The Concerned Student: Rider’s financial woes

I noticed a new right of passage for Rider students: waiting in the Bursar’s office. I discovered this at the beginning of the semester as I waited, appropriately enough, for a Bursar.

There’s usually a small but embarrassing cat- 
ylist that sends people on a trek to the Bursar’s; most students who wind up in that office are there because someone, somewhere, messed up. My latest trip was prompted when my Bronc Bucks stopped working and I had no idea why.

Theoretically, Rider has to have minimal problems when it comes to processing student financial information. That’s a luxury we should have, considering the small size of our student body. I am, therefore, astounded that most of my friends have had financial issues at least once during their Rider careers.

Unfortunately, Rider has a tendency to wait until the semester has already begun to inform students when something is amiss with their account, that is if it chooses to tell them at all. If I had not tried to use my Bronc Bucks, for example, I would not have known I had a financial problem. The University would have continued to keep me uninformed until I lost access to my residence hall and Dalby’s.

This is a rather juvenile method for a decidedly respected university.

Since I caught my problem early, I got off relatively easy, unlike a friend of mine. She spent last semester abroad, is a senior in good standing, works on campus, and she didn’t have financial aid until the semester’s second week. At first, Rider assured her she would be financially cleared upon her return to the United States. As the semester progressed, Rider changed its story and denied her financial aid. My friend’s case demonstrates how Rider’s financial department still lacks an effective method of communicating with students. Sending students rude letters—or not even saying anything—does not constitute as “effective.” Some students have even missed the first few weeks of classes because they didn’t know they owed outstanding balances.

Perhaps the next university project could examine the inner-workings of Rider’s financial system. The financial department’s inadequacies lead back to the campus-wide question of where our 20 grand go to—it is truly frightening that Rider cannot handle something like basic money management.

A Feminine Perspective:

Trying to avoid gas station blues

I spent an hour watching CNN the other night. JetBlue flight 292 circled a Los Angeles airport trying to burn off as much gas as possible to perform an emergency landing on a malfunctioning plane. As I watched them dump fuel over the Pacific Ocean, I cringed in my seat and forced my eyes shut. I heard familiar voices in the background saying “Hurricane Rita... category 5... Texas” and how there was a tornado out in one of those western states. The first thing that came to my mind was GAS! No less than five minutes later, a discussion developed as warnings about another rise in gas prices, falsely faulted by natural disasters, spilled out of the reporters and “experts.”

I soon found myself racing to the nearest gas station to fill my tank for the most reasonable price around, since word had it that gas would be $71 a barrel in a few hours. Just a week ago I was refusing to leave the house if gas prices rise over $2.00 for gas and now I am racing down the block to pay $2.83.

It wasn’t that long ago when $15 would satisfy my entire gas tank and I’d be set for a week. Now it brings me to tears when I’m shelling out $30 twice a week whenever it’s time to fill up again. I’m being completely ripped off with the worst quality of petroleum ever! I drive the same amount of miles each week and yet the gas seems to be evaporating or burning twice as fast.

It seems the only thing we can do to survive is to cut out the expenses that we just don’t need. If you don’t need anything, don’t waste gas going to the mall. Additionally, everyone should seriously consider purchasing a gas cap lock if their vehicles aren’t already equipped with one because the days of stealing gas are sure to return. But for everyone who’s like me, I don’t want a truck on my driving g. I think doing some things to take care of your automobiles so you can try and get some better gas mileage.

Changing the oil filter every 5,000 miles, performing oil changes on time, making sure the tires are properly inflated and doing some extra work such as cleaning out the cars and cleaning out the cars. However, this is truly frightening that Rider cannot handle something like basic money management.

The World Observer:

A Standing Ovation

It is truly the end of an era in television. In a little more than a year, the faces of network news have changed. Tom Brokaw entered retirement last December after 21 years at the helm of NBC’s Nightly News. Dan Rather departed from CBS Evening News after a 24-year run in March. The saddest of all these goodbyes was that of Peter Jennings, the veteran anchor of ABC’s World News Tonight, in early August, after his courageous battle with lung cancer.

In times of tragedy, despair and jubilation, these three men were covering the stories. More importantly, it did not matter where the story was; each of these extraordinary journalists circled the globe to be there. John F. Kennedy’s assassination, the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, the Persian Gulf War, September 11 and the War with Afghanistan and Iraq are some of the turning points in history that Brokaw, Rather and Jennings brought to our television screens every evening.

These three journalists reported some of the hottest and highly controversial presidential elections of our time, from the days of Ronald Reagan to George H.W. Bush to Bill Clinton to the contested first election of George W. Bush in 2000.

In reference to Jennings’ work ethic and compassion, Barbara Walters explained, “he always appeared so confident and composed, and certainly during September 11, I think that reassured this whole country.” Peter was on the air for 60 hours.

Rather’s final broadcast demonstrated his passion and conviction, stating, “To our soldiers in dangerous places. To those who have endured the tsunami and to all who have suffered natural disasters, and who must find the will to rebuild. To the oppressed and to those whose lot it is to struggle, in financial hardship or in failing health. To my fellow journalists in places where reporting the truth means risking all. And to each of you. ‘Courage.’”

They are set apart from other journalists because these men had the stories written on their faces. In a business where anchors read directly from a Teleprompter because they are trained to remove their emotions from their jobs, there is something to be said when the reporter fights back tears. It demonstrates compassion for the people impacted by the stories. Rather once recalled nearly breaking down after learning of John F. Kennedy’s death and having to go to air. He reflected, “when you’re there, up close and personal, as we say, in television, it’s about all you can do to hold yourself together while it’s happening.”

Nowadays, much of the new talent on air is lacking experience. More specifically, I remember watching Pope John Paul II’s funeral and feeling the void left by the departure of these top-notch journalists. The coverage of this historical event was placed on a slew of young up-and-coming reporters. At times, the reporters covering the funeral would talk endlessly, taking away from the situation itself and the emotional impact it left on the world. What I miss the most about watching Brokaw, Rather and Jennings is how they knew when to interject their own thoughts and when to let images speak.

This new adjustment will take some getting used to. After all, Brokaw, Rather and Jennings, widely considered to be three of the hardest working journalists in the industry, brought the world to television screens all over the country for more than a quarter of a century. Jennings summed up this trio’s friendship in a tribute to Brokaw on his last broadcast, remarking, “friends we are, but compete we do.”

In competition is over, but the lasting memories, passions and charisma of Brokaw, Rather and Jennings will not be forgotten. In his remarks this past weekend at the Emmy’s, Brokaw emphatically stated, “You know, despite the occasional differences that the three of us may have had, Dan, Peter and I had a common commitment to the importance of serious journalism because that’s what the American people expected, no less than that.”

It was during the Emmy’s where, Brokaw, Rather, and the late Jennings were honored with the standing ovation they deserved. That is the very least we can do for the best journalists of our time.