Editorial:
Money is to blame for guest limitations

The almighty dollar is a powerful thing. Its influence governs almost everything in today's world from politics to education to communication itself. Of course, Rider University is not immune to this phenomenon and monetary concerns have made a considerable impact on the community. How so, you ask? Well, let's just say that there's a reason why students aren't allowed to bring guests into some Rider events, specifically Bronc Buffets.

This topic has been a subject of fierce debate lately. Two columns addressing the subject have been recently published in The Rider News, one on Feb. 11, and the other on Feb. 25. These columns caused a great deal of confusion regarding the details of the University's social event policy. To clarify, Rider's current policy classifies indoor, on-campus social events of a non-passive nature into four levels. Level 1 events are defined as those in which 100 or more people are expected, including guests, and require the highest level of security. Level 2 events are those in which less than 100 people are expected to attend, including guests. Level 3 and 4 events require an equal amount of attendances as Level 1 and 2 events respectively but do not allow guests.

Level 1 events, which constitute the greatest security risk, are difficult to finance because of high security charges. For example, security at a Level 1 event would cost approximately $2,244 if held in the Alumni Gym, $1,969 if held in the Cavalla Room, $1,964 if held in Daly's Dining Hall and $1,694 if held in the Pub. These prices are steep, and many organizations simply don't have the funds to finance such an event. As a result, many opt for a Level 3 or 4 event, in which the price of security is lessened because of the lack of off-campus guests. Rider University's Student Government Association (SGA) has taken this course of action in regard to Bronc Buffets. It is for this reason that students cannot bring guests to the events.

This is far from the best course of action to take. Bronc Buffets are an extremely important facet of resident life, since few programs can bring the entire community together like the Buffets. That, coupled with the recent success of the men's basketball team, has gone a long way toward reinvigorating the Rider pride that had lain dormant for so many years. In fact, the Buffets are sometimes the only main, or only, reason for students to remain on campus during the weekends. By taking the easy way out and restricting guests from entering the Buffets, SGA is removing visitors, not to mention the potential Rider students, the chance to sample a large part of the Rider experience.

With the recent increase in the student activities fee, however, this should not be a problem for very long. According to Dave Keenan, director of Campus Activities, the Finance Board is interested in allocating a portion of the extra income to support Level 1 events. If this comes to pass, SGA need not hesitate to ask for the financial assistance needed to move Bronc Buffets from the Level 3 to the Level 1 bracket by inviting guests to participate. By doing this, guests to Rider's Lawrenceville campus will be able to experience the entirety of life at Rider, students won't be forced to do this, guests to Rider's Lawrenceville campus will be able to experience the entirety of life at Rider, and the Buffets will be more viable for the student community.

As a result, Rider University's Student Government Association (SGA) will have taken a course of action that has been far more successful in recent years. In fact, the Buffets have become a crucial part of the Rider pride that has lain dormant for so many years. They have become a symbol of Rider University's dedication to its students and its community, and they will continue to be an important part of Rider University's future.