

Former Israeli soldier speaks at Hillel event on campus

By Mary-Simone Collazo

A **HANDFUL** of students and faculty entered the Mercer room on Oct. 9, wearing Star of David necklaces and yellow ribbon pins on some shirts — a symbol of hope for the safe return of the Israeli hostages taken by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023 — to hear a former Israel Defense Forces soldier speak just days before Oct. 13, when all remaining living hostages were released under a U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement.

For the two-year anniversary of the attacks in Israel, Rider’s Hillel chapter, a student-run Jewish organization, invited former Israeli army soldier Ira Kohler to share his story with members of the community. The 25-year-old was on active duty in Kibbutz Be’eri, Israel, near the Gaza border, when the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks occurred.

“I want to be fully engaged with the people as I tell this story; so they can ask the questions they have, and we can connect,” Kohler said in an interview with The Rider News after the event.

At the request of Student Affairs and Public Safety, anyone wanting to attend the event had to RSVP in advance using the QR code on Hillel’s Instagram or the email announcement that was sent out to the student body.

Public Safety and Lawrence Police were present at the event. Director of Public Safety Matthew Babcock explained the need for Public Safety’s presence, saying, “It was there to provide extra security for the group, make people feel comfortable on campus.”

Additionally, attendants were asked to show identification upon arrival, to ensure attendees were

Rider community members or invited guests.

“There is always concern about keeping speakers and attendees safe. We followed the same procedure for our speaker events the last two years,” said Jenna Forgash, a senior elementary education major and the president of Hillel, in an Oct. 14 message to The Rider News.

Ira’s story

Forgash introduced Kohler before he took to the podium, explaining he was originally from Long Island, New York, and enlisted in the Israeli military after completing his bachelor’s degree at the University of Delaware.

Kohler began his story of being part of the Israeli military’s 890th Battalion of the Paratrooper Brigade, explaining how he ended up on the front lines on Oct. 7, 2023.

Kohler initially enlisted in January 2022 at the age of 22, as a “lone soldier” — an Israeli army recruit who does not have immediate family in Israel. He felt it was his duty as a Jewish man to serve the country.

“You don’t go do something ‘Jewish.’ You are Jewish,” he said.

The week of Oct. 7, his battalion was preparing for a war simulation test. The night before, the troops celebrated the Jewish holiday Simchat Torah, with 300 men dancing on the base.

The following morning, they heard news of rockets flying over Israel. Hamas entered Israel along the Gaza border.

While Kohler and his fellow soldiers were in a



Mary-Simone Collazo/The Rider News

Ira Kohler spoke to the Rider community about his experience on the front lines on Oct. 7, 2023.

helicopter, it was hit by a rocket. They made an emergency landing, and by the time the last soldier escaped, a second rocket hit the helicopter.

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Interim Rider CFO announces operational, budget changes

By Grace Bertrand

R **IDER** has temporarily halted any hiring for open positions and vacancies, as part of several operational changes made in hopes of stabilizing Rider’s financial situation, according to an Oct. 10 facultywide email.

Any request to fill a position has to be reviewed by the appropriate vice president of the department, then Human Resources and finally by the Senior Leadership Team. The email stated that filling any vacant positions at this time “would undermine immediate efforts to control costs and stabilize operations.”

Interim Vice President for Finance and Chief Administrative Officer Thomas Papa said in an Oct. 13 email to The Rider News, “The communication sent to faculty and staff outlines both the reasons these budgetary measures are necessary and how they are intended to help stabilize Rider’s financial position. That message speaks for itself, and we don’t have anything further to add at this time.”

In a Sept. 24 facultywide email, the formation of a Campus Resource Preservation Committee was announced by Papa, to “provide tighter oversight of University expenditures.” The email explained, effective immediately, that Papa and three additional top-level administrators will review and approve all expenditures at Rider greater than \$1,000.

Freezing open university positions is only one of four budget-related initiatives to help “ensure stronger oversight of University resources and spending, and to create a framework for greater financial discipline



Grace Bertrand/The Rider News

President of Rider’s chapter of AAUP Maria Villalobos-Buehner speaks about the budget changes.

moving forward,” according to the Oct. 10 email from Papa.

Finances regarding departmental budgets must now be approved, travel not related to student experience or critical university operations are not allowed and non-essential events will be scaled back or canceled, such as the annual Thanksgiving luncheon and the Faculty and Staff Awards and Employee Appreciation Reception.

Despite a focus on “preserving resources,” the email said that Rider’s annual Thanksgiving basket donation

drive would remain, as it is “an important tradition of giving back to our community.”

In an Oct. 14 interview with The Rider News, President of Rider’s chapter of American Association of University Professors Maria Villalobos-Buehner said that prohibiting travel like conferences may begin to affect faculty, as many of them use travel to advance in their careers.

She also explained that if any changes could affect the faculty’s contract with Rider, the university leadership will have to go through the “due processes.”

“I would like to highlight that there is a process and [the university] cannot decide to go their own ways to do whatever process they think they can do,” Villalobos-Buehner said.


Papa said in the email that the Campus Resource Preservation Committee began its efforts on Oct. 6 to review expenses greater than \$1,000. Papa, Provost Kelly Bidle, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff for Student Experience Mary-Alice Ozechoski and Vice President of University Operations Mike Reca are on the committee.

“Its goal is not only to limit unnecessary spending, but also to establish greater transparency and consistency in how financial decisions are made,” Papa’s email said. “This committee’s authority over these matters supersedes the traditional budget approval as traditional budget authority is now suspended.”

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A hypnotist paid Rider a visit and perplexed his audience.




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Previous student-workers share their responses to recent cuts.



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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY GABRIELA TOBAR

Information provided by Public Safety Director Matthew Babock

Shattered glass

Wrecked window. On Oct. 9, at 5:27 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Lincoln Hall for the report of property damage. Upon arrival, Public Safety met with a student who reported that the window near one of the entrances had been broken. Upon further inspection, Public Safety was able to determine the automatic closure had separated from the door, allowing it to swing freely. This allowed the door to swing open wide enough to break the glass. Facilities management was contacted to make repairs.

Malfunctioning monitor

Semi-defective detector. On Oct. 13, at 10:46 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the Science and Technology building for the report of a carbon monoxide alarm activation. Upon arrival, Public Safety discovered the building's alarm system to be in normal operation, with no alarms sounding. It was determined there was a malfunction with the carbon monoxide detector. The detector was repaired and as a precaution, the building was checked with a multi-gas detector which returned normal results.

CORRECTION

In an Oct. 8 article, The Rider News incorrectly spelled the name of Rider Women's Basketball Head Coach Jackie Hartzell. The Rider News regrets this error.

Sarah F. Griffin/The Rider News

Rider community divided by presence of Israeli soldier on campus

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“The helicopter was obliterated to a skeleton. All 50 soldiers miraculously escaped,” Kohler said, with pictures and videos on a slideshow accompanying each part of the story he recounted.

Israel officially declared war, and the Israeli army automatically went into military defense. Kohler's battalion was tasked with rescuing families throughout the night.

Kohler spent five more months in Israel before his two-year service was complete, heading home in March 2024. He now shares his story in schools and synagogues.

Rider community reacts

Three antisemitic incidents have occurred at Rider this year alone, including “Heil Hitler” being found written on a classroom whiteboard two weeks ago.

Kohler's presence generated shock on social media in the days leading up to the event. On Instagram, the student-run organizations Rider Leftists and Rider Democrats put a joint statement on their feeds, calling out Rider for allowing a former Israeli army soldier on campus.

“It is important to consider how his presence impacts the emotional well-being of students who have been directly or indirectly impacted by the continued cruelty of the IDF in Gaza and how it impacts their perception of the Rider community,” the statement said.

The ending slide of the post contained a QR code, providing links to charities supplying aid on the Gaza strip, and to information on a ruling from the United

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that declared the events in Gaza as a Palestinian genocide.

On Fizz, a social media app that allows students on the same college campus to post their thoughts with anonymity, many students were outraged by Kohler's presence.

An Oct. 9 post criticized the university and anyone planning to attend the event, gaining more than 1,100 upvotes.

The mixed reactions highlighted the divide in global opinion on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

“Yes, we have the First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech. But I don't think that protection should include hate speech,” said Robin Shane, Hillel's co-adviser and an associate professor of theatre.

