

**Commuter Concerns:****Roads are for driving, not for walking**

There are common incidents on campus that shouldn't be occurring. It makes me wonder if anyone recalls that kindergarten lesson where we were taught to look both ways before crossing the street.

For example, I was leaving campus one day, when suddenly, I had to stop short because someone leaving the Academic Annex decided to dart in front of me. The next afternoon, a friend and I were walking from Frat Row to the academic quad. We were nearly through the crosswalk when a car came around the bend and the driver spotted us and sped up, either to scare us or to show off his obnoxiously loud engine. Better yet are the times when we commuters are driving through campus, except we're not really driving because there's a herd of residents meandering through the street. We have to wait impatiently before the leader of the herd realizes that, yes, there is a car, and yes, it would like to get by.

As my resident friends enjoy reminding me, it is true that Rider is a pedestrian campus. However, that does not give pedestrians free reign to walk into oncoming traffic. The laws of physics still apply; the big paved black thing is not an extended sidewalk, but in fact, intended for automobile traffic. In the three years I've been commuting to Rider, I can recall possibly only three instances where residents actually looked both ways before they stepped out into the street.

Of course, it's not fair to point fingers sole-

ly at residents. Walking through the commuter lot in the mornings is akin to walking through a war zone as fellow commuters patrol the area for a half-decent spot. Even worse is being exiled to the O-Lot—at the intersection before the Bart Luedeke Center, some drivers imagine their own stop signs, while others ignore the signs that really exist.

Pedestrians and drivers truly need to be aware of each other at all times. Studies in pedestrian-oriented towns, such as Princeton, have shown that the number of hit-and-run accidents was higher than before right-of-way laws were enforced. One of the two main causes for this was that people stopped looking both ways before crossing. Due to a lack of common sense the campus seems to have, Rider is really quite lucky that there haven't been more major motor vehicle accidents.

So if you're walking to class, to Daly's or wherever, please give a driver a hand and look before you cross. If a car stops for you, a little thank you wave would be nice. And, if you happen to be behind the wheel, please pay attention—do you really want to shell out more money to pay accident damages? Besides, college pedestrians are only worth one point a piece.



Maureen Zahn

**First Impressions:****Patriotism undergoes modern facelift**

Patriotism was once a wonderful thing. It used to be about the love of your country and, in the famous words of President John F. Kennedy, "It's not what your country can do for you, it's what you can do for your country." I can't think of a better definition of patriotism. Martin Luther King Jr.'s passionate protests of segregation and discrimination of African Americans, and his desire for equality in America is really what this country is all about.

However, in the post 9/11 world that we live in and in the ensuing war in Iraq, patriotism has a different meaning. Now when I hear the word "patriotic," it has a negative connotation. America is being seen as an arrogant, dominating country that will not stop until it makes its mark on the globe. We are being seen as money-hungry, only interested in easier, more efficient ways of capitalizing our economy through intimidation and power. We now live in a world that is preoccupied with safety and security as well as paranoia and distrust of other countries.

Since 9/11, citizens of this country have both discriminated against and racially profiled

those of Middle Eastern descent. Law enforcement and especially airport security have targeted Middle Eastern-looking people in America, and these people have been wrongfully treated. Sadly, the wonderful principles upon which this country stands have been overlooked by many.

Of course, not everyone views America this way, but we sometimes need to be reminded of the real America. Although 9/11 was a tragedy that affected many of us on a deeply personal level, I think that day was a beautiful display of what patriotism really is. Strangers were helping strangers; people united and helped one another, risking their own lives. Firefighters and police officers saved lives, many of them dying and leaving their families abandoned. Our country showed compassion and concern and the actions taken in retaliation to that horrible day have no bearing on what America is really about.



Jenny Stanwix

**'SECURITY'**  
FROM PAGE 10

old the most.

The administration has stated that a worker can expect a 4.6 percent real rate of return on his or her private account; however, you as a worker are borrowing the money for your private account at a three percent rate of interest. So it will only create a 1.6 percent net rate of return, contrary to what the administration

projects. This is still decent for workers but the cuts in step two that have to be done because of the problem created in step one are larger than what you can possibly make with your private account.

If you are in the wealthy one or two percent of the nation, phase one of the Bush plan will help you because you can keep your income taxes lower. If you are in the other 98-99 percent of the nation, it won't do anything for you. Therefore, what it boils down to is that the administration's plan is "not secure" because benefits are cut twice.

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY ...****MAR. 26, 1885**

Commercial motion picture film is first manufactured.

**MAR. 27, 1512**

Juan Ponce de Leon, a Spanish explorer, first sights Florida.

**MAR. 29, 1973**

The last of the U.S. armed forces pull out of Vietnam.

**MAR. 30, 1858**

The eraser-topped lead pencil is patented.

**Lending a Hand:****Wake up, you vandals!**

This column is specifically aimed at Hill Hall, but I know that it applies to every residence hall on campus.

I have been a resident of Hill for four years. A happy resident for the most part but this year I can't wait to graduate and leave. It is not just a bad case of senioritis; I am just sick of putting up with the inconsiderate people who live in Hill. It's bad enough that the outside of Hill already looks like a mess, but do we have to make the interior match the exterior?

For example, I have yet to come out of my room in the morning and not see trash in the hallway. I am talking of cigarette butts, half-eaten apples and all kinds of other junk. Why? What is wrong with you people? Did you live in a barn before you came to Rider?

It is really discouraging for me, as a member of Hill's RHA to come up with fun programming for the residents of Hill. What's the point when residents neither care about building community nor take pride in where they live.

It is pathetic that our building has over \$2,000 in damages. Wake up Hill, you have to pay for those damages. Let me be even more specific; I have to pay for them too, which means I, who have done nothing, still have to pay for your mess. Now some people don't care because Mommy and Daddy are going to pay their bills for them. Here is the problem. In the big world where you have to be a grown-up Mommy and Daddy are not going to be there to pay for your damages. In fact, if you are loud, stupid and messy, you are not going to be dealing with an RA or your parents at all. Instead someone will call the police on your dumb butt and you will not get a lousy noise violation. You will get slapped with disturbing the peace and have to pay a hefty ticket. Or you might just get yourself kicked out of your apartment for damages.

Major vandalism can get you arrested. People can file complaints that will be investigated by the police. An example of this type of vandalism is when you throw a fire extinguisher through a window. There is no need for this unless it is an emergency and there is a fire. Residents of Hill, getting drunk and thinking that throwing the extinguisher through a window is a good time is dumb. If you think it's fun, you seriously need to get a life and find another way to have a little more excitement. Believe me Hill, there are other things to do on this campus besides vandalize your building. Here is a bright idea: maybe if you vandals spent a little less time trashing your building and a little more time studying or working you might get somewhere in life. No one is going to look at your resume and hire you if all you do is get drunk and break stuff. It seems like it would be a shame in fact, for people to pay 32 grand or more per year to come here and waste their time. In fact, I think that is a bad investment.



Melissa Borotto