Conservative Corner:

Katrina relief is not a racial issue

It's possible that President George W. Bush has made quite a few mistakes while in office, depending upon who you ask. He's either lost or created jobs. Maybe he thrust America into an oil war it didn't want, or maybe it was a righteous effort to save one part of the world from tyranny and oppression. Of course, if you ask Kanye West, he'll tell you, "George Bush doesn't care about black people." Al Sharpton concurs. And it's the darnedest thing: it's hard to disagree with them. Seeing the unfortunate black victims on flooded streets and realizing that the president still hasn't come back from vacation, it's very hard to disagree.

But I'll try, and I'll try with two facts. According to National Geographic, nearly 80 percent of New Orleans is under sea level. Let me repeat: under sea level. Furthermore, as reported by the U.S. Census, 24.7 percent of black people were living under the poverty line in 2004, compared with the overall national average of 12.7 percent.

What conclusions can we draw? If you could afford to live anywhere you wanted, would you move under sea level? Since higher quality land has a higher value, those who would be affected by a disaster impacting cheaper land would generally be the poor. Going by the numbers, then, one thing becomes clear: more blacks were living in an area that was rendered almost unreachable for the rescue units once the hurricane hit.

Incidentally, in a very built-up city, it's impractical to own a car. In one district of Manhattan, for example, only 20 percent of the population drives their own vehicles. So when the evacuation was sug-gested, it was a no-go. Many city residents could do nothing. Given the scope of the disaster, those city residents, black and white alike, could do nothing but wait for assistance which was, admittedly, quite slow in coming. Few institutions allowing freshmen to park on campus like he did, or nail him for assigning an old bud- dy to the post of FEMA director, or for generally fouling up the Katrina relief efforts something fierce. Call him slow or stupid or, to be more ac-curate, say he turned a deaf ear to the poor. But please, ladies and gentlemen, don't call him racist.

A Student's View:

Campus should grow with classes

As a senior, I have witnessed a lot of changes at Rider University over the past three years. The newest change began last school year with the building of the new residence halls and the construction of the yet-to-be-finished student health/athletic center. Additionally, the school has increased its enrollment with this year's freshman class of 800-900 students. This change and expansion is great for the Univer-sity, and I can see the enrollment at Rider in-creasing even more over the next several years.

While this is all well and good for the University and its reputation, how good is it for the current students? Personally, I am not used to seeing Dalys' as crowded as it is during the peak meal times. Even though it has been crowded at times during my previ-ous three years as a resident, the dining hall has never come to the point where students have to squeeze through just to get some food. Parking has been another issue as well. The old O'Lot, now the Z-Lot, used to be the so-called "back up" lot. Now with all of the new students, I am extremely lucky if I can get a spot in the Resident lot. During the day, when both commuters and residents are on-campus, it is almost impossible to find a spot in the Z-Lot.

These two situations need to be corrected if Rider University will be increasing the enrollment of its future freshman classes in increments similar to this year's class. So what should be done to correct these problems? The solutions are fairly simple. In regard to parking, there are two options: either increase the amount of parking available to stu-dents or don't allow fresh-men to park their cars on campus. Although incom-ing freshmen may object to this, it may be the best solu-tion to the problem; how-ever, during my college search, I remember very few institutions allowing freshmen students to park on campus. Increasing the amount of park-ing would be the best solution for all students, but it may not be the best decision for the University. Also, there may not be enough available land on campus on which to build new parking spaces.

As far as the dining hall situation, the solu-tion is simple: build another dining hall. Most college campuses have at least two din-ning halls. One may argue that the Cranberry Cafe is our second dining hall, but I feel as though Rider needs another dining facil-ity that would allow students to use their meal plans instead of their precious Brone Bucks.

I am not against the increase in enrollment, in fact, I hope Rider can bring in three more fresh-man classes that are the size of the one we have this year. The University does, however, need to expand a little more if this institution would like to bring in a higher undergraduate enrollment.

One Resident Speaks:

Looks can be deceiving

Stolen shower curtains, broken bathroom stalls, markings on doors and walls and fire extinguishers being thrown out of windows can only describe one place.

Making its way to the top, Hill Hall seems to be one of the nicer residence buildings on campus. Between new car-peting, a paint job, brass room keys and a lovely facelift, it really has taken a big step toward improvement. Or has it?

Anyone who has ever lived in Hill Hall understands its affec-tionsome notoriety. This prestigious resident building never seems to change from what I have heard and seen. Now that I'm going on my second year as a Hill resident, I've discovered a certain pride for my home away from home, though at home my family usually doesn't set stink bombs off in our stairwell, or steal peoples dry-erase boards to add to their personal collections.

It has gotten to a point where I feel the need to speak out, and it's definitely appropriate when I say that looks are deceiving. Last year in Hill, the damage bill added up to an astonishing $6,000. It sounds like a lot, but when you think of everything that has hap-pened from fire extinguishers being set off in bathrooms to people dipping right exit signs, it adds up.

Walking into Hill this fall, I thought it would stay damage-free because of its attractive new appearance. I soon came to find that my assumption was horribly wrong. It wasn't even the first week of classes when we ended up with smashed hallway lights.

I'm not trying to make Hill Hall look bad, because those who live there have a sense of pride and community with each other and a fondness for the building. We are proud to live in a place where we can say we truly all get along, but what bothers me is if we have so much pride then why are there so many damages? I, for one, can say honestly that I absolutely love Hill Hall, but I am more than ready to move out. I can only hope that this year ends up being a lot cheaper than the last, and that maybe for the first time in a long time, it will take a turn for the better.

‘LETTER FROM PAGE II me. All I can say is that I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I will never forgive myself for what I did. I'm the reason why your son is dead, I killed him and I will live with that for the rest of my life.

I know I have no right to ask this of you, but I beg your forgiveness. Please don't hate me. I hate myself enough already, I can't even look at myself in the mirror. I can't look my mother in the eyes. I killed someone else's child because I thought I would be OK. I thought I was fine to drive. I took a chance with my life and someone else's, and I can never make that right. Please know how sorry I am, and please don't hate me. I swear it was an accident. We were just out to have a good time. We weren't trying to hurt anyone. Or were we?

With sincerest apologies.

The person who caused you to bury your time in a long time, it will take a turn for the better.

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