

Editorial: 2003-2004 remembered

It's that time of year again. The weather is warm, classes are wrapping up and the final edition of *The Rider News* for this school year has found its way onto stairwells across campus. This can only mean that summer is quickly approaching, marking the end of one of the most eventful years in the history of Rider University. All manner of occurrences, both good and bad, have taken place throughout 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is shaping up to be an even more exciting year for students.

The year began in a negative way. Before students even arrived on campus, it was revealed that a virus had made its way onto Rider's internet network. As a result, residents were forced to install new anti-virus software on their computers before going online. In addition, a shooting occurred in the Cavalla Room after a dance party hosted by the Intercultural Greek Council. While the alleged shooter, Tarik J. Reid, was apprehended, the incident raised many questions about security issues at the Lawrenceville campus.

However, rather than allow these problems to persist, Campus Security quickly set to work on correcting them. The University implemented a new guest policy in which visitors to campus would be required to sign in with Security. This allowed them to keep track of campus visitors, which helped to reduce crime by imposing direct consequences for non-students who break the rules. Security also began checking drivers' picture IDs before allowing cars to enter the Lawrenceville campus. Furthermore, a closer partnership between Security and the Lawrence Police Department (LPD) was formed, which greatly enhanced response time for student complaints.

The year saw Rider University welcome a new President, Mordechai Rozanski, who let it be known throughout the year that he has big plans for the University. During two Town Hall meetings, he announced his campus master plan and discussed its progress. Construction has already begun on the new Student Recreation Center (SRC) as well as a new residence hall. In addition, renovations are currently underway in existing residence halls, including the transformation of several lounges into "pods," which are three or four person apartments.

Rozanski's official inauguration was held on Friday, April 2. The event fell on the same date as University Day and the resulting festivities served to bring the community of the Lawrenceville campus together. Daly's was redecorated, the inauguration ceremony was broadcast through Rider's television network and The Roots performed live in the Alumni Gym at night. The day could have been a disaster. Students were given the day off and many worried that they would be out of control. However, the community took the opportunity to prove its maturity and restraint. The day went off without a hitch.

It has been an excellent year to be a Rider student. While several horrible things did happen, they all resulted in a greater good for the entire campus community. Rider's new guest policy is something that the University has needed for quite some time now. It's sad that an event as terrible as a shooting had to occur to finally force this change, but now future generations of residents will have to worry less about such a thing occurring again.

In addition, more students will be able to live on campus due to the building of the new residence hall. Intramural sports will have a dedicated facility in which to play their games and current residents will be able to enjoy their newly renovated residence halls. So, while it certainly has been an eventful year, it has been eventful in a good way, a way that will impact Rider students positively for many years to come.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion Editor.

Letters to the Editor: *The Rider News* welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the community. Letters must be typed and include the name, address, phone number and signature of the author for verification. Send to *The Rider News* via e-mail (ridernews@rider.edu), campus mail or hand deliver to Ridge House. All letters must be received by midnight the Monday preceding publication. *The Rider News* reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there."

— Charles F. Kettering

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

April 23, 1564 — William Shakespeare is born.

April 26, 1986 — The world's worst nuclear disaster occurs at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

April 27, 1521 — Ferdinand Magellan is killed in the Philippines.

April 29, 1945 — U.S. troops liberate the Dachau concentration camp in Nazi Germany..

A Student's View:

Barry Bonds deserves more praise

Barry Bonds is probably one of the greatest hitters that Major League Baseball has ever seen. Yet, a circle of controversy surrounds him. As most sports fans know, Bonds has been accused of using performance enhancers, primarily steroids, to boost his power for home run purposes. This issue has been talked about non-stop on sports stations across the country for the past couple of months leading up to this baseball season.

Now, let's put things in perspective here. Even though Bonds probably has used drugs to enhance his performance on the field, he still has one of the sweetest swings in baseball and it takes more than steroids to hit over 660 home runs in a major league career. Despite this amazing accomplishment people still criticize Bonds for his possible drug abuse and unfriendliness with the media. Let's examine these two main reasons why baseball fans dislike Bonds.

The first thing to discuss is the all important and controversial issue of Bonds' use of steroids. Everyone remembers Mark McGwire, right? His amazing performance in 1998 of bashing 70 home runs brought baseball temporarily back into the spotlight of America. However, it has been known that McGwire has used "legal" drugs to enhance his performance on the baseball field. In this day and age, most good players in Major League Baseball will use some kind of drugs, either legal or illegal, to help them hit the ball better. So to just say Bonds is doing it and he is to blame for Major League Baseball going down the tubes is ridiculous.

Second is the issue of Bonds and the media. When looking at McGwire's situation in his 1998 70-home run

season, he was always friendly with the media and the fans loved him. This was another reason why the public blocked out the fact that he was using drugs to enhance his performance. Barry Bonds is the kind of a guy who is not very friendly with the media and because of this he has been punished by fans.

Hmm, does this sound a little familiar? I think so. In 1961, Roger Maris broke the home run record previously held by Babe Ruth and no one wanted him to break it. Why? Because he was not a "fan favorite" and was not friendly with the media.

Now even reporters on sports shows, most notably ESPN, have asked that any record Bonds breaks have an asterisk next to it. Are you kidding me? I would like to see those out of shape reporters step up to the plate against a Major League pitcher and hit the ball. As most baseball players know, hitting a baseball is not an easy task. It is proven by the mere fact that getting a hit 30% of the time (.300 average) is great.

Let's give some credit where it is due. Barry Bonds is a great hitter and baseball player. Let's not forget his career .434 on-base percentage and his membership in the 500-500 club (home runs and stolen bases). Steroids or no steroids, friendly or unfriendly, Barry Bonds is one of the greatest Major League Baseball has ever seen.



Ari Bluestein