

“Center” continued from page 1

The state has that ability, they knew that the break walls couldn't possibly stand the force of the flood, and they should've used the ability to force people to leave their homes. At first glance it may seem a harsh thing to do to the residents of New Orleans, but I'd rather be alive than possibly die just to see if I can save my house.

Also, the precise wording of the statements issued by the governess disgusted me deeply. It sickened me to realize that the governess said that all of the people that didn't want to leave were unemployed blacks. I hate racism more than anything else, and that was racism in its highest degree in my opinion. Besides, it doesn't cover two groups that logically would also want to stay: the elderly, who might have nothing else but the things in their homes, and the people who wanted to prevent looting of all of the objects in their house (although that isn't a real good reason to stick around).

The federal government also handled the situation pretty poorly. Things like President Bush not ending his vacation to immediately survey the damage is an example. Another thing is how the National Guard didn't arrive fast enough (although some would say that is due to the Guard being in Iraq, which would lead to Bush-Bashing). In addition, FEMA collapsed under its own weight (which would lead to similar arguments).

Bush showed up after most of the rioting, looting and overall violence stopped (which, in hindsight, was probably the smart thing to do, as the last thing we need right now is an injured President). The Guard did arrive eventually, and the situation is rather controlled now. And while FEMA still hasn't fixed itself, FEMA Director Michael Brown has resigned,

and since then that particular political fiasco has subsided. My point is this: Maybe the U.S. government did react slowly, and in the case of FEMA, poorly, but at least they reacted. The state seemingly didn't even do that; the only thing they did was move the people to a football stadium without any supplies for the people, and that is why I find that the state is wholly more responsible than the U.S. government for the loss of life attributed to this disaster. They also stepped up their reaction time much faster after hurricane Rita.

On a related matter, many people have gone so far as to compare Katrina to 9/11. And to them, I say you are wrong. 9/11 was a terrorist attack. A deliberate, willful act against the United States of America of which we had no warning, and Katrina was a natural disaster. Despite what government propaganda may lead you to believe, Katrina did **NOT** affect everyone in the nation. It did not and will not force a change on our way of life as 9/11 did, except maybe in future planning for disasters. In fact, the only reason I am affected by Hurricane Katrina at all is because of the grumbling of my parents over the rising gas prices, which don't really have **ANYTHING** to do with Hurricane Katrina anyways.

I was affected by 9/11 the same way many were probably affected after Pearl Harbor: Confused, Scared and Angry. And I still am to a degree, and that was four years ago. Hurricane Katrina only brings forth pity, and that is obviously not how I will feel a year from now as this whole issue will likely be forgotten by me. Not so for the people who lived in the area, but that is my point: it either directly affected you or not at all.

Now, some would argue, “But Logan, what about the rises in petrol prices after both hurricane Rita and Katrina?” Well, that's fodder for the next issue of **The Mane Event**.

Dear...Someone?



The staff at the **Mane Event** has received some mail in our “inbox” of sorts. We have received a message from an anonymous writer explaining his or her concern for a friend. The friend in question has begun hanging out with other friends. These friends aren't the best influence on her anyway, seeing as how our writer expresses a deep concern for her friend. She believes that she may be smoking pot. The writer writes, “**Who should I talk to?**”

Well, in our minds one of the most obvious choices is to talk to your friend! You have to find out for yourself if that person is actually smoking the pot or not. If that person is truly your friend, they should at least enlighten you as to if they are doing it or not. Making sense of all of this in your own mind is essential for fixing anything that may be going on. This leads me to my next point; if you know what the problem is, don't just assume that you can fix it. The person in question must be a willing participant in the healing process. What this means is that if the person does not want any help, then you must leave them to their own vices. They must want to help themselves before you can help them. Speaking of help, here are some numbers, websites and people that you could go to for help:

- www.na.org
- www.alanon.alateen.org
- Lyons Police Department: 946-5141
- Wayne Behavioral Health: 956-5722
- Our Resource Officer Sgt. Jeff Shields!
- School psychologists

Helping your friend get out of the hole is step one. Helping them get back on track with their lives is another. As the helper it is important that you try not to take on all of this yourself. Stress is something that can overcome you. You must take small steps **with** the person who is in trouble. They can't do it alone, and neither can you. Think about it for a while and make a plan of action.

Germs!!!

Have you ever wondered exactly how many germs you contract each day? Have you ever sat down and thought about all the people you shook hands with who didn't wash their hands? If this sounds like you, you are right to be cautious.

Eighty percent of germs, bacteria, and illnesses are spread by hand contact. That's enough to make you want to wear gloves all day. One of the most common ways people catch colds is by rubbing their nose or their eyes after their hands have been contaminated with the cold virus. So think about that, the next time you shake hands with someone.

It is estimated that one out of three people do not wash their hands after using the restroom. Those are some scary statistics. So imagine you have twenty-four friends over for a party. About eight of those friends did not wash their hands and are touching all of the food you've set out.

So think about all of what has been said the next time you bend down to take a drink from a public drinking fountain or sit down to “relieve” yourself!

Daycare Prices Rise

Ashley VanValkenburg, Senior

Have you ever noticed that when you pay your bills that more than half of your check goes to a daycare center? Being a parent is a hard job. Nowadays it is even more difficult because many families



are made up of one parent. This makes it harder for a parent to work and take care of his/her

children. A parent then has to find suitable daycare but he/she can't always afford it.

Daycare centers are very expensive. Money paid to daycare goes toward food, the rent of the building, utility costs, insurances, wages, and other items connected to running a business. Usually the larger the city, the higher the cost of daycare. Don't forget. Most daycare workers have to be trained and that costs money too. In addition, the younger children in daycare require more attention; therefore more workers are needed, thus more money is required. Prices for daycare run from \$3000-\$15,000 a year! Daycare workers are also hard to find at times, as many migrate to higher paying jobs.

Parents also have to decide what type of daycare they want and what is affordable for them. Many parents would rather take their child/children with them. This would be considered a baby on the job daycare. It's a lot cheaper, and the parents feel

more at ease with their child being close to them.

There are many types of daycare to choose from. Parents can choose a licensed daycare, private daycare, or homecare (like a nanny).

For parents who don't make a lot of money, daycare can seem like a hopeless possibility. However, there are programs offered through the department of social services and public assistance.

