Letter to the Editor:

A misuse of University funding

I am writing in regards to the recent use of university funding allocated to the students and faculty who traveled to Washington D.C. This seems like a glaring misuse and misappropriation of university funding.

As a paying student at this University, I understand that a portion of my tuition is earmarked for use among the various sports teams and interest organizations on campus. However, never did I expect that such allusions be made to a group of unpatriotic, bleeding-heart, ultra-liberal, cry babies (excuse the name-calling, but you had it coming) who wanted to take a field trip one weekend.

Granted, it is our guaranteed right as Americans to voice our opinions on the matters of the day. Yet it is not the obligation of Rider students, whatever their stance on the war issue may be, to finance a political junket for but a small portion of the student body, whether this group holds the majority opinion or not.

Not only am I perturbed at the fact that university funding was used in such a way, but it also aggravates me that the University does this at a time when some members of the Rider community in the military was for their deployment orders, and while many of our family members and friends may already be over there.

 Couldn’t the funds have been better spent elsewhere? I am sure there are many places where that money (I do not have the exact figures, yet I am sure that lodging, food, and travel expenses for over twenty people is somewhere in the neighborhood of a thousand dollars) could have made more of a difference to the Rider community as a whole. I wonder, exactly what was it that qualified this little adventure as an acceptable expenditure of university funding?

Recently, the Black Student Union and other students from this University traveled to Washington for a forum on affirmative action. The group received no university funding for this expedition, which was immediately more legitimate than the ultra-liberal cry-fest that Mr. Rokowitz and his neo-peace-niks attended.

Maybe Mr. Rokowitz and his cohorts would like to put their mouths where their money is, and promote a human shield. I would gladly approve funding for such a trip. Hell, I would sponsor it. That way the pages of this paper will no longer be filled with their whining.

In addition, as an open challenge to all those who oppose war with Iraq: I invite you to move to Iraq for one year, and attempt to live, or survive for that matter, under the tyrannical and unjust regime of Saddam Hussein and his henchmen. Then tell me where you stand on the subject of a war with Iraq.

I would hazard to guess that your opinion may have changed. As a matter of fact, with your tendency to whine about the latest cause of the day, I doubt you would make it back alive.

On that note, I hear that tens of thousands of college students from around the world are assembling next week for another anti-war demonstration. Where may you ask? In Panama City Beach, Florida. I wonder if perhaps myself, and my like-minded peers, could possibly obtain funding to attend this event?

Dave Barry
Senior
Journalism Major

This letter was originally intended to appear in an earlier issue of the Rider News, but due to space constraints it was held until this point.