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Brannagh Rattigan/The Rider News

Students gathered on the Campus Green to peacefully protest racial injustice in honor of Nolan Wells.

"Walk for Wells" protest on campus

By Brannagh Rattigan

Students gathered at the Campus Green on Oct. 22 to protest racial injustice in honor of Nolan Wells, an 18-year-old Black American found dead face-down in the water at Horn Island, Mississippi, on July 6.

A grand jury determined that Wells had drowned with no evidence of foul play, despite the Mississippi State Medical Examiner's autopsy report, which found that the cause and manner of death was to be undetermined.

Hosted by the Rider's collegiate chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the executive board and participants began the protest at 5:21 p.m., opening with a welcome statement from the president, E'miija Eccles, a senior criminal justice major.

Eccles introduced Reggie Walker, the director of the Educational Opportunity Program, to give an opening speech, discuss Nolan Wells' case and boost morale going into the walk.

Walker said, "When the story of Nolan Wells broke, and you hear what has happened to him and what we still don't know about what has happened to him because we are not getting the information that we deserve, or that the family, more importantly, deserves, how could you not want to do something?"

Walker then led a prayer, inviting people of any faith to join in or to channel positive energy through their own means.

Alongside himself, Walker also brought his young son to the event as an opportunity for both himself as a father and his son to have a tough conversation and learn from each other.

"This is sometimes the downside of raising a Black son in America, is that you have to have certain conversations with them about how their Blackness will be policed, how their mistakes will be handled, if there will be justice for them," Walker said. "It is a sad reality to have to face that my son could easily be a Nolan Wells, and that's a thing that you never get comfortable with being a Black parent in America."

Following Walker, Eccles brought out Naa'san S.J. Carr, '24, who is the inaugural president and founding member of the Rider University NAACP College Chapter, to give a speech.

"We are here today in the name of Nolan Wells. We gather because remembrance matters, but so does the pursuit of truth and repair," Carr said. "We gather because advocacy matters, but so does accountability. And we gather because when something happens to one of us, it happens to all of us."

The large crowd of protesters held various signs, some saying, "Nolan didn't drown," "Protect Black children" and "Our freedom cannot wait."

The walk began at 5:37 p.m. and consisted of a minimum three laps around Centennial Lake, with the option to do more if desired.

During the walk, protesters chanted sayings such as, "No justice, no peace," "Say his name" and "Our color is not a crime." Students and staff uninvolved in the protest began to gather around to watch, record and show respect for the participants.

Eccles, the organizer of the protest, reached out to all of the Black organizations on campus, such as the Divine Nine organizations, Haitian Student Association, Black Student Union and Black Men Unified in order to create a large crowd and an even larger impact. Eccles expressed an intention to raise awareness and spark change.

"I did this event because I felt like it was a need to bring awareness of the case to our campus, but also show the world that not only can we come together and be great, but also that we're standing against every system that is oppressing us," Eccles said. "We're standing against the injustices in our systems. We're showing them that being black is not a crime. It's not a rite of passage to do what you want to us."

Walker was excited to see the protest be put together and carried out, saying that oftentimes college students forget they can advocate for what they believe in.

"I think with so much going on in the world, a lot of times college students forget that they still have a voice and an opportunity to educate people on a certain topic or things that are happening," Walker said.

Eccles reached out to Public Safety three weeks in advance to assure there was support and safety for protest participants. Public Safety was present on two golf carts around the path of the walk.

Carr expressed how special it was to be invited back to Rider as a proud alum, especially as he founded the chapter with the purpose of standing up for injustice, as well as educating and supporting the Black community on campus.

Quoting Martin Luther King Jr., Carr said, "When there's injustice somewhere, it's a threat to everywhere, and so we know that what happened in Mississippi could very well happen here in New Jersey. We really want to continue to foster a community, continue to uplift justice and hopefully one day, all be united together as human beings here on Earth."

Eccles shared that she was happy with how the protest played out, and that it gave her hope for the future of our society.

"It went way better than I expected. To just be able to bring all of us together, create a community in the middle of a space that is not for us, it was very refreshing," Eccles said. "It gave me hope because it showed me that if we can gather like this, we could change the world."

Walker stressed the importance of college students, and all who are eligible, to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming midterm elections as well as utilizing the first amendment rights.

"Some of the injustices that we're fighting against come as a direct result of who is in positions of power and we have the power to place those people there. Please exercise your right to vote because that changes a lot," Walker said.

Rider's NAACP College Chapter will be hosting a vision board party on Nov. 5 for any who would like to participate. The organization can be found and contacted on their public Instagram account, @naacp_rider, for more information.

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Rider professor published in film journal

By Cal Sutton

Professor of Media Arts Cynthia Lucia was recently published in the Quarterly Review of Film and Video.

In an interview with The Rider News, Lucia shared that this publication was actually the first chapter of a book she is working on, called "Natalie Wood: Hollywood's Final Child and Her Screen Legacy."

This book is planned to navigate the scope of Wood's life through the lens of film and her star-studded roles in Hollywood.

Lucia finds great interest in Wood, especially since she was a child actor during a pivotal time in film history — the moments when Hollywood shifted to what it is today.

"Interestingly, when she came into her teenage years [during the mid 1950s] was exactly when that studio system was breaking apart, and so it's interesting to see that she was transitioning from being a child actor to being a kind of teen icon," Lucia said. "During this time when Hollywood was transitioning, so was she."

The chapter that was published in the Quarterly Review of Film and Video mainly focuses on Wood's child-acting days, where she starred in movies created right after the conclusion of World War II.

Lucia is passionate about most of the film industry, and she shared that passion through her excited responses to questions about the topic.

"[Film] is just a wonderful, exciting art form that encompasses so much that you could say is really interdisciplinary in nature," Lucia said.

Lucia explained that the majority of her work has been in American film, specifically between 1945 and the present.

Lucia did her undergraduate studies in English education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She then went to New York University to obtain a master's degree in English and subsequently, a master's degree in cinema.

Also at New York University, Lucia did doctoral studies and received her doctorate in cinema. Her doctoral dissertation was heavily focused on films that featured female lawyers as the protagonists.

According to Lucia, most of those films were made in the late 1980s to early 2000s, which is a large reason why this time period tends to be one she does research on.

Some of Lucia's greatest influences and inspirations include Chris Straayer, whom she had the opportunity to work with as her dissertation adviser. Straayer focused on LGBTQIA+ film, according to Lucia, and even though she did not study that niche in particular, Straayer was a prominent mentor for her.

Robert Sklar was a mentor for Lucia at New York University, who taught her a lot about the history of American film through his studies, which Lucia said influenced her greatly. Alice Cross was another influence and inspiration for Lucia, as they worked at the same school and Cross introduced to her that New York University offered a cinema studies program.

This publication was not Lucia's first — it is actually one of over 30 publications. She also works as an editor of Cineaste, which is "America's leading magazine on the art and politics of the cinema," according to the publication's website.

Lucia credits herself as a lifelong learner, and her students can agree, noting her passion around the subject of film, as well as her love for teaching others.

Nicholas Carucci, a junior film and television major, has had Lucia as a professor in the past. Carucci said he appreciates her kindness and knowledge in film.

"I think it's very beneficial for our school itself because having professors have a bigger scope of [their field] gets us more things to learn about in our everyday world, more than just academics," Carucci said. "She's very smart, she's also very kind."

Lucia's dedication to her craft and constantly expanding her repertoire of knowledge is something that students tend to appreciate out of her, and any professor.



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Lucia

Cynthia Lucia recently had the first chapter of a book she is working on published.

Hailey Fisher, a sophomore film and television major said that she is taking two classes with Lucia this semester and echoed similar points to Carucci.

"It's great as a student to feel like my teachers aren't just teachers, but they are people who are interested in their craft and it just kind of credits them even more and makes them more [reliable]," Fisher said.

Lucia has spent years learning about American film, Natalie Wood and broadening the scope of her expertise in film.

Since Lucia credits herself as a lifelong learner, she also has the perspective that there is always more to learn.

"The more you learn, the more you realize how little you know," Lucia said. "I don't understand why anyone would not think that learning is an ongoing thing in life."



Abby Ray/ The Rider News

Alumni and Industry Networking Night

By Brannagh Rattigan and Andi Arroyo

Director of Career Development and Success Karl Craft, ’10, worked in collaboration with the Rider University Alumni Association to present Gregory Lorjuste, ’04, who shared his experience and the impact his journey had on navigating his career during the Alumni and Industry Networking event on Oct. 22.

Lorjuste is the director for executive operations and protocol for Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, and former deputy assistant to the President supporting Barack Obama.

Alumni and Industry Networking was an opportunity for students to connect with alumni and to provide career advice to current students.

