A Citizen’s Voice:  
For many Americans, this Thanksgiving was about more than turkey, home or even family. The typical Thanksgiving associations were over-shadowed this year by something much more important: President George W. Bush’s visit to Iraq.

On the afternoon of Thanksgiving, Americans were surprised, even shocked, to see the image of Bush filling the television screen from deep within Iraq. Six hundred soldiers from the First Armored Division and the 82nd Airborne Division were expecting a statement written by Bush to be read to them. A high ranking officer stepped up and announced that he had a message from the president, but that he had to give it to a higher ranking official to read. And then Bush walked out.

Bush went on to give a fairly predictable but nonetheless uplifting speech to the servicemen and women. Over the Cuckoo’s Nest. Predictable but nonetheless uplifting. And then Bush walked out. 

The better side of Bush
He thanked them profusely for their work in Iraq and declared that “you are defeating the terrorists here in Iraq so we won’t have to face them at home.” He ate dinner with those brave men and women and left soon after.

In point one, Bush spent about two and a half hours on soil that contains a population that either hates or resents America, especially its president, and has killed nearly 500 of its soldiers.

Nobody knew about this visit. Bush’s parents did not know and actually were invited to spend the holiday with him on his ranch. First Lady Laura Bush was not informed until one or two days before Thanksgiving. A handful of officials and reporters, sworn to secrecy, accompanied Bush on the trip.

Word was not released to the public until Bush was safely in the air for his most important role. The plan called for the trip to be canceled if word leaked out about the president’s possible vulnerability. But Bush went, he spoke, he ate.

Although most have declared themselves impressed with Bush’s action, they have also pointed out that the president probably has ulterior motives. Numerous columnists and reporters have bashed Bush for the so called publicity stunt he pulled. With the 2004 election rapidly approaching, such caution is understandable.

It is undeniable that the president was looking for increased approval ratings, a better shot at re-election and, possibly, more support for the situation in Iraq. But so what? It is equally undeniable that Bush took a great risk in order to give morale to troops on a day that they needed it the most, a day when the memories of their families and home haunted them, a day that is uniquely American.

I am not a Bush fan. I was infuriated when the country needed hope so desperately, when Bush was on TV as the 82nd Airborne Division One, flying around, hiding from the terror that was taking place in the country he was supposed to lead. I know it was a safety matter, but this country should come first in its president’s eyes. New Yorkers turned to Rudy Giuliani and the rest of the country flourished.

With this act, however, Bush has, if not redeemed himself, at least made up for it in part. Despite any selfish motives Bush might have had, he did an important thing: the right thing for this country.

Letter to the Editor:  
An unfair review
Dear Editor,

I am not an actor, nor do I attend theatrical productions often nor am I knowledgeable about the performing arts. Based on my own emotional reactions to a film or production, however, I know a good one when I see it. What I saw on the opening night of One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest was not only good acting, but a phenomenal portrayal of the character.

In the Nov. 21 edition of The Rider News the cast was praised but also criticized in ways that I believe to be a little too nit-picky and very untrue. The first criticism was that Danny almost mirrored the very same part in 1976, the fact that he was nominated for the “Best Supporting Actor” Oscar for Dourif. If Dourif was nominated for too nit-picky and very untrue. The first criticism was that Danny almost mirrored the very same part in 1976, the fact that he was nominated for the “Best Supporting Actor” Oscar for Dourif. If Dourif was nominated for the “Best Supporting Actor” Oscar for Dourif. If Dourif was nominated for the “Best Supporting Actor” Oscar for Dourif.

My significant other is a Rider alumnus. Naturally, I assumed he would not be considered a guest, overnight or otherwise, but just to make sure I asked my resident advisor and was told that he had to sign up along with everyone else.

In point two the policy defines an overnight guest as, “Any faculty, staff, non student or anyone not affiliated with Rider University,” that wishes to stay the night. Being a Rider alumnus clearly affiliates him with Rider, so it seems contradictory.

We are all in this together and I’m rather insulted for him to be required to register. Ignoring that, in the student handbook The Source ‘03-04 edition it says, “The Rider degree is more than evidence of having compiled with the required academic requirements: it also evidences that the degree holder’s social conduct is such that he or she deserves a degree from Rider. Therefore, the granting of a degree maybe withhold or postponed pursuant to the rules of the University disciplinary system.” Since he was awarded a degree, is that not the equivalent of written approval of his character by University standards?

So he is both affiliated with the University and has shown to have a character deemed worthy of carrying on the Rider name. However, he was penalized as a potential hazard when visiting his alma mater. Why are his accomplishments and services to the University being ignored? The University is most certainly aware that he is an alumnus as they have already sent him letters asking for donations. Correct me if I’m wrong, but insulting someone is not the best way to go about winning his or her favor and funds.

Nicole Lantino  
Junior

Living With Passion:  
Big business takes over Christmas
Thanksgiving has come and gone, and already I see Christmas lights adorning the neighborhood. Sunny 104.5’s has been playing Christmas music since early November, LITE 98.5 has very little to do with the early start. But I wonder why consumers allow Big business takes over Christmas

Another actor who was critiqued a lot unfairly by the Nov. 21 article was the star of the show, Ed Egan. Ed is a suitemate of mine in Lincoln Residence Hall. I have been forced to see him freshman every day since the beginning of the semester. When I went to see Eddie in the play, I didn’t. The only person I saw was R.P. McMurphy, not Ed playing the role. He was so convinc- ing in his character that I did not even recognize him on stage. At the end, when his character was killed by a fellow committed patient, I honestly shed a tear. His acting blew me away in every scene, whether he was being funny, angry and violent or acting “off,” as last week’s editor put it. His talent as an actor blew me away.

Everyone who was in the produc- tion knows how talented this group of actors is and knows that they did a great job on this play.

Everyone who did not see it missed out on a real treat. I would like to recommend this play to everyone, both our students and visitors. It was handed out it seemed to make everyone is traveling to be with some family member or friend. It is a day to discuss and hand out literature about the new guest policy. When I read what was handed out it seemed to make sense. Its purpose is to keep track of what goes on around campus in order to better ensure the safety of Rider’s stu- dents. After all, no one wants unsavory characters lurking about. However, I disagree.

In point two the policy defines an overnight guest as, “Any faculty, staff, non student or anyone not affiliated with Rider University,” that wishes to stay the night. Being a Rider alumnus clearly affiliates him with Rider, so it seems contradictory.

We are all in this together and I’m rather insulted for him to be required to register. Ignoring that, in the student handbook The Source ‘03-04 edition it says, “The Rider degree is more than evidence of having compiled with the required academic requirements: it also evidences that the degree holder’s social conduct is such that he or she deserves a degree from Rider. Therefore, the granting of a degree maybe withhold or postponed pursuant to the rules of the University disciplinary system.” Since he was awarded a degree, is that not the equivalent of written approval of his character by University standards?

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Nicole Lantino  
Junior

A letter to the Editor:  
An alumni attack
Dear Editor,

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Friday, December 5, 2003  
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