The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) sets high standards of achievement for K-12 schools, holding each accountable for reporting yearly results of disadvantaged and regular students standardized test scores. Ultimately, federal funds are lost if a school fails to meet performance objectives and required academic achievement levels. NCLB is misguided because it gives additional funds to schools that meet standards, enhancing their programs, while it takes them away from schools that do not meet them, reducing the resources of low scoring schools. In a time when literacy levels among youth are declining and high school drop-out rates are alarmingly high, NCLB seems a sure way to make matters worse.

One problem with the Act is it turns otherwise thriving schools into failing ones because overall test scores of disadvantaged students tend to decrease. Depleted funding causes schools to trim budgets and limit staff, resulting in lower-functioning schools. Philip Teverow from New York who has three children in the New York Public school system says that due to the No Child Left Behind Act, “children are fleeing from school to thriving ones but the thriving schools get no more teaching or physical capacity to handle the added influx.” Children are not getting the personal attention they need.

What happens when schools refuse to enroll disadvantaged students because they would lower their overall scores, causing funds to be reduced? Central Bucks East, in Doylestown, Penn. is a blue ribbon, accredited high school, one of the 50 most rigorous in the nation. It was labeled as a failing school under the NCLB Act because the NCLB requires special education students’ scores should be evaluated separately to more accurately measure individual achievement. When special education students score low, their school should receive funding assistance. When students in the regular curriculum score low, their school should not be penalized by fund reduction but given funding for improvement.

Additionally, NCLB allows military recruits access to students’ names, addresses and phone numbers in 22,000 schools nationwide. Public schools are obligated to comply or risk funding, while schools with military service objections are exempted. Isn’t reporting personal information clearly defined as a civil rights violation?

NCLB must be abolished. We should help the worst performing schools, holding them accountable for results by requiring an overhaul in curricula and staff improvements. Furthermore, special education students’ scores should be evaluated separately to more accurately measure individual achievement. When special education students score low, their school should receive funding assistance. When students in the regular curriculum score low, their school should not be penalized by fund reduction but given funding for improvement.

All Americans are entitled to an equal opportunity education. The NCLB should be repealed before it destroys true educational progress and promotes classroom of students, including the academically challenged, left so far behind they will never catch up.

**A Student’s View:**

**Club sports attract athletes**

Imagine a current Rider student. Before he made Rider the place to continue his education, he had some tough choices to make. As a senior in high school, he was an All-City baseball player who was recruited by many Division II and III schools for baseball. When he looked at Rider, he knew his chance of playing baseball at a Division I program was somewhat slim. Because of this, he had to choose either baseball or academics.

Logically, Rider was the best place for him because of the great business school and the academic scholarship he was offered. By deciding now to come to Rider, he gave up the chance of playing baseball at the collegiate level.

This student was me. But I soon came to realize that I was not the only one who had to make this choice.

The newly established club baseball team here at Rider will allow all those who made the same choice I made back in 2002. Now, future students in a predicament similar to my own may make their decision based on the fact that we now have a club baseball team. In addition, having a club baseball team will spread the word ‘Rider.’ We, as a team, will have both the responsibility and honor to represent Rider University in a new way.

This new baseball club can only be positive for the University itself and the students of Rider. We are anxious to start playing and are looking forward to starting our season on March 25 at Princeton. If you would like further information about the Rider University Baseball Club, please go to: http://www.leaguelineup.com/rubic.

**THIS WEEK In HISTORY ...**

**Feb. 4, 1789**

George Washington is elected as the first president of the United States.

**Feb. 6, 1933**

The 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is put into effect.

**Feb. 7, 1973**

The U.S. Senate votes to form an investigative committee to look into the Watergate break-in.

**Feb. 8, 1828**

Jules Verne is born.

**Feb. 9, 1870**

The National Weather Service is established.

‘**AQUINAS’ FROM PAGE 8**

the remake of “Tomorrowdog.” I go to Aquinas College, a small Catholic oriented school. Yet again, I face a school with no football team, so we all end up worshiping the baseball players.

Everyone is very nice here and I have met a wonderful group that made me feel quite at home. All my classes are great; my communication class at home is excellent while at Rider is good, but in Rider I am learning a new language while I am here. In my opinion, this is not only good for Rider students who have a passion for the game, but also for the University itself. In the future, this club could attract students who have to make the choice I made back in 2002. Now, future students in a predicament similar to my own may make their decision based on the fact that we now have a club baseball team. In addition, having a club baseball team will spread the word ‘Rider.’ We, as a team, will have both the responsibility and honor to represent Rider University in a new way.

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