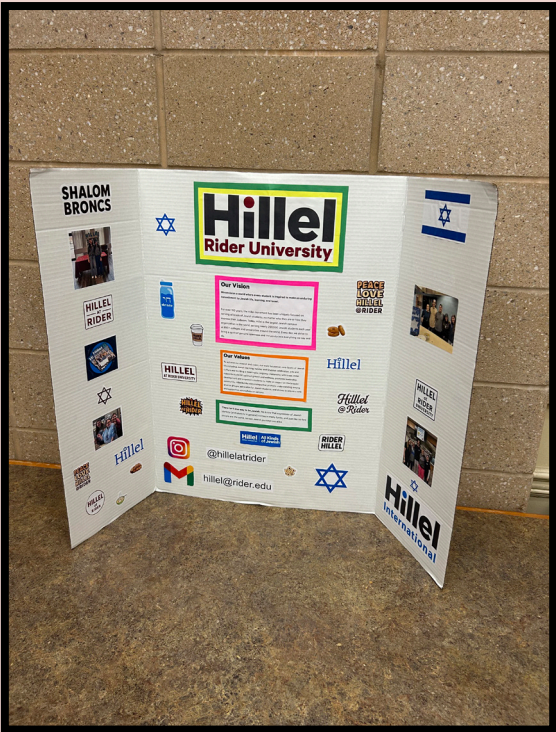
The day Kohler came to speak fell on the same day the Israeli government approved a U.S. brokered ceasefire deal that called for Hamas to release all Israeli hostages and Israel to release some Palestinian detainees.

As of Oct. 13, all 20 of the remaining living Israeli hostages had been released by Hamas, and Israel freed about 2,000 Palestinian detainees under the terms of the agreement.

“The ceasefire happening today is rather poetic,” Melissa Greenberg, co-adviser of Hillel and Rider's director of sustainability, said before Kohler took the podium.

She continued by reading a statement from Rabbi Sharon Brous, of IKAR, a Jewish congregation in Los Angeles.

The statement said, “May this ceasefire be the



Mary-Simone Collazo/The Rider News

Hillel invited a former Israeli soldier to speak about his experiences at the beginning of the Israel-Palestine conflict in the Mercer Room on Oct. 9.

beginning of the end ... an end to the agony of the hostages and the torturous uncertainty ... an end to the devastation and suffering of the people of Gaza ... an end to the heartache and sorrows of Israelis and Palestinians, and all who love them.”

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Concerns grow as nationwide deportations persist

By Caroline Haviland

As the first nine months of President Donald Trump’s second term went by, the nation has seen immigration policies carried out that focus on an increase in deportations and funding for immigration enforcement, causing nationwide concern for both U.S citizens and those undocumented.

Faculty, students weigh in

Upon being reelected for a second term in November 2024, Trump promised to initiate the largest mass deportation in U.S. history, according to NBC News, aimed at the more than 10 million unauthorized immigrants in the country. Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a data gathering, research and distribution organization founded at Syracuse University, reported 470,213 court issued removal and voluntary departure orders in 54.9% of completed immigration court cases in the current fiscal year, according to the most recent data available from August 2025.

Department of Government, Politics and Law Professor Barbara Franz said the real number may be much higher, however, as many deportees were removed without due legal process and placed on airplanes, inciting anxiety among those watching the government’s actions unfold.

“There’s no question that the immigrant community, some residents who have green cards or even people with minority backgrounds are scared,” Franz said. “There’s no question about this. ... It’s a bad time to just be an immigrant.”

TRAC reported the top nationality ordered deported in the current fiscal year as immigrants from Mexico, followed by Honduras, Guatemala, Venezuela and Colombia.

A student source, who wished to remain anonymous due to safety reasons, spoke of their concern due to their parents’ illegal immigration to the United States from Mexico in the early 2000s. In an interview with The Rider News, they said that their fear has grown as more time passes in the Trump administration.

“I’m even more worried now and I think my parents are too,” the student said, who is a U.S citizen. “They’re going to try to remain as optimistic as they can, but the fear is always going to be in the back of my head.”



Gail Demerski/The Rider News

Rider constituents have been increasingly concerned about deportation efforts throughout the U.S.

The source shared an instance where the reality of nationwide deportations also found a way into their internship where they presented ideas on how to get more Hispanic students involved in career fields through large-scale events.

The source said their idea was rejected due to safety concerns of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement possibly hearing of a gathering of Hispanic students in a single space.

“I was like, wow, people are refusing to just do something like that because they don’t want to put people in danger out of safety concerns because you never know the situation,” the source said.

While many remain cautious due to their legal status in the U.S., Franz urged American citizens to take a stand with those most vulnerable.

“If you’re an American citizen don’t feel helpless. Pick an issue and make a stand,” Franz said. “The one thing that will stop this president is a massive wall of people who say no.”

Franz mentioned at least once a week she visits Delaney Hall, an immigration detention center in Newark, New Jersey, to give people standing in line for a long time clothes, food or water, showing her support for an overlooked group of people. “That’s what we should do as Americans,” she said.

University impacts

As of Oct. 6, Rider has not reported any instances of ICE spotted on campus, but Director of Public Safety Matthew Babcock said in an interview with The Rider News that there is still a protocol set in place should this happen.

He said, “More or less we would be the intermediary between any kind of federal law enforcement agency that comes on campus, the students and the administration on campus.”

Babcock continued by urging students to report any campus sighting of ICE or federal agents to Public Safety immediately.

Rider’s international students also remain unaffected by Trump’s recent immigration policies, according to Director of the Office of International Education Kimberly Algeo, who said in an email to The Rider News on Sept. 21 that current international students have not faced problems with visa revocation.

However, Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, reported at least 12 undergraduate and graduate students’ visa status were changed by federal authorities, according to a statement made by the university’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors and American Federation of Teachers on April 9.

Five of these students filed a lawsuit against the federal government, resulting in a judge ruling on May 8 that federal immigration officials acted unlawfully.

With Trump’s policies impacting a range of American constituents, Franz recommended all immigrants to know their rights, what the government can and cannot do, and for undocumented people to speak with a lawyer or the people at their local immigration center.

“I can’t tell an immigrant to not be afraid. They should stand with us, but first we need to stand up,” Franz said. “We, as American citizens, need to lead.”

Responses from faculty garnered over financial situation

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Rider’s faculty union responds to financial changes

These changes come swiftly after Rider President John Loyack sent out an Oct. 6 universitywide email detailing suggestions on how to further help stabilize Rider’s financial standing, using feedback from listening sessions that were hosted with him and Bidle.

Among the proposed ideas were laying off additional personnel, reducing salaries, eliminating inefficient programs, improving workload efficiency, making adjustments to employee benefits and eliminating employee reimbursements.

Villalobos-Buehner said the proposed ideas from Loyack are suggestions the faculty has heard before from former President Gregory Dell’Omo, with no results.

“For the past 10 years, which have been really difficult times and challenging times for our finances, [faculty] have been hearing the same message over and over again and where is the accountability of all those things that were asked? We actually, you know, gave up a lot and still, it didn’t move us forward at all,” Villalobos-Buehner said.

Communications Professor David Dewberry echoed this sentiment in an Oct. 8 issue of The Rider News, saying the methods to address Rider’s financial situation “seems to be no different than in the past.”

Dewberry also pointed out that although the idea of layoffs is not new to Rider, as several faculty were laid off over the summer, he does not want it to be used as a business strategy habitually.

“As a faculty member I certainly want Rider to

succeed. I don’t want to leave this institution. I don’t want to have to apply for jobs. I like where I work, what I do, the people. I understand there’s some issues and people need to direct the institution,” Dewberry said. “At the end of the day, we’re people working for an organization and sometimes that organization changes and we have to deal with it.”

As the AAUP’s contractual Oct. 31 faculty layoff deadline approaches, the faculty union’s leadership met on Oct. 8 to discuss Loyack’s correspondence and responded with a facultywide email on Oct. 9.

Villalobos-Buehner stated in the email, “Members of the Executive Committee and I have heard from many of you, and we all agree that his plan raises serious concerns that directly threaten our livelihoods and our contract.”

Villalobos-Buehner explained that Rider is the faculty’s home and they are “deeply invested” and “committed to how the institution moves forward.”

The Oct. 9 email continued, urging faculty to engage in the conversations that take place in the AAUP meetings, stating, “Your presence is critical. We need to hear your voice, questions, and perspectives as we continue the fight to protect our rights, our contract, and our institution as we know it.”

Villalobos-Buehner said it was concerning that the executive committee of the AAUP was not invited to any of the small-group listening sessions after multiple requests to be present.

She asked, “How can we really even engage in a productive conversation when we don’t have precise information?”

If Loyack had held a listening session with



Photo courtesy of Rider University

David Dewberry addressed Rider’s financial issues when speaking to The Rider News.

the executive committee, Villalobos-Buehner said members could have been a voice for the whole faculty.

She said, “How can we engage in a meaningful conversation when the transparency is zero? So for collaboration to happen, transparency needs to be there, otherwise collaboration is an illusion.”



Photo courtesy of Julia Dumaresq

Freshmen elementary education major Julia Dumaresq and musical theater major Abiageal McBee win Residence Life's first dorm decorating contest of fall 2025.

