

from Katrina's lesson, pg. 20

that some residents didn't or couldn't heed these unambiguous warnings?

But is it fair to hold the poor responsible for being unable to flee? They, as residents, had years and years to plan their personal evacuation. Last year's Hurricane Ivan, which threatened New Orleans with destruction but veered away at the last moment, should have made it clear to every citizen that hurricane preparedness was not an intellectual game, but a life-or-death question. It was hardly a secret which neighborhoods were above sea level and which were below. Even the poorest of residents, one must imagine, could have banded together in the aftermath of Ivan, and devised mechanisms of escape or survival.

What about the rich and affluent, who evacuated safely? Wasn't it their obligation to use their greater mobility and wealth to help their poorest neighbors? Isn't it hideous that rich, suburban families abandoned their second cars in garages while the old, poor, and infirm awaited death below sea level across town?

And what about our American neighbors? Why were Alaskans clamoring for a federally funded \$225 million bridge to serve an island of 50 residents, when a

coastal city of one million souls couldn't meet its yearly flood control budget? For that matter, why do Nebraskans and Iowans get more dollars, per capita, to battle terrorism than Californians and New Yorkers?

A disaster of this magnitude defies our attempts to place blame. In the end, we must all claim Katrina. Every one of us.

What left New Orleans unguarded in the face of catastrophe was not Bush, or Nagin, or black or white people, or lazy scientists, or bad engineering. It was willful ignorance, on the part of the entire American community. Everything we needed to know to avert disaster was clear to us. The eroding wetlands, the sinking levees, the crippling poverty, the misplaced federal priorities, the bad government, the imperfect planning, the muted scientists... in the end, stunned by the magnitude of our danger, we decided it was just easier to ignore the problem. We were wrong.

Many friends here in Pennsylvania ask me how they can help now. I say this: Stop pretending that you can ignore the world's crises. Stop pretending that someone else will fix everything. Stop pretending that ignorance is safety. Look around: You live in New Orleans, too.

from Dissatisfied, pg. 20

for these particular students, the time spent practicing and studying for them wastes valuable schooling time. It is also unfair to hold all schools in our country to the same standards when there remain schools in inner cities that can only provide one text book per class, where bathrooms and locker rooms must be transformed into classrooms, and as a result of these dire conditions, have difficulty finding qualified teachers.

It is unrealistic to make scholastic comparisons between schools such as those in State College, which are top-ranked public

schools, and those in communities afflicted with high rates of poverty.

When thinking about these concepts, one has to wonder how it is fair to put a school's funding in constant jeopardy just because it may contain more students of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds or a larger portion of ESL and special needs children.

These are the schools that need more than adequate funding, but because of the vicious cycle of the No Child Left Behind Act, they remain less equipped each year to provide their students with the means to help them do well on standardized tests, and are thus, unjustly left behind.

from Candidates, pg. 22

commitment required to address issues in a thoughtful, proactive manner.

During my tenure on the State College Area School Board, I have:

- Recognized a quality education for each student as the District's top priority
- Sought measures to control local taxpayers' burden, including leading a successful request to reopen discussion of administrators' raises and working with state legislators toward tax reform
- Listened to and addressed the concerns of parents, students, and other community members
- Built and maintained strong working relationships with teachers, administrators, and other staff members
- Proactively promoted a safe, nurturing environment for all students

■ Visited every District school, every year, to observe education first-hand

■ Been a strong, consistent advocate for special needs students

■ Initiated private fundraising within the District

In my next term, I will strive to:

- Continue and enhance programs to provide a quality education for all students
- Ensure that District funds are well spent
- Continue active pursuit of external funding through grants and donations
- Foster an atmosphere of trust within the District and the community
- Provide continuity in a period of substantial change
- Promote District establishment of and adherence to sound operational policies to guide decision making

I shall appreciate your vote on Nov. 8.

Keith Hardin: Republican Challenger

I shall appreciate your vote on Nov. 8.

I am seeking re-election to the board to address the yearly budget increase issue of my school district. Though I am not a one issue candidate, I feel our budget is in need of some control. With a total budget of \$85,502,837 for school year 04-05 and a budget of \$93,183,158 during the 05-06 school year, I feel our spending has gotten a little excessive.

The State College Area School District is providing schooling for approximately 7,300 students. For the 05-06 school year, instructional costs account for \$53,447,553. This figure represents more than 57% of the total budget, the largest single expenditure. These costs include staff salaries and instructional materials such as textbooks, library books, and supplies.

The next largest expenditure is for support services. More than 31% of the budget, \$29,040,547, is spent on pupil services, instructional library media services, trans-

portation, custodial and maintenance services, health services, and administrative costs.

State College Area School District spends more of its total budget on instruction than the state average, with a per-student cost (total budget divided by enrollment) of \$12,500.

With that the community carries the major responsibility for the financial support of the educational programs of the school district. Local revenues provide 80.9% of the school district's total income. Of the total local revenue of \$66,686,117 projected as income in the 05-06 budget, 80.9% will come from real estate taxes. Based on the current millage of 31.373 mills, and the average residence assessed value of \$67,845, the annual tax is \$2,128.51.

I am concerned about our district spending since our enrollment levels are flat.

At what point will our local taxpayers get a break?

Re-elect David Hutchinson State College School Board



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Paid for by the candidate

Moshannon Group of the PA Sierra Club Presents:

Hybrid Vehicles with Nancy Parks, Clean Air Committee chair and expert on air quality and Clean Air Act

When: Tuesday, Oct. 25th, 7:00pm

Where: Interpretive Center of the Centre County Solid Waste Authority, 253 Transfer Road (just past Nittany Hall)



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