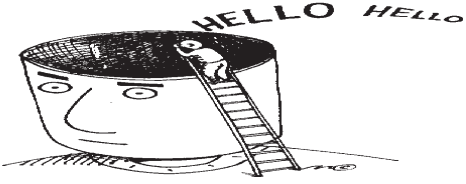


# The Mane Event of Lyons Jr Sr. High School

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## The Editor's Head



Editor in Chief, Brian Ocque

I do believe I have the prime rib of political articles to write about this month. I recently watched a report on CNN about a Bush/Soldier press conference in Washington D.C. It was a typical conference about how things are running in Iraq and how the President plans to fix things up a bit. Everything was fine and dandy, rather normal actually, except for one startling piece of video; one of the President's White House aides was shown on tape rehearsing with the soldiers what they are to say and do while addressing the President. A little startling to me, but is it routine for them?

It was supposed to look like a routine conference between the soldiers in Iraq and the President to the normal American eye, but sources from **Good Morning America** state that there was a choreographed session that took place instead. White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan suggested that choreography is needed in order to overcome technical difficulties when doing a satellite feed. He went on to say:

***I think all they were doing was talking to the troops and letting them know what to expect.***

I would also expect this from an analyst at the White House.

All in all, there may be some sort of staging going on here. It may be in order to restore the faith that people have lost in this war or to ensure some sort of security in our President's job. Either way, I would hope that our beloved President Bush would be able to tell the truth when the moment of truth came.

The point I'm making in the first place is why are they lying to us? Are they trying to glamorize the war, make people feel better about it? I think not, mainly because recent polls suggest that over half of the country does not care for the way Bush is handling this war. Whatever the reason is, it won't look pretty when it all blows over.

THIS IS YOUR MANE EVENT

## The Center of Disagreement

Logan "T" King

Hurricane Katrina. It was seen originally as a powerful hurricane coming off of the Gulf of Mexico. It ended up being a huge disaster for one of the biggest cities in the southern United States. Hurricane Rita was a slightly less powerful hurricane that hit more-or-less the same place less than a month later. Besides the hurricanes themselves, who is to blame for the mass loss of lives all over the area.

First, I will put this out in the open: The United States government is not to blame for the mass loss of life due to the flooding of the New Orleans area. It is to blame for the mass loss of life due to the after effects of the New Orleans flood; however, I am getting ahead of myself. It was totally and fully the state of Louisiana's duty to evacuate the city before Katrina hit. The fact that state government didn't force the residents to evacuate is the reason for the overall problems the area suffered.

Let me explain this: The Louisiana state government had a full 2-3 days to evacuate the city of New Orleans. They didn't even try. What is their excuse? According to the governess, it was because she didn't think many people would leave. So what? You are still obligated to try. Yet the state government did nothing. They didn't even help people that

wanted to leave. The fact that they never prepared an escape plan proves this.

Now, this may seem rather harsh, especially to people expecting the full Bush-bashing treatment, but it is the truth. One example leads to the city's geography. It is so far under water (the whole city is 8 to 20 feet below sea level) that they have break walls (levees) surrounding the city. Break walls, in case you don't know, keep flood waters from entering a city. They are basically watertight, ten feet tall highway dividers. The ones surrounding New Orleans were Category 3 break walls, meaning they would survive a Category 3 hurricane and the resulting flood. It was a known fact among the engineers who built the break walls that ***THEY WOULD NOT LAST THROUGH A CATEGORY 5 HURRICANE!*** Katrina was a Category 5, and the walls didn't last. They were not designed to do so; therefore, they wouldn't, and they didn't. In fact, the previously mentioned engineers asked for more state funding to make them Category 5 break walls but were repeatedly denied the funding because politicians called it a "***Non-Issue***". Since the state obviously didn't care about New Orleans, why did the state not force the city to evacuate?

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## Construction or Disruption

LaChanda Mills, Sophomore

When you hear the word construction, normally you think positively; a new change will occur, one that would be more beneficial or better suited for your living. Within our school a multitude of changes has come about. The question to ask, however, would be whether or not these new renovations affect our ability as students to learn; does it go deeper than the surface?

What was supposed to be completed a while ago is now an ongoing event. The construction, as we all know, started towards the end of last year. Major changes have come about and are great, but why is it that when we are sitting within our classroom that we are interrupted by the sporadic sounds of a drill or hammer echoing about the halls? We are told that a school is a learning environment, and the purpose of it is to educate the people within. The thing, however, is that we cannot learn if we are unable to concentrate on our work or hear what the teacher is saying. It is important to me to be surrounded by a nice environment, and when it is done it will be, but it is more important to receive a proper education.

What I don't get is how a disorderly and disruptive student can be thrown out of class when they are making less noise than many of the construction workers themselves. The disorderly student may affect the one classroom that he/she is in, but that is only one of many. The construction taking place disrupts plenty more. Shouldn't rules apply to all? On the other hand, though, I can honestly say that they are only doing their jobs. If I may comment, their doing a great job at that. Our hallways look much better than previous years, and they must have had a miracle when renovating the cafeteria. I am only trying to do my job as well, however, and learn what is

being taught to me. Now what we have to do is decide whose interest will come first, the interest of the student or that of a construction worker?

They are paid to make our school a better place, to fix that which may be wrong. I used to complain of how "***ghetto***" our school looked and hoped that it would change. Now that it is starting to change and looks halfway decent, I am still complaining. Even though the tiles make a big difference and brighten up the halls, the carpet looks newer, and the cafeteria for once actually looks like one, the distraction of the noises don't help what I actually come to school to do.

I can be sitting in my eighth period class, taking my test and rudely be interrupted by a noise which sounds as if it is gnawing at the concrete beneath me. I don't know if it's just me, but I can't seem to think of the correct answer to the question that I just knew the answer to two seconds before hand. I eventually will figure it out, but the point is that my grade on it could be altered because of that.

Some people consider a grade just a grade, but in reality it is far from just a grade. That one grade is your life because if you allow yourself to fail that one time, you will become that failure in life in general as you will be come accustomed to failing. I come to school to learn, no one HAS to, but I come to be me, to succeed in something that I do. With all this on going construction, how are we expected to do our work?

**By the time you actually read this article, the construction should be done. The work being done was annoying at times, but hopefully we all now agree it was worth it. Our school looks GREAT!**