

## Editorial:

### In the crosshairs

Fear. Americans seem to have a newfound understanding of the word and with good reason. Since the terrorist attacks the idea of looking over our shoulders has become something we accept as a necessity. Now we have yet another reason. There is a maniac stalking the Washington D.C. area, including Maryland and Virginia, who has taken to shooting random people with a high powered rifle of some kind from a substantial distance. As if Americans don't have enough to worry about; here comes a new breed of cowardly serial killer.

This killer is different from most famous serial killers and spree killers of the past in that he (we'll just assume the shooter is a he for now) doesn't have a pattern. He has a Motus Operendi (MO) in that he fires only one shot, whether he gets a kill or not, and most of the shootings have taken place in high traffic areas with several avenues of escape. He also seems to target people doing mundane, everyday things like filling a gas tank, walking down the street and sitting on a bench. One of his targets was a 13-year-old boy who was walking from his aunt's car into his school. The boy survived, but is still hospitalized.

These killings really shake the faith people have in law enforcement. The simple fact is, this killer picks people, shoots them and gets away. He's done it numerous times and the police don't seem to be any closer to catching him, unless there are details that aren't being revealed to the public. We often think of murder as a crime that takes serious planning to carry out without getting caught. This misconception comes largely from movies and the ways they often depict murder stories. In reality, all one really has to do to get away with murder is shoot someone with a common ammunition and never get close enough to the victim to leave a trace of himself.

The D.C. area law enforcement is, however, bringing out the big guns. They have petitioned the U.S. government for use of their Army RC-7 surveillance planes as a tool to watch over the city for the sniper. Planes with cameras that can see through any weather and at night flying over a city with a population of approximately 5 million people seems a bit Orwellian. This is another example of the trade of privacy for safety, or perceived safety, a concept that has been a prevalent element in our country as of late.

This type of crime touches us all on many different levels, despite our individual lots in life, because of its randomness. This guy doesn't care about money, college degrees, or a person's prestige. He stalks his prey and kills them, plain and simple.

According to a tarot card (the death card) that was found near one crime scene, he believes himself to be God. He certainly does have power over many people, namely the ones in his scope, but he is no god. He's a power hungry maniac. Realizing that, the way he creates fear is the way to understand why he does what he does, because that will reveal what he is afraid of.

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

**Letters to the Editor:** *The Rider News* welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the campus 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 Centennial House. All letters must be received by midnight Monday preceding publication. *The Rider News* reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**"You can discover what your enemy fears most by observing the means he uses to frighten you."** — Eric Hoffer

#### THIS WEEK IN HISTORY ...

##### Oct. 14, 1964

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize for his extensive promotion of human rights.

##### Oct. 15, 1965

On this day the first draft card was burned in protest of the United States' escalating military involvement in Vietnam.

##### Oct. 17, 1933

Albert Einstein emigrated to the United States from Nazi Germany.



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### THROUGH THE EYES OF A MADMAN

#### Innuendos:

### The pretender

When people first enter into a relationship they are usually hit by infatuation. As time goes on, the two may fall in love with each other. What happens when people in a relationship feel nothing after a while? When the love story ends, yet the pages keep turning, what is one to do?

I feel that this is a common problem in a relationship. The spark which once kept a couple enthralled with each other burns out, but the two remain together despite their dissatisfaction with the relationship. These people are merely pretending to be committed to each other. Even though the love has died, they remain with each other because a piece of them does not want to let go. They are only going through the motions of a relationship.

I believe that people stay together because they are comfortable with each other. Over the span of the relationship, people develop a certain level of security with their partner. It is much easier to stay with someone you have known for a while rather than go out and brave the harsh waters of the dating pool.

People are also emotionally sound when they have been involved with

another person after a while. A person would most likely stay in a dead end relationship because

putting his or her emotions on the line is a risk few are willing to take. A person's emotions are safe in a relationship after a while. They lose some of their resilience when nestled in the love of another, which would make the first heartache a difficult one to handle.

