

Being an Active Bystander

Derek was at an end of summer party. The beer was flowing and people were playing volleyball, there was a bonfire later. He noticed this guy he kind of knew, but never really liked. The guy seemed like he was “on the prowl” all day, looking to hookup. He started talking to this girl who was really drunk and was leading her away from the party. Derek decided, “I’m just going to be creepy right now and follow them. That’s my job right now.” They turned around and Derek made small talk, “Hey, what’s up? What’s your game plan tonight?” He could tell he was annoying the guy, but he stalled long enough for her friends to come get her. They all went in different directions from there.

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Pat worked at the front desk of a residence hall. It was 2 a.m. and a male resident came in with a woman he didn't know. They were both drunk. Pat asked, "Hey, whatcha doin'?" The guy said that he was going to show her his room. Pat gave a nod to his co-worker and she struck up a conversation with the woman, while Pat distracted the guy with a story about shenanigans that had happened earlier in the night. They talked for about 10 minutes and then Pat said, "Ok, I guess this is good night and led the guy up to his room alone." The woman left safely.

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Michael, a fraternity member noticed one of his brothers leading a girl up to his room that was heavily intoxicated. He was uncomfortable with the situation so he yelled up to his brother, “Hey man, your car’s getting towed!” That guy flew down the stairs and out the front door so fast. The first fraternity brother was able to grab a couple of her friends and to get her home safely.

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Erika was walking across campus between classes and was looking for a quiet place to study in the grass on the quad. She kept hearing yelling and noticed a couple clearly arguing. She didn't feel safe saying something directly to them, so she plopped herself down right next to them and stared at them. They calmed down and walked away.

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Karen walked out of the mall and saw a man with his hands on a woman's shoulders. He was shaking her and yelling in her face. Karen walked up to them and said, "%#@! You guys, I think I lost my cell phone somewhere around here. Oh my gosh, I'm expecting a call. Can you help me?" She frantically ran around in between them and looked under their car. Finally, they started helping her. Then, when they didn't find it, the man said, "Forget it, let's just go" in a much calmer voice.

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Ted was hanging out with some friends at a coffee shop. His friend Tony's partner came in and demanded that Tony leave with him. Ted had already been worried that Tony's relationship might be abusive so he pretended to get a call on his cell phone. He said it was an emergency and he needed Tony to go with him to the hospital. When he got Tony alone, he asked how things were going with his boyfriend. Things were not good and Tony needed a friend to talk to.

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Andrew was walking up to a restaurant on campus and noticed two guys punching each other – there were other people around that seemed to be friends with the guys, so at first glance Andrew thought they might just be messing around. As he got even closer it looked like the punching was more serious than just messing around. Andrew yelled, “Hey!” and ran up in between the guys. He asked if everything was cool and proceeded to ask if they were headed into eat, did they know if the place was having a 2-for-1 deal or if trivia was happening? The guys were distracted enough from their own altercation, they went and joined their group of friends and Andrew went into the restaurant.

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Steph and a group of her friends went to see one of their favorite local bands play at a dive bar near campus. As they were all dancing in front near the stage, Steph noticed a guy standing off to the side. She noticed him because he was the only one around who wasn't dancing. The guy attempted to dance behind a girl in front of Steph and her friends. The girl didn't seem interested and as Steph continued watching, the guy would dance behind her for a couple minutes, then back off, dance behind her, then back off. She had a feeling he wasn't going to stop. At that point, Steph started dancing in between the two of them and asked the girl if she knew the guy, she replied, "no, and I don't know what to do, he's been creeping on me all night!" Steph and her friends stayed dancing around the girl until the guy got the message that he was not welcome. The guy left and the girl was able to enjoy the rest of the show.

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Angela's friend Tanya had been dating Monique since the start of the school year. She noticed that Tanya never responds to her texts and calls anymore. She asked Tanya before class why she hasn't heard from her and Tanya told her that Monique has been monitoring her phone use and that she is only allowed to use her phone when she is with Monique. Angela asked Tanya how she feels about that and offered to go with her to talk to one of the counselors about this relationship.

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saw her roommate Alexa talking to her new boyfriend from a distance on campus. She noticed Alexa looked upset and her boyfriend seemed to be scolding her. Kate ran up to Alexa shouting, “Oh my gosh, you’ll never believe what I’m about to tell you, come here!!!” She took Alexa’s arm and walked her away from her boyfriend. She then let her know that she is always there to talk if she needs anything or wants help.