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Outstanding successes in Model UN

By Brannagh Rattigan



Photo courtesy of John Stollsteimer

Rider's Model UN team attended a conference in Washington D.C., where they took home one team and two individual awards.

Rider's Model United Nations team took home the highest overall team award, the Outstanding Delegation Award, while representing the Republic of Panama, as well as two individual awards in the Washington D.C. conference on Nov. 6-8.

The team was directed by junior political science major John Stollsteimer as the D.C. head delegate and team lead, senior political science major Nick Smith as head delegate and senior psychology major Adrienne Bishop as team lead.

There were seven other team members, including Zack Leshner, a junior political science major and recipient of the individual award, and two members still in the tryout process, sophomore criminal justice major Alyssa Reidwig and freshman political science major Keia Smith.

Barbara Franz, the adviser for Model UN, shared that the club is essentially a simulation game where students create a team to act as different countries, as well as different committees while "playing" United Nations.

Franz and the leadership team of Model UN agreed that the D.C. conference is typically treated as a practice run for the larger-scaled conference in New York held in the spring semester.

"A smaller group went to D.C. and they represented Panama. I just said go, try, so that you're not rusty. Bring some newbies to have a try and see how it goes, and they did exceptionally well," Franz said.

To prepare for the conference, Stollsteimer took the reins as head delegate and guided the team, as they were going through tough changes.

"Going into D.C. having a little bit of turmoil with team changes, it was a little bit stressful. … But my confidence grew just after an hour being there, and I knew that we had the potential to do it. I'm so proud of everyone, they made sure they gave it their all, and we left with the award that we deserved," Stollsteimer said.

To that point, Nick stressed the efficiency of the team, given that new members were still in the process of trying out and learning the ropes.

"Prepation was weird for the D.C. conference because we had two people on our team who are actively trying, [Riedwig] and Keia. Their first conference experience was very hands-off from us, and their preparation, especially Keia's, was done a week before," Nick said.

For Bishop, a member of the team's security council, planning looked a little different.

"For this committee, the security council, there were actually a lot of new mechanics and procedures that we had to learn for it. So not only were we keeping ourselves refreshed on New York procedure, we also had to learn two new different styles of documents we had to prepare, because the security council gets two extra," Bishop said.

Stollsteimer additionally shared that the team spent the summer and early months of the fall semester working on their position papers and formulating ideas for the committees, covering pressing topics like Panama's stance on artificial intelligence, refugees and the current situation in Gaza.

The team's hard work paid off, as they received the Outstanding Delegation Award, which Franz shared that very few teams receive. This places them in the top six best-performing teams at the conference out of the 81 attending schools.

"It's kind of become our standard of this is where we expect y'all to be, and that standard is in the top seven schools. I'm very proud of us, but I think this is exactly where I expected this to be," Nick said.

The last time Rider's Model UN team went out to compete in D.C. was in 2018, representing Kuwait. While there, the team received honorable mentions, which is a third-tier award. Bishop shared that being able to return to D.C. and receive a top-tier award allowed them to avenge the circumstances of the last D.C. conference, and represent a high level of operation.

Franz expressed that the team is highly dedicated, driven and engaged, which she attributed their success to. She additionally mentioned that this young team, consisting mostly of freshmen, has a high capability to learn, grow and carry on the torch for graduating members.

Bishop, as well as Leshner, were both recipients of the Outstanding Delegate in Committee award, which is voted on by the body of participants at the conference. Both being on the security council, the two team members dealt with the crisis portion of the conference, where Bishop believes they stood out most.

"Within the crisis, we both immediately got to work. I think that's where we both really shined," Bishop said. "I think I almost threw [Leshner] out of his chair when we found out we won."

Model UN as a whole is an opportunity to succeed, as the teams develop an advanced skillset to guide them through not only conferences, but also in aiding their understanding of different niche topics in modern society.

"There are lots of skills involved in this that are pretty difficult to get, but once the students have them, they are lifelong. They can use them for their entire lives," Franz said.

With the team's high success rate and history of awards, Nick said, "How consistently we perform well is like a gold star on your resume. We stand out because we are some of the best."

The entire leadership team agreed that Model UN is a critical experiential learning opportunity at Rider and should not be undermined.

Stollsteimer said, "Model UN is the definition of experiential learning. There is no more tangible experience you can have than after a five-day-long conference in New York, sitting in the United Nations General Assembly room in Lower Manhattan, and standing up and being recognized for the work that you've put four straight months into."

Nick and Bishop shared a similar sentiment, highlighting the impact Model UN has had on their public speaking, writing and research skills, as well as improving their understanding of what they want for their futures.

For anyone interested in Model UN, Franz and the leadership team all emphasized how important it is just to try, no matter your major.

"Whether you make the team or not, it shows you have courage," Nick said.

Stollsteimer said, "There's no harm in dropping if it's not for you. Just try."

"If you don't think you'll make it, do it anyway. If you're right, come back, do it again and push through that wall telling you that you're not good enough," Bishop said.

Franz said, "The Model UN [team] is sort of seen by many people who go through it as one of the key experiences at Rider. There's a group of people that do not know eachother and they have to go through fire and hell and stress and torture together, and then at the end, they come out as different people, but also as a different group."

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BRONCS GRAB THEIR FIRST WIN, LOSE TWO ON THE ROAD
Rider men's basketball took the home victory but lost both games on the road.
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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY JENNA MUNSWAMI

Information provided by Public Safety Director Matthew Babcock

Hot shower

Wet and Wild. On Nov. 23, at 4:50 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to a fire alarm coming from University House. Upon their arrival, Public Safety found the building being evacuated. They proceeded inside and found the second-floor hallway warm with a haze present. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that a showerhead had ruptured and hot water was filling the area up with steam. The area was ventilated, the alarm was silenced and Facilities Management was contacted to fix the showerhead.

Warm dorm

Fire Safety. On Nov. 13, at 3:42 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Centennial Hall for the report of a fire safety issue. Upon arrival, Public Safety met with Residence Life staff, who came across a violation while completing their checks. In one of the rooms, a student had set up a sauna. The sauna was rendered safe and the room where it was located was secured. The matter is being referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Sarah F. Griffin/ The Rider News

Phishing scams increase on campus

By Cal Sutton

Over the past year and a half, email-based phishing attacks and scams have been on the rise, according to Rider's Chief Information Officer, Ben Adams.

These scam emails tend to include a link to click or an email to reach out to. Clicking on links that make individuals log into their Google account can compromise your passwords and account security.

Over the past year and a half, Rider's Helpdesk, the Director of Career Development & Success Karl Craft and Moe Rahman, the university's former chief information officer, have released universitywide emails, which shared the threats within these phishing emails.

Following these attempts, the Office of Information Technology has added a label of "[EXT]" to emails sent from non-Rider-affiliated addresses. While external emails are labeled as being from non-Rider sources, some of the phishing attempts come from infiltrated Rider emails, usually through software such as SharePoint, which the university does not utilize for information and file sharing.

Adams urges students to report emails that are from external sources sharing far-fetched job offers or giveaways of typically expensive items to Rider's Helpdesk.

The university can only find out about these phishing attacks when students report the emails, since OIT does not actively monitor email accounts associated with Rider. Though, using the statistics of emails that have been reported, Adams said there is a baseline of four phishing emails a week and, even in extreme cases that they have seen, four different phishing emails in a single day.

In university settings, especially, scam and phishing emails are becoming increasingly common, due to a variety of factors that can breach security.

According to a 2026 study published in the Journal of Advanced Computer Knowledge and Algorithms, "University networks show structural and human vulnerabilities that increase exposure to phishing. Universities operate open campuses, have many internet-facing services, allow Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) policies, and often integrate third-party tools for teaching and research."

Jay Luo, an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics, has seen an uptick in phishing emails at the university, but also noted that phishing emails have "been a problem."

Since Luo started at Rider seven years ago, he has been a witness of email scams coming through Rider's inboxes and has also been forced to slow down when seeing a new email, which had links or files because they can trick people, especially if they use addresses that are replicas of Rider emails.



Cal Sutton/The Rider News

Scam and phishing emails have been on the rise in the last year and a half.

"When you click on an email, if you see anything you are not familiar with, be very careful," Luo said. "Always act slowly. Don't just, in a rush, do everything. Almost all of the cyberattacks want to create an [emergency] situation."

Luo said that when emails say to "act fast" to any degree, to actually be patient and act slowly. This is especially important because the only time that a member of the Rider community would need to sign into their account would be via secure communication through OIT.

Adams and Luo both said artificial intelligence was a large factor in why problems with phishing emails have risen in recent years.

"It's a combination of more sophisticated use of AI by the phishing people and people not having strong enough passwords," Adams said.

Adams shared some tips for keeping your account secure: always have multi-factor authentication enabled for any and all Gmail accounts. Do not reuse passwords across multiple websites. Do not click unfamiliar links in emails.

Long, complicated passwords are also more secure than strings of random numbers and letters, as well. Adams said song lyrics or movie titles are great go-tos.