As I said in a previous column, love is not peachy, grand or fair. The same goes for relationships. Sometimes they just die. There is nothing anyone can do. There is no point holding on to something that doesn't work anymore. Sure, you do build a respect for a partner and even still love them in a way, but it is no reason to go around pretending to be in something to which your heart is not willing to commit.



Tim Green

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**The Unknown News:****Goth chick depressed**

By Michael D. Lovullo

HAMILTON, N.J. – Disgusted with the ills of society, an area teen has experienced repeated bouts with depression in the superficial surroundings of her suburban town.

Tammy Wilkins, 17, who has always considered herself somewhat distant from the “air-brushed, glitter-rific realm everyone considers reality,” has finally come to the realization that all hope is lost.

“Death becomes us all,” says Wilkins, chewing her musk-black dyed hair and cringing in her red and black spiraled sweater beside the school dumpster. “You can’t fight the circle of life that leads to the grave, so why try?”

Desperate for some agreement with her societal views, Wilkins sought the advice of her equally distraught peers. After scouring her high school’s student body for persons wearing any ensemble including Army boots, leather pants or a Marilyn Manson t-shirt, she found “the one with which [she] is one,” her heterosexual life-partner Lena McJeffreys.

“Like finally, someone who’s totally, like...um...I mean, conceives of the horrid despair of the world,” says McJeffreys. “I went through a bit of depression in my early years (approximately two and a half months ago according to McJeffreys’ psychiatrist Dr. Reynolds) and being able to guide someone into the darkness that consumes me just puts a smi...uh, it’s just cool.”

Wilkins’ parents have observed her transition from afar since, in the past few days, she has taken every meal from her bedroom door and refrains

from exiting her room until it is time to depart for school the next morning. However, they believe themselves to be *hip* to the change and obliging of all cosmetic alterations.

“We got the 4-1-1, we’re down with the darkness angle,” says Fred Wilkins, donning a Woodstock ’99 t-shirt. “It’s all keen, it’s her thing, man.”

Dr. William Terrens of the Cape Forest Psychiatric Center urges parents such as Mr. Wilkins to make a worthy investment and purchase his latest self-help book *Coping With Abnormality: A Guide to Adolescent Dysfunction*.

“In my book I have outlined in detail the essential steps to be taken when dealing with a distraught and possibly homicidal teen,” says Terrens. “Parents like Mr. Wilkins should refrain from encouraging any individual expression their teenager might display. At the first sign of abnormality the subject should be scolded and physically disciplined to suppress their demons within.”

Considering her parents “a bunch of tools” and “brain-washed by the mock-happiness of the world,” Wilkins has taken pride in coming to her realization of reality on her own.

Confident that she has indeed found her way, Wilkins continues to listen to death-metal music, hiss at fellow classmates and dress in dark garments as a symbol of her persona.

“After all,” she said. “What’s the point of being disturbed and feeling the hopelessness of the world on your shoulders, if you can’t dress the part?”

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

**World Musings:****Free speech hypocrisy**

We hear on the news that the Congress is behind the President in his plans against terrorism and Saddam Hussein. It is reported that public opinion is building up in favor of the President. I don’t believe that is true. What I see is a nation that is silencing opposition by labeling anyone who speaks out against government action as un-American, traitors, anti-democratic and supporters of terrorism.

America appears to have lost more than the lives of innocent people and American landmarks on Sept. 11; it appears to have lost its beliefs in civil liberties. These people who oppose war have a First Amendment right to say so. It is this right that sets Americans apart from those being oppressed by Hussein. It is this right and many others, such as the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of religion that makes us Americans and makes us proud to be Americans.

It is ironic that the same government that has said that we must fight terrorism and continue to live our lives despite our fears has neglected the rights of its own citizens in this “war on terrorism.” Beginning on Sept. 11, and continuing to this day, many citizens would rather keep quiet about their opinions that appear to be unpatriotic. Imagine how mothers of teenage boys must feel right now; they are against terrorism in every way but do not want to see their sons go to war if a draft was put into place.

In our society and even within our own school we see how the First Amendment has often been brushed aside in the past year. Many students may feel compelled to protest the looming war with Iraq but feel they will be labeled as un-American if they do so.

