Editorial:
You have ID?

It is amazing that the topic of drinking has crept into these pages yet again, but it has. Recently the fraternities on campus have independently decided to curb underage drinking at their parties by only allowing in non-Greeks who are 21 years of age as a result of escalated parental complaints.

One has to wonder, how exactly the fraternities are going to enforce this. Will they have a bouncer at the door carding people? Will security be on hand to do just that? Will underage students have to scramble to get a fake ID so they can get into the fraternities parties?

Despite the fact that people do get sick at frat parties and occasionally they get into fights, the fraternities really are the safest drinking venues on campus, besides the pub. One of two things are going to happen as a result of these restrictions if they are implemented for an extended period of time. Either the number of underage drinking incidents in resident halls will dramatically increase, or more underage Rider students will go off-campus to drink, which is the more dangerous of the two possible consequences since students will then be forced to drive to bars or houses off campus, and more importantly, drive back. Sadly, most underage students aren’t responsible enough to select a designated driver.

So what can be done about underage drinking at fraternities? That is a touchy subject, as touchy as saying how can underage drinking be prevented campus-wide. It cannot be done. Alcohol is easy for an underage student to obtain whether they use a fake ID or get someone over 21 to buy it for them. Alcohol is readily available at dozens of locations in the immediate area and there’s no way to ensure that they won’t drink, so why not provide a safe place for it to occur. Of course, Rider can’t openly do that since that would be indirectly advocating underage drinking in a broad sense.

That was the function that the fraternities performed in a sort of unadvertised way. But the students began to get out of hand and cause problems, so parents and the University had to take notice. So it seems to be the students’ fault that a safe place to party on campus is now restricted to those over 21. When an unwritten rule, or a social morey if you will, is violated, the normal written rules have to pick up the slack and regulate.

Thankfully, these limitations are only temporary and fraternity parties should be open to the entire campus soon. So, when that does happen, students, be advised. Chill with the craziness. Just go and have a good time, but don’t get out of hand. If you can control the authorities half way, you can get away with a lot and everybody’s happy. And at the very least, everyone is safer.

College is about having fun, but it’s also about growing up and learning to teach you to keep your mouth shut.”

Hemingway said, “Always do sober what you said you’d do drunk. That will

Innuendos:
Dating’s caste system: part I

Let’s go back to high school for a moment. Everyone remembers that one couple in your class that comprised the best-looking guy and girl. This made me put dating under a microscope. I began looking at couples and seeing a pattern. People usually dated others who were in the same caste as they were when it concerned looks. Many, many moons ago people were placed into different castes based on social and political status. Is the same system used today in dating?

You rarely see an attractive man with an unattractive woman or vice versa. It is my belief that people are expected to date those who are on the same “socio-attractive” level as they are. Our society’s opinion of beauty greatly affects people. They make someone feel that they are obligated to be involved with others whose appearance rates the same as theirs. It also discourages people from thinking that they could ever have a relationship with someone who is not in their own caste.

I believe that this caste system can partly be blamed on the media, which infects our society with images of what is perceived as beautiful. Those who were thought of as being attractive would rise to some kind of power in the dating pool and would be able to mingle with the anachronistically elite.

On the other hand, those who did not measure up would be left to associate with their own kind, never being able to hobnob with the “beautiful ones.”

In our very superficial society it is an untry practice for someone who is considered to be one of the “beautiful ones” to date someone who is not in the same caste as them. If this happens, the person of higher stature is shunned by his or her peers.

The present-day caste system is also found in many other aspects of the dating spectrum. I do not believe it will ever end because of people’s never-ending need to feel a part of the in-crowd.