

**The Face-Off:****Upperclassman and freshman debate Rider's new parking policy**

Finally! The freshmen have been demoted to only being allowed to park in the open lot (O-Lot). All I have to say is that it's about time.

As a resident student, I certainly prefer parking in the resident lot (R-Lot) where the walk to the dorms is considerably shorter compared to the O-Lot. I am sure I'm not only speaking for myself, but for every other resident student here at Rider.

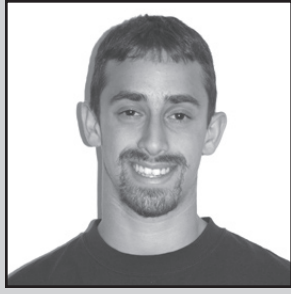
Previously, the issue had been that the R-Lot could not accommodate all of the resident students forcing many students to park in the distant O-Lot. Now with priority for the R-Lot being given to the upperclassmen some justice has finally been served. Why should the freshmen get to park in the closer lot? In fact, most schools do not even give freshmen the freedom to park their car on campus. I know that when I was looking for schools, Rider was the only school that allowed such a privilege for freshmen. So these incoming freshmen should be happy that they are even allowed to have their car on campus.

Now this is to all the freshmen

who have disagreed with my argument so far. Let us say for instance that this new parking policy has never been put

into effect and you are now seniors. You have paid your dues for three years and are one year away from escaping the clutches of Rider's grip and going out into the real world. You go to park your car in the much desired R-Lot and there are no spots left, due to the incoming class taking up the space. Now how do you feel? Have I proved my point yet? I think so.

Is there a reason for complaints from freshmen? I think not. I certainly did not complain about anything as a freshman. You are the new kids on the block and you have no seniority on any issue. I knew my role as a freshman and you should know yours.



**Ari Bluestein**

On the second day of our first semester at Rider, we freshmen should have all known something was up. When one of the many University officials spoke to us in the Alumni Gym that morning and said "freshmen get their own parking lot this year," with a false sense of enthusiasm, we all really should have known. And when we walked out of the gym to park our vehicles and saw the engineering wonder of a parking lot made especially for us we all finally knew: freshmen don't get nice things done for them.

The O-Lot located past the boondocks is where freshman residents are required to park starting this semester.

Yes, they had to mark it off and give it a name because freshman already didn't feel different enough parking within orange neon lines. The "O" they would have us believe stands for "open" because last year anyone could park there including residents, commuters, visitors and people who had absolutely nothing to do with Rider. So, of course, they gave the meaningless anyone lot to us freshmen.

Although the explanation sounds about right, (why wouldn't we get the meaningless lot) students around cam-

pus believe the "O" stands for something else.

The obvious thing that comes to mind is "orange" due to the color used so it's impossible for anyone to mistake us for upperclassmen. Another common nickname is "overflow" since the extra parking was once for anyone who couldn't fit in the resident lot or commuter lot.

There's something degrading about parking within orange neon lines and being referred to as this year's "overflow" students. The final common nickname the lot has been adorned with is perhaps the most fitting – "outcast." Wow that makes us newbie freshmen feel right at home.

Upperclassmen may argue freshmen don't deserve any better and that at other universities freshmen don't have cars on campus. However, those same upperclassmen weren't ever required to park in the O-Lot.



**Paul Szaniawski**

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY ...****SEPT. 24, 1996**

A treaty ending all testing and development of nuclear weapons is signed.

**SEPT. 25, 1690**

The first American newspaper, *Publick Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestick*, is published.

**SEPT. 26, 1960**

The first Nixon-Kennedy debate; the first presidential debate ever to be televised, is held.

**SEPT. 28, 1066**

William the Conqueror invades England and claims the English throne.

**The Enthusiast:****New "pods" provide a great place to live**

Are you tired of living in the standard double and sharing your dorm room with a roommate? Does the heat and the communal bathrooms make you uncomfortable? Do you wish you could live with more than one of your friends? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, I have the perfect solution for your rooming concerns.

In the attempts to create more housing options on campus, Rider has created "pods." Although these suites may have a funny name, trust me, there is nothing to laugh about. Pods, which are suites that accommodate three or four people, have a variety of improvements that will surely make you jealous.

For starters, pods have done away with the standard double. In addition to bedrooms, each pod has a common room, which is furnished with couches and an entertainment unit that can house TV's, DVD or VHS players and video game systems. You will never again have to use your dorm room as your bedroom, study lounge and living space. The pod has more than enough room for you and your roommates to spread out.

Secondly, pods offer its occupants single bedrooms. Each person will be assigned a room at the beginning of the semester that they can truly call their own. With a pod, each roommate has privacy and the ability to set up and decorate their room as they please.

I'm sure everyone remembers vividly how hot it is in the dorms, right? Well, not in the pods. Each bedroom, in addition to the common room, has its own air conditioning and heating unit. You'll never have to sweat out the December nights at Rider again.

Now I know you think it can't get any better than this, but it does. Pods also come with bathrooms that only the roommates share. Just think, you will only have to share a bathroom with two or three people at max, all of which will probably be your friends.

Be selective in who you choose though because you do have to clean the pod yourself, including the bathroom.

There are a few minor things to keep in mind. Pods are awarded by a lottery system, just as suites and apartments are. Currently, there are only eight pods on campus, four 3-person pods and two 4-person pods, but your odds of receiving one may increase for the fall semester of 2005 because the new construction is giving birth to more. Also, the current pods are converted lounges. The downfall to this is that you are disconnected from the rest of the building. This may be ideal for upperclassmen that like peace and quiet but I would discourage underclassmen from applying because it takes away from the experience of meeting new people.

Although pods cost more per semester than a standard double, I strongly recommend looking into living in one. Rider exceeded my expectations and the pods are absolutely beautiful! The construction is bringing a new face to Rider and the pods are just a small glimpse of the possibilities.



**Cathleen Ziegler**