Craft explained that the intention behind the night was to encourage students to develop relationships, especially with alumni insight.

“While there are plenty of professionals that are willing to help graduate students, alumni have been in their shoes,” Craft said. “They understand what the Rider experience is like. They understand the leadership opportunities that are available, and they can really utilize that knowledge to fuel the conversations and fuel the support.”

The event featured a panel discussion from Lorjuste that was monitored by Sahmya Smith, a senior political science major.

Smith asked Lorjuste a variety of questions on the topic of networking in his profession and keeping connections.

Lorjuste was asked about his time in college and early career, to which he discussed his struggles with insecurity from graduating high school with a low GPA.

“I knew that the university was taking a risk in accepting me. I didn’t want to mess it up by saying the wrong thing or doing the wrong thing,” Lorjuste said.

Lorjuste explained how he took it upon himself to work on building relationships. In engaging with students, he got more comfortable interacting with others. The practice he got from talking to his peers encouraged him to connect with his professors.

Lorjuste said, “Learning the professor outside of their doctor title, it gave me the courage to continue. These relationships grew over time, and as they grew, my confidence and all insecurities that I had from off campus, they started to break off.”

Lorjuste spoke about his strategies for gaining connections with others, specifically, he was asked about the importance of keeping a relationship nontransactional.

Lorjuste explained that, throughout politics, some connections that are made will be transactional. He then explained how keeping connections relevant is the key to maintaining sincerity.

“You cannot treat relationships like a fire extinguisher, where you’ll only want to break the glass when there’s an emergency. That’s what makes it somewhat transactional,” Lorjuste said. “Where if it were a sunny day, would you be talking to them?”

Lorjuste added that relationships that are transactional at first are a method that can be a phase of developing a genuine relationship with someone. Connections are emphasized to be valuable to both parties involved.

“When you are reaching out to the person that you met, always ask, ‘Well, how can I help you? Can I come into your office and learn more?’” Lorjuste said. “Then, be the person that congratulates them on their five-year anniversary and on their one-year anniversary. You acknowledge them and do not wait for, ‘Well, I asked you when I was a sophomore, and now I’m a senior, and I want a job here, and that’s the next time they hear from you.’”

Smith selected topics of discussion that emphasized the importance of connections and talking to others in order to focus on what Rider students may need to hear.

“When we think about [COVID-19], and especially the period where we weren’t normalizing talking to the people, especially professors, how much of these connections really matter,” Smith said. “Especially the people who graduated from the same school, not being able to know those connections, and especially just thinking about what is relevant to the students and what we can learn from, I really focused around those questions and especially looking back at [Lorjuste’s] background and kind of finding an intertwining between those.”



Andi Arroyo/The Rider News

Sahmya Smith (left) and **Gregory Lorjuste** worked together asking and answering questions to operate the event.

Lorjuste’s goal for the event was to make students feel comfortable during their time at Rider. When answering questions, he wanted to make sure he started with vulnerabilities he had as a student. His method was to make students feel assured about being nervous and to ask the questions they were seeking answers to.

“I can remember being a student, coming to these events. It’s not like someone tells you, these are the questions that you need to ask, or these are the people you’re going to meet,” Lorjuste said. “You don’t have a syllabus for these types of events. So, I was trying to channel my nervousness, take my nervousness away from folks.”

Craft shared that he wanted students to leave the night with a better understanding of their opportunities, but also the way in which they can be achieved.

“Even if you’re a student in the arts and you talk to somebody that’s working in the sciences, they might know somebody or might have experiences that are still relevant to where you’re going, and that’s valuable information that can inform your choices and your next steps,” Craft said.

Lorjuste also wanted students to know life is “an experience,” and that talking about mistakes and challenges was his way of normalizing the transitional periods where students may be faced with a fear of the unknown.

“Sometimes that is what makes a person decide, because everyone will know the right things to do, but you’re not challenged until you have that adversity put in front of you,” Lorjuste said. “So when I talked about having to pivot from thinking I was going to be a teacher, I had to realize the traditional classroom was the wrong setting … I needed to find my environment, and that was in the world of nonprofits and eventually politics.”

Lorjuste’s experience at Rider gave him the courage to talk to others and start networking. Getting connected with the dean of students was an unexpected result of communicating with another person. His conversation had led him to getting support throughout his time at Rider.

“Because I had the courage to talk to a stranger, that stranger then got ID’d as the dean of students, and he helped me throughout my five years on campus. And if I knew he was a dean of students to start with, I probably wouldn’t have talked to him,” Lorjuste said.

Lorjuste felt as if he would be intimidated knowing who the dean of students was prior to talking to him. “‘He’s very important, and I’m just like this little freshman; I don’t think I belong here,’ and I did it.”

Lorjuste found support, which set a stepping stone for his career. He heard stories from others that helped him overcome insecurities he had and helped him find confidence in himself. He was challenged and would be given constructive criticism from others who knew him and helped him succeed.

Lorjuste said, “I don’t think I would have been able to accept the flaws that come with being a young professional, someone that has to make decisions about what to do as smoothly if I weren’t talking to people who actually knew me.”

Craft shared that the Alumni and Industry Networking event will continue annually, and to look out for more industry-specific events next semester.

Scream Screen: 11 years in and still obsessed

By Jenna Munswami

A perfect fall evening, with chills and thrills in the air, set the vibe for 107.7 The Bronc's 11th-annual Scream Screen on Oct. 23.

Starting right at 6 p.m. after a full day of set up by staff members of The Bronc and volunteers for the classic trunk-or-treat portion of the night, everyone, from Rider students to Lawrenceville locals, were invited to join in on the spooky celebrations.

Scream Screen XI brought in 38 different trunk-or-treat stations. Candy was not the only edible option, as eight different food vendors arrived, as well, including B2 Bistro + Bar, DeLorenzo's The Burg, Lawrenceville Sandwich Co., Monster Energy, Osteria Procaccini, Bronc Bites, TCC Hibachi and Yooo Cuz.

As delicious as the food was, evident by the lines that could stretch across the C&R lot, there was way more to enjoy. Face painting, monster mini golf and pumpkin painting were returning activities that got a lot of attention. For any risk takers in attendance, the Student Government Association's Mechanical Pumpkin was a suitable challenge.

At the entrance to the event, guests were greeted with a free Scream Screen XI tote bag and an attached coupon for Broadway Chicken. With bags in hand, ready for trunk or treat, students, staff members and community participants took on the brisk night to enjoy all they could.

Among the organizations that took part in volunteering was the Bronc Programming Board, formerly known as the Student Entertainment Council. Victoria Dunn, senior public relations major, serves as the co-director of marketing and communications and helped with tabling.

She said that this was the organization's first time tabling under the new name, but they had volunteered for Scream Screen before in the past.

"We think it's a great turnout event," Dunn said. "Firstly, Scream Screen's one of my favorite Rider events. I love seeing the community so close together and everyone's having so much fun, and I love student engagement at Rider. This is a great thing for us to do."

Many different forms of media were represented by students dressed to the nines in their costumes, from the main couple of the musical "Hadestown" all the way to the horror icon Ghostface. Students threw compliments about each other's costumes over the on-theme tunes provided by The Bronc.

Eventgoers were seen forming dance circles with their friends, fully absorbed in the music. For those who wanted a different vibe, tables were available in which groups of students conversed over their food.

One of the popular vendors of the night was B2 Bistro + Bar, serving chili to add some warmth that countered the chill of the night. It was not the group's first time tabling for a Rider event, but they made their return for this year's Scream Screen.

Ben Philp, who was working at the table, said that Rider has a partnership with them and they are heavily involved with the university. He added that it is fun to come out to Rider, too.

"I think that it's really awesome and it provides a great opportunity for the community to get together and enjoy some chili," Philp said when asked about Rider trying to connect with the community.

This connection does not happen overnight. Scream Screen, being one of the campus' biggest events, has a meticulous planning process.

Kadie DiGiuseppe, a senior sports media major and student general manager for The Bronc, revealed that certain parts are planned as early as May of the previous academic year. From ordering the screen to renewing contracts, students at the radio station are hard at work to give Rider the best experience possible. With how much time goes into the event, there are a lot of rewarding parts, too.

"I just love how the whole community comes out, too," DiGiuseppe said. "People were walking by today because they were just on a walk around campus, and they live in the community, and they're like 'Can we come out tonight?' and I'm like, 'Of course, of course you can come out.'"

DiGiuseppe was also thankful to see everyone in costume, saying, "To watch everybody come here in costumes and have a great time and have good food and get candy, it also just makes me so excited for Halloween."

Darkened skies later on made for the perfect time to start the movie screenings as trunk-or-treating wrapped concluded.