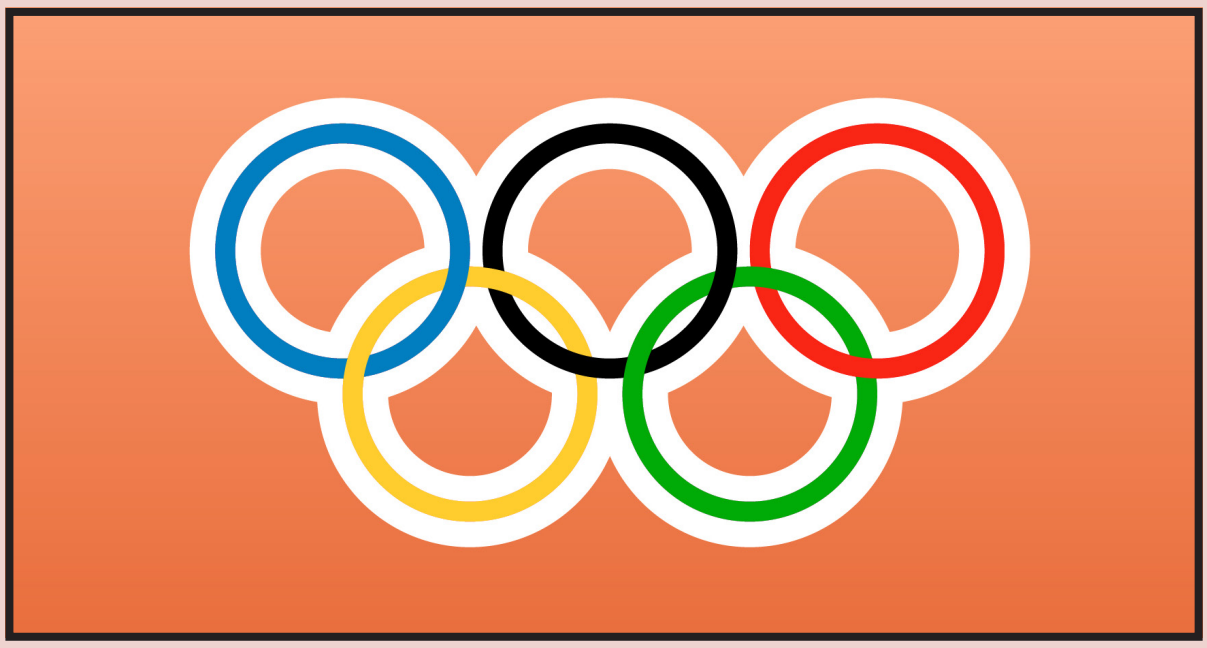
"For example, 'StarTrekTheNextGeneration' is a much stronger password than eight or nine random letters or numbers that I won't necessarily remember," Adams said. "If I can't remember it, then I'm going to be writing it down or somehow making it available somewhere else."

Even though phishing emails are increasing, there are many ways to avoid becoming a victim of the attacks and to maintain the security of the community's Rider-affiliated Gmail accounts.

Report any suspected phishing emails to OIT by forwarding them to helpdesk@rider.edu or opening a support ticket.

Looking ahead: Jayden Sanchez prepares for the 2028 Olympics

By Mallory Hoelzl



Grace Juarez/ The Rider News

Sophomore sports management major **Jayden Sanchez** is undergoing training to pursue his goal of attending to 2028 Olympics.

Top-ranked judo national athlete and sophomore sports management major Jayden Sanchez, is currently preparing at the Colton Brown Training Center to compete in the 2028 Olympics at just 18 years old.

Sanchez mainly works with two-time Olympian Colton Brown, and has been training with him since high school.

"[Brown] was an amazing, amazing role model for me. If I'm gonna make a run for the Olympics, I want to do it with him," Sanchez said.

Sanchez graduated from Don Bosco Preparatory School at 16 years old after previously skipping a grade, making him the youngest athlete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) during his freshman year.

"It was a little bit of a novelty coming in at such a young age," Sanchez said.

Judo is a martial art created in Japan by Kanō Jigorō. The direct translation of judo from Japanese to English is "the gentle way." The goal is to throw the opponent onto their back, which can be executed in multiple ways, some of which Sanchez utilizes on the university's wrestling team.

To qualify for the judo Olympics, athletes have to be within the top 18 players in the adult division.

The U.S. will be hosting a tournament in the beginning of 2028 between the top eight athletes in the country of each weight class. The winner of the tournament will be selected for the Olympic spot.

While being a full-time college student and athlete, Sanchez still finds himself constantly travelling, as judo is a year-round sport.

Sanchez will travel to Texas to compete nationally, and has recently returned from Canada competing in the Montreal Panamerican Cup.

When he was only 3 years old, Sanchez first began judo, and since then, he has been training in multiple areas of New Jersey. From the ages of seven to 13, he competed nationally and received the top rank as a national athlete multiple times.

Sanchez instructs children from ages three to 10 in the ways of judo. He sometimes finds himself at the dojo for a total of four to five hours between training and teaching.

One of the reasons the star athlete wanted to stay home for college was to stick with his hometown dojo.

Sanchez met John Hangey, the deputy athletic director and previous wrestling head coach, and Nic Bedelyon, the interim head coach, at an open house event during his junior year of high school. He stayed in contact with them throughout the year until he made his final decision.

Grateful for the bonds he has created with his teammates and coaches, Sanchez commented on how they are all very supportive of him and his commitment to judo. Even though some of his teammates have been as old as 25, Sanchez discussed how they did not treat him any differently.

Junior political science major Jon Mason commented on his experience of being Sanchez's main practice partner on the wrestling team. Mason notices how his partner tends to utilize his upper body in wrestling, much like he does in judo.

"He's pretty confident. He knows what he wants to get to," Mason said.

The judo mentor is also grateful for the support he receives from his family, who helps him fund his trips and training.

Sanchez talked about how his family has been, saying, "Nothing but an absolute blessing, and I know they'll continue to support me."



Grace Juarez/ The Rider News

RIDER PETS

Luna the Ragdoll cat is a purr-fect companion at Rider

By Teagan Rotella and Matthew Schorr



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Schledwitz

Luna is an incredibly soft, fluffy and sassy Ragdoll cat that calls the Delta Phi Epsilon house basement home.

For some people, a pet is just another friend. For junior musical theatre major Rebecca Schledwitz, her 1-year-old, 10-pound Ragdoll cat, Luna, is much more than just a friend, she is family.

When describing Luna's physical attributes, Schledwitz highlighted her white and grey fur and pretty blue eyes. Luna is also very sassy and stubborn, while still being very affectionate and intelligent.

During her freshman year, Schledwitz had unfortunately lost her previous Ragdoll cat, Matilda, to cancer, who she also brought with her to Rider.

After Matilda's passing, Schledwitz's parents believed she needed another cat so that she could continue to have emotional support while away at college. So, her parents decided to surprise Schledwitz with Luna for her 19th birthday.

When Schledwitz met Luna for the first time at the breeder's, Luna would not let her even look at the other cat.

"[Luna] was meowing. She wouldn't even let my mom put her down. … She just wants to be the center of attention at all times," Schledwitz said. "So, I was like, 'Okay, well, I guess that's the one then.'"

"My other cats back home are all rescues. I'm pretty big on adopting, but this breeder was someone who actually really cared about the animals and the cats," Schledwitz said.

Due to Schledwitz's history of mental health struggles and anxiety, having Luna on campus helps her combat them by providing a routine for Schledwitz.

The process of getting a pet on campus was unique for Schledwitz.

"In South Carolina, where I'm from, you don't have to have a license for animals," she said. "So, I had to get her a license, which was actually not the hardest, but it was new because I haven't had to do that before."

Every year, she also has to get documentation via her psychiatrist and make sure Luna has the proper shots and medical requirements.

Schledwitz lives in the basement level of the Delta Phi Epsilon house, which allows Luna to roam free and share her love with other members who live in the basement level of the house.

There are some rules she must follow in order to keep Luna. For example, any time one of her sorority sisters who is allergic to cats is in the basement, Luna must stay inside Schledwitz's room.

When describing Luna's sassy and stubborn personality, Schledwitz mentioned one time where, "[she] spent $300 at the vet all because Luna had gotten her scratcher thrown away."

Schledwitz admitted, "Luna often dictates her eating and sleep schedules."

Kaelin Tureikas, a sophomore finance major, also highlighted Luna's sweet and sassy personality when describing their first encounter in March.

"When I first met Luna, she approached me right away," Tureikas said. "I immediately noticed how close of a bond [Luna and Schledwitz] have."

Tureikas' favorite part about Luna is how cuddly and lovable she is.

"I often pick her up and hold her, and she is so gentle," Tureikas said. "She loves the attention and having her chin scratched."

Being a college student is filled with twists and turns, but having Luna as a constant companion has made all the difference for Schledwitz .

