First Impressions:  
Optimism in the wake of Katrina

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which demolished New Orleans and disrupted the lives of millions, a media frenzy occurred, shouting the blame at both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and our national government. However, it is not only our national government that’s to blame, but also the local government. Many of us can ask why these people didn’t leave if they were told to evacuate. The truth is, many of these families were living in poverty and didn’t have the resources or money to get up and leave. It was the job of local transportation and mass transit to physically remove these people from their homes and deliver them to safety. There’s no doubt that there was a complete lack of organization and preparation for the hurricane. People are left to live in unsanitary conditions and there have been reports of rapes and beatings in the post-Katrina New Orleans, but I believe the media are somewhat distorting the picture.

An article in Newsway by Michael Strobbe stated that “...in the wake of Katrina, the health-care safety net has temporarily expanded for hundreds of thousands of uninsured Gulf Coast residents, and some patients long-standing illnesses are finally being diagnosed and treated.” These diagnoses are “preventing complications and can cut down on costly emergency room visits and hospital stays, ultimately saving the U.S. health-care system money.” This forces the eyes of our government to be opened up to allow more federal funding for those without insurance, as 43 million Americans are currently uninsured.

On an economic level, businesses are beginning to situate themselves in New Orleans. According to another Newsway article, “Down-south hotels have been abuzz... and bars in the French Quarter have stayed open serving warm beer.” Drug stores, hardware stores and a few gas stations have also reopened. Development of property is also beginning as “investors already are looking for opportunities to profit from what they hope will be a robust recovery.” Although Hurricane Katrina has been a national tragedy that has killed many innocent people, what’s most important now is the rejuvenation and recovery of Louisiana and the prosperity of its citizens in the face of immense devastation.

The Sophomore Voice:  
Campus is getting too crowded

It appears that someone, somewhere along the line forgot that adding more beds to the residence halls meant adding more people to Rider’s campus. With the beautiful new building and the addition of glamorous pods came the added chaos of about 200 new bodies on campus. From crowded dining halls to even more crowded parking lots, the campus is overflowing with students. It’s great that the campus is expanding and that the student body is growing, but along with that should have come proper plans to accommodate the overflow. It seems that no matter what time you go to eat lunch or dinner, Daly’s dining hall turns into a mad rush of hungry students searching for tables. Plans should have been made to maybe expand the dining hall’s seating area, but instead the outside area was closed off with doors that sound alarms if opened. Even when that area was closed off, there were still lines of 20 or more students which were elimi-nated for about 80 students or maybe even more. Granted, the lunchtime rush has died down. There are no longer lines that snake out the doors because people are waiting to get their cards swiped, but students still have to be steady in trying to find somewhere to sit once they’re there. Let’s say you decide to beat the crowd at Daly’s, so you take a stroll over to the Cranberry Café. You are pushing your luck even then due to the added congestion of other hungry and impatient residents. If you think that the dining halls are bad, take a look at the monstrosity that is the parking lot.

If your car is a registered resident vehicle and you are trying to find a parking spot, unless it is a Friday or a Saturday night when everyone goes home, you are pretty much out of luck. If you can find a parking spot in the resident lot during the week, consider yourself fortunate. If you cannot find a spot in the resident parking lot, there is always the O-Lot; in this case, the “O” stands for “overflow,” as it’s usually filled up with freshmen, the residents who were not so lucky and a good amount of commuters. So where do you park then? Why not make your own spot, double park your car or maybe continue the row, making it impossible to drive around the parking lot? These might not be valuable suggestions, but most students see no other options.

I know there is no land available for expansion of the parking lots outward, but perhaps the next plan of action is to build up. Maybe the University will have to restrict the number of freshmen that can have cars on campus or perhaps try a first come first serve basis.

Something must be done to accommodate the extra students the University admits. It will not allow the classrooms to overflow, so why should anywhere else on campus be an exception?

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been a huge concern in collegiate sports since seriously competitive athletes are trying to get that extra edge. Stricter new laws are making it increasingly tough to use steroids and get away with it. Most of these problems are on a small scale and are always trying to be solved.

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