New fire laws affect Rider

By Priscilla Bryson
Staff Writer

New Jersey passed a new law requiring all schools within the state to be equipped with regulation sprinkler systems and mandatory fire drills. The new law, enacted this year, was established due to the recent tragedy at Seton Hall University. N.J. legislation posed the idea of sprinkler systems in the residence halls back in the 1980s, but the idea did not come into action until Seton Hall’s fire.

The law specifies $90 million in low-interest and no interest state loans to go toward equipping all rooms in every building with sprinklers and toward staffing the fire and safety project. The law covers all public, private, military and high schools in N.J.

Safety Coordinator Frank Scharibone will head fire drills for Rider University and Westminster Choir College. These drills will be run in the academic buildings in residence halls to ensure that all students, including commuters, carry out proper fire drill procedures.

According to Scharibone, once each year a fire-drill will be held for every academic building on campus. Once each semester, a fire drill will be held for every residence hall, as well as the fraternities and sororities.

Upon hearing the alarm, “students should evacuate the building immediately and go to their designated assembly point where your Resident Hall Advisor will account for every person of the building,” he said.

The new sprinkler system at Rider is also being regulated. If one smoke detector goes off, security is immediately notified, but until the problem is assessed, the dorm is not evacuated.

“One only a second detector goes off or if a detector goes off in a common area will the entire building be evacuated on the spot,” said Scharibone.

If a fire is present in a building, the security dispatcher notifies the fire department, which provides immediate response. These procedures help in apprehending any regulation violators and helps in preventing false alarms.

Initiating a false alarm or abusing Riders fire and safety codes can lead to a Level 1 consequence: being dismissed for a minimum of one year or being expelled. For these rules and regulations, look in The Source or online.

Sweetheart Weekend 2002

Rider’s annual Sweetheart Weekend took place last Saturday, September 28. The event involves all the fraternities and sororities on campus and is eagerly anticipated every year. Each fraternity picks their favorite sorority girl, and each sorority picks their favorite fraternity guy.

The event involves chanting and celebrating, and culminates with a ceremony where each organization’s sweetheart is named.

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