

## Editorial: Woeful Misinformation

Everyone here at Rider loves to complain about, well, everything it seems. We gripe and we whine and usually we feel like we have every right in the world to do so, and perhaps that is so. After all, we do pay quite a bit to attend this university and the consensus among many students is that they regularly feel slighted, or even that their opinions are ignored.

Realistically, though, how can we honestly believe that the administration intentionally does things in a less than efficient way without thinking? Would any business that makes frivolous, multi-million dollar decisions without thinking of long-range consequences as well as popular opinion ever survive? Of course not, and that cannot be how Rider operates or they wouldn't be able to keep their financial heads above water.

So what's the problem? Why, whenever Rider attempts to make what seems to be, in theory, a great improvement on campus do the students, more often than not, seem displeased or almost violently angry about the change?

There are two reasons that contribute to this phenomenon. First, when the administration decides to make a change that is, in fact, in the student body's best interest, they take gigantic leaps. Such as when the dorms were wired for phone, cable, and Internet access for example, or, more recently, when the sprinkler system was installed.

These two changes were absolutely necessary and it's wonderful that they were attempted to be implemented in the swiftest way possible. However, when changes as large as the previous examples are undertaken, there are bound to be problems, bugs to work out. That's just the way it has been and it is certainly the way it will be in the future, such as when the online class registration begins. It's an inevitable fact not unique to this campus.

The problem is that we, as students, don't see the thought put into it, the compromises that had to be made, and we don't realize that most of the problems are temporary. We just know the school tried to do something and it doesn't work.

Which brings us to the second reason for mass student dissatisfaction. The efforts the administration makes to inform the student body as a whole of the difficulties they are faced with or of the problems they have encountered and what they are doing to solve them are mostly ineffective. The result is a general feeling of neglect; that we are being thrown things that are half-baked plans and that we should be happy that we are getting anything at all.

The responsibility to inform does not fall solely on the shoulders of the administration, the Student Government, or the student body but is a collective responsibility of all elements of this university. Each element must therefore make a greater effort to give and receive information and to give and receive feedback. This is the only way that we can really combat the negative effects of misinformation on campus.

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

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**"Patriotism is the willingness to kill and be killed for trivial reasons."**

— Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

### THIS WEEK IN HISTORY ...

#### SEPT. 28, 1920

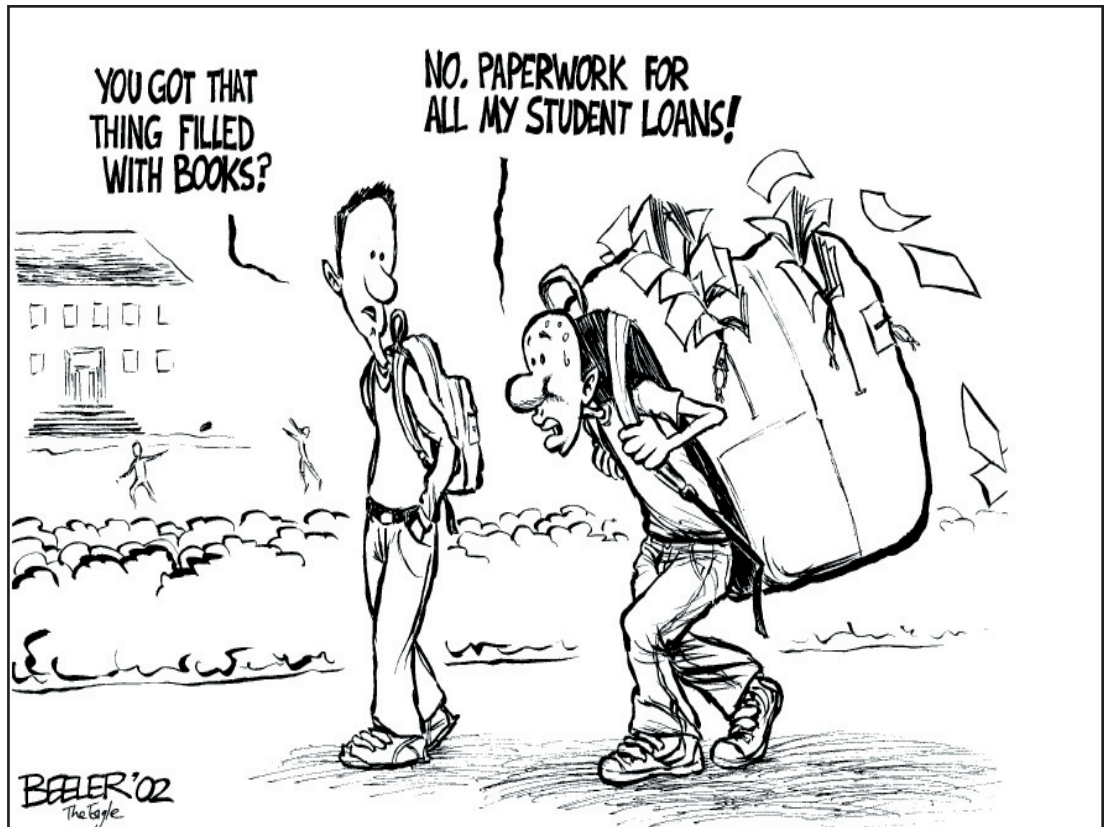
The Chicago White Sox were indicted on this day in the infamous Black Sox scandal. The baseball team was charged with throwing the 1919 World Series in exchange for bribes.

