Editorial: A new beginning for Rider

The start of the new school year always brings new faces and the recognition of old ones. This year is different than most, however, because not only are there new students, but a new president as well. The Luedeke days are over, but by no means forgotten, and now Rider is entering a new phase with Dr. Mordechai Rozanski.

In addition to the new president, there have been several other changes around campus. In honor of our former president, the Student Center was renamed the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC). Within the BLC, the snack bar received a face-lift. Next door to the former Student Center, the Office of Admissions was renamed P.J. Ciambelli Hall. Also, throughout the campus for most of the first week of classes, construction workers could be seen putting down new walkways. New lines were painted in the parking lots as a result of the uproar about parking last year. Hopefully this will allow the space to be used more effectively, especially as the new freshmen class is much bigger than previous years.

As with all change, there are those who agree with the change and those who do not. Our new president has not arrived to an entirely warm campus. There have been all sorts of mixed reviews from various sources. Some students truly appreciate the president’s efforts to become involved in campus such as attending various events and sleeping over in a residence hall for a night. Others, however, are under the impression that everything done is done as some sort of photo opportunity.

Despite these stories, Rozanski was chosen as our president by the Board of Trustees who looked at all the facts very carefully. In the eyes of the administration, he was the wisest choice. There is also always time for change. A new school for Rozanski also gives him a chance to improve on the reputation that seems to be following him. Luedeke is a tough act to follow, but perhaps Rozanski could prove to be something this school really needs. Rozanski may not seem as personable and upbeat as Luedeke, but he can still get the job done. He has already announced that $500,000 is going to be spent on a new school for Rozanski.

Stories began circulating last semester about Rozanski and the events that happened at his previous school, the University of Guelph, in Ontario, Canada. Although bad things have been said, it is always important to consider the source. Whether or not the source is credible makes a huge difference. It is hoped that even if the stories are true, Rozanski will not continue to follow the same trend here at Rider.

A new beginning for Rider

The year has just begun, there is plenty of time for improvement.

Lending A Hand:
Random acts of meanness

Have you ever heard of random acts of kindness? How many times have you heard of random acts of meanness? Neither have I, but over since I have been back at Rider I have seen some things that have made me stop and wonder what has gotten into people.

In a world where there are enough problems, do we really need to be mean to each other? I don’t know about everyone else, but I don’t need help in having a bad day. In life that happens naturally and I don’t think that I need anyone else’s contribution, thank you very much.

In a world where there is enough pain, suffering and injustice, why do we need to go around hating on each other? It does not make me feel better to make others feel bad and I would venture that that is true for everyone else. So what’s the deal?

I have only been back at school for about two weeks and someone has already ripped down my door’s dry-erase board and destroyed it. I’m not sure why. But it did spark me to think about why someone would do something like that. I would guess that it was a random act, which makes me ask, what would provoke someone to act out on another just for the fun of it?

The next question I would pose is did it make you feel better? But I fear that the person did not feel or think at all.

Another event that took place this past week was when I was walking through the parking lot to my car and another car was driving toward me. As it neared, a member of the group in the car flipped me off. My first thought was: are you kidding me? I did not even know the kid. So why would he direct such a rude gesture at me?

I challenge people who make a habit out of degrading others through random or direct acts of malice to step back and look at what they hope to accomplish with what they are about to do. Would it kill you to act with respect toward others?

In a university where you are sharing a small community with people that you are undoubtedly going to see in the cafeteria, walking around or even in your hall or house, wouldn’t it be prudent to be kinder to your neighbors? One of the things that attracted me to Rider was that I thought that the people on campus seemed nice or at least considerable. I still believe that, for the most part, people are generally good, but there are some who need to get their actions in check.

So the next time you are about to do something without thought, reconsider. The next time you are about to raise your voice without a correct understanding of the situation; reevaluate. And ultimately the next time you want to be treated with respect do act with respect towards others. The reality is there are undoubtedly enough troubles and burdens for others to bear.

Quote of the Week:

“Humanity is acquiring all the right technology for all the wrong reasons.”

— R. Buckminster Fuller

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 the Monday preceding publication. The Rider News reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

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