It had been planned that Amiri Baraka the New Jersey poet laureate, very well known for his work on civil rights, would come to speak at Rider this fall. However, Baraka recently published a poem entitled “Somebody Blew Up America” that has a very negative view of the government that had come under harsh criticism and has even been called anti-Semitic. Rider has since decided Baraka will not be invited to speak because the school lacks the security to deal with the event.

In my opinion, the poem when read in its

entirety is not anti-Semitic. Baraka attacks those responsible for terrorism and violence of the past and present, from presidential and civil rights activists’ assassinations to slavery, Middle Eastern terrorism



Kate Rose

to Vietnam. He even condemns those who participated in the Holocaust and anyone who did nothing to stop it. I wonder how a person who lists all that is bad in the world and includes violence against Jews can be anti-Semitic.

Still, regardless of his poem’s content, it is his right to say what he wants. His opinion cannot be censored and Rider students have the right to hear his opinion. I urge students to gain access to his writing. Especially after the speech by Edward James Olmos and the events of Unity Day, a speaker who promotes civil rights should most definitely be able to speak his mind to the students of Rider. It is speakers like Olmos and Baraka that push Rider students to ask questions and want to learn more. A university is supposed to be a place where students have access to all different points of view, not just opinions the administration would like us to hear.

After reading “Somebody Blew Up America” one may ask, who is he accusing? It most definitely seems to me that he blames the U.S. government and President Bush for their inability to heed warnings and take action before Sept. 11. His poem attacks U.S. foreign policy and its results. Baraka has been accused of being anti-Semitic for a passage of the poem, which when taken out of context may seem extremely offensive. However, in its entirety the poem just seems to say what some Americans may think but are afraid to say.

Americans must not be afraid to demand their rights and use them. It is not unpatriotic to speak out against a government who did too little too late or whose foreign policies may have brought violence upon the nation.

**Letter to the Editor:****Sports column dropped the ball**

I am writing in reference to Jared Vichko’s column “Lack of Respect.” I will start by saying I am probably one of the biggest supporters of Rider athletics, but I’m also probably one of its biggest critics.

*Sports Illustrated* (SI) did not make a mistake in not ranking Rider in the Top 200 Division I athletic schools. Rider was accurately ranked outside of the Top 200. SI did not write blatant falsities in their article. They only wrote the information they received. SI either phoned, mailed, e-mailed or faxed Rider and asked for information about the athletic program. Someone at Rider decided to lie and state that Ludacris performed at Midnight MAACness.

SI calls the night Midnight Madness because that is what the rest of the nation calls it. We call it Midnight MAACness because that is the name of the conference we are in. SI wrote no falsities.

Do you really think Rider deserves to be in the Top 200? Jared’s reasons for Rider to be in the Top 200 were reasons that SI did not use as criteria in their

study.

If you look closely at the article, SI states that they only looked at the performance of five sports (baseball, football, hockey, and men’s and women’s basketball). Deanna Dovak’s softball accomplishments were great; however, it was not part of the criteria that SI used. SI also looked at the strength of intramural and club sports and those two are almost non-existent at Rider, even though Geoffrey McBride is starting to strengthen intramurals this year.

The magazine also looked at recreational facilities and our gym is smaller than most high school gyms. Finally, SI looked for spirit boosting events like Midnight Madness. Maybe that is why Rider gave false information about Ludacris because that is the only criteria we could get points for. Jared was correct about how good of a basketball player Mario Porter was at Rider and that he is now playing in the European League. I got to see Porter play for three years and enjoyed every minute of it; however, SI and

its readers do not care about the European League, they care about the NBA. Before Jared should make an argument, his reasons need to be based on the same criteria as the study.

It is my fourth year at Rider and the athletic program has been consistent. Consistently bad! Now, I know I’m not a Rider athlete so people say I shouldn’t talk but I’ve been disappointed in watching Rider athletics for the past four years. There have been only two consistent programs since I’ve been here, field hockey and baseball. These two sports are the only Rider sports that have reached their conference championship game the past two years.

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