Security officer founds charity
Foundation to aid abused women, children
By Dana Lynn Fatekval
Managing Editor

In his many years of experience as a police officer, Norm Van Houten, now a Rider security guard, has witnessed the severity of the abuses involving women and children and is now taking action.

Van Houten is the founder of the Van Houten Foundation, a non-profit charity for battered women and children. The foundation was established in 1995 when as a police officer, Van Houten became motivated to do something as a result of witnessing that many accounts of abuse and murder among children in New Jersey.

“The rather reading in the news and saying, ‘What a shame,’ I’m trying to take some positive action,” said Van Houten.

According to Van Houten, the foundation is in its early stages of obtaining its end goal, a shelter in Middlesex County for women and children who are suffering from battery.

“At the shelter, women will be able to seek assistance in interviewing, resume help, and other job-related skills,” said Van Houten. “Counseling and medical assistance will also be available for the women and children.”

Van Houten is in the process of creating an outreach center and he expects to accomplish this within one year.

With the help of student volunteers, as well as Rider administrators, the outreach center is becoming a reality for Van Houten.

“I think it’s a great community service project, which speaks to his character,” said Vickie Weaver, director of Safety and Security. “It shows the concern he has about the victims of violence.”

According to Weaver, this foundation proves the dedication Norm has and the heart and soul he will continue to put into this organization.

One event that was organized by Van Houten was entitled “Sports Celebrity Auction” and took place in Edison, N.J. and served as an fundraiser.

“I am very hopeful about the progress of my inspiration to help women and children who have suffered abuse of any kind,” said Van Houten.

According to The Bureau of Justice Statistics, within the last year, 7 percent of American women (3.9 million) who are married or living with someone as a couple were physically abused, and 37 percent (20.7 million) were verbally or emotionally abused by their spouse or partner.

In addition to serving the Rider community, Van Houten also has a Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology and is professor and director of Environmental Science at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Security Briefs
All information provided by Vickie Weaver, director of Safety and Security

Bad Dog
A male visitor was found breaking up the wrong tree during the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 20, in Olson.

Security was dispatched to a female resident’s room where it was reported that a visitor harboring a dog was on location.

On arrival security found the visitor with a pit bull and explained that it was against school policy to have pets, or any animal for that matter, in the resident dorms.

The visitor complied with security’s request to take the dog off campus. In the future, the visitor is allowed to return to campus without his canine companion.

Lights Out
Security was dispatched to Kronen in the early morning of Friday, Nov. 15, on the report of a power outage on two floors of the residence hall.

While investigating the problem security found two male student residents in a verbal dispute.

The male victim told security that he had been working on a take-home exam when he heard a clicking noise moments before the power went out, destroying the work on his computer.

The victim then confronted the intoxicated suspect in the hall.

Security advised the intoxicated suspect to distance himself from the victim, but after refusing to comply, security cited the individual with an underage alcohol violation, failure to comply and harassment.

The victim’s professor was notified of the incident in an effort to bypass any penalties he might incur.

Dangerous Lace?
Security was dispatched to Olson during the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 19, for a show-education medical emergency.

When security arrived, the victim explained that he had made a deep laceration to his thumb area while cutting his shoelace.

Security immediately applied first aid to control the bleeding and offered ambulance services to escort the male resident to a nearby hospital.

The victim declined the services and was taken to the hospital by a friend, where he was treated and released.

Harassing
from page 1

According to Director of Public Relations Earle Rommel, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) immediately disabled the mailing list sent to faculty and students and is staying that way until it is decided that proper security for the mailing list had been added.

“We acted quickly and have improved security on the Newsire, adding additional security to make it more difficult for people to hack in,” said Campbell.

It is noted in the Rights and Responsibilities of Users of the Rider University Computer Network that forging electronic communications to make them appear to originate from another person and using electronic mail to harass or threaten individuals is prohibited. The maximum penalty for such an action is expulsion.

As the investigation unfolds, the key to finding the perpetrator(s) are the unique signatures that each computer on, or off, campus sends every time they connect to the Internet.

The NIC card, found inside all computers connected on campus, carries a unique MAC address. In addition, a unique IP address is assigned to all ports and a DNS (Domain Name Server) gives each computer a “name” of sorts. If someone is on the Internet, or using Rider’s server in general, these unique addresses are all recorded. If someone was to initiate an attack, these addresses can be pulled up and accessed to pinpoint a user’s point of origin down to the room, jack, port and even computer used at the specific indicated time.

While the perpetrator(s) may have looked at what they did as a joke, Campbell said that there is no humor in the matter and that the investigation will not stop until everyone involved is caught.

“Can’t see it’s a serious offense because it’s a very serious breach of our community and I think that the person who did it was thoughtful and heartless,” he said. “I don’t one is on the Internet, or using Rider’s server in general, these unique addresses are all recorded. If someone was to initiate an attack, these addresses can be pulled up and accessed to pinpoint a user’s point of origin down to the room, jack, port and even computer used at the specific indicated time.

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