#### OCT. 1, 1908

On this date Henry Ford introduced the Model T automobile, which was the first car whose production included assembly lines.

#### OCT. 4, 1957

The Soviet Union launched the first *Sputnik* satellite into orbit around the earth. This event prompted the United States to greatly increase their efforts in technological advancement.



### Letter To The Editor:

## Student feedback unappreciated

It is hard to believe that after millions of dollars were spent to improve our dining hall, some still feel that it was a waste of money. As a member of the Student Government Association, I am saddened by the negativity on this campus.

This is in reply to the editorial in last week's edition of *The Rider News*. The article, "Daly's In Sheep's Clothing" was a distasteful attack made by someone who did not participate in the process of choosing our new food service provider or who did not vote or give input on the design and layout of our new dining hall.

As an active member of the Student Government, I attend weekly Senate meetings which are held every Tuesday and are open to all students on campus. However, the same dependable people show up every week and these people end up voting and making the decisions that affect all students. It bothers me to see that the students who are complaining are the ones that never get involved and make their voices heard.

I give my greatest appreciation to administrators such as Jan Friedman-Krupnick for her determination to ensure that student's opinions went into the decisions for the new food service provider and dining hall renovations. The dining hall looks the way it looks, and the choice of our food service provider is as it is, thanks to many hours of listening to feedback from students as well as staff and faculty.

I have to comment on the references in the piece, "... but sadly, dysentery is still a main ingredient and occasionally some entrees can easily be confused with lumps of dog food." I do not know what the general opinion is of the food in the dining hall, but compared to what was here previously, there has been a dramatic improvement. There is greater variety, and the food tastes far better than it has in the past. Have you ever been to a college dining hall that

resembled a five-star restaurant? Highly doubtful.

The editorial also commented on facilities issues. Last year, I was on the Senate committee that tried to improve the conditions of our residence halls. As you may or may not know, money is an issue for Rider as well as other colleges and universities. In the past few years, most of the residence halls have had some internal and external renovations completed. The entrance to Poyda Residence Hall is an improvement, as well as the new sidewalks and the landscaping in front of Kroner and Hill Residence Halls. Issues identified at our Senate meeting were reviewed with members of Facilities management and where possible, we produced a quick response. The question remains, however, do you take the time to care enough to address your concerns to the right people in the right way? I think that Rider does an outstanding job of listening to students. As a student leader, I have been taught that it is better to be proactive rather than reactive, and I think that is the position that the students on this campus need to take.

Rider has done a great job of addressing student's concerns. There is not one administrator who would not sit down and listen to students feelings about this school. Why is it that most students feel complaining will get the job accomplished? If you have a problem, tell someone. Make it a point to make a change. Do not just voice your opinion in an editorial and trash the hard work done by so many. Attend a Student Government meeting and make your voice heard! There are people willing to listen and respond.

