Ziegler and Hill residents under construction duress

By Alisha Miranda

On a typical morning, while other students are waking up to their alarm clocks, Ziegler and Hill residents wake up at the crack of dawn to the sound of bulldozers.

New pathways are being arranged daily and, as a result, continuous noise throughout the day, causing some to even leave their own rooms for some peace and quiet.

“The noise level is pretty bad in the morning. It can definitely wake you up,” said sophomore Adam Moltisanti, a resident advisor of Hill. “Sometimes they start around 6:30.”

According to freshman Diana Vigorito, a Hill resident, her day usually begins between 2 a.m. “but with machines outside blaring, she has trouble catching up on sleep.”

“It wakes me up two hours before I need to [get up],” said Vigorito.

Getting work done has also become a lingering problem in Hill and Ziegler residence halls, according to Ziegler resident Lindsey Weisbrot.

“I can’t do work after class,” said Weisbrot. “I get distracted by big bulldozers passing by my room every three seconds.”

According to freshman Jennifer Halar, a Hill resident, some students are concerned about the high level of dust that is invading their rooms and their hallways.

“We don’t think it rains because it gets all muddy,” said Halar. “We track it into our rooms.”

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Books and boxes of papers also line the shelves of the Riderana. While the papers are nearly limitless in their topics, the books are all either part of the Rare Books Collection or were the labors of a Rider faculty member.

“Any book either written or edited by someone on Rider’s staff while they worked here is kept here,” Congleton said.

The collection also contains old secretarial manuals, books that are “distingushed by their design and literacy quality” or novels that possess an unusual quality that merits special attention. These unique volumes include a book dating back to 1550 and inscribed copies of books by well-known authors.

“Our Rare Books Collection features an old copy of the Bible and an early edition of “Ulysses” that was autographed by James Joyce,” Congleton explained, gingerly handling the latter book.

The Riderana is a room tucked away from the public in the Moore Library that holds old Rider archives and memorabilia.

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“Down the hall from the Riderana Annex is a larger room with a far more extensive array of Rider-themed collections. Portraits of past college presidents and deans watch over the room, lined up adjacent to a strangely-colored Rider College flag.

“It wasn’t too long ago that Rider changed its colors from the unpopular purple and gold theme to cranberry and white,” Congleton said. “I think it’s a more appropriate combination, given Andrew J. Rider’s Cranberry King nickname.”

“Other treasures from Rider’s past range from an autographed football from the 1952 team and t-shirts from major annual events to newspaper clippings from both local and national newspapers to microfilm copies of The Rider News and a Rider yearbook from 1967.”

“One of our goals is to eventually scan all copies of both The Rider News and The Shadow Yearbook to CDs,” Congleton said. “We don’t have the equipment to do so yet, but we’re hoping to get it soon.”

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The Riderana is currently updating its system of cataloging each item within each of its collections, in addition to making the collections available online. Since no one is allowed to handle the articles within the archives without supervision, this makes browsing the Special Collections archives easier for the public.

“By scanning all of our collections into an Internet database, anyone can access the archives at any time,” Congleton said. “We’re also constantly getting new additions to our collections by families of alumni donating all of their old Rider memorabilia.”

Photo by Madeleine Johnson