REP RACE REACHES RIDER
Candidates clash over key issues in debate

By Charlie Olsen

Incumbent representative Rush Holt (D), and Republican candidate Bill Spadea traded barbs yesterday in a debate at the Bart Luedeke Center Theater.

The two 12th district candidates were placed before a trio of panelists, which included two local reporters and Dr. David Rebovich, managing director of the Rider University Institute for New Jersey Politics.

“Whether you are a resident of the 12th district or not, hopefully today’s program will encourage you to think carefully about policy issues, candidate characteristics and the stakes that are involved in an election that is certain to be important for all Americans,” said Rebovich in his introductory speech.

Holt took a strong stance in favor of tuition assistance for students, referring to his voting record in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“I’ve been a champion, and voted consistently to increase Pell grants and to increase other financial aid that comes through the federal government,” Holt said.

He added that he has been the principal sponsor of legislation to provide college tuition tax breaks up to $15,000 for families with more than one student and $10,000 for families with one student.

In response, Spadea also voiced his support for tax deductions.

“No one should be denied an education because of their financial need,” he said. “We certainly could do more.”

However, Spadea suggested that Americans couldn’t afford to “throw money at the issue without looking to solve the problem of runaway deficits and out of control spending.”

Both candidates opposed a draft, but for different reasons. According to Spadea, a former Marine, the armed forces need to do a better job recruiting and retaining volunteer soldiers.

The voting record shows that Holt opposed an increase in benefits to the 345,000 reservists who were activated, said Spadea while Holt shook his head in disagreement.

“I want to see how many of those we can recruit and give a positive benefit to,” he said.

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Parking problems surface
By Nick Ballasy

Conversations have been going back and forth between key people at the Westminster Choir College (WCC) about more parking.

According to WCC’s Dean of Students Walter Perry, the campus is experiencing “growing pains” with the crowding of residence and practice halls.

Across the street, Witherspoon Middle School recently finished their renovation and parking for students and neighbors is extremely tight.

Joseph Woodhull, Westminster’s Student Government Association (SGA) president, said he sympathizes with the students.

“I feel bad for the people coming from elementary practice,” said Woodhull. “It takes them forever to find spaces.”

Some students feel that creating more parking would be a simple task. The college could get a parking garage but that would be costly and highly unlikely. However, if the college simply throws some gravel down on the campus’ open fields, more parking would be available.

Perry explained that “it’s not that easy.” The first problem would be trying to find a way to come up with the money.

“It is a sensitive and careful process when deciding how much tuition will be for a year at the college,” said Perry. “Westminster could easily raise tuition by 10 percent and have a couple million dollars to work with but that would put too much of a burden on the students.”

Secondly, the college has to comply with zoning laws. Overall, the parking would be a simple task. The college and out of control spending.”

Students to have impact on local law
By Cara Latham

Rider students who are registered to vote in Lawrence Township will not only decide on the president this year, but also whether a certain ordinance will be passed.

Over the summer, the residents of Lawrence Township collected approximately 700 signatures in a petition to have a pay-to-play reform ordinance, a public contracting reform law, and a pay-to-play reform ordinance. However, if passed, will limit the amount of money that professionals can give to candidates who are running for office in return for receiving contracts. The citizens brought the signatures to the council, which decided not to pass the ordinance because four out of five of its members voted against it.

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2, a question to decide if the ordinance is passed will be on the ballot, as Municipal Question #1, for residents of the town, including Rider student registered in Lawrence Township.

Students will vote on local issues, including this pay-to-play law.

Lauren Skowronski, the executive director of the group Common Cause, urges students to vote for the ordinance, especially since some students who live on campus are registered with Lawrence Township because the drive home on Tuesday is too far.

“Rider students can make a huge difference by voting yes to the ordinance,” said Skowronski. “We’re not saying that it’s actually happening in Lawrence, but it will ensure that it won’t happen in the future. It’s basically legal bribery.”

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