Roof leaks rain on Rider’s ‘pod’ parade

After winter break, the return to Rider can be filled with mixed emotions. We all have our good and bad feelings, which at this point in time all come rushing back on the drive to Lawrenceville. Only one thing really remains constant—your dorm room. Or so my roommates and I thought.

Living in one of the new pods on campus definitely has its perks. We all have our own rooms, we only have to share one bathroom between the three of us and we have a common room. However, not everything in the pods is new. Upon our return in January, we were greeted with a leaky roof and lovely water damage. After spending some time in the bathroom scrubbing the toilet to get it as close to white as possible, we placed a call to Facilities. Unfortunately, because of the snow, all we heard was, “There’s nothing we can do.” As the water kept dripping and the leaks surfaced in more places, we continued to call. Facilities seemed not to have communicated the problem to its employees because as we called, we were told that no one knew that our roof was leaking and that we needed to speak to supervisors.

Finally, two people from Facilities came to the pod to examine the roof. They put up a sheet and container to temporarily catch the water and asked us to keep an eye on the water level and empty it occasionally. Day after day we lived through the dripping noises and emptied the yellow, foul-smelling water.

Although Facilities cleared the snow off our roof to help reduce the leak, there was no tarp put on it, which left my roommates and me fearing even the possibility of rain. In addition, after clearing the roof, they came into our pod to take pictures of the damage and proceeded to ask my roommate if other areas other than what they were aware of were leaking. When she asked if there was a need for alarm, they replied that they had found various holes on the roof and, luckily for me, we were above our room.

I understand that nothing is perfect or guaranteed to be flawless but as a resident of the pod, my room and board expenses increased. Last year, I thought I was applying for new housing for me, they were above my room.

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