

Great Ideas:**Snow delay experience is far from jolly**

Alright! Snow! Maybe classes will get delayed! This experience, however, was far from a winter wonderland.

When classes are canceled, schedules get out of whack. For example, if someone had a test, speech or presentation coming up, that person would most likely get worried if they didn't know about a schedule change.

Then there's the issue of knowing if classes are delayed or not. For many freshmen and transfer students, this was the first delay of classes they experienced. Not enough is done to make these students aware of the need to call x. 2000 or check the Rider website. You might think, "Stupid freshman, didn't you know about the extension number or notice that no one else was going to class?" Well, it isn't just freshmen.

Many commuters don't see fliers around dorm buildings informing them about the extension number. Imagine being a commuter with an 8 a.m. class after a snowstorm. After having to dig your car out of the snow you have to drive down Interstate 95, Route 206 or possibly the dreaded Route 1 through the storm's aftermath. Then you finally arrive at Rider and there's no class until 10.

Well, maybe commuters should have looked in their official handy-dandy *Source* student

handbook. *The Source* is the one place the extension number is listed, but the almighty handbook is missing something else. You might think, "Well, if it's not in there, then it must be on Rider's website." Wrong.

The handbook and site simply inform students that there is a delayed opening but doesn't specify what that means. For those poor souls who got up for their morning classes and didn't know about the delay, it gets worse. The entire University is pretty much shut down until 10 a.m., so those students can't just hang out in Daly's, the library or the Commuter Lounge.

In future situations, Rider should handle delayed openings differently. Obviously the current strategy of posting fliers with the extension number around campus isn't working. Instead, a mass E-mail should be sent to all commuters and freshmen students as soon as there's a chance of an arriving storm. However, the entire thing could have been avoided if we had just been given off on President's Day.



Paul Szaniawski

Letter to the Editor:**Guest policy requires serious change**

In response to the column by Mike Caputo printed in the Feb. 11 issue discussing the guest policy at events, I would like to say, "The man is a genius."

To me it is discouraging to see Rider isolate itself from the outside world by not allowing outside guests at events. How many times have you told a sibling, friend or significant other that you have all these cool events at Rider and then say, "Why don't you come?" Oh, my bad. They can't. I for one can't stand it. I like how we punish people who want to go out of their way to come to our school for a good time. No wonder Rider is such an empty campus on the weekends.

I think the current guest policy is the most ridiculous waste ever created on Rider's campus. It presents a false sense of security at events, events that never had problems to begin with. It makes an assumption that outside guests are more of a threat because they don't have their face on an I.D. with the words "Rider University" on it. By the way, who caused the need for this "guest policy" and who doesn't the guest policy affect? Now that's something to think about. Those two groups are one in the same if I am not mistaken. I'm not blaming this group. I just think there should be a change made in this policy that includes this other group of students on our campus.

On top of that, it bans prospective students from going to events. I love going to Rider and I only wish that I could share that experience with those closest to me. Some might argue that guests don't pay the student activities fee, but then guests should have to pay to enter an event. If that isn't enough, make it a pre-requisite for students to register their guests two days ahead of time.

In my mind, college isn't supposed to be a socially restrictive environment. In fact, I don't ever recall being taught that when a problem arises you should shut out the world in fear of what might come through the doors. I thought that a part of college was learning to accept the things that happen, both positive and negative, and learn from them. Well, I think that Rider has failed to express that lesson. I believe that in the creation of the guest policy, Rider has emitted a lesson of fear and banishment when something goes wrong. What a great lesson: "Be afraid, run and hide." I believe that the guest policy needs to be changed to accommodate students' desire to bring guests to all events. I don't think I'm alone in this and I encourage everyone who has a problem with the policy to write in about it.

Glenn Kasper
Junior Class President

'ALCOHOL AWARENESS' FROM PAGE 8

me. All I can say is that I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I will never forgive myself for what I did. I'm the reason why your son is dead. I killed him and I will live with that for the rest of my life.

I know I have no right to ask this of you, but I beg your forgiveness. Please don't hate me. I hate myself enough already. I can't even look at myself in the mirror. I can't look my mother in the eyes. I killed someone else's child because I thought I was OK. I thought I was fine to drive.

I took a chance with my life and someone else's. And I can never make that right. Please know how sorry I am and please don't hate me.

I swear it was an accident. We were just out to have a good time. We weren't trying to hurt anyone... Or were we?

With sincerest apologies,
The reason why you to have to bury your child

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY ...**FEB. 25, 1913**

The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which authorized the income tax, goes into effect.

FEB. 27, 1922

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously guarantees women's suffrage.

FEB. 28, 1854

The Republican party is founded.

MAR. 3, 1931

"The Star Spangled Banner" becomes the U.S. national anthem.

Letter to the Editor:**This was bat country**

It is rare in the age of technophilia and tele-genetics that a young man/woman can truly appreciate a work of pure gonzo journalism. Though the dangers of an overbearing big brother are constantly near, some young people manage to brave the slippery stack's of Rider's own information super back road; Moore Library. The text ridden cemetery of ideas does however contain the works of truly great men, one of whom was Hunter S. Thompson. The man also known as Raoul Duke, and the pioneer of, what he called, gonzo journalism, ended his long, strange trip this past Sunday by his own hand and on his own terms.

For those not ambitious (or bored) enough to search the library for books like *The Rum Diary: The Long Lost Novel* (1998), *The Great Shark Hunt: Strange Tales from a Strange Time* (1979) or *Hell's Angels: A Strange and Terrible Saga* (1966), the easiest way to recognize Hunter Thompson's work is through Terry Gilliam's 1998 film version of Thompson's most successful work, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream* (1972). Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro starred in the film that captures the essence of Thompson's strange blend of personal, drug-addled narrative and hard reporting. But the story of Thompson and his associate Oscar Acosta's (aka Dr. Gonzo) adventures in binge drug and alcohol abuse in Sin City while searching for the elusive American dream is merely the most commercially

successful gonzo venture. Over a career that spanned decades, Thompson frequently contributed to *Rolling Stone*, covering everything from the Superbowl to the Presidential Election and everything in between, (such as his discussion with President Richard Nixon regarding their mutual appreciation for football, which happens to be where their similarities end). Thompson continued his literary pursuits to the end, his most recent book, *Hey Rube: Blood Sport, the Bush Doctrine, and the Downward Spiral of Dumbness* (2004) defining his views on modern society in America.

Thompson's unorthodox views and style made him a literary enigma from the late 1960s until today. Thompson believed in the ideals set forth in the summer of love and continually sought to reach the high water mark of freedom attained in that decade. Unfortunately for all, he will never see that day. For 67 years the man who wrote his truths and apologized for nothing was experiencing every ounce of life, good or bad. He did everything he was capable of, and tried to make life interesting. As a disciple of gonzo journalism, this writer can tell you, Thompson's work is not easy to interpret but once you've got it, you are hooked. Dr. Hunter S. Thompson was my hero. And the most fitting tribute one can hope for is the continued influence and success of the father of gonzo.

Rob Cutler
Senior