Duck! Everyone under your desks! It’s a duck...no it’s a duck.

Five hilarious individuals dressed in black threw a mysterious black duffel bag into a Memorial classroom on Thursday Nov. 18, causing students to either run out of the room or duck under their desks. The thought-to-be-dangerous bag ended up containing nothing more than a scared duck.

Well, it wasn’t that funny since the professor and students were rightfully frightened. It would have been a completely harmless joke except that students were running into each other and into desks trying to escape the room. The fact that it was only a duck that scared all of them is the funny part. Although, in the world we live in today, seeing an individual dressed in black outside your classroom acting suspiciously (like a terrorist) can be truly scary.

However, since it wasn’t what was perceived and only a joke, it is forgivable. I don’t think those responsible should be punished at all. Maybe some animal rights organization wants to get on their back, but nothing else is necessary or even fair. After all, it was only a duck.

However, the incident did demonstrate the possibility of such an event and how simple it is to pull something like this off. It goes to show just how vulnerable a Rider University classroom really is. The event should serve as a wake-up call to the University. Even though it was only a joke—this time—it also proved how long it takes Security to respond.

In Security’s defense, the reason it took 20 minutes to get to the scene was that they believed it was a prank call. The Security office receives numerous calls that turn out to be false alarms. As such, they didn’t know it was actually a joke this time, just thought it was yet another prank call.

Thanks to pranksters “cracking wolf” Security understandably didn’t initially react to the incident. Five guys decked out in black clothes and masks does sound almost too cliché to be true. Maybe those calling in fake situations were the same individuals who threw the bag in the classroom. Bravo.

Turns out it was actually nothing in the end. Only a duck—but don’t forget, it was still 20 minutes. Imagine if it really was a bomb.

Letter to the Editor:
Go Greek and get a life

“Don’t join a frat, they suck.” “Those sorority girls are all fake, you don’t need that.” “People who go Greek are only doing it because they could never make their own friends.” I’ve heard them all and I’m sure that, by now, so have all of you. We’ve been hearing those lines for years at our parties and events—events that we thought would help us to persuade you to join.

In fact, the only purpose those events served was to let you see one small fraction of our world and often to view Greeks as jerks just because we may have been too busy to say “please excuse me” in an overcrowded hallway or too stressed out to really sit down and talk in the Cavalia Room during sorority formal rush. Plus, what seemed like our weekly column in “Security Brief” hasn’t exactly painted the best image of the world we live in. It’s the images that you don’t see that really make up what it is to be Greek. It’s the images that you aren’t exposed to in up-campus and in the commuter lounge that are probably the things you’ve been searching for all along when you say “there’s nothing to do on this campus.”

Greek life is just that; a life. Joining the Greek system means getting involved in something that no other activity on campus offers you: a chance to grow up. When you become a member, there are no RAs to advise you: only brothers and sisters. There are no quiet hours: only peer pressure. What better way to be motivated in school than to have 20 of your friends hounding on your door to get you out of bed for class? How better to be reminded of assignments than to have at least one person who lives right down the hall in each of your classes?

Greek life is its own community within the larger Rider community. The only difference is that, in our community, we are in charge. Each organization governs itself completely with fully functional executive boards and committees that oversee our many activities. Unlike most other organizations, our advisors are simply on call for us: we call all the shots. We have members in charge of funding for both our chapters and charities (each chapter has their own philanthropy). We have members in charge of organizing the multitude of community service projects that we undertake every semester. Through Greek life, we learn about business: putting the group’s larger interests in front of individuals.

The friendships we form are not “bought.” They are forged through experiences, the kinds of experiences that could only be had in the kind of atmosphere we live in. As organizations, we’ve all gone through difficult periods, ranging from periods of social probation to the sudden passing of members, and while each organization offers something unique, we all share one thing: pride. Each one of us Rider people have been an active part of a group that doesn’t require constant University supervision. We will leave knowing that, while many students just skated through school as another brick in the wall, we, in fact, built our own wall.

So come check us out in the “West Village.” You might like what we’re building.

Rob Morello
Phi Kappa Tau