Philosophy forum challenges patriotism

By Cara Latham

The first philosophy forum took place in the Fireside Lounge, with a discussion fueled by the main speaker, Dr. Carol Nicholson of the philosophy department.

The forum, which took place at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, was entitled, “Why I am Not a Patriot,” drawing in name from Nicholson’s paper that was published in the August/September issue of Philosophy Now. She based her reasoning on political analogies given by famous philosophers, particularly Plato and Aristotle, and related them to both the current political status in the U.S. and the upcoming presidential election. After her speech, an open discussion was held for the audience to express their opinions and positively challenge her views.

The first thing Nicholson discussed was the exact time at which she realized that she was not patriotic. She said that she was reading The New York Times on the morning of Monday, June 28, when she unexpectedly became aware that she was no longer a patriot. On that day, the transfer of power to the Iraqi government took place with the imposition of martial law, and it was known that the American troops were going to remain there for a long period of time. She also realized that there were no weapons of mass destruction and no connection to Al-Qaeda was found, implying that “now there was no democracy and the last possible rational, moral justification of that war was gone.”

“I suddenly realized that one of my love affairs was over,” she said. “I am referring not to a personal relationship, but to my love of the United States of America.”

She pointed out that although the definition of a patriot varies among different people, especially the Democrats and Republicans, it would seem that just about everybody holds values and claims for their own side that they think are patriotic, and that this would seem possible.

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Crop walk to help put a stop to hunger, aid those affected by natural disaster

By Stephanie Mostaccio

Rider University will be participating in the annual Crop Walk on Sunday, Oct. 17, at 1:30 p.m. Those participating in this event will meet on the steps of the Moore Library around 1:30 p.m. to sign-in, hand in monetary donations and then embark on a 6.2 mile walk through Lawrence Township, on a route laid out by the Lawrence Police Department.

Participants can walk, jog or ride a bike and in doing so they will not only be engaging in a healthy activity, but will also be supporting two important causes, according to Rev. Nancy Schluter, Rider’s Protestant minister.

“To do something crucial for someone else’s life is a very satisfying feeling,” said Schluter.

This event raises funds to help those who have been affected by natural disasters and also raises awareness about hunger matters in the United States and around the world. Supporting these causes is important because there is a plethora of people in need, Schluter said.

Statistics have shown that more than 840 million people around the world suffer from hunger, including one out of every five children. There are also over 355 million people around the world who have lost their homes from natural disasters.

However, those in need are not the only ones who benefit from the Crop Walk. The participants also benefit in several ways, according to Schluter.

They become aware of these two prevalent problems, realize that they can make a difference and complete the walk with a good feeling because they know that their participation in this event has helped others, she said.

The Crop Walk is sponsored by The Clergy of Lawrence Township (COLT), of which Rider is a member. However, COLT is not in charge of the walk at Rider. Two students, Mary Ann Somaine and Anthony Crouccini are in charge of Rider’s participation in this event. Schluter, who has been participating in the walk for many years, is advising these students.

Rider has been participating in the Crop Walk for about 15 years. It is open to anyone who wishes to walk or just make a donation. Part of the money raised will be sent to schools that Rider supports, such as an orphanage in Jamaica.

However, the outcome of the Crop Walk has not been successful at Rider in past years.

“I always wish we had more people and raised more money,” Schluter said.

She explained that many people only participate in this event to fulfill community service requirements, but don’t actually make any donations. However, Schluter still has hope that this year’s Crop Walk will be successful.

“I always expect a successful outcome,” she said. “I think we’re putting an extra push on it this year.”

Schluter also has hope that the Crop Walk will continue in upcoming years. She said she “absolutely” wants it to have a promising future.

For more information, students can go to the Student Workers Office located in the basement Gill Chapel or call x. 5372.

SECURITY BRIEFS

Alcohol Doesn’t Do A Body Good

An intoxicated female student poked in a Hill test room and needed medical attention. On Saturday, Oct. 9 at 12:38 a.m., a male staff member called Security about the incident. Security arrived and contacted a local ambulance, who then took over procedures. The victim underaged, but was found by herself. She was issued a letter of Persona Non Grata (PNG).

Is This England?

A female resident student backing out of her parking space on South Drive struck a Security vehicle that was coming the opposite way. The accident occurred on Thursday, Oct. 7 at 7:30 a.m. when the student used the westbound lane to go eastbound as she was backing out but couldn’t see out of her fuzzy back window. The Security officer tried to gain her attention by honking his horn, but she hit him. The damage to the Security vehicle included a bent license plate and license frame, and her car had a broken license plate. Lawrence Police Department (LPD) services were offered and declined.

Rx Bandit

A female student reported that several items in her bookbag, including a bottle of medicine, wallet, driver’s license, money and credentials, were missing upon returning from class. On Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 4:30 p.m., the student told Security that she had left her wallet during her afternoon classes the day before. No further information is available and the investigation is continuing.

Impatient Imbible

A male student and a visitor attempted to gain access at the South Entrance Security gate using a female student’s ID. The male student told Security on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 11:10 p.m., that he had found the card on the ground and gave it to the visitor to use so that he didn’t have to wait in line with the visitor. The female victim was contacted and said her card was lost two weeks ago and she had already gotten a new one. The male student was charged with four violations of the student social code of conduct and the visitor received a PNG.

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Photo by Madeleine Johnson
During the first philosophy forum of the new series at Rider, Dr. Nicholson explains her unpatriotic view in philosophical terms.