Quote of the Week:

“A good leader is a person who takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit.”

— John C. Maxwell

Letter to the Editor:

New Jersey leads fight for gay rights

To the editor,

The state of New Jersey deserves credit for becoming a national leader in the fight to extend basic rights to same-sex couples living in loving, committed relationships. On Jan. 12, 2004, Governor James McGreevey signed the landmark Domestic Partnership Act into law, making New Jersey one of just five states to extend civil rights and economic rights to domestic partners in a committed relationship. Domestic partners under the law include same-sex couples as well as senior citizens who live together in a committed relationship.

How has this changed the state of New Jersey?

Before this law, if a person suffered a medical emergency and was put in the hospital, his or her domestic partner was denied basic visitation rights. Likewise, basic health care benefits were denied to domestic partners in long-term committed relationships. In addition, partners who lived together for decades were sadly denied retirement benefits, rights of estate and other economic benefits simply because of their sexual orientation.

The new Domestic Partnership Act changes all of this and directly improves the daily lives of thousands of people across this state who were being left behind because of their sexual orientation. Under the new law, basic hospital visitation rights, health care rights and economic rights are extended to New Jersey couples living together in long-term committed relationships. Going one step further, New Jersey sets an example for private businesses by extending employment-related health care and retirement benefits to domestic partners.

This law will change New Jersey for the better. Indeed, the Domestic Partnership Act will enter the history books as a major milestone for civil rights and social justice in our state. The new law also joins a growing list of areas, such as life-saving medical research and unprecedented environmental protections, where New Jersey is leading the nation and setting an example for other states to follow.

McGreevey and many courageous New Jersey legislators deserve praise for their willingness to take bold action to extend basic and fundamental rights to same-sex couples living as domestic partners. It is now time for dozens of other states to stand up and follow New Jersey’s lead on this important issue.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Blake
President, N.J. Stonewall Democrats

This Week in History:

April 4, 1968 — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated.

April 5, 1958 — The National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) is first proposed.

April 6, 1896 — The Olympic Games are held in Athens, Greece, for the first time in 1,400 years.

Q & A: Students sound off on the changes they would like to see from President Rozanski

Andrea Daney, senior — “I hope he continues to improve the look of the campus and work to build up the reputation of Rider.”

Kristin Kenavan, sophomore — “I would like to see better facilities, fields and equipment for athletes.”

Mike Brennan, sophomore — “I would like to see lower tuition. That’s the bottom line.”

Kathryn Knauss, senior — “I would like to see him change the image of Rider overall including physical appearance and academic reputation.”

Anthony Chiaravallo, freshman — “He should speed up construction so it gets done before people graduate, lower tuition and get a better quality and more variety of food.”

Clint Rudnick, junior — “I’d like to see improvement in the financial services office and make it more organized.”