She said, "The most consistent thing that I have is Luna. Having a consistent routine, especially with my major that's so inconsistent, has been really, really beneficial for me."

This article is part of the Rider Pets series by The Rider News to feature pets across the Rider community.



Gail Demeraski/The Rider News

Behind the seams: "The Threepenny Opera" costume production

By Dawinie Daphca Registre

Colorful threads hang beside each other. Bright reds pop out next to dark blues, which drown out next to bright yellows. At each table sits a sewing machine ready to be threaded and punctured through fabric. Alongside them, patterns are pinned to the wall. At Rider's costume shop, sewers and designers gather together to produce pieces for the upcoming production of "The Threepenny Opera."

Adapted from John Gay's 1728 "The Beggar's Opera," the play is set in mid-19th-century Soho, London, and is by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill in collaboration with Elisabeth Hauptmann. Character introductions unravel themes such as love, corruption and a struggle to hold power, but their clothing reveals a story before their actions do.

The mind forms a preconceived notion before a character speaks. Why? Clothing shapes how a character is perceived, as it reveals social class, motives and mood.

A creation starts with a vision, and this requires meshing everyone's individual talents to create one cohesive piece.

Jim Parks, the shop supervisor, costume shop manager and adjunct professor, aids in bringing these theatrical visuals to life. He stated his purpose is "To fill the vision that Robin [Shane] has, that has been developed with the rest of the production team and the director."

Robin Shane, an associate professor of theatre, leads the inspiration for the production designs. While Parks is not the designer for the production of "The Threepenny Opera," his work on previous productions, such as "RENT" in 2024 gives insight into how a director's vision shapes the design.

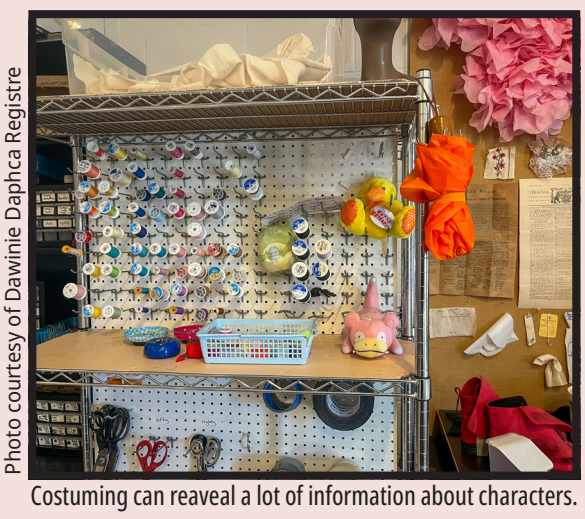


Photo courtesy of Dawinie Daphca Registre

Costuming can reaveal a lot of information about characters.

The award-winning costume designer explained he develops his ideas based on the world the director wants to construct. He takes into consideration how these designs align with the overall vision seeking to be portrayed. Parks explained, "Whether that be a change in historical setting or a broad concept that we're trying to get across by using color or shapes."

Once this concept has been established, the design process is started. Alongside him, costume shop employee and senior musical theatre major Julia Almendra aids in bringing the garments to life.

When sourcing the fabric for these garments, Almendra explained that the production's garments are secondhand items. They stated, "We go thrifting a lot, and we also get donations sometimes." This method has shown to be more affordable and sustainable.

Since the play is based in the 19th century, the team's search for material was difficult. Almendra shared that it was difficult to find pieces that cater to the time period, voicing that, "Threepenny was a little bit harder because it's a period piece, so for a lot of it, we've had to upcycle and make."

Color, shape and texture: every layer, fabric and stitch is an element that aids in painting a picture with no words. Each piece adds to another complex theme within the story. Almendra shared that some materials that will be used in the production include mesh and tulle. They went into detail about how the use of this material helps in portraying a specific visual on stage, stating, "Lots of mesh and tulle because of the big, flowy gowns." The use of this material will aid in enhancing the movement of the garment on stage as actors perform.

In this production, audiences will be seeing detailed embroidery displayed on corsets. These decorative features serve a purpose. Almendra expressed that they chose these materials, "Because we knew that, in the lighting, they would shine really nicely."

What begins as just a collection of elements ends as a cohesive art piece. On stage, colors carry emotions, and structure creates depth. Fabrics may move, or stand still, caging a character in a non-existent barrier. Behind those seams lies a team of people who work to bring an identity to audiences.

Rider's production of "The Threepenny Opera" will open on Nov. 20, with shows running until Nov. 22. Tickets are available online at Rider's Box Office.

Read this week's digital exclusives online!

This week's additional stories are by Meghan Safier, Charlotte McGonigle and The Rider News Practicum.

Inside Rider's National Panhellenic Conference recruitment

By Guy Varela



Photos courtesy of Guy Varela
Graphic by Abby Ray and Victoria Mazzara/The Rider News

Formal recruitment for the National Panhellenic Council chapters will begin Jan. 31 and run through Feb. 7.

From Jan. 31 to Feb. 7, Rider's National Panhellenic Conference will begin their formal recruitment process. It is designed for any potential new members who want to embark on a journey to find their new sisterhood and learn what sorority Greek life is all about on campus.

At Rider, NPC consists of four social sororities: Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Phi Epsilon, Phi Sigma Sigma and Zeta Tau Alpha. Every organization of NPC seeks to live their missions and values through their members, heavily focusing on their philanthropic causes and community service. All women who make up NPC's community are at the forefront of showcasing leadership skills, friendship, inclusion, scholarship and service.

There is also the NPC executive board, where six different women from across all four social sororities oversee the NPC community for the academic year and facilitate the recruitment processes for both fall and spring semesters. Other sorority women, nicknamed Rho Gammas, also help with recruitment in an anonymous fashion.

During formal recruitment there are five rounds, consisting of an open house, a sisterhood round, a philanthropy round, a preference round and a bid day.

NPC President and senior elementary education major, Izzy Pero, explained how the process of each round is operated.

"I am in direct contact with chapter presidents during each round of recruitment. The rest of the executive board will have their own group of potential new members," Pero said. "For the executive board and other Rho Gammas, they will be integrated into other groups in pairs. There's eight groups of potential new members and each group of potential new members has two Rho Gammas. Groups will be paired together, and then each set of four will have one executive board member to help them through the recruitment process."

Pero would like to see the NPC community grow, stating that it is her number one goal. She wants to grow the NPC executive board into the best leaders that they can be. She also wants this to happen for all of the potential new members, and hopes to be able to show them how they can flourish in the Greek Life community.

"I want our Greek community to be closer as a whole, so I want to recruit girls that are actually passionate and interested in Greek Life."

Outside of NPC, there are the individual recruitment chairs for each organization.

Alpha Xi Delta's membership vice president, Ashley Uhl, a senior environmental science major, shared her chapter's vision on what spring recruitment will look like.

"We have a committee that helps with planning, we have a lot of ideas that come in, which will only strengthen how we recruit. We look for girls that fit our values by being passionate with leadership, academics, community service and things along that line," Uhl said. "We are aware that the week is stressful, so we try to make it as comfortable as possible. A successful recruitment is where all the potential new members find what they feel is best for them and where they call home."

Fernanda Umaña, Delta Phi Epsilon's former vice president of recruitment and a senior elementary education major, believes that it is important to show potential new members what kind of values her chapter shares.

"A successful recruitment across my chapter is genuinely showing who we are and displaying Delta Phi Epsilon's values, with that being justice, sisterhood and love," Umaña said. "It's really making genuine connections and making sure everyone feels at home and welcomed. I'm really excited to see all of NPC all together. It's great to see everyone in NPC and see what different ideas each sorority brings to recruitment."

Delta Phi Epsilon's new vice president of recruitment, Anna Bagameri, is a junior exercise science major and understands the feelings of what it means to be in her new role recruiting for Delta Phi Epsilon.

"I feel like recruitment is a whole sisterhood bonding event in itself because we're together for such a long period, and there's a lot of energy drinks and laughs involved. I think it's an emotional week, especially for the seniors, since it's their last one, and I think it's also a very vulnerable week for us, because during philanthropy round, it can be a hard topic to talk about sometimes and making sure everyone feels comfortable if they want to share stories or if they connected with our philanthropy," Bagameri said.

Ava Conrade, Phi Sigma Sigma's former membership recruitment chair is a senior marketing major. Conrade expressed that finding meaningful connections with those that are going through recruitment helps to foster genuine relationships.

"For our chapter, we take formal recruitment as a time to be fully authentic, as girls who are signed up for the formal recruitment process are able to meet a majority of our sisters," Conrade said. "One thing that Phi Sigma Sigma prides itself on is being the first nonsectarian sorority, so we have women from all different backgrounds and beliefs, which allows us to connect with a broader group of people, as we have sisters that are involved in different activities, clubs and organizations on campus."

Phi Sigma Sigma's new membership recruitment chair, Camilla Sabogal, a junior elementary education major, is eager to begin formal recruitment and cannot wait to put her chapter's best foot forward.

