

Editorial: New policies change little

As a result of the shooting, Rider has completely revamped its guest policy for residence halls in order to improve security and hopefully reduce vandalism. Although these new rules are stricter, there are a few loopholes.

First, the policy only applies to those guests who are staying overnight. This means that a person could stay unregistered in the halls until 4 a.m. as long as he or she does not plan to sleep over. This is a serious oversight.

The policy clearly states that guests must be registered by 11 p.m. But what if students don't return until after 11 p.m. or the guest does not decide to stay over until then? Do they not have to register their guests? It's understandable that a resident advisor (RA) should not have to deal with people banging on his or her door at 2 a.m., but if the new rules are expected to work, it's important to cover all the bases. Maybe Security could take over registering guests after 11 p.m. Students can't be expected to return early from a night out purely to take care of some paperwork.

Sorority and fraternity houses do not have RAs. Does that mean they do not have to register their guests? Without an RA, there would be no one to monitor the guests or be sure that those wandering the halls have the correct pass. Apparently, this guest policy would have no effect on the Greek houses at all.

Even if every single guest is registered, which will probably not happen, how is that going to stop people from doing anything that they would normally do? Already most of the senseless vandalism that occurs in residence halls remains unsolved because nobody sees who does it or, more likely, nobody is willing to come forward. So what is this policy really changing about our lives as residents?

Many people are very protective about their personal lives, and reporting who they are having over every night would call attention to just how many guests they have throughout the week. As a result of human nature, gossip may start.

Since these new regulations are a result of the shooting, the question is whether or not they could have prevented it. Although the guests are registered, they are not searched. Since the guests at the event were in the Bart Luedeke Center, would the policy have even affected them?

These policies were created in part as a response to the campus' cry for more security. It's a difficult task to make new rules yet at the same time keep student's freedoms. The intent was good and now at least the administration can say it did something; however, when it comes down to life at Rider, it doesn't seem like much is going to change. It is not until after Thanksgiving break that we will see the effect of these policies. Once again, it is up to the student body to make this work.

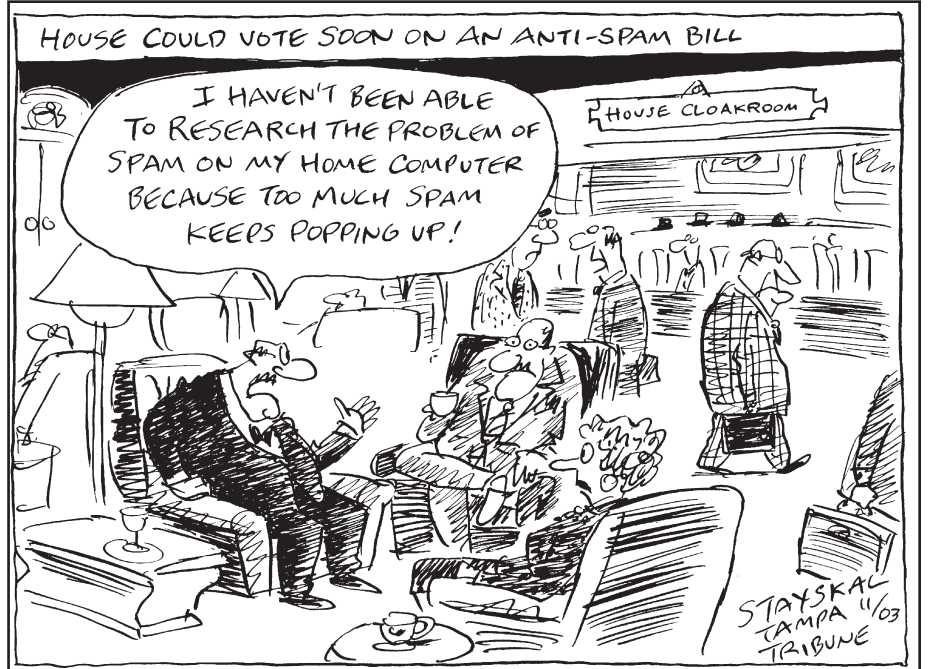
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Quote of the Week:

“Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia.”

— Charles M. Schulz



A Citizen's Voice: Primary figures

With the presidential election a mere year away, President George W. Bush's campaign is in full swing. He is hot on the road to re-election and seems confident of victory. Fifty percent of Americans, however, would not vote to re-elect Bush, according to a CNN poll, which means half of the country's vote is up for grabs.

That leaves the Democrats. Al Gore has repeatedly announced that he will not run in the 2004 election, Bill Clinton can't run and Hilary Clinton is biding her time until 2008. There are nine Democrats competing for the presidential nomination. If they have any chance at all of beating Bush, they have to start letting the voters know what they stand for and that they exist.

Carol Moseley-Braun is the only female running and is one of two African-American candidates. Moseley-Braun is running on three issues: universal health care based on employment, economic revitalization and education.

Wesley Clark is known only for his military achievements, as this is his first foray into politics. He was the Supreme Allied Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Clark criticized the decision to attack Iraq and Bush's handling of both domestic and foreign security. Clark said that he has "ideas" on national security and strategy. In a CNN poll, 91 percent of people named Clark as the candidate to beat Bush.

Howard Dean became governor of Vermont in 1991. He was re-elected four times. He vocally opposed the U.S. invasion of Iraq, as well as Bush's tax cuts and the federal budget deficit. Although he was initially considered

a long shot, recent polls show him second to Clark.

John Edwards, the self-appointed champion of "regular folks," was a trial lawyer before he became a senator. He beat an incumbent in his first bid for political office, which is rare and very difficult. Edwards has fought efforts to place award limits on lawsuits, tried to modernize the nation's banking system and criticized the war on terrorism.

Dick Gephardt was the House's Democratic leader for eight years. Gephardt voted in favor of authorizing the use of military force in Iraq, which analysts say could hurt him in the primaries, but if he moves past them, it might actually make him a stronger candidate. Gephardt advocates more extensive health care.

John Kerry is serving his fourth term in Congress as a senator from Massachusetts. Kerry has been an advocate for education, sometimes voting against his own party. He has also criticized Bush for not working closely with allies on Iraq.

Dennis Kucinich, an elected U.S. Representative, advocates a national health care system, the preservation of Social Security and higher unemployment benefits. Kucinich said he plans to cancel the North American Free Trade Agreement and repeal the Patriot Act, the anti-terror legislation passed after Sept. 11, because they

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Laura Sass

The Rider News

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