

Morality Matters: iPods are for music, not cheating

When my parents asked me what I wanted for Christmas this year, I hardly hesitated before telling them I wanted an iPod. Pencil-thin and weighing only 1.5 ounces, the new iPod nano holds up to 1,000 songs and 25,000 photos. Its array of services also allows you to keep an address book, catch up on reading with audio books and listen to radio shows with a service called Podcast.

However, with new technology comes new methods of misuse. The Nano's ability to store notes recently found a sinister use at Rider. Some students ask their professors if they can listen to their iPods during exams to help them concentrate, but then use them to view class notes they have stored. Professors, thinking that iPods only hold music, allow them this privilege, thus unknowingly condoning cheating. Clearly, the academic dishonesty that is enabled by the new iPod is a concern that faculty and administrators are going to have to start taking into consideration.

Students who cheat disgrace themselves. College is supposed to be about bettering oneself — about getting an education that will expand one's mind. The people who go here are supposed to want to work hard, proving their integrity as individuals. Cheating is a surefire way to disprove all of these assumptions. It does nothing but show others that you simply don't care.

The University is disgraced when its students cheat. Rider prides itself on its graduate success rate. How would corporations react if they knew that applicants from this university lied on their résumés? Basically, that's what cheating

is: a false representation of oneself and one's abilities.

Cheating is also disrespectful to professors. I don't see how students can walk up to an instructor and get permission to "listen to music," knowing full well that they are going to use their iPod to cheat. It usurps the authority of the teachers by telling them that their time and efforts were wasted in the attempt to impart knowledge.

According to Rider's student handbook, *The Source*, students who are guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to a number of penalties. For smaller cases of dishonesty, students can be required to resubmit coursework or have their grade lowered accordingly. For more severe cases, students may have an "F" put on their permanent academic record or may be suspended or dismissed from the University with the label, "dismissed for academic dishonesty" placed on their transcript.

To those who cannot survive without cheating, think about how your actions could affect you, your school and your future. Think more about how your grades end up being lies and how those lies overshadow students who really do the work. Hundreds of other students, including myself, do not work hard so that others can cheat and do just as well. Cheating in the real world has big consequences, so save yourself the time and the trouble, and do your work honestly.



Erin Ludwig

The Film Buff:

Upcoming movie lacks credibility

I consider myself a rather diverse movie fan. I enjoy everything from strange cult films to mainstream movies, and I skim movie sites to find what I can look forward to seeing. This is how I came across something that made me cringe: "Sylvester Stallone to finally get his pugilistic comeback in Rocky VI."

Two thoughts came to mind. The first was, "What!?" The second was, "This has to be a joke." I read the article, guessing it would simply state that Stallone would be writing and/or directing. My hopes were dashed when I found that he would be starring in the film. I assumed he's not going to fight since Rocky Balboa is on the verge of dying because of boxing. Wrong again — he's boxing. At least he's not going to fight a younger wrestler in his prime... oh, wait. He is.

Sylvester Stallone was never the actor of our times. He made his mark as an action hero we always root for, and the *Rocky* series exemplifies that. Still, there is no way this movie is justified. The current story line has Rocky fighting small-time matches to make some money, when the current young champion gives him a title shot. That just won't work, since Stallone is way past his prime to make it believable.

I would have preferred the other working story lines. The first had Rocky doing a char-

ity rematch with the almost-as-elderly Mr. T, returning as Clubber Lang. That is full of possibilities. Just think about portraying Mr. T in the vein of George Forman, shelling out grills and naming all of his children after him. Sure, the comedy may be unwanted, but it works.

The other story line saw Rocky training his son, Rocky, Jr., for his first Golden Gloves tournament. This is more of the emotional tale that the first film presented. It would also allow the series to have new life while respecting the past. If Stallone would pass the torch, the series could possibly go on. These stories are plausible, interesting, and just plain easier to get done.

The fact is that Stallone wants to reinvigorate his career somehow, but this is not the way to do it. He should stick to producing, writing and directing. Take a look at *The Contender* — Stallone is not the focus, but it's entertaining that he's there nonetheless. Frankly, he should have let the Rocky character go. Next thing you know, they'll be making *Rambo IV*... oh, what? They already are? Go figure.



Nick Reigota

'THOMPSON' FROM PAGE 8

pro-family group American National Institute on Media and the Family, said the institution distanced itself from Thompson. This decision came from the "use of our name without our permission" and because Thompson's tactics

"included personally attacking individuals for whom I have a great deal of respect."

It's safe to assume Thompson might consider changing his methods to gain the support of the institution. If a group that shares Thompson's goal won't support him, he's doing something wrong; unfortunately, it doesn't seem like he plans on backing down any time soon.

The Rider News 5th Anniversary Year

CLIPPINGS FROM RIDER HISTORY

ON THE AIR

Oct. 31, 1960 — The Campus Radio Club airs its first broadcast on the "new campus." The show consists of professors' lectures, discussions, debates and a variety of music.

EDUCATION, NOT INEBRIATION

Nov. 5, 1976 — Faculty and administrative members threaten to ban weeknight parties on campus. The staff feels that students' priorities are out of order and that nightly parties are ruining the academic climate.

Letter to the Editor:

Debt after graduation

Oh yes, a college education is difficult to finance and can leave a graduate with a heaping mound of debt after the goofy hats and tassels are put away for safekeeping. However, post-grad circumstances, for some, can be even more daunting.

Picture this: a student, let's call him Jimmy, spends four years in college, does very well, comes out of it with a degree and a few loans to pay off. That's fine. Then Jimmy starts looking for a job... and looking... and looking. There's no job to be found. The six months are up, those loan bills start coming and Jimmy is no longer a student. Now he's just another citizen with a Social Security number and bills to pay, but no job.

So, here are the choices poor Jimmy faces. He could go back to school, stave off those loan payments and become a full-time student again — but there's a catch. If he needed a loan to pay for undergraduate education, it would be logical to think that Jimmy must take out another loan to afford graduate school or continuing studies courses. It's just more to dish out later on. By the way, Jimmy lost his health insurance, since he was only covered under his parents' plan as long as he remained a student.

On the other hand, Jimmy could get a part-time job either stocking shelves or cutting down trees just to keep his head above water, but how long does he stay in that place? What if no one in his field is hiring? What if he ends up taking that job full-time, just so he can have health insurance again? Jimmy may never get to where he was headed on graduation day. Oh yeah, then he has to try to find a place to live with no credit and barely any financial history to speak of. Have fun, Jimbo!

This is a depressing hypothetical situation, I know, and I'm sure it isn't news to many people that a degree is not a guarantee for a job after college. Still, it is important to realize and prepare oneself for the grim realities that one could face upon graduating and being cast out into the cold, lonely world. For many, college is an unnaturally extended adolescence. It's a jarring thing to have to pretend to be an adult all of a sudden.

Think about things ahead of time and have contingency plans, because, believe me, very few people have everything turn out just the way they planned. Improvisation is necessary.

— Dave Maccar
Class of 2005

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity."

— Albert Einstein

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