

## The Overbooking Frenzy: Bunked away in lounges?

Just imagine: you receive a letter in the mail from Rider University with the title marked "Residential Life."

Since you are a freshman, this letter will now mark the start of a new beginning.

You anxiously open the letter, and your enthusiasm suddenly subsides when you read that not only do you have one roommate, but two, three or even four other roommates.

Even worse you read the words "recreational lounge" as your room number.

Though it sounds a little obscure, it has happened to many freshmen this fall semester, myself included. I was furious at the fact that I was going to have two roommates.

I thought that the rooms were small enough when there are two people in there, how am I supposed to live in such a small living space, with two roommates?

I thought I had it pretty bad until moving day when I saw that there were beds and desks being put into

the hall lounges. I thought that it was ridiculous.

When entering as a freshman many thoughts and tribulations are running through your mind. Will I like my roommate? How will classes be? Am I going to get lost? And so on.

My point is, as an incoming freshman, there is enough to worry about without having to worry about living accommodations.

I hope that admissions, along with Residence Life, realize how this can affect a freshman's college experience, even before they have stepped foot onto the campus. In my opinion, they should no longer have guaranteed housing for everyone.

That is, unless they plan on having the lounges become living quarters again.

When I did confront someone about this problem, I asked Residence Life, why guarantee housing, when in fact, it can't be done? I was stunned by the answer that they guarantee a roof over our head, but that was the extent

of it.

Although it is evident why they overbook, because they assume that some students will drop out afterwards, they should not assume such things. Why would a student drop out? Rider's a great place to be, right?

As always, out of something bad comes something good. The bond that my roommates and I have established is something I will take with me beyond just my four years here at Rider.

As with all incoming freshmen, knowing that you are in a triple can be a little intimidating, but look at it this way, not only will you be able to connect with just one person, but you'll have the opportunity to bond with two or more right off the bat.

As I began to realize this, all my presumptions were proven incorrect.

The rooms are bigger than your average room and are suitable for three students. The lounges are rough and putting together four or five roommates who get along might seem next to impossible, but is actually not always

the case.

Students that I talked to who live in the lounge had nothing appalling to say about it.

They love it, and actually would prefer to live there instead of the dorms. There is adequate space and then some for three roommates.

With the good comes the bad, but we must ask ourselves, why are we here?

We are not at Rider to have glamorous, spacious living areas; we are here to learn and to obtain an education.

So, grin and bear it. There might be drama between you and your multiple roommates, and you might not always get along, but within this we also receive an understanding of compromising. That is a lesson that will last a lifetime.



Candice Grieco

### Letter to the Editor:

#### A thank you from the Penn family

To the students, administration, faculty and friends of Rider University,

In spite of the deep pain our family has experienced since the death of our son and brother Jonas, we have taken great solace in the loving warmth of the students, faculty and administration of Rider University.

To the administration and faculty, thank you for being courageous. Your openness and willingness to meet this tragedy honestly was so kind to us and the students.

The memorial service that you conducted was a moving tribute to our son and his life as a student at Rider University. We are so appreciative to Rabbi Grossman.

To the students, you opened your rooms and your hearts. We understand how hard it is to fathom the loss of such a young friend. It is incomprehensible to reckon with the suicide of a friend. Jonas was fortunate to have been amongst you.

It helps us cope to know that he lived and partied with you. Memories of the music and laughter of Gee Hall will be a comfort to us forever.

The Penn Family

### Letter to the Editor:

#### In defense of university funding

Dear Editor,

I write with regard to the article in the last edition of last spring's *Rider News*, entitled "A Misuse of University Funding." The First Amendment of our U.S. Constitution was written for good reasons, and it is important to our education that we benefit from the free market of ideas that has developed from our freedom to say and believe what we want.

The right of expression is also an important facet of democracy, which is the premise of most of our ideas of justice and fairness in America. If our leaders make decisions that run contrary to the beliefs of many of us, then it is our right—even our obligation—to communicate our disapproval. This is the American way; this is democracy; this is the beginning of justice.

In the article to which I refer, the author undermines this notion by declaring such communication as "whining" and a "cry-fest." Granted, he is a journalism student, and knows how to use persuasive speech even though it may run contrary to reality, but to charge the University with misappropriating funds was erroneous. To enrich our education, the University seeks political, cultural and ethnic diversity. It is not wrong that we subsidize the freedom of others to exercise their First Amendment rights to petition the government for a redress of our grievances.

It is good that the University gave that chance to people who otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity to make that symbolic statement of marching in the nation's capitol. It is also

good—often imperative—that there are concerned, intelligible and vocal advocates, like Joe Rotkowitz, who aren't afraid of the increasing violence with which such advocacy is often met.

Contrary to Mr. Barry's article of last spring, it is patriotic to stand up for that in which we believe. It is unpatriotic to discourage people from doing so; such an attempt always raises suspicion. It has always been a dirty tactic of some pro-war citizens to declare protesters as anti-American, unpatriotic and bad. Arguments that are *ad hominem*—against the person, and not their arguments—are always invalid. They usually and justifiably weaken the *ad hominem* arguer's credibility.

With regard to Mr. Barry's "open challenge [referring to a point in Barry's article in which he challenged the protesters to move to Iraq]," of course most Americans would hate living in Iraq as we know it. That is why people who are unjust, tyrannical, barbaric and repressive usually do not become president of our country.

The few exceptions to this are to be checked by our collective freedom of expression, against which Mr. Barry has argued. If any misappropriation of University funding is evident here, it is in providing resources to a journalism student who doesn't appreciate the very rights that have made his future profession possible.

Jason A. Rubinstein  
Rider University, class of 2003  
Jason is a first year student at Temple

## Blood Drive

will be held in the Cavalla  
Room on Tuesday,  
September 30 and Wednesday,  
October 1,  
from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Shortage of blood is critical!

Free HIV testing in the  
Student Health Center on  
Monday, October 13th from  
10-4. Appointment only.  
x. 5060