The first special shown for Halloween fans of all ages was "Gravity Falls: Summerween." Fans went to the grass or their cars as the music from the iconic theme song called them over.

This premiered before the main event: the feature film. The movie that got the most votes had been kept under lock and key for the whole day, leaving everyone in anticipation.

Mabeline Syers, a junior accounting major, was helping table the event with the Latin American Student Organization, where she serves as vice president.

She said that LASO came to table for Scream Screen because the organization wanted to give back to the community. Syers was ready for the movie after tabling was over.



Abby Ray/The Rider News

This year's mystery film was "Obsession."

"Well, I'm looking forward to the movie. Like, I want to see the big reveal. I can't wait," Syers said.

Voting for which horror movie would premiere opened up all the way back in the middle of September. Originally being able to vote on 13 different films, the final round left only five to choose from: "Backrooms," "Five Nights at Freddy's 2," "I Know What You Did Last Summer," "Obsession" and "Weapons."

Right after "Gravity Falls: Summerween" ended, students waited with bated breath to see if their pick ended up being the winner.

After loading up the movie, the feature film for Scream Screen this year was "Obsession."

John Mozes talked about how they changed up the selection process for which movies would be offered.

"I think [what] we found out is, even though we like to mix the films up, students really flock to the films of recent years. … So tonight's winner is 'Obsession,' right? And that's a big movie from this year, and it won probably by about 10% over 'Backrooms' and 'Weapons,'" he said.

Outside of the chaos of the event, Mozes said that his favorite part of the night is when everyone is leaving, and when asked if they had a good time, they say 'yes.' With that motivation, along with The Bronc's recent Marconi Awards win, everyone working was able to make it through the long night.

"We're just happy that everybody comes out and enjoys the events that 107.7 The Bronc does. I think these events set us apart from any college radio station in the country," Mozes said. "They actually set us apart from a lot of radio stations today, period, because they don't do events like this anymore … but we're able to pull it off and it's a little old-school radio in a new media world."

News Editor Brannagh Rattigan, Sports Editor Joshua Yuhas, Graphic Design Manager Grace Juarez and Copy Editor Teagan Rotella are members of 107.7 The Bronc. They had no part in the writing or editing of this story.



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Meet Tulpar Janbolat : The "Mongolian dynamite"

By JC Church

For Tulpar Janbolat, coming to Rider from Mongolia has meant embracing new opportunities, adjusting to a different culture and staying connected to his passion for volleyball.

Janbolat, a junior computer science major, has gained research and internship experience, while also playing for Rider's men's volleyball club and practicing with the Division I women's volleyball program as a student manager and practice player.

Janbolat grew up in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital, which he describes as a modern city with a rich history and growing technology industry. He said people often misunderstand his home country.

"A lot of people here in America imagine that Mongolia is just the countryside, horses and traditional nomadic life," Janbolat said. "But Ulaanbaatar is actually a major urban center with universities, businesses and a growing technology sector."

Although he initially considered studying in South Korea or China, Janbolat chose the United States for its opportunities. Rider's smaller campus, computer science program and location near Philadelphia made it especially appealing.

"I could experience American college life while also having opportunities outside [of] campus," he said.

Rider provided Janbolat with professional experience early in his college career. During his first year, he earned a MacMillan scientific research fellowship, working with a professor on a research project. He later completed multiple internships, including one with Sphere Global, a software logistics company specializing in computer vision, and another with the Trenton Downtown Association.

His interest in computer science grew from his strengths in mathematics, logic and problem solving. Today, he hopes to combine his technical skills with his love for athletics.

"Computer science seemed like a natural choice because it combines the logic of thinking, creativity and technology," Janbolat said.

Volleyball has remained an important part of his life since when he played the sport in Mongolia. At

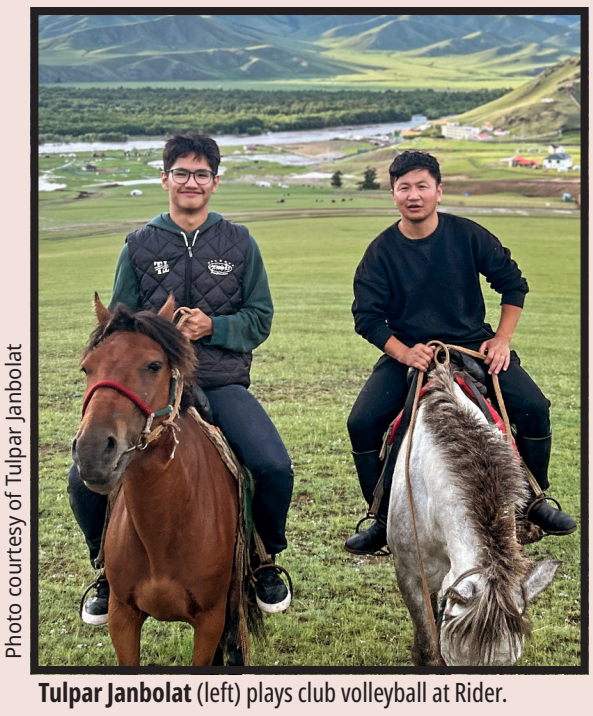


Photo courtesy of Tulpar Janbolat

Tulpar Janbolat (left) plays club volleyball at Rider.

Rider, he competes with the men's club volleyball team, where he has earned various nicknames, including the Mongolian dynamite, silent assassin and humble beast. He has also joined the women's Division I program as a student manager and practice player this year.

Janbolat has coached younger players and developed computer science projects involving artificial intelligence, including volleyball tracking and scoring. He hopes to continue exploring how technology can improve sports.

Adjusting to life in New Jersey brought some unexpected cultural differences. Janbolat said he was surprised by how friendly people were when he first arrived.

"When I first met with people here, they were too welcoming," he said.

During his first year, he sometimes struggled to approach people and worried about making mistakes while speaking English. Over time, he became more comfortable communicating and networking. He credits Rider's supportive professors with helping him succeed, academically.

"The computer science faculty is very supportive," Janbolat said.

Nearly three years have passed since Janbolat last visited his family in Mongolia. He is the oldest of three children and has two younger sisters. Between research and internships, he has remained busy, but hopes to return home next summer. He especially misses traditional Mongolian steamed dumplings.

If he could bring something from Mongolia to Rider, Janbolat said it would be his culture's emphasis on hospitality, community and respect.

"Welcoming people, sharing food and respecting others are really important parts of our culture," he said.

For international students that are considering studying abroad, Janbolat offers advice shaped by his own experience with overcoming shyness.

"Be brave and don't be shy," he said. "You just gotta chill and speak about yourself, connect and network."

Truden Delgado, a sophomore accounting and finance major who met Janbolat through club volleyball, said the sport has helped him connect with others who share his passion.

"To people he doesn't really know, he's kind of like just a quiet, polite guy," Delgado said. "But once you get to know him, he's really funny, actually."

Through his academic pursuits, volleyball involvement and cultural experiences, Janbolat continues building a home away from home at Rider.

This article is part of the Home Away From Home series by The Rider News to highlight international students from the S.N.O.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Gail Demeraski/The Rider News

Homecoming spirit alive in a reimagined Meet the Greeks

By Sofia Santiago

Rounding out BroncYard Bash, the weekend festivity of Family and Alumni Day on Oct. 24, Rider's annual Meet the Greeks truly embodied the homecoming spirit.

The event has been customarily held during the first few weeks of the fall semester to showcase the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) organizations on campus and introduce them to the wider Rider community. It also serves as a way to honor their cultural history and traditions through performances of stepping, strolling and saluting and connect the current organization members to those that came before them.

The art of stepping involves a combination of footsteps, handclaps and spoken words to create complex rhythms. Strolling features synchronized movements specific to each organization usually performed in a line, and saluting is referred to as poetry in motion.

This year, the Campus Life and Fraternity and Sorority Life offices included the event in the Family and Alumni Day programming to encourage connections between the different generations of participants and attendees. The offices met with student leaders of the NPHC and MGC and allocated funds to make the necessary changes to the production of the event, such as hosting it indoors in the Cavalla Room and providing a stage, lights and a DJ.

Beginning this semester in his role as the assistant director of fraternity and sorority life and new student programs, Jake Collette-Nippins stressed the importance of the behind-the-scenes changes that administrators made to the event, saying, "We're always going to try new things, but if I could highlight anything, it's student run, student driven."

During these planning meetings, it was also decided that Meet the Greeks would be Halloween themed.

Even after the doors opened at 5:30 p.m., and people were able to claim their seats, the crowd still had over an hour to mingle before the performances started, further adding to the abundant sense of community. While the buzzing audience took their seats, the performers moved backstage to the Commuter Lounge.

