Editorial: Reflections on the year

As we anticipate the start of summer and the closing of another academic year, it is important to reflect on some of the lessons we have learned. Not only in the academic sense, although that is important, but also on what we have learned about life.

Every notable event that takes place throughout history leaves its mark. There is always a small piece that will remain a part of each individual for the rest of his or her life. It may go unnoticed, like a person instantly judging someone after seeing a turban on their head. Or it may remain within the realms of consciousness, like a post-Sept. 11 fear of flying.

As a nation, we were witnesses to many tragic events this year. We watched the ill-fated Columbia plummet to the ground. We feared for whoever would become the next random sniper victim. We waited nervously as our nation counted down the minutes to war with Iraq, and we watched Baghdad crumble, all while the nations security alert system bounced back and forth from orange to yellow, warning us all of national danger. This year has truly been a milestone, as we entered a war and prepared to finish a task that we began over a decade ago.

The current war we are involved in has been televised like no other in the past, allowing us to literally stare at buildings as they are about to be bombed, using night vision and other high-tech communiqué, and has supplied us with pictures of foreign lands that have lasers bouncing around them circling places where Iraqi troops might possibly be hiding.

It does not matter that disastrous events such as these may have taken place in Maryland, Columbia, New York City, or even Iraq. We still live through them, whether in person or by watching them through a television screen. They affect all of us, as Americans and as human beings.

For every horror that we have witnessed, it seems there has always been a miracle standing by to help settle the score. Elizabeth Smart, who was presumed dead, was miraculously found, unharmed, proving that we should never lose hope. Our nation sobbed tears of happiness as we watched American Prisoners of War return safely to the arms of their loved ones.

We have also experienced many events within the Rider community. We said goodbye to a beloved school president and took part in the election for a new one, all the while marking a significant year in Rider's history. We have argued with one another and dealt with controversial issues, such as hosting productions like Vagina Monologues and the notorious Amiri Baraka.

But long before any of those issues even arose, the same students who argued with one another gathered together, holding candles in rememberance of those that were lost on Sept. 11, and again as they mourned the untimely loss of two fellow classmates.

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As we close this chapter in our lives, we are another year wiser, another year less innocent. There is no telling what next year holds in store for us. But no matter the circumstances, we should always squint our eyes and find the good that follows every situation, because it is always around, even in the worst of times.

Quote of the Week:

“Rudeness is the weak man’s imitation of strength.”

~Eric Hoffer