to nurture the relationship. It requires setting aside time to be with each other so as to appreciate and value each other and to share experiences. Commitment accentuates the importance of the relationship for each individual.

- Honesty within a loving relationship is open and free flowing. It is a person-to-person acknowledgement of personal likes, dislikes, feelings, thoughts and desires. There is an intrinsic goodness that is tender and responsive within honest communication.
- Trust is a feeling of safety with each other. With lower defenses it is possible to relax into being one’s self. Vulnerabilities are expressed and displayed rather than concealed because kindness and gentle understanding are expected and given.
- Respect is demonstrated by valuing differences as well as similarities. Each attempts to understand the other on his or her terms and to see integrity of the other’s choices and actions. In essence, the separateness of each other is concealed because kindness and gentle understanding are expected and given.

**Love** FROM PAGE 8

**Letter To The Editor: Alumni still in the spirit**

I am writing to say that the Rider Athletic Program is being supported around the MAAC region.

I graduated from Rider a few years ago and I now write for a newspaper near Albany, N.Y. Many of my co-workers are Siena graduates and informed me that I was in “Siena Country.”

When Rider came up here to play Siena last week I went to lend my support. I was surprised to see other people there cheering on the Broncs. I talked to a few of them and found out they were alumni as well.

After the Rider victory, we went out to a local public house and imbibed spirits while singing the Rider fight song. It was a grand time indeed!

I urge all current and former students to support our fine athletic program.

Sincerely,

Brian Yurcan, Class of 2002

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**A Citizen’s Voice: Legalize same-sex marriage**

The history of our nation has demonstrated that separate is seldom, if ever, equal. These wise words, released by the justices in Massachusetts who narrowly upheld the decision to legalize same-sex marriages in the state, echo the growing sentiment about the separate set of rules same-sex couples must follow.

Although according to recent polls Americans are largely against legalizing same-sex marriages (60 percent against, 31 percent for), acceptance of unions between same-sex couples has been steadily rising. In California, Hawaii, New Jersey and Washington D.C., same-sex couples are able to have “domestic partnerships,” which accord the couples some benefits of marriage in varying degrees, from health care to child care.

Vermont, which before the Massachusetts court decision occurred was the most open to same-sex couples, legalized civil unions, which accorded couples almost all benefits of marriage, excluding federal benefits such as social security and tax benefits.

In New York, a bill for same-sex weddings was drafted but is currently on hold while in Rhode Island such a bill is currently being completed. Clearly, gay activists have been busy.

In contrast, 37 states have forbidden such partnerships.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, President George W. Bush came down strongly against the ruling, hinting although not outright saying that he would support the proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, which already has 100 congressional co-sponsors.

Religious groups, family organizations and conservatives have jumped on the bandwagon, releasing press statements and writing angry columns denouncing “activist judges.”

One of the main arguments against such unions is that it is morally reprehensible. This idea comes mainly from religion. One of the greatest strengths of America has always been its ability to separate church from state. If a constitutional amendment is passed according to Christian values, it is dangerously close to a theocracy. Although murder and rape can also be related to Christian values, in both instances someone is clearly getting hurt. In the marriages, however, the only possible hurt is a moral one, which is debatable.

In addition, the only other reason, other than moral outrage, to oppose same-sex marriages is that such unions cannot produce children. Although true, this argument is also irrelevant.