Up first were the sisters of the Alpha Beta Chapter of Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc., who performed in chic outfits that followed their Monster High theme. The hosts introduced the next performers as the devastating divas: the sisters of the Tau Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., decked out in leather jackets and red bandanas for their biker theme.

Closing out the first half of the event was the Iota Chapter of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., dressed in suits and living up to their theme of "Men in Black." Their salute was drafted by Jose Torres, senior music production major and a brother of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.

Torres explained, "We wanted to have a theme with aliens in there, because obviously in the Men in Black movies they're hunting aliens, so we also chose to write this salute specifically about a lot of the current struggle that a lot of the Latino community faces when it comes to being pushed aside in some cases and discredited for certain things."

The halfway point was marked by an intermission, during which the Rider Dance Team performed and the organizations competed in a costume contest.

The second half of the evening started with a rodeo-themed performance by the Iota Chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc., followed by a comedy-based, "no-theme themed" performance from the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. The last to perform was Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity,



Tatyanna Beauliere-Jackson/The Rider News

The open stroll let everyone show off their moves.

Inc., dressed as mechanics in blue overshirts.

The night ended with a period of open stroll, designed so all of the organizations could perform their strolls simultaneously around the room. While each organization had its turn onstage to show off their signature moves, those not dancing raised their organization's hand symbols to show their support for those performing.

Leniel Robles Rivera, a sophomore business administration major and the president of the Gamma Nu Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., commented about the display of community he felt from this event, saying, "We're all one. It's hard times for us now, for us as families, for us African Americans, for color individuals in general. It is a hard time. We feel like we're under attack, and that's something that obviously should be stated and [we] should stand up to those oppressions. These events just create a bond. It's not just Greek unity, it's brothers and sisters."

Changes to Rider events do not go unnoticed

Throughout the years, a lot has changed at Rider: administration, faculty, academic programs. For students, one of the reliable constants to look forward to were the campus events and traditions. However, this fall semester has been void of many of them.

The Drag Race, R Factor and MAACness are a few events that were iconic to Rider. They not only promoted student engagement and school spirit, but also provided a sense of community and a place to show off what students can accomplish here.

Junior Managing Editor Cal Sutton recalled his disappointment when finding out the Rider Drag Race was not on the events schedule this semester, saying, "It made me so sad because that was such a vibrant event that was also pretty important to the queer community, I could argue. And I just feel like the lack of diverse events like that is a little bit sad and disheartening."

Many of these events also coincide with Rider's Welcome Week, opening the academic year with moments where both new and returning students can have fun and make friends. Without them, the fall semester is not the same.

"It's like a great baseline to start. And without those events, it kind of feels a little lackluster in the community that we have at Rider," said Tatyanna Beauliere-Jackson, a senior social media editor.

Community is something that helps to shape a student's university experience. Due to its small size, Rider is a fairly easy campus to get involved in, but now, there are less opportunities.

Sophomore News Editor Brannagh Rattigan commented, "This being a school where a lot of people go home on the weekends, it's really crucial that you have these events. Especially on weekdays, because that's the only chance a lot of people get to be on campus when they're not in class and actually get to meet people because so many people here are commuters."

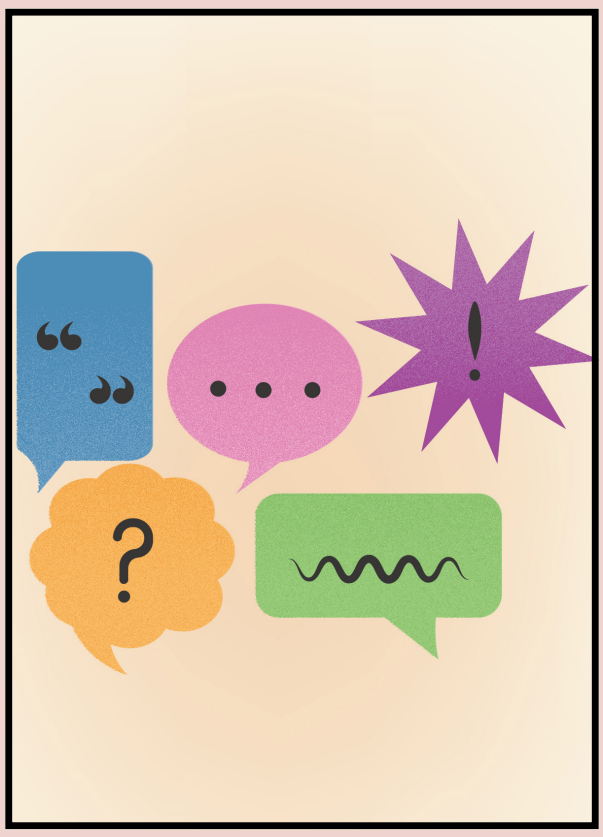
For resident students, weekend events are just as important to encourage them to get out of their rooms and battle the loneliness that comes with being away from home.

The diminishing of events also poses a greater threat that has already been impacting the Rider community: less student engagement. Events that require student involvement in their preparation and incorporate organizations from across campus are crucial for showcasing the possibilities available to other students.

Mallory Hoelzl, a junior social media editor, spoke about how MAACness was one such event, saying, "I think it's cool that it shows the spirit squads because it can show what you can be a part of. I feel like for these freshmen, yes, they have all these club fairs … but you don't really get to see the club in action."

This then threatens to become a cycle; less events lead to less student involvement, and less student involvement leads to less incentives to host events. Why invest time and effort to host an event if barely anyone is going to show up?

Student engagement has been in a downward spiral since last year, due to many of the changes and uncertainties the university has faced.



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

The Rider News comes together to discuss the diminishing amount of on-campus events.

Joshua Yuhas, senior sports editor, added, "It feels like a lot of the events are really just a bunch of tables being set up and going to [MAACness] was one of the more interactive ones, even though it is kind of a presentation in a way. But it's more interactive and it shows the connectedness between the athletics and everything else, like the Pep Band."

It is understandable that many of these differences in events and programming are due to changes in administration and the school's budget. These changes can be welcomed by the student body, but they fall short in comparison to what we had in previous years. There is simply a lack of effort and understanding in what students want.

Junior Executive Editor Samantha Clark said, "There were all these traditions that we usually had and there was no explanation as to why we don't have them [this year]."

An example of unexplained changes is the re-structuring of the Student Entertainment Council to the Rider Programming Board. Instead of getting a head start on marketing over the summer, the Programming Board's first Instagram post is dated to Oct. 9. The last email sent out from the former SEC was on Aug. 10.

This is surprising, considering numerous students use Instagram to find information about the campus and its student life.

Additionally, many events have faced backlash and declining attendance due to how they are marketed. The use of artificial intelligence in these posts, such as the many announcements for Diner en Cran, was what initially hurt the event's reputation after it was the talk of campus for days prior.

"When you're trying to market something to college students at a very art-heavy school, the last thing you should be thinking is 'I'm gonna promote this with AI,'" said Rattigan.

Sofia Santiago, junior features and entertainment editor, commented, "When I think of AI, I just think of lack of effort. And if you're advertising that lack of effort, then it kind of gives the event the same feeling."

Though, not all hope is lost. Sutton proposed a solution: "Having upper administration engage with students. Student engagement is not going to increase if admin or higher up individuals don't make the effort to engage with students."

As seen by the success of the BroncYard Bash weekend events like Scream Screen, Bronctoberfest, Meet the Greeks and the production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," if feedback is applied and students and the wider community are incentivised to participate and are involved in the process, next semester looks promising. Community takes effort, from all parties involved.

This editorial expresses the unanimous opinion of The Rider News editorial board.

This week's editorial was written by Features and Entertainment Editor Sofia Santiago and Copy Editor Jenna Munswami.

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE:

Illit's latest EP leaves fans wanting a little more

By Jenna Munswami



Grace Juarez/The Rider News



Abby Ray/The Rider News

An awe-inspiring retelling of one of history's oldest tales. Rider's rendition of "Jesus Christ Superstar" reseructed this biblical ballad.

"Jesus Christ Superstar:" finding humanity in the holy

There is something profoundly evocative about watching a story with a familiar ending. In a story defined by tragedy, it is not simply because of the central figure's ultimate fate, but rather, because of the inability, or unwillingness, of those around him to stop it.

Rider's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's "Jesus Christ Superstar" lit the Yvonne Theater on Oct. 23 through 25, taking the almost-full house on an emotional rollercoaster. With laughter through song and dance, paired with heartbreak through means of hesitation, betrayal and the ultimate loss in the Passion of Christ, the cast and crew breathed new life into the story of the crucifixion, transforming the well-known ending into an unforgettable theatrical experience.

