americorps’ on Page 4