

NIMBY supporters protest, stir up trouble

BY LEIA FORGAY
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Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) is a movement of people who oppose the building of structures in their neighborhoods that could hinder their safety, upset traffic patterns, or infringe upon property value. Such developments include prisons, new road systems, landfills, power plants, and even apartment complexes.

In the past month, two fliers appeared in my mailbox and one stranger approached my door, all asking me to protest the construction of townhouses and adjoining two-car garages on a street adjacent to my own. Apparently, the need for me to write letters, sign petitions and attend City Council meetings in opposition to the expansion is far greater than the need for others to have homes.

While every person has

the right to support or object to any issue, it seems odd to me that NIMBY defenders have nothing against the developments they protest, just their presence in the neighborhoods of the protesters themselves.

Of course, few people have the nerve to (openly) question the necessity of landfills, county jails and highways. In fact, most are glad to have them. If living near a soup kitchen is bad for property value, then having homeless people wandering door to door asking for donations must be detrimental.

In all fairness, a home is the most valuable investment a person makes. Unlike cars, iPods, and other material possessions, a home rarely decreases in value, so the owner almost always makes a profit. However, it is hardly just for one to use landfills, drive on highways and feel safe putting criminals behind bars if he is not

willing to make some sacrifice. As with many political issues, the effectiveness of the NIMBY principle relies mainly upon socio-economic status.

In 1983, the city made a proposal to build a waste disposal site in the predominantly African-American neighborhood. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People immediately filed a complaint, claiming it was unfair to put African-Americans at risk for health problems but not whites. Of course, further research indicated it was not an issue of race, but one of monetary resources. Wealthy individuals have the funds and time to protest, hire lawyers, sway contractors, and generally exert their power and opinions. What now occurs in my neighborhood is such an example.

Because the upper classes can deter negative institutions in their own

neighborhoods, the government approves the construction of such developments in the poorer districts where citizens cannot effectively object. Also, when residents reject every proposed location for a new garbage dump or jail, they force the government to expand at the existing facility or repave it and start over. Once again, these results affect the shoddiest neighborhoods, which were located near the site in the first place.

Of course, the upper classes are rarely known for sincerely considering the needs of others less fortunate. Politicians are happy to visit schools on the "wrong side of the tracks," but they do not build waste sites and homeless shelters within their own neighborhoods rather than those of the students. The affluent gladly create trash but refuse to tolerate waste treatment or recycling centers

within close proximity to their homes.

Some may argue under the theory of social Darwinism that rich populations have earned the right to do what they want. Nonetheless, the people who make such arguments are the elite, who have children but pay nannies to change the dirty diapers.

An ideal world would not require prisons, homeless shelters, or trash disposal sites. NIMBY allows the upper class to push sensitive issues into other neighborhoods. Until all districts reach a negotiation, the only just solution is for every household to create a personal landfill in its own backyard. Maybe that will change the cry from "Not in my backyard!" to "Not in our backyard!" Until then, as long as Lee Street hosts a recycling center, Irving Park should sponsor weekly barbecues for the homeless.

Duke lacrosse team opens public's eyes to athletes' faults

BY KATE MALEKOFF
Features Editor

With the rape charges recently dropped against the members of the Duke lacrosse team for the alleged rape of a female at a party at the team captain's house last spring, the general public seems to have dropped the scandal altogether, forgetting that there were other issues, such as underage drinking and hired strippers. After hearing the alleged victim had lied about lacrosse players raping her, the public immediately felt remorse for the young men who had "been through so much" when they had "done nothing wrong." While rape is not an incident to be taken lightly, the public failed to notice the bigger issue at hand: the lifestyle of many college athletes, particularly males, is getting out of control.

Athletes walk around like they own the campus, in part because of the way their fellow students, professors, or coaches treat them. Professors often allow the man who scored the winning touchdown with two seconds left in the game slide by in classes, turning in late work, if they turn it in at all, or neglecting to notice if the student-athlete fails to show up for class. The same rule does not apply to other students who are not involved in sports, but are busy with other extra-curriculars. Students let their fellow classmates walk around like they own the campus, treating them like a star after big games.

Partying by athletes is also becoming extreme. College students are going to drink, but must it be every night? What happens once it goes past drinking and starts leading to drugs? Date rape has become common as well, with athletes using their

egos and reputations to take advantage of others at college. Duke's lacrosse team captains owned a house off campus where not only their fellow athletes, but other classmates, partied regularly, disturbing many neighbors, who tolerated it because they were, (gasp!), the Duke lacrosse team. This is in part due to America's misguided culture, where sports and movie stars are what the public focuses on and worships, rather than the people who actually try to make a difference in the world. Someone was supplying alcohol to underage students, putting both the students and themselves at risk.

Duke's lacrosse players could have learned something from this incident even though they were found not guilty. They could have learned they cannot get away with this type of dangerous behavior. Athletes are people children admire and idolize. These children are being taught that underage drinking and drugs, and sexual harassment is acceptable, and that it does not matter if students barely scrape by with grades, because as long as they are good athletes, their lives will run smoothly.

We must realize there is more to life than sports, and these athletes are leading a destructive lifestyle. In ten years, it will not matter that they won the championship game their sophomore year of college. They are not going to have the skills necessary to survive in the real world if they did not attend class. A diploma means nothing if one does not know how to do their job or even acquire one. Athletes should not be able to coast through college life anymore only because they can run fast and know how to shoot a free-throw. The sooner these athletes and the rest of the world wake up, the better.



Snap Judgment: Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?

The Wu-Tang Clan present an album with previously unreleased tracks.



July 21 marks the release date for the final "Harry Potter" book in the series of seven.

Groundhog Day brings news of an early spring.

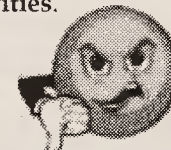
Black History Month reminds people of the outstanding contributions African Americans have made to society.

Rage Against the Machine plans a reunion tour.

Meteorologists cannot seem to predict accurately a decent snow day.

Another Clinton is running for the White House.

Valentine's Day brings blues to lonely singles, and too many chocolate hearts brings about cavities.



School resource officers are authorized to carry stun guns at school.

College deferrals leave seniors on edge.