"I always look forward to interacting with all the people who are interested in Greek Life. I love talking to people, and as taking on this responsibility, I'm excited to interact more on a personal level with these women, and get to know why they are interested and help them find their home," Sabogal said. "We prepare ourselves mentally, physically and make sure that we are presenting ourselves the best way and being authentically ourselves, because that is what we do best and what made me want to join a sisterhood."

Zeta Tau Alpha's former vice president recruitment, Leah Miller, a senior musical theatre major, affirmed that finding the right home for all potential new members is what makes a successful recruitment process for all NPC chapters.

"Obviously every chapter is different, and looks for different things like the philanthropies that they support and important events that they do, so it's just helping the potential new members to find the right place for them to grow the most," Miller said. "A lot of potential new members get an idea beforehand of where they think they should be, but most of the time they find their true home through conversations and experiences that they have during recruitment."

Zeta Tau Alpha's new vice president recruitment Madeline Vosk, a junior marketing major, realizes that the planning and preparation process of recruiting is something that can spark each chapter's creativity.

"I'm excited to see how recruitment plays out and I'm excited to see what all of the chapters do for recruitment. I think it's really interesting to see how each chapter's creativity represents them in general and throughout all of the recruitment rounds," Vosk said. "I'm excited to represent Zeta Tau Alpha and get more involved in our recruitment process. There's a lot of planning behind the scenes and hard work that goes into getting everyone in the chapter prepared for recruitment."

Pero said, "As someone who did not go through formal recruitment, I was so intimidated by greek life, so I want everyone who is going to be recruiting in the spring, I want them to remember that they are human beings at the end of the day, and we all joined greek life for our own personal reasons. I know that recruitment can get really competitive, but I want everyone to remember the true reason why we are here, whether it's to support our philanthropies, or find sisterhood, whatever the reason they are, I don't want them to lose that perspective during our recruitment process for all of our potential new members that sign up."

Executive Editor Samantha Clark, News Editor Brannagh Rattigan and Copy Editor Teagan Rotella are members of NPC organizations. They had no part in the writing or editing of this story.

Pitch Slapped: bringing pride and performance to Rider

By Samantha Clark

In a night of music, performance and collaboration, Rider's a cappella groups are bringing competitive performances and familiar favorites to the ears of friends, family and peers.

The biannual Pitch Slapped event will take place on Nov. 19 at 8:30 p.m. in Gill Chapel and will highlight Rider's four a cappella groups — Deaftones, Noted, Soulfege and Outreach Choir.

Each highlighting different musical styles, personalities and skills, the groups involved in Pitch Slapped build community through performance.

Junior music major Jeremy Burt is involved in three out of the four performing groups, including Deaftones, where he sits as a general member, along with Soulfege and Outreach Choir, where he serves as vice president and assistant music director for both.

According to Burt, each group is different in their own way, allowing every Pitch Slapped performance to bring something new to the stage.

"Soulfege is a tenor base. We're the funny group," Burt said. "We have albums, we've done a lot of things. … In Deaftones, we compete. We're basically like 'Pitch Perfect.'"

Outreach Choir, on the other hand, bridges different cultures and languages together through their ultimate goal of bringing diverse music to the Rider community.

In his time preparing for all three groups simultaneously, Burt has realized the true beauty of performances and that each instance brings a new experience for everyone involved.

Mick Filetto, a junior music education major, Soulfege general member and Noted's assistant music director, shared a similar sentiment, saying, "Pitch Slapped is a free event where you get to see a multitude of different songs prepared by all different groups. It's a super fun event with good vibes and all of the groups work really hard on popular songs to showcase."

For the fall 2026 performances, each group will bring their own sound to reflect the individuality seen across the a cappella community.

"In Outreach [Choir], we have a lot of vibey songs, in a way, one that can be recognizable if you're a Disney fan," Burt said. "Soulfege is performing some from our album, and there's one song that we always do, and that's always a fun time. … For Deaftones, we do our set that we use to compete, just to say, 'Hey, this is what we've been working on.'"

Noted's performance will feature "two beautifully opposing styles of songs that will have you beggin' to make some snow angels," according to Filetto.

Pitch Slapped, where the four groups share the stage, will give students the opportunity to experience familiar melodies, competitive arrangements and unique a cappella performances in a showcase that promises community and creativity.

Managing Editor Cal Sutton is the secretary of Soulfege A Cappella, and Social Media Editor Mallory Hoelzl is a member of Noted. They had no part in the writing or editing of this story.

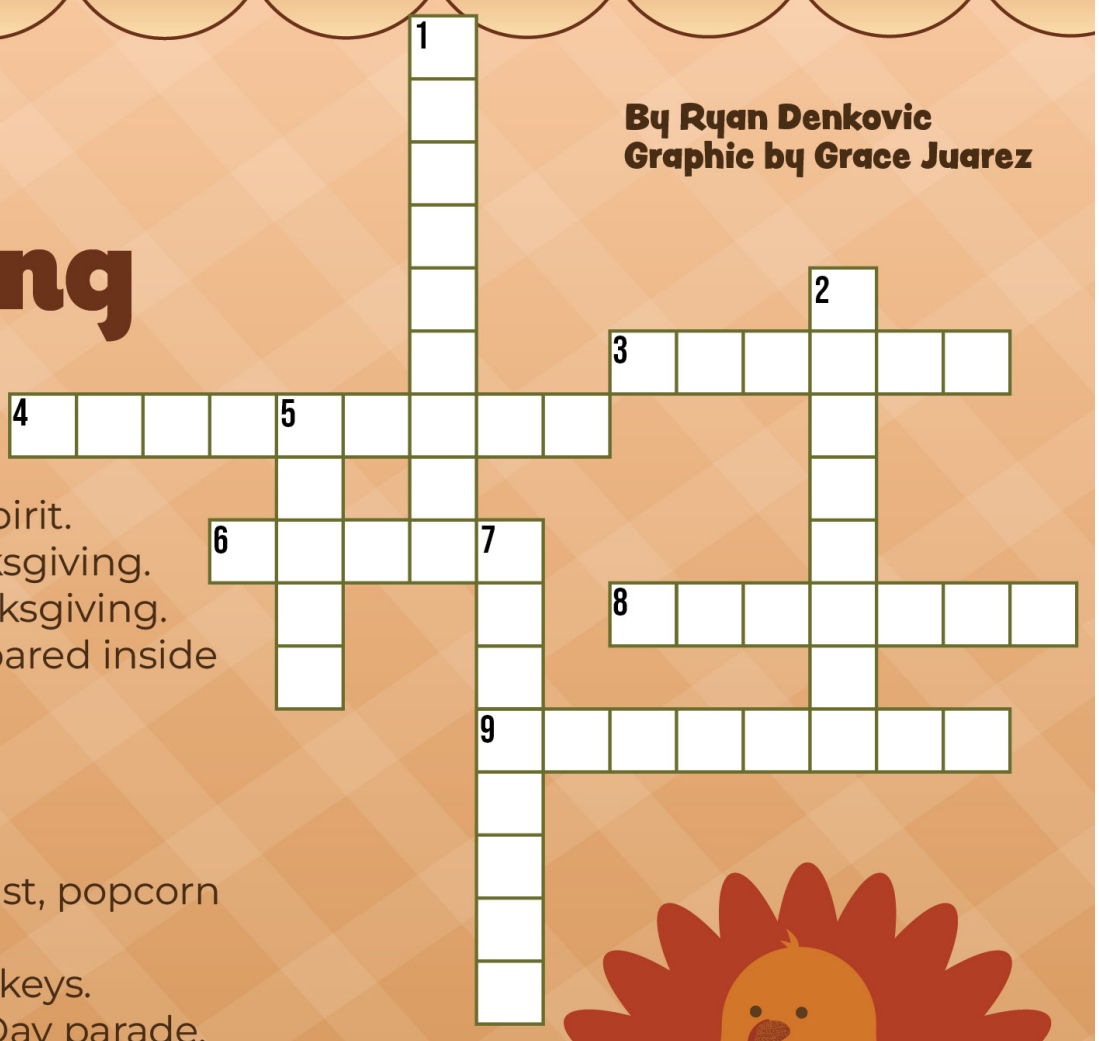


Graphic courtesy of Reese Bennett

Rider's a cappella showcase occurs biannually.

Happy Thanksgiving

By Ryan Denkovic
Graphic by Grace Juarez

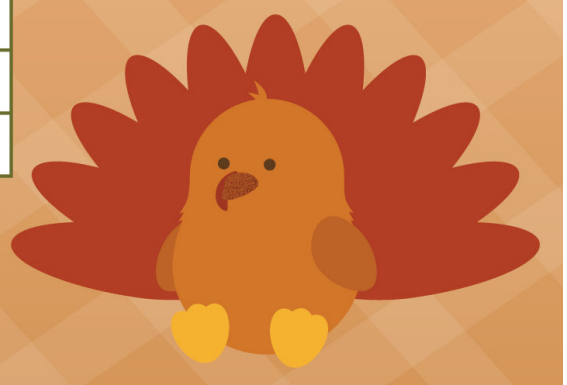


DOWN

1. Fruit sauce that shows its Bronc spirit.
2. Sport commonly played on Thanksgiving.
5. Color of the Friday following Thanksgiving.
7. Bread-based side commonly prepared inside the turkey.

