For the upcoming years, Rider students will be living in the residence halls, attending class and eating at Daly's, while also watching the University undergo significant transformations. So far, many of us may have seen Daly’s Dining Hall and the Moore Library renovated and the conversion of some lounges into residence pods. Currently, we are all watching as construction teams build a residence hall addition to Hill and Ziegler as well as the anticipated Student Recreation Center. Although these changes are significant and newsworthy, Rider students have been personally affected by a change made only a week ago—a new Rider website.

If any of you have gone to check your webmail or recite a story or just want to go to all the expensive programs? Walking into any one of the buildings, it quickly becomes apparent that this campus is technologically hooked up of the buildings, it quickly becomes apparent that this campus is technologically hooked up.

Although the website is a wonderful improvement, it is a drastic change for students who now do not have easy access to certain pages. On the main page of the new website, the majority of the headings pertain to prospective students and their families. ‘About Rider, Academics, Our Faculty, Admissions, Athletics, Student Life’ can be found on the left side of the screen, while the main page also offers driving directions and a virtual tour. There are familiar links for current students to utilize, such as the Campus Directory, Libraries and Webmail, but it is now more cumbersome to get to many of the other pages such as Blackboard, My Info and WebAdvisor. These pages are still available but not under a quick link away. Now, the quick links contain ‘Visit Rider, Rider at a Glance, Majors & Programs and Westminster Choir College.’ For those of you who may not be familiar with the website and technological programs such as Blackboard, are located under ‘Current Students’ and then ‘Technology.’ I am not denying that the University was in need of a new website. I think that the new website is modern, easy to navigate and unified with the ‘Think Rider’ theme.

A sense of Rider pride has also come with the re-vamping of the site as many of our friends or ourselves are featured on it, either in pictures or in quotes. However, the University has seemingly focused on attracting new students with the new site and has neglected to make the current students’ search for specific features easy. Although it is important to increase the enrollment of a university, it must not fail to accommodate its current students in the process.

**Campus Criticism:**

**Convenience is the missing link on campus computer labs**

Computers are crammed into almost every nook and cranny on the Lawrenceville campus. It’s almost as though there are two computerers to every student. The PC’s hard-drives are practically overflowing with hundreds of dollars worth of useful programs. Walking into any one of the buildings, it quickly becomes apparent that this campus is technologically hooked up.

Any Rider student can walk into the lab, juggle the mouse to flip the screen on—and stare at the desktop wallpaper! What, happened to all the expensive programs?

Instead of ‘Scan Diskette’ and ‘SAP’ something-or-other is useful for something, just not anything that a student would be interested in.

It might seem like nitpicking, but it is really that difficult for OIT to drag something like Microsoft Word, Netscape Navigator or Excel onto the desktop? I’d even settle for the Notepad program and Internet Explorer.

Instead, I am constantly being harangued by a little balloon asking me to rid myself of unused desktop icons, which amounts to everything on the desktop.

Now I’ve got a neat little folder containing the unused desktop icons, but where is it? On the desktop! All the icons are still there, they’re just neatly disorganized within an insidious folder known as the “Unused Icons,” which ironically is an unused icon itself.

And ‘How hard is it to click on the ‘Start’ button, go to programs, expand the program list and pick out your program, expand its entry and click it?’ asks an imaginary OIT guy with a contemptuous snort.

On deadline, it isn’t hard. It’s inconvenient.

We’ve all done it, put papers and assignments off until the last possible second. After all, it takes a little pressure to make diamonds, right?

In the desperate last moments as the window of opportunity to get a passing grade get your story published/graduate/damsel shut, you don’t have time to go through a five step process! I want one click! Steps are for alcoholics, people in denial and gamblers anonymous. I’m a student with a deadline and I want the computers (and OIT staff) I am paying for to be useful.

**This Week in History...**

**Oct. 8, 1871**  
The Great Chicago Fire, which burned 3.5 square miles of the city, begins.

**Oct. 9, 1701**  
Yale University is chartered.

**Oct. 11, 1962**  
 Pope John XXIII’s Ecumenical Council convenes.

**Oct. 12, 1492**  
 Christopher Columbus discovers the New World.

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blown out of proportion while other problems, like the Internet, are completely forgotten. I hear students complain all the time about how Rider focuses on minor events while bigger things are happening in the background. Now, I am not saying that a student losing their Internet connection on a regular basis is a huge problem, but it is definitely one that should not be ignored.

The first step Rider needs to do is contact students and explain why this is happening. Many students, myself included, do not know why this occurs, which can raise even more anger. Second, they need to figure out a way to get around this. An explanation will at least get students off their back and give them time to fix this aggravating problem.

Until then, I guess we will all have to grin and bear it and not become too irritated every time that little beep and small box appear on our screen. My suggestion would be to make all important conversations on the phone and take all online assignments to the library. It is the only sure way you can make a connection.

**First Impressions:**

Soap problems plague students

During the short four weeks that I have been a student at Rider, I have learned that each time I go to the bathroom I’d better bring a towel and soap because the presence of soap is a bit of a phantom.

Sometimes it’s there and other times it disappears. When I walk through campus and see the mounds of dirt, when I’m awakened by the sounds of man-labor every morning, I begin to think of how strange it all is.

With all of the massive construction and improvement meant to make life on campus better, why can’t the basic need of soap be filled? Soap is part of basic hygiene, so it’s rather ironic that as we’re creating new residence halls between Hill and Ziegler, there are still no soap or paper towel dispensers in the existing residence halls.

So there’s a rather large difference between rapid advancement and hygiene at Rider. When I use the bathrooms in the academic buildings, soap and paper towels are always available and people don’t even reside there. I assume that the new Student Recreation Center, with the three new basketball courts, a 3,600 square foot fitness center, new locker rooms, an aerobics room and a track, will also provide soap to its users. For those of us who live on campus, logic tells me it should be in the residence halls as well.

The lack of soap is not only perplexing, but also outrageous. Those of us who have put ourselves thousands of dollars in debt to live on campus, will also have to pay off those loans for years to come, at the very least deserve to have soap while we’re here. After we figure out our payment plan when we all graduate, we’ll be lucky if we can afford soap at all.

So the next time you run into someone new and you go to shake his or her hand, you may want to think twice.