

## Letter To The Editor: Student desires neglected

I am writing you not as the Student Government Association Events Coordinator, not as Chairman of the Facilities Committee in Student Senate, not as a member of President's Council, nor as a Vice-President of Switlik Residence Hall or Sociology Club but as a concerned member of the campus community.

My concern is that *The Rider News* is not completely in touch with the majority of its audience, the students. It has avoided some important topics such as the controversy behind having New Jersey's Poet Laureate Amiri Baraka speak at Rider. This item of interest involves the issue of freedom of speech which is exercised in Baraka's writing.

Another story that slipped under the paper's radar was that of Midnight MAACness. I apologize, I am incorrect, there were three sentences that made mention of MAACness on page 11 of the Friday, Oct. 18 issue. I suppose those three sentences were sufficient in describing one of the largest school spirit packed events of the year. Midnight MAACness, which occurred on Friday, Oct. 11 was organized through an intense cooperative effort. Those who gave of themselves to benefit others included members the student governments, faculty, administration, various Rider students who wanted to make a difference and, of course, the athletic department and the players that made the evening possible. They were all let down by this paper's opinion of what is important to the students of our campus community; evidently Midnight MAACness was not important.

The following day, Saturday, Oct. 12, the new Homecoming King and Queen were crowned without mention of their success. They, as well as the court, were forgotten about because *The Rider News* did not think that the students cared to read

about which one of their classmates, friends or student leaders won the competition. Instead, on the front page of the very same issue with the three sentences on Midnight MAACness, were articles about an academic program that would benefit a handful of students and another article on a new disaster plan.

I believe that some of the paper needs its own disaster plan every week. Its inked columns seem to be ravaged by a cyclone of indifference to what is truly important to the student body. It also does from time to time confuse real news with a sensationalistic writing such as on last week's front cover. There was a story that was hyped up because of the person involved, not because of the incident that occurred. The article, "Alumnus arrested on burglary charges" includes quotations from the suspect's ex-girlfriend. The caliber of the incident did not justify the story to be shot onto the front page. "Security Briefs" would have been the most appropriate place for the incident mentioned.

I now, in closing, have two suggestions for *The Rider News*. The first is to change the motto of the paper that appears underneath the publication's title, which is "The student newspaper of the Rider community since 1930," or, second and most preferred, start a more aggressive campaign to find out what the students want and then write about it. The staff and editors of *The Rider News* are all talented and gifted writers. That is why it is so important that when you make your voices heard make sure you do not drown out the voices of the students you write with, for and about.

Robert Fink  
Sophomore  
Accounting

## Innuendos: Delayed gratification

I was raised in the Catholic Church and I was always taught that abstinence was the best policy. "Wait until after marriage," they said. Who really does that nowadays? I can probably guess that many people lost their virginity back in their high school years. I heard a story once that my high school's principal caught two people having sex in a confessional box in the chapel...go figure.



Tim  
Green

There are some, however, who are trying to preserve themselves for one special person. I must congratulate these people on a valiant effort. But is it worth it? I am not speaking about sharing oneself in a loving bond and all that other stuff they tried to tell me in school. I'm talking about the reason why many people didn't wait, the pure pleasure behind the act. Will these people who have waited all this time experience some kind of super orgasm?

I would think that the delayed gratification would enhance the orgasm. If it does not improve it on the physical level, it must do so on the psychological level. We all know the feeling of delayed gratification in some form or another. Though the act itself probably doesn't seem any different to a person who has already experienced it, to those who haven't, satisfying any longed desire seems much more intense.

A sexual orgasm must be pretty amazing for those who have waited. It would be the pinnacle of someone's sexual career. It's a shame to think a person would walk into the game hitting a homerun then hitting foul balls the rest of his or her life. But if this is what a person wants then he or she really shouldn't be criticized. I would only feel bad if after waiting a prolonged period of time to have sex, the orgasm wasn't that good. That would just be wrong.

## Letters To The Editor: Review bowls a strike

Thanks for the excellent review of *Bowling for Columbine*.

I've been telling everyone I know to see it, and I hope that your review will inspire many Rider students to go. It brings the dark side of American culture into the same light that others in the world see us in.

There is hope, though! On Oct. 26, hundreds of thousands of representatives of the heart and soul of America gathered in Washington and around the country to say no to war on Iraq. There were a lot of young people there, and your numbers are growing, but it will take many, many more of you to stop this war that your friends could be asked to fight in.

A group of Princeton University students, called the Princeton Peace Network, holds weekly demonstrations on Nassau Street. You can join them each Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. in front of Palmer Square. For information on other opportunities to learn and/or resist, you can visit the *Coalition for Peace Action* at: [www.peacecoalition.org](http://www.peacecoalition.org).

Sue Albert  
Peace Education Committee  
Coalition for Peace Action, Princeton, N.J.

## RA column, dismaying and saddening

I am writing in response to the column written by Brooke Olster that appeared in last week's edition. After reading the article, I was quite dismayed and saddened by what she had written.

Even though someone had an unfortunate experience in the position as a Resident Advisor (RA) does not mean he or she should go out and publicly slander the position, the Residence Life Office (RLO) and try to dissuade others from seeking the position.

I agree that being an RA is a very tough and

stressful job, but it is not misery as mentioned in the paper. Not once have I been criticized for my involvement in campus organizations or taking time to enjoy some free time with my friends or family.

The staff in the RLO is phenomenal. They have been very helpful in helping me deal with different situations, whether it be my fellow RAs, my Resident Director or one of the Area Directors in the Hill Area Office.

Through the position I have vastly expanded my

horizons as an individual and have learned many new ways to help others and have made many friends that I will probably have for life. Overall, the experience of being an RA has been very rewarding for me.

Sincerely,  
Robert Giorgio  
Resident Advisor

## RAC responds to criticism

The Residential Advisor Council (RAC) was disappointed to read Ms. Olster's column about the Resident Advisor (RA) position. As a council, we come together to discuss our job and to provide campus programming. Each year the council works to better the RA position on campus. Just this year alone we discussed and came up with solutions on a plethora of topics.

Each individual has a unique experience within Resident Life Office (RLO). We are in no position to tell Ms. Olster she was wrong. But we shall state this. If she found her position or her well-being so threatened, there were outlets she could have contacted and people willing to listen. It's a pity that one individual's opinion can overshadow the opinions of the other 53

RAs, 10 Resident Directors and three Area Directors that may have been positive.

As adults, we should realize that with a job comes benefits as well as sacrifices. Our supervisors set general limits to protect ourselves, our residents and the University. When we are first hired, we sign a contract that lists the expectations of the RA position. And in the weeks of summer training we set staff expectations with our individual staffs, none of which should have come to a surprise to Ms. Olster.

Ms. Olster was right to tell an individual to look hard into the RA position, because it is not an easy one. If everyone could do the job we wouldn't need the position. But more importantly, an RA needs to be an individual who is willing to go beyond the call of

an average student, even beyond that of an exceptional student. We deal with situations that most people in their everyday lives will never see. If being strict on the underage drinking policy or continual lateness for meetings seems too much to ask for the protection of the 2,053 residents on campus, well then, this position may not be for you. But if you are willing to offer your assistance, provide support, and are willing to make Rider a better place to live, we ask you to take a closer look at this position because you could be the next RA at Rider.

Sincerely,  
The Resident Advisor Council