From fruition to tradition; dorm decorating

By Jasmine White

RESIDENCE Life hosted their first dorm decorating contest in fall 2025, with the hopes to make it an annual tradition. Students were prompted to design their dorm rooms, whether a single dorm or one shared with a roommate, and send in pictures of their living space for a chance to win the best dorm room for the semester.

Many students entered the competition, but one pair's room in particular rose above all others: freshman musical theater major Abiageal McBee and freshman elementary education major Julia Dumaresq's dorm in Wright Hall was dubbed best dorm room of 2025-26.

McBee explained how the theme of their dorm room came from Dumaresq, considering the color "blue has been her vibe for probably her entire life."

"[The theme of the room is] either blue or 'Mamma Mia,'" Dumaresq said. "I have a major obsession with the movie 'Mamma Mia' so that's where I took the main blue floral patterning, coastalish vibe from."

Dumaresq and McBee had a longtime relationship prior to attending Rider. They attended Bayshore Middle School in Leonardo, New Jersey, meeting during their 7th grade year and continued onto Middletown High School in Middletown Township, New Jersey, together preparing for the college application processes.

Dumaresq was originally going to attend Moravian University before switching over to Rider, but she later

realized that Rider was "the better fit" for her program of study.

McBee admitted that she was very anxious upon applying to colleges and leaving home for the first time. Dumaresq agreed that transitioning into this new chapter of her life was frightening at first, but coming into a new setting with someone she could trust made it easier.

"It's really great to have people that I know and I have someone that I can go to an event with [so that I am not] walking around alone, which feels better," Dumaresq said.

McBee explained how they met one another through mutual friends in middle school, freshman accounting major Emma Topp and freshman undecided major Aylin Pyle, who also attend Rider and dorm together in Hill Hall. Out of the three girls, McBee felt most compatible with Dumaresq because of their similar interests, organizational skills and sleep schedules.

"Well me and [Dumaresq] have a very similar [living style because] we are both clean and we both wake up and go to bed around the same time," McBee said. "We're still best friends, we know each other so well and we know that we are most compatible."

Though the two girls were not originally the closest out of the friend group, they took the chance and roomed together, strengthening their friendship.

McBee and Dumaresq agreed that they were lucky to have a bond prior to going away to college

and acknowledged that not everyone has that luxury. For those who are just starting out, they advised newcomers to take advantage of any ways available to find a comfortable roommate match.

"My biggest piece of advice coming in is to definitely use your resources," McBee said. "Find people on Instagram and find people that you know that are looking for a roommate and try to get a connection before you come into college."

McBee added on about the importance of learning a person before moving in with them saying, "If it's at least meeting up like once before, talking about your room, talking about your likes and dislikes to just get to know the person on a personal level."



Photo courtesy of Julia Dumaresq

Freshman elementary education major Julia Dumaresq's desk displaying some of her favorite memories accompanying her study material setup.

Pizza and prompts with new Provost Kelly Bidle

By Caitlyn Sutton

THE aroma of pizza traveled through Room 119 in the Norm Brodsky College of Business, as Provost Kelly Bidle sat down to speak to members of the Rider community on Oct. 14 at Pizza with the Provost.

Bidle was asked to attend the event, hosted by the Student Government Association, with the goal to begin and maintain a strong student-faculty relationship, as the university's provost has not directly interacted with students in the past.

To promote the event, SGA sent out emails telling students, "This event is a great opportunity for students to connect directly with our Provost, learn more about the academic vision of our university, and share their own thoughts, ideas, and experiences in an open and welcoming setting."

To add onto the engaging environment, a colorful slide projected onto the whiteboard ornamented with graphics of pizza-related items read, "Welcome! Grab some pizza & drinks."

A variety of students, encompassing many majors and every class year, showed up to the event eager to ask questions and get to know Bidle on terms deeper than surface level.

Shoes shuffled on the ground and small conversations erupted as students crowded around a table covered with boxes of freshly delivered pizza.

As slices of pizza were served, soda was poured and seats were taken, various questions bounced around the room.

When first asked what a provost was, Bidle responded that to define a provost, you need to understand what a dean is, which is like what a



Caitlyn Sutton/The Rider News

Students gathered in the business building to enjoy pizza and learn more about Rider's Provost Kelly Bidle.

principal is to a school. A provost oversees the deans, Bidle said, and is therefore like what a superintendent is to a school district.

Professor Charles Ray, who teaches in the business college, stepped into the event and also added that in business terms, a provost could be a "chief academic officer," just like how businesses have chief financial officers and chief executive officers.

Aside from learning about a provost's duties and the meaning of the title, Bidle also was asked questions regarding her past as a professor at Rider.

When asked what her favorite class she taught was, Bidle said she loved teaching environmental microbiology. "Bacteria and viruses, I gotta tell you, they're not bad. ... We would not be alive if our bodies weren't swarming in them as we speak right now."

Bidle's passion for the sciences glowed as she spoke about her time as a microbiology professor at Rider and shared some of her favorite knowledge with the group.

As Bidle answered more questions about topics such as academic advising and engaged learning, students seemed to become more comfortable within the discussion, as multiple people were letting their voices be heard.

Parker Correa, a freshman English major who uses they/them pronouns, originally came to the event to fill a requirement for an on-campus organization but they found that attending the event gave them more insight than expected.

Correa said, "It was nice ... meeting the provost on a more personal level."

A ‘Friendly Feud’ between the members of BSU

By Jasmine White

THE first answer of the night, “Do you have McDonald’s money?” was buzzed in by freshman communications major Johnnie Edwards in the first round of “Friendly Feud,” Black Student Union’s version of Steve Harvey’s famous game show “Family Feud.”

The answer came swiftly after the question, “What are things your mother used to say to you growing up?” and scored 75 points for Edwards’ team.

Students poured in through the doors of the Rue Auditorium on Oct. 9, as they were greeted by the President of Black Student Union Dwight Pulliam, senior data analytics major as the co-host, and the At-large Member Nathan Greene, senior sports media major cosplayed as Steve Harvey.

Pulliam explained the dynamics of their game, as the students were split into two teams on either side of the auditorium.

“We had two teams go against each other in a family feud type event where we asked the students and [Black

culture] related questions,” Pulliam said. “We had three Fast Money rounds where six individuals got a chance to go head-to-head in a one v. one style.”

In the first round Edwards from team two competed against freshman graphic design major Omar Finney Jr. The hosts had to go through a round of rock-paper-scissors to decide who could answer the question posed first, which remained the same in the following rounds.

In round two, the question was “What is the best 90s sitcom?” From team two sophomore behavioral neuroscience major Nicole Akaho won rock-paper-scissors against team one’s representative, freshman accounting major Kaleb Bland.

Team two led with the first part of guesses, but team one stole the points on the board, winning the second round with 84 points. Some answers included “The Martin Show” for 40 points and “Moesha” for 19 points.

In round three junior sports media major Rae Young from team one faced freshman business administration major Shalyn Handy from team two. The question for this round was, “What songs instantly turn up a function?”

“Dreams and Nightmares” by Meek Mill was the number one answer, adding 40 points to the board, following “No Hands” by Roscoe Dash and Waka Flocka Flame for five points and “Faneto” by Chief Keef for one point.

Team two took home 46 points to add to their score of 75, allowing them to win the first part of the game with 121 points.

The “Fast Money” rounds consisted of a series of questions posed to one representative from either side. Akaho from team two versed freshman business administration major Daniella Johnson. Akaho scored



Though defeated in the first round of the game, team one came back in the second half dominating team two across the board.

155 points, but Johnson dominated with 175 points.

The second round of fast money was between junior criminal justice major E’miija Eccles from team one and Handy from team two. Eccles scored 145 points, but Handy could not catch up to Eccles, only scoring 110 points.

In the final round, Finney from team one challenged freshman elementary education major Alani Gordon from team two. Team one scored 161 points, while team two fell short with 147 points.

Team one’s representatives won with a clean sweep against team two, ending the line of competition for the night with a picture next to their host and co-host and a \$15 reward each.

Greene and Pulliam hope to do collaborations with Black Men Unified and host more events to bring the Black community together at Rider in the future.

Sophomore political science major and social media manager for BSU Laurel Amankwah said, “I think the event went really well. I loved the turnout, the energy, you know, everybody was participating, and just being great and showing great sportsmanship.”



The Black Student Union played ‘Friendly Feud,’ competing against one another in a series of interactive questions and answers.

Hypnotist entices Rider students with powerful trances

By Stacie Hueter

EXPECTANT, nervous smiles lined the faces of curious students who came to see mystifying hypnotist, Keith Karkut, on Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Bart Luedeke Center’s Cavalla Room.

