Disciples of Johnson

By Bye

Anyone who saw the men’s basketball team compete at the conference championships in Buffalo probably noticed the ‘Jerry is God’ signs spring up. These simple gestures are nothing new to the world of sports, but there was deeper meaning behind these seemingly casual displays.

One female student took her support of Rider’s star point guard to an extreme after she created a poster claiming, ‘Jerry is God.’ That original sign has been kept hidden, but many believe it is being safeguarded in Kroner.

On the night she returned from Buffalo, the female called together a small number of Jerry Johnson supporters and a new religion was established. The following night it is believed that nearly 100 fan letters made their way to the basketball office and under Johnson’s door.

Security says that it had to respond to two incidents that took place days apart from each other. The first was complaints from neighbors of the student who claimed that replays of Rider’s televised games were being played too loudly and that a strange smell, possibly marijuana, was present. When security arrived at her room, they determined that the smell was incense, not marijuana, and the student was slapped with fines for noise violations and for burning incense. They took no other action, but she is being monitored by the school.

The other security response was at Alumni Gymnasium. Allegedly, students spray-painted the phrases, “Jerry is God,” “Thanks Jerry,” and “We [Love] Johnson,” on the front of the gym. Rider staff quickly removed all paraphernalia before residents had the chance to see them the next morning.

Security is still reviewing tapes. Other bizarre happenings, that security cannot account for, have happened since these incidents as well.

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Security and the University are hard at work determining how they’ll handle this new religion, and what actions should be taken against members, especially the female student who is blamed for starting this underground movement. They are studying all past events at press time. Security and the University appreciate any help they can get from the campus community.

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