Editorial: 2004-2005 in review: How the time flies

As the academic year rapidly draws to a close and The Rider News winds down for the year, it's hard to accept the fact that time seems to be moving a lot faster than it used to. While summer vacation is often a welcome break from the college world of all-nighters and a steady diet of Ramen noodles and espresso shots, it's also a subtle reminder that adulthood looms ever closer. While looking back on 2004-2005, it seems as though we were just looking forward to what the upcoming year held in store for both Rider University and the world at large.

Rider's fall semester started out with a campus facelift of epic proportions. As September saw residents trickling into their residential halls, the students were greeted with the foundation of a new athletic facility, gates sectioning off the residential quad, and the facades of both Ziegler and Hill turn up for various additions. While this year's graduating class won't reap the benefits of all the snazzy new structures we've watched slowly evolve into discernible landmarks, we've all had the sometimes-daubous honor of being a part of this very monumental year for our university.

The spring semester began, ironically enough, with a myriad of snow days. While the fluffy snow banks quickly lost their novelty by giving way to irriating gray slush, the dazzlingly white landscape offered greeting card-esque salutations to the 23 students from Shanghai's Senda University who are spending a year in the States, which will help them in their diligent pursuit of dual degrees in global business.

Ideally, the presence of the Chinese students serves as a gentle reminder that there is, indeed, an entire universe that stretches far beyond the boundaries of this campus. With our personal daily trials and triumphs, many of us are in danger of losing sight of the world beyond the boundaries of this campus. Within our personal daily trials and triumphs, many of us are in danger of losing sight of the larger, global world that stretches far beyond the campus walls. It is our responsibility as college students to remember that there is a world waiting for us.

The idea of college was initially very exciting for me, a place where intelligent people could converge, learn, and debate in the true Aristotelian sense. It was supposed to be a chance to get away from the outright immaturity of my high school surroundings. However, upon arriving, I realized just how naive I really was. As it turns out, college is really just a place for a lot of drunken people to vandalize things and disrespect others because they're too dumb to realize it isn't funny. Sznawierski pointed out that Hill Residence Hall “unjustly” received a $600 bill for a week where a shower curtain was ripped down and an incident occurred where, among other things, the doors to the bathroom stalls were battered and torn off their hinges. And while I've certainly seen far worse done to other parts of the political ilk, we've got a bunch that we weren't the only one who was disappointed to find out that the United States seemed to be rife with red states, it was invigorating to see so many students take an active part in encouraging our peers to get out and vote. While looking back on 2004-2005, it seems as though we were just looking forward to what the upcoming year held in store for both Rider University and the world at large.

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November's presidential election offered proof that the younger voters are neither apathetic nor ill-informed when it comes to matters of the political ilk. While we've got a bunch that we weren't the only one who was disappointed to find out that the United States seemed to be rife with red states, it was invigorating to see so many students take an active part in encouraging our peers to get out and vote. While looking back on 2004-2005, it seems as though we were just looking forward to what the upcoming year held in store for both Rider University and the world at large.

Not only did we miss seeing riders take up leadership positions and respect the people around them (even when they don't necessarily have to). Students who take responsibility for their own actions, I have found that not everyone exhibits this kind of savage and immature behavior, however. As a matter of fact, I'd say for every two or three people at Rider who are intent on embarrassing the human race, there is at least one who really makes the University proud. Students who get involved, go to class, study, take up leadership positions and respect the people around them (even when they don't necessarily have to). Students who take responsibility for their own actions when they've done something wrong.

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Culture Shock: Crash course in lessons for the future

Last week’s issue of The Rider News ran a piece by freshman columnist Paul Sznawierski concerning vandalism in the residence halls and the University’s “unfair” policy of charging residents for it. After reading it, I realized that the problem is not that the University charges too much for vandalism, but that too few people really know what it means to be an adult and take responsibility for their own actions.

When I became an RA a few years ago, I realized just how naive I really was. Like any other year, this one had its shares of ups and downs. While the fluffy snow banks quickly lost their novelty by giving way to irriating gray slush, the dazzlingly white landscape offered greeting card-esque salutations to the 23 students from Shanghai’s Senda University who are spending a year in the States, which will help them in their diligent pursuit of dual degrees in global business. As it turns out, college is really just a place for a lot of drunken people to vandalize things and disrespect others because they’re too dumb to realize it isn’t funny. Sznawierski pointed out that Hill Residence Hall “unjustly” received a $600 bill for a week where a shower curtain was ripped down and an incident occurred where, among other things, the doors to the bathroom stalls were battered and torn off their hinges. And while I’ve certainly seen far worse done to other parts of the political ilk, we’ve got a bunch that we weren’t the only one who was disappointed to find out that the United States seemed to be rife with red states, it was invigorating to see so many students take an active part in encouraging our peers to get out and vote. While looking back on 2004-2005, it seems as though we were just looking forward to what the upcoming year held in store for both Rider University and the world at large.

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When I became an RA a few years ago, I did it with the hope that I could help people and become an adviser for residents who wanted to succeed in college but perhaps didn’t necessarily know how to turn. And, naturally, with some exceptions, I instead became a 24-hour babysitter for a group of animals who would set their own hair on fire if someone told them it would get them high. They rip down bulletin boards, set fires in the stairwells, steal people’s dry-erase markers, jam pennies in strangers’ locks and, my personal favorite, attach road kill to neighbors’ doors, all in the name of “humor.” Real classy.

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