Editorial: Depths of discrimination

Discrimination and prejudice are hot topics not only across the United States, but at Rider as well. The shooting that occurred on the night of Oct. 17 may have only added fuel to the fire due to the fact that the dance was sponsored by the Intercultural Greek Council (IGC), a minority fraternity. This example of discrimination is not an isolated incident. There is no excuse for a student to harbor a grudge against another student because of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Anyone who studies human genetics could tell you that race is merely a social barrier. Genetically, we are all essentially the same. In fact, two people of different races may have more in common genetically than two people of the same race. We bleed the same way, yet some people get all the wrong ideas in their heads.

Racial discrimination is by no means the only problem on this campus. There is a great deal of contempt against those who are gay, lesbian or bisexual. Too often negative messages are left around campus to make life more difficult for those who may already be having a tough time. A few weeks ago, the Friends of Lesbian and Gay’s flag was ripped down. There are already problems with the government in attempts to get equal rights for marriage and such. In addition to that, some over conservative parents may not be as open as we are today. The last thing they need is to have their peers against them as well.

Religious and gender discrimination do not seem as prominent as other types on this campus, but that doesn’t mean the issues aren’t there. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference between an innocent joke and an outright insult. It’s such a hazy area that it changes with every person you talk to.

In this often cruel world, it is important to support each other. Rider, being as small as it is, has a unique opportunity to create the feeling of a family. We need each other to fall back on. How the world became so cynical today cannot be explained, but we can still make efforts to change it. While one person may not feel like they make a difference, the organizations we have on this campus can work together to create a more comfortable community. Within organizations students can find refuge with those who experience similar problems, but without any action taken to try and correct the issues the problems will never go away.

Why or how hatred is brewed is a complete mystery. It is unfortunate that even after hundreds of years these issues still have not been completely resolved. One can only hope that Rider can prove itself better than the rest of the world and make a positive change. As always, the best ways to fix things is through education. If students learned more about different cultures and groups, they may become more willing to make a difference, the organizations we have on this campus can work together to create a more comfortable community. Within organizations students can find refuge with those who experience similar problems, but without any action taken to try and correct the issues the problems will never go away.

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Quote of the Week:

“Too bad the only people who know how to run the country are busy driving cabs and cutting hair.”

— George Burns

Double Trouble:

Marker bandits invade

As you walk down the residence hall hallways, what is the first thing you see on each door? Most likely, you would see a wipe board, equipped with a freshly inked pen, with unlimited colors of the rainbow. It is a luxury that college students adore, considering that it is the easiest and quickest way to leave a message to your roommate and friends. What if every time you go to your door to leave a message, your marker has been stolen? And when you turn to your neighbor’s door, their pen is stolen as well. A typical prank? Perhaps. But when it is ongoing, it becomes a serious predicament.

It all started on Sept. 14. We had just come back from spending the weekend home when we realized that our special dry erase marker was missing from our door. Ironically, the doors around us were marker-less as well. Our first reaction was to dismiss the incident as a one-time deal. However, when it happened the second time on Sept. 24, we came to a conclusion that this was a serious matter. Then we decided to take the precaution of keeping the markers inside rather than displaying them.

Many emulated our action but were not happy with this inconvenience. After all, we are all considered adults now, right? Therefore, no one expects his or her peers to act with “high school behavior.”

“Not only have these ‘marker bandits’ been stealing, but they also left messages on the boards stating their existence. Many feel this is an immature act specifically since the perpetrators would leave messages such as ‘bye bye marker,’ to hint that they were there.”

In addition to having our markers stolen, there have been obscene pictures and profanity drawn on the boards. Some have claimed that the male anatomy has been strategically drawn over messages previously written. Even so, the walls of the stair-well have been vandalized with the same illustration. Is there a connection? Perhaps.

Many people choose to ignore the issue, while some insist that it has been a popular scam for the past four years. Sadly, there is no real solution to this problem. These “marker bandits” may never be caught. Just think, you could be hanging out in a friend’s room and topple over a box hidden behind the desk, filled with our markers. But one important thing that they need to realize is that they are not accomplishing anything by stealing markers or vandalizing property. It is not funny nor does it look good for our university. It is up to us as residents to take action and to be more aware of what is going on around you. Not only is it their home to do what they please, but it is also our home.