Karkut urged willing students in the audience to volunteer to be hypnotized and experience mind-bending trances. Nine raised their hands and were quickly seated in front of the audience in one of the nine chairs placed alongside one another.

First, Karkut utilized relaxation techniques such as deep breathing and progressive muscle relaxation, which involves briefly tensing up the body before loosening its muscles, in order to get their guards down.

Next, Karkut asked the group to close their eyes and imagine vivid imagery of humorous movie scenes, using funny voices that influenced them to laugh along. He repeated this process with the intent to scare them, replacing his own laughter with a chilling rasp and ominous vocals.

Through the subjects’ susceptibility and the hypnotist’s influence, Karkut triggered in them reactions like phantosmia, or smelling hallucinations, and deceived them into believing they were someone else. Some volunteers even forgot how to answer basic facts, such as basic addition problems, their majors, or with some, their own names.



Keith Karkut chose participants from the crowd.

The effects left an impression on the perplexed audience members, such as freshman sports media major, Isabel Kotscho. She stated that her personal highlight was the students’ imitations of famous music artists such as Katy Perry and Bruno Mars. “It was very funny because they were dancing and coming to the audience. It was crazy,” she said.

However, the student reactions within their trances generated roaring laughs of disbelief from the peering audience.

Karkut stated that he was particularly excited to return to Rider since it was his father’s alma mater in the 1960s.

Karkut’s interest in the entertainment industry was fostered by seeing another hypnotist. “I asked him some questions and he was very pompous ... ‘Don’t mess with [Hypnotism],’” the hypnotist told Karkut. Curiosity overtook the young college student prompting him to experiment with its capabilities.

“I was a communications major, and I studied every book possible in hypnosis,” said Karkut. For beginner hypnotists, he recommends the book, “Hypnosis for the Seriously Curious,” by Kenneth S. Bowers.

Karkut’s college resident assistant was the first bewitched by his hypnotism; in a similar manner to which he used that night. Karkut performed a hypnotic induction, or a trance-like state that facilitates

therapeutic methods, which left him in a daze.

Karkut’s first hypnosis inspired him to follow his new passion and the experience eventually sparked a lucrative, at least 30-year career in hypnosis across 48 U.S. states and hundreds of colleges. “It’s a cool career,” Karkut said with a smile.

One participant, Xander Ebert, a freshman graphic design major, illustrated his initial expectations.

“I was going in it with the relative expectation that it would probably work ... a lot of it is essentially believing that you can get affected,” Ebert said.

Ebert described the mesmerizing impacts of Karkut’s techniques afterward.

“When I counted up to 10, I wouldn’t remember the number two ... my mouth just blurts out three,” he recounted.

Ebert also called the hypnosis experience “bizarre,” yet, “very funny, at least.”

Karkut inspired future hypnotists by highlighting that they could easily learn the craft. “But in this day and age you can figure out a lot just by watching and learning online ... I’m self taught and that’s my career.”



The students fell asleep under the sound of Keith Karkut’s voice.



The participants listen to the hypnotist’s directions for his performance.

Remembering Raven one year later

honest

Honest. That's the first word I would use to describe Raven. Not shy, not timid, not closed off. Honest. And that's exactly the first thing I would say when asked about him. He was honest about everything. If I asked him about my t-shirt or even when I spelled field wrong... 7 times... in one paragraph. He would never let me down when needing the full truth. But I didn't want the truth that day, I didn't want to believe it was the truth. I couldn't believe anyone was being honest with me because the only person that I knew to be truly honest was YOU.

You were one of the first people I met when I transferred to school, while we didn't talk much in the beginning I made it my mission to make you laugh every time I saw you. With passing waves and quick remarks I tried my best to sneakily

become your friend. Then you moved in right down the hall. I remember waking up early just so we'd pass and have a quick chat before we were off to class. I hoped to grow on you like you had grown on me. The day you started at the news I was beyond excited because I knew for a fact nothing would get past you. I knew you would be HONEST. Not just with me but with the people around you. You quickly adjusted and I got the chance to see you flourish. You were impactful even when quiet.

But now it's too quiet. And I fear I will never trust anyone to be as truthful, as caring, as thoughtful, as honest as you. I've always noticed you, as you have always noticed me. I will forever remember you and miss you, honestly.

-Destiny



Raven

For Raven
By Jay

More than the 41%

You were supposed to live.
Is what I keep saying
To prove that statistic wrong
Only 18 years old
The man you would've
become
If you felt the strength you
had
You had it, Raven

Communities big and small
Sit and wallow
At the presence brought forth
The kind and caring de-
meanor
When you struggled the most

I hope you found home
In the little time you had
You made me welcome
Even on your hardest days

The silly t shirts
And sly remarks
Your presence will be felt
For an eternity

I'll remember to be me
To honor the most real you
You reminded me it's ok
To show people I'm here
Just like you did, Raven
You'll be with me forever.

for raven

I sat in your seat today and stared where you stared, felt the table you felt, listened to the hum of the radiator like you listened. You were always smarter than all of us, always knowing things none of us knew.

I remember when you told me you could speak five languages (almost six), and I dropped my mouth open in shock. You laughed at me and said it really "wasn't that hard." That was just the crazy intelligent person you were, Raven.

We talked about how life was cruel and unfair. We used to share stories about loveless times and cope through humor, even though none of it was funny. I will never forget your slow, sarcastic laugh. I wish I could hear it now.

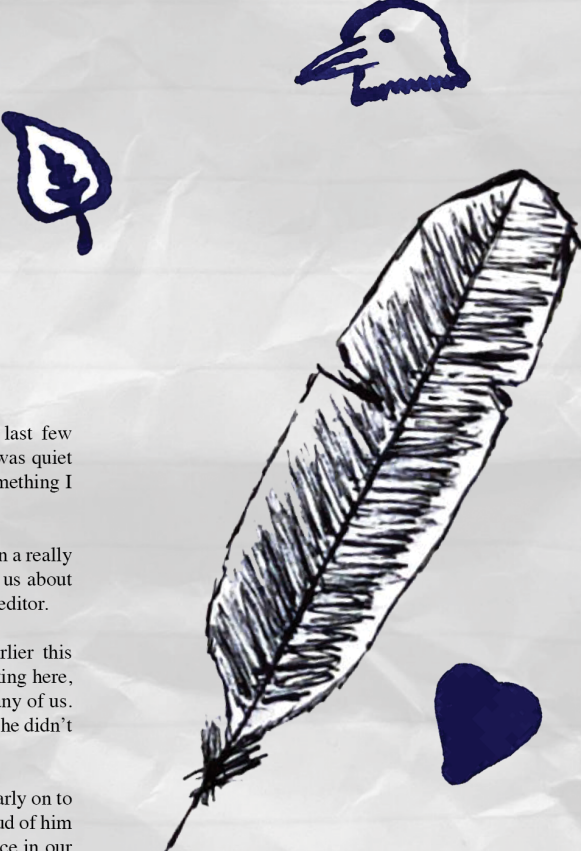
I keep waiting for you to walk in the door and mutter a quiet hello. Or to spit out some witty, matter-of-fact retort. This whole school feels empty without you. I find you in every room.

I would have walked with you, Raven. We would have sipped the sweet air and laughed and cried and spun until we were dizzy. I would have dropped everything for you, if you had only asked.

If it's true that life is made up of tiny moments, I know you changed mine. Every conversation, every laugh, every smile we shared since my first day here has carried me to now. You mattered to all of us, Raven. It will never be the same without you. I will love you forever.

-Maggie

i find you



part of me

I only started getting to know Raven within the last few weeks. When he was in the newsroom with us, he was quiet and kept to himself a lot of the time, which was something I understood and related to quite a bit.

But over the last month or so, he began opening up in a really amazing way. He was joking around and talking to us about his day, all while being an absolutely brilliant copy editor.

We were putting the paper together one night earlier this semester, and he told me, when he first started working here, he felt scared and anxious because he didn't know any of us. He wasn't sure how he fit in with us just yet. He said he didn't feel that way anymore.

Part of me was upset at myself for not doing more early on to make him feel welcome, but I was mostly so, so proud of him for working through his worries and finding his place in our little family. It meant so much to me that our newsroom was a place where he could feel safe and wanted.


I can be a pretty closed off and anxious person sometimes. When I'm not doing well mentally or I'm in an uncomfortable situation, I have a tendency to retreat back into my comfort zone and shut people out. Raven didn't do that, and it stuck with me.

Watching Raven slowly unfurl each week was so beautiful and moving to me, and I wish I would have told him that. Thank you for being here, Raven.


-Jake

you are
LOVED!



 Raven Syed Sep 23 at 5:42 PM

womp womp

 Colleton 7:41 PM

i miss you

pure inspiration

Raven was nothing less of pure inspiration in my eyes.

He was one of the most talented, intelligent and well-rounded students that I have ever met on this campus.