Before we get more into this awe-inspiring performance, I want to first address the controversy that often surrounds this show. For some believers, placing Jesus' final days on a stage, paired with elaborate costumes and choreography, comes off as offensive to their sacred story. However, as a Catholic myself, I saw it as an opportunity for this great tale of faith to be shared to audiences who are unaware of its significance. Rather than viewing the intersection of art and religion as disputable, it is worth viewing the stage as a medium for faith, as it allowed this centuries-old story to be spread to new audiences. The production did not diminish the sacred nature of the narrative, but instead, invited all to experience the message in their own way.

With that being said, going into this production, I obviously knew the story of Jesus' final three days, but I was unfamiliar with the pop-rock musical itself, allowing every song and character choice to bring a fresh perspective. Specifically, Rider's production was adapted to reflect the peaceful period of the 1960s, and with that fresh perspective came such awe and amazement, pushing me to attend not once, not twice, but three times over the course of the weekend.

Of course, this show stars powerful main characters, with Jesus of Nazareth, played by junior musical theatre major Danny Hanna; Judas, played by senior musical theatre major Nia Chavis; and Mary Magdalene, played by senior musical theatre major Alexis Archer, carrying audiences through the 90-minute plot. However, it must not go unsaid that the production's ensemble truly made this show what it was.

The 11 faithful Apostles, most notably Peter, played by senior musical theatre major Julia Almendra, and Simon the Zealot, played by junior musical theatre major Jaide Fisher, as well as the Disciples, brought such light to a seemingly devastating story.

The first song to feature these characters, the third overall and my personal favorite, "What's the Buzz?," accurately depicted the infatuation of Christ to audiences, allowing everyone in the theater to truly feel the love shared amongst the people of the Holy Land. As the mood dimmed and the story progressed, the ensemble seamlessly shifted this joyous and celebratory energy to that of solemnity and regret, bringing a tear to my, and several other audience members', eyes each night.

After the "buzz" of introductions, the direction of the performance did a commendable job at developing the on-stage characters into relatable people. Archer's portrayal of Mary Magdalene was that of perfection, as she so easily adapted the otherwise tormented character into a figure of peace on Earth. Her voice, stature, wardrobe and all-around "vibe," for the lack of a better term, created a sense of calm, which was exactly what she stood for opposite Hanna's Jesus.

Similar to the sudden switch in Act 1 from community to alienation, we can not move any further before taking a moment for the spine-chilling depiction of Caiaphas by sophomore acting major Gavin Evanson — yes, you read that right, sophomore. If you had the great pleasure of sitting in the audience, the observance of Evanson's pure talent was one of a kind.

His portrayal of what eerily represented that of the Devil was what I would call one for the Rider history books after attending almost every mainstage performance as a student. There were moments when I found my mouth physically agape at his ability for staccato movement, deep-bass range, personal interactions and facial expressions for the entire production, even when he was hiding creepily in a dark corner. I greatly commend Evanson for this top-notch performance, as he was truly something special in his Rider mainstage debut and left me thinking about this character well after exiting the doors of the Yvonne.

Other evidently villainous characters, including junior music major Cameron J. Krauss' King Herod and senior musical theatre major Jessie Doty's Pontious Pilate, furthered this contrast that perfectly balanced comedy and cruelty. While eliciting laughter when planning the ultimate sin of crucifixion, these characters showcased the ease with which human suffering can be transformed into an entertaining spectacle.

Whether characters believed him to be "the King of the Jews" or "just a man," one thing was undeniable: Hanna's portrayal of Jesus was talent placed under a spotlight. His opening interactions with those who viewed him as God blended so fluidly with the slow progression of disloyalty by those same characters, bringing such devastation to audiences when his ultimate demise was projected on stage.

Throughout Act 1, Hanna's vocals in "What's The Buzz?" and "Hosanna" began extremely upbeat and praise-like, and as the plot began to slowly grow dim with sin, so did Hanna's tone. "The Temple" scene shifted audiences to a completely new setting, one where faith was actively disappearing before our very eyes. Act 2 featured "Gethsemane," a song that is widely considered to be one of the most challenging songs in all of musical theater. However, you would never be able to tell this by Hanna's seemingly easy ability to carry each melody while also packing emotion in every lyric, riff and note hold, including one that lasted a whole 19 Mississippi's — yes, I counted. This song marked the pivotal moment before Jesus was put to death, where Hanna perfectly exemplified the internal struggle of balancing faith with such a great level of anguish.

From his opening walk through the archway that centered the stage, to his last words on the cross, Hanna brought sentiment to every glance, breath and moment of silence, transforming the familiar biblical story into a heartbreaking portrayal that remained captivating long after the final bow.

And now, it is time to delve deeper into Chavis' character of Judas, the unfaithful apostle, for they brought the character into a heart-shattering darkness, reflecting the work of a true professional. Throughout the entire production, there was this underlying, unsettling energy in their facial expressions and body language. Whether center stage or simply sitting off to the side, Chavis never broke from the personification of regret, even before betraying their "right-hand man."

Their powerhouse of a voice and the ability to punch emotion in every syllable contributed to their magnetic stage presence that made me physically lean forward in my seat. However, absolutely nothing in this production could top the scene of "Judas' Death," where their undeniable greatness genuinely took my breath away. If this performance is any indication of what is to come, I can predict great things for Chavis, whose performance was nothing short of a masterclass in talent.

In a story where friendship is fractured by doubt and betrayal is shaped by anguish, the cast and crew of Rider's "Jesus Christ Superstar" transformed a tale as old as time into an achingly-human tragedy, bringing the true magic of theater to the Yvonne.

Samantha Clark
junior communication studies major

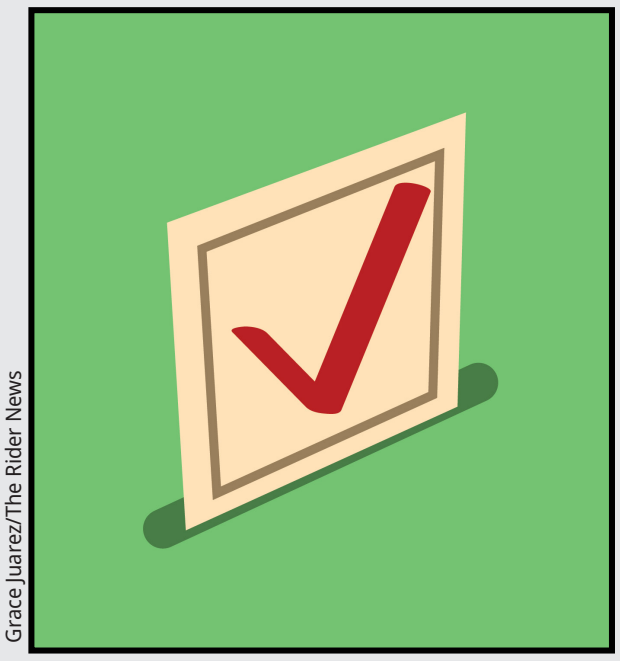
Social Media Editor Mallory Hoelzl was a sound operator for the production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." Hoelzl had no part in the writing or editing of this story.

2026 midterms: A deciding factor for the future

Midterms are just around the corner, which means signs litter the sidewalks begging for your vote, advertisements pollute our screens with smear campaigns and whitewashing airing every second of the day. It is a cynical time for most, as families and friends will argue over why one candidate is a savior, and the other, a monster. This American pastime lords over November, but that does not diminish the importance of it.

Conceptually, elections are one of the few times where every American is equal. One vote is equal to one vote, no matter your class, color or creed. Voting allows American citizens to have their voices heard, and their actions felt. Election Day is six days following this paper's publication. Nov. 3 is when our decisions will impact who holds a seat in the Senate and House. Every American that is able and willing should vote this year, as this is a tumultuous time in the country. The president of the United States is even going so far as to bribe citizens to vote red in these midterms; not only is this a federal crime — one of many for him — but it is further proof that there is a high chance that these midterms have a monumental impact on Congress; the odds of flipping seats in favor of the Democrats are exceptionally high. The effects that this could have on Donald Trump and his tenure in office could be dire.

My long-lasting worry, though, will always be the money sifting through every election cycle. It oozes corruption, with Political Action Committees, or PACs, donating millions of dollars to candidates and practically buying votes. For example, AIPAC, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, has a long history with New Jersey Senator Cory Booker. That fact alone is enough to sully his reputation in my and many other's eyes. That is why being pigeon-holed into voting for two candidates is exceptionally difficult for myself and many others. There will never be a candidate that perfectly aligns with someone's political views. No politician is perfect; no politician will ever do the right thing every time.



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

The 2026 Midterm elections are just around the corner.

