Editorial: Vicious beasts on the prowl at Rider

anger is everywhere. It waits and hides in the most innocent places, undisturbed and unrecognized until it strikes. Then, we are utterly unprepared.

The recent alleged rape that occurred on Rider’s campus brings these fears and dangers boiling to the surface, forcing them to be dealt with. What does this mean? Does this mean that all of us should be continually glancing over our shoulders waiting for someone to hop out of the shadows?

Of course not. That would be ridiculous. However, it does prompt us to realize that there are dangers that are real and right in our face. We should not give in to fear by running and hiding, but we should take precautions to defend ourselves, or, at least, realize when situations are becoming too dangerous.

People are always advising others that the best protection against being victimized is to be aware. One must be aware of one’s surroundings and of those present in those surroundings. It is a person can manage to get a feel for a situation early enough to get out of it, then they can remove themselves from the potentiality of becoming a victim.

Of course, a large part of college life for many students involves the presence of alcohol in many recreational settings. This should send up the first red flag warning to someone that a situation could become potentially dangerous. When alcohol is present, many things that would not have been a logical possibility or concern in a normal setting become a realistic danger.

Alcohol sapped, can often make people do things that they wouldn’t normally do. It can also cause someone to not recognize a dangerous situation as readily as they would if they were completely sober.

This is, in no way, a rant on the dangers of alcohol, although it might sound like one. It is just important that we realize what could happen if we choose to imbibe alcohol or be around a lot of people who are drunk. There are certain risks attached to any activity and understanding those risks will lead to waking up the morning after, having not been the victim of some awful violation. We all know what could happen if we decide to stop at a red light, and similarly we should know what could happen if we place ourselves in certain situations.

Now, for the cowardly beasts who commit violations like the one that allegedly occurred at Rider last Sunday. It doesn’t matter how much you’ve had to drink, how much you think you’re doing is warranted or even wanted. Violating another human being in such a vicious way is pathetic, animalistic, and sad. It makes the violator less than a person.

People capable of such despicable acts are among us, apparently. So we must be ready, vigilant, and aware. Perhaps in the future something like this can be stopped before more lives are ruined and more people have to read about Rider students in this way in the newspaper.

Letters to the Editor: The Rider News welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the campus community. Letters must be typed and include the name, address, phone number and signature of the author for verification. Send to The Rider News via e-mail (ridernews@rider.edu), campus mail, or hand deliver to Centennial House. All letters must be received by midnight via e-mail (ridernews@rider.edu), campus mail, or hand deliver to Centennial House. All letters must be received by midnight.

Quote of the Week:

“I’m sorry, Mr. Lemonick, but just because you’re of French descent, it does not entitle you to veto the upcoming final exam.”

Teeny Tiny Freshman: Web destinations

Being a college student, I spend most of my time at the computer. The Internet is an endless place, but despite that, it is sometimes hard to find something to do while sitting around. To alleviate some boredom, here’s a brief list of a few sites that help me avoid homework and studying. All these sites are updated regularly, so they are a constant source of entertainment and worth bookmarking.

Almost by instinct, the first thing I do in the morning is turn on the computer to read the comics. Garfield, Foxstot, Ziggy and many more are all found at www.uscomics.com. Reading comics in the morning helps break the mood of being groggy about not being able to sleep later.

A pretty well known site is www.explodingdog.com. On the site is an email to the creator. The guy who runs the site, Sam Brown, draws pictures based on phrases people send to him. Though that may sound lame at first, the drawings are actually quite perceptive sometimes, and silly at others. The drawings make good wallpaper for the computer, as well.

Another good site to visit is www.girlseatboys.com I found the site by accident but fell in love with it instantly. It’s similar to explodingdog.com, but the drawings are quite different and much more detailed. The drawings tend to be a mix of perception, sadness and silliness all at the same time.

If you’re into reality TV shows and other peoples lives, www.livejournals.com might be the place for you. The Live Journal community is huge and full of tons of different people from all over the place. Sign up is free and it’s simply an online journal that one can choose to share with the world or just a few people. Paid accounts are offered and that’s part of what keeps the service free of advertisements. The server is reliable for the most part, though it can slow down during peak hours.

Another online journal service that’s become popular recently is www.boyseatgirls.com.

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