He would catch edits that no other eyes could see and bring new ideas that were unmatched.

Watching Raven grow and getting to learn more about him every week was a gift.

The smiles he brought to the copy desk every week and his contribution to making the newsroom the home that it is can never be replaced but left an impact that will be kept forever in my heart.

He was a shoulder for those around him and I will continue to live every day being a shoulder for one more person than the day prior just for him.

Thank you for allowing The Rider News to be part of your story Raven. You are forever loved.

-Hannah Newman

Donate to the Trevor Project in honor of Raven

The Trevor Project is a non-profit organization focusing on LGBTQIA+ suicide prevention and providing 24/7 crisis support services, research and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ young adults.



at rest

I met Raven last year when he sat behind me in environmental science. That was the first time we had entered each other's bubbles.

The first time I remember hearing his voice was when he spoke up in class to say how the snow in New Jersey was nothing compared to the snow in Connecticut.

He then went on to talk about how much he loved it there and I remember hoping that he could find that same feeling here.

I still hope that he was able to find a home away from home here.

After that, Raven and I would talk to each other about assignments and even started having small interactions outside of class.

Eventually he started at The Rider News and I remember asking him in class the day after his first day of training how he liked the newsroom. He said that everyone seemed nice and that he could see himself working there. I'm really grateful he did.

The thing about Raven was that even if you didn't know him, you knew him.

He was a kind soul that found temporary rest here on Earth before leaving to find permanent rest somewhere else.

A lot of emotions that are in the air right now are grief, sadness, anger, guilt and regret. But I think the one Raven would want most is love.

He was always filled with love even if he didn't think he had it in him. His light always radiated through the darkness that held him down.

Raven I'm going to miss hearing your voice and seeing your smile that you rarely ever showed.

My only regret is that I won't ever get the chance to experience more of your light.

-Grace



a friend

At first, I knew Raven mostly as a colleague, and in passing waves of kindness on our way across campus. In my almost two semesters of knowing him, I tried to make small exchanges of pleasantries to later establish a deeper connection.

I knew him when he first became a copyeditor and he was timid, but I enjoyed taking the time to leave my desk chair that was across the room when I had free time to visit him at the copy desk.

Originally, he did not initiate conversation with me, but by the beginning of this semester, we made huge progress and shared many facts, feelings and hilarious stories.

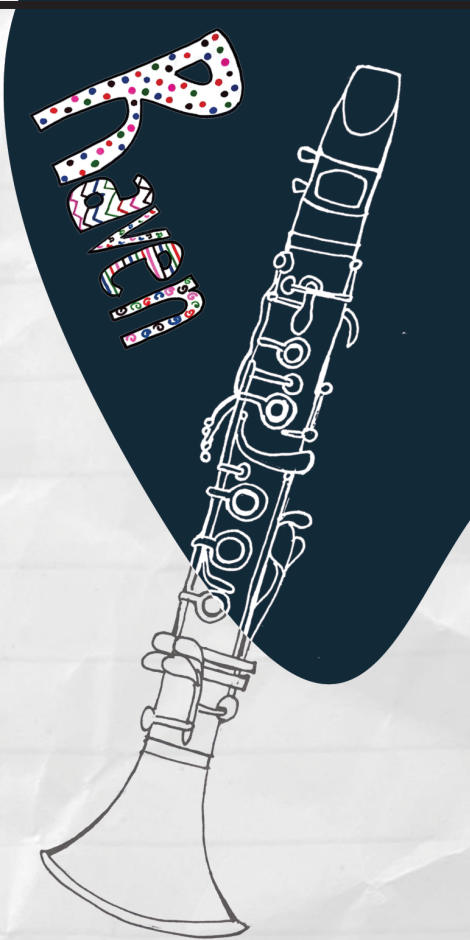
Whenever I felt overwhelmed, I knew Raven and the other copy editors as a beacon of light and a pillar to steady myself when the earth felt like it was crumbling beneath me.

When my feelings felt too big to carry myself, traversing the newsroom and visiting him and the other copyeditors reminded me that you can have fun and have stress at the same time. He taught me that I don't have to be stuck in a cycle of sadness or anxiety.

I knew from when I first met him that he was supportive, but that was before I was made aware of his immense impact on campus through clubs, organizations and genuine friendships.

Not to mention, he made eloquent, concise and considerate comments and edits on my stories. He was so talented and he put everything into each extracurricular he was a part of.

In my chair across the room, I would wear noise canceling headphones to tune out my surroundings and to lock into



not alone

I am at a loss for words. I want to say everything perfectly.

I want to honor Raven and the impact that he had on the community.

It is times like these that words are the most difficult to find, but also, that they can be the most healing and impactful.

Even though I want to say everything perfectly, I have come to realize that perfection is not warranted. It is OK to be messy, to be honest, and to express how you are feeling.

It is OK to be feeling a lot right now. There is no wrong feeling to have at times like this. Just know that you are not alone.

Hold each other tighter and longer. Tell your friends and family that you love them. Let others know what they mean to you and don't let them forget it.

It is OK if you don't have the words right now. You are not alone.

Raven was such a kind soul and it was an honor to get to know him. Seeing Raven around campus, in the dorm halls, or in the newsroom always provided me with a welcoming face and I felt like I could be myself around him. His absence will be felt and it will hurt.

Raven, we love you and you will always be remembered.

-Libby D'Orvilliers

my stories. I did have difficulty focusing when I heard boisterous laughter from the copyediting desk, and I was sure that he was the catalyst.

I wish I had the chance to make him laugh again or to form a closer relationship with him.

I had so much more to talk to him about. While hearing stories about his life, I found out that we both played clarinet. I would have loved to tell him that.

I learned a lot from him. I related to him. I miss him.

-Madison Lewis

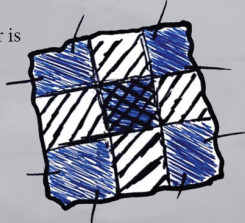


blue plaid
klaudine bessasparis

angel numbers have danced across my vision,
yet i don't recall 999 ever making an appearance.
your chapter was meant to continue,
hand-in-hand with the rest of us.

how'd we miss the signs?
were they torn down in rage
before we even walked by?

now all i can remember is
pounding feet
slamming doors
weeping cries
whispering disbelief
"no"
"it's him, isn't it?"
heartbreaking nods
that turn into
full body shakes.



and as the news trickled out
so too did our tears,
and your chair, now permanently empty,
stared at us,
coaxing sobs out of
the most stoic among us.

the math doesn't add up –
why'd you think that your choice was
the one and only option
if you're great with numbers?
what did your intelligent mind do
to deceive you into making such a decision?

lilyisthatyou was *pulling on my halo*,
passing it to you,
creating unimaginable pain
that leaked from my eyes
just days before.

while your *faith* was *dying slowly*
'cuz you thought *nobody really knows me*,
my tears mingled with mourning,
knowing that your clock was breaking
before anyone else,
my final message to you, pleading,
hoping to see your wonderful soul
across from mine three days later.

i never realized you thought you were
hard to love.

why'd we think you coming out of your shell was progress,
when it instead was the smooth seawater
days before a thunderstorm
comes blasting through to destroy
everything around it?

now *my world is painted black and blue*,
your bruise striking every door frame,
every coffee table...
every glance exchanged with glasses-covered eyes
catapulting me
back into the newsroom,
your smirk hidden underneath
every quip that escaped your lips
and every tug on your favorite flannel.

purple and black,
such halloween colors.
bats and witches
would cackle at the sight
until i clamp my hand over their mouths,
begging them to understand that
this time
it's coincidence.
this time –
it's comfort
as the world stands still
and nothing feels real.

what made you think we wouldn't
embrace you?
your lent your ears to us,
and we've wanted to do the same.
now we sit in silence,
a snuffle on the other end of the line,
static before clarity,
followed by disbelief.

i didn't think twice when ruel said *fall in love for a year*
and then i'll disappear –
misunderstandings mashing my memories,
wish that you were here
even if you thought
growing up is strange
so you
push away thinking we would do the same.

Now your namesake howls from the trees,
crow's calls shrieking in loss.
a flock of your friends,
an undying desire to hug you
buried within their bones,
united,
but
already
too
late.

blue plaid

THEATER REVIEW

Rider's 'Lost Girl' dazzles audience members

THE Rider University's theater department brought award-winning playwright Kimberly Belflower's, "Lost Girl," to life on the Yvonne Theatre stage this past weekend. With shows running Oct. 11 through 12, I had the pleasure of attending the first evening showing.

I am a big fan of retellings and continuations of beloved stories. When I initially saw that Rider's theater department was putting on a production that is a continuation of the classic story of Peter Pan, one in which Wendy Darling, played by senior acting for film, television and theatre major Ava Hojnowski, grows up obsessing over Peter Pan, played by senior musical theatre major Peyton DiVirgilio, well into her teenage years, I became interested and was determined to see the show. It was my first exposure to the play, Belflower's writing and my first Rider acting production.