Similarly to PACs, billionaires will always have their repugnant hands puppeteering the system. Elon Musk, famous for being rich and awful, has contributed nearly $300 million toward flipping these midterms in favor of the Republicans. So while votes are equal, it is flagrantly unfair when the 1% always has the upper hand. If this were the case for democratic or independent parties, I would feel the exact same way, so this is not a means to besmirch Republicans.

To add on to my last point, anyone that believes the other party to be outright wrong, or in any way 'evil' is inane to me. This only furthers the schism that is being felt all across America. The days of civil elections and debates are gone and the blame must fall, in part, on the American people. Voters get sucked into their party like a cult, this goes for Democrats and Republicans. While MAGA is a much more obvious example of a cult-like following, Democrats nowadays will bottle up all Republicans into this MAGA group, which is unfair and blatantly incorrect. The American people need to learn to come together and work through the core issues of the country instead of pointing fingers and resorting to name-calling.

A Republican candidate is not inherently bad. A MAGA candidate is where the issues stem from. The further we fall into worshiping a politician like a god, the further we get away from a healthy government and a healthy state.

To get back to the midterms, I think, no matter the result, there will be positive and negative effects with any result. These effects will, in my opinion, be monumental, especially if Democrats flip the House and Senate. What is most notably at stake for these midterms is impeachment. It is no secret that if the House and Senate flip, the odds of the President facing impeachment is high. To many that is positive, but at the same time, how good will J.D. Vance be in Trump's stead? Especially with half the country still mobbing around Trump like he is anything more than he actually is: a convicted felon and alleged rapist.

At the end of the day, though, money cannot vote, you can. And you should. Do not let any news outlet or family member or celebrity flip your opinion. Do your research, be intelligent and go to the polls. After all, you get a free sticker. On Nov. 3, go and make your voice heard and vote in this election, and be a part of American history.

Alfie Eville
sophomore history and secondary education major

"Clayface" struggles to take shape

On Oct. 23, we saw the release of "Clayface," the latest film in the DC Comics Universe. This is DC's attempt at a Marvel Cinematic Universe competitor and, considering how public perception of the MCU has tanked recently, I would say that they are doing pretty well. The franchise is being led by James Gunn and Peter Safran, and was kicked off in July of last year with the release of James Gunn's "Superman." Then, this year, we saw the release of other DC Universe projects like "Supergirl" and the television series "Lanterns." The latest project in the franchise, "Clayface," has received mixed reactions from both critics and audiences so far, but the overall perception of the film has been fairly positive.

The film follows Matt Hagen, an up-and-coming actor whose life is turned upside-down after a violent attack from a mobster. Following this, he undergoes an experimental cosmetic treatment that goes terribly wrong, transforming him into the titular Clayface; he goes on to seek vengeance on the people who wronged him.

While the film is an adaptation of a comic book, it is not your typical comic book movie. This is an R-rated thriller focused on the body-horror aspect of Hagen's transformation into Clayface. It breaks the mold of what we know comic book movies to be, while still maintaining continuity with the world of DC. There are not any connections to the wider DC Universe yet other than the fact that it takes place in Gotham City, but I imagine that we will be seeing more from this film in future projects. Unfortunately, however, the film is not the greatest. While still being a step in the right direction after the mostly underwhelming "Supergirl,"it still has some major flaws.

While the film is technically a horror movie, it is not that scary. I will be the first to admit that I get easily scared while watching horror movies, but I was not really scared during this film; and in all honesty, it did not really feel like it was trying to be a horror film. If this were your typical creature feature, Matt Hagen would be the antagonist, but since we follow him throughout the film, he is not portrayed as such; rather, as a man who was dealt a bad hand by the world. For the majority of the film, I felt sympathetic toward him despite some of the absolutely heinous acts he was committing on screen. I also felt the writing had some flaws. Some lines and interactions between characters felt a little unnatural, and it had some issues with pacing in the second and third acts, especially the former. The film turns out to be a little more "superhero-y" toward the end, but it feels really good. It struggles, however, in the transition from a dramatic thriller into its main action set piece. I also thought that Hagen's final form as Clayface looked a little silly. They tried to bridge a gap between comic-accuracy and actor Tom Rhys Harries' actual face in the design, and it falls a bit into the uncanny valley.



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

DC fleshes out their villains with Clayface's first live-action film

Harries gives a pretty decent performance; while nothing crazy, he encapsulates a man who feels that the world has turned on him very well. Other than him, though, none of the performances stick out as great.

On the other hand, this film excels in the effects department. The effects, both digital and practical, are seamless and look really good. The editing is pretty good as well; there is a scene towards the end of the film where Matt is switching between forms a lot, and it was riveting to watch. The music of the film is fine; the score did not really stick out to me and, aside from a couple of songs, the needle drops are not too memorable.

I believe that James Gunn and Peter Safran will bring some heavy hitters with the DC Universe — "Superman" is in my top four favorite movies of all time, after all — but I think that it will help when they have more of this world fully fleshed-out, and they do not have to do so much exposition. There are a lot of really incredible stories in the DC library, and once they have laid out the pieces to tell those stories effectively, I think they could make some pretty good movies out of them; they could even achieve this with "Man of Tomorrow," which releases next year.

Until then, "Clayface" is a perfectly serviceable origin story that not too many casual Batman fans know. While it did not entirely live up to my expectations, I would still consider it a solid 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Ryan Denkovic
sophomore English major

OUT ON CAMPUS

Glee was good for its time. Today? Not so much

There have been pretty consistent talks about "Glee" being brought back in a reboot for years. Some die-hard fans of the series are very excited. I am not.

I loved "Glee." It was one of my all-time favorite shows to watch, and I have probably seen all six seasons at least five times. It was with me through my awkward, budding-queer time in middle school.

"Glee" aired from 2009 – 2015 and during this time, the show made great strides toward a more inclusive and accepting society. Especially of queer individuals.

Though, I will also argue that these strides were very much only suitable for 2009 – 2015. While the show touched on some incredibly important topics, such as homophobia, suicide and interpersonal relationships, there was so much that was able to fly back then.

In my point of view, "Glee" is a sign of the times. It may have been a great way to share diverse perspectives, but the multitude of racist jokes toward the Asian and Black characters in the show, the oddly-homophobic arcs for gay characters and the show's general approach to being incredibly comfortable with having students sleep with teachers was just … intense.

Was "Glee" a good show? Yes. It was a great show. I know many anti-"Glee" people, but I personally really enjoy it. The songs were also incredible — and I still listen to many of them when I am in the mood.

But, do I believe "Glee" deserves a reboot? Absolutely not. Do I believe it is also a tad disrespectful to reboot a show which has had multiple main-cast deaths? Absolutely.

In 2013, while the show was still running, Cory Monteith, who played Finn Hudson, died of an overdose. Season 5, episode 3: "The Quarterback" still haunts me to this day. Sometimes I watch it back just to cry again.

In 2018, post-conclusion of the show, the actor who played Noah "Puck" Puckerman, Mark Salling, died by suicide after pleading guilty to possessing child sex abuse material.

In 2020, Naya Rivera, the actress for Santana Lopez, died by drowning after helping her son back onto the boat they were renting.

Three deaths of young cast members each from a show that concluded just over a decade ago is incredibly sad — and I wonder if the rest of the cast has questions about how Ryan Murphy and other writers on the show plan to address the elephant in the room: How can they possibly recast these iconic characters?

A short answer, in my perspective, is that they cannot. These roles cannot be recast in good faith.

As well as this, with the problematic nature of … a lot of the characters on the original 2009 – 2015 show, adjusting these individuals' approaches to topics will require much adjustment.

For example, if Sue Sylvester is not a semi-evil, somewhat-homophobic mean teacher who is occasionally slightly racist, then that is not really her. That was her whole thing on the show, and while incredibly problematic, that was who she was meant to be.

In general, I can appreciate the art form that is "Glee." I believe that the show was a masterpiece and I am certain that I will watch it, in its entirety, many more times.

But will I watch the reboot? I am still thinking about it. Signs are pointing toward "no," unless there are some incredibly redeeming factors I learn about.

If I have a change of heart and decide to watch the "Glee" reboot, everyone will be hearing from me about it. Until then, everyone will be hearing about how much I do not want it to happen.

Cal Sutton
junior journalism major



This article is part of the Out on Campus column by Cal Sutton to spread awareness and shine light on LGBTQIA+ identities.

Evolution of Scream Screen

Rider's radio station, 107.7 The Bronc, the current Best College Radio Station in America, continued its celebration of Halloween by hosting Scream Screen XI on Oct. 23. The environment was electric; there were people dancing, many who wanted to enjoy the games, food and movie. To add more details about the event as a whole, Scream Screen is the only drive-in movie and trunk-or-treat experience on a college campus in America, mentioned on the 107.7 The Bronc Scream Screen website page.

