

## A Student's View: Construction may be ugly, but workers are making a valiant effort

Around the Lawrenceville campus there is noticeable construction going on next to the Alumni Gym, in front of and next to both Hill and Ziegler residence halls and in the back of campus with the construction of the new varsity baseball field. There have been many articles about the construction in previous issues. In addition, many students have complained about the messy look and inconvenience of the construction.

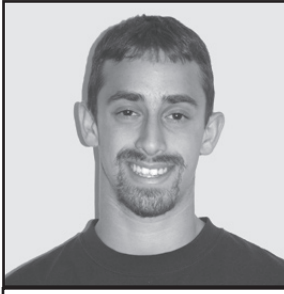
In the middle of all this talk are the construction workers who are working very hard to get all of this done for next fall. Even though the main focus of all the discussion has been on the construction itself, the actual workers are an aspect that should be examined.

Per my experiences, there have been many compliments about the workers from faculty, parents and a select group of students about the progress the workers have been making. Notably, I had a conversation with a parent of a freshman here at Rider. The father admired both the hard work and positive attitude the workers are putting into the construction and commented that he feels the foundations are being built rather quickly for all of the construction projects.

In my opinion, the progress made by these construction workers has been more than admi-

nable. They come out at, if not before, 8 in the morning and most workers stay on campus until 5 in the afternoon. This has been the routine every day with the exception of a few because of heavy rains. These workers have even come out in light rain; there are no excuses made, they just go to work. During that time, there are at least several workers still working. It has been proven that these construction workers are dedicated and are willing to pull up their sleeves and do a lot of hard work to get these projects done on time.

Overall what I am trying to say is that we, the students, must recognize that these workers are putting everything they've got into making this campus a much nicer and better place to live for our future years here at Rider. And for you seniors: even though you will not be able to enjoy the new facilities as students, you will be able to enjoy them as alumni coming back to visit in the years to come.



Ari  
Bluestein

## Campus Forum: OIT's services deserve to be respected

We've all heard the horror stories of someone's roommate not getting Internet access on their computer or your friend's password not being able to log into the system. Everyone remembers the beginning of the year when it took Rider University's Office of Information Technologies (OIT) weeks to fix everyone's problems.

Thanks to word of mouth, circulation of these events, personal experiences and a few past articles in this very newspaper, Rider students have developed a less than appreciative opinion of OIT.

Probably near the top of our university's list of thankless jobs, OIT usually gets more heat than they deserve. Is it their fault technology breaks down?

Instead of getting annoyed with OIT services we should be glad they're even here. Without them our system wouldn't be functional. I remember a few times the Internet was down because the technicians were fixing or testing something. Without online access, I really did feel helpless because there was nothing I could do about it. Without network capability some of our nation's largest companies would be almost paralyzed.

OIT is important to not only maintain our system, but also to help out students.

You might say "So what if they do; they're paid to do this job and probably don't or shouldn't care about what students say." But they do.

It is evident that OIT listens to complaints and reads things in this newspaper about them. Several weeks ago an opinion article expressed discontent with the Rider homepage missing Quick links that current students frequently use including Webmail, campus directory and Blackboard from the top of the page in plain sight. A problem was brought up and after a short period of time the links were back up making everyone's use of the Rider website easier.

I really do hope OIT continues to both read and admire our work at *The Rider News* because I personally admire their work.



Paul  
Szaniawski

## 'TERROR' FROM PAGE 8

Bush is going to be asking Congress for another \$75 billion. Alan Greenspan has previously issued a warning about the deficit which is at \$413

billion dollars; the highest in U.S. history. President Bush is the only president to give tax cuts during a war.

Despite these negative aspects of the war, the U.S. has done some good in Iraq. We have captured Saddam Hussein, the former dictator of Iraq. We are building schools and giving children vaccines.

Still, due to the controversial issues, the deaths and how no weapons were found,

many political figures, including Republicans, believe the war isn't worth it.

Bobby Muller, a political activist, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997, said a draft is inevitable if the U.S. keeps its presence in Iraq.

"The fact is, we've lost the war in Iraq," Muller said. "We've passed the tipping point."

As violence escalates and we lose more troops, the only

thing you can do is write to your Congressmen and ask them to help come up with a way to get our troops out of Iraq after the elections in January and to vote against the military draft when it is brought up again.

Republican Representative Ron Paul of Texas, talked about why he voted against the Iraq War.

"My argument is when we go to war through the back door, we are more likely to

have the wars last longer and not have resolution of the wars, such as we had in Korea and Vietnam," said Paul.

He went on to say, "There is a need for us to assume responsibility for the declaration of war, and also to prepare the American people for the taxes that will be raised and the possibility of a military draft, which may well come."

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY ...

**Nov. 20, 1741**

Alaska is discovered.

**Nov. 21, 1959**

Hawaii is admitted into the U.S. as the 50th state.

**Nov. 22, 1902**

Theodore Roosevelt becomes the first president to drive an automobile.

## The Freshman Voice: Classrooms need clocks

You are sitting in the middle of your psychology lecture and you wonder how much time is left, but then you realize that you forgot to put your watch on. You are now what I like to call out of luck. Naturally, you are out of luck because none of the classrooms here have clocks on the wall. A little peculiar, don't you think?

I am sure the reasoning behind it is that you will waste more time staring at the clock waiting for that big hand

to come around, rather than listening to your professor. On the contrary, I find it more difficult to pay attention when I am wondering how much time is left. Wanting to know what time it is does not necessarily mean someone is bored, it is just nice to know. Sometimes I just forget to wear my watch for whatever reason and the class just seems to be longer when I do not know the time.

Often, my professors stay true to the syllabus, so they cover what has to be done on that day and that day only. At the end of class, whatever was not covered is left up to me on my own time. It's nice to know at some point how much longer I have to go and how much material will get covered in that remaining time.

Of course, I could always look at my cell phone but I see that to be more of a distraction than looking up at a clock on a wall. Not only does it come off rude from the professor's point of view, it is now more of a temptation to sit and send text messages rather than listen about the history of the 1500s.

On the topic of cell phones, there is no way I can look at my phone when I am taking an exam, because then I am considered to be cheating. I mean, it is nice to know how much time I have left when I am in the middle of an exam; otherwise, I have no idea how to pace myself.

I am not demanding a replica of Big Ben in the middle of my expository writing class, just a simple plastic clock, which I do not think is asking for a lot. Time flies when there is a clock on the wall.



Kim  
Fleming