After viewing the show, I can proudly attest that some of the production's best aspects were the actors' performances and usage of movement throughout the stage.

Brandon Semmel, a senior acting for film, television and theater major who played the conceited "Lost Boy" named Slightly, described his experience behind the scenes, saying, "Reading it was confusing to all of us ... but we were able to really put together something right."

This play was nothing like I had ever seen before; it simply featured one set, Wendy's bedroom with her iconic solarium window where she and Pan first met. However, the actors had to utilize the whole space of the stage in order to create the illusion of different places.

I also enjoyed the lighthearted humor of the Lost Boy's scenes with Wendy. The actors shared great chemistry with one another, and their poking fun of Darling's persevering obsession with Neverland and Pan still, despite being all grown up made for some great comedic moments.

Though, I also liked the slower, more emotional moments his character shared with Wendy. In this story, Slightly is in love with Wendy and desperately attempts to demonstrate his affections for her

Photo courtesy of Jeff Stewart



Senior acting for film, television and theatre major **Ava Hojnowski** delivered a stunning performance as Wendy Darling.

throughout the 90-minute show. His ultimate separation from Wendy was heart wrenching and left the girl questioning her actions by the end. His character compliments her character arc well.

The ensemble of "The Lost Girls" were another commendable and crucial part of the play, as I believed they served as effective muses who conveyed Darling's turbulent feelings throughout the play. The trio had great projection and effectively utilized the whole stage to portray these larger-than-life feelings of Darling's.

Hojnowski had masterful usage of projection combined with the vocal technique that best portray Darling's anguished state in the story. The play can be interpreted as a tragedy of Darling following her visit to Neverland.

The technical special effects used in the production enhanced the audience's immersion into the story. Dazzling stage effects such as snowfall and greeting cards "falling" from the top of the stage bolstered the viewing experience.

Sophomore arts and entertainment industries management major Lara Denges, who was a member of the production's stage crew serving as a props runner, stated that the hardest part of the technical aspects was "making sure everything was where it was supposed to be by the end of the night."

And despite all of the intricate elements, the final product was a magical, wonderful piece of theater brought to life by the diligent cast, crew, designers and the marvelous direction of Stan Cahill.

Fellow audience member, senior acting for film, television and theatre major Chloé Le Breton, auditioned for the show and read the script beforehand. "I was excited to see the difference of it being performed on stage ... it's really cool," she commented.

Belflower's "Lost Girl" explores the power of a good adaptation and positively challenges the actors to pour everything into their performances. I believe Rider's acting students shined onstage with their vigor and dedication, bringing this fairytale-esque play to life.

*Stacie Hueter
freshman journalism major*

BOOK REVIEW

'Always Remember' brings readers comfort

IF the last book of beloved author, artist and illustrator Charlie Mackesy's left me an emotional mess then his newest book absolutely emotionally destroyed me. I have never felt such a warm spark ignited in my heart from such a little book.

Published in the U.S. by Penguin Random House's imprint Penguin Life on Oct. 14, "Always Remember: the Boy, The Mole, The Fox, the Horse and the Storm" by Mackesy, is well on its way to becoming my favorite book of the year.

A sequel of sorts to Mackesy's original "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" follows the titular quartet on a journey in which they know not where they are going or what they are looking for, but they all feel that they are where they are supposed to be — with each other. Together the group stands together through a brutal storm and find that hope, love, their bravery and perhaps just a little bit of cake can carry them through even the darkest of times.

I went into my reading of "Always Remember" with the highest of hopes. The previous book in the series was gifted to me at a very difficult time in my life by my grandmother and it helped me cope and feel loved so much that I read it every single day during that difficult time and I continue to turn to it in times of personal struggle. While "Always Remember" did not yet have that large of a life-changing impact on me, it still struck a chord in my heart and I found myself tearing up while flipping through the pages.

What I found most comforting reading this Mackesy book is that I can see myself in all of the characters. I see myself in the boy, who is unsure of himself from time to time, but leans into his intuition to keep going. I see myself in the horse, who often offers words of encouragement to his friends and in

the fox who keeps more to himself, but can always be seen tagging along. I must admit I most see myself in the small mole who just loves cake.

Mackesy is a true artistic gem. While his works may appear more "simplistic" and "childlike" on the outside, they are some of the most powerful stories I have read. His iconic inky script makes me feel that he is speaking directly to me and only me. Quotes from the book such as "hope is a quiet song in your heart that can sing in spite of everything" leap straight off of the page and into my heart.

Throughout the story, the wise horse gently reminds the boy that the power of friendship is strong, but also that the most important friend you will ever have is you and the love you have for yourself. I needed to read that at this point in my life.

While the underlying message that 'you are enough just as you are' is shared numerous times throughout the short book and could potentially be viewed as being repetitive, I am of the firm belief that one can never ever be reminded too much that they are loved and that they matter — no strings attached.

"Always Remember" is exactly what I need in my life right now. I think the world needs too.

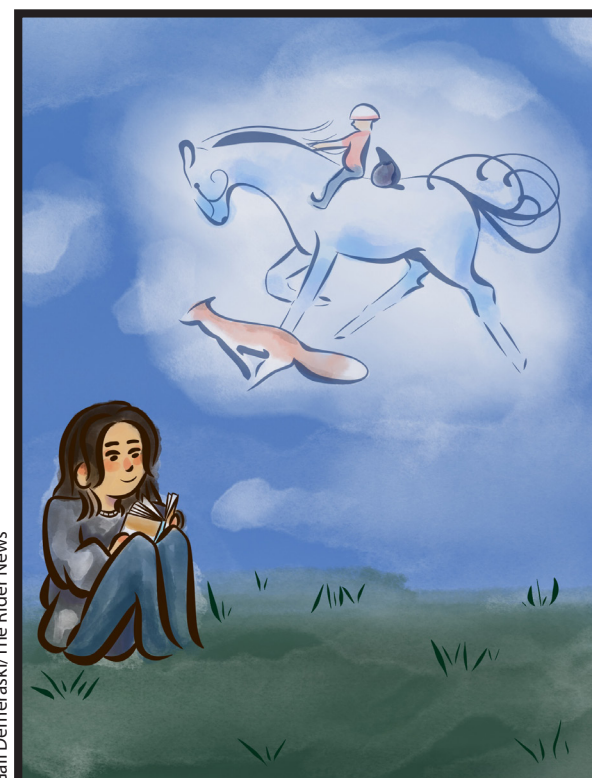
Sometimes it is more helpful than anything to look at a gorgeous watercolor drawing and read "the blue sky above never leaves" to keep you grounded through the metaphorical storms of life.

Sometimes a simple reminder that you are brave, loved and enough is all you need to keep going.

Grab yourself a copy to keep on your nightstand for those rough days and grab a copy to pass along to a friend who you want to thank for being on this journey with you. This book is meant to be shared.

In the words of the soft fox, "when you think of everyone you love ... I hope you include yourself." I hope that you include yourself too, always. The world needs more love. Start with showing love to you.

*Libby D'Orvilliers
senior psychology major*



Gail Demeraski/The Rider News

"Always Remember," is a comforting book you can get lost in.

New ideas to secure Rider’s future

We need innovative thinking at this moment to rescue Rider University from the mess our past President Gregory Dell’Omo left us in. President John Loyack’s Oct. 6 email to the university community offers some suggested themes that are similar to the ideas we heard for years from our previous failed president: laying off personnel, reducing salaries, eliminating inefficient programs and activities, “adjusting” employee benefits and eliminating employee travel, leaves and other reimbursements. Of course, it is easy to criticize, but I think we as faculty can make better suggestions, which I hope President Loyack will welcome and seriously consider. Rather than focusing on continued program and resource cuts that will further damage our university, what are other strategies that can produce better results? My hope is that President Loyack will possess the openness and wisdom that President Dell’Omo lacked and will embrace the best ideas that emerge. I offer this suggestion that does not require the cutting of faculty or their meager pay or benefits, and does not further damage Rider, with the hope that other faculty members will come up with additional suggestions.

Firstly, expand our educational activity to adult education, and specifically include people who are elderly. There are 16 living communities for people over 55 and 17 retirement homes in the Lawrenceville area and 146 nursing homes in Princeton! While we might not be able to recruit every person in these communities, many of them are very interested in connecting more with the outside world and in learning. We, of course, would cater in subject matter, structure, time and teaching locations to the needs of this new student population, and could offer both in-person and Zoom classes. For instance, we could teach classes with varying meeting frequencies, topics and locations.

