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 is understandable that a resident advisor (RA) should not have to deal with people hanging 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 should take over registering guests after 11 p.m. Students cannot 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 have been 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.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion Editor.

Letters to the Editor: The Rider-News welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the campus community. Letters must be typed and include the name, address, phone number and signature of the author for verification. Send to The Rider-News via e-mail ( ridernews@rider.edu ), campus mail or hand deliver to Centennial House. All letters must be received by midnight the Monday preceding publication. The Rider News reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

Quote of the Week:

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

— Charles M. Schulz