Editorial:
Pay a little to get a lot in return

A mong a gaggle of other adventures, you can see a dif-
ferent movie every weekend, attend a concert, enjoy an
monthly Brone Buffets, spend a few evenings at the Barr
Luedeke Center (BLC) Pub and help financially contribute to
the 50-some organizations that offer all of these entertainment
opportunities and more to the student body at Rider, all for the
fee of $125 every semester. Seeing as movie tickets are
quickly becoming almost as expensive as some concert tickets
and eating is a costly habit, $125 sounds like a bargain when you
consider all that it offers over the course of one semester.

The Student Activities Fee (SAF) is the once-a-semester flat
fee every student pays so that the University doesn’t have to draw
from our already-costly tuition payments. Paying this decided-
ly minimal extra fee ensures that the University can continue to
offer us the things that help make college more than just four
additional years of classes and meetings and deadlines. The SAF
also goes to provide for services that both entertain and protect
Rider’s student body, such as funding club sports and paying for
security at campus events.

Some may have noticed that we’re paying $25 more toward
the activity fee than we were last year. In reality, this isn’t
going to break anyone’s bank; when it all adds up after every
student shuffles out the extra few dollars, though, it makes for a
comfortable increase in the SAF. Ultimately, that means that
there are more opportunities for us to enjoy activities spon-
sored by the Student Government Association, the Residence
Hall Association, the Student Entertainment Council and the
pluribus of groups that directly benefit from the SAF; as they’re
among the more than 50 other organizations that are funded by
the activities fee.

The SAF, being a considerably large pool of money that
needs to be watched over by a group of responsible individuals,
is handled by the Finance Board. While the student-run Finance
Board does, indeed, allocate the SAF’s funds, that is not its sole
function as an organization. This year the Finance Board has
set out to emphasize that fact by making it a priority to educate
the Rider student body on what the SAF is and what the
Finance Board does to benefit the University and the students
who are paying to attend it.

Not happy with how the Finance Board members are
spending your $125 slice of the SAF pie? Then go tell them
about it! The weekly meetings, held every Wednesday at 4:30
p.m. in the BLC’s Multicultural Room, are open to the campus
students. The Finance Board does to benefit the University and the students
who are paying to attend it.

Without college athletics, where would all
the madness be on campus during March? What
would we do on New Year’s Day without the
Rose Bowl? Most of all, what will colleges have
left to bring their students together like no phe-
onomenon has done before? Collegiate athletics have been a stepping
stone for many famous athletes. Michael Jordan, Peyton Manning and Bill Russell are only a
few of the many who began to create their legacies while playing at the college level. College athlet-
ics separate the casual athlete from those who won’t settle for being merely an average par-
ticipant in his or her respective sport. It is the
competitive nature of collegiate sports that helps
make this distinction.

Sports at the college level allow the student
body to come together in ways few other events
can, both in the literal and emotional senses. College athletics help to fill schools with pride
and spirit as they root for their teams. Most of
all, it gives bragging rights to both a school and its
team, as winners of the Bowl Championship Series and March Madness are idolized until the
game returns the following year.

College-level games create an energetic envi-
ronment where school spirit is at its best. The
most enthusiastic fans have their gums jump-
ning with excitement from the tip-off until the Final
buzzer. Football games have turned tailgating for schools such as the
University of Southern California, Michigan and Ohio State into a favorite
college pastime.

Most importantly though, college athletics help to develop the skills that tomorrow’s lead-
ers need. They give athletes the opportunity to
perform in front of huge audiences and make
decisions on-the-go. The rigorous schedule of
student athletes teaches them to manage their
time and ignore distractions such as drinking
and partying. Teammates become an athlete’s
family while they work together to accomplish
one goal: winning the championship.

Like everything else though, college athletics are not flawless. Problems such as drug use
and the amount of pressure athletes endure have been causes for concern in recent years. Steroids have
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