

Think about it: The downsides of collegiate athletics

Rider, like other schools, has athletic teams. They compete with other schools' teams. Sometimes Rider wins, sometimes it loses. Games are covered in this newspaper. Occasionally, I'll read the sports section and be proud when we beat a rival school.

One time I wondered—why should I be proud? How do I benefit from their skill? And why should they be given scholarships for throwing or catching a ball? I guess I'm just wrecking the fun, but we need to look into this "time-honored" tradition of athletic excellence.

Two years ago, Rider spent \$121,076 on recruiting. Operating expenses include uniforms, transportation, equipment and lodging, among other costs that added up to the \$872,535 bill. Additionally, financial aid for student athletes was over \$2.5 million. Google "Equity in Athletic Disclosure Act" and search for Rider to see how misleading this University's posted statistics on actual revenue are for that year. It's safe to say we're not exactly a cash cow when it comes to athletics.

Pride is the assumed justification. But if a man robs you and goes on to win a Nobel Prize, would you be proud? Athletic scholarships may not extend to the extreme of robbery, but the principle is the same. You pay more tuition. This is money you didn't necessarily have to lose. Yes, the less wealthy scholar deserves the same shot at success that his rich peer has, but tuition isn't

spent on the next Allen Ginsberg or Steven Hawking. Most of your educational expenditure assures that an aspiring Kobe Bryant can play.

Rider emphasizes the scholarship of its athletes. The University's corporate sponsorship brochure tells us that "Rider student athletes typically boast a higher overall GPA than the general student body." But let's look at some other issues with our scholar athletes. They're put through a program called Arete, which is Greek for "a balanced striving for excellence." The Student Transitional Education Program (STEP) provides either optional or mandatory student tutoring. STEP has become large enough to warrant its own coordinator. There's also the Team Mentor program, pairing a member of the faculty with a team. It sounds like when it comes to student athletics, the mantra is not "sink or swim," but "sink or we'll buy you as many floats as you need."

All the hallmarks of athletics, like teamwork, effort and dedication can be learned in the Yvonne Theater, the J-Lab, the Choir Room and the Art Studio. Sports are a costly diversion. Being an uncoordinated mortal, I sometimes wonder when this diversion became so important that it made academic distinctions such a distinction.



JP
Krahel

Senior Sense: Senior year is not one big party

I just can't believe I'm here again so soon. It seems like only a weekend ago I had to start contemplating my future. Everyone put a huge amount of pressure on all of us high school seniors who were being flung into the "real world." We were told that choosing the right college was important and which factors to consider. Someone even said to literally go to the campus of the schools we were planning on attending, sit on a bench for about half an hour and then determine whether or not it "feels right." Now, four years later, I feel like I have to make the same decision all over again. Regardless of how I, or any senior, ended up at Rider, this time there are even more options to consider, and even more is at stake.

I'm sure the two phrases that will cause a good amount of seniors to drop into the fetal position are "GREs" and "Graduate School." I know I speak for many when I say I'm scared to death of being a senior and the implications it has on the year that's waiting for me.

On one hand, I should be happy. I have a lot of options before me, but at the same time, that thought is still pretty scary because of all of the pressure that comes with it. We seniors have to make the choice of whether or not to go to graduate school at all, whether to wait, whether to go to school part-time and work full-time, whether to go to school full-time and work part-time or whether to just sit there wondering where all the years of planning went. Once we make an initial decision, we must then look at

our options from there. Where do we want to work? Or, if we go travel the graduate school trail, where do we want to go?

