

Editorial: Champions for change

Move-In Day at Rider University's Lawrenceville campus was especially turbulent this year. In addition to the standard worries of unpacking, getting ready for classes and missing family members, students now had a completely new environment surrounding them. Fences were blocking off what once was a large grassy field and huge mounds of dirt stood in its place. It seemed as if residents were entering a prison rather than a renowned university preparing for the future.

The new scenery comes as the result of construction that will bring the Lawrenceville campus a new residence hall, a Student Recreation Center (SRC) and several major landscaping improvements. However, in addition to the campus' current ugliness, the work has brought about a large number of other problems for students, many of which are much more serious than a less-than-picturesque view. Those living in Hill Residence Hall have been hit particularly hard. The construction work begins at 8 a.m. every day and, as a result, so does the life of a Hill resident. They must also deal with the scores of students who, rather than walk around the building to get to Daly's Dining Hall, decide to cut through instead. This has raised the hallway noise level for those trying to study and triggered an outbreak of vandalism, causing damage to the hall and greatly inconveniencing everyone living inside.

However, these are all temporary problems that will hopefully relent throughout the year and end when the construction is completed. At that time, students will be greatly rewarded for their patience. The new residence hall promises to be much more accommodating than the existing ones and will certainly be easier on the eyes than a mound of dirt. The SRC will give intramural sports teams a place to call their own while also providing residents not living in Poyda Residence Hall with a gym that won't require a work-out to reach. Finally, those upset with the campus' current appearance will have no reason to complain once all of President Mordechai Rozanski's landscaping projects have been completed.

All of these improvements are still a long ways off, but not due to lack of trying on Rider's part. Permit problems over the summer pushed the start of construction back considerably, causing the estimated finish date of spring 2005 to be changed to fall 2005. Sadly, this situation could not have been avoided and the University worked quickly to overcome it. The delay could have lasted much longer than it did and would have caused even more problems for students if it had continued.

In addition, constructing two completely new buildings is not an overnight process. Workers must ensure that the facilities have plumbing and electricity while also running telephone, Internet, and television cables to each room as well as building the actual structures from the ground up. Every one of these things will take time to complete and often students will not see a significant amount of progress. Rest assured, work is being done. Hopefully, this time next year, the Lawrenceville campus won't just go back to being the same old Rider, but will be considerably better off.

While residents may criticize the campus' current condition and be upset by the many inconveniences they are experiencing, they must realize that these things are all short-term problems. They are unavoidable consequences of the effort to make life at Rider better than it has ever been before. With a little bit of patience, we can all help to turn that mountain range of dirt into something we can all be proud of.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion editor.

Letters to the Editor: *The Rider News* welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the Rider community. Letters must be typed and include the name, address, phone number and signature of the author for verification. Send to *The Rider News* via e-mail (ridernews@rider.edu), campus mail, or hand deliver to the Ridge House. All letters must be received by midnight on the Monday preceding publication. *The Rider News* reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

The Rider News EDITORIAL & MANAGERIAL BOARD

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
David Maccar

MANAGING EDITOR
Vincent Civitillo

NEWS EDITOR
Cara Latham

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
Randy Townsend

FEATURES AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Lacey Korevec

ASSISTANT FEATURES AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Nicole Southern

