

## Family Day offers variety of events to welcome relatives

By Andrew Silver

People dressed as pumpkins and festive autumn decorations accompanied 2004's annual Family Day activities, in accordance with the Fall Fest theme.

The event turned out to be a real success, according to Resident Hall Association (RHA) president Amy Peroni.

Peroni was excited to see the results for this year's annual Family Day. It took both hard work and effort from the many different organizations to please the parents as they came to visit their loved ones, she said.

"I think it was a wonderful turnout," said Peroni. "I am thrilled."

The event started off as

both the students and the parents were greeted by the Rider University Bronc Band. After the greeting, Dean Anthony Campbell, President Mordechai Rozanski and Peroni gave opening remarks to the guests in attendance.

Besides the greetings and speeches, the affair featured a variety of events including a pie-eating contest, another performance by the Bronc Band and a performance by the 2004-2005 Rider Dance Team.

However, the sequence of events could improve a little next year, according to Peroni.

"We know next time the Dance Team should be before the pie-eating contest, because we had to clean up the floor after the contest," she said.

A great feature about this event was the variety along with the Dance Team, the Bronc Band and the welcoming speeches. The RHA seemed to really please the children as they provided different contests throughout the day, according to Peroni.

"Poyda, Gee and Kroner all brought in pumpkin patches," said Peroni.

"This whole event was just great," said junior Jennaro Villa, who said it was both well organized and well-planned, since Family Day celebrates unity.

"It is great to see the children doing activities," said Villa.

Villa was pleased to notice the event was focusing on families and said that it was impor-



Photo by Allen Huang

Children participate in festive arts and crafts in the BLC Commuter Lounge during the annual Family Day celebration.

tant to keep the younger children occupied.

Kathy Mazar, mother of freshman Chris Mazar enjoyed herself while attending Family Day, and felt that all of the organizations put time into

organizing the event. She noted that the best aspect was that it provided variety for all ages.

"It's been really nice," said Mazar. "I think they did a great job."

## 'THIEVES'

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hearings.

"Sentences for juveniles depend on the severity of the charges and the criminal history of the offender," said Edgar.

Both vehicles stolen from the Lawrenceville campus were taken while parked in the O-Lot between Oct. 27 and Nov. 7. Vickie Weaver, director of Safety and Security, said one of

the challenges facing Security is that Rider is an open campus.

"We don't stop and identify every vehicle that comes and goes," said Weaver. "We do our patrols and have begun the initial phases of camera installation, which we plan to add more of."

Unfortunately for the student victims, they may have been targeted because they own one of the most stolen cars in New Jersey, according to a 2002 report by the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

"Acuras and Hondas are sister companies," said Hillman. "Thieves that know how to break into one usually know how to break into the other, making it an easy car to be stolen."

Although many car thieves steal vehicles with the intention of selling the parts, it's believed that the juveniles in question were merely going for a "joyride."

"Usually when they're in a group, everybody wants to drive," said Edgar. "In this

instance, the bunch were already in a stolen car and they seemed to be driving around to find other cars that they could steal with relative ease."

Last Saturday, one of the Accords stolen from the O-Lot was found abandoned in Trenton with minimal damage. While there was no clear link between the alleged juvenile car thieves and the Rider incidents, it is "pretty likely" that they were responsible. Still, Rider Security and the LPD recommend the Rider commu-

nity continue to keep their eyes open for other potential offenders and to report both suspicious activities and suspicious people walking onto campus.

"The Rider community has been very proactive in reporting suspicious activity," said Weaver. "With community policing and a partnership with the Lawrenceville Police Department, we are working hard to maintain a safe campus."

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## 'HELP'

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The guests who come out to the Cathedral will be served their dinners instead of being shuffled through a buffet line. The service will run from 11:30 to 2 p.m. Traditionally, Rider's baseball and women's track teams, as well as various fraternities, sororities, service organizations and individuals

have been a big part of this service. Additionally, the Tri-Beta Biological Honor's Society has volunteered to do clean-up this year.

"There will be three graduate assistants volunteering along with Angela Jackson-Powell to do Thanksgiving crafts with the children," said Carroll.

Volunteers are encouraged to socialize with the guests, have conversations and get to know them. The experience allows

volunteers to connect with the needy, whose situations often get overlooked.

"We want to not only feed their stomachs," said DeFrehn. "We also want to feed their emotional well-being."

Tim Richards of Aramark has already committed to preparing and donating the entire dinner, which will include Turkey a la King, rice, vegetables, cranberry sauce, rolls, drinks and cookies. Additional

donations can be made payable to Campus Ministry. Donated food is due no later than Nov. 19.

"It's very rewarding," said DeFrehn. "Every year I'm in awe of the amount of enthusiasm and generosity of all the different campus constituencies that make this happen."

For more information, contact Helen Carroll at (609) 896-5000, x. 7275.

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