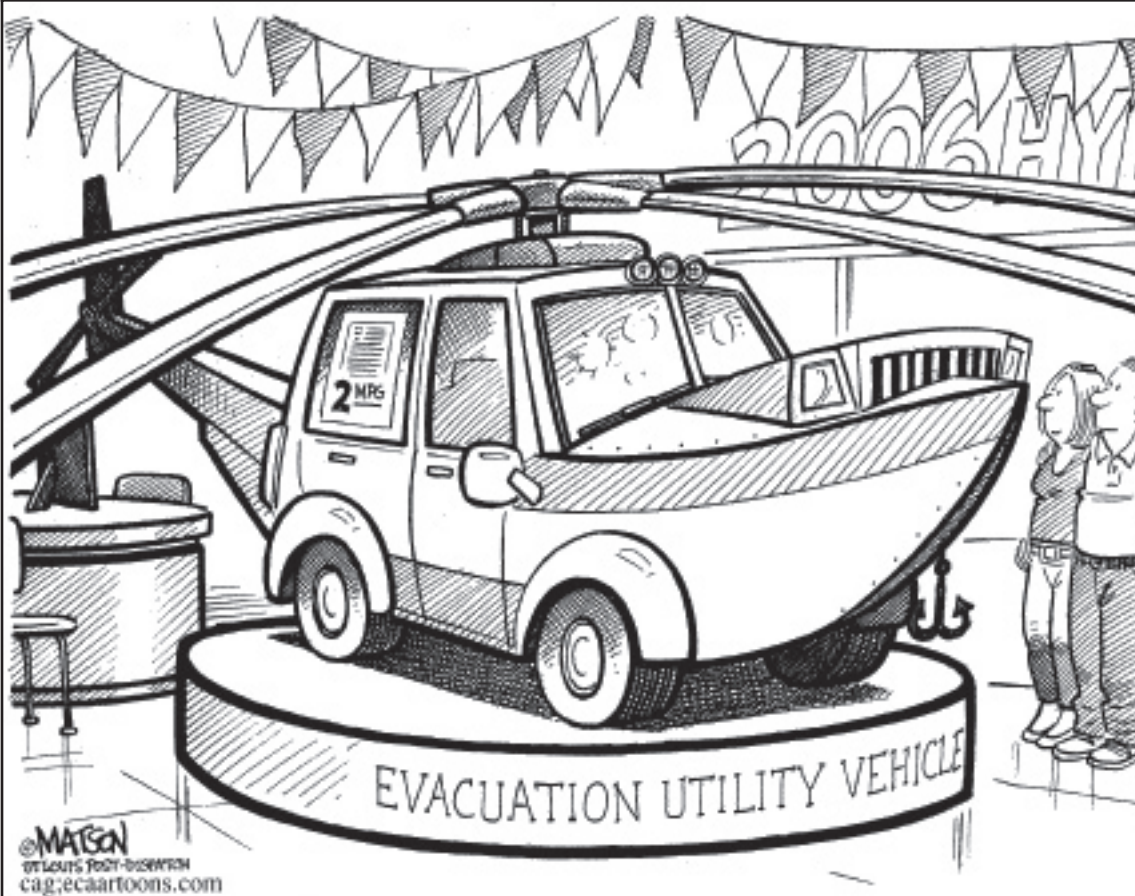
There are plenty of jobs out there for me that I would love to try, though they might not be my dream careers. The problem is that I feel as though there's still so much more out there for me to learn, which is why I don't want to pursue a career yet. I, like plenty of other seniors, want to go to graduate school full-time. Everyone is different and will have to decide whether or not they can handle working full-time while going to school at the same time, or if they trust themselves to come back to school after a few years working full time in a career. For me, I can't picture myself coming back to school once I'm working.

I am a big fan of having stability in my life. For the past six years, I have attended school while working. I've been at the same job since April of 2002. I know that going to graduate school or finding a real job means leaving all of that behind. I am the worst decision maker so I don't know how to make this decision! There are just too many factors to consider, such as the lack of money, the need for financial aid, and locations of desired graduate schools. I'm afraid that fate will make my decision for me and I won't have any say. But then again, that's sort of how I got here.

So, OK Fate. All of us seniors are in your hands now, so please be kind.



Jodi
Cantor



'HOME'

FROM PAGE 10

relieved and so glad for modern technology. My mom was safely on the way to a third daughter's

house. It was then I decided that technology was oppressive only when it wasn't working. There's nothing wrong with being able to find someone at a moment's notice. Disappearing isn't such a great option either.

My family is fine. My mom

is back home and back to work, though fallen trees destroyed her clinic. I've talked to my friends; most lost their houses, but they didn't lose their lives. Every one of them is planning on returning to New Orleans. I'm glad they want to rebuild,

but I'm afraid our city will never be the same. I watched a life I love and miss become merely a memory. When I call home now, I usually get a person, but more than once in the last week I've still heard *all circuits are busy; please try your*

call later. I'll keep trying.

Editor's note: Rebecca Basham, assistant professor of English, was raised in New Orleans.

The Rider News 5th Anniversary Year

CLIPPINGS FROM RIDER HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 28, 1959

To avoid being called a "party school," fraternities and sororities are limited to having two parties every semester.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1985

Rider's P.O. Box is dropped for a new mailing address.

OCTOBER 1, 1965

A survey shows 150 gallons of Coca-Cola are consumed, per week, on campus.