OPINION EDITOR
Bill Greenwood

SPORTS EDITOR
Mike Caputo

WEB EDITOR
Vincent Civitillo

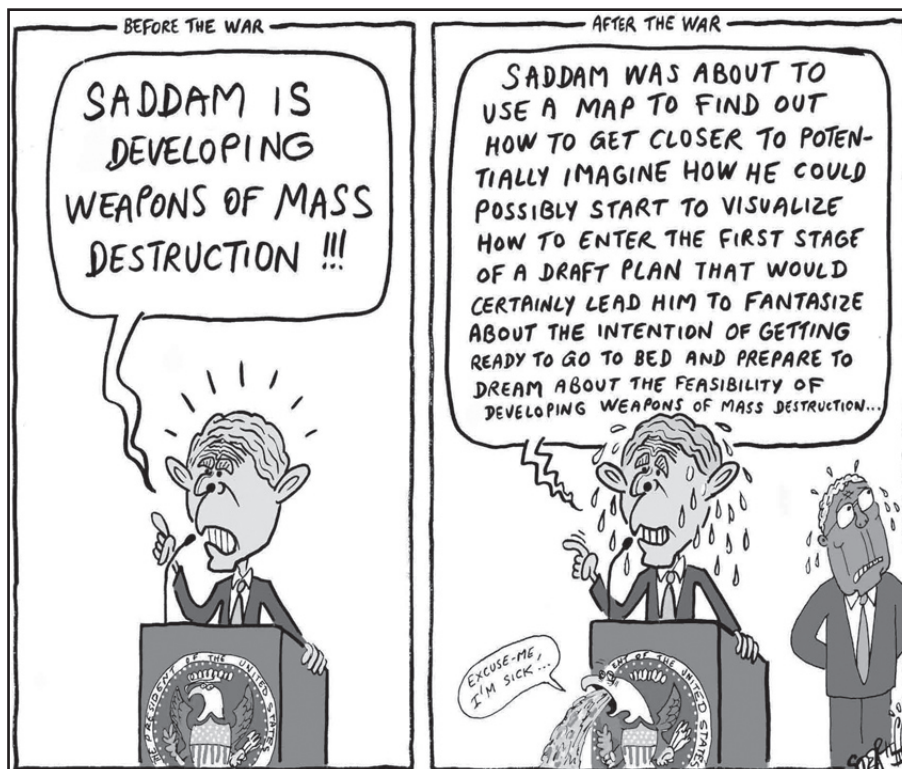
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Allen Huang

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Lauren Mangus

COPY EDITORS
Candice Grieco
Lauren Varga

CO-ADVISERS
Dr. E. Graham McKinley
Dr. Thomas Simonet

www.rider.edu/ridernews/



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.”

— Charles F. Kettering

Lending a Hand:

Don't be rude on your cell phone

I don't know what the exact proper etiquette is for using your cell phone. Nor do I consider myself Ms. Manners. However, what I do know is that lately it seems people have just about lost their minds. I think cell phones are secretly sucking the part of the brain that controls common sense through your ear and into the phone. Other than that, I have no real explanation as to why people would be so rude to other people while on their phones.

It seems like individuals who are ordinarily considerate are being controlled by their cell-phones. Heaven forbid they miss a call. Forgive me, because I might be considered a novice cell-phone user but, isn't that why you have voice mail?

The other day I was amazed by the audacity of a cell-phone user. I was in line for coffee at Java City and there was a girl, let's call her subject A, who was on her phone while she was waiting in line. Yes, I know if you are waiting in line for coffee you might have time for a whole conversation, but that is beside the point.

Well, subject A gets up to the counter, head still attached to her phone and lots of people behind her. She is still talking to the person she is on the phone with while trying to order her items. The woman behind the counter was asking subject A a question about her order while she was still talking on the phone. Get this, subject A actually holds up a finger to

the women behind the counter to tell her to wait a second. Excuse me, but what planet are you on? Really? Who do you think you are? Trust me, whatever conversation you are having can either wait a minute or just don't get in line for coffee if you are on the phone.

In case you did not get the memo, well here it is. The person standing right in front of you should get your attention. It might just be me, but wouldn't you want that same courtesy?

If I get a call that I need to take and I can excuse myself from the situation than I will. If I can't get away at that time, than I don't answer it. I am not saying that everyone does not slip once in a while, that is human. But to all the chronic cell phone-a-holics, the person calling can wait because, no matter what, the person in front of you should get your priority and attention. This is especially true of people who are your friends or people you know. They are taking their time to be with you. If you act like they are not even there while you are busy having a conversation on your phone, than that is just rude. Stop it.



Melissa Borotto