Some displeased by wireless Internet service

By Tim Green
Enterprise Reporter

While the Office of Information Technology (OIT) is looking to expand its wireless Internet to more students, some students are not pleased with the current "nowires" system.

Students' gripes about the system include an insufficient number of nowires zones around campus, the impracticality of the wireless Internet and constant signal lapses.

"The signal can drop off the further you get away from the Teaching and Learning Center because the main signal is in the building," said sophomore Justin Polera, who accesses the Internet via his wireless connection with his laptop while in classes in the science building.

Polera uses the wireless Internet avidly and sees it as a great tool in the classroom, but he said that he would like to see more access points around campus. OIT is currently looking into this possibility.

"We are beginning to look into broadening the areas based on what students want," said Tim Fairlie, director of networks and communications for OIT. "We want to cover the entire library and the BLC [Bat Luedeke Center], as well as extend it to common areas that students use. We are talking to SGA [Student Government Association] for recommendations."

Wireless Internet was implemented at Rider in 2002, allowing students to have mobile access to the web and any of the 25 nowires access points located around campus, according to Fairlie.

Last year, an average of six people at any given time during a day used the system, but now approximately 20 people at any time use it, Fairlie said.

Students who have laptop computers with either Windows XP or Mac OS 9 or better may use the wireless Internet as long as they have a wireless adapter card installed on their computers.

One student was concerned about the cost of such adapter cards, which can range from $75 to $118, according to Rider's nowires website.

"I don't have $100," said senior Sabrina Kruczek. "I will just wait until the technology is free to use."

Fairlie said that as the technology becomes more popular, the prices of such needed hardware will go down, but he noted that many of the newer laptops on the market already have wireless adapters installed.

"Freshman Wai Ong has wireless capabilities on her laptop computer, but does not feel a need to use nowires."

"I have it, but I don't use it," she said. "It's really inconvenient to use because the only place I would ever use it is the library, but I'm never there. Also, I think it's easier to just use the ethernet in my room."

Junior Hector Rosa had similar sentiments.

"It's not practical since people can use their laptops in their rooms on the regular Internet," Rosa said.

Rosa said he has experienced problems while trying to use nowires in Memorial Hall.

"The signal weakens depending on where I sit in class," Rosa said. "It usually works O.K. when I sit by the door, but it does fade out often. It works best in the hallway."

Kruczek said it might be better to have more computer labs available on campus.

'Survivor' from page I

personal perspective."

"It's easier to see the reality of this period fade over generations without the courage of survivors like Sam," said Erica West, President of the Protestant Campus Ministry. "He challenges us to remember, learn and live on."

The United States Holocaust Museum, which opened in the early 1990s, pledges to "advance and disseminate and knowledge" and encourages reflection on moral and spiritual questions. Some exhibits include a child's take on the tragedy as well as an exhibit dedicated to the life and writings of Anne Frank. The permanent exhibit, which tells the story of the Holocaust through pictures, maps and videos, is viewed from the fourth floor down as a representation of a descent toward Hell.

Dr. Harvey Kornberg, co-director of the Holocaust/ Genocide Resource Center, said he wanted both the students and alumni to learn the importance that awareness has had in the prevention of similar tragedies. The center looks to reduce prejudice through education.

According to Kornberg, extreme prejudice starts with the dehumanization of a group and can easily lead into the devaluation of lives. The trip served as a way to help students understand how and why something like the Holocaust could occur.

"We want to create a group of people who will not allow this to happen again," said Kornberg. "Prejudice starts with the first off-color joke. Next time tell the person that it isn't funny instead of laughing."

"A lot of the stuff we talked about such as these establish good relationships between current students and alumni, according to Rossi. He regards students as "future alumni" and said that point is the essence of the relationship between them.

"The interplay between students and alumni...creates a sense of transition and heritage," said Rossi.

"Other trips to create awareness and reduce prejudices are planned. Kornberg hopes the effects of education will be positive."

"To use the relevant saying, 'Never again,'" said Kornberg.

Today: the '60s without the enthusiasm

By Vincent Civitillo
Managing Editor

"Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnny Ray, South Pacific, Walter Winchell, Joe DiMaggio, Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, Studebaker, Television, North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn Monroe."

This is the first verse of Billy Joel's 1989 hit "We Didn't Start the Fire," which was chosen as the theme for the Baccalaureate Honors Program's (BHP) student roundtable discussion.

The event, held on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. in the pub, focused on the meaning of the 1960s in today's society, according to senior Kate Rose, and had the pub as its theme for its lyrics about the heroes, atrocities and milestones of the last fifty years that bridged the gap between two truly different eras.

"As a generation, we're just not doing anything; we're just blindly following," said senior Kate Bateman. "I think one of the reasons the song was picked as the theme was because it talks about a lot of things that we didn't cause, but as a generation we're going to have to fight anyway."

Senior Eric Wright said one of the biggest problems with today's society is that it was crafted by the one of the '60s in the first place.

"For a generation that was so free spirited in the '60s, they created a society so rigid, people in it don't actually know how to relax," he said. "Everyone wonders why everyone turns to alcohol and drugs, but it's probably just over-stressed people trying to find a way to relax in a society that doesn't encourage it."

Also handed out were copies of lyrics to Jackson Browne's song, "Lives in the Balance," which Rose said was used because of its strength in showing the relevance to the two time periods.

"The song's lyrics about the Vietnam War show the ties-in of the '60s into our time because now we have the war with Iraq to compare to it," she said.

The discussion, according to Bateman, came directly out of the BHP class Politics and Philosophy of the 1960s, taught by Dr. Carol Nicholson and Dr. Frank Rusciano.

"A lot of the stuff we talked about in class was about Vietnam, and so as a point of reference we always came back to Sept. 11 and how the war in Iraq is becoming our Vietnam," she said. "We really need to get more involved now because that joint activities deepen the fight. I have one of my best friends [in Iraq] and I don't want to see him come home in a body bag, I want to see him come home so I can hug him again."