**New ID’s issued to battle identity theft**

By Jeff Frankel

Seven thousand new identification cards have been issued this fall to all students, faculty, and staff. The main reason new cards were issued was to prevent identity theft in the case of a card being lost or stolen, according to Greg Hanf, who is in charge of the design and distribution of the cards.

Older cards used the individual's Social Security number that was embedded in the magnetic strip on the back. The number also appeared under the barcode on the front of the cards. If lost, that person's identity was at risk of being stolen.

The staff member received a suspicious letter in her office at 12 p.m. on August 10. It was delivered quickly and performed all the necessary harm pro-
cedures, according to Weaver. By 3:30 p.m., only three and a half hours later, the police completed their tests and said that the substance was benign and non-toxic.

Weaver said she wanted to “thank these agencies for responding so quickly.”

This scare occurs almost three years after the anthrax outbreaks around the U.S., including one in nearby Hamilton, in September and October of 2001. Norma Wallace, a postal employee, was hospitalized after coming into contact and becoming seriously infected by anthrax at the Hamilton Center.

The Lawrence Police Department (LPD), New Jersey State Police, Trenton Fire Department and several hazardous material (hazmat) units were immediately contacted. All of the agencies responded quickly and performed all of the necessary harm procedures, according to Weaver.

Since the letter contained a harassing statement, it was believed that the substance could be harmful. With this thought in mind, the letter was sealed and taken to campus security, said Weaver. “First and foremost is safety,” said Weaver. “You have to treat these situations seriously because you don’t know the outcome.”

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Other post offices in the area were also affected including Princeton, Rocky Hill, Trenton and Jackson Township. They became crime scenes after remnants of anthrax were discovered, believed to be caused from contact with the originally tainted mail.

The investigation into Rider’s scare is still open and the suspect is still unknown. However, the idea that this was a prank is still being considered.

“When it comes to criminal activity and when it comes to compromising safety, we don’t downgrade seriousness,” said Weaver.

**Summer anthrax scare startles BLC**

By Stephanie Mostaccio

Rider University encountered a dangerous situation this past summer when an unknown substance was sent to one of the school’s staff members.

Campus security received a report from the staff member at 12 p.m. on August 10. It was stated in the report that the staff member received a suspicious letter in her office that contained a harassing statement. However, there was also an unknown substance inside the envelope, which could have been anything, including anthrax, according to Vickie Weaver, the director of Rider Safety and Security.

The note also contained a suspicious letter in her office that contained a harassing statement. However, there was also an unknown substance inside the envelope, which could have been anything, including anthrax, according to Vickie Weaver, the director of Rider Safety and Security.

**Lounge replaces Switlik computer lab, adds study space for Hill residents**

By Andrew Silver

The relocation of the Residence Life Office from Hill to Switlik was one of the projects that began over the summer, said an area director of residence life, Jamil Mostaccio.

The office will be relocated to the computer lab near Switlik, said Mostaccio.

The current area director’s office will be changed into a normal residence hall lounge, said Mostaccio. Students will be able to use the lounge for their studies.

“We wanted to recapture this lounge as study space,” he said.

For the computers in the lab, they are currently being distributed around the Lawrenceville campus. There are printers in Daly’s next to the ATM machine that provide access to printing, since students were using the current lab for their studies or homework, more for access to the printers.

“Some of [the computers] are going into the new Switlik technology lab, which is up and running on the C-1st floor,” said Mostaccio.

The area directors decided to place the new technology center on the C-wing because it still provides access to the students who may have to print papers or projects.

“The room in Switlik used to be a four-person quad that we used when we had extended housing, but students are no longer living there, it is being used as the new tech lab,” said Mostaccio. “It has a computer and a printing station; we also put in some new furniture, so it is a part computer lab and part lounge.”

He added that there are some pros and cons to these changes. Some students feel that this process is occurring because residence life wishes to occupy the space. The reality is that the area directors are giving up their current office so Hill can have a study lounge.

The renovations of these two areas began around August. Facilities had to get all of the computers out of the lab. The area directors are expected to move into their new office by the end of September, but the renovation of the current office is expected to be complete by the end of the school year.