Secondly, we could offer broad-themed courses in basic writing, philosophy about life, navigating life today and music and specific topical courses, such as the Supreme Court in 2025 and the Origins of the Civil War. All the courses listed in the previous sentence are real classes offered by the Fairleigh Institute for Lifelong Learning at Florham, a section of Fairleigh Dickinson University. Although they charge less than \$300 per person per course, these classes are so popular that the institute has apparently successfully turned around their economic situation.

The mature student market is an untapped opportunity in our region, and it is only a matter of time before a university steps in to serve it. At this point, Rider still holds the advantage, and by acting swiftly, we could establish ourselves as a leader in the field. Within a month, we could send an introductory letter and begin visits to these communities to explore the types of educational opportunities that local and mature learners are seeking. By the spring semester

we could implement a pilot program without cutting Rider faculty’s income or undermining goodwill.

Rather than continuing President Dell’Omo’s failed approach of cutting programs and resources, I believe that we can more effectively secure Rider’s future by expanding our core mission — teaching, learning and deepening our engagement with the Lawrenceville community.

Barbara Franz
Professor

Department of Government, Politics and Law



Caroline Haviland/The Rider News

COMIC: The Twisted Ventures of Harvey J. Cedars

By N.D. Medal



Student employment cuts spark frustration

The way the student-worker budget and position cuts were handled left me with a few grievances. While trying to make sense of the situation, I reached out to friends and strangers alike to get their opinions. Here are some of our thoughts on the matter. My first issue comes from the timeline. Many of the people I talked to received word that the budget to pay student workers was being cut, or they lost their jobs mere days before the fall 2025 semester started. Senior acting for film, television and theatre major Chloé Le Breton said, “I was upset because it was very, very soon before school started, it was like days before.” For me, I had to actively reach out after classes started to figure out why I had not heard anything. There was a very limited amount of time for people to find new jobs, regardless of when they heard the news.

This leads me to my second issue, the lack of communication. There was no email from the powers that should have told us that things were changing. If we had heard as soon as the decision was made, even a little warning along the lines of “Hey, our budget is changing and it could impact student workers’ jobs, just a heads up” would have been better than the silence we received instead. We would have been able to start looking for jobs before the semester began, so we could work around our classes. Understandably, things are chaotic during this important restructuring of the university, but leaving students in the dark does not encourage us to support the new leadership. It has fostered mistrust, for if we could not even be told that our jobs were on the line, what comes next?

My final concern comes with the aftermath. Now that the damage is done, many of us are struggling to find a job. And yet, there seems to be a low supply of paying jobs on campus. Now, yes, we could go off campus to find a job, but not everyone has a convenient means

of transportation. Taking an Uber back and forth between work and school would add up, diminishing the power of a job. Selah Johnson, a junior pursuing a degree in elementary education, said her only

option is to work on campus, yet her experience with applying for jobs has been tumultuous. She said, “When I was looking for a job, I kept applying and I kept getting an email back that they couldn’t accept me, and I was like, ‘wow, I see a lot of people working, why can’t I work?’”

As for what is on campus, it is not much. People are looking on Handshake, Rider’s student career management platform, but many of the jobs are expired listings or have qualifications that some cannot fill. Even what the student job fair offered was minimal in terms of open positions. Senior accounting major Asia Adkison attended one job fair and said, “It was really pitiful ... Out of 15 tables, five or six were informational ... [the other] half was for the federal work study. If you don’t have federal work study, then you’re completely screwed.”

If you are a senior trying to save money for after graduation or for graduate school? Forget it. Who would want to spend their time training someone new, just for them to be gone in a few months? Better to invest in those who will stick around for a long time.

Overall, the lack of warning, communication and lack of new opportunities has left me and many others feeling frustrated with the university for this sudden decision. In the words of senior environmental science major Alexis Burns, the way this situation was handled “showed that I cannot rely on this campus.” The situation could have been handled differently; even minimal effort would have been better than this silence.

Skyler O’Kelley
senior acting for film, television and theatre major

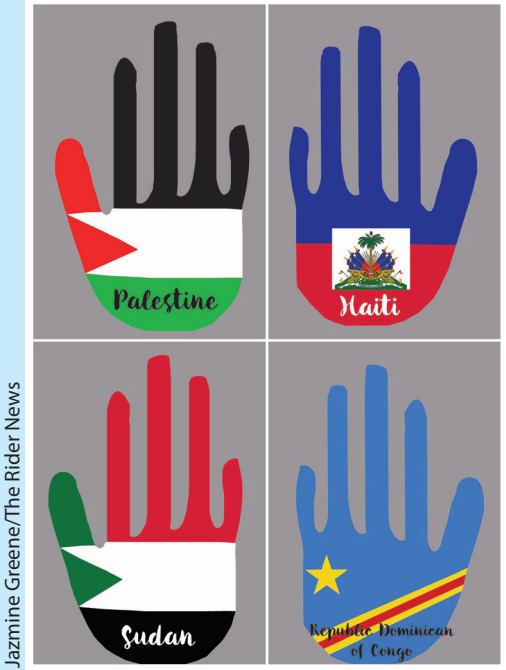


Gail Demeraski/The Rider News

Former student workers are frustrated by recent job cuts and how it has affected their employment status.

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE: Hands off the world: A call to end genocide

By Zyheim Bell



Jasmine Greene/The Rider News

There is no time to remain silent anymore. Speak out against injustices across the world.

THE Rider News

Longstreet House, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 ©2025 General Meetings: Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

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FIELD HOCKEY

Broncs suffer second NEC loss, sit at 6-6

By Kadie DiGiuseppe and Emma Geremia-Hartigan

COMING into an Oct. 10 Northeast Conference matchup against Saint Francis University, Rider field hockey won four straight. However, the Broncs faced their second shutout loss of the season, 2-0. Rider was not kept down for long, though, as they got back on track with a 4-3 double overtime victory over Georgetown University on Oct. 12.

‘It is the little things’

On a cool Oct. 10 night under the lights at Ben Cohen Field, Rider field hockey showed grit and determination in a NEC matchup against Saint Francis University for their breast cancer awareness game. Despite a strong defensive stand and improved second-half play, the Broncs fell 2-0.

The opening half was a test for Rider’s backline as Saint Francis built early pressure, earning multiple circle entries and penalty corners.

After trailing 2-0 at halftime, Rider came out with renewed energy in the second half. The Broncs tightened up defensively and controlled possession, creating several offensive opportunities and earning a 10-9 edge in penalty corners by the end of the period.

“I think in the second half, we focused on finding our rhythm defensively,” sophomore goalie Jade Regnart said. “We tried to limit the number of shots I was needing to face.”

Head Coach Gina Carey-Smith echoed that focus on details, emphasizing that close conference matchups often come down to execution.

“We want the girls to understand that it is the little things that make the difference in a game like that,” Carey-Smith said.

Regnart, who finished with seven saves, spoke to her defensive performance against the Red Flash.

“Every save is vital from my side,” Regnart said. “I have to perform for my team and do my absolute best.”



Liliana R. Basile/The Rider News

Junior defender **Kate Mahmud** moves the ball up the field.

A quick turnaround

On Oct. 12, the Broncs quickly bounced back from their second shutout of the season. Within the first couple minutes of their game against the Georgetown Bulldogs, junior midfielder Ang Borisow connected on a goal with the assist from junior forward Emma Bonshak.

The early 1-0 Rider lead lit a fire underneath Georgetown, who went on to take nine more shots in the first quarter.

The first 10 minutes of the second quarter were highly competitive, but after freshman forward Ryleigh Damminger scored her first goal of the season, the Broncs added onto their offensive successes and took a 2-0 lead before halftime.

The Bulldogs offense came out swinging to start the second half. Three minutes in, they scored their first goal and the game was quickly tied 2-2 by the end of the quarter. Rider knew they had to get back in the game offensively if they wanted to walk away with a victory, so in the final quarter, senior forwards Valeria Perales and Semra Said led the charge.

Perales took two quick shots at the cage, but both were unsuccessful. Said stepped up to the stage and scored her fourth goal of the season, giving the Broncs the lead.

Georgetown would not go away quiet, though. Five minutes after what looked to be the game winning goal by Rider, Georgetown tied the score 3-3, forcing overtime.

The Broncs are no stranger to overtime, with this being the fourth overtime appearance they have made, the most recent one being their 4-3 double overtime win at La Salle University on Oct. 5. However, Rider did not play like they were experienced in the first overtime, but were able to come away from the first 10 minutes without allowing a Georgetown goal.

In double overtime, Georgetown took one final shot, but it was not enough. After playing the entire 73 minutes, Said finished off Rider’s weekend with a sweet victory and scored the game winning goal, ending with a 4-3 win.

Before this game, Said had not scored multiple goals in a single game since October 2022 in Rider’s 4-1 win over Bryant.