However, we are not talking about just this Scream Screen, we are talking about the ever-evolving history of this well-known Rider celebration. The story of Scream Screen began on Oct. 28, 2017, eventually becoming an annual tradition. As the years went on, each Scream Screen got better and better, as people became more expressive and excited. I believe the spirit of Rider is shown on full display during each Scream Screen, as emotions run high and college students get a break from doing classwork. Not only that, but the countdown of days before the event on 107.7 The Bronc's social media page adds to the spread of information and enthusiasm among students.

For the current statistics of Scream Screen XI, there were plenty of food trucks and students having an all-time high of more than 2,000 people showing up to enjoy the festivities. In prior years, this number was significantly less, as it started with 1,000 people, surprising members of 107.7 The Bronc, as they expected around 200-300 attendees. There were plenty of cars that expanded out to Route 206 because of the shocking number of people arriving for the festivities. The Bronc had to change locations every year, due to the sheer number of how many people show up. This is how The Bronc has developed to have the massive event in the C&R Lot to have enough space for all the participants.



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

2026 marks the 11th-annual "Scream Screen."

Asking different people from the renowned 107.7 The Bronc, they have said a plethora of positive affirmations about the evolution of Scream Screen.

General Manager of 107.7 The Bronc, John Mozes said, "I am not really sure how much better Scream Screen can get unless we start bringing people from outside the university altogether, but it would take away from the experience of this Rider tradition for the students, faculty, family and alumni."

Marcus Kollie, production director and sophomore film and television major at 107.7 The Bronc, mentioned that "It was fun working for the first time at Scream Screen, even though I did not fully work for it last year. This was the first time I got assigned a job, which was helping with the games, especially mini golf, as I was able to see the excitement of the kids playing on each course."

Sophia Guiro, video director and senior finance and international business major, said, "It was a hit, it was such a good experience and I had so much fun."

Ellis Foreman, production director and senior film and television major said, "It has gotten bigger every year, there's been more to do, and more people have shown up."

Laytin, a junior music production major said, "It is a catalyst for the semester, it's an event I look forward to every fall, it brings food, community and more. It's a big event that brings so many people together, and it is something Rider is known for."

Scream Screen XI has had a lot of support through social media and word of mouth between families and friends. As this event gains more traction in the next few years, there could be upwards of four thousand people stopping by to enjoy the festivities. Rider needs to take advantage of Scream Screen, as it will lead to a better, spooky tradition for all who visit and attend.

Clifford Russell
junior communication studies major

News Editor Brannagh Rattigan, Sports Editor Joshua Yuhas, Graphic Design Manager Grace Juarez and Copy Editor Teagan Rotella are members of 107.7 The Bronc. They had no part in the writing or editing of this story.

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MEN'S SOCCER

Back-and-forth battle falls short at home in Metro showdown

By Joshua Yuhas

Stuck in a back-and-forth battle at Ben Cohen Field over the weekend, Rider men's soccer fell, 3-2, to Marist University.

Pendulum swing

Off the opening whistle on Oct. 24, the Broncs charged down the field, with freshman forward Chiemeka Azurunwa taking a shot in the opening minute that was saved.

A few minutes later, graduate student goalkeeper Marius Helias made a save of his own before a battle for possession commenced.

Midway through the first half, the offensive chances picked up when Azurunwa had his attempt stopped and sophomore midfielder Drew Heil would miss his opportunity high.

The Red Foxes immediately flipped the field and broke through for the opening score of the match.

Rider drove their way up the field off the resumption of play, forcing a yellow card in the box to be given a penalty kick.

The Broncs sent senior forward Patryk Rojek into the box to take the penalty, where he scored to tie the game at 1-1.

Marist turned right back onto the offensive, as the tied game lasted just under two minutes, with another Red Fox goal for the lead once again.

Helias survived an onslaught of shots at the end of the half, stopping three shots to end the opening stretch with four saves.

Fight until the end

The Broncs jumped into control early in the second half as well, producing the first two shots from Azurunwa and sophomore midfielder Axel Lucas.

Their pressure paid dividends, as Azurunwa found his space and struck the equalizing score in the 55th minute off of an assist by Heil.

Over the next 10 minutes of the match, Marist took two shots and Heil took the Broncs' pair of shots within that period.

The Red Foxes grabbed control after that stretch, with a shot saved by Helias before they broke through for the 3-2 lead.



Liliana R. Basile/The Rider News

Freshman forward **Chiemeka Azurunwa** racing for the ball.

Helias made another three saves after the goal with a shot from Azurunwa being saved in the midst of the Red Fox attacks.

In the 81st minute, the Broncs were forced to play down a man when graduate student defender Louis Demarest picked up his second yellow card.

"You would not have known we finished the match a man down with the work rate, chances created and overall desire the players were putting in to find the game tying goal," Head Coach Chad Duernberger said.

The Broncs held strong on defense with Helias stopping a pair of 87th-minute shots and even turning it into some late game offense.

In the final minutes of the match, Azurunwa missed his shot high and it was Lucas having his chance saved in the final seconds.

"We came out of halftime and responded extremely well in trying to find that game-tying goal. Unfortunately, we ran out of time," Duernberger said. "The takeaway is this team is going to give everything they have to be successful in these final matches. There is no doubt in my mind for that."

The Broncs will travel to Connecticut for a Halloween matchup against Sacred Heart University on Oct. 31 at 12 p.m. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Rider drops consecutive Metro matchups, turnovers prove costly

By Jon Coiro

Rider women's soccer was unable to limit their turnovers in Metro Conference play, losing 4-1 to Sacred Heart University at home and dropping a 2-0 shutout to Marist University in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Defensive zone pressure

It only took 45 seconds for drama to commence on Oct. 21, as Sacred Heart challenged a call that could have handed a penalty to Rider in dangerous territory, but the call on the field would stand as called.

The Pioneers used this as fuel less than six minutes afterward, beginning the scoring on the game's first shot, thanks to a nifty move and strike that beat sophomore goalkeeper Ashley Moore on the short left side.

With the Broncs backed up in their respective zone, Sacred Heart maintained a physical presence to prevent scoring attempts, until junior midfielder Ava DeGeorge had to be put aside in the 24th minute.

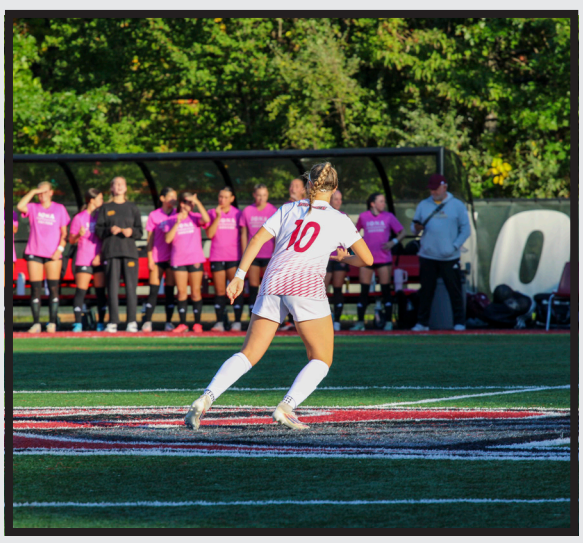
A failed clear from Rider resulted in a long-range Pioneer shot that clanged loudly off the left post.

From that point on, Sacred Heart hammered away with five shots inside a three-minute span, eventually capturing a goal for a 2-0 advantage.

Rider took exception to this 47 seconds later, when freshman midfielder Cali Friedel put the ball on a tee for junior forward Tess Ferrie, who made no mistake with a header to pull the Broncs within a score.

"Even though [Sacred Heart] scored against us that second time, it doesn't mean we hang our heads," Tess said. "We battle back and continue to fight for a goal, which is exactly what we did."

Despite Sacred Heart controlling possession, the Broncs prevented early second-half attacks and held their own defensively.



Lilliana R. Basile/The Rider News

Freshman midfielder **Cali Friedel** positioning herself.

Offensive threats emerged from Rider, but came up short, including DeGeorge's second shot of the match that was blocked and a bouncing ball in the Pioneer box that senior forward Ava Ferrie could not get a foot on.

Inside the 71st minute, Sacred Heart was awarded a penalty shot and restored their two-goal lead, which Head Coach Drayson Hounsome touched base on.

"We have to be able to play against better teams and not make those errors," Hounsome stated. "Good [opposing] players will force you to make them."

The Pioneers held off a gritty Rider offense by keeping them out of the shooting category for nearly 26 minutes of play.

One more Sacred Heart goal at the 88th minute capped off a 4-1 victory in their favor.

Each of the four goals came from the same Pioneers attacker.