Ryan Kimball  
Student Government Association  
Vice-President

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## The Way It Is: Commuter plight

Not knowing anyone when you come to college is natural. The first few weeks are spent getting acclimated to new surroundings and slowly making friends. That's where the underrated benefit of living on campus really kicks in. One can meet many people in their residence halls. Instead of going home every weekend to see old friends, you stay, because you're part of a community.

For commuters, this task is much more difficult. Many work full-time or part-time jobs to pay for their education and just don't have the time to truly feel at ease here. Usually, they'll only be able to get to class and then it will be time to head off to work. Sadly, this usually cannot be avoided.

This column is for those full-time commuters who spend every waking hour they aren't in class sitting in their cars. It is also for those who hate college because they don't meet anyone and feel invisible.

When I came to Rider in 1999 I did not know anyone. Since I was from Ewing I would have to settle for being a commuter and during my first semester, I truly felt like one. That fall all I did was focus on my academics. I would rarely talk to anyone and the minute class was over I would drive home. This was fine at the time, as my main concern was getting good grades. At the end of the semester I had done really well, but I felt that there was something missing.

That winter I was determined I wanted to do things a different way. I had declared journalism as my major and knew where my future was. The problem was that I had no experience. I started thinking to myself "isn't there an

organization I could join?" So, one day (once I found out where it was) I bit the bullet

and showed up at *The Rider News* office. Was I intimidated? Of course, but I soon found myself getting some great writing experience that augmented my classes, and meeting a lot of nice people. Before long I knew I had found my niche.

The point of this isn't to get you all to join *The News*, though that would be nice. It is to help you realize that as commuters we all go through the same anxiety. Many of us fear there is something wrong with us, because we don't know anyone. The reality of the situation is that you have to make the first move and get involved.

With so many different types of organizations at Rider there is definitely something for everybody, whether its student government, an academic, religious, Greek, ethnic or social organization. There are so many to choose from that there really are no excuses. Just because you are a commuter does not exclude you from being able to join any of them.

Trust me, if you join an organization, those days of sitting in your car or going home and being bored out of your mind will end.



Roger Alvarado

## Political Perspective: Survival of the richest

With election time just around the corner, the Rider campus doesn't seem to be overwhelmed with much political excitement. This election means a lot for New Jersey with a Senate and several House seats available, so why are college students so turned off to politics? As a student, I don't think it's that my generation doesn't care; however, I feel that the change in the political process over the past few decades has left young people alienated from politics.

It is my belief that the reason so many young people seem to take no interest in politics is that most feel that they simply don't have a real choice on the ballot. People are beginning to realize that the same corporations fund both the Democrat and Republican parties, therefore it doesn't matter who we vote for because corporate interests are always going to come before those of the people. It is no wonder come election time half of the country doesn't even bother to vote.

As we entered the new age of technology, we also saw a huge turn in the way political campaigns began to be conducted. As we've begun to see in elections around the country, it doesn't matter if you know anything about politics or not, you can get elected to almost any office if you have the perfect smile, and of course, the money! Simply said, whoever has the most money to buy highway billboards, television commercials, phone banks, and those mass mailings we all love so much, will ultimately win the election. This is especially damaging to third party candidates who refuse to accept corporate soft money and don't have their own personal fortunes to sponsor giant fund raisers. All a candidate has to do is wrap themselves in the flag and find a way to get juicy gossip against their opponent. If that doesn't work the favored tactic of playing on people's fears will. Politicians win elections standing in front of prisons and court house doors promising to get tough on crime. If they're really serious about getting elected, candidates can go as far as to "promise death". This was clearly seen in Philadelphia where one of the key elements of then Governor Tom Ridge's platform was to execute Mumia Abu-Jamal, a man many, including Amnesty International, believe was not given a fair trial.

