Editorial: SGA record voter fallout

We are the future leaders of the world, or so they tell us. Tomorrow rests on our shoulders and it will be what we make of it. We are members of the supposedly greatest democracy the world has ever seen. Well, we certainly don't show it. It's almost a terrifying thought that this generation will be in control, when considering the productivity and the awareness level of our current age group.

For example, Rider held its elections for Student Government Association (SGA) officers this week, with a record turnout of 728 student voters; 728 out of nearly five thousand students. That's just wonderful. In reality, it's worse than that. This year, the growing Greek student population on campus were forced to vote, which might have been a considerable contributing factor to the record turnout.

What do these facts say about Rider and about the current generation of students? Do we not care? Are we too lazy to vote? Will these habits carry over into the real world when we are older? Do students vote in real elections or is it that Rider students just can't bother to care about SGA elections? Rider, for the most part, doesn't give students a reason to care one bit about SGA. Most students don't even know what services or functions they perform for the student body. As far as many are concerned, it's just a reason for some students to launch campaigns, hang banners around, and slide dozens of cards beneath dorm doors. After the campaigns are finished, students really don't hear very much more from anyone about SGA until the next election.

It's true that they do make some effort to include students in decision making by sending out the occasional mass voicemail, but that really isn't very effective. Students are likely to hear the beginning of a prerecorded message and mash 7-6 to delete it. So what else can be done to make students care or get involved? Maybe a lot, maybe nothing.

Maybe students just don't care at all and they are just waiting till they can get out of this school without exerting any effort to change things. Maybe the administration here at Rider doesn't put forth the effort to promote SGA the way it should, or maybe SGA should work a little harder to do that as well. Who knows? The only thing that can be known for certain is that no one really communicates anything to anyone.

The reason we don't know how SGA works, what they do, or care at all about getting out to vote is because most students are utterly uninformed. The SGA and administration as well as students must make the effort to inform and to gain information, respectively. It's just that neither of them must be forced to reach too far or they won't bother. There has to be a meeting in the middle somewhere, a compromise. Only then will SGA be able to more efficiently serve its purpose and will students care at all about SGA.

We have to train ourselves to be better—better students, better citizens, better people in general. One day we will be the policymakers. The older people who run things are running out of time and new blood is going to have to take the reins. Can we make that transition after feeling so apathetic for so long? Maybe it's just a college thing and we will all start to care a little more when we are older? Do students vote in real elections or is it that Rider students just can't bother to care about SGA elections? Rider, for the most part, doesn't give students a reason to care one bit about SGA.

What do these facts say about Rider and about the current generation of students? Do we not care? Are we too lazy to vote? Will these habits carry over into the real world when we are older? Do students vote in real elections or is it that Rider students just can't bother to care about SGA elections? Rider, for the most part, doesn't give students a reason to care one bit about SGA.

Letters to the Editor: The Rider News welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the campus 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 Centennial House. All letters must be received by midnight the Monday preceding publication. The Rider News reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

A Citizen's Voice:
American appearance

Think of that one girl or guy in high school who was perfect. He or she was gorgeous, intelligent and talented. You wanted with all your heart to hate him or her, but you couldn't because that person was actually nice. Still, when you heard a story or a rumor about the person, a part of you wanted to believe it. You wanted to find the chink in the armor that would make that person a little less perfect, a little more like you.

In the international high school that is the world, America, in a metaphorical sense, is that person. The United States is one of the most powerful countries in the world, if not the most powerful, cannot be disputed. English is taught in any country in the world that is so ubiquitous. Americans speak it, more like you.

The fact that the United States is a land of opportunity, a place where anybody can rise from humble beginnings to the U.S. Armed Forces, and in order for countries to prosper, they must have a good relationship with the U.S. is also widely feared because of its power. Perhaps only the British military and the Israeli flyers can be compared to the U.S. Armed Forces, and both countries are our allies.

When people flee their homelands because of oppression or poverty, where do they indubitably go? To America. Much like high-schoolers yearn to be part of the “popular crowd,” foreigners all over the world dream of coming to America, albeit for much more serious reasons. They come because it is a land of opportunity, a place where anybody can rise from humble beginnings to become great and a country where there truly is freedom. Is there any country in the world that is so