

Quote of the Week:

“Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

— John Adams

Living With Passion: Ambition's bad side

What is ambition? Is it an internal phenomenon or socially-imposed? Does someone with ambition work towards goals that truly reflect the inner self or towards the wishes and desires of a dominating society?

Ambition is one of the most beneficial characteristics one can possess. It can help you climb mountains when you can't move them. It can get you through four years of college in spite of less than desirable living conditions and 20 page papers due yesterday. Because someone with ambition can see the long-term, he or she can work through short-term challenges. He or she recognizes them as necessary stepping-stones on the way to something better.

I personally have great admiration for those who have clearly defined what they want to achieve and stay on a hard and fast path.

My concern is misplaced ambition. Ambition is abused when one uses it to accomplish the wrong goals. Amoral, immoral and superficial goals taint the caliber of such an admirable trait.

Back in high school, a friend of mine told me of her ambition to be inducted in to the National Honor Society. She was certainly a hard-worker, smart and involved. But I questioned the aspiration. What exactly had made her so anxious to be part of a society that contributed nothing to the school and whose activities were little more than an induction each year?

She answered, “Gee, I just always wanted to.”

I can explain to her why she wanted to be accepted

better than she could. Hers was the internalization of an external goal set by society.

The National Honor Society is set as a marker of worth even though its acceptance policies are partly subjective and its own contributions are practically nothing.

The people who work towards acceptance into the National Honor Society are the same type of people who have kids and put them in day care, build swimming pools and don't use them and buy plasma TVs and don't watch them.

Ambition used to acquire status for the sake of it is condemnable (although the accomplishment of the goal is still an accomplishment).

My plea is this: cultivate ambition and follow-through. If you want to rid the world of its evil, try everything in your power to do so. But if you only wanted to save it to show people you could, don't bother.

Join every on-campus club you have time for, but if you only joined to write it down on your resume, your position would have been better filled by another.

Keep your goals pure and personal. Prove nothing to anyone other than yourself. Cars, trips and designer clothes do not make a person. Dreams, experiences and morals do.



Alexandra Alazio

Punisher Speaks Out:

Frat parties keep students on campus

The Office of Community Standards, establishing judicial standards for Alpha Epsilon Pi, Phi Kappa Tau and Zeta Beta Tau, should re-evaluate its action of shutting down a premiere weekend activity.

The 4,000 enrolled students don't just plan on attending classes for the college career. They want to remember these four years for the fun, not just the academic success.

The decision to shut down the fraternity parties that occur throughout the semester is absurd to both the Greeks and independents. For the last few years students have enjoyed some of these parties and wish to enjoy them more. These parties are reasons that students decide to stay on the weekends instead of heading home and also why they decide to continue their attendance at Rider.

These parties are great ways for individuals to connect with each other. Hanging out in a residence hall room with your

hall mates is fun for a while, but not every night. Rider's students, similar to every other college student, are young adults who must take pleasure in this time of their lives.

Think about the reasons why students choose to attend a certain university over another. The average college student doesn't enjoy four years of studying in his or her dorm room on a Friday and Saturday night. After a long and hard week for the students they need some relaxation. Also, some of the alternate activities planned out by the University don't interest some of the students.

If Rider University wants to earn a good reputation for their academics and social environment, the Office of Community Standards must let the students amuse themselves. If the University plans on avoiding its recognition as a suitcase school, bringing back these fraternity parties is something that can go along with their

plan. The University should give the Office of Community Standards something to think about.

The office must consider that it has upset its students in the long run. Not only are the freshmen choosing to spend their time at home during the weekends, but it is a possibility that many of them may have plans to transfer by the next school year since they cannot occupy themselves on the weekends. Not only will the independents not have pleasure on the weekends, but the Greeks as well. Before the University makes its final decision about these parties, it must reflect on the needs of its students.



Andrew Silver

Letter to the Editor:

Field hockey team supports coaches

Dear Editor,

We, the field hockey team, are writing in response to last Friday's article, "In Need of Some Defense," written by Jared Vichko. We feel there is another side to the story involving Coach Dan Hussong and Coach Lori Hussong. It seems to be that the article only focuses on the side of the plaintiff, Jennifer Besler. There is a side to Coach Dan and his wife Lori that the article does not portray, but that we feel should be known.

Coaches Lori and Dan have been nothing but motivating and supportive to their players. Contrary to what has been written about them recently, they instill a positive attitude in

their players. Since they began coaching in 2000, the level of expectation in Rider's field hockey program has dramatically increased. The program has won a conference title every year and gained national recognition. They have dedicated their time, hearts and souls into shaping this program into one of the top teams of the NEC Conference.

Each day at practice Coach Dan brings an enthusiasm that encourages his team to work to the best of their ability. He is rarely seen without a smile on his face. Most coaches would not go above and beyond for their players, but the Hussongs do. They go the extra step to make sure their players are

happy. From team dinners to phone calls, they create a family-like atmosphere among the entire team. They want to make sure their players are not only successful on the field, but also in the real world. They have made us want to become better people and have instilled a work ethic which we will carry into our futures. Without them, the success of this program and its players would not be what it has become.

If people are interested in knowing both sides of the trial, it can easily be researched.

Sincerely,
The Rider University Field Hockey Team

This Week in History:

February 27, 1964 — Italian government announces intentions to save the Leaning Tower of Pisa from collapse.

March 2, 1986 — Corazon Aquino takes her first oath of office as President of the Phillipines.

March 4, 1933 — Franklin Delano Roosevelt is inaugurated as President of the United States.