With Torricelli(D) now out of the picture, New Jersey is left with Douglas Forrester(R) as its main Senatorial candidate. Before his departure Torricelli had raised \$9,411,420, while Forrester trailed behind with \$6,092,306. These numbers make it impossible to have a fair election considering in total, third party candidates for Senate in New Jersey have raised only \$9,157.

The money issue makes it almost impossible for third party candidates to get their opinions to the masses. It also doesn't help when, as we saw in the 2000 election as well as the Senate race here in New Jersey, third party candidates are locked out of televised debates. Green Party candidate Ted Glick was even arrested when he attempted to enter to debate Torricelli and Forrester.

Now do we really believe that in a country of over 280 million people we only have two political parties that represent our views? In situations like the senate race here in New Jersey, it is more important than ever that citizens demand free public airtime for all candidates.

For those who continue to believe politics don't affect you, think again! With corporations now beginning to privatize our fresh water supplies, it is now as easy as turning on your faucet to take part in politics. Ultimately, when politicians see that young people are serious about politics, issues that affect us such as abortion, the drug war, the environment, globalization, and the death penalty, will have to be discussed. As Ralph Nader once said "if you're not turned on to politics, politics will turn on you". Now get out, register, and vote!



Joe Rotkowitz

## The Unknown News:

### Garage band breaking: the barriers

by Michael D. Lovullo

ALLENTOWN, N.J. – Area teenagers finished their eighth band practice in two weeks without the appearance of any new songs.

Members of the local alternative rock-pop-indy-rap band Kunami, whose most recent flyer indicates their influence is drawn from such bands as: The Police, Slipknot, Incubus, ZZ Top and Ricky Martin, have reportedly been experiencing some "down time."

"[It's] just a phase, man," says Kunami lead guitar and vocalist Shawn Tooley. "All the great ones get writer's block. I saw VH1's *Behind the Music* about Brian Wilson."

In addition to the lack of lyrical advancements, the band's musical evolution has been thrown into the freezing chamber as well. Bassist Gus Bullner has admittedly taken to memory only three

chords, which comprise his token "Boom-Jazz" riff.

"You see three chords, I see a vast spectrum of thunderous rhythms, vivacious tunes and melodic silence," said Bullner as he straightened his spandex muscle tee. "It's just the gift of being an artist, I guess."

The band's rhythm guitarist, Scott Reinson, also committed himself to a simplistic approach to the group's music.

"It's not as easy as it looks, covering four different genres of music," said Reinson, as he pulled the gel-crusted strands of hair back over his dry scalp. "That's why we leave the complexity of learning unnecessary riffs at the door."

Fortunately, the group's consistency is backed by the mind-numbing beats of drummer Tim Donnus, the only band member with previous experience.

"We start off on our own little tan-

gents, then find a medium where our sound can finally find a home," said Donnus, previously of Jagged Spinster, an Iron Maiden cover band. "I got this thing going with that pedal on the floor, but don't think I'm all loud, I hit those metal plates too."

Perhaps stereotyped by his past, Donnus takes a back seat to Phil Ferris on the group's more poppy selections. Equipped with his Casio 489-T keyboard, Ferris takes the reins creating steady beats enveloped with random organ notes and wind chimes.

"Working with these guys provides a lot of freedom for someone like me," said Ferris as he furiously struggled to beat Indy Racer on his TI-83 calculator. "Seriously, I can't remember the last time some group with a following took me on board and said to just 'feel the vibe.'"

In existence since February,

*Kunami* has compiled a selection of 12 songs, including such fan favorites as: "Dung-How Chicken," "You're Too Good for that Wooden Leg of Yours," "Pass the Salt Not the Potatoes", and "Enough with the Formalities Let's Go Mud Wrestling." Their covers include: "Gonna Make You Sweat" by *C & C Music Factory*, "Can't Get Enough of Your Love Babe" by Barry White, and "Smooth Criminal" by Alien Ant Farm, not the Michael Jackson version, according to the band.

Although none of the band mates foresee any spurts of creativity, they remain hopeful that they'll soon be discovered and signed.

"All it takes is one ear, a record contract and a lot of alcohol and we'll be living' it up," said Tooley.

*The Unknown News is a parody column and should not be taken seriously*