**Extra Extra: Student Newton Crisco pees his pants**

**By Leather and Lace**

Spidey

*Between The Virginia Monologue and How I Learned To Drive, this year, Rider has experienced a number of controversial theatrical performances. However, in early May, the Yvonne Theater stage is set to become home to one of its most debatable shows yet.

South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut has been chosen as the 2003 spring musical. The show is based on Matt Stone and Trey Parker's risqué cartoon series, which is the story of four third grade boys whose mischievous antics bring about troublesome adventures.

Professor Dr. Miles Filendormf has taken on the challenge of directing the show and said he expects this to be the best production he has ever worked on.

“Yes, the show may be crude. It may make you laugh at certain serious topics such as homosexuality and death,” he said.

“But the bottom line is that it’s going to make you think. The show is about censorship, it’s about freedom of speech and expression, it’s about Canada, and you can’t hate on that.”

“One of the most difficult tasks in bringing this show to life was choosing actors who could effectively play cartoon characters. But I think, if you go see the show, you’ll see that we really worked with costumes and makeup to make that work,” he said. “And by the end of the show, you’ll forget that the actors are supposed to be playing cartoon characters. That’s how great the cast is.”

Filendormf said he does admit there will be offensive material in the show, but according to him, it’s all good.

“Certain themes of the show can be considered ‘politically incorrect,’” he said, “but where exactly do we draw the line to distinguish that side from this side, or those sides from these sides, or them sides from they sides? You can’t, can you?” he explained.

Many of the characters in the show are diverse and echo themes seen in our own society. Sophomore Clyde Pillington has been cast as the character of Chef.

“This will be the most complex character I have ever had to portray,” he said. “I am really trying to bring out the enigma that is Chef, a misunderstood, horny, black, male lunch-lady, who’s not only politically involved but a player as well.”

The show’s musical numbers, featuring songs such as “Blame Canada” and “Uncle F**ka” are creative and witty, said conductor Tickle Stumpy.

“What can I say about the music? It’s so unlike anything else I’ve ever done. It’s thought provoking. There are some beautiful ballads like the ‘La Résistance’ medley. It takes some really diverse musicians to pull this sort of thing off,” she explained. “It can either be extremely moving, or it can cause angry riots. The choice is up to the audience members, and I think that’s what makes this show so special and unique.”

Playing the part of Eric Cartman, a key character in the show, will be freshman Herman Huggles, who said that before auditioning, he wanted the part so badly that he actually rehearsed and was very good for six days straight without stopping to sleep, pee or poop.

“I feel I have been destined my entire life to play this role. It will be my ultimate challenge as an actor, but deep down, I know that I will triumph,” said Huggles.

“All of the characters in this show have so much depth to them. It’s really unbelievable,” he said. “Take Cartman, for instance; in the show, his creative being is stuntied by a V-chip implanted into his brain that prevents him from cursing, and Kyle’s mom, what’s her deal? Honestly, you could easily give yourself a migraine pondering all of these questions."

Senior Newton Crisco, a frequent theater-goer, became so excited when he heard the news about the Spring musical that he actually wet his pants.

“It just happened,” said Crisco. “I was so damn excited. I don’t know what came over me.”

“I can’t wait to see South Park performed at Rider. I think it will be the most great event of all time to ever take place anywhere, even better than when Ludacris came,” he added.

There have also been those who oppose the show. Just last week, the campus organization, Save Our University’s Theater from Horrendous Plays of the Appalling and Repulsive Kind (SOUTH-PARK) gathered on the campus mall in protest.

According to SOUTH-PARK Vice President Laddoodoo Timone, the show is horrendous, appalling and repulsive and it likely to give Rider a bad name.

“I disagree with this show being performed at Rider,” she said. “I don’t know what all of the fuss is about. Ain’t nobody better than Ludacris.”

**Masked vigilante protects campus community**

**By Brian “I’m Not Harry Potter” Kibble**

The Man

“In a time where the world’s problems are on everybody’s mind and superhero movies are everywhere, it was only a matter of time before someone decided to put on a mask and take up the mantle of protecting the innocent, but on a college campus specifically?

There have been rumors circulating, that a masked ‘vigilante’ has been running around and protecting Rider’s students. So does Rider have its very own superhero?

“Of course a college campus is a perfect spot for a budding superhero to protect people,” says Security Officer Barbara Gordon. “It’s a much smaller space than a whole city. It’s much easier to survey the whole area.”

Despite the easiness of surveying the location, are the rumors true? There have been numerous, and anonymous, “eye witnesses” who all claimed to see a masked figure running around on campus, ducking in and out of the shadows.

“These sightings are being reported to the security officers on campus with an increasing speed, but we don’t know what to do about the masked Officer Gordon. “Many of the descriptions are not similar to each other so there’s no action that can be taken. One person said the figure had small pointed ears and a cape. Another claimed he or she had a mask with large eyes that seemed to reflect what it was looking at, like a mirror. Maybe this person keeps changing costumes to avoid a clear description, or maybe it’s more than one person, like a team. No one knows for sure.”

Other than sightings of something moving in shadows, a few people have actually claimed to have been saved by this masked vigilante, like sophomore Lana Watson.

Watson said she was leaving class one night alone, but a confused burglar was on the ground, knocked out. And there was the masked figure, standing over the unconscious victim.

“I wanted my purse, and I was about to hand it over when out of nowhere this crusader jumped down next to us, and punched the burglar in the face. My purse flew out of his clutches and back to me as they scuffled. As I looked up, after catching my purse, the burglar was on the ground, knocked out. And there was the masked figure, standing over the unconscious villain.”

“Who are you? I asked, but I got no response. And then, faster than a speeding bullet, the person was gone,” Watson said.

It also seems that Rider is plagued with more than just burglars and the hero is still there protecting the victims.

“So there I was, sitting on a bench, when I heard a noise from behind,” explains senior Vince Olsen. “I turned around and saw 20 or so squirrels advancing on me. They were larger than the normal squirrels I’ve seen on campus, possibly mutated or alien ones. Freaked out, I started to run, but didn’t get too far since I tripped over a rock. As I waited for the end to come, this costumed figure appeared out of nowhere and started to do battle with the vicious rodents.”

“I couldn’t take the violence and closed my eyes. All of a sudden the fighting became silent and I opened my eyes to see the squirrels retreating and my savior had vanished,” he added.

Frightened out the squirrels were after a bag of Skittles that Olsen was munching on. As the squirrels ran away, he noticed the bag in one of their mouths.

“If I would have known that’s what they wanted, I would have thrown the bag to them! This makes no sense, though. I mean, they were squirrels!” a confused Olsen finished.

These encounters would surely convince people there really is a superhero on the Rider campus, some there are still some skeptics, like Harry W. Jameson, Editor-in-Chief of The Rider Node.

“There is no ‘superhero’ running around campus. Its simply preposterous!” barked Jameson, through clenched teeth and a cigar. “It’s just a bunch of kids trying to get their names in the paper! In my paper!”

Another believer in the superhero spot, someone or something is out there protecting the innocent of Rider. Criminals and mutated animals beware...