ACROSS

3. Chef who prepares a dinner of toast, popcorn and jelly beans.
4. Film about two time-traveling turkeys.
6. Department store Thanksgiving Day parade.
8. Last name; composer for "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving."
9. Roosevelt who attempted to change the date of Thanksgiving.



Find the answers here!

Play online here!

A fashion advent calendar for your winter

The shift in seasons brings forth winter traditions; a well-needed break for us college students and, of course, the latest fashion trends. I have said my piece on the terror that is the fast-fashion cycle, along with how much I hate people following trends simply because it is popular and not what they actually like. This is all still true for me, but I know that trends will always play a part in the fashion industry. So, instead of going over every predicted trend of the winter 2026-27 season, here are my favorite finds after scouring the internet. My only hope is that these pieces will become a staple in someone's closet for years to come, and not just be discarded with the ringing in of the new year.

To start off, we simply cannot survive the snow without a good coat. This season, structured jackets will be all the rage to keep us warm. Military jackets and trench coats that cinch at the waist are what you need to achieve this look. Vogue predicted that there will be a lot more form-fitting clothes this winter, and these jackets fit that vision perfectly. They give off an air of maturity and are undeniably chic. If you want to elevate any outfit this winter, look out for any structured silhouette.

Do not give up on your puffer coat so quickly, though. Statement coats are also in, and this means anything with a fun color, texture or pattern. If everyone is going for something sleek, rock your puffer coat with some fun accessories to lean into your special look. A uniquely colored puffer looks great with earmuffs or a chunky scarf. For other statement coats, keep an eye out for suede jackets, which Who What Wear had in their seasonal trends predictions. You can also put a twist on the classic trench coat or leather jacket. For instance, a long trench coat will always be stylish, but find one that comes in a jewel tone to make yourself brighter for when 4 p.m. hits and the moon is already out.

Lace is also forecasted to be popular this time of year. Garments may be seen adding it as an accent and more lace accessories will be popping up. I think that this is a gorgeous trend for winter because the softness it adds feels like the perfect compliment to typical winter gear. I also love the way lace gives a piece of clothing another texture that makes it more visually appealing. This also appeared in a Vogue article, which stated: "The effect is romantic, but anything but prim." Lace can be worn in a number of aesthetics. My personal favorite is goth fashion, but it can be the perfect final touch to any outfit. Lace headbands should definitely become a winter staple; I can see it giving the effect of snowflakes in hair.

The last trend is really a combination of two different ones, and when put together, they work perfectly: dark florals. Romantic aesthetics also seem to be in this season, which is apparent in the floral visuals, but also the dark colors giving it a more winter feel. A lot of skirts have carried this look, but I think it could also look chic in sweaters. A well-done floral touch can add visual interest to an outfit without it looking tacky. For those who love super feminine aesthetics while wanting to give it an air of sophistication, dark florals will be perfect for you this season.

I am still all for ignoring trends and wearing what makes you happy, but if there is something here that sparked any interest, try to add it to your wardrobe! Everyone should have something fun and iconic to them in their collection, and it is never too late to start.



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

Need additions for your winter wardrobe?

Jenna Munswami
senior communication studies major

Martin McDonagh's wild tale of friendship and espionage culminates in a fantastic film

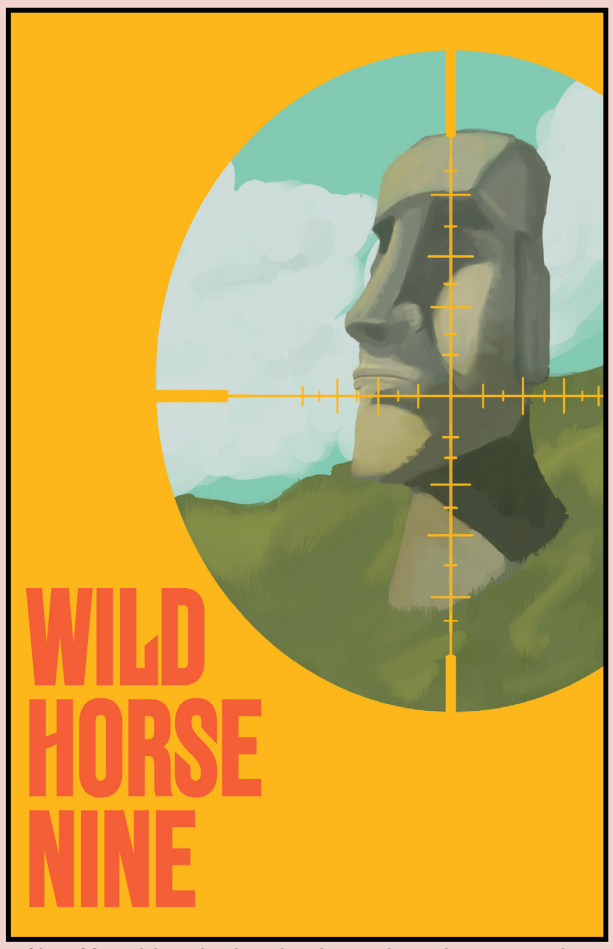
Martin McDonagh's latest flim, "Wild Horse Nine," follows his nine-time Academy Award nominated film "Banshees of Inisherin;" a film I have sadly not seen yet. After seeing this from the director, I can assuredly say that it has moved high up on my watchlist.

McDonagh's filmography is not one I am too familiar with. I feel silly now, having not gotten into his work, as "Wild Horse Nine" has blown me away with its style, clever writing and excellent acting.

I learned of the film a few months ago, seeing trailers pop up at the cinema. I was not too hyped, however, as the marketing for the movie did not pull me in. It felt overstylized, rambunctious and not anything new, per se. I feel lied to, as the end result was this slow-burn tale of friendship, death and Jack Kennedy.

The film follows two members of the CIA, a seasoned and aging Chris, played by John Malkovich and his partner and best friend Lee, superbly acted by Sam Rockwell. These two are some of my favorite actors, having starred in films like "Of Mice and Men" and "Moon," respectively. Those two actors in those films hold up as top-acting jobs in my eyes, especially Maklovich's take on Lennie. Funnily enough, Chris' character reminded me a lot at times of Lennie, being a bumbly but likeable person, flaws and all. The plot is driven almost entirely by Chris' coming to terms with death, having been diagnosed with cancer, which weighs heavily on both characters.

The first 20-or-so minutes of the film had me agreeing with me from the past, having only seen the trailers. The theater, filled mostly with older folks, were laughing at all the cursing these two friends were exchanging and the weird interactions Chris found himself in. Past that mark, though, the audience fell silent. What followed was heartfelt storytelling on the backdrop of Easter Island, photographed beautifully by cinematographer Ben Davis. The intersplicing of Super 8 film in some scenes gave off a very nostalgic feeling — almost like a family vacation.



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

A film of friendship, death and 35th President John F. Kennedy.

I have a deep appreciation for cinematography and this film scratched every itch of mine. The sweeping landscapes, the shots of Chris and Lee in awe at the big heads, the gritty close-ups and smoky interior shots. Near perfection in my humble opinion.

Going back to the humor, even during the film's most emotional moments, it always had time for a well-written joke. Never does the humor feel forced, nor unnecessary. This style reminds me a lot of the Coen brothers and their filmography, especially "Fargo." The writing prowess makes sense for the former playwright McDonagh, who also took on the duties of penning the script. "Wild Horse Nine" will make you laugh with tears still in your eyes.

While there is a CIA plot within this movie, it is not a spy movie, nor a buddy cop thriller. The way Malkovich and Rockwell drive the plot forward with their acting is a spectacle and I do truly hope to see one or both nominated for awards. They do a marvelous job at making this relationship feel lived in, believable and relatable at times. Neither person is a textbook good guy, but the charm of Rockwell and the sensitivity of Malkovich allow for the movie to be so compelling.

Compelling, I think, is the perfect word for the movie. As someone that struggles to grapple with death and has no issue admitting the fear it bestows unto me, "Wild Horse Nine" shook me to my core. To watch Chris come to terms with his own mortality, as well as his best friend Lee watch as he does so, was beautiful and heartbreaking all at the same time. A truly compelling cinematic experience.

For having not the highest expectations, I am incredibly grateful I went out and saw it on such a whim. This film will be talked about again come award season and I would love to see a win or two.

Alfie Eville
sophomore secondary education and history major

OUT ON CAMPUS

Reflecting for Transgender Day of Remembrance

This article mentions violence against transgender individuals. If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs assistance, please contact the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988.

Transgender Day of Remembrance is held on Nov. 20 every year, a day dedicated to acknowledging trans lives lost to discriminatory violence, and in recent years, branching to losses of transgender individuals to suicide.

