In Sept. 30th's issue of The Rider News, there was an article that stirred up a lot of conversation among Rider’s athlete community—not because it was thought-provoking or even interesting, but rather because of the ignorance and inaccuracies within the article.

The article questions granting scholarships to athletes. Being a student athlete is more than just playing in games, surely since non-athlete legatee athletics programs are the closest an athlete can get to being a professional without actually being one.

The article fails to recognize the countless hours that athletes put in, not only on the playing field, but also in the weight room and the classroom. The time required to be and athlete doesn’t allow them to have side jobs, so these athletes are receiving scholarships in compensation for their time and talent. Also, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) pays for a certain amount of scholarships per Division I team. This means that the general student population at Rider isn’t paying for athletes’ scholarships out of its own pocket.

It was stated that Rider’s athletes are allotted advantages that other students are not, such as Atene. Atene is required by the NCAA. The article also makes reference to student running, a service that is available to any Rider student.

It is false to say that Rider spends too much money on athletics. There are teams on this campus who do much of their own fund-raising to keep their teams going. Without this extra effort, there would not be enough money in the budgets for trips to Florida, participation in swim meets or a greater number of students. There wouldn’t be enough money to provide the athletes with equipment and uniforms. The athletes’ fund-raisers are time they spend. Trying to fit their team and provide them with the best chance possible to compete and win championships. This brings the school exposure, which is something that Rider athletics does more than any other program on campus. Several recent studies have shown that a school’s positive athletic performance can result in an enrollment increase and alumni donations, creating more revenue for the school.

Sports gives the students a sense of pride. Athletic events allow students and alumni to connect through something tangible and support the same cause. These events not only connect many different people, but also give the student body something to do during the week or on the weekends. Athletics is also the greatest form of reality TV because you never know what is going to happen, and not too many other things can galvanize a campus like an athletic event.

— Nichole D. Mears
Junior Softball Player

Letter to the Editor:

In defense of athletes

Quote of the Week

“Nothing is more conducive to peace of mind than not having any opinion at all.”

— G.C. Lichtenberg

The World Observer:
The beginning for John Roberts

After an intense confirmation process and additional public scrutiny, John Roberts has taken the oath to become the 176th Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. A bitter partisan political showdown and gridlock of Congress were thwarted; in fact, the confirmation process was rather swift.

Democrats came out with a stern early warning to Republicans that any stalling tactics such as a filibustering would not be tolerated and would be met with a filibuster of their own. Critics were inundated with political ads that called for the Senate to give Roberts “a fair up or down vote.” Democrats didn’t back down, scrutinizing Roberts’ previous experiences.

“Hearings for a Supreme Court nominee should not have a political tilt for either Republicans or Democrats. They should, in substantive fact and in perception, be for all Americans,” said Senator and judicial committee chairman Arlen Specter.

Roberts comes to the Supreme Court with extraordinary academic and personal success. He graduated magna cum laude in 1979 from Harvard Law School, going on to serve as clerk for the late William Rehnquist and Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. Reagan. President Bush capitalized on Roberts’ significant accomplishments and experiences to tout he had found the right pick.

“As Judge Roberts prepares to lead the judicial branch of government, all Americans can be confident that the 176th Chief Justice of the United States will be prudent in exercising judicial power, firm in defending judicial independence, and above all, a faithful guardian of the Constitution,” said Roberts.

Roberts can soon enjoy the sweet accolades of victory, as the term ahead promises to be rife with critical and controversial cases coming before the court, and possible landmark decisions imminent. Cases regarding assisted suicide and abortion are among some of the cases pending the docket of the Supreme Court.

“I come before this committee with no agenda, no platform. I will approach each case with an open mind,” assured Roberts.

Above all, Roberts is assured of serving a long tenure. Regardless if one is a Democrat, Republican, Independent or unaffiliated, the decisions of the Supreme Court will have a ripple effect on every citizen.

Campus Forum:
Rider’s TV station needs more student workers, variety

Nearly every bored student with a television in his or her dorm room has practiced the art of channel surfing. When flipping through stations for a prolonged period of time, the channel surfer in question will eventually get to the Rider University Network (RUN). Like the University’s radio station, WURC, and The Rider News, RUN is an on-campus medium outlet both produced and used by students. It is currently channel 20 on the University’s television lineup.

Among students, a communications major, I appreciate the hard work and sacrifice that goes into creating a television program. Just like The Rider News, RUN is completely staffed and produced by students. This is to be a direct result of the control over by students’ hands, with the help of advisers. There is a lot of work to be done and there are many opportunities for students to get in the studio.

However, as a member of the channel-surfing student audience, I feel as if RUN isn’t achieving its potential. I don’t mean it can’t compete with the other 70 channels that the University supplies, but that it just could be better. After all, it is a college production; the fact that it is made by college students is my reason to watch, as I want to see the production to which my colleagues are so dedicated.

One of those colleagues is the host of On the Issues, Nichole Has Ballasy. In addition to his own show, Ballasy has had three specials on the network this semester and is attempting to bring back the aforementioned shows, there are programs like Throw Down, Rider Rock Vibe and The News At Rider. I understand putting together a program each week takes a great deal of hard work, time and dedication from a production crew; however, the blame for the lack of shows doesn’t go to the television network advisers, student journalists or the University itself.

The blame goes to students who have an interest in television production but don’t act upon it. Yes, I realize it isn’t easy to get your own program; you can’t just walk in and expect to be taping the next day. But there doesn’t seem to be enough students with the initiatives to do it.

With resources at students’ fingertips, there should be more than five programs on the channel. The television studio is located in the Fine Arts building, where communication students have most of their classes. It isn’t out of the way or an arbitrary location on campus. The communications professors who are all involved with the TV studio, including Professor Shawn Kildea and Dr. Barry Janes, are always approachable and eager to help the students get some experience.

B e s i d e s , walking out of Rider with a diploma in a television or journalism track alone won’t get you a job. Extracurricular activities and internships are required on that resume of yours as well.

I would personally like to congratulate the student television journalists and others involved with the network for having the courage, initiative and dedication to help create something.

I would also like to personally challenge any student, not just communication majors, to give it a shot and try to get involved. Maybe then if there were more shows, the repeats wouldn’t seem so bad.