Said and Perales combined for 10 shots during the game while Regnart finished with a career-high 17 saves.

The Broncs improved to 6-6 in the season and remain in fourth place in the NEC.

On Oct. 17, Rider will host Long Island University at Ben Cohen Field at 7 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Rider ends scoreless drought, scoop up two points

By Joshua Yuhás and Liliana R. Basile

RIDER women’s soccer returned to the scoring column on Oct. 8, collecting a 2-2 draw on the road at Iona University. The Broncs’ two goals against the Gaels snapped a five-game scoreless streak, gaining their first goal since Sept. 14. Later in the week, Rider ended a match against the University of Manhattan on Oct. 11 with a 0-0 tie to pick up a point.

Overcoming early adversity

The Broncs opened with control of the ball on Oct. 8, passing it back to freshman goalkeeper Ashley Moore in net for a clear, however, the Gaels pushed forward and applied pressure early to cause an unfortunate result.

The clearing attempt caught a Gaels shoulder and fell into the back of the net, providing a 1-0 deficit for the Broncs just 38 seconds into the match.

Pressure did not dissolve as the Gaels worked a corner in the 13th minute to extend their lead.

Iona remained in control of the match with two more chances in the next few minutes, one nearly extending their lead when the Gaels shot rebounded off the goal frame in the 22nd minute.

Down 2-0 in the 28th minute, the Broncs faced a tough challenge to mount a comeback, until a foul outside the box provided a free kick for junior defender Bethie Morgan, who rifled a shot into the top-left corner for her first collegiate goal, breaking the Broncs’ scoreless streak to cut the deficit to one.

Iona outshot Rider eight to four in the first half with shots on goal even at two as the game remained 2-1 heading into the second half.

The Broncs carried the momentum into the second half, working a corner kick that found the foot

of junior forward Noa Menzing, who slipped a pass over to freshman forward Lauren Black, firing the ball into the back of the net to tie the game at two.

Black’s goal was the first of her collegiate career. Sophomore forward Valgerður Sigurjónsdóttir provided two quick chances for the Broncs, challenging to take the lead in the 63rd minute, but each attempt was saved.

Moore remained strong in net to maintain the score until the final whistle of the match.

“The team showed good fight after a demoralizing first half. We need the second half bravery and determination for 90 minutes on Saturday,” Rider Head Coach Drayson Hounsborne told Rider Athletics.

Iona won the overall shot tally 15 to eight, however, Rider’s five shots on goal gave the Broncs a two-shot advantage in that regard.

A scoreless streak snapped and many firsts across the pitch highlighted a 2-2 draw.

A cold and wet draw

The Broncs ended their eighth home game this season in a no-score tie against Manhattan University on Oct. 11.

The match took place at 1 p.m. with wind gusts and rain in the forecast.

Before the first corner kick around the 27th minute, the Broncs already racked up six fouls between three players and one substitution.

By the end of the first 45 minutes, there was one shot on goal, made by junior forward Ava Ferrie, seven total fouls committed, three saves made by Moore and one corner kick.

The Broncs came back into the game craving the



Liliana R. Basile/The Rider News

Freshman forward **Lauren Black** moves past a Manhattan Jasper.

first goal feeling, but so were the Jaspers. Rider’s first yellow card of the game was given out to sophomore forward Tess Ferrie in the third minute of the second half.

The second shot of the game by the Broncs was made by senior midfielder Leonor Alves and, right after, the second and last yellow card for Rider was given out to junior midfielder Isis Ovaes at the 37th minute mark.

At the end of the 90-minute match, Moore saved a total of seven shots, Rider made two corner kicks, got four shots up and had a total of 14 fouls.

“We lost possession too many times in the attacking third,” said Hounsborne. “Good attacking opportunities and build up play never materialized into goal scoring chances as frequently as we wanted.”

Moore, who had yet another productive outing in her freshman campaign, spoke out about the defense in front of her.

“I think defensively, we held up really strong,” Moore said. The Broncs will look for a win when they welcome Fairfield University at Ben Cohen Field on Oct. 15 at 6 p.m.

Sports

ONLINE

MEN'S SOCCER, UNDEFEATED IN LAST THREE MATCHES
Men's soccer ended in a draw for the third straight time, placing them 10th in MAAC standings.
READ BENJAMIN SHINAULT'S STORY AT [THERIDERNEWS.COM](https://www.ridernews.com)



A legacy, leader and luminary: Ashley Moore's breakout season



Liliana R. Basile/The Rider News

Freshman goalkeeper **Ashley Moore** protects the ball on the back line.

By **Samantha Clark**

SOME college athletes take time to adjust to the play faced at the Division I level, while others make an impact the moment they step on the field. Women's soccer freshman goalkeeper Ashley Moore has done just that.

With a family legacy at Rider and a deeply athletic background, Moore has quickly become the team's saving grace, the heartbeat of the defense and the back line's driving force.

Grounded in the game

Moore first laced up her cleats at the Freehold Soccer League in Freehold, New Jersey, kicking off her journey at just four years old.

After hitting an early growth spurt at age 11, Moore was thrown into goal, a position she has called home ever since.

She continued playing at the club level until her freshman year of high school, when she began training at Cedar Stars Academy Monmouth. Though later than most collegiate athletes, Moore's delayed entrance into academy-level play did not slow her progress between the posts.

"I got there late, but our coaches were very good, and they helped me grow as a person and as a player," Moore said.

Surrounded by athletics from the beginning, with her parents and brother all playing soccer growing up, the world of sports was second nature to Moore.

In addition to soccer, she was the shooting guard for her basketball team from fourth through 12th grade, competing at the varsity level for all four years of high school.

With this multi-sport upbringing, Moore discovered her passions for fitness and a healthy lifestyle, developing qualities and skills that serve as the foundation of her breakout season as a starting freshman.

Family ties

Moore's talent commanding the cage caught the attention of the Rider coaching staff early on, including Head Coach Drayson Hounscome and Goalkeeper Coach Paul Reece, foreshadowing the immediate impact she would have on the collegiate program.

Quickly moving through the recruitment process, Moore officially committed to Rider at the end of her junior year of high school in May 2024.

"I have been impressed with all of Ashley's play. There isn't one thing that supersedes another. ... It is not easy to step into the goalkeeper position as a freshman and she has really grabbed the opportunity and ran with it," Hounscome said.

The sense of newness that can accompany signing to a college was not the case for Moore, as Rider's campus was all too familiar. Her father, David, graduated from the university in 1991, where he was a member of the men's Division I golf team, as well as the manager for the men's basketball team, for all four years of his college career.

Her brother, Christian Moore, a senior finance major, followed their father's footsteps to Lawrenceville, a path Ashley soon followed as well.

"Ashley has always been dedicated to this sport... She brought that fire and determination with her through high school and now she brings it to Rider. I can't wait to see what she does for this program," Christian said.

Season's silver lining

In her first season at Rider, Moore has reached accomplishments and improved her game in ways she did not think possible.

At Freehold High School, Moore reached her career high of 10 saves in a single game in her junior year, a feat she accomplished after just 11 games of her college career.

"I've learned to trust myself a little more in the back, knowing that I can make those tougher saves... some saves that I wouldn't be able to make maybe even a year ago that I can make now," Moore said.

As a goalkeeper, Moore has the objective of a clean sheet in the back of her mind in all moments.

Due to the fact that she is not on the other side of the ball, she is unable to be the one scoring. However, if a team can not score, they can not win.

This mindset can often come with a heavy weight of pressure, and being in goal for all 90 minutes, as Moore has been for every game but one this season, can lead to shaky performances. However, once again, even this has not stopped the powerhouse protector.

"As a goalkeeper, inevitably your job comes with pressure, so I don't really think of it too much as pressure, because that's just what you're faced with. It's just the job that you do," Moore said.

Moore has been one of the few positives to come out of the women's program so far this season, facing an average of 15.6 goals in a game, allowing only 1.49.

She has proven herself as a commanding defender, saving nearly eight out of every 10 shots on goal and protecting the net for five solo shutouts.

Though, despite this, the hunger for securing three points in a win is consistent throughout the whole team.

"People may think that our mindset right now is just that we're not going to keep going, but we have our goals and we know that we can get there if we keep working hard," Moore said.

By transforming pressure into opportunity, Moore has proven one thing clear: she is more than just a goalkeeper. She stands on the back line as the heartbeat of Rider's defense and a steady, unwavering protector.

With this season as a prime indication of her influence on the field, Moore is not just playing the game, but shaping it, suggesting that the best is yet to come for both her and Rider women's soccer as a whole.



Liliana R. Basile/The Rider News

Moore has a career high of 10 saves, and she is only getting started.



Liliana R. Basile/The Rider News

Rider women's soccer sits in fourth place for most saves in MAAC play.