The day of remembrance is directly after the conclusion of Transgender Awareness Week, which ends on Nov. 19. Transgender Awareness Week is imperative for the spread of acceptance and pride within diverse identities in the community and in various areas, especially those with a small transgender population or in places that tend to be less accepting.

Transgender Awareness Week is celebrated from Nov. 13 to Nov. 19 every year. The week is used as an opportunity to uplift voices of gender-diverse individuals, as well as share the stories and experiences of transgender and gender non-conforming people. The week is generally celebrated in a positive light, with many large organizations hosting events, sharing transgender history and celebrating transgender lives.

Closing the week out with Transgender Day of Remembrance shares the juxtaposition between trans joy and heartbreak.

The reality is that transgender individuals face violent, discrimination-based crime at a 2.5 times higher rate than that of cisgender individuals, according to a study in 2022 by The U.S. Department of Justice. We can celebrate, but we must also acknowledge what our fellow transgender siblings have to endure every day.

Transgender Day of Remembrance originated in 1999 by Gwendolyn Smith, a transgender activist, following the violent murder of Rita Hester in 1998.

Hester was stabbed 20 times in her apartment. She was a Black, transgender woman — and her death was the catalyst for the movement.

The day was created to pay tribute to the many transgender individuals who face brutalization and violence as well as harassment which can, in many cases, lead to suicide.

Acknowledging the hardship that trans people face every day, from lack of acceptance to identity-based violence and suicidal ideation, Transgender Day of Remembrance is an important day to commemorate the lives of transgender people.

Rider Counseling Center: 609-896-5157
Trevor Project LGBTQIA+ Hotline: Text "START" to 678-678
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988

You can read about and pay homage to transgender individuals lost to violence and suicide on Remembering our Dead's website.

Cal Sutton
junior journalism major

Grace Juarez/The Rider News



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

Midseason reality TV recap: "Survivor" and "The Amazing Race"

CBS reality favorites deliver unexpected twists, shifting alliances and emotional eliminations as contestants fight to stay in the running.

With the fall television season well underway, two of CBS' most popular reality competition shows are giving viewers plenty to talk about. "Survivor" season 51 and "The Amazing Race" season 39 have reached the midpoint of their seasons, and neither competition has followed a predictable path. From complicated alliance politics in Fiji to exhausting challenges across Southeast Asia, contestants have been forced to rethink their strategies, depend on their partners and make difficult decisions.

"Survivor" 51

The 51st season of "Survivor" began with 21 new castaways traveling to Fiji to compete for the $1 million grand prize. Hosted by Jeff Probst, the season introduced a new chapter in the show's history, known as the Open Era. Its theme, "Permanent Uncertainty," reflects the idea that any twist, advantage or challenge from the show's previous seasons could return at any time.

Last week's episode began the merge portion of the competition, as castaways began competing as individuals rather than relying on their original tribes.

Instead of allowing contestants to compete entirely on their own, the show reintroduced a twist first presented on the show's 50th season in the Nov. 11 episode, "Load the Ark, Two by Two," which made contestants tied to another player, connecting their fates for the episode. Lewis Kelly and Sharonda Cox won immunity, leaving the remaining five pairs to protect themselves through alliances and advantages.

The resulting Tribal Council became one of the season's most complicated eliminations. Angelica "Jelly" Loblack played her hidden immunity idol, protecting herself and Devin Way. Cristian Chavez also successfully used his shot in the dark, protecting himself and Carter Krull. With nine votes canceled, all it took was one vote to send strong contenders Kristin Flickinger and Danny Kilby to the jury.

Another unexpected development involved last episode's eliminated castaway Brady Booker, where it was revealed he left the jury to receive treatment for a severed thumb in episode two.

With the competition continuing to evolve and two strong competitors out, the remaining castaways must decide which relationships are worth protecting and which alliances have become liabilities. The Open Era has made it difficult to predict what will happen next and the contestants cannot rely on the strategies that worked in previous seasons.

"The Amazing Race" 39

While "Survivor" focuses on individual strategy, "The Amazing Race" places its contestants in a different kind of competition. Hosted by Phil Keoghan, season 39 began with 13 teams of two traveling around the world for a chance to win $1 million.

This season introduced an unusual twist at the starting line: every team received an Express Pass. The advantage allows a team to skip a task, making it a valuable tool when a challenge becomes too difficult or time consuming. However, receiving the advantage also forced teams to decide when and how they should use it.

The race began in Vancouver, Canada, before moving to Madrid, Spain. During the early legs of the competition, contestants faced challenges involving navigation, teamwork and local activities. The trip continued into Morocco, where teams had to navigate the crowded alleyways of Marrakesh's Old Town Medina and complete tasks in the desert.

The Nov. 11 episode, "Million Dollar Moves," brought the teams to Vientiane, Laos, where the second Double U-Turn of the season created even more tension. The teams faced a Detour that offered two very different options. One required contestants to shop for ingredients and prepare a traditional Laotian dish called larband, while the other involved transporting crates of empty beer bottles and stacking them correctly onto a truck.

Married couple Erin Taylor and Javi Vintimilla chose to U-Turn married parents Michelle and Matt Patterson, while mother-daughter Ann-Marie and Riley Tejcek targeted daters Daisha Wilks and Dalton Hamby. Both teams were forced to complete the other side of the Detour, putting them at a disadvantage.

After the Detour, the contestants faced a challenge involving Muay Lao, a traditional Laotian form of kickboxing. They had to learn and perform a choreographed routine before receiving their next clue.

The final Roadblock required contestants to count 582 Buddha statues at a temple. The task became an opportunity for teams to cooperate, with several contestants sharing information and working together to finish. This cooperation helped some teams recover from earlier setbacks, but it also raised questions about whether helping competitors was the smartest strategy.

The Tejceks finished first, earning a trip to Manchester, England. Erin and Javi finished second, followed by childhood friends Conner Wilson and Garrett McGuire in third. Wilks and Hamby finished fourth, while pro athletes and mothers Ali Krieger and Joanna Lohman and father-daughter Anuar Tager and Andrea Tager Ballesca also made it to the Pit Stop.

Grace Juarez/The Rider News



Tune in and watch the end of both of these seasons.

The Patterson family, who had entered the leg as one of the season's strongest teams with three back to back previous leg victories, finished last and were eliminated.

With only six teams remaining, every leg becomes increasingly important. A navigation mistake, a difficult Roadblock or another surprise U-Turn could determine who advances and who goes home.

Two competitions, one unpredictable fall television season.

As the seasons move toward their finales, viewers can expect more difficult decisions, unexpected alliances and emotional departures. The strongest contestants may have made it this far, but neither show has offered any guarantee that they will make it to the end.

JC Church
junior communication studies major

James Gunn fired from DCU, leaving franchise to an uncertain future

Recently, I wrote a review of DC Comic's newest film, "Clayface," in which I said I felt very optimistic about the prospects of James Gunn and Peter Safran's DC Universe. Unfortunately, this view has since changed, as it was announced on Nov. 9 that Gunn and Safran would no longer be co-CEOs of DC Studios and would be replaced by Jeremy Latcham, a former producer at Marvel Studios. The decision comes from the executives at Skydance, the company born from the Warner Bros. and Paramount merger in October.

Officials from Skydance stated that the decision was due to the DCU's "performance" and that it was considered a failure in the eyes of the company. They also went on to say that "Superman" — which released last summer and was directed by Gunn — "lacked pop culture impact," which is, quite frankly, idiotic and untrue.

The film grossed $618 million at the box office, on top of being met with critical and audience acclaim, especially the latter; so, that statement is entirely false. I, and many others, believe that the co-CEOs were fired for political reasons. Skydance CEO David Ellison is a known Republican and supporter of President Donald Trump. Being that James Gunn's "Superman" contains a lot of messages that go against Ellison's conservative views, I believe it is probable that that had something to do with it.

On the bright side, it was confirmed that projects that have been or are currently filming will still come out and that Gunn and Safran will still have executive say. However, I find myself reluctant to continue watching DCU projects after those. The sequel to "Superman," "Man of Tomorrow," is slated to release next summer, but now that Gunn has been fired, what will he do with his last bullet? Will it be the death of the DCU?

James Gunn being fired was a terrible corporate decision, but also a good one. He provided very good insight into how DC movies would go, and "Clayface" was an absolute hit. I was shocked to learn of this information and think the future of the DCU may benefit from Gunn being fired, while also being troubled.

In the future, the DCU will face hardship in not having a familiar face as one of the primary storytellers of these amazing movies. It will be a huge change in the look of future films, as well, and I believe this is a fear of many DC fans, such as myself. It will be really interesting to see how future DCU plans go without a strong director such as Gunn. I personally believe that it will not be the same without Gunn's insight and will only focus on major heroes, such as Batman and Superman.