Limited attacking pressure

The first 25 minutes of the match on Oct. 24 saw their defense get put to the test with five Marist shots during that span, though none of them were on net.

The Broncs mustered their first shot of the night less than a minute later, coming off the foot of senior forward Noa Menzing before getting stopped.

Shortly after, a yellow card was given to Ava, but it had little-to-no effect on the remainder of the first half, as both teams were locked at zero.

23 seconds into the next portion of play, the Red Foxes finally put a ball on goal, allowing Moore to step in and get her first save of the evening.

However, Marist pushed back into Rider territory around five minutes later and did not make any mistakes thanks to a cleaned up rebound for the lead.

The Red Foxes continued their momentum out of the locker room, adding on with another goal less than seven minutes later, extending the deficit to 2-0.

Rider was given their second yellow card, courtesy of Tess, but they would not go down without a fight.

Timely scoring attempts were put together, including a pair by junior midfielder Annie Small, but Marist stood tall.

The Broncs could not mount a comeback and dropped their third consecutive Metro match, keeping their eyes set on ending the year with a bang.

"I think the goal is to finish out the season on a high [note]," Tess said. "No matter what everyone's personal goals are, I just hope they can chase that goal and be able to end the season feeling like they completed what they wanted to accomplish."

The Broncs will conclude their 2026 campaign at Ben Cohen Field with their senior day match on Oct. 31 at 1 p.m. against Niagara University. The game can be streamed on ESPN+.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rider men's basketball open new era with a double-digit exhibition victory

By Samantha Clark

Rider men's basketball opened its 2026-27 season with its annual exhibition game during the university's Alumni and Family Day on Oct. 24, where they prevailed, 66-55, against Alvernia University, a Division III program.

A slow start

The matchup opened with Alvernia's possession, but after a block and steal from junior guard Ty Bevins, the window was open for a graduate student guard Bryce Baker 3-pointer.

The Golden Wolves responded almost immediately with two 3-pointers of their own, taking them on a 6-0 run, holding the Broncs scoreless for the following two minutes.

Sophomore forward Rich Brisco snapped the streak with two successful shots from the line, followed by two more from senior guard Khalil Farmer to put the Broncs within one possession.

After two missed free throws from Alvernia, sophomore forward Kam Wylie grabbed the rebound, assisting junior guard Nashir Washington with a 3-pointer to tie the matchup at 10-10.

Both teams were left scoreless for almost two minutes, but after a series of massive defensive efforts, along with a Brisco dunk and two free throws from sophomore forward Ezekiel Obe, the Broncs grabbed the lead, 13-12, halfway through the first.

Momentum continued with a 3-pointer from Bevins, but after the same was seen on the other end of the court, the scoreboard was tied up, once again, at 17-17.

Rider followed with a minute-long scoreless streak, until Bevins and senior guard Mark Butler combined for eight straight points to return the board to a 25-25 tie between the two squads.



Lilliana R. Basile/The Rider News

Senior forward **Rich Brisco** searching for the next pass.

"It's a whole new group of guys with new experiences and a fresh start for everbody," Bevins said. "We keep working at practice and learning everybody and we'll be able to play off that."

Two successful free throws from Brisco returned the lead to Rider for the first time in four minutes, and a 3-pointer from junior forward Horace Simmons Jr. continued to widen that gap, sending the Broncs into halftime up, 30-27.

Late momentous charge

The Broncs opened the second half of play with a trick assist from Baker, allowing for a quick layup from Brisco.

Bevins added another two, leading Rider on a 9-0 run over three-and-a-half minutes. However, over the next two, the Golden Wolves had a 7-0 run of their own, pulling the score back to a tie, 34-34.

Brisco broke the deadlock with a 3-pointer and a quick layup, and after a jumpshot from Baker, the Broncs' lead was reestablished.

Simmons Jr. broke Rider's minute-and-a-half scoreless run with two shots from the free throw line and an open jumpshot in the paint, followed by another from Brisco, giving the Broncs their largest advantage of the game, 47-38.

Bevins drilled a corner 3-pointer, and after drawing the and-1, put up four quick points, further lengthening Rider's lead.

Alvernia responded with back-to-back-to-back 3-pointers, but Rider followed with one of their own, this time from Butler, putting the Broncs up by seven points over the Golden Wolves.

Continuing his strong offensive efforts, Bevins put up an overhead floating jumpshot to lead the team with 17 points, and right behind him was Brisco, who splashed a layup for 14 points.

Another and-1 opportunity from Simmons Jr. put the Broncs up 61-53, and after Brisco won the defensive bout, Baker put up their eighth 3-pointer.

Brisco cashed in his second dunk, sending the bench and the Canastra Hammer Arena into a frenzy through the final minute of play, as the Broncs picked up their first as a team, 66-55.

"This is a new group that is bright eyed, and it's a good group," Head Coach Kevin Baggett said. "We got great character guys in this locker room, they are willing to do what we're asking to do."

The Broncs will open their regular season with a non-conference matchup on Nov. 2, heading on the road to face the University of Pittsburgh at 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Broncs getting hot when it matters, take victory in a pair of matches

By Lindsay Scarola and Joshua Yuhas

Rider volleyball split their road matches, falling to Quinnipiac University, 3-1, and winning against Merrimack University, 3-1, before heading home to Canastra Hammer Arena, taking a 3-0 win against Saint Peter's University.

Comeback falls short

The Broncs started the opening set tied at four on Oct. 23, until the Bobcats went on a 4-0 run to take the lead.

Down 13-7, Rider scored three straight, including a block and kill from freshman middle blocker Tori Bonacci. The Broncs stayed within three at 17-14, but fell 25-19.

Rider trailed 13-6 in set two before a 5-0 run brought them within two.

Back-to-back kills by senior outside hitter Rylah Robinson and Bonacci tied the set, then a 6-0 run behind Bonnaci's serve gave Rider control, leading to an ace by Robinson to even the match up.

The Broncs started the third set strong, having a pair of 3-0 runs to take a 6-2 lead, however, Quinnipiac responded with a 5-0 run of their own to take the lead.

An ace by senior libero Simone Langford put Rider ahead 20-18, but the Bobcats scored four straight to take the set, 25-22.

In the fourth set, the teams were tied at eight before the Bobcats went on a 4-0 run. Rider then answered with a 4-0 run of its own to tie the set at 19.

Despite trading points late, the Broncs fell short as Quinnipiac secured the set and match.

During the match, senior middle hitter Molly Rohde recorded her 409th career block, moving her into third in program history.

"It's definitely a really cool accomplishment, especially during my senior year, but I wouldn't have been able to do it without my teammates and coaches," Rohde said. "It's special to leave that kind of mark on the program."

Closed out weekend strong

In the opening set on Oct. 24, the Broncs trailed early before a 4-0 run gave them a one-point lead.

After Merrimack regained control, Rider scored three-straight points, including two kills from junior outside hitter Aubrey Baker.

Despite their efforts, the Broncs fell in the set, 25-23.

Rider opened the second set with a 4-1 lead and extended it with a 4-0 run featuring an ace by Bonacci and two kills by Robinson.

Merrimack cut into the lead, but Rider pulled away late to win the set and even the match up.

In the third, the Broncs scored six-straight points while trailing 7-6, until the Warriors attempted to rally with a 4-0 run.

Rider fended off the Bobcats rally, as they closed out the set with a 5-1 run to win 25-18.

Set four was a constant battle consisting of 10 ties, the last at 16-16. Rider then took control with a 5-0 run behind the serve of senior setter Makenna Mason.

After Merrimack scored once more, the Broncs finished the match with four-straight points to secure the victory.

Head Coach Jeff Rotondo credited Rider's serving and attacking for helping the team bounce back against Merrimack.

"Our servers did a great job putting pressure on the Merrimack passers," Rotondo said. "Our attackers did great in finding ways to score, and it was great to see Aubrey get the final kill versus her old team."



Photo courtesy of Peter G. Borg

Senior middle blocker **Molly Rohde** preparing to serve.

Flip the script

The Broncs opened out hot on Oct. 27, winning the first five, but were found tied 10-10 with the Peacocks.

By the end, four attack errors and a Langford ace sealed a 25-21 set win.

With a tight battle in the first half of set two, Rider surged ahead with a 15-4 run, winning 25-11.

The two sides would be tied at the 16, 17 and 18-point marks, until a 5-1 run closed the set, 25-22.

Robinson led the match with 10 kills and senior right side Anja Kelly followed just behind with nine.

After getting swept in their last matchup with the Peacocks, the Broncs flipped the script this time.

The Broncs will travel to Niagara University on Oct. 30 for a 6 p.m. matchup before heading to Canisius University on Oct. 31 for a 2 p.m. match. The Oct. 30 match against Niagara will be streamed on ESPN+.