It's worth the struggle

You may be asking yourselves at this moment, am I fingers for pain? No, I believe I am free from the most severe forms of self-destructive behavior, but without pain you do not live. I know so many people put their hearts into tiny cages, accepting that being alone is a far better option because no one can hurt you that way.

Think about it next time you catch yourself asking why you bother when difficult times arise. Weren't those happy moments before the pain worth it? I've had some people do some terrible things to me, but in the end I was happy because before the pain I had moments of joy that simply ended in a life lesson. I could not create my art without being able to draw from such experiences.

The next time your faith is betrayed and devotion proves worthless, instead of pushing it down inside of you, make the pain a healthy part of you. Take those emotions and think about everything it has taught you, what you have learned and how it changes you as a person. There isn't anything that could happen to you that doesn't have the potential to make you a better person.

Lacey Logic: Stay aware

Lacey Korevc

Turn off MTV. It's nothing personal against the channel. I just think people need to start paying attention to more important things. Campaigning for the 2004 presidential election has begun and it is crucial that every person over 18 cast a vote.

So many people are distracted by sports and entertainment. These are two factors that make America and western culture so great, but there is one thing that makes it even greater, and that is freedom. If you can make time to watch the game at night, you can make some time to watch the news and learn about what is going on outside of campus and outside of our country's borders. It will benefit everybody in the long run.

Lack of knowledge on the candidates prevents a lot of people from voting. Many do not want to take time out of their busy lives to research issues. But the truth is, nobody can afford not to.

Freedom is not free. We have to participate in order to maintain it. Those who want to be lazy and not vote should think about what it would be like to live under a dictatorship where they would not even have the opportunity to cast a vote at all.

It may seem as though politicians do not speak about issues that affect young adults. In part that may be true. But it is all part of a cycle. Statistics have shown candidates that 18-24 is the age group least likely to show up on voting ballots. And so they turn their attention to an older target audience. Neglecting the elections is an avoidable and irresponsible mistake. Don't just sit back saying that one vote does not make a difference. If one million people said that, it certainly would make a difference. Look at how close the 2000 presidential elections were.

This country is at war for reasons that are ever-changing. Americans are too uneducated to be misled and to act naive. The rest of the world is not looking favorably on the U.S. right now. It is in the nations best interest that people pull together and make responsible decisions.

This is not meant to be a lecture but a plea. Watch the news. Find out who is running for president. Vote. Do not mean to sound cliché, but we are the future. Pretty soon it will only be up to us to run the country and if we don't pay attention then who will?

So turn off Jerry Springer and the Real World. There is a real world going on around us and we can't cut to commercial breaks or edit out all the bad stuff.

Letter to the Editor: The forgotten

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to last weeks article on the Rider Idol contest at the Student Government Association (SGA) Bronze Buffet. Not only did the article mention the true mastermind and brains of the operation.

Perry Whitley is the Events Programmer for SGA, as well as Treasurer for Association of Commuting Students (ACS). It is unfortunate that Perry's hard work and dedication have gone unnoticed. His long hours and devotion to the success of SGA should be acknowledged or at least mentioned in an article about an event he organized. Perry is not only a true and honorable friend but also an extremely valuable member ACS and the SGA.

On behalf of ACS and SGA I would like to take the opportunity to extend my gratitude to Perry and honor his hard work. I hope this letter is printed in your next issue to honor a very dedicated member of Rider's community.

On behalf of ACS,

Joseph Talluto, Secretary 

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