Another con of Gunn not being involved in future DCU projects is that there is a huge chance that we will not be seeing any new DC characters or villains anytime soon, and their backstories. Characters such as Cyborg, Nightwing and Deathstroke still have not gotten their own movies yet, only appearing in games and shows like "Batman: Arkham Knight" and "Injustice." Focus on other characters will be scarce in the future and we will have more of the same.

Overall, the future of DC Studios does not look bright without Gunn. Immense changes will be made that prioritize finances over DC fans and the production of movies. I believe it will result in a devastating downfall for the future of DC Studios.



N.D. Medal/The Rider News

How will James Gunn's absence affect the DCU?

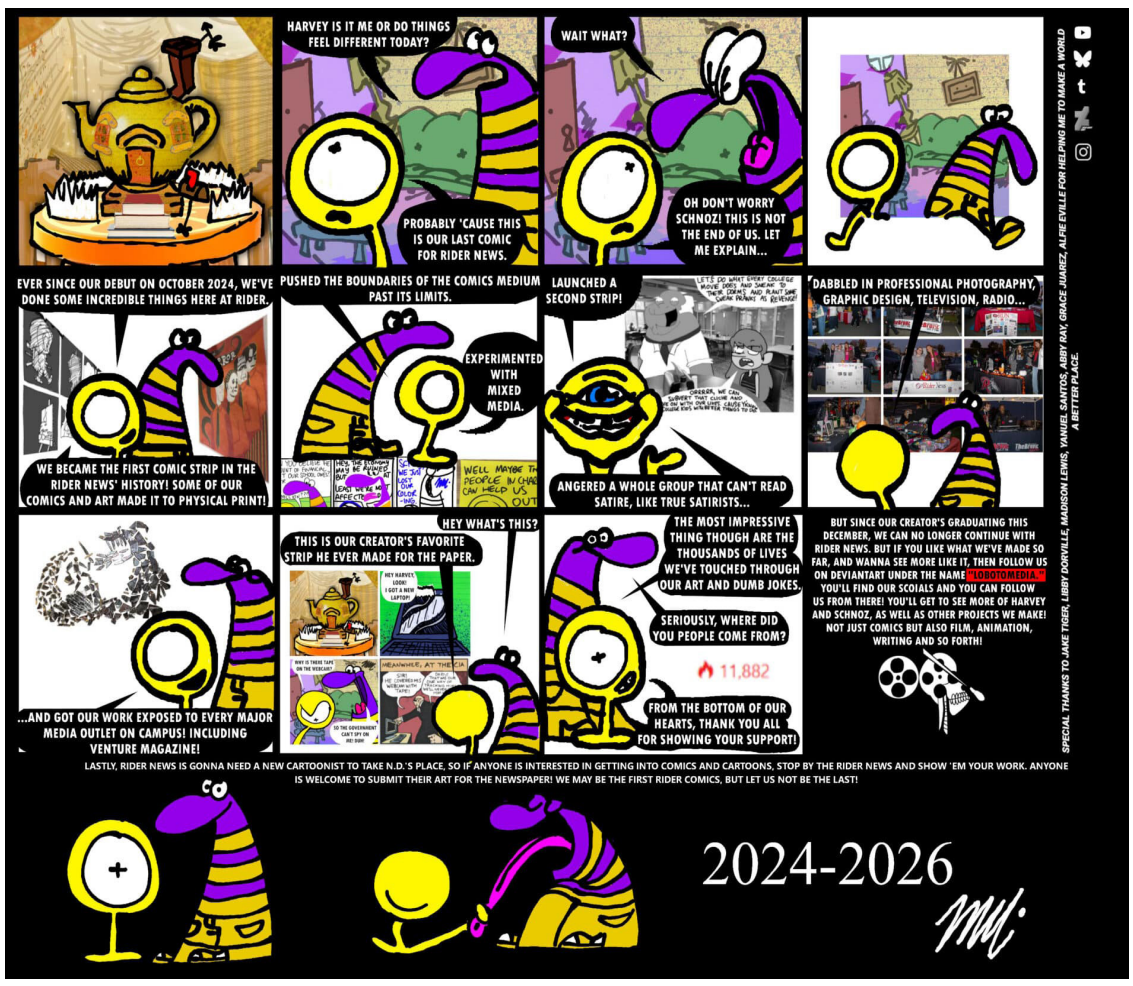
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VOLLEYBALL

Rider splits borough matchups, falls short of the tournament

By Lindsay Scarola and Jon Coiro

Rider volleyball split their road matches, earning a 3-1 win against Manhattan University while suffering a 3-1 loss against Iona University, ending its road to playoffs.

Starting off strong

The Broncs caught lightning in a bottle to kick off their opening set on Nov. 13, racking up a pair of 5-0 runs to take an 11-2 advantage.

Manhattan rallied to pull within five before another brief spurt by Rider, sealed on consecutive kills by freshman middle blocker Tori Bonacci.

This put Rider in cruise control, until the Jaspers put up four straight and trailed by as many points.

The streak got broken off kill number four of the set by junior outside hitter Aubrey Baker.

Despite back and forth action to follow, the Broncs were always one step ahead and secured the set-one win, 25-18.

Rider saw themselves on the flip side of an early start in set two, as Manhattan returned the favor with a 5-0 run of their own.

Bonacci jolted a sequence for the Broncs to briefly get back in contention, until the Jaspers' attack connected for a 13-7 lead.

Manhattan continued to gain separation by picking up their fourth and fifth sequence, gaining at least three consecutive points.

Despite a solid kill stretch from Baker, the Jaspers eventually secured a 25-18 victory in the second set.

Fueled, once again, by Baker, Rider stormed out of the gate in set three with an 8-2 run that ended on consecutive attack errors from Manhattan.

The Jaspers would work a spree of kills to get right back into business.

The Broncs put their foot down by going seven for nine, with senior outside hitter Rylah Robinson earning four kills in the run, who continued to make her mark in a stellar second half of the season.

Similar to set one, Jaspers' momentum came to a halt off a Broncs kill, this time from senior right side hitter Anja Kelly, who began the next serve, leading to another point.

A 5-1 streak put the icing on the cake in set three with a score of 25-16 in favor of Rider.

After falling behind 3-1 in set four, the Broncs responded with six points to jump ahead, alongside a couple of service aces from Kelly.

Attack error play would be the difference between Rider and the Jaspers maintaining or losing their deficits, until the Broncs said enough was enough, going on, yet another, 5-0 run.

The later stages featured Manhattan continuously pulling to within a score, until Rider finished the job on two straight Robinson kills for a 25-22 win set four and take the match inside the Draddy Gymnasium.

The final stand

Both Rider and Iona entered their Nov. 14 season finale with 9-8 records, making the game a win-and-in battle for a playoff berth.

In the opening set, Rider jumped out to a 3-0 lead that grew to 9-5. However, Iona found its rhythm, tying the set at 13 before a 7-3 run to take its first lead.

The Broncs responded with a 3-0 run, but the Gaels won the set after Rider fought off two set points.

Iona carried its momentum early into the second set, turning a 3-2 deficit into a 7-3 lead with a 5-0 run.

Rider fought back with multiple scoring runs, including a 3-0 stretch capped by a kill from Robinson to make it 18-16.

An attack error and kill gave Iona a 20-16 lead, but back-to-back attack errors by the Gaels and a kill by Kelly brought Rider within one.

Despite its efforts, the Broncs fell short, 25-23, going down 0-2 in the match.

Rider responded in the third, overcoming four consecutive attack errors with an 11-0 run. Senior setter Makenna Mason served ten-straight points to help the Broncs build an 18-10 lead.

That run would be the difference in this set, as Rider won the set, 25-15, keeping its season alive.

In the fourth, Rider trailed 12-9 before putting together a 10-0 run to take a 19-12 lead.

Iona saw no threat, as they answered with a 4-0 run and, eventually, tied the set at 22.



Photo courtesy of Peter G. Borg

Senior right-side hitter **Anja Kelly** after the play ended.

The Broncs moved ahead 24-22, but the Gaels scored five of the final six points to take the set, match and clinch the final playoff spot.

Despite the loss, Head Coach Jeff Rotondo praised his team's fight throughout the match.

"The close sets do tell a story of a lot of fight for sure. We didn't come out crisp and still had moments that we could have won that first set. Same on the second … Proud of the way we fought, even though not being in playoffs is certainly not how we wanted to end," said Rotondo.

With the loss marking the end of Rider's season, Rotondo also reflected on the contributions of the graduating seniors.

"These seniors have been amazing for the program and me. We talk a lot about leaving the program and your jersey in a better place. They have all done that. Some leave their marks on the record books and all will leave their mark in our hearts and memories. Tremendous teammates, players, students and women, and I am honored to have been their coach," said Rotondo, recognizing seniors Molly Rohde, Katie Cook, Simone Langford, Robinson, Mason and Kelly.

