

## Lacey Logic: Pop stars ruin Super Bowl halftime show

I will be the first to admit that I have never watched the Super Bowl. I know nothing about football. But as a child I went to a Super Bowl party with my family almost every year. Usually I would just enjoy the food and entertain myself until halftime, which was the only part of the program that I ever had any interest in watching. My back was facing the TV for the first half of the game this past Sunday but I did manage to catch the halftime show, as usual, and was really sickened by what I saw during Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson's performance.

What is more disturbing is that it really was not all that surprising. That is just how those people behave nowadays. It seems as though a handful of pop artists are competing in a 'who can be the most sexually shocking' contest. What all of them fail to realize is that they are role models to an audience that falls

mostly between the ages of eight and 16-years-old. Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera and most recently Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson are among the many that are guilty of this confusion.

You can guess what the two were probably thinking -- that they would shock everybody, make the performance more memorable and ensure headlines and more publicity. Neither probably thought about their young fans that idolize them and want to grow up and be just like them. It is no wonder that children today are becoming sexually active at progressively younger ages. Look at their heroes. They have sex written all over them.

Many argue that the fault lies with parents, who are expected to shield their children from certain media. That used to be the case but it seems no longer possible to accomplish such a feat. Vulgarity has seeped

down from adult television to shows and channels that are not unlikely to be viewed by children. It is a sad time in American pop-culture when parents need to rethink letting their children watch the Super Bowl.

Any ounce of respect that I may have had for Timberlake and Jackson is now definitely extinguished.

They were not acting responsibly. It is unlikely that either of them will ever realize the impact of their behavior. And why should they? In the end, if their reputations are at all damaged by this event, they can always switch to politics and run for governors.



Lacey Korevec

## Letter To The Editor: Student attendance at Sovereign Bank Arena disappoints

As a long time Rider alumnus and an ardent supporter of Bronc basketball, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students for their attendance at the Alumni Gym games; they have made this facility one of the most formidable home courts in college basketball. On the other hand, I must express my utmost disappointment with student attendance at our games at the SBA in Trenton.

On Wednesday night, for example, against UMass, there were more alumni in attendance than students. If you take

away the cheerleaders, the dance team and the band, the amount of students on hand was really discouraging.

Due to many circumstances, such as the lack of a first class campus arena and the pressures of recruiting players into our program, the use of SBA is a necessary evil. The team rarely wins there and, I believe, the reason for its performance is the lack of vocal support and resultant electricity that could help make this facility into a second home court.

At present, it remains a vast mau-

soleum with no atmosphere. I imagine it is very difficult for our players to get charged up when playing to thousands of empty green seats.

However, all of us, alumni and students both, can change that in a quick order. Our fine team, under coach Don Harnum, has two vital upcoming games at SBA against Fairfield on Wednesday Feb. 11 and against Manhattan on Thursday Feb. 26. Let's all get together and come out in full support of the team on both of those evenings. After all, the arena is only 15 minutes from

Rider and free tickets and transportation are provided by the University.

This team can really do something special this year, I am convinced of that. But it needs your full, dedicated support if it is to realize its maximum potential. I sincerely hope to see a full complement of our students on both Wednesday Feb. 11 and Thursday Feb. 26.

Sincerely,  
Joe Casarella, Class of '55

## Living With Passion: Change yourself, change the world

Mankind is amazing. In the past hundreds of years mankind has created machines to take people up to the heavens and written incredible literature describing those flights. It has discovered, uncovered and recovered artifacts of an ancient time and has recreated history. It has invented electricity, improved means of agricultural production and cured diseases.

It has overcome nature or, at least, has learned to predict its fury and clean up after its wrath.

Yet humans still subject themselves to depression, jealousy and abuse as well as other things. And on top of these things they ask why.

Now for the \$64,000 question: How can you change the world?

The answer is to change yourself.

Gandhi said "Be the change you

want to see in the world." Few truer words have ever been uttered. Changing the world does not sound any easier than it actually is. But change is sparked at the smallest unit and that, of course, is the individual.

Wars are fought and the lives lost are forgotten. Children and their parents go hungry and some do nothing. Store clerks are rude and such a minor annoyance can stick with you all day long.

When individuals begin to discover their inherent worth they will begin to recognize that of others. The latter truly cannot be uncovered without the former and individual discovery cannot begin without desire.

On the most basic level, every individual must recognize the humanness of the other. We all have similar flaws,

similar emotions and similar experiences, whether rich, powerful, beautiful, urban, seemingly undesirable, average or [insert your own characteristic here].

People fall in love; some have their hearts broken. The top shelf is often hard to reach and a snow-covered car is a nuisance. But each person can choose to lend an ear or a hand in so many of these situations. A great technique is to put yourself in the other person's shoes and, in doing so, you can create a common bond of the human experience. We are all equal because we are not all the same.

One cannot complain of a disinterested teacher if he is a disinterested student. One cannot expect a caring significant other if he himself is not one. Enthusiasm is inspiring and inspiration is contagious. One thought can

trigger many more and collaboration can lead to great things.

Violence promotes violence, but consideration promotes consideration. In short, mankind

is incredible and the human race is made up of individuals. The greater the individuals that make up the race are, the better the race can be.

Don't judge your own actions by the lowest common denominator but by the highest personal ideal.



Alexandra Alazio

## Lending a Hand: Don't label strong women

The assertive woman: she is tough and should not be confused with a b----. She is demanding and determined and has high standards. So what is wrong with that?

Why is it that a strong opinion and calling it as seen is often misconstrued for an attitude problem? Men call it like it is all the time. They can be blunt, they can be crude and they can use any type of language they want. However, if a woman does the same things she is sometimes slapped with a label that is hard to shake. She might as well be wearing a scarlet B on her shirt.

It is not just men slapping on these labels either. Women can be more critical of other women than any man might be. So ladies, please consider the fact that there is no need to be this critical of other women. If you don't want to be called a b---- then don't call other girls one either.

Men may label women, but other women can be much worse in labeling each other. Be careful because

language usage comes with a direct connotation.

So what is the balance between being assertive, having a strong personality or attitude and being a witch with a B? Some may disagree, but for me there is a very distinct difference. It seems to me that a woman knows when she is being a b----. There is a line between making your point and being heard and making your point to the detriment of others.

However, it does seem to me that if someone does not like what a strong and opinionated woman has to say she is more likely to get the label. Call her what she is. Call her headstrong, stubborn and impossible. Point out your differences in opinion, but don't label her because of her beliefs and how strongly she believes in them.

Men don't have a label slapped on them for how passionately they argue their point. There is no derogatory term specifically set aside for them when they have a strong opinion. In fact men are expected to have strong opinions. They are expected to assert

themselves. If they do not then they are considered pansies.

The double stereotype is not rational or fair. So consider the irrationality the next time someone disagrees with you and you are ready to call her the B word or him a wuss.

If a woman is making her point by putting others down and insulting their points of view, then that in my book is not being assertive. I consider that something else.

So women who are strong and opinionated, don't be afraid to speak your mind and call things as you see them. However, recognize the fact that there is a way to get your point across without being spiteful and degrading to others.



Melissa Borotto