Though the final result was not what they hoped for, the six seniors leave the program with more than just memories of their time on the court.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs take a dominant victory before dropping the following two

By Joshua Yuhas

Continuing their road stretch to open their season, Rider women's basketball won 56-45 against Central Connecticut State University, lost 65-47 against Yale University and lost 63-54 against Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Firing out the gates

The Broncs opened on a 9-0 run against the Blue Devils on Nov. 12, led by a 3-pointer and a jump shot from graduate student guard Giana Hoddinott.

After surrendering a layup, Hoddinott knocked down a pair of 3-pointers.

By the end of the first quarter, Rider held a 22-4 lead over Central Connecticut State, as the Broncs shot 53% from the field and four of six from distance.

Rider did not make a shot from the field in the second quarter and the Blue Devils opened on a pair of free throws and a jump shot.

The Broncs produced four of their six free throws in the middle of the quarter for a 26-10 advantage.

In the final minute, the Blue Devils cut the deficit to 10 before halftime.

The Blue Devils went on a run that was ended with a 3-pointer to drop the gap to just five.

Head Coach Jackie Hartzell was forced to call a timeout, but a 9-2 run for the Blue Devils tied the game at 34 with four minutes left in the third quarter.

The Broncs closed the quarter out strong with a nine-point advantage by its end.

Hoddinott would make six free throws, ending the night with 18 points and sealing the victory.

"Everything was clicking for us on both ends of the floor," Hartzell said.



Photo courtesy of NJIT Athletics

Graduate student guard **Giana Hoddinott** going for a layup.

Struggles beyond the perimeter

It was a slow start against the Bulldogs on Nov. 14 as the Broncs fell down by 12 due to a 14-2 run over the opening eight minutes.

Cofield and McIver took over the final two minutes with both of them hitting a pair of free throws and McIver adding a score, trailing 16-10 after one quarter.

Yale scored four from the charity stripe and freshman forward Jordan Barnes split them with a score inside the paint.

A McIver layup left the Broncs behind, 20-16, until the Bulldogs extended their lead.

Up to the end of the half, the Bulldogs connected twice from deep to lead by 12 points by halftime.

Just over two minutes into the third quarter, Hoddinott swished the Broncs first 3-pointer.

"We started feeling the pressure of not making shots and needed someone to make one to get us going," Hartzell said. "It seemed like once Giana [Hoddinott] made one it helped everyone relax and we started making more shots."

When play resumed it was a back-and-forth battle, however, Yale held a 49-35 lead into the final quarter.

Freshman guard Colleen Besachio was the hot hand of the final quarter, making a jump shot and two 3-pointers by the halfway point.

A Hoddinott 3-pointer preceded a 10-1 run by the Bulldogs until the final buzzer, closing an 18-point loss.

Dropped at the end

After falling behind, 15-3, early on Nov. 17 against the Knights, the Broncs cut the deficit in half.

Freshman guard Millie Perry knocked down two 3-pointers in the second quarter to tie it up at 22, but an exchange of runs left the Knights leading 36-34 into halftime.

McIver, Cofield and Besachio each made layups to put the Broncs ahead 40-36, until the Knights began to take control, ending the third quarter with the Broncs down, 51-46.

Sweeney and Besachio knocked down shots from the perimeter for a 55-54 score, but the Knights hit a pair of layups to seal a 63-54 loss for Rider.

"We are definitely still a work in progress. We have had some good moments in our first 3 games but we have plenty to work on," Hartzell said.

The Broncs will remain on the road for a pair of games when they take on Wagner College on Nov. 20 and Seton Hall University on Nov. 23. The Wagner game will be streamed on NEC Front Row.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs pick up first win at home, lose two on the road to go 1-5

By Samantha Clark

After picking up their first win of the season at home against William Paterson University, 83-53, Rider men's basketball added two more losses on the road when they fell to Villanova University, 99-62, and the University of Miami, 95-48.



Photo courtesy of Johnny DeMasi

Senior guard **Khalil Farmer** taking a jump shot over his defender in Canastra Hammer Arena.

Dominating in the win column

Out of the jump ball on Nov. 11, possession was given to the Broncs, and after a series of turnovers and missed shots, junior guard Ty Bevins swished in a 3-pointer for the first field goal of the game.

Graduate student guard Bryce Baker did the same a minute later, and a pump-fake jump shot from sophomore forward Rich Brisco set the Broncs up by six early into the first.

Combining for six points in 30 seconds, senior guard Khalil Farmer hit a 3-pointer, then senior guard Mark Butler swished a driving layup, converting the and-1 free throw to place Rider ahead, 16-2.

Farmer continued with another 3-pointer and Bevins, putting one up and in over two defenders under the net, comfortably widened the gap.

Baker followed with the Broncs' fifth and sixth 3-pointers of the night, and after freshman guard Richie Rosa drove through the paint for the layup, they were up by 21 halfway through the first.

Both teams struggled until freshman guard Mikes Connelly cashed in a 3-pointer for his first collegiate points and the largest lead of the game, 36-14.

Picking up the offensive rebound, Farmer splashed up the final shot of the half, rounding out the first with the advantage, 46-24.

Brisco started the second half for the Broncs with a layup-and-1 pair, which he followed with another dunk and jump shot in the paint.

Junior forward Horace Simmons Jr. cashed in a corner 3-pointer to spark another 5-0 run and strengthen the lead to 30 points.

Putting up three quick points with a free throw and driving jump shot, Connelly broke the minute-long scoreless streak, and junior guard Nasir Washington followed with a 3-pointer just beyond the arc.

Rider continued on a four-minute blanking run, but only let up five points for William Paterson. The spell was broken, once again by Connelly, who swished a corner 3-pointer right next to the cranberry bench.

Capitalizing on the momentum, Simmons Jr. grabbed the defensive rebound and tipped it in for two, sparking a 12-0 run over the next five minutes.

Washington sank a floating jump shot to extend the lead to 31 points in the final minute of play, and after sophomore forward Segun Ezekiel Obe slammed a dunk, the Broncs secured their 83-53 win.

"It was good tonight, to get the win and see the ball go in the basket," Head Coach Kevin Baggett said.

Cats on the prowl

After an early 4-0 lead from the Wildcats, Butler drove through the paint to put up a quick jump shot, opening play for the Broncs on Nov. 14.

Rider faced a scoring drought for the following two minutes, holding Villanova scoreless for half of that, until Washington slapped one up and over his defender.

Butler did the same just 30 seconds later, but after another 3-pointer from the Wildcats, the Broncs were trailing 15-6.

Continuing his strong efforts on both offense and defense, Butler stole possession and drove down the wood for an easy two.

With another contested jump shot, Washington closed the gap to a single-digit deficit, and after Brisco hit a 3-pointer from deep, it was a close 18-12.

Rider went scoreless for the following two-and-a-half minutes, allowing Villanova on a 6-0 run. Butler splashed a layup to break the streak, but the Broncs fell right back into the scoreless rhythm for two minutes.

Farmer and Butler combined for three shots at the line, closing the gap to 16 points, but after another unsuccessful run, Rider entered halftime down, 42-23.

The second half of play opened with more success, seeing jump shots from Brisco and Farmer and a 3-pointer from Baker.

A steal from sophomore forward Kam Wylie opened the door for an easy layup, followed almost immediately by a Brisco dunk.

Rider hit another stop for the next three minutes, allowing a 9-0 run for the Wildcats, until a corner 3-pointer from Wylie rattled in.

In a swift sequence, a block from Brisco gave possession to Rosa, who assisted Bevins on the other end of the court for a layup-and-1 combination.

Farmer squashed the Wildcats' 7-0 run with a floating jump shot, followed by successful shots at the line from Bevins, the latter rattling in for two.

"It's a whole new team, we're getting used to each other, getting used to everything about the new season," Farmer said. "I think we're coming along."

Washington broke another one-minute lull with an over-the-head layup for the Broncs' final points of the game, where they fell, 99-62.

Not-so sunshine

The Nov. 17 matchup opened with an early tie after a Butler pull-up jump shot, which he followed with two free throws to take a 4-2 lead.

Obe continued momentum with a layup, but the Hurricanes followed on a 14-0 run, holding the Broncs scoreless for seven minutes, a spell that was broken by a layup from Wylie.

More shots in the paint from Butler and Brisco, as well as 3-pointers from Rosa and Baker, added to Rider's point column, where they now trailed, 31-18.

Wylie splashed one more layup in the half, as the Broncs continued on another four-minute drought, heading into the break down, 44-20.

Rider entered the second half scoreless for the first five minutes, until Rosa and Farmer slowly added points with shots from the line.

For the first field goal after nine minutes of play, Farmer cashed in a step-back jump shot for two, Washington repeating this two minutes later.

After another three-minute drought, Farmer added two more free throws, Brisco continuing with the same.

In the final minute, Connelly tipped in a layup and successfully finished the and-1 play to round out the competition with a 95-48 loss.

The Broncs will return home on Nov. 21 when they host the Naval Academy at 2 p.m., and will then begin their six-game road stretch at Loyola University on Nov. 24 at 7 p.m.



Graphic by Grace Juarez. Photos by Liliana R